

LEANNE MANSON



PERSISTENCE PAYS OFF. PROFILE No 3



Course: **Certificate III Engineering (Mechanical)**
GTO: **Central Coast Group Training**
Host Employer: **ADC Communications Australia Pty Ltd**

Leanne, what do you think is the best bit of advice you've ever been given?

If you want something, go for it. Don't worry about what anyone else says, just go for it.

You've had a few rejections and...

Yep, take it in your stride. Think, I wouldn't want to work with someone like that anyway. Don't worry about it, you can be what you want to be.

Is it sometimes hard to believe that, when you get knocked back?

Yes, it was very hard and very hurtful, but in the end it turned out well for me.

What is the career that you've now got and how did you get into it?

My career is tool making. I applied for a motor mechanics job but was unsuccessful. No one wanted one. I got an opportunity as a tooling machinist and did six months training. After that I had to go to a different company because the first one just did the training. The next company I ended up with trained me as a toolmaker.

Why do you think you were chosen?

Because I'm good at what I do and I'm not afraid to get in there and have a go. And I work hard.

Did a Group Training Organisation help you find this job?

Yep, they pretty much did all the work in finding me the company that I'm with now.

Since they've found you the job have they been giving you ongoing support?

Yep, they come out regularly and see that everything's going well, you're well looked after.

What's the best thing about the career you've chosen and where do you think it's going to take you in the future?

The best thing is I get to fix things and make things. It's satisfying doing that. I may end up starting my own business.

So you think there's an opportunity to own your own business?

Definitely, that could be a big possibility.

What sort of business would that be?

It would be tool making and I'd have various companies come to us that need tools made for making products or press tools for minting companies, making coins, they have tool makers do that.

On a different tangent, everyone's talking about a work and lifestyle balance. How do you maintain your work lifestyle balance?

You need a good balance between the both. Its very important because if you just do one but not the other, if you're only work orientated, then your home life is just going to end up messed up. On weekends you need to spend time with your family, go out and do things.

What has been your most significant career achievement to date?

Being able to go to Canberra and meet John Howard on a Skills Leadership course. That was exciting.

That's it Leanne. It was good to meet you. Thank you.

Completing an electrical Pre-apprenticeship course that included fitting and machining gave Leanne the start she needed and an offer of two different apprenticeships. Taking the engineering option and choosing to specialise in toolmaking has been a wise choice. Leanne demonstrates a high proficiency in this work and is one of a limited number of people able to make tools and tool parts under a magnifying glass. On the weekends Leanne applies the skills she is learning in a different context – working on cars. She also enjoys playing and coaching girls soccer and organising youth group activities for young people in her area.



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