

writer **PETER WHITE** // photographer **TEGAN CLARK**

# MOVING UP THE RANKS

## MEAT INDUSTRY CAREERS

**“Having a good attitude is probably the main thing – if you have a poor attitude, you are not going to get very far. You have to want to improve yourself and be willing to put in the hard work,”** says **JESS SHEEHAN**.

The 24-year-old has been working for ANZCO Foods in Ashburton for seven years. She started as a packer on the meat production line a year after finishing high school – since then she has worked in the office as a receptionist, as a personal assistant, and in her current role as a finance administrator.

Her rapid rise up the ranks is the result of plenty of hard work, the support of her co-workers and the desire to keep expanding her horizons.

“I love learning new things. Finance is my long-term goal for a career so to be given the opportunity to learn more around the finance space has been something I am incredibly grateful for.”

Jess has made use of the many training opportunities to develop her skills and knowledge offered by ANZCO.

“There is some training that is compulsory as part of our processes – but there are other great opportunities that are available to those who

want to pursue them. For example, I am going on an accounting course in October which I am really looking forward to.

“Within ANZCO, developing its people is really important. It is important to the company to see

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JESS SHEEHAN

their people develop their careers – and be given opportunities and chances.”

What Jess loves most about working for ANZCO is how everyone feels really valued.

“The most important thing is there is so much opportunity to grow.

“In a smaller company, there probably would not be the chances to expand your career – and keep moving up the ladder – but here in such a big company there are so many more opportunities.”

Jess went to Roncalli College in Timaru. In Year 13, she took English, Statistics, Outdoor Education, Religious Education, and Food and Hospitality.

Her goal at school was to take a gap year and go travelling. She started working at ANZCO to fund her travel and liked working there so much that she went back to ANZCO when she returned home – and has been there ever since.

Jess encourages school leavers to consider working for ANZCO and also in the wider meat industry.

She says there are far more females working in the industry than ever before.



“We are seeing more females within the industry, but the industry as a whole is more male dominated. With this next generation coming

through, I think gender is far less important – it is more about the attitude of the person rather than gender.

“The key thing for anyone leaving school is – to never pass up an opportunity and always have a positive attitude.”

### KEY FACTS



- **JESS SHEEHAN** WORKS AS A **FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATOR** FOR **ANZCO FOODS** IN **ASHBURTON**.
- **HER RAPID RISE UP THE RANKS** IS THE RESULT OF **PLENTY OF HARD WORK, THE SUPPORT OF HER CO-WORKERS AND THE DESIRE TO KEEP EXPANDING HER HORIZONS**.
- **JESS** TOOK **ENGLISH, STATISTICS, OUTDOOR EDUCATION, RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND FOOD AND HOSPITALITY** IN **YEAR 13** AT **RONCALLI COLLEGE** IN **TIMARU**.



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