

# ACHIEVING A DREAM

**Leila Daniels is well on the way to realising her goals, as she packs her bags at the end of 2005 and heads to Canberra to begin the next exciting chapter in her life.**

Leila began work in the retail industry in 1995, when she was still in Grade 10 at school.

Her first three years were spent at Harris Scarfe in Hobart, after which she worked at Coles Sandy Bay for five months before moving to Officeworks, where she has been happily employed on both a full-time and part-time basis over the past seven years.



The reason behind opting for part-time work during the last three years has been her dedication to study at the university, where she recently completed a Bachelor of Commerce degree, majoring in Human Resource Management and Marketing.

The flexibility in hours provided by Officeworks has been much appreciated by Leila, as this enabled her to continue working whilst still carrying a full study load. She says that management was always very helpful and supportive of her endeavours.

Leila obviously enjoyed studying and her dedication was rewarded in August this year when she received the Tasmanian Student Marketer of the Year Award through the Australian Institute of Marketing.

With the hard work behind her, Leila began seeking employment opportunities where she could apply her skills. She also looked at the range of graduate programs that are made available through various government departments. After gaining an interview with the Department of Defence in Canberra, Leila was successful in securing one of the eighty graduate positions on offer – from a cast of 2,500 applicants Australia wide!

Leila said that being able to draw on her experience at Officeworks and as an SDA delegate was an added advantage during her assessment. The graduate program runs for ten months and Leila is confident it will provide her with an excellent basis for a future career in either the public service or the private sector.

Her partner Jeff Norris (also from Officeworks and an involved SDA member) is moving to Canberra as well and has been successful in gaining a position with the Department of Veterans Affairs. They intend to make the most of this great opportunity to widen their horizons, with the goal of later returning to Tassie to forge a wonderful future.

Leila's advice to anyone with a dream is – go for it! The hard work is worth it in the end.

Having joined the SDA at the very beginning of her working life, Leila has been a loyal and active member ever since and has also represented her colleagues as a store delegate this year.

We offer our congratulations and wish her great success in the graduate program – and hope she will enjoy living in Canberra **almost** as much as Tasmania.