

Name

Michelle Thompson



Education, Experience & Achievements

- Bachelor of Engineering (Chemical)
- Certificate IV in Business (Frontline Management)
- Certificate IV in Training & Assessment
- Certificate IV in Marketing

I have worked for the past 7 years as an Engineer and Project Manager predominantly in the Water Industry. Over that time, I have had the opportunity to contribute to a number of large water projects, the most recent being SA Water's Network Water Security Program.

I achieved my Chartered Professional Engineer (CPEng) status in 2006.

In 2006/07 I was awarded the Adelaide University Chemical Engineering School Fellowship.

In 2009 I was appointed a member on the National Committee for Women in Engineering and on the Chemical College Board for Engineers Australia.

What led you to choose Engineering as a career?

To make a difference; to solve problems; to be challenged.

What is it about Engineering that inspires you?

The way engineering is able to improve our quality of life

What has been the high point in your career to date?

Working on the Glenelg to Adelaide Park Lands Recycled Water Project; which implemented the infrastructure to provide more than 3.8 billion litres of high quality recycled water annually, including a minimum of 1.3 billion litres each year to irrigate the Adelaide Park Lands.

How have you managed your work and family commitments?

I have a young daughter and I have been fortunate enough to have an employer that has been very flexible and allowed me to return to work part time and do some work from home. This has allowed me to balance my family and work commitments, but it can still sometimes be a challenge; especially since my daughter thinks the computer is her personal toy!

Do you have any advice for women who are considering engineering as a career, or for those who are already Engineers?

For those considering engineering as a career; anybody who is good at solving problems, has initiative and wants a career with variety – consider engineering; you will be surprised at what a huge range of career paths engineering can open up for you.

For those who are already engineers; never underestimate the importance of networks. Networks shouldn't be something that emerge as a side effect of doing your work. They are living, breathing relationships that require effort to establish and maintain, but are one of the most useful tools you can have in your artillery.