

# Women in Aviation



2021

Dear Future,

It is the year 2021, the week before **Women in Aviation Week** and Melissa sits in her office reflecting on her lifetime and how the past 15 years in the aviation industry has changed her life.

As her mind wanders back to those early days of the 80s she remembers the beautiful landscapes of South Africa- how dry, and hot and wonderful it was. The youngest of three, Melissa recalls the day she and her family set out for a family camping trip.

*Mum, who worked in various IT roles and Dad, a structural engineer had put together a trip with high hopes despite never having been camping before. After a long day of driving and setting up the tent, the family settled into bed...but it was cold, the shivering till your knees clack together cold. In the morning Dad packed up the tent and we went home that day. We've never let him forget that 'adventure'.*

It is in this memory that Melissa is reminded of how grateful she is for her husband & kids, the wonderful childhood she had in South Africa, the opportunity that allowed her to live in New Zealand now Australia. And then how extremely fortunate she feels to have her parents, siblings and their families living in the same city as her own once again.

It is this moment that Mel reminisces the time of her first job.

*I was a checkout operator at the local supermarket. Do you know even back then there was a barcode scanner! 1990 South Africa was fairly advanced!!*

As her mind wanders through all the jobs she's had over the years, her original study in IT which led to various roles before landing her at PTB Melissa sometimes wonders how on earth is managed it all. But is quick to state,

*It is an everyday commitment and being mindful to maintain the balance. Often, we say we say we are "busy" but what are we "busy" doing? Carving out time for myself away from family and work life is important.*

In 2021 Melissa notes the achievements of women and how far they have come noting how in recent years there really isn't anything one can't try if they want it enough and are willing to make the necessary sacrifices. In particular *hardwork, initiative and commitment* seem to be the key not only for women but for everyone.

As work ends for the day and Melissa switches of work mode and into life mode, she wonders what would she say to the coming generations...

*maybe...*

*Our society is not particularly respectful of older people but they have so much to teach us, so be patient and listen! And when starting out in the workforce don't miss the opportunities that come with starting at the bottom, learning all you can and progressing forward can give. You will not leave uni with a degree and become a manager Day One and the best way to progress is to keep searching and learning!*