



Name: Sarah Humphris

Location: Townsville, Queensland

Work role: I am the Internal Audit Manager at Queensland Country Group which comprises the Queensland Country Bank and the Queensland Country Health Fund.

Professional role: I was a very proud member of the inaugural IIA-Australia Youth Leadership Committee and following stepping down was elected as a Queensland Chapter Council Member.

How did you get a start in internal audit?

I began my career with Queensland Country Group writing policies and procedures but always thought there had to be more I could do to make an impact. An internal audit vacancy became available right before I was due to go on leave to get married.

Ultimately, I was successful in being appointed to the role and returned from my honeymoon with a new surname and a new internal audit role.

What's the coronavirus drama effect on you?

I love live music, so being unable to travel to see gigs has been a hard pill to swallow. We're lucky to be living in an age where boundaries can be crossed by technology, however dancing in my lounge room just isn't the same.

Working from office or home?

I worked at home between the end of March to mid-July but am now back in the office.

How has coronavirus changed the way you work?

We are using technology much more in our day-to-day interactions using various forms of videoconferencing.

What risks would you say are heightened by coronavirus?

Misinformation, particularly in the media. There's a lot of information out there and it's really important to make sure it's credible.

What is the biggest challenge facing internal auditors?

Bringing everyone along on a change journey can be challenging but is absolutely worth doing.

What has the IIA–Australia been doing lately?

I am a huge fan of the move to on-line meetings and training. It can be difficult and expensive to get along to events once travel and accommodation is factored in, but now meetings and training sessions are more accessible.

What is your most memorable internal audit moment?

There's a few, but I would say my time on the IIA–Australia Youth Leadership Committee was invaluable and the calibre of people I worked alongside is amazing. I would also say being awarded the Graduate Certificate in Internal Audit Achievement Award is very memorable.

What are you working on at present?

At the moment I am busy implementing recommendations from our recent External Quality Assurance assessment. The insights this assessment provided are helping me refine and shape our Internal Audit Frameworks now and into the future and I am so excited to share these with my team and continue to educate the wider business on the services and value we can provide.

What are you reading at present?

I am re-reading an old favourite 'The Thought Gang' by Tibor Fischer – philosophical bank robbers!

What is on your desk right now?

Various bobble heads from popular culture sit alongside some pics of my gorgeous family and a framed copy of my Graduate Certificate in Internal Audit Achievement Award.

Concert or event you would most like to attend?

I've been fortunate enough to attend many festivals and events during my life so far. I missed Soundwave Festival in 2009 so I would love to attend that one.

What would you change if you could?

Not a thing. I have been very lucky in my life and every hardship is just an opportunity to grow.