



REBECCA (BEC) LILLIEBRIDGE

Year 12—2000

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Where Are They Now?

Tell us about your time at Wee Waa High School?

"This question brings a smile to my face for a number of reasons. I remember having some great laughs with an amazing bunch of friends, struggling my way through maths classes and getting into the odd bit of trouble!"

What were your favourite subjects?

"English and Drama with Miss Ferris were my favourite subjects. I was happiest playing dress ups in the hall while we rehearsed a play to perform at an upcoming Eisteddfod."

Best memories of Wee Waa High?

"Warm days, good friends and pie burgers from the canteen!"

While at high school, what career direction did you think you would head in?

"I was focussed on a career in journalism. My love of English and writing seemed to suggest this would be a sensible transition, and the idea of an exciting career ahead was very enticing."

Can you tell us about your years after finishing high school?

"I went to the University of New England in Armidale and studied communication studies for 4 years. During my studies, I realised that in fact, journalism wasn't all that I thought it would be and this wasn't going to be the career for me. I thoroughly enjoyed my time in Armidale, made some amazing friends and learnt so much not just in classes, but about life as well.

After Uni I spent a few years in Brisbane and the Gold Coast working as a paralegal and conveyancer. I got the travel bug not long after and moved to London. I got a job working in a law firm as a Human Resource Administrator which funded my travels throughout the UK and Europe.

I met my partner in London, a kiwi and after a few years abroad we made the move to Christchurch, New Zealand in 2010. On 22 February 2011 a 6.3 magnitude earthquake struck central Christchurch, killing 185 people. I was working for an intellectual property law firm in the city at the time. This would prove to be a turning point in my career. As my office building was evacuated and it would be years before the central city would be reopened to the public, I took the opportunity to apply for an HR Administrator role with the Earthquake Commission. It was the only thing I could do to help support the Christchurch community and make a difference to the rebuild efforts. This was a great opportunity for me and was the next step to leading me into what is now my career."

What Are You Doing Now?

I live in Wellington, New Zealand. I work as a Senior Human Resources Advisor with the Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment. We are a large government organisation with very wide ranging responsibility, from Immigration & Border Control to building & electrical regime Regulation. I'm part of an HR team of about 80 people and an organisation of over 3000.



Follow us

Wee Wawa High School, Purcell Avenue, NSW 2388
www.weewaa-h.schools.nsw.gov.au



What do you love about what you do?

“I’m very lucky to have a job and work for an organisation which offers so many opportunities. The staff here are very high performing and the work they do is so varied that no two days are ever the same for me. One day I’m with staff in our Intellectual Property Office the next I’m up in Auckland with an Immigration Contact Centre. I love the variety. I love working with a great bunch of people who are really supportive and a great laugh.”

What do you think is the secret to success in life and work?

“I don’t think there are any shortcuts, I’ve worked really hard to get to where I am today and to have had the experiences that I have, but I always make time for fun.”

Do You Have A Life Motto?

“Life is a journey, not a destination.”

Article written in 2016

