

A Few Minutes With...

Emma Brown
VMC 1998 – 2003

Emma has built a career in a male dominated field and started a Fire Protection Company called Flamen Safety Services Ltd. I asked her to share her experiences since leaving Villa for this edition.

What did you do when you left Villa?

Ever since Villa I have always had a huge passion for performance cars and motorcycles. I worked in the car sales industry for eight years and spent a fair bit of time getting greasy pulling engines apart, it was great! I entered my cars and motorcycles into nationwide shows and took out a variety of awards along with calendar and magazine features.

Can you give me a brief career history? How did you get in to the Fire Safety industry?

The Christchurch earthquakes gave me a bit of a wakeup call having lost an immediate family member; I left the car sales industry and took a leap in the opposite direction. Chubb NZ took me on board as their only female technician in New Zealand. While working for them

I studied for my NZQA in Portable Hand Operated Fire Fighting Equipment as well as my certificate in Compressed Gas Cylinder Filling and all the safety certificates required these days to enter building sites that are under construction. They also sent me over to explore the same industry in Australia.

I have since established my own Fire Protection Company - Flamen Safety Services Ltd. We deal in anything and everything to do with Fire Extinguishers and I love being a female in a male dominated industry it all comes down to confidence. It's a changing world!

Do you have any distinct memories of your Villa days?

Many happy memories from Villa, I loved to study but also got involved in a lot of sports. I was the goal keeper for the Villa Top XI hockey team as well as representing Canterbury and filling in for the odd New Zealand game. I spent a lot of time in the gymnasium which was brand new back in the day and absolutely amazing.

Has your Villa education shaped you in any way?

Most definitely, Villa offered me all the support and opportunities imaginable to study and shape myself into who I am today. It taught me self-discipline and



Emma with her daughter on her wedding day.

grounded my religious beliefs. I learnt how to hold my head high and 'Prize what is of Value'.

Do you have any pieces of advice for our young Villa girls?

Push yourself to dream big. I've always been an achiever and if you put in the effort you will succeed - hard work does pay off! Don't forget the importance of family and friends along the way though, look after those close to you as life's not all about work, you need a healthy balance of fun and games as well.



Photo courtesy of Kiwi Hockey.

Villa's Own NZ Black Stick Player

Rachel McCann
VMC 2005 – 2010, Head Girl

Rachel McCann was Villa's Head Girl in 2010 and it is with great excitement that we were informed of her selection into the NZ Black Sticks Hockey Team!

Her debut against Canada in a three game test series saw Rachel score her very first international goal.

Rachel says: "From a young age it's always been a goal of mine to play for the national side and I'm just really excited to have the opportunity to do that."

She has just completed her Bachelor of Arts degree majoring in English and minoring in Classics with a view to completing her teaching degree and becoming a secondary school teacher.

We are so proud! Congratulations Rachel from the entire Villa family.