

Issue ONE 2009

VOS

The Voice of SANIT

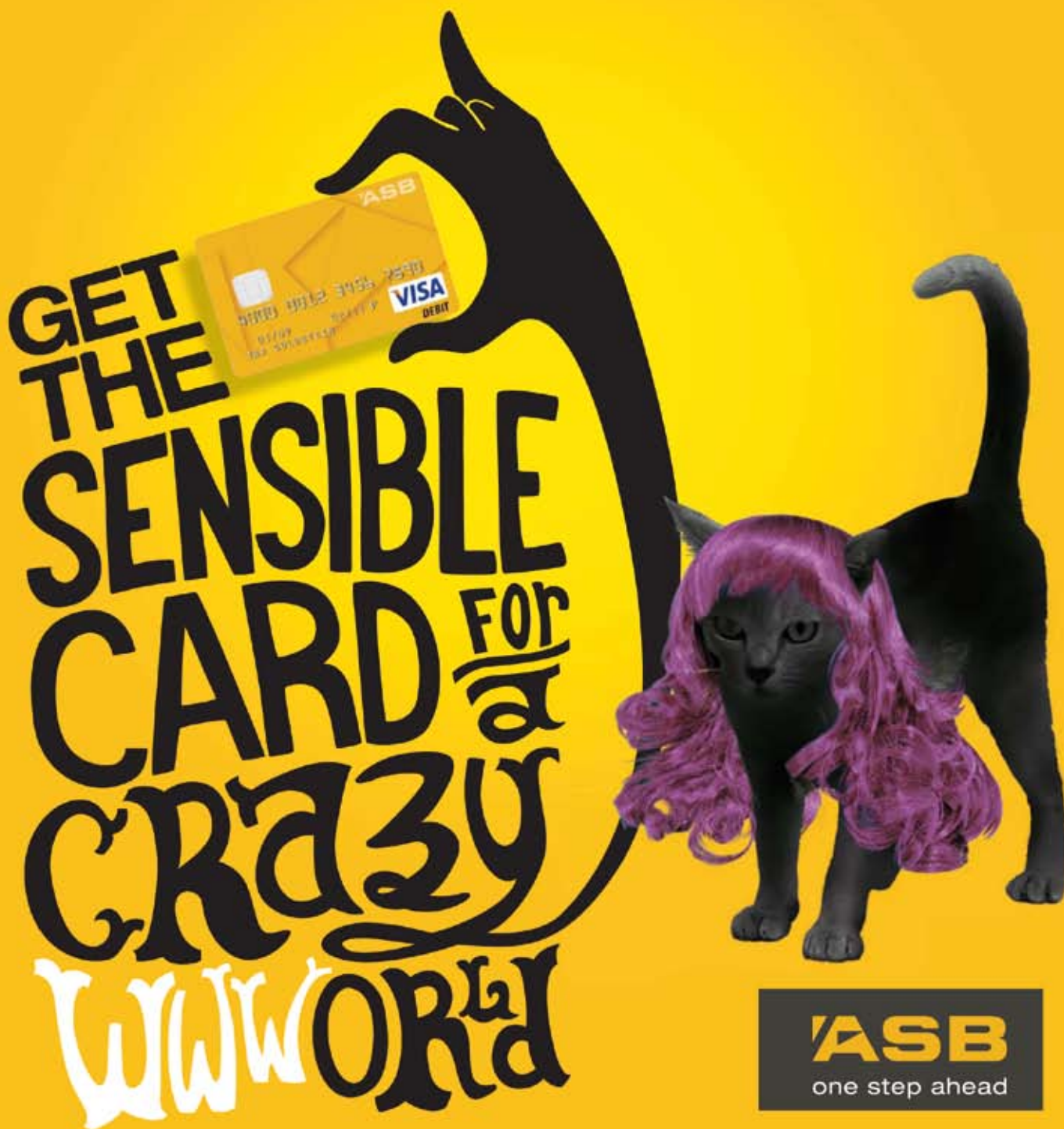


**Meet the NEW
Student President
& Executive**

**Photo and
Crossword
Competitions**

Orientation '09

**Coffee &
Cocktails
Reviews**



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Vos

Voice of SANITI Magazine of the Student Association of NMIT

People Who Did Stuff

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Ticket Slapper
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Da Prez Sez

Kia ora everyone, I'm Rachel, the new President at SANITI. Thanks to everyone at SANITI for welcoming me to my new role, especially the outgoing acting President, Kay Fisk. We wish Kay well for her exciting year ahead and look forward to welcoming a little kung fu fighter to the SANITI office!

We have a brand new executive following our AGM in March, who have exec training and their first meeting in the next few weeks. See page 2 for pics of their smiling mugs. There are heaps of ways you can help out too – become a Class Rep, join our Volunteering scheme, or stand for Exec in the future. If you're keen, then come and talk to us in the office.

I hope you all had a great mid-semester break and found time to



enjoy the brilliant Nelson weather (I'm not missing Wellington southerlies one little bit!). Now is the time to look after yourself as end of semester assignments and exams loom (eek!). Remember, if you need help with anything affecting your studies, just pop in to the SANITI Office (we're in the prefab building in Block E), or say hi to me on campus (don't be a stranger!). A BIG part of my job is to help and support you so that you can be successful in your studies.

Rachel

Over and out,

INSIDE...



The NEW President



Green Bread



Jump Suits



To Know Her Is To Love Her

MEET THE NEW STUDENT PREZ!



Full Name:

Rachel Elizabeth Boyack

Where did you grow up?

All over the place!
Timaru, Blenheim,
Wanganui,
Wellington and
Palmerston North,

but mostly Palmerston North. It's nice being back in the mainland.

What and where did you study?

Music and Commerce at the University of Auckland, and now some business papers at NMIT.

Describe your academic career in three words... verbose, expensive, challenging.

Have you ever had a hero or role model?

Definitely Julie Andrews and most characters she has played. That woman is CLASSY! Being serious now, my mother and my husband Scott are my rocks and I wouldn't be where I am today without them. My other hero would be Michael Joseph Savage (Labour Prime Minister from 1935-1940), who once said, "I see no reason why the Government should apologise for helping the poor, and I am not going to

apologise." Without Micky Savage John Key wouldn't have had a nice state home to grow up in ;-)

What is your cooking speciality?

Macaroni Cheese (topped with bacon, tomatoes, bread crumbs, paprika and more cheese), although my husband would probably say anything that contains bacon.

Do you think it is harder being a student now than 10 years ago? I think it's relative.

Student loans are now interest free, but the living component of the loans and allowances has not kept up with the cost of living. 10 years ago it was near impossible to find part-time and summer work as a student and I'm concerned to see similar trends rearing their ugly heads again.

Most embarrassing moment... one night in Russia, and that's all I'm going to say.

What are the biggest student issues at the moment? For at least a decade now the biggest student issue has been the cost of education.

Until education is free and there is a living allowance for all, that issue won't go away. Currently, access to jobs and good support when the recession really bites are big issues



affecting students (if you'd like to help your fellow students out, see page 10 for info on our ace Volunteering Scheme).

Where do you see yourself in ten years? In about 137 different places doing 137 different things, the options are endless! Probably having a mega freak out because I'll be 1 year off 40.

Name something you wish you did more of and something you did less of...

I wish I prayed more and ate less pizza!

For Christmas do you want an iPhone or an extra week off work? Definitely an iPhone!

What aspect of the job excites you the most?

Making a positive difference in the lives of students and meeting lots of great people.

MEET THE NEW

STUDENT EXECUTIVE

Elected at the SANITI Annual General Meeting in March, these guys are the brand spankingly NEW SANITI STUDENT EXECUTIVE! They provide direction for the Association and provide support and feedback to the SANITI President and Staff Members.



Daniel Moran



Herb Hesketh



Lavana Ramsteijn



Neil Williamson



Mike Vickers



Pat Ahern



Pei Tuan
(Yo Yo)



Deone Greer



Reno Maru
(Matua)



Barry Walsh



Louise Gould



Zhou Rui



Hayden Lowe



Rachel Boyack
President

WHAT IS S.A.N.I.T.I.?

**So, you ask, who is this SANITI crowd?
What is a Student Association?
And why should you care?**

What is SANITI?

SANITI stands for 'Student Association of Nelson-Marlborough Institute of Technology Incorporated'. SANITI is registered as an incorporated society and charity (not for profit organisation).

What is a Students Association?

Simply put, a Student Association is an independent body (i.e., independent to NMIT) who provide services to support students to successfully complete their studies. SANITI's most important role is to represent and advocate for students.

Why should I care?

Every NMIT student is a member of SANITI and pays a fee at the start of the year. A fee which we are pleased to say is one of the lowest in the country! SANITI is a back-stop, somewhere students can go and find help and support for any aspect of student life. A lot of what SANITI does is on a one-to-one level and unseen by most people. Such things as student representation and advocacy can be assumed and even taken for granted.

Who Is Involved with SANITI?

Like any good body, SANITI has two arms – governance and management. Governance is headed by the Student President who oversees all the representation duties for the Association. Alongside the Student President is an elected Student Executive who provide direction and support the representative process.

The management aspect is lead by the Association Manager and includes other staff: Nelson Campus Co-ordinator, Distant Campus Manager, Events and Publications Co-ordinator, Advocate and Policy Developer.

While every position has their own responsibilities, the Association favours a team approach to take advantage of the diverse skill base and experience. This approach means that students get the best possible support and advice every time.

Students' feedback to the Association through an extensive class representative system that covers Nelson, Marlborough and Woodbourne Campuses as well as the 12 aviation providers. Students can also contact the office directly by email, phone or text. All concerns are treated in the strictest confidence.

Well, that's all fine and dandy but apart from cooking sausages and talking about itself what does SANITI actually do?

On a day-to-day level, SANITI answers all kinds of general enquires from NMIT students studying all around New Zealand. While we are more than happy to point people to the new Copy Centre location, students come to SANITI with a wide

range of issues including: WINZ, StudyLink, Ministry of Justice, tenancy, employment, and academic. If SANITI can't solve an issue themselves, they direct students to someone that help and can act as a support person or advocate.

• Representation - Student Voice

A key part of the Student President's role is to represent students on NMIT Council (the NMIT governing body). To do this they need to be clued up on government legislation and institute policies.

The President also sits on other committees such as Academic Board, Misconduct and Health and Safety. There are also a range of community organisations that Executive members provide a student voice on.

• Advocacy and Support

SANITI provides advocacy and support services to all NMIT students. In the first instance support is provided by the Student President. The Association also employs an Advocate to support students through more complex dispute resolution processes.

• Events

SANITI runs many events throughout the year. There is usually some one planning or promoting an event. SANITI sources sponsorship to subsidize events and provide prizes. Larger events such as Orientations, Graduations and the annual Student Pilot Conference take months to organise and deliver.

• Publications

SANITI produces a range of publications throughout the year, including an amazing student diary which is full of student discounts, a magazine (3 issues) and a range of brochures and posters. Publications are heavily subsidised by advertisers.

• Website

SANITI's website has a wide range of information on Association services, links to community

groups and businesses, plus a photo gallery spotlighting student life. If you have attended one of our events you may well be featured!

• Student Job Search

SANITI is a member of Student Job Search which provides a job services for students throughout New Zealand. Just jump on to www.sjs.co.nz and register for this service. It's FREE for SANITI members.

Diverse Student Base

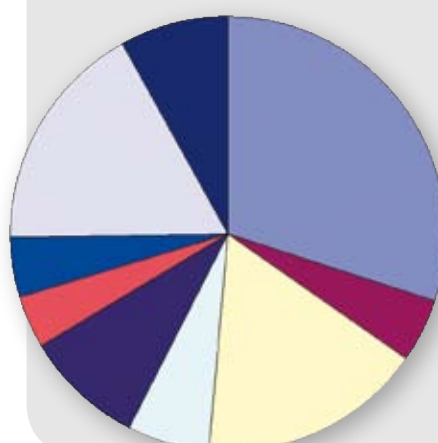
Not many people, including many NMIT Staff, know that over ½ of all NMIT students study *off the Nelson Campus*. NMIT has 16 places of learning all over the country and an increasing number of extramural students. Currently NMIT has over 360 students studying aviation – pilot training or engineering. Association personnel visit all the campuses at least twice every year and manage student issues on a daily basis.

So where do the \$ go?

For 2009 NMIT has projected figures of 3113 EFTS (Equivalent Full-Time Students), but because we have so many part-time students, 3113 EFTS actually represents almost 8800 students that SANITI must provide for. On top of this, more than half of these students study outside Nelson, meaning that the association must provide services all around the country. This could be as far north as Mahurangi Campus at Warkworth, North of Auckland, or as far south as Mainland Aviation School in Dunedin. That's 16 physical locations plus a whole stack of extramural distance learners to boot. The graph below shows roughly how much time and resources go into providing each student service.

You can contact SANITI on 03 546 2425, email saniti@extra.co.nz or pop in to the SANITI Office located in the middle of Nelson campus beside the lawn in front of the Student Centre.

A BREAKDOWN OF SANITI TIME



- Representation/Advocacy**
- Executive**
- Events**
- Publications**
- Services**
- Finances**
- Office Administration**
- Distant Campus**
- Policy Development**

MEET THE SANITI STAFF

I'm **Jaycob Brown** and I'm the Nelson Campus Co-ordinator (NNC). I've been involved with SANITI since April 2004. I started on the Student Executive and have served as Vice-President, Stand-In President and now am in my third year as a staff member.

My main roles are managing events, budgeting, supporting students on Nelson campus and office administration.

En la estación de gas de Love, I Got el Servicio Autónomo de bomba.

Kia ora, gidday, nihao, talofa, my name is **Pip Bowler** and my job here at SANITI is as your Advocate and Policy Developer. I have been part time at SANITI since the start of this year.

Advocacy involves supporting students with academic, employment, financial, domestic and other issues. I am here to help you find a resolution so you can focus on your studies successfully. You can pop in and chat anytime about any worries you have. If we can't help you we'll find someone who can.

**To learn more about SANITI visit our website
www.saniti.org.nz**

Hi there, I'm **Alison Hart** the Association Manager. I've been at SANITI for 6 years and work 30 hours per week managing the day-to-day operations of the Association including financials and staff. In reality I cook on BBQ's and are a general dogs-body supporting whatever is happening. I really enjoy catching-up on student life, so if you see me out on campus say "Hi". Good luck with your studies!



**L to R Back Row: Hayden, Jaycob, Fraser
Front Row: Alison, Rachel (prez), Pip**

Hello, I'm **Hayden Campbell**. I'm the Distant Campus and Sponsorship/Advertising guy. I've been working at SANITI full-time since March 2005. I manage the 13 distant campuses including the Aviation students for the Association, ensuring students are aware of SANITI services. I also help raise money for the association through advertising and sponsorship of our magazine and events.

Hi, my name is **Fraser Heal** this is my second year at SANITI where I work part-time. I help run events on Nelson Campus, produce the student magazine, and co-ordinate the SANITI website. As SANITI is very team based, I help the other staff members out where I can. Contact me through SANITI if you want to contribute to the magazine. Good luck with your studies.

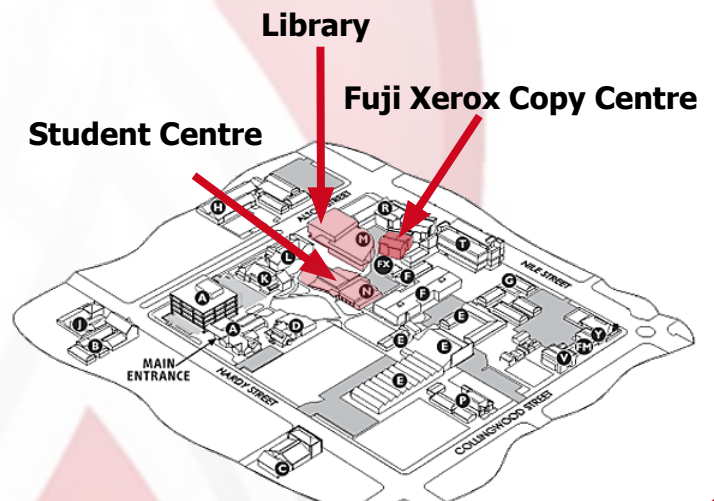
FUJI XEROX



**Your on campus Copy Centre is NOW located
in the centre of NMIT Nelson Campus
between the library and the Nursing school.**



**Neville and Gary are the
friendly Fuji Xerox guys.**



SANITI AGM '09

The SANITI Annual General Meeting was held on Nelson Campus on the 31st March. SANITI presented its reports to the study body and elected its new Student Executive. Present were SANITI Auditor Barry Signal, SANITI Accountant Sari Hodgson, Meredith Cornelius Financial Adviser outgoing Student President Kay Fisk, in-coming President Rachel Boyack, SANITI Staff, and the SANITI Executive. 87 students

registered their attendance.

Incapable of organising anything without giving something away, SANITI organised \$200 worth of vouchers sponsored by Fresh Choice supermarket. Below are the winners Matt Austin and Gary Cregeen-Almond. The Second General Meeting will be held on 20th of October 2009.



T BLOCK OPENED BY JOHN KEY



Prime Minister John Key was on Nelson Campus to open the new T Block building in March. T Block houses the School for Hospitality and Tourism and has a restaurant, a number of kitchens hairdressing and beauty salons and lecture theatres. The building shows commitment to tourism and hospitality in the Nelson region. A new arts and media block is planned to be built next to T Block.

ST PATRICKS DAY 2009



Bad Irish jokes, green bread, U2, potato and spoon race, men in green tutus... must be St Patrick's Day on Nelson Campus! All those wearing green went in the draw for a \$50 Fern Lodge voucher and those who competed in the games won nearly \$200 worth of vouchers as well! Special thanks to The Fern Lodge on Nile Street in Nelson for sponsoring this great event.



CANCER FUNDRAISER

NMIT Staff and Students participated in a nationwide campaign raising money for cancer. Nine staff members and four students raised over a thousand dollars by having their heads shaved. Students of hairdressing tutor Yvonne Penniall donated \$20 each. NMIT Staff Member Carey Markie and Jenelle Strickland organized the event and would like to thank all those who donated or took the plunge and got shaved.





Orientation is a fortnight of lunchtime activities for students to have some fun and meet some new people. This year it was co-run by SANITI and NMIT for the first time.

MONDAY 9TH FEBRUARY

The first day of Orientation 09 was a scorcher! The poor SANITI and NMIT Student Services sweated over the

free BBQ for students which was kindly sponsored by the awesome team at ASB. The '**ASB Tug 4 Ca\$h**' game saw students win cold hard cash in this popular tug-of-war. One of the highlights included BIT versus Fisheries. **Live music** with 'Inertia' providing the tunes.

TUESDAY 10TH FEBRUARY

Tuesday saw the first of the **morning teas** with students chowing down slices, biscuits and tea and coffee.

Lunchtime heralded the now infamous '**Dominos Pizza Eating Race**'. Entrants had to scoff four slices of Dominos Pizza, wheelbarrow each other from table to table and scull a bottle of softdrink. A few of them may have been shaken-up for some extra drama. Everyone got a Dominos voucher, plus the winners got **double passes to State Cinema** and vouchers for food or drinks sponsored by the **Fern Lodge** on Nile Street.

Bags of **Pomeroy's Coffee** were thrown to the caffeine-ophiles in the audience - thanks Pomeroy's!

WEDNESDAY 11TH FEBRUARY

Music of an international flavour wafted through the air waves on Wednesday the 11th, **International Day**. The Multi-Ethnic Council, Operation Friendship and others had stalls for students to peruse while prizes from **Mariposa** and **Subway** egged the crowd into playing the 'Kiwiana Rugby Game'. The game consisted of rugby ball throwing, dodgem sticks and tackle bags with the winners taking away **Macs Bar vouchers**. Other prizes were sponsored by Pomeroy's and Subway. The BBQ offered fish and coleslaw which went down a treat.

The week was rounded off with a tasty morning tea on Thursday morning.



Macs Bar vouchers to the Rugby Game winners



Nurse Liz got some Sublime Coffee and a saussie, perfect!



Kelly from ASB gives away a swing ball to IT Student Daniel



SANITI Association Manager Alison hands out some saussies



Pizza Eating winners collect their Fern lodge Vouchers



Morning Teas ran throughout the fortnight

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fresh fm

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by, for and about the Top of the South



MONDAY 16TH FEBRUARY

The new week started with the **Maori and Pacific Island Day**. **Patriack Falwassar** provided some excellent vibes on his guitar. **BNZ** partially sponsored the free BBQ and the Nelson Mail had stalls offering student deals. Bags of delish **Sublime Coffee** were thrown to the audience. A good old sack race created the laughs with entrants getting a free **Ka Pai Coffee** and the winners taking away a box of **Cocoa Chocolates** worth fifty dollars! They also each got double passes to the **State Cinema**.

WEDNESDAY THE 18TH FEBRUARY

The obligatory Free BBQ was followed by a rather complex game involving jump suits, dodgem sticks and piggy-backs with the winners taking away a tandem Sky Dive voucher (valued at \$220!) plus they could take a friend up in the plane as well, sponsored by **Abel Tasman Sky Dive** - thanks guys!

THURSDAY 19TH FEBRUARY

The Orientation circus moved to Blenheim. After students were welcomed onto campus, it was time for the sausages! **ANZ** had their 'Shoot the Hoop' competition and students won more cash with the tug-of-war.

Woodbourne emerged the winners after an intense tussle with Viticulture.

MONDAY 23RD FEBRUARY

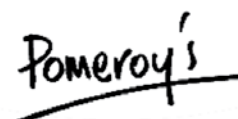
The final day of Orientation had the 'Hand Bag Throwing Dress-Up Game'. Up for grabs were **Fashion Island Vouchers**, **Cocoa chocolates**, **Hogey** treat bags, **Ka Pai** coffees, memory sticks from **Office Max**, and petrol vouchers from **Fuji Xerox**!

All up SANITI and Student Services dished up over 2000 sausages, 600 pieces of fish, 400 vege patties, 300 cups of coffee, 80 packets of biscuits, and two and a half thousand slices of bread! Total prizes sponsored by local Nelson businesses came to over two thousand dollars!



Thanks to Lisa and the crew at Abel Tasman Sky Dive for sponsoring a tandem skydive

THANKS TO OUR ORIENTATION SPONSORS!



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come and talk to us ...



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- Pathways to other NMIT student services
- Access to **FREE** counselling

PHONE, EMAIL OR DROP IN...

Nelson Campus - Student Centre in 'N' Block

Phone: 0800 422 733 (ext 655)

Email: studentsupporthelp@nmit.ac.nz

Marlborough Campus

- Student Support 'J' Block

Phone: 0800 222 443

Email: jennyoswald@nmit.ac.nz



*We're looking forward
to meeting you!*

Alison Horn HEALTH NURSE



Alison is the campus nurse. She offers practical healthcare and advice, smoking cessation support as well as information and referrals to other healthcare providers in the community.

Make an appointment through the Student Support helpdesk in Student Centre.

Alison.Horn@nmit.ac.nz

[03] 546 9175 or 0800 422 733 Ext 828

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SANITI VOLUNTEERS CLUB

**Want to help other students?
Learn some cool skills and have some
fun on campus?**

SANITI is setting up a Volunteers Club where YOU, the students, can help other students out by helping SANITI do the cool stuff we do!

Types of jobs may include working the BBQ, making warm winter soup, helping with mail outs, event promotions or even getting dressed up in crazy outfits for orientation events.

YOUR REWARDS...

To be eligible for these rewards, you need to sign up and help out at least once per term this year.

- Volunteers will get a certificate at the end of the year, which will look great on your CV
- Invitation to the SANITI Volunteers Club end of year party, where we say thanks to you for all your awesome help
- Gain experience and learn new skills
- Make new friends and contribute to your community
- Other rewards may apply



**If you're keen pop into the SANITI office
anytime to fill in the sign-up form,
or email pres.saniti@xtra.co.nz**

You don't need any experience, just enthusiasm and a passion for helping out.

STAYING SAFE WHEN PARTYING

On average, a rape is reported to Nelson Police every fortnight. Rape Crisis estimate that only one third are actually reported to Police making it a very scary statistic. Here are some helpful hints to stay safe when out on the town as recommended by the Police.



GOING OUT AT NIGHT

- Organise how you are getting home before going out.
- Always stay with your friends.
- Take money for a taxi and tell your friends when you leave. If you feel uncomfortable in a taxi, tell your friends then text your friends when you get home. If you prefer, ask for a female taxi driver.
- Don't go home with people you have only just met and don't let your mates leave with someone they don't know.
- When outside keep to well-lit areas. Avoid walking alone, parks, empty dark streets, and alleyways. Don't take shortcuts.
- If one of your friends gets drunk or starts acting strange, stay with them. Get them to a safe place as soon as you can.
- Store your local Police Station in your cell phone (Nelson 546 3840)

DRINK SPIKING

Alcohol is the most common drug used to assist sexual assault, to make things worse drink spiking is now common. It only takes one pill, some powder or a few drops of liquid to drug someone. Effects can be felt in as little as 10 minutes. Symptoms can start slowly; dizziness, sleepiness, relaxation of inhibitions, and the loss of being able to defend oneself. It can untimely end in loss of memory and unconsciousness. Things to help keep safe include keeping a close eye on your drink, if it changes colour, gets cloudy. Buy your own and avoid sharing. If you think you have drugged - tell the bar manager and keep the drink as evidence. Tell a friend straight away and stay with them. Get to somewhere safe as soon as you can.

IF YOU ARE SEXUALLY ASSAULTED

Remember - it is not your fault. To help with the chance of a conviction, don't shower as it will wash away evidence. Go to a doctor or hospital ASAP. A urine test could prove whether you were drugged, if done within 24 hours. Contact the Police and Rape Crisis.

NELSON RAPE AND SEXUAL ABUSE NETWORK

With 20 years experience in providing support, counselling and education for woman, children and whānau, they are the first stop when dealing with cases of date rape and sexual abuse. They help with dealing with Police and Doctors 24/7 and provide on-going counselling.

**Rape Crisis 548 2407 • Nelson Police 546 3840
24 Hours**

STUDY SKILLS

Students lead very busy lives: Some have children, most have jobs but all have assignments and exams. Here are some helpful hints to work effectively and give yourself the best chance of reaching your potential.

Find Out What Works For You

Everyone is different. Are you an early bird or a night owl? Do you work better at home or at the library? Do you prefer more frequent but shorter breaks? Figure out what works for you and use it to your advantage!



Look After Yourself.

Keep regular sleeping habits and get plenty of it! Exercise is a good way of getting outside, keeping fit and sleeping well. Eat as healthily as you can. Don't drink to excess if you are planning to study the next day. Perk-up with fruit instead of coffee or sugar. This will help prevent sickness and stress.



Time Management

Time management is crucial - if anything, to maximise your leisure time! Block out time every day for your studies. Being organised means you will be more relaxed and confident and it avoids last minute cram sessions. Keep a wall planner with all the dates of your assignments, tests and exams. If you're finding it hard to get into the study mood, make a list and do the easy stuff first. Tick them off as you make progress. Take a quick walk around the block to clear your head. Remind yourself of what you want to achieve and why you are studying. No pain, no gain. Procrastination is the enemy!



Keep Good Notes

Go over your notes regularly. If you start falling behind or having problems - act on it before it gets too big. Talk to your tutor or get help through Library Learning Support. Review your notes and reduce them to meaningful chunks. Use mindmaps or bullet points to help you remember. Ask yourself questions, research anything you don't understand.



Create A Study Space

Create a space that you want to be in. Clear away clutter. Make it warm, quiet and away from distractions like TV and people. You might like quiet music. If you have children, make sure they are occupied and reinforce how important it is that you don't get disturbed when you are working.



Do The Detective Work About Assessment

With assignments and exams double check you know what topics are going to be covered. Ask tutors to give as much information as they dare! Find out what kind of assessment it is: multi-choice, short answers, essays...

Check your learning outcomes and do practice exams, if possible.

Reward Yourself

Work like a lion! When you are working - focus hard and get the job done. But when relaxing, give that 100% as well!

Make time for fun but also *relaxation*. Partying, TV and videogames may be fun but aren't a efficient way of relaxing. Having a bath, reading a book or going for a walk will help clear your mind and will pass slower than one hour long TV session.

Reward yourself - but do the work first.



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STUDENT PROFILE



Distant campus guy Hayden sits down on a sunny Marlborough campus lunch break to find out what makes a couple of unique Students tick...



NMIT is full of adult second time learners, it's one of the great things about NMIT, where people of all ages have the opportunity to learn new skills and better themselves. Deone (Degree in Arts and Media) and Tim Greer (Diploma/Degree in Viticulture) are not what you'd call your normal adult Marlborough campus students. However not many couples (with four children!!) both decide to put their careers on hold for 3 years and study together at the same time.

How long have you been together?

Deone: We've been together for 15 years. We have a total of four kids, one each to separate partners and 10 year old twins that we've had together.

Tim: We met in Blenheim at the Scott Street fish 'n' chip shop. Deone introduced herself and it was love at first scoop!! Apparently Deone was walking past and thought Tim looked cute, walked in and ordered a battered sausage and they've been together ever since.

What inspired you to both come back and study?

Deone: I've been doing art for a long time and I wanted to come and do a degree to validate and enhance what is my passion in life. Plus everyone thought I was just mucking around so now I'm completely legit.

Tim: I'd spent 10 years in the local wine industry and I wanted to learn more as well as gain the credibility from a qualification so that I could advance my career. Encouraging Deone to her first year of study encouraged me to get outside my comfort zone and challenge myself by going back to study.

How do you manage family life around your study?

Tim: With difficulty. It is not easy full stop to manage a family let alone juggling family responsibilities while we are both studying. I suppose we are also quite unique as now everyone in the house has to sit down after tea and do their homework.

Deone: However we have really supportive parents and that really helps.

What are some of the major sacrifices or changes you've had to make?

Deone: Studying requires a big financial sacrifice. Being a student is a full time job and it also takes away a great deal of your

spare time in the weekends as well. Despite the popular image of students, we have no time to socialise with our friends.

Tim: Sacrificing 3 years of work and the natural progression to study. But it's not so much of a sacrifice in the end because you are gaining so much in the long run. Plus is studying viticulture you're still up to date with the latest developments and working in the industry.

What advice would you give to other 'mature' couples who may be considering dual study?

Deone: Just go for it!! It's frightening stepping into the unknown but face your fears and do it both at once so that you're both going through it together.

Tim: It's also been surprisingly good for enhancing our communication and understanding in our relationship. We share a lot more of the duties around the house and with the kids. Plus we understand what each other's going through.

How has studying changed you?

Tim: It's made the old brain have to expand a bit. I've definitely got a better understanding of why we do certain things in the industry. For me it is the understanding of the reason why we do things that makes things more fun and drives me forward.

Deone: I now look at everything from an art perspective and I've learnt the visual language which is really empowering and gives me confidence to critique and evaluate my work in a meaningful "art speak kind of way".

What are your goals for after study?

Deone: Our main goal is to create a beautiful family owned boutique winery combined with an art gallery.

Tim: Combining both our passions and talents to create a place that caters to all the sensory perceptions.

LUNCH!



On Thursday April the 2nd became food day on the Marlborough and Woodbourne campuses.

New student Prez Rachel and distant campus coordinator Hayden put on a whopping 23 dozen (276) savouries for the engineering students at Woodbourne. Unfortunately the students' tummies could only handle about 17 dozen in one go but they reassured the SANITI contingent that the remaining 6 dozen would be consumed at lunch.

With their own tummies full of little meat parcels of joy, Rachel and Hayden moved on to the Marlborough campus where the super amazing wonderful and generous Café Lady Leonie had prepared a feast fit for top NMIT management and perhaps middle management if it was a special celebration. All the Marlborough students tucked in and devoured the spread in a matter of minutes.

All in all the food was a great way to celebrate all the hard work the students over the hill have put in for the first term and also a great way for new Prez Rachel to meet her Marlborough constituency.



MARLBOROUGH SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

This year 7 Marlborough Students won Scholarships. The majority of these were based on the Marlborough campus with the exception of 2 studying on the Nelson campus and 1 at the Woodbourne campus.

NMIT Marlborough held a morning tea on 7th April to present the students with certificates from the sponsors involved. Most of the scholarships' value went toward the students fees which is great in these economic times.

Pictured

left to right:

Carlos Tillet,
Kily Miller,
Amy Maxwell,
Hamish
Pachnatz and
in front Lisa
Bhandal



2009 SANITI STUDENT PILOT CONFERENCE



Dust off the headsets and sharpen those propellers and/or rotor blades it's almost time for the one and only SANITI Student Pilot Conference. Now into its sixth year the conference has grown to become a must attend for all student pilots throughout the country. This year the conference will take place from July 1 to 4 in the heart of the South Island's best little city, Nelson.



Last year a total of 81 student pilots from 13 flight schools attended and this year's conference is going

to be bigger and better than ever.

The theme for SSPC 09 is 'Bridging the Gap'. The conference will cover key issues from training as well as answering the all-important questions relating to gaining employment in the aviation industry in today's unpredictable climate. The conference will also be a fantastic opportunity for trainee pilots to meet key players in the aviation industry.

As per tradition and now written into student pilot folk law the conference will end with our awesome party of jumbo jet proportions. This year we will be celebrating the 4th of July one day early by having a come as your favourite living American fancy dress party.

Student reps from all flight schools affiliated with NMIT have already secured fully funded places at the conference but you don't have to be a class rep to take part.

We have 40 partially funded spots up for grabs. If you and your class mates can book a plane or Robbie and make it to Nelson, SANITI will pay for all of your accommodation and all of your meals during the conference. (Conditions apply)

If you're interested in attending contact SANITI's aviation guy Hayden (hayden.saniti@xtra.co.nz) before the end of May.



AUSTRALIA'S AVALON AIRSHOW

Going to Avalon this year happened without much thought. When the 'Italian Stallion' Luigie (though we are not actually sure he is Italian) and myself decide to go to the Avalon Airshow in Melbourne, we basically went online booked the airfare. It wasn't until a few weeks later that we realized we had no where to stay no idea on how to get there or how much it was going to cost to get in. Luckily, Google solved our problems. Being a student and a flight instructor we took the cheap way out and flew Pacific Blue from Auckland at 6.25am. As we are from Hamilton (insert joke here) Luigie and I had to leave at 2.30am, a time a bottle of blue PowerAde and a chicken kebab would normally feature. Alas, our journey had begun, shortly after take off the in-flight refreshment service began. Nothing says "good morning" at 7am like a rum and coke.

After arriving in Melbourne and gathering a concerning amount of duty free, the fun began! A bus ride to town, then walking around central Melbourne not knowing where we were, with suitcases in the pouring rain for a half an hour, our lack of planning was starting to show. In our defence; lack of sleep may have been a factor. After 3 breakfasts, 2 lunches and dinner the day was over.

The following day we took in the sights and sounds that central Melbourne had to offer. I could talk about how beautiful the city looks, its rich history, or how culturally diverse the city is but really our day basically involved drinking and looking at pretty girls walking down the street. The afternoon involved going out to the Avalon Airfield to watch the air show. With a mix of U.S. and Australian jet fighter aircraft combined with the heavy cargo aircraft of both flying at static display the day was set. The F-18 Purple Cobra display from the RAF is a must see for any aviation nut. Other displays included low

hard and fast displays from F-16's and the B1 Lancer. Highlights from the day included a walk through the V Australia Boeing 777-300ER and a Cub performing low level aerobatic and spinning display below 400 feet then landing on a ute. The weather closed in and put a dampener on things - excuse the pun. And so we left. After a few beers and some dodgy nancos, we decided to turn in early for the night.

The second day the rain was pelting down. Only the pure breed aircraft enthusiast and the stupid would come out on a day like this. The main draw card of the day was the Qantas A380 on static display: though it is the largest commercial aircraft it still seemed small and stubby. Due to the rain we had an indoors day, where getting as much free stuff as we could was the order of the day. Another premature end to the day brought our Avalon air show experience to a close. So as a celebration the Stallion and I decided to down \$AUS120 of pre-dinner drinks followed by \$AUS45 dinner. The rest of the night was spent enjoying the Melbourne nightlife, ensuring the recession was not going to affect the Melbourne bars.

After a somewhat delayed rise the following day, we decided to enjoy the fresh St. Kilda air with Panadol and PowerAde close at hand. The following day it was home time, after a morning shopping spree and a trip up the tallest building in Melbourne.

All in all, the Avalon Air show in Melbourne was amazing, Luigie and I combined the favourite aviation student pass times of watching planes and drinking, while feeling more important because we are pilots. If anyone wants an informed or detailed review of the air show I am sure Google with oblige.

NELSON AVIATION COLLEGE BBQ

On Friday April 3, having barely recovered from gorging themselves the day before in Marlborough, Student Prez Rachel and Distant campus guy Hayden attended a BBQ at Nelson Aviation College. There were 70 NMIT and international student pilots enjoying the late afternoon Mot sun and the scrummy BBQ food and salads that were prepared by Nelson Aviation College. SANITI came to the party as well by donating about half of the cost of the food.

All and all it was a great evening and a great opportunity for The Prez and Hayden to have a good chat (mostly about planes and other aviation geek stuff!!) with both new and old students.



FREE LEGAL ADVICE

Got a legal Problem? Don't know where to go?
Nelson Bays Community Law Service helps NMIT students with a wide range of legal issues.

"I got a txt message the other day that was sexually insulting from someone who I have already asked to stop sending them. What can I do about it?"

"I bought an iPod 18 months ago and its not working properly and the warranty is only for 12 months. What are my rights?"

"I was out on Saturday night and got arrested. What do I have to tell the Police?"

"I am having trouble paying my rent and the landlord is threatening to shut off my power – what are my rights?"

Nelson Bays Community Law Service Inc.
Te Ao me nga Kaupapa Tuku Iho

Students can gain support from them for hassles with:

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 - Finances
 - Employment
 - Traffic offences
 - Consumer rights
 - Disputes with neighbours or others
 - Government departments
 - Going to court
 - Family relationship issues
- ...And of course educational problems.

It's free and confidential

To contact them call:

03 548 1288 admin@nelsoncommunitylaw.org.nz

OR 0800 246 146

PIPS TIPS

SANITI Advocate Pip Bowler Takes A Look At StudyLink



Not having financial worries is important to your success while studying - as a wacky band called the Flying Lizards once said "I want Money... that's what I want". That's certainly not *all* we want but anywhooooo...

StudyLink is the key to this for heaps of students so here are a few tips to see your allowance and/or loan come through without hassle:

1. If you apply online record the password you use somewhere safe.
2. If you are asked for a 'verified' document then you can get this done at Studylink, the courthouse, a justice of the peace or a lawyers BUT you must have the original AND a copy.
3. Apply early – at least 21 days before your course starts.
4. A single student can earn up to an extra \$180 before tax on top of their Student Allowance. Rates differ in different scenarios.
5. Your enrollment must be completed with NMIT before your allowance will go through.
6. Also importantly if your parents or partners (if you're over 25 years old) income drops during the year because of loss or reduced employment you can at anytime apply at StudyLink for a reassessment of your eligibility for an allowance.
7. Janet at the NMIT Studylink desk (Nelson Campus) is always there to help you.

As the song goes some of the best things in life are free but NOT EVERYTHING!!

Pop into the SANITI office if you need any support with issues. Phone 546 2425 or email Pip on advocacy.saniti@xtra.co.nz

FREE LAW SEMINARS ON CAMPUS

On Wednesday May 27th and June 10th from 12.10 -12.30pm in the Students Centre SANITI and Nelson Bays Community Law will run two seminars on topics identified by students as areas of concern. At the conclusion of the seminar the Community Law Solicitor will be available to answer questions. The Topics will be announced around campus nearer each date.



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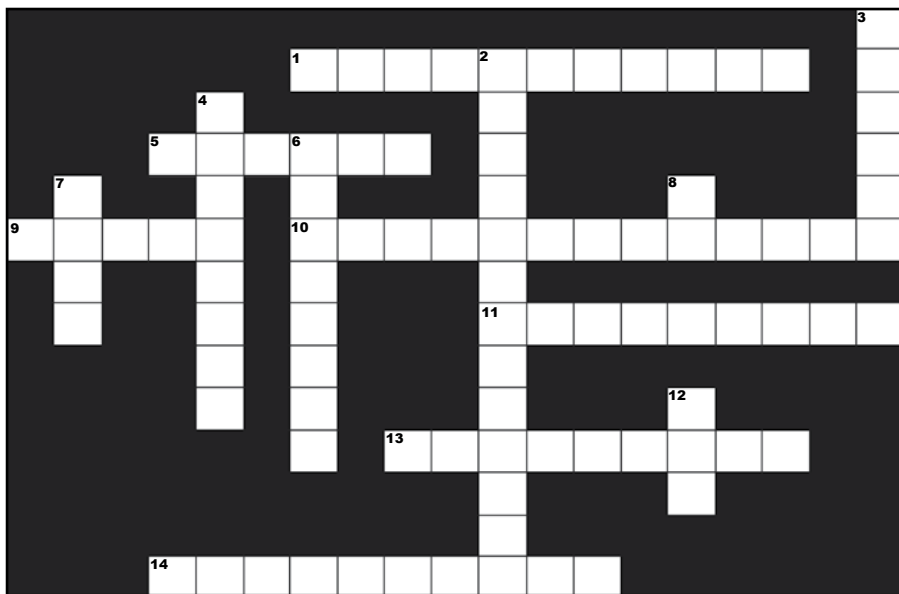
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SANITI CROSSWORD COMPETITION

WIN! ONE OF TWO \$50 COUNTDOWN VOUCHERS!!

All the answers can be found in this issue of VOS... somewhere! Send your answers into SANITI at events.saniti@xtra.co.nz or drop them off at the office to go into the draw to win one of two \$50 Count Down vouchers. Closing date 1st July 09.



- 1 SANITI website address www...
- 2 VOS movie/cocktail reviewer.
- 3 Student Association of Nelson-Marlborough Institute of Technology Incorporated (acronym)
- 4 Number of SANITI Executives
- 5 New SANITI President Rachel -----
- 6 One who speaks on behalf of another person
- 7 Month student pilot conference is held
- 8 Sponsor of student photo competition
- 9 Nelson art gallery
- 10 What does VOS stand for?
- 11 Where there is free pool 5-7pm in Nelson
- 12 New SANITI Advocate --- Bowler
- 13 Green Saint
- 14 Where NMIT aircraft engineers study

SOUP-ER SANITI TO THE RESCUE!

SANITI has been pro-active in helping students during these tough economic times. So far, extra Free Soup Days have been included in the SANITI Events Calendar, as well as the establishment of the Volunteers Club (see page 10) to provide support to students who help other students. Extra funds were allocated during the Annual General Meeting in March. NMIT has expressed interest in being involved as well.

At The Second General Meeting to be held in mid-October, SANITI will present to students solutions for 2010. If you have some ideas as to how SANITI and NMIT can help Students, please contact SANITI by the end of July.



Other NMIT News & Stuff

STUDENT SUPPORT WELCOMES NEW TEAM MEMBER

The NMIT Student Support welcomes on board a new staff member. Darren Meer has joined the team as International Student Support. He works Monday to Thursday 9am-2pm and can be contacted through the Student Support Help Desk in the Student Centre on Nelson Campus.

WORLD SMOKE FREE DAY 31ST MAY.

Planning is underway for an event involving the Nelson campus during the week of the 25th May to celebrate the efforts of those who have and are currently quitting. It's aim is also to encourage those who are thinking of quitting to turn their thoughts into action! It will also promote the free smoking cessation programme available at NMIT. Keep an eye out for more info.

Don't be fooled by the cigarette packaging that promotes 'Light' or 'Mild' varieties. The latest message from *Face to Facts* campaign developed by the Health Sponsorship Council & the Ministry of Health states "All cigarettes are deadly, no matter how they are packaged or described".

For more information contact Alison Horn at alison.horn@nmit.ac.nz

SLEEP IMPORTANT FOR STUDENTS

Are you getting enough sleep? How much do you need? Research indicates that we need about 7 hours good quality sleep each night. During sleep, the body releases hormones that stimulate tissue growth and muscle repair this is how the body renews and repairs itself. Other substances that activate the immune system are also released. A healthy immune system helps you fight off infections like influenzas and colds that will slow you down when studying.

Not getting enough sleep or sleeping poorly decreases the production of hormones that regulate metabolism and body weight. Meaning that hunger and appetite increases and that can result in weight gain.

For more information look for an article called *Sleep Yourself Slim* in the Feb 09 Wild Tomato publication.

For more helpful information contact Alison Horn alison.horn@nmit.ac.nz



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On The Cheap

Recession, blah blah blah...

Here's some ideas to have fun for little or no \$\$!

Student Discounts:

Both Nelson & Blenheim **Cinemas offer student discounts**. The **Shark Club in Nelson** have **FREE pool** 5-7pm plus other discounts for students. Check out the *SANITI Student Diary* for all of them.

Arty & Sporty Stuff:

Visit the Suter Art Gallery on a Saturday when **it's free!** Get CDs free from the **Nelson Public Library**. United Video has **\$1 DVDs** Monday to Thursday. The Independent Theatre has **donation-based film screenings**.

The Nelson Provincial Museums (Trafalgar St and Isel Park) **entry by donation**.

Meet some new people at **'Have A Go' Days** at local sports clubs.

Get Outta Town:

Walk The Centre of NZ

You get a fantastic view of Nelson from the Centre of NZ. Follow Hardy St (just outside A Block) away from town, cross the bridge and across the Botanic Playing Field and up the hill.

Cycling Tracks Around Nelson

Cycling is a great way to have some fun and relieve some stress from studying. The Maitai Valley is a great cycle ride, there are also heaps of tracks around that area and up Brook Street.

Cable Bay

Sure it may be 15 minutes out of town but it is a fun place to walk, swim (if you're brave) and explore. If you're lucky you might see some diving gannets or dolphins.

Rabbit Island

Nothing to do on a sunny Sunday? Get a bunch of mates in a car and drive to Rabbit Island. Ten minutes from Richmond, along the coastal road Rabbit Island has a long beach, sand dunes and BBQ pits. Take some snags and a bat and ball for some classic beach cricket and barbie.

Kaiteriteri/Marahau:

If you want to go even further drive past Motueka and explore the start of the Abel Tasman track. You can do the winding loop around the golden sands of Kaiteriteri and on to Marahau. Have a wander along the track and have a well earned beer at the café.

Nelson Lakes National Park/Rainbow Ski Field

Well no one is going to say that skiing is cheap, but borrow some gear and splash out for a day pass and you're bound to find some fun. If snow ain't your thing, Mount Robert and Lake Rotoiti is a good place to explore. Park at Mt Robert carpark and stroll around the mountain for some great views. Parachute Rock is a good day-walk. Plan to take all day and take something warm and some good shoes.

Want to go away for a weekend?

How about Golden Bay (Mussel Inn, Wharariki Beach) Hokitika, Hanmer Springs, Kaikoura or Christchurch.

If you have a favourite spot you want to share with us send a description, directions and some photos to event.saniti@xtra.co.nz



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HOUSE OF TRAVEL

What's the word on everyone's lips? Recession. Not to be mistaken with what is currently happening to your father's hairline. This recession is a drop in the economic activity of the country. And what, you ask is my response to this down turn in spending? This tightening of belts and re-evaluation of options?

Like all problems near and far, real or imagined I turn to one source for both inspiration, healing and ultimately redemption, Cocktails. Both the production of and consumption thereafter can be, not unlike a great Shakespearean play, of both tragedy and comedic proportions (anyone who has seen me during this process understands).

In these financially dark days there's nothing like a cocktail to add that touch of class and elegance to an other-wise dull evening. But as we know the more desirable the object the more likely it is to cost us, in money, in time and in dignity.

In an effort to save you a little bit of all of the above I will take some classic cocktails and suggest a few wallet friendly alternatives as well as some cheaper and more wholesome mocktails (strangely non alcoholic cocktails).



The Daiquiri

Reputedly the favourite drink of Drag Queens world wide, this drink was allegedly named after its main component. Enter lawyers, exit lawyers thus the Daiquiri not the Bacardi.

1 Part Sugar Syrup, 2 Parts Lime Juice, 8 Parts White Rum (Bacardi)

Okay so the thing is sugar syrup is very easy and economical to make. 2 parts sugar to 1 of water. Boil water. Dissolve sugar in water. Cool and bottle. Done.

Well as we know limes in general are more expensive than other fruit. So swap them. If you like sweet drinks wiz some peaches in a blender and use that. Add Bacardi or

other white rum.

Shake until ice forms on the shaker, strain and serve with as many umbrellas and swizzle sticks as your inner Queen demands.

Margarita

The origins of this cocktail are many and heavily debated, oh well I'm concerned about where it's going not where it came from. In my humble opinion this is the true measure of a mixologist (classy word for cocktail enthusiast/bartender). One only has to sample a significant amount to know how wrong things can go.

1 Part Tequila, 1 Cointreau and 1 Part Lime juice

First off you can swap the Cointreau (which is prohibitively expensive) with any orange liquor. The best is Triple Sec. It tastes the same and is about quarter the price. There are a number of Tequila's available, choose a nice cheap one. For the true bargain hunters amongst you it is possible to buy the mix pre made and simply add the tequila. So combine your ingredients and shake. To add the traditional ice rim simply flick a lime around the rim shake some salt on to a plate and gently place the upturned glass in it. Before pouring the cocktail in that is.

Muy bueno! Disfrutar!

Bloody Mary

Arguably one of the most well recognised cocktails in the world. The Bloody Mary is the booze hag's way of appearing healthy, virtuous and wholesome by drinking "juice". If it's made correctly it can be a veritable meal in a drink.

1+ ½ parts of Vodka, ½ cup of Tomato juice, 2 tsp of lemon juice, stick of celery, wedge of lemon and Worcestershire, Tabasco and salt and pepper to taste.

This is one of the easiest cocktails to make, mainly because its built over ice. So some ice cubes in a tall glass, add your vodka, then your juice and the rest to taste. For those who like a bit more of a zap add more Tabasco. Everyone's different so experiment a bit to find the way you like it.

Then add your celery stick as a classy garnish/stirrer, add the lemon slice. Put on something animal patterned, pop in a copy of "small town girl" and enjoy.

Virgin Mary

In cocktails, "virgin" usually refers to no alcohol, basically it's exactly the same as the above with no Vodka. Simple.

Baby Bellini

Nice and easy to make as well as to drink, unless of course you don't like peaches.

2 Parts peach nectar, 1 Part graptise.

Instead of peach nectar you can use canned peaches; just a quick whiz and you're done. For the fizz I used graptise but you could anything sparkling. This is lovely in a tall glass on a summer day.

Mango Julius

Mangos are in my opinion seriously a underrated fruit. Sweet and tasty. Nothing says tropics like mangos. If you have a sweet tooth you'll enjoy this mocktail. Not so good if you're lactose intolerant.

1 Cup frozen or caned mangos and or juice, 1 cup of milk, 1 tsp of vanilla extract, 2 Tbsp of raw or classy coffee sugar, 1 lg scoop of ice cream.

Basically what you're looking at is a milk shake. You can use plain white sugar instead of other stuff if you like; raw sugar has a slight flavor that I enjoy in this mocktail. If the mixer turns out to be too thick add a little milk, if its too thin add ice cream. Genius!

A few tips to keep in mind when making and drinking. Drinking out

- If you're going to a bar and you're buying cocktails, ask the bartender what they would recommended, if your taste runs to sweet, milky, tart say so. There are not many things worse than shelling out money on a cocktail that looks awesome but tastes yucky! Expensive for you, lucky for your less picky mates.
- Try to stick to the same types of cocktails or just one type interspersed by water. Mixing drinks and cocktails can end in very angry times. Opsy.
- Take out only a certain amount of money, not your eftpos card. At around twelve bucks a pop, one doesn't want to be haemorrhaging money. And unfortunately after a few you can find yourself shouting a round to a rather large group of your new surprise best friends.
- As with all drinking, stick with your mates and tell someone when you're leaving or make sure you see your mates into the taxi.

Making at home

- Assemble all your ingredients before hand, and prepare them accordingly (cut up everything before)
- Rather than making a wide selection, choose just one or two and do them well.
- Ask someone who knows what they're doing; good cocktail making is a craft.
- See if you can bribe your home bartender to stay relatively sober, even if it means plying them with snacks.
- Don't let boozed people mix. Seems like a good idea well its not.

Happy drinking!





After entering the Suters' doors, I found myself wandering amongst a herd of cows. Their lowing sounds echoing off the gallery walls and their big soft eyes staring at me from life-sized paintings.

'White Gold, The Business of Milk' is the name of the show put together by respected local artist Sally Burton. Sally became interested in MPU's (Milk Production units as they are known in the industry) after living next door to one of the oldest established dairy farms in Nelson and watching the daily trudges to and from the milking shed. Sally then spent time as an artist in residence in India where cows are of the sacred variety and milk is celebrated as the essence of life - a far cry from our Kiwi ways. Our cows don't even get names anymore. A fact which apparently has a direct bearing on their milk production according to a large collage on the back wall of cobbled together farm records. Back in the day cows were named after all sorts from All Blacks, the Indian Cricket Team to members of the Labour Cabinet.

These days cows are very much commodities, cleverly illustrated by various hide markings. There's an Apple MacIntosh showing the relationship dairying has developed with technology, enabling it to compete globally. MacDonald's arches curve around from another belly as McD's are our biggest buyers of Friesian bull beef (our big boys have a lower fat content apparently). On another of Sally's works a Ravensdown mark explores the close relationship

between fertiliser and the dairying industry. Cows even end up back in the land as Blood and Bone when their use as MPUs is over.

It was an evocative feeling standing amongst a group of 'real' eye-balling cows with the life sized portraits of the actual MPUs Sally used as inspiration hanging from the ceiling, swaying in a life-like fashion with their udders bulging. Veils gave a misty-morning feel. I must also mention the spectacular chandelier assembled from milking machine parts and artificial insemination straws. A mixed media life sized bulls head set like a trophy on the floor below, gazed disconsolately up at it.

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the anonymous cafe reviewer

I am really happy at the moment because I have found two more outlets to buy a consistently great coffee and even when buying at random times I still get a great latte every time.

The first was **Crema** the little coffee cart opposite the Church steps. My first latte there was smooth and strong, they paid lots of attention to how I wanted my coffee and then great follow through. Made with Pomeroy's beans, my double shot cup of joy cost \$4.50. Over the last few months of caffeine consumption Crema's been great every time.

The second is something new from **Fresh Choice** on Collingwood Street. What do I call it? The Coffee Window maybe, and since it opened it has definitely become an early morning stop for many, and after trying myself I understood why. These Baristas really know what they are doing. Using Atomic beans they, without fail, create morning ambrosia conferring ageless immortality (if only for the short term) for only \$3.50 a cup. This may sound a little over the top but I think finding a place that has consistently great coffee is a blessing from the gods.

Next on my list of establishments to talk about is **Zippys** located on the upper end of Hardy Street. Now I don't go to Zippys often not being vegetarian but as a vegetarian friend came to visit I found myself reacquainted and very pleasantly so. My friend said the food was excellent and both her long black and my latte were very good and the service friendly and fast. Zippys use Pomeroy's beans and my double shot latte cost \$4.30.

Because my friend was still here in Nelson we went to another vegetarian cafe. This time it was **Broccoli Row** which fortuitously for me also does some none vegetarian dishes as well, and was very nice too. My latte was good and very reasonably priced with a double shot being served as standard for \$3.50

Finally there is the **Swedish Bakery** on Bridge Street. Now I don't usually buy coffee from bakeries, garages, dairies etc, as a rule but their baking is so exceptional I was lured by a \$5.00 coffee and cinnamon roll special. Unfortunately while the bun was out of this world the coffee was just ok, so next time I will just stick to their bakery goods.

Well that's all from me this time around, as always you can write me at theanonymouscafeviewer@bigfoot.com



Student Life

Is I.T. A Man's World?

I started at NMIT last year doing my B.I.T. For those who don't know that's the Bachelor of IT, or "all that nerdy computer stuff" as my mates say! I first enrolled in the course as I was new to Nelson and I thought it would be a great place to make friends and start my tertiary learning.

After chatting with loads of people my perception of a tertiary institute was that there would be a big mix of ages and genders in all areas. When I walked in to my first week of classes however, I got a huge shock. I was one of the only girls in my class!

After coming from working at a Union where I had a "Vote For Woman" sign above my desk. I never really thought that there were things that women couldn't do, or courses that might be male dominated. Granted, I had spent a few weeks doing an Automotive course in CHCH before arriving in Nelson and I was the only chick doing that as well. However, I was still blown away with how few females there were in my classes. At the moment the most we have is 4 females in our programming class of about 30.

Getting to know the guys has been wicked though. I seem to get away with loads. Totally play up the "But I'm a female, can you please help?"-thing and the guys are always willing to give some advice. I think that really I'm very lucky as most of the males in my classes have had a lot of experience with mucking around with computers so they are a wealth of knowledge. They are also absolute characters to hang out with.

Somewhere along the way I also picked up the role of Mother Hen to some of the younger guys as well. Maybe not the best role model but I hope that I have been able to share some useful advice with them too.

Besides learning all my course material, I seem to have been getting some free education on the male species: 101 tips on how the male thinks and acts! Definitely good fun. Have made some great friends on the course and we have had some stunning times hanging out. Some of the guys and I went to play cricket at Split Apple Rock, one day we drove to the Maitai dam, and another time we took a wicked trip to Lake Rotoiti.

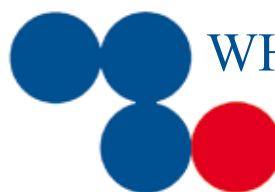
Absolutely love the course and the guys are actually the funniest thing! Recommend it to all the girls out there - If you are into computers don't be put off by all the guys. They are really cool!!

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