

# INTERESTED IN A CAREER IN ENGINEERING?

## Meet Ben Spencer - Wannon Water's Graduate Engineer

Ben Spencer offers three pieces of advice for people just starting out in their careers: Do your best, keep asking questions and keep learning.

A Graduate Engineer, Ben studied for his Bachelor of Civil Engineering (Honours) at Deakin University's Waurn Ponds campus from 2012 to 2015. His secondary school physics teacher encouraged him to consider engineering as a career. "I was good at, and enjoyed, maths, science and physics, and studying engineering seemed to make sense to utilise these areas," he explains.

He joined Wannon Water through its scholarship program at the end of year 12 in 2011, completing two work experience placements in 2013 and 2014. He then started work full-time on the graduate rotation in February 2016.

**"Wannon Water has given me great security, support and a pathway into employment when I was initially very unsure in year 12 of what my future held," Ben says.**

Highlights of the job? "Working with and learning from a really nice and talented engineer, Reza, who has since moved on to Melbourne Water," Ben says. "Also getting to draw up a design for something on AutoCAD and be able to see it actually built and come together recently was great to see."

He still feels like he has much to learn. "In the degree you learn a lot of interesting things, but once you begin working in a specific area, there is a large gap between what you learned and what you need to know to do the job. I am overcoming this by working hard at asking questions," Ben explains. He urges people not to be content with not understanding something. "Rather, ask all questions - even simple ones. Don't worry about what people will think. This is the best way to progress."

Ben's work philosophy is welcomed by his colleagues, particularly those with a sweet tooth. He enjoys coming to work, making friends with as many people as he can and keeping communication open across the organisation. "I do laps of the office every now and then, sharing chocolate and knowledge simultaneously," he laughs. "I like to keep some connection and understanding with those on the other side of the building."

Ben says his work with Wannon Water has given him a much broader and greater understanding of the water industry. And the discipline of working and turning up every morning has afforded him better sleeping patterns. "Wannon Water is a very nice place to work, so I would be very happy to continue working here beyond my three-year graduate rotation," Ben says. "I am also open to the possibility of moving elsewhere, back to Geelong or somewhere overseas for a time. I have no specific goal of where I want to end up, but I do hope to continue to gain greater knowledge and practical understanding and keep making friends everywhere I go."

