

# INTERESTED IN A CAREER IN FINANCE?

## Meet Steven Waterhouse – Wannon Water's General Manager Finance

Steve Waterhouse admits he is one of the rare humans who genuinely enjoyed mathematics at school.

"Numbers came really naturally to me," he says, explaining how he chose his career field. "Commerce was attractive as it had a very broad first year curriculum. This meant I could test a few options out before I narrowed down and actually chose what I wanted to specialise in. I thought that if I could combine what I was good at (numbers) and something in the sport management field, I'd enjoy what I was doing."

He graduated with a Bachelor of Commerce (Accounting, Commercial Law and Management Information Systems) at Deakin Warrnambool and is also a Chartered Accountant.

Steve joined Wannon Water in October 2008 after working in the thoroughbred racing industry. Prior to that, he worked at local accounting firm Coffey Hunt, starting there before he finished his degree and completing the last four units part-time.

"Deciding to leave the thoroughbred industry for future career growth was a challenge. It was an industry that I was passionate about and ticked the box for working with numbers in a sporting club environment."

Steve says he realised that next step in his career was likely to be based in Melbourne. But, with a young daughter at that stage, he and his wife decided it wasn't an option they were willing to consider: "A country town upbringing was what we both knew and we wanted that for our kids."

**Securing the role at Wannon Water has meant Steve has been able to develop professionally while raising a family in that preferred large country town location. He describes it as his "work-life balance decision".**

Steve's personal desire is to help other people be successful in their own roles. "Part of that philosophy is having fun whilst attempting to achieve that - and I don't take myself too seriously," he adds.

The highlights of his career at Wannon Water are those that have taken him out of his comfort zone. "The one that stands out is the morning I found out I was the successful applicant for my current role. There aren't too many roles similar to mine in south-west Victoria. I'm regularly thankful that I can make a contribution as an executive at Wannon Water and raise a family in a fantastic part of the world

As his career has progressed, Steve has learnt a lot about how to preserve his physical and mental health. "I mentioned before that I don't take myself too seriously. In a way, that is a mechanism that supports my theory that, if I burn-out now, I won't be able to achieve as much later. It's a busy life, so knowing when and how to step back and get proper rest is just as important as knowing when and how to push yourself. It applies to both work and play."



Steve offers three key hints for those starting out in their careers:

- Don't work too hard – there's merit in knowing when to stop and recharge;
- Learn from the past, but always look forward; and
- Give yourself permission to be flexible. There will be many occasions during your career that other options will become apparent. Don't be afraid to explore them.

Steve's hopes for the future are time-honoured: "Many years of personal and professional achievement; good health and wellbeing for me, my family and friends; and many surprises, travel and exciting experiences."