



Member Profile

Alison McKessar – Wellington Group Newsletter Editor

(Ooooh! This week I get to talk all about ME! – Ed)

Workplace:

I've been with the Reserve Bank of New Zealand for three years now and I still love it.

Position:

PA to Board of Directors and Communications Team.

Past Jobs / Roles:

PA to a partner and Risk Assurance Team – PricewaterhouseCoopers, Executive Assistant – Furniture ITO, Office Administrator – Frontier Software Ltd plus other various PA and administrative roles at AJ Park & Son, AMP, Lampen and NZ Wool Board. My first job was at the Weather Office in the statistical unit – I had to read rain charts and work out how many hours of sunshine places had using special cards that burn when the sun hits them. It sounds really interesting but I hated it!

What I like about my job/being an administrator:

The variety in my role – I get to organise all the Board meetings, and three of these are held in cities other than Wellington which means also organising cocktail functions, special invited guests and lots of travel arrangements for several people. Plus, my role in the Communications Team means that I get involved in press conferences and all sorts of exciting things! Also, the people I work and deal with at the Bank are awesome.



Goals:

Hmmm. I'd love to get into Human Resources. I have a Diploma in Business and another in HR and am currently undertaking a Bachelor of Applied Science with a double major in Communications and Psychology. I figure all this will help, but it's going to take me about eight years to complete it! However, if money was no object I would study full time towards becoming a Registered Nurse and then specialise in midwifery.

Interests/Hobbies:

Study (like I have a choice!), reading, music, our four cats and slobbering!

What or Who Inspires Me:

Gordon Ramsay! He's worked his way up from a really grotty childhood and background of poverty and through hard work and determination is now mega-rich. And he did it by doing something he is passionate about. He calls a spade a spade, doesn't put up with any crap from anyone and has really high work standards, but at home is a big softie with his kids.

When I was seven, I wanted to be a nurse. I still do. Something went wrong when I left school, I think! As a kid I used to play 'hospitals' with all my dolls. We had this big old medical book in the family and I used to look through it to find the most hideous things that my dolls could have come down with.



My favourite movie is *Big*. It's from 1988 and stars Tom Hanks. He starts off a little kid and makes a wish to be 'big' then wakes up the next day in an adult's body, but still has the mind of a 10 year old. His behaviour through the film is the kid of stuff you'd love to do every day but as an adult we're conditioned not to – like spitting out something yucky and going nuts in a toy shop. I think the movie teaches us that just 'cos we're grown up doesn't mean we can't still have fun, and essentially being a grown up isn't always everything it's cracked up to be!

I'm reading Harry Potter and the Deathly Hollows. What was that about being a big kid?

I can't live without music and cats. Oh, and maybe chocolate! And I suppose I should mention my husband!

