

## LYNLEY DUNN

### *CAPABILITY MANAGER, GENERATION OPERATIONS*

When Lynley approached a careers advisor at school there were two positions currently being advertised. She could become a Bank Teller or a Thermal Plant Operator trainee at the Huntly Power Station.

A Thermal Operator trainee is a technical role that required 4 years of training. Lynley spent the first two years studying and attending trade school learning to weld, use a lathe and electrical wiring. This role involved shift work and lots of physical work on the power station plant and she kept thinking “how can this be work? – I am having way too much fun.” She is still great friends with many of the other 11 trainees from her group.

Having a strong background in operations has provided Lynley with opportunities to be involved with many projects. She has travelled overseas to the UAE, Qatar, Scotland and England over the last 5 years to see how Generation Safety Rules are applied at power stations in these countries and bring back learnings on how we should apply them here in the New Zealand industry.

Currently, Lynley is managing an annual maintenance outage, which is a separate project from her usual role but brings with it the great challenge of keeping on schedule and within budget when juggling different projects. Another challenge comes from the focus on safety being intensified with the increase in contractors onsite.

During the outage Lynley is onsite from 6.30am and after checking everyone is signed onto the right permit for work, she spends the rest of the day closely watching the budget, leading daily progress meetings to make sure everything is on track and walking around the site checking everyone is working safely. Normally she would be looking at competency pathways and training but with a big project currently underway around process safety, there is an opportunity to get involved and help develop a competency framework for Contact – something that Lynley has had on her ‘to-do’ list for some time and is looking forward to making progress on.

Failure isn’t an option for Lynley, who places expectations on herself to do better at everything than the next person. However, she is doing



something different every day and the benefits outweigh any challenges. Lynley spends little time at her desk and more time out on the plant or interacting with really cool people who are passionate about the industry and their role in it. She says the people are the very best thing about her job.

To anyone looking to start out in the industry, Lynley advises to not limit yourself by your start in a certain area. Once you start at one point, the opportunities will be huge and you'll be able to do anything. Always aspire to be more, no matter where you start.