

INTERESTED IN A CAREER IN ACCOUNTING?

Meet Melissa Maher – Wannon Water's Management Accountant

Melissa Maher knows what she wants in life. Her determination to succeed has paid off with plenty of study and lots of great work.

It's a combination that has seen Mel's career advance and develop. Starting out as an Accounts Payable officer with Wannon Water in October 2007, Mel progressed to a position as an accountant before taking up the role of management accountant.

"During high school I had always been interested in my accounting, legal and business subjects," Mel explains. "Many years after high school, life presented an opportunity to do something different and I decided that undertaking a Bachelor of Commerce part-time off-campus was the best thing to do.

After she completed her degree (majoring in accounting and management), Mel took seven months' maternity leave and then returned to work for three days each week. While she was on leave, she began her CPA study. "I'm very proud that I have been able to progress within the finance department as I completed my uni degree and am now completing a post-graduate degree."

Wannon Water continues to support Mel throughout the process. "Working in the finance team has given me access to knowledgeable and skilled finance professionals who have delivered support and guidance. Team members have guided me through assignments, exam stress, subject selection and career planning.

"This has been invaluable to me. Also going through the application, interview and selection process for two internal positions has been encouraging and worthwhile in furthering my career."

Mel says balancing study commitments with career progression and life in general has been her greatest challenge to date. "Studying part-time while working full-time is a big undertaking and requires dedication and commitment to your goals. Finding the balance between working, having enough time to study and still enjoying life requires supportive family, friends and work.

"Wannon Water understands this challenge and has been incredibly accommodating. I have now been studying for nine years, with only a one-year break to start a family, which is incredibly rewarding for me personally and professionally."

The personal philosophy she brings to work? "Learn as much as I can about Wannon Water and the field I work in, and never hesitate when an opportunity presents itself."

She suggests people starting out in their careers should have a clear goal of where they want their career to go and why they are undertaking study. "I know exactly what I want in a career and exactly what I need to do to get there. This has been incredibly important in the tough times because I know I need to get through it to achieve my goals."

In future, Mel is aiming to complete her CPA and further her career in the water industry. She eventually hopes to undertake an MBA but only "after a very long break from study".

