

Sarah Humphris reflects on her journey in becoming an internal auditor – from the heart of Queensland



Sarah graduated from James Cook University in 2007 with a Bachelor of Arts, and tried a few different career paths before an opportunity in the financial services industry became available.

Sarah began her career as the Policy and Procedure Administrator at Queensland Country, which enabled her to gain an insight into each area of the business.

As part of her role she began looking for where improvements and more efficient practices could be achieved, which triggered her interest in the second and third lines of defence.

It wasn't long before Sarah was successful in getting the internal auditing role at Queensland Country Credit Union. In her quest to improve herself, she began looking for an internal audit qualification as well as a professional body of members to learn from.

This drew her to studying the Graduate Certificate in Internal Auditing from IIA-Australia, with the pathway to professional membership of the Institute of Internal Auditors-Australia, that is awarded at the end of the course.

Sarah says she is “passionate about the internal audit profession and the pivotal role it can play in organisations. It's also an alternate pathway into the role of internal auditor rather than just the traditional accounting degree pathway”.

She says professional membership adds credibility to her role, and enables continuous learning, networking and other professional opportunities.

The qualification in internal auditing and her success in the role has been useful for Sarah as she was then able to move into a second-line risk role across the organisation.

“As a young professional who spent time in the internal audit function, I know the full extent of how daunting yet rewarding the job can be. I am passionate about promoting the profession to anyone who'll listen, but in particular other young professionals”.

“IIA-Australia is very well positioned to provide advocacy for the profession, and the value of membership with IIA-Australia cannot be dismissed,” she says.

Sarah was awarded the GradCertIA Achievement Award for the greatest improvement over their course of study at the International Conference held in Sydney in 2017.

She was a member of the inaugural Youth Leadership Committee, and along with the other members of the Committee was able to successfully help establish youth initiatives to assist in driving membership amongst young internal auditors, while also providing guidance to the IIA-A board on what younger members want from the Institute.

For further information regarding Professional Membership of the Institute of Internal Auditors — Australia please visit www.iaa.org.au/PMIIA or contact us 02 9267 9155 or membership@iaa.org.au