

Women in Aviation



2021

Aviation Ash

*"A very close friend of mine said the words to me **"why don't you get on the tools?"**. After laughing the idea away, I sat and thought about it. I remembered never wanting to work behind a desk; always wanting to do something hands on and so I explored the idea. Mick (workshop manager) has been extremely supportive of **my decision to try something new**. He spent time with me early on, just to see if I had any hand skills. And from there he has been supportive of everything I do. I would have to say everyone in the workshop has helped me. It was **extremely daunting** to make such a big change in my life. The guys in the workshop have taken me **under their wings**, helped me in every way they can, and NEVER made me feel like an idiot for asking a question.*

I believe my family and friends supported me. But the support I received from work is what really got me over the line".

Ash is one of the longer standing members of the PTB community. Originally beginning in a sales position, Ash has been with the company since 2010 and in 2020 made her way downstairs to the workshop to begin as an apprentice. In this way she wrote



*"PTB are very good at giving opportunities to all their staff, no matter the gender. I feel like PTB push for their employees to be the best they can be and to take responsibility for their work. I believe this is the best way to grow as an individual. The times I've been thrown into meetings and told I was running them were the times I grew most as a person. **In a situation like that you need to have confidence in what you are doing and own what you know.** I believe they are great qualities to have."*

Ash grew up a middle child of three in Narangba, QLD, Australia. When she grew up, she hoped to be a singer during the Opening Ceremony for the Olympics, a trampoliner and 'something to do with horse riding'. Although these dreams weren't quite realised Ash did find herself in a position to reach others and shared that...

“I think women entering the workforce may be better off these days, but I also think the hard work still needs to be done. You still need to prove you have what it takes to be in the role you are doing, male or female”.



Like most women, Ash has faced the challenges of maintaining a work/life balance and as such she did make an important note that you need to work for a company that allows you to give to both. “I can say working at PTB makes balancing everything a lot easier. Never once have I been made to feel bad when I need to put my family first”. Activities that Ash uses to help ensure the balance are dance and obstacle course training- “Every week at obstacle training I conquer something new. My biggest achievements were getting across the monkey bars, getting across the rock wall, and completing the o-straps. But literally every time I go there, I achieve something a little more than the week before. And it is so much fun!!”

Ash has gone from one ladder rung to another in her life time and so she shares with us what her secret is.....

“I think making your mark is simple. You need to work hard and also be someone who can lift up those around you. Always listen to what people have to say and learn

*wherever and whenever you can. Aviation is an incredible industry and there will always be something to learn. Take on board what people are telling you and take an interest in what they have to say. I think **that’s how you make a mark**”*