

Sharon Wybrow (nee MacLean)

Director and CAO of Corporate Finance – Deutsche Bank, Aust. and NZ



HSC Year: 1985
-Dux

Training

- 1986 – 1989 Macquarie University – initially studying combined Economics / Law Degree. Changed focus midway to Economics / Finance and graduated in 1989 with a BEc (Major in Finance)
- 1997 - Diploma in Marketing (through part time study) at APM Training

Special Educational Achievements

- Dux of Year Chatham High School 1980, 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1985
- Subject strengths in HSC year were Maths 4U (1st place), Chemistry (1st place), Physics (1st place), Economics (1st place) & English (Top 2)
- Dux of Course – Marketing Diploma 1997

Jobs

- 1989 – 1990 Graduate trainee position with Barclays Bank
- 1990 – 1992 Credit Analyst at Advance Bank
- 1992 – Current - Joined Bain & Company (now Deutsche Bank) in the Structured Finance team in 1992. My 20 years with Deutsche Bank have seen me in a number of different & exciting roles within the Investment Banking business

What are you doing now?

- Currently Director and Chief Administrative Officer for Corporate Finance, Deutsche Bank - Australia & New Zealand, where I have responsibility for a multitude of functions, covering operational, financial and strategic business management.
- I also maintain Regional responsibility across Australia/NZ, Asia and Japan for deal clearances and conflict management for the bank.
- Member of the following Deutsche Bank Committees: Charity Committee, Government Group and Premises & Sourcing Committee.
- Married to triple Olympian, Chris Wybrow and live in Sydney's Eastern suburbs.

Relevant Experiences since leaving school

- Currently one of only 3 female Directors within Corporate Finance at Deutsche Bank in Australia & New Zealand (albeit a number I would dearly love to see increase)

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Interesting Experiences

- My career has allowed me to travel the world, to work with amazing people who I respect enormously, to challenge myself, to grow, to learn and to mentor others
- I have met some amazing people during my time at Deutsche Bank, like Ayaan Hirsi Ali, (the late) Christopher Hitchens, AC Grayling, Barry Humphries, Richard Tognetti, Baroness Susan Greenfield - to name a few
- I have gone for my morning stroll before daybreak on a cattle station in the Kimberley with Janet Holmes A Court, where I was Chairing a meeting for Heytesbury Holdings (Janet's private company)
- Our clients are Australia's top Chairman, Chief Executives, Finance Executives and Board Members – a veritable who's who of Corporate Australia – some of which I now call my friends
 - We deal with multi- billion dollar deals everyday – as a small town girl from Taree, I still can't get my head around that sort of money!

Other comments /Memories from Chatham High Days

- Chatham High provided the foundation for what I have achieved today.
- I have very fond memories of my time at Chatham High and even after 27 years, still maintain close friendships with some of my school friends
- My one regret is that at the time I was at Chatham High we never had a language teacher and I would have enjoyed the opportunity of learning a language when I was younger. That being said, it's never too late to do it now – I just need to make the time

Tips for our students

- **Whilst completing HSC (eg how to gain the desired UAI**

Set goals and work hard, as this is the best starting point for setting yourself up for the future. However, make sure you allow time for a bit of balance – eating well, relaxation, exercise and socialising are all important during your HSC year.

- **Going to University**

Leaving home to go to University is an exciting stage of your life but it can also be pretty scary leaving friends and family and venturing off on your own. If you are not coping with the change, the new workload or the stress, seek help early

Study something that interests you – not what your family, or other people of influence around you think that you should do. It's your life and you need to do something that fulfils you and that you enjoy.

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Remember why you are at Uni – i.e to learn, to build networks and to set yourself up for the future. The Uni bar might be fun, but if your grades are suffering as a result, you need to reassess and refocus what your priorities are

Getting ‘pass’ marks will get you a degree but not necessarily a job - you need to stand out from the crowd and ‘distinctions’ will certainly get you in the door for that coveted interview when you are competing with hundreds of others for that dream job

- **Getting a job**

When it comes to your career, follow your passions. You will always do better at something that you really enjoy.

Make sure you really understand what is required in your role e.g if you are wanting to take on a role as a graduate in Investment Banking or as a junior Lawyer, be prepared to put in the big hours. You will see little of your friends and family in the first few years – but you will be well compensated financially. You need to work out what is important to you, but also what things in your life are not negotiable and that you would not be prepared to sacrifice.

Look for opportunities yourself – they will not always be put in front of you on a silver platter. Your success depends on you.

Don’t be afraid to go out of your comfort zone. The only way you will get ahead is if you challenge yourself. Many women would rather pass up the opportunity of taking on a new role because they don’t feel confident that they have 100% of what it takes. But how will you know unless you try? Be prepared to take a risk. What you don’t know you will learn, through hard work and dedication.

- **Other Tips**

If following your passion cannot provide the job security or financial reward that you need, remember that you can still pursue them as hobbies