



National Meat Industry
Training Advisory Council Limited
MINTRAC Scholarship Program

F A M I L I E S S C H O L A R S H I P

Ashley Strike

MINTRAC Families Scholarship 2003-2007

Sponsor: Australian Meat Holdings

Qualification: Bachelor of Engineering

Tertiary Institution: University of Queensland

The Scholarship

In 2003 I commenced the MINTRAC families scholarship. I completed my studies in 2006 but will return to university to further my studies in 2008.

In relation to undertaking and participating in my studies, the MINTRAC scholarship helped me immensely. Firstly, the scholarship was a great financial benefit for me while undertaking my studies. Secondly, the scholarship provided an introduction to the meat industry and although I have chosen not to work in this industry, I have been able to work alongside professional engineers and have had a valuable insight into the lifestyle and type of work I could expect, were I to go into this industry. It was a great advantage working alongside engineers while studying, as I was able to see the practical applications of the study.

Personal benefits of the study

Some of the personal benefits gained in relation to my studies include:

- professional experience from working in an engineering team
- exposure to many problems associated with a large plant such as AMH/ Swift Australia Pty Limited
- ability to liaise with superior engineers
- exposure to engineering projects and participation in various ways with many projects at AMH/ Swift Australia Pty Limited.

Benefits to the company and industry

Over the three and a half years I worked at AMH/ Swift Australia Pty Limited I compiled a large amount of documentation in regards to the electrical maintenance of the Dinmore plant. I also designed, with the Senior Electrical Engineer, a standard labelling system for all the electrical switchboards, which had to comply with the SCADA labelling system. The largest project I completed was updating the web pages for the SCADA for the Colby conveyor system.

My studies complimented the work I was doing at AMH. The benefits that AMH gained in relation to my studies were that I was able to apply my knowledge to improve many of the existing systems that were already in place.

In my time at AMH I did not focus upon innovation and introducing new systems or technology as I was an undergraduate, however I did help to improve the existing systems. A lot of my work at AMH/ Swift Australia Pty Limited consisted of updating and restoring many things that had been neglected within the Engineering department due to lack of engineering staff.

Future plans

My future plans in relations to my career are not decided at this point. I have worked in the meat industry and can see there are many applications of my degree, in power, control and telecommunications. I will more than likely pursue a career in Power Engineering within Origin.

Suggestions

I think that the scholarship is a worthwhile venture for MINTRAC as it provides two things, an opportunity for students to gain an insight into this industry; and an opportunity for the sponsor company to gain a potential employee with site based knowledge.

I entered into this program not knowing in which direction I wished to pursue a career, and after my final years of study I am more inclined to look outside the meat industry. I believe, however, there will be many students who will continue to work with their sponsor company or in another company within the meat industry.

The one thing that I think could be improved in the scholarship program would be mentoring or meetings with the students as a compulsory part of the scholarship; otherwise this scholarship is a very worthwhile venture for MINTRAC.



Ashley Strike



MINTRAC

National Meat Industry Training Advisory Council Limited

Toll free: 1800 817 462

Email: mintrac@mintrac.com.au

website: mintrac.com.au

This publication is supported by Meat and Livestock Australia
and the Australian Meat Processor Corporation.

