Tanya is now the proud owner and operator of McDonald’s McWhirters, in Fortitude Valley, Queensland, after taking over as franchisee last March 2013. She is looking forward to implementing her big plans for the restaurant and her crew, including growing her business and developing the team to be the best they can be.

Sharing her experience with Franchising Magazine, Tanya hopes to inspire other entrepreneurs to follow their passions and consider a future with McDonald’s.

**From Medicine to Macca’s**

Despite her background as a medical technologist, working 17 years for Queensland Medical Laboratories, Tanya’s passion has always been in hospitality and food service. Her dream to work with people and food finally became reality when she took over New Farm Deli & Café, in Brisbane, which she operated for eight years. The success she achieved as a small business owner made her hungry to grow her business further.

“I have several friends who are McDonald’s Licensees and the more I learned about the business from them, the more I realised I needed McDonald’s to achieve my goals for business expansion. I applied to become a franchisee in 2007 but they were not taking in applications at that time. Two years later when the opportunity presented itself, we jumped straight in and were successful in joining the organisation.”

Although it did not take long for Tanya’s application to be accepted, it took another two years to sell her business after being affected by the 2011 Queensland floods. Following this, she completed a year of intensive training and then waited for a site to become available in Brisbane. The site turned out to be McWhirters, a bustling shopping centre in the heart of Fortitude Valley.

**Ticking all the Boxes**

In making her decision to apply for a McDonald’s franchise, Tanya was impressed that McDonald’s was particularly looking for people with the business experience and ability to operate multiple restaurants, but still be involved in the day-to-day operation of the business.

“I am a very hands-on operator and firmly believe you need to lead by example and set very clear expectations derived from a strong business plan. I was attracted to the McDonald’s system because I knew I wouldn’t have to reinvent the wheel, allowing me the freedom to focus on growing and placing my business in a strong position for expansion.”

“At the same time, I value the collaborative approach that McDonald’s offers its franchisees. The corporation has allowed me the freedom to develop at my own pace, but also provided me with strong support, encouragement and training to ensure my success.”

**Words of Wisdom**

When asked what advice she would give to anybody interested in becoming a McDonald’s Franchisee, Tanya had plenty of wise words to share.

Be prepared for the 12 months of training and get ready to roll your sleeves up, learn everything you can and lead by example. Embrace every day of your training as this is the perfect opportunity to be fast tracked to being a McDonald’s owner. You need to enjoy and understand people and be able to embrace the benefits of operating under the McDonald’s banner.”

“I was very fortunate to have had nothing but support from McDonald’s and fellow franchisees who have acted as mentors in my transition from Registered Applicant to a fully operating Licensee. The training was extensive and exhausting yet vital to putting me in the best possible position for success.”

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McDonald’s would like to partner with you to create the next success story.

If this sounds like the next chapter in your life, check out all the information at www.mcdonalds.com.au or email us at franchising@au.mcd.com