



Meat: Brett Scoble

PLANT MANAGER,
H.W. GREENHAM & SONS (VIC)

“It’s not a job for me, it’s just what I do,” says Brett Scoble, Plant Manager at H.W. Greenham & Sons. Brett is a walking example of what progression looks like in the red meat processing industry.

Based in Tongala, Victoria, Brett has been with the company for 22 years. During that time, he has had the opportunity to work in a number of roles and upskill himself through ongoing training. “The industry has some very clear career pathways and a real commitment to the growth and development of its employees,” says Brett, “it’s something they do really well.”

In 2016, Brett became one of the first graduates to complete a Graduate Certificate in Agribusiness delivered by Response Learning Australia – a postgraduate vocational qualification developed specifically for senior members of the AgriFood Industry.

Shortly after high school, Brett tried dairy farming for a while. Though he liked the work, he soon noticed that some of his friends were earning double the pay at the local processing plant and working half the hours he did. As the meat processing plant had just opened up locally, he decided he’d apply for an entry level job there. The rest, as they say, is history.

“It didn’t take long for me to work out that I liked the work, and I could see the job opportunities there. I made sure I put myself in the position to learn new skills; if there were any roles that had

responsibilities attached, I let my managers know that I was interested, and that I was serious about my career.”

Brett also participated in any available training and was keen to learn new skills that could increase his knowledge of the industry. As his dedication became clear to senior management, Brett was rewarded with new tasks and training opportunities which, over time, resulted in his progression into more senior roles.

“The opportunities are there, if you’re prepared to start somewhere. The foot in the door may initially involve packing meat, but there are so many opportunities from there,” Brett says. “Having that background knowledge of the entry level jobs will help you in the longer term, and if you show some initiative, then it doesn’t take long before you get feedback from management about your next role in the company.”

One of the key factors that Brett says he enjoys is the personal growth and progression he has managed to achieve through hard work and training. He has also found that on occasion, he has become a role model for colleagues who have acknowledged his development and are wanting to follow his career path.

Brett says the industry has changed a lot in the 22 years he has been employed in it, and today, there is training support from employers, and the industry is continuing to evolve due to new technologies and developments. The end result of this ongoing growth and change is the job opportunities it provides.

“I don’t know of any other industry that is as committed to developing their staff as the red meat processing industry,” he says.

Whilst it is not Brett’s highest priority, he believes that jobs in the meat processing industry pay much higher than is commonly perceived. The flexible hours available in the industry also allow for a greater work/lifestyle balance, and early starts enable staff to make it to the end of day school pick up, or to enjoy the rest of the afternoon off.

If you’re thinking about your next career move, Brett strongly encourages anyone to give the red meat processing industry a go.

“People close to me and in our local community have seen what I have achieved through my career at H.W. Greenham & Sons,” he says. “I consider anyone working in meat processing to be lucky and, to an extent, privileged to have the job opportunities that are available.”

Brett says that at the end of the day, it’s about seeing the opportunities. “It’s about letting people know where you want to be and simply making an effort by asking for extra responsibility so that management know where you want to be.”

The next time you eat red meat, have a think about the variety of people who helped it onto your plate. It’s thanks to people in all sorts of roles – from HR managers, boners and slicers or IT professionals to engineers, apprentices and microbiologists. It could be the result of Brett’s handiwork.

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