

“ANSTO is proud to be a supporter of the 2011 WiSE summit. As one of Australia’s largest public research organisations, we seek to collaborate and develop new ways to support women in pursuing and maintaining rewarding careers in engineering and science.”

Dr Adi Paterson
CEO ANSTO

Women & ANSTO

ANSTO’S Dr Joanne Lackenby has a passion for nuclear science & the environment



Dr Joanne Lackenby

With a strong passion for physics and engineering, getting involved in nuclear science was inevitable for Wollongong’s Dr Joanne Lackenby. Joanne is one of a few remarkable women making in-roads into the traditionally male-dominated careers in science and engineering.

Joanne is the Licensing Officer and Environmental Co-ordinator for ANSTO’s OPAL research reactor, monitoring OPAL’s regulatory compliance. She said it was always a dream to work at ANSTO.

“I have always been fascinated by all things nuclear so that was the burning passion that steered me toward my career at ANSTO. But I’ve got a background in environmental engineering as well. Basically, I’m a nuclear-loving, tree-hugging hippie,” she laughed.

Joanne insists it hasn’t been too difficult forging a career path in an industry that is pre-dominantly populated by men. “I’ve been pretty lucky in the roles I have landed at ANSTO and working with the guys has been great so it’s been an even playing field for me.”

But the main challenge, according to Joanne, has been getting more women interested in the field of nuclear science and engineering.

“I’ve always been quite passionate about nuclear science so it was quite easy for me to get involved. Most women, though, are only interested in the biology and chemistry side of the sciences - they don’t care about physics. Because of that, many women have a negative view of anything to do with nuclear and are quick to believe the scare-mongering of anti-nuclear groups.

“I think if we educate more women about this incredible field of science, we could see more of them pursuing careers in this industry. That is one of the goals of the ‘Women in Nuclear’ group that I am involved with,” Joanne explained. “We are looking to branch out into the community to educate more people about the benefits of nuclear science” she said.

I was fortunate to be part of the 2007 ANSTO Graduate Development program which has given me an opportunity to progress my career in an exciting direction. I can see that there will be challenges with progressing further in my career if I decide to have a family, but my hope is that more employers, like ANSTO, will continue to progress and work towards better accommodating the needs of women and men with family so that there will be more opportunities to continue doing exciting research and progress into higher positions for women of my generation and beyond.

*Catriona Wimberley,
Nuclear Futures Graduate and PhD student*



Women in Nuclear – Australia

ANSTO is the proud supporter for the Australian chapter of Women in Nuclear.

Women in Nuclear aims to provide an environment in the nuclear and radiation fields where women's participation and contribution is valued and encouraged. Women in Nuclear provides a forum for exchanging information and networking opportunities for women.

The organisation also sets out to inform the public and promote the safe and peaceful uses of nuclear and radiation applications.

The Australian chapter of Women in Nuclear consists of over 100 members from a range of fields including engineering and science. WIN Global is a not-for-profit organisation with roughly 2500 members in 68 countries.

For further information please visit our website:

www.ansto.gov.au



Ansto

Nuclear-based science benefiting all Australians

Fast Facts

- ANSTO is a major supporter of Women in Nuclear, Australia.
- 45% of ANSTO's 2011 Graduate Development Program participants are female compared to 25% in the 2007 intake.
- ANSTO employs 291 women, which accounts for 27% of all staff and is committed to Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) principles and practices.
- ANSTO provides 14 weeks maternity leave at full pay.