

EMMA McDONALD: DESIGN MANAGER, FCC INFRASTRUCTURE

Course of Study: NZ Executive MBA

Tertiary Institute: University of Auckland

Duration of Study: 2009—2011



“In a general sense I would say to other staff that if they have got some clear aims and outcomes and have enough support at work and home then go for it. Being brought up to speed on what’s out there was one of the biggest things I got from the MBA - the peer interaction was fantastic and I developed a very diverse network of people outside of my organisation.”

Emma McDonald, MBA

The Background Story:

Emma had carefully researched MBA options over a number of years, both in New Zealand and whilst completing her travels and working overseas.

After considering all options available in New Zealand she settled upon the University of Auckland MBA program and on reflection is very pleased she made the decision as she felt the course was well structured, with top-class learning resources and excellent lecturers who have first-hand business experience.

Emma initially funded the first quarter of her MBA herself before applying to the EEF for the final stages of her studies.

“The EEF funding was definitely a big incentive to go for it. My reasoning for undertaking the MBA was twofold: to widen the breadth of my knowledge from just the technical field; plus my personal aim was understanding my strengths and weaknesses. Being more focussed on decision-making, I definitely achieved that understanding.”

Initially Emma found the first year pretty “hard slog” - adjusting to juggling full-time work and her studies, she was studying most evenings and weekends. Having her first child part-way through her studies added an extra level of difficulty to Emma’s studies, however with strong family and work support she was able to complete her MBA in the top 5 of her class, receiving the prize for lifetime membership to Beta Gamma Sigma.

