



Emma Buis

Female Engineer of the Year ACSE Awards 2020



Career Highlights

Originally from rural Victoria, Emma started her career as a graduate in 2012. Naturally driven, her outstanding technical abilities and determination enabled her to work, whilst only a graduate, on the detailed design of the Casey Specialist Centre in Berwick, Victoria. Emma followed this project through to the construction phase and carried out regular inspections on all structural elements. With the successful completion of the project, she was then given opportunities to become a lead design engineer in both Victoria and South Australia.

A big thinker and thirsty for more challenges, Emma moved to Sydney in 2018 where she joined TTW as a senior structural engineer. She brought with her a wealth of design experience in aged care, health and educational sectors. Emma relishes the opportunity to work collaboratively in a team where she promotes innovation and creativity. Her strong communication skills and ability to take initiative combined with her project management skills, led Emma to her recent promotion to Associate.

Emma's strong leadership, collaborative work approach and project management skills earned her the position as structural lead on the current \$463million Pitt Street Metro Station project.

“ As the structural lead on Pitt Street Metro Integrated Station Development, Emma's collaborative approach to the design development has been invaluable in a large project office environment. Emma inspires the engineers around her to continually improve including through her advocacy for professional engineering chartership.

Glen Fowlie
Director
TTW



Leadership

Actively involved in the university community, Emma was invited to sit on the Alumni Advisory Group where she was an active member for four years. During her time in Melbourne, she regularly presented to engineering students on her experiences as a graduate. This extended further, with attending regular open days to encourage high school students to pursue an engineering pathway. Emma hopes that being a female advocate for the construction industry will encourage more women to enter into the industry.

Emma has forged her leadership commitment since joining TTW in 2018. Playing a significant role in the TTW Mentoring program, she has mentored two emerging engineers since joining the firm. The mentoring guidance includes, but not limited to; technical advancement of the graduates, career guidance and networking advice.

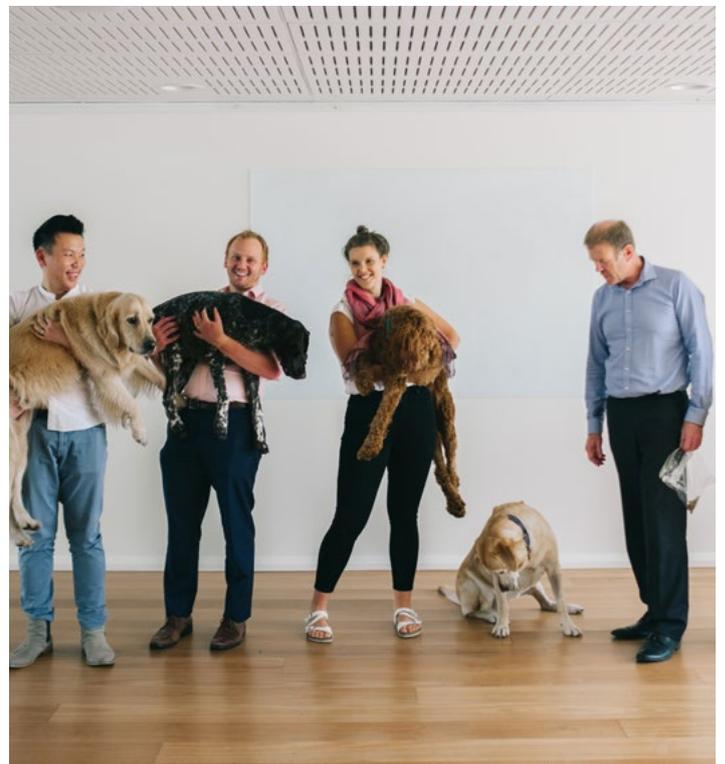
Emma is a core part of the development of TTW's Young Professional Development Group (YPDG), which provides workshops for younger engineers to focus on improving their soft skills in the workplace. She believes that providing these avenues of growth for young engineers is key to their success.

Her positive attitude and technical abilities have helped her forge strong relationships with directors, senior management, clients, partners and colleagues.

“ As a recognised professional in the construction industry, Emma offers the resilience of a studious and conscientious Engineer. Emma endorses a proactive and obliging nature working with stakeholders delivering a service ranging from clients, design consultants and construction teams.

The tenacity Emma has shown in such a short time frame working together only further exemplifies my confidence in offering this statement of support. It is without reservation that I offer this recommendation for such a prestigious award.

Stephen Waller
Pre-contracts Manager
St Hilliers Property



Contribution to TTW

Since her commencement in 2018, Emma has become the champion for chartership promotion at TTW. Leading internal workshops and actively engaging with staff about the process, she was able to increase the number of engineers achieving their chartership accreditation from one in 2018 to ten in 2019.

As an active member of the YPDG at TTW, one of her responsibilities is the professional development of emerging engineers. She is currently working on a series of presentations that will be carried out by the team who is working on school and university projects. The focus will be on engineers with less than six years experience. The aim is to help emerging engineers develop and deliver these presentations externally. The hours will also attribute to CPD hours required for chartership.

Emma has a strong focus on inclusion and diversity within the company. Her active involvement in the social committee was based on her motivation to bring colleagues together. She initiated TTW's first cork and canvas night and aerial yoga which saw an increase in staff attendance of all ages to these TTW events.

Mental health and wellbeing is something that Emma is passionate about. She has revamped TTW's annual "bring your dog to work day" to "bring your dog to work, any day!" Emma contributes to the wellbeing of our employees on a daily basis, ensuring her colleagues have a positive work environment, which increases overall productivity.

Diversity

Emma is passionate about workplace inclusion. In her view, the benefits of diversity are lost if individuals don't feel they are included and valued.

In 2019, Emma was part of the NAWIC mentoring program as a mentee. Gaining so much from the experience, she has encouraged three young females from TTW to partake in the program for 2020 and has also volunteered her time to mentor a young female engineer in the construction industry. She believes that everyone has a valuable story and if it can make someone else's journey easier, it is worthwhile to share.



Emma saw an opportunity to establish a series of presentations for the schools and universities that have been engineered by TTW. The series will include presentations during and post construction with the goal to:

- promote the construction industry
- inspire young students to consider engineering as a career path
- give them an understanding of how and why their schools have been designed and engineered that way to improve their environments

The presentations offer other benefits, including:

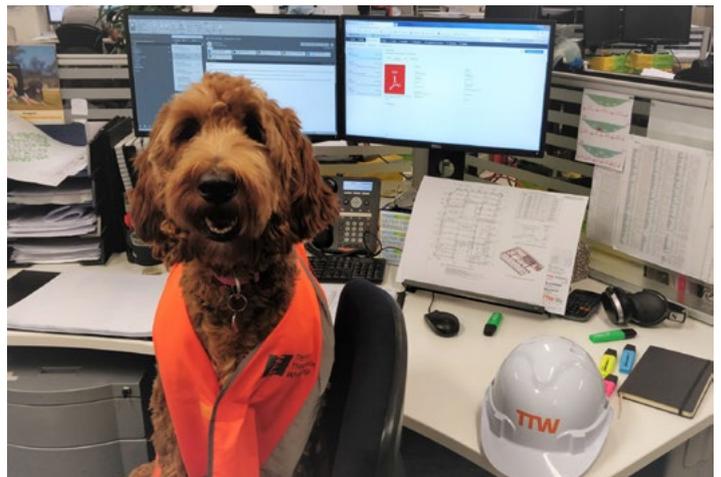
- alignment with one of TTW core values: Community. Our staff will be volunteering their time to provide valuable insight to the youth about future career prospects
- improvement to the uptake of STEM through senior and university education
- promoting an inclusive learning atmosphere with a focus on encouraging more females to pursue an engineering pathway

Adversity & Challenges

Emma grew up in regional Victoria where job opportunities for women were limited. With encouragement from her parents, she pursued engineering – attributing this to the strong construction trades in her family. Instead of feeling isolated as one of few women in the industry, she overcame this challenge by embracing this difference to engage in further opportunities. She hopes that her experience and commitment to creating an inclusive environment for staff will give others this confidence.

Adversity in our industry can be common place. Emma acknowledges the importance of workplace wellbeing for all staff at TTW, which has led to her initiative of “bring your dog to work any day”. Research shows having dogs in the office environment reduces stress and enhances social connections in the workplace.

Emma's dog Winnie holds down the fort in Sydney. Her tail wags, playfulness and gentle cuddles bring a calm and happy presence to all. She is particularly fond of pats, leftover lunches, cheese and walkies!



“ Emma was a breath of fresh air to the project team. A young engineer with an old school approach. She worked closely with the entire supply chain in a professional, diligent and tenacious manner to resolve significant technical matters imposed on the UNSW Clancy Project as a result of fast tracked construction requirement, staging and buildability issues.

Nick Brady
Senior Project Manager
Buildcorp

Your Partner in Engineering