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I commenced employment with New England Credit Union in 2003 as a branch supervisor at the Uralla Branch and within a relatively short period of time, I was promoted to the position of Branch Manager for New England Credit Union's largest branch – Armidale.

I live in Armidale with my wife Tahlia and we are looking forward to the safe arrival of our first child in early December. Armidale is set 1000m above sea level with a population of 25,000 and is closely located to three World Heritage Listed National Parks – The Oxley Wild Rivers, New England and Dorrigo National Parks. Armidale and the surrounding district is well renowned for producing some of Australia's finest wool there are fat lamb and cattle enterprises that are just as prominent. Other local industries include education, light metal fabrication, wineries and a number of diverse enterprises in aquaculture, berries, olives and alpacas.

In 2007, through my position at New England Credit Union, I was given my first introduction to Credit Union Foundation Australia (CUFA) through a Development Education (DE) program. CUFA is a not-for-profit organisation striving to eliminate poverty in the Asia-Pacific region through the implementation of various programs targeting microfinance. In 2008, I travelled rural Cambodia on a mountain bike for a CUFA Cambodian Leadership Challenge. This program allowed participants to see first hand, the work of CUFA's Children's Financial Literacy Program and how it was contributing to the redevelopment of Cambodia.

I was raised in Walcha; a small rural town just south of Armidale where my mother and father operated their own mixed retails business. I have one brother and two sisters. I consider myself to be somewhat of a handyman around the home and have successfully undertaken many renovation projects to convert our house into our home. I enjoy a number of recreational activities including a variety of ball sports, waterskiing/wakeboarding and motor sports. Both Tahlia and I are very close to our family and enjoy spending as much time as possible with them.

In 2002, I was sponsored by the Walcha Rotary Club to attend RYLA in Armidale. This fantastic program has seen me return on two more occasions as a guest speaker from New England Credit Union.

Whilst on Rotary Group Study Exchange, vocationally I would like to see / experience:

- Credit Unions engaging with their communities;
- New branch designs and concepts for financial institutions;

- How financial institutions raise capital to lend back out to their customers/members;
- Sales activities that assist in the growth of membership, lending and savings balances;
- Counter management/work flow strategies ensuring fast and efficient services to customers/members
- New innovations/technologies for delivering financial services to customers/members; and
- Programs that have been initiated by Credit Unions that address the needs of their communities.

Something special about me: I believe that everyone has something special to offer. I always try to find this something special to bring out the best in them.

Quote: "You get what you have always got, if you do what you've always done."