



“Be true to yourself, work hard and perform to the best of your ability”.

The Road to General Manager!

It was the late 70s as Alana ran around the backyard, the youngest of three siblings. Her mum, a bookkeeper and stay-at-home mum and her Dad, a carpenter and business owner saw to it that from a young age, Alana saw her value. Her hand in the family business as she grew up, washing buses and answering the phone on the weekend would have a big impact on her work ethic and career aspirations.

It is this that Alana noted today she is most grateful for.

“Love- the love of my family, friends and the love I have for my job, along with the life that allows me to lead. I am extremely grateful that I can lead a great team of people every day to achieve great things. There is nothing more rewarding than seeing others succeed at something they work hard at”.

Outside of the family business, Alana’s first job was as a Santa photographer. Before the time of digital cameras, it was always a guessing game at whether the shot was a good one or not! A limit to the number of shots each family got also put on the pressure but nevertheless Alana laughed, it was always “lots of fun”. While these casual jobs brought her enjoyment and valuable experience, it was a mechanic that Alana truly wanted to be.

In the early 90’s Alana began her degree in Nuclear Medicine. Throughout her time at school most of her mentors were family. However, as she entered the workforce Alana found many mentors in her managers who have shaped and strengthened her path.

Upon finishing her work for the family business, Alana took a break before eventually finding herself working in the aviation industry. Always seeking to remain busy and challenged Alana’s career has seen her navigate the industry with *incredible dexterity* and become **General Manager for the PTB Group, Australasia**. While Alana has definitely seen advancements across the board in women’s careers, she also stated how she has “never felt any career decision [was] blocked because [she] was female”- there has always been an open door with the right ability and a good employer who looks for **skills and not gender**.

To this day as a leader in her own right Alana has always ensured that PTB employs and promotes based on “meritocracy not gender”. She observed with pride that PTB has “a good mix of genders across most of our departments”.

As 2020 hit with its full force and that ripple has continued into 2021, Alana has helped guide the group through challenges seen throughout the aviation industry. Even with these challenges looming Alana has ensured that her work/life balance remained. Alana affirmed that she always makes sure to allocate time for her family, friends, work, and herself. “It is important to make sure you have enough energy for the life you want to lead. This varies for everyone, but I am grateful for the life I have so make sure that the choices I make support that lifestyle”. Her advice- make it so life is **“sustainable and rewarding”**.

As 2021 truly opens itself and questions still linger within the air- we asked Alana how women can make their mark in the workplace...

“By being true to yourself. Work hard and perform to the best of your ability. Just because you are female or male, for that matter, doesn’t mean you can’t get the role of your dreams, you need to show that you can succeed at what that roles requires”.

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“Deep down I still wish I had learnt to be a mechanic...I know I may not be where I am today if I had....”.

Where is Alana today....

Alana McKenna- General Manager, PTB Australasia- An established and global network for MRO, engines, engine parts & aircraft components.

