

Jeff Phillips

CEO – Varley Group

HSC Year: 1982

Dux

Training (eg TAFE,
University etc)

- Bachelor of Engineer (Elect), University of Technology, Sydney



Jobs (at university and afterwards)

- BHP Traineeship for University Degree
- BHP Engineer – Process Control
- Varley Engineering – Project Manager
- Varley Group of Companies – Managing Director
- Varley Group of Companies – Chairman

What are you doing now?

Chairman/CEO of the Varley Group. A private Australian company that operates in the diverse markets of;

- Defence & Aerospace
- Electric Vehicles
- Maritime
- Power Generation
- Rail
- Specialised Vehicles

Currently employees about 650 staff and operates from seven sites located in Qld, NSW, Vic and Indonesia.

Relevant Experiences since leaving school (eg special achievements)

- Learning new skills required to run a business, such as, accounting, human resources, marketing & sales, quality assurance, etc.
- Understanding why businesses get into financial difficulty and turning those businesses around.
- Identifying future trends and deciding how best to participate as a business in these future markets.
- Becoming a leader.

Interesting Experiences (eg something that may be relevant to students??)

- Travelling the world for business is different and offers life experiences that you would never obtain from tourist travel or by other means.

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- The diversity of people you get to meet and work with, from Prime Ministers, Premiers, Ministers, foreign dignitaries, business people from major international companies to small personalized businesses, intellectuals, co-workers, tradespeople and people who just enjoy their jobs.
- Seeing new inventions, experiencing new ideas and being exposed to different ways of thinking.

Other comments /Memories from Chatham High Days:

I always remember that Chatham High had a very good school spirit that saw success both with sporting and academic achievements that top much larger and better credential schools.

You formed life-long friendships that endure irrespective of where you may now live.

Sitting under our tree at lunch time.

Getting caught for talking in assembly.

The bus trips.

Tips for our students

Whilst completing HSC (eg how to gain the desired UAI)

Set the target you want to achieve and the reward you will give yourself if you achieve this goal. Then stay focused on achieving that mark.

Going to University (eg living away from home tips, university life)

Make the most of this experience! It's where you grow up.

Getting a job (during and after university)

Know the job you want and be persistent in seeking it.

Other Tips

Don't be motivated just for the money. There is no long term satisfaction in this.