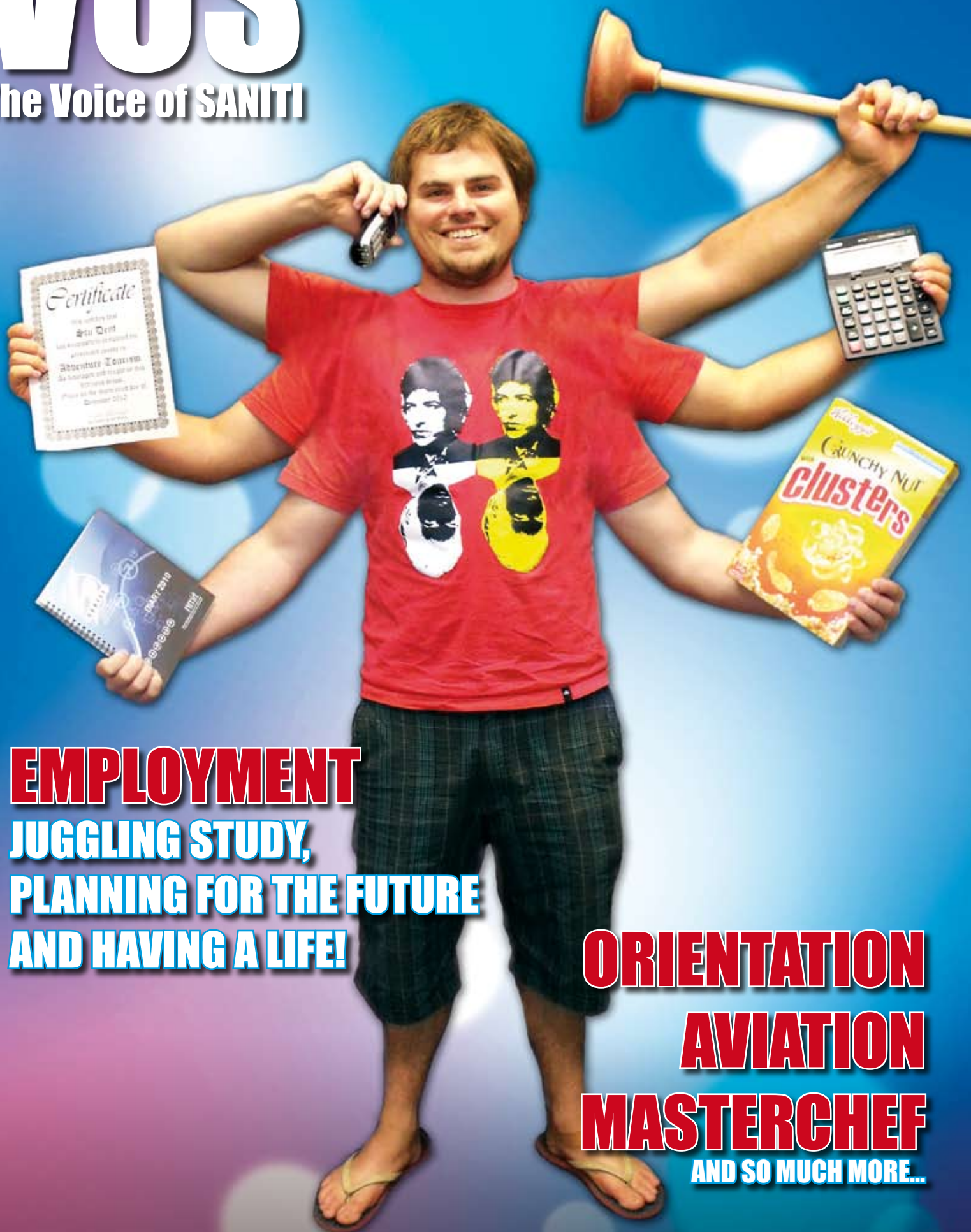


VOS

The Voice of SANITI

ISSUE 1 • 2010 • FREE



EMPLOYMENT
JUGGLING STUDY,
PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE
AND HAVING A LIFE!

ORIENTATION
AVIATION
MASTERCHEF
AND SO MUCH MORE...



When Results Count See Devine Health + Fitness

- Radical Group Fitness Classes
- 3 Complimentary Personal Training Sessions per membership

NMIT Student Rates

from \$15.⁹⁵ week d/d

(Terms from 2 to 12 months minimum student I.D required)

DeViNE

HEALTH + FITNESS

feel the difference

devinewoman

gym just for girls. no sweat

Warehouse/Countdown Carpark | Tel: 539 0348 | devinefitness.co.nz

Vos

Voice of SANITI Magazine of the Student Association of NMIT

People Who Did Stuff

Fraser Heal
Rachel Boyack
Matt Bowler
Pip Bowler
Alison Hart
Hayden Campbell
& Ticket Slapper

Special Thanks

Sharon McGuire
Jared Wallace
Melissa Savage
Kay Fisk

Finance Manager

Alison Hart
saniti@xtra.co.nz

Advertising Manager

Hayden Campbell
hayden.saniti@xtra.co.nz

Voice of S.A.N.I.T.I.

Private Bag 19
322 Hardy St Nelson
Ph. 03 546 2425
Fax. 03 546 2426
saniti@xtra.co.nz
www.saniti.org.nz

DISCLAIMER

VOS is a publication of SANITI (Student Association of Nelson-Marlborough Institute of Technology Inc). SANITI uses due care and diligence in the preparation of VOS but is not responsible or liable for any mistakes, misprints, omissions or typos, whether compiled from information provided, or printed as received. SANITI gives no warranty as to the truth, accuracy or sufficiency of any statement, graphic or photograph and accepts no liability for any loss, which may result from any person relying on such. SANITI reserves the right to refuse any advertising or submission for any reason. The views expressed in VOS are not necessarily those of the association.

Da Prez Sez

Well, hello there!

Seems a bit odd writing a 'hello and welcome' note to you in April... it feels like I know most of you already! If you don't know who I am, who SANITI is or what we get up to, have a peruse of the next couple of pages to learn more.

This issue of the Voice of SANITI (VOS) is packed with lots of useful stuff for you; we have three stories based around employment and things that you can be doing while studying to increase your chances of getting the job you want. We also have news, an EXCLUSIVE recipe from ousted Masterchef contestant Karyn Fisk, and of course, everyone's favourite column regular, the SANITI Ticket Slappa.

I hope you're enjoying your time at NMIT and doing well in your studies. Orientation was a total blast. We ate HEAPS of sausages and gave away stacks of prizes – check out the pictures on page 7 of this issue of VOS.

Over in Marlborough our Second Year Viticulture crew have been getting stuck into vintage. Check out Dan Mather's blog on the highs and lows of vintage on SANITI's Facebook page.

Now to some boring stuff. There is a heck of a lot going on in the world of tertiary education. Too much to keep up with sometimes! Here are some of the highlights (or in some cases, lowlights):

- funding penalties for tertiary institutes with poor course and programme completion rates, and poor student retention rates,
- publishing of institute performance data and other information to help students make informed choices about where and what to study,
- changes to membership of Polytechnic governing councils,
- linking access of student loans to student performance,
- the possibility of Voluntary Student Membership of Student Associations, and
- continued murmurs from Government about the cost of interest free student loans.

See the "News" section for more info on some of the above.

I can absolutely promise you that SANITI are keeping their fingers on the pulse regarding these changes and how they affect us, the students. In my role as President I represent YOU in the following ways:

- meeting regularly with NMIT CEO Tony Gray and other members of the Directorate,
- meeting with local MPs, such as Nick Smith and Maryan Street,
- attending meetings as part of the Tertiary Education Commission's Learners' Advisory Committee – this is where students can feed back to the TEC and Government about tertiary education policy,
- sitting on NMIT Council and Academic Board and making sure the impact on students of any changes is considered, and
- commenting to the media on issues that affect students.

We've had a bit of feedback from students that they don't get to hear about this sort of stuff enough. We've heard you and I've got two responses for you:

1. We're setting up a fantastical SANITI Prez BLOG on the SANITI website. Keep checking www.saniti.org.nz – I'll bring you weekly updates on what's happening in Tertiary Education, the world and the universe. You can comment and ask me questions about all this stuff.
2. READ UP yourself. Read the newspaper, check www.scoop.co.nz and watch the TV news or listen to Morning Report on Radio NZ (www.radionz.co.nz 101FM). The best person to keep yourself informed is YOU. Hugs.

If you are keen to get involved in this sort of stuff, then please please consider becoming a Programme Rep or standing for the Executive Committee, or just talk to me. Email me – pres.saniti@xtra.co.nz

Have a fabulous Semester one, good luck for all your assignments, exams and projects. Remember, if you're having any issues or just need to have a rant, come and see us or get in touch.

Rach the Prez

Rachel



THE EMPLOYMENT ISSUE



**The Highs and
Lows of Job
Hunting
Page 10**



**Making Connections
with Sharon
McGuire
Page 14**

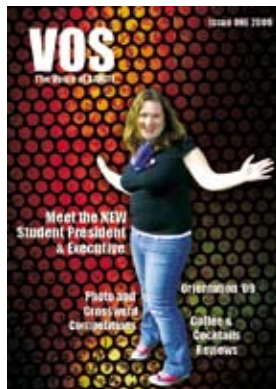


**Student Life
NMIT Graduate
Jared Wallace
Page 17**

WELCOME TO S.A.N.I.T.I.!

Hopefully by now you know who SANITI is and have a fair idea of what we do. SANITI stands for 'Student Association at Nelson-Marlborough Institute of Technology Incorporated'. A Student Association provides representation and services to students. SANITI is a not for profit organisation, a registered incorporated society with charitable status.

While SANITI has very close working ties and co-run events with NMIT, SANITI is totally independent to NMIT. Strict levels of confidentiality are maintained to respect student integrity, specifically with advocacies. SANITI acts as a catchall and back-stop for students whenever they face challenges either academic or personal issues. Do not hesitate to contact SANITI with any issues you encounter that relate to being a student.



SOME SANITI SERVICES:
REGULAR EVENTS
ADVOCACY
REPRESENTATION
STUDENT JOB SEARCH
STUDENT DIARY
ORIENTATION
GRADUATION
CLASS REPRESENTATION
STUDENT PILOT CONFERENCE
ACCOMMODATION LISTINGS
STUDENT MAGAZINE
FREE PHONE
GENERAL ENQUIRIES
... AND SO MUCH MORE!

WELCOME FROM THE SANITI STUDENT EXECUTIVE

Welcome to all 2010 NMIT students from your SANITI Student Executive! If you're interested in being involved in the Exec keep an eye out for nominations later this year - there will be spaces for four students to stand at our Second General Meeting in October.

Rachel Boyack - your Student President

Rachel has been your President for a whole year now and will continue in the role until the end of 2010. She is taking two business papers to complete her BCom that she started at Auckland University (where she completed a Bachelor of Music). Rachel sits on the NMIT Council as one of four Community members, the NMIT Academic Board, NMIT Health and Safety Committee, the Tertiary Education Commission's Learners' Advisory Committee and is on the National Council for Student Job Search.

Rachel works 35 hours each week as your Student President, and is in the office most days should you need help or advocacy with an issue. She visits the Marlborough and Woodbourne campuses at least once each month and can always be reached by emailing pres.saniti@xtra.co.nz

Lavana Ramsteijn - your Student Vice President

Lavana is your elected Vice President for 2010. She is in her third and final year of her BIT at NMIT. Lavana has an interest in sustainability issues, and is actively involved with green initiatives on Nelson campus. Lavana was awarded an NMIT Outward Bound Scholarship late last year, and at time of writing she is half way through her three week Outward Bound adventure! Lavana is very approachable so if you have an idea and see her around campus, let her know.

Returning 2010 Exec Members

Your returning Exec members for 2010 are Dan Moran (BIT), Yuan Pei (Yo Yo) (BIT), Deone Greer (Arts and Media), Neil Williamson (Aviation), Zhou Rui (BCom), Kaye Blance (Arts and Media), Dean Cooper (Adventure Tourism) and Hayden Lowe (Aviation). Thanks to all of them for the support they have given the Association during a busy start to the year. At time of writing we are in the process of nominating and electing your new Executive members for 2010 so watch this space for a full list of Exec members in Issue 2 of VOS.

Outgoing Exec members

Our thanks to the following Exec members, who have finished their terms with SANITI: Louise Gould, Reno Maru (Matua), Mike Vickers and Barry Walsh. Particular thanks to Louise for the years of service she gave to students as a member of the NMIT Academic Board - Louise did a great job standing up for you, the students, and we will miss her contribution - good luck for your new adventures as a Nurse Louise!



Get on the radio — be heard

fresh fm

104.8 Nelson-Tasman • 95.0 Takaka • 88.9 Blenheim

by, for and about the Top of the South

ON AIR

WELCOME FROM THE SANITI STAFF

The Staff at SANITI enact the aims of the Association as set in the Strategic Plan devised by the Student Executive. The SANITI staff operate as a tight group who are always willing to help others out.

Association Manager Alison Hart

Alison works 30 hours per week at SANITI co-ordinating the staff, the association and doing all the financials. Alison has been at SANITI for seven years.

Distant Campus Manager Hayden Campbell

Hayden's main role at SANITI is taking care of the thirteen distant campuses. He visits every campus at least twice every year. Hayden also oversees the Aviation Conference and takes care of the advertising and sponsorship.

Nelson Campus Co-ordinator Jaycob Brown

Jaycob is usually the first point of contact students have with SANITI as he 'mans' the front desk and deals with most of the general enquiries. Jaycob's main role is the planning, budgeting and running the events at SANITI.

Advocate Pip Bowler

Pip is employed part-time and deals with the issues that arise that extend beyond general enquiries. Some advocacies can be solved in a few minutes while others can take months.

Events and Publications Support Fraser Heal

Fraser works part-time at SANITI and helps run the events with Jaycob. Fraser also co-ordinates the SANITI website, the Voice of SANITI and designs most of SANITI's posters.

For more info about SANITI visit our website!



Pictured is the SANITI Staff christmas card.

Back Left: Hayden Campbell, Jaycob Brown, Fraser Heal.
Front Left: Alison Hart, Student Prez Rachel Boyack-Mayer, Pip Bowler.
Below is outside the SANITI office during Careers Express Day.



CAFE Ake Ake

HOURS

Mon to Thur 7am-3:30pm

Friday 7am-3pm



**Fresh Homemade Food
Right On Campus!**

Winter Special!!

Fresh Pasta & 250ml Coke buy five get the sixth free
Cut this card out and get it stamped with each purchase.

PASTA LOYALTY CARD

| | | | | | |
|---|--------|---|--------|---|--------|
| 1 | \$8.50 | 2 | \$8.50 | 3 | \$8.50 |
| 4 | \$8.50 | 5 | \$8.50 | 6 | FREE!! |

LOCATED IN THE STUDENT CENTRE ON NELSON CAMPUS ~ ALSO AVAILABLE FOR CATERING

STUDENT ON POLYTECHNIC COUNCIL

At a meeting of NMIT Council on 23 March 2010, it was agreed that a student should remain on Council as a community member. The Government recently changed the rules on Polytechnic Council membership and so it is no longer a requirement that a student should have a place. NMIT Council determined that their four community members from 1 May 2010 will be: a Māori member, a Marlborough member, an NMIT community member and a 'Backfill' position to fill any missing skills.

Student President Rachel Boyack was appointed as the NMIT Community Member and Daryl Wehner (Commercial and Business Development Manager at the Cawthron Institute) was appointed to the 'backfill' position. The Māori and Marlborough members will be appointed shortly.

Minister for Tertiary Education Steven Joyce has appointed three existing Council members to Council; Chair Ross Butler, Andy Rowe, Claudia Wysocki, along with new member Paul Steere.

NMIT is one of only a small number of Polytechnics that have kept a student on the Council, which Rachel Boyack says is a real victory for students.

INTEREST FREE STUDENT LOANS, AND OTHER NEWS IN TERTIARY EDUCATION

Students nationwide are worried that interest could end up back on their student loans, following an admission from the new Minister for Tertiary Education that the National Party promised interest free loans in 2008 for political reasons, and not because they believed wholeheartedly in the policy.

Other changes being mooted are funding penalties for institutions with poor completion and retention rates. Student leaders are particularly concerned with the Minister's new push for restrictions on student loans, linking them to academic progress.

"Most students do work hard and take their studies seriously, and we're concerned at the unintended consequences of any blanket change to the student loan scheme," said NZUSA Co-President Pene Delaney.

"Tying access to student loans to academic progress is unnecessary and restrictive because institutions are already monitoring student performance. This policy change could actively work against the Government's own priorities to get more young people and Māori and Pasifika students into higher education," added Delaney.

STUDENTS LOBBY AGAINST ROGER DOUGLAS BILL

Over 300 signatures were collected from NMIT students opposing the Education (Freedom of Association) Amendment Bill, which would see membership of students' associations become voluntary. While it may sound like a nice idea, in reality, the bill would see SANITI lose most of its annual student levy income, which brings in approximately \$300,000 each year. This income covers the essential services provided by SANITI, such as advocacy, the student diary and discounts, Orientation and other events, and our jobs and accommodation services.

The bill was introduced to parliament last year by Sir Roger Douglas of the ACT Party. Submissions closed on 31 March, and the bill will now proceed through the Select Committee process.

SANITI wrote two submissions opposing the bill; a general submission, and one about the specific needs of Aviation students. Results of the lobbying and submission process should be known in a few months time. VOS will keep you posted.

ROGER DOUGLAS YOUTH RATES BILL KICKED TO THE KERB

Another bill of Sir Roger Douglas' was pulled from the ballot recently, which would have seen the re-introduction of youth wages for young workers. SANITI were pretty concerned because of the impact on our younger students, many of whom are struggling on low wages and a small amount of hours to start with.

Luckily, the bill got KICKED TO THE KERB – yee har!

ENTRANCE TO DEGREE STUDY MUST REMAIN FLEXIBLE

SANITI and students are concerned at possible moves to tighten access to degree study, says Rachel Boyack, SANITI Student President. Entrance standards for all degree programmes are currently being reviewed by the New Zealand Qualifications Authority. SANITI is particularly worried that students over 20 may not get automatic access into degree programmes anymore.

"Students studying at a Polytechnic are often older, second chance learners, who do not need another door shut in their face when trying to access tertiary education," said Boyack. "What matters most is the quality of the degree they complete," Boyack added.

Currently, "University Entrance" is required for enrolment in all university degree programmes, whereas students at Polytechnics have differing requirements dependent on the degree and the tertiary institute.

Polytechnic students are concerned that entrance criteria may not be broad enough to encompass the skills needed for the practical style of degree provision at Polytechnics.

"An adult student may bring life and work experience to their degree study, rather than academic credentials," said Boyack.

Rachel Boyack is also worried that Polytechnics and Private Training Establishments won't be consulted, given that 80% of degree students are based at Universities.

"If a single entry standard is to be applied, then we expect full and thorough consultation with the Polytechnic sector, and an assurance that no sectors of society will lose access to tertiary education," Boyack concluded.

If this concerns you, there is a Facebook group you can join to voice your opinions and apply pressure to the Government. See the SANITI Facebook page for a link.

ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP

Are you interested in sustainability issues on campus? A new 'Green Group' is being formed for students keen to affect change in this area. Contact SANITI Vice President Lavana Ramsteijn if you're interested at vp.saniti@gmail.com

NEW UNIQ GROUP ON CAMPUS

A new group has formed on campus to support Rainbow students; who identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender. The group meets every Wednesday lunchtime. Email Adam at theworldsrainbow@yahoo.co.nz for more info. You can contact them: www.wix.com/UniQnelson/UniQ-Nelsonnmit or through their Facebook group: UNIQ NMIT.

CHRISTIAN GROUP

Christian students and staff meet every Monday lunchtime for food, friendship and fellowship. Email Jo-ella at jo-ellamarshall@paradise.net.nz for more info.



Orientation 2010

Orientation is an annual event to welcome students onto the Nelson and Marlborough campuses with BBQs, games, prizes and music. The various events are co-funded by NMIT and SANITI and run by SANITI Staff, Executive, and various helpers. Prizes are donated by awesome local businesses so please help them to help you by supporting these business (please mention that you are from NMIT and heard of them through Orientation).

For fun this year we had sack races, barrito tossing and The Amazing Race (big thanks to the Student Executive!). Thanks to all the helpers and participants and especially the sponsors for making Orientation 2010 a fantastic success!



St Patrick's Day

A regular staple on the SANITI events calendar, St Patrick's day brings sausages, veggie patties and onions on the BBQ (plus green bread!!) and potato and ladle race. Our friends at the Prince Albert came to the party with some awesome prizes of dinner for four for first prize and dinner for two for second and third. Making this year even quirkier were the spot prizes for those wearing green. Some students scored mint chocolates and green lollipops while others looked a bit confused with their fluorescent green tea drinks and minicucumbers!

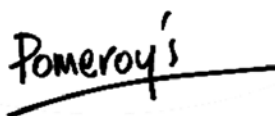


The International Festival

The evening of the 11th February saw the Orientation International Festival, an always popular event where international students show off their culture with song and dance and food! Host families, the wider student population, community representatives and NMIT Staff all turned up in numbers to welcome the international students and also see in the Chinese New Year. Special thanks to Nisa and the awesome group of students who put a lot of hard work into making this event the great success it was!



A HUGE THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR EVENT SPONSORS!





PIP'S TIPS

In this issue SANITI's Advocate Pip Bowler casts an eye over course requirements

If you're struggling with the amount of work you have to do, class participation, assignments, tests or even attending classes, here are some things you need to consider.

1 Be Proactive and Seek Support

- Talk to your tutor and tell them what you find difficult and ask them for help
- Go to the Library Learning Centre. They provide one-on-one sessions with tutors and group workshops on research and study skills, using the library and much more
- Go to NMIT Student Service if you think your health or a learning disability may be the cause of your difficulties. They have staff and resources that can help.
- Come in to our SANITI office for a friendly chat and some support to get started.

2 If your tutor comes to you regarding your progress and it's not good, you should expect:

- To be offered academic counselling which should include guidance, support and advice around how to meet the standards required
- To have clear criteria set for you to meet
- To be referred to NMIT Student Services if this would be helpful

3 If you don't meet the criteria agreed between you and your tutor then:

- You may receive a first written warning with further criteria, Academic Counselling and a referral to NMIT Student Services
- If you don't meet these criteria a second written warning or Probation Contract may be sent. It will set out criteria, timeframes to meet the criteria and any personal requirements or responsibilities particular to you. You should also be offered guidance and support again.
- NOTE – this second warning or Probation stays on your file up until you graduate or finish study.
- If requirements of the second warning and contract are not met the case will go to the NMIT Academic Committee responsible for your programme. They make a decision on the outcome which could include exclusion from the course.
- NOTE – decisions made can be appealed and SANITI have experience in supporting students through this so please come and talk to us.

The best advice we can give is BE PROACTIVE. Go and get help. Study hard. Come in and see us for support.

Library Learning Support Nelson Campus Tuesday Tutorials

"How to Type a Report Using Multilevel Headings and Numbers"

Tuesday 27th April M209 - Jackie

"Writing Academic Essays"

Tuesday 4th May M209 - Marion

"How to use NMIT Online to Submit Assignments and How to Use Turnitin"

Tuesday 11th May M209 - James

"How to Express in Your Own Words What You Have Read"

Tuesday 1st June M209 - Diane

"How to Reference Using the APA Method"

Tuesday 8th June M209 - Sarah/Adrienne

"How to Calculate GST and Other Calculator Skills"

Tuesday 15th June M209 - Monique

"How to Use Formulas in Excel"

Tuesday 22nd June M209 - Jackie

"How to Create and Save Your Own Template"

"How to Access Templates on Word 2007"

Tuesday 28th June M209 - Jackie/Marion

ALL workshops are held in the Library Learning Centre (LLC) from 12.05-12.50pm

Check the downstairs noticeboard in case of a room change



fashion island
Shopping Centre

bringing the world of
international fashion to nelson...
...without the price tag

OPEN EVERYDAY Mon - Fri 9am-5.30pm • Saturday 9am-5pm • Sunday 10am-4pm
cnr hardy & morrison streets nelson • www.fashionisland.co.nz



NMIT STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

Before it all gets too much,
come and talk to us ...



THE STUDENT SERVICES TEAM IS HERE TO HELP YOU!

WE PROVIDE...

- FREE & confidential support/advice
- Referrals to Health Services & Community Agencies
- 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: shelly.mccormick@nmit.ac.nz



*We're looking forward
to meeting you!*

MEET THE NEW TEAM MEMBERS

Margaretta Trewavas

Margaretta is the person to talk to if you need help or advice to access community services; medical; recreation or cultural information. Margaretta is keen to assist and help students with their enquiries or she can arrange an appointment with one of the Student Support Team members or refer you to someone who can help.



Margaretta, Jane and Leyna

Leyna Adlington

Leyna works with Nisa Rose with International students. She organises homestay accommodation for their arrival and also helps the students settle in to Nelson. Leyna enjoys meeting and chatting to the International students and learning about their culture. She is keen to support the International students with any issues to ensure they enjoy their experience at NMIT. If you haven't already met Leyna, please introduce yourself, she would love to meet you.

Jane Chamberlain

Jane works with both current and prospective students with enquiries concerning accessibility around courses and campus, equipment requirements and extra support when needed. Jane works with many outside support agencies and can help with access to a range of services including Counsellors, Career Services, Intervention specialists and Mental Health Support. Jane is also our Scholarship Co-ordinator so can assist with enquiries and applications for scholarships. Jane works between 10.00 - 2.30 and is happy to meet with you to discuss any problems you may face whilst studying at NMIT.

WANT TO IMPROVE YOUR GRADES?



COME TO LEARNING & STUDY SUPPORT!

We will give you one-to-one assistance with your study, and offer support if you have a specific learning need. We work with individuals, groups or classes and, along with the Library staff, can help you find information, search the databases and reference your work.

NELSON CAMPUS
THE LIBRARY LEARNING CENTRE,
M BLOCK
546 9175, ext 672

MARLBOROUGH CAMPUS
J BLOCK
578 0215 ext 560

email: learning.support@nmit.ac.nz

*Don't wait until you're in a panic.
Make an appointment today!*



THE HIGHS AND LOWS OF JOB HUNTING

by Matt Bowler



Last year was a tough year. It was a tough year for businesses. It was a tough year for job seekers. It was a tough year for everyone. Many people (myself included) have chosen to use the time to enter study, to retrain, in the hopes of emerging bright eyed and bushy tailed, clutching a shiny new certificate, diploma or degree, on the upside of the recession and ready to pounce on the thousands of exciting new jobs available.

The signs seem to point towards better times ahead, but it is still a tough and competitive job market out there. Certainly it was relatively lean times for the Nelson Student Job Search over the summer. That's why it was so exciting when a large local employer approached SJS with an opportunity for a student. The six who were ultimately referred by SJS were being offered a full time summer job in a field relevant to their studies, with possibilities to "get in on the ground floor" in a large local organisation.

Pre-selected by SJS, the students looked good on paper to the employer as well, who promptly phoned them to get the formal interview process underway. Like many other employers these days, this employer required a pre-employment drug test.

None of the six students chose to continue with the interview process.

Six bright young students, all investing time and money in their own training missed out on an opportunity. To be fair, I haven't spoken to the students involved so there is a possibility that they chose to withdraw from the process for any number of reasons; including ethical or religious objections to drug testing. But the overwhelming assumption seems to be that the students balked because they feared that they would fail the test.

This will certainly be the inference drawn by the employer. A black mark goes against those students and despite any rhetoric around second chances those black marks remain.

Robin Thompson, Manager of Action Forest Management Ltd says that people who fail a pre-employment drug test are welcome to reapply at a later date (and of course with a clean test).

"But if it comes down to two good candidates and one has failed a test in the past while the other hasn't then that will obviously influence our decision."

The Law

There is no specific law that deals with drug testing in the workplace, but a couple of acts exert influence.

The Health and Safety in Employment Act 1992 requires an employer to provide a safe working environment free from hazards. A 2002 amendment to the act provides this definition of a hazard:

i) a situation where a person's behaviour may be an actual or potential cause or source of harm to the person or another person; and

ii) without limitation, a situation described in subparagraph (i) resulting from physical or mental fatigue, drugs, alcohol, traumatic shock, or another temporary condition that affects a person's behaviour.

Other relevant acts provide protection to employees' civil rights. They are the Privacy Act 1993 and the Human Rights Act 1993. It is the employer's job to balance their obligations under the Health and Safety Act with the employees' rights under these two other acts. To a lesser extent the Bill of Rights Act 1990 can also apply.

Testing Times

Alcohol and drug misuse or dependence can have many negative effects at work including absences, sickness and loss of productivity but most employers currently treat it as a health and safety issue and incorporate the approach into an overall health and safety plan.

In cases where safety is an important concern, for example anything to do with aircraft, boats, heavy machinery, factory work or work with dangerous goods, and any job in a potentially dangerous environment, pre-employment drug testing may be justified. Large employers tend to implement drug testing across the board as part of their health and safety commitments. You may decline to take the test but any employer has the right to request it if they deem it reasonable.

Pre-employment drug tests are usually accompanied by random tests during the course of employment. These are the norm in forestry, aviation and the maritime industry. Some of the local recruitment agencies have similar testing policies of their own.

Human Resource company Allied Work Force have a zero tolerance towards drugs or alcohol and have a program of pre-employment and random testing. This is driven by their clients' health and safety requirements. Someone returning a failed test will be stood down immediately. They have the opportunity to retake the test at a later stage but a failed test usually means a closer eye is kept on them and they will be candidates for random testing more regularly in the future.

Air New Zealand have a zero tolerance policy which also includes pre-employment and random tests for any employee who touches an aircraft or interacts with a customer.

Air Nelson are owned by Air New Zealand and comply with their procedures. Zero tolerance, pre employment and random testing.

Safe Air have a testing program for all employees in safety sensitive roles. Who is in a safety sensitive role? All staff.

Other common tests are post incident or reasonable cause testing. The option to require these tests is built into a large number of employment contracts. As the name suggests these tests can be requested by a manager if they suspect an employee of working under the influence of drugs or alcohol or working in an impaired state due to drugs or alcohol being used outside work hours, especially if the employee is involved in an accident or near accident.

The manager must document the observations that provide the grounds for testing. If the test is allowed for in the individual employment contract, then refusal to take the test is a breach of contract and serious misconduct. It is likely to be seen as a sign of guilt too.

A lot of contracts in the tourism and hospitality industries have these clauses. Most operators in these industries also have a zero tolerance policy but the risk factors may not quite justify pre-employment or compulsory random testing. Of course highly safety sensitive tourism operations, for example those involving jet boats, helicopters or extreme sports, have varying policies.

At Kaiteriteri Kayaks, a subsidiary of the nationwide Ngai Tahu Tourism Ltd, their employment contracts allow them to test employees after a significant accident or near miss, with reasonable cause, or randomly with the consent of the employee.

Operations manager Lee-Anne Jago says that the possibility of introducing pre-employment testing is often on the agenda at management meetings. The tourism industry is undergoing a major audit this year and most people expect standards to get tighter.

Paul Max is the President of the Nelson Branch of the Hospitality Association of New Zealand and he has some real concerns about the state of play in his industry. He would like to see employers take a tougher stance on the issue.

Alyn Higgins, the Association's legal consultant, believes that society's attitude to drugs and alcohol is changing and the hospitality industry is changing its attitudes accordingly. Problems with alcohol and drugs are acknowledged and attempts are made to deal with them. The industry has some unique risk factors but also has a heightened level of responsibility given the nature of its business.

While many contracts do allow for post incident or reasonable cause testing, Higgins points out that there are tools available in the common law to deal with issues. "They include, in addition to testing, performance management techniques, directions to attend corrective behavioural courses and disciplinary actions including warnings and in serious cases dismissal."

The Bottom Line

Drugs are illegal. End of story. Some prescription or pharmacy medicines contain banned substances and could result in a failed test. Be honest and employers should be reasonable.

Alcohol is of course legal and tends to metabolise relatively quickly compared to most illegal drugs so moderate and sensible consumption should be okay. Don't turn up to work or an interview drunk or hung-over.

If you think you might fail a pre-employment drug or alcohol test then you might consider seeking help. Some contacts are included at the end of this article. Remember a failed test can be a crippling black mark on your record. Some employers will not allow you to reapply for a position for one year. All employers are likely to view a past failed test as cause for concern.

If you are already in work and are experiencing difficulties because of drugs or alcohol then there are ways to get help. Most employers will try to help and hold on to their valued employees. Many contracts have self referral and structured intervention procedures in place for staff to get the help they need.

A number of employers told me about workers who returned a failed test. Despite being good workers they were instantly stood down. This gave them the motivation to address their problems and they have gone on to become valued members of staff.

DO YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW NEED HELP?

Nelson Marlborough Alcohol and Drug Service: (03) 546 1994
Alcohol and other drug counselling services.

Te Kahui o Ngati Koata: (03) 546 8018
Large and comprehensive range of counselling and services.

Te Awhina Marae: (03) 528 6061
Alcohol and other drug counselling services.

'Get the Msg' free text message information service
Text the name of any drug to DRUG (3784) to receive basic information

Alcohol Drug Helpline: 0800 787 797 (10am - 10pm 7 days)
Free, confidential advice & referrals about your own or someone else's drug use.

Alcoholics Anonymous: 0800 229 675

National Addictions Treatment Directory: www.addictionshelp.org.nz

Alcohol Advisory Council of New Zealand: www.alac.org.nz

Alcohol and Drug Association of New Zealand: www.adanz.org.nz

National Drug Policy: www.ndp.govt.nz

NZ Drug Foundation: www.drugfoundation.org.nz

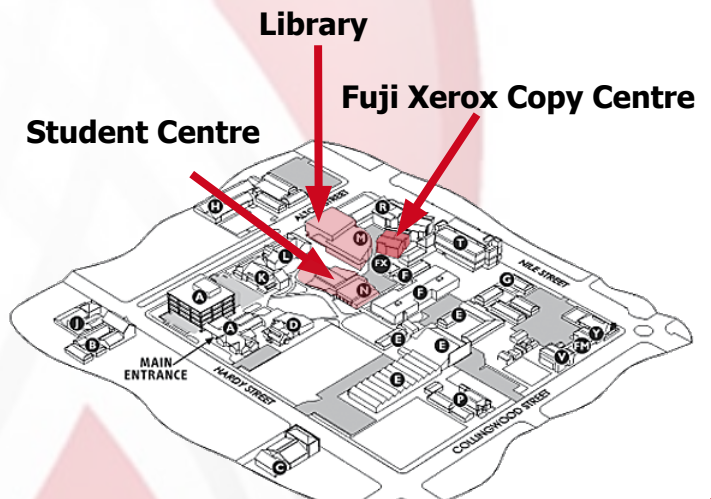
FUJI XEROX



**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.



FORMER SANITI PREZ IN TV SHOCK!

Past acting President of SANITI, Karyn Fisk, was kicked off Masterchef New Zealand in late March, in a controversial episode that has polarised viewers. VOS asked Karyn about her experience on Masterchef, and her cooking plans for the future. We even twisted her arm for an exclusive recipe – score!

We asked Karyn how her time at SANITI helped her Masterchef experience. "Well, we didn't get to cook any sausages," said Karyn. "But the leadership experience definitely helped me with the Langham challenge. I had to delegate and communicate, trust my team, and keep the positive energy up, just like Ali (Hart) always told me," she continued.

VOS asked Karyn about her experience cooking crayfish; it turns out that most people are backing Karyn's decision to cook the crustacean in boiling water. "I spent four and a half years as a student, so I don't know how I was expected to spend \$90 on a crayfish to practice cooking it," said Karyn. "I reckon 99 out of 100 people are backing our decision to cook it in boiling water," she added.

Karyn is looking at her options for future employment in the cooking industry. She has already scored a one-off slot on TVNZ's Good Morning and is hoping her experience on the Masterchef show may bring her further opportunities to expand her cooking experience.

Karyn is also newly engaged and expecting another baby soon – SANITI wish her all the best for an exciting future ahead!



Kay and future SANITI Executive Member Noah

Fisky's Failsafe Homemade Pizza

Start by making a scone base using the trusty Edmonds Cookbook recipe, roll it out nice and thin.

Pop a tin of 99c Home Brand Tin Tomatoes in a frying pan, or your favourite kitchen pot. Add Salt, Pepper, Basil and a small amount of red wine vinegar. Reduce down.

Blend using your cocktail stick blender.

Heat up an oven tray to 220°C. Once heated, put the already rolled scone base on the tray.

Spread the tomato mixture on, add some sautéed chicken, sliced courgettes and cheese.

Heat, and eat!

KEEP IN TOUCH WITH SANITI ON THE INTERWEBS



www.saniti.org.nz

facebook

Go to Facebook, search for SANITI, and join up!



**Or follow us on Twitter.
Our user name is SANITI_NMIT**

WHK is Australasia's largest provider of accounting and related services to SMEs, helping more NZ businesses achieve success. We are leading people with better advice for a better life.

We provide you with the opportunities.

The shape of your career is up to you.



WHK

For more information and applications contact

employment.nsn@whk.co.nz

T 03 548 2139

www.whk.co.nz



Over the Easter weekend five NMIT student pilots training at Flight Training Manwatu in Fielding (Matt Pullman, Nicolas Mercier, Haley Curtis, Josh Flynn, Richy Thompson) made the biannual pilgrimage down to the Aeronautical Mecca of Wanaka to take in a weekend of festivities at the Warbirds over Wanaka festival.

Matt Pullman recounts the journey:

Departing from Taonui Aerodrome in Fielding at 8am with 2 x Cessna 152's and 2 x Cessna 172's we stopped to refuel at Omaka aerodrome in Blenheim and then travelled to our next stop at Rangiora. It was a difficult approach into the airfield due to low cloud and we had to make damn sure we could get in safely to refuel. We then travelled down to Timaru in a group with 3 other aircraft before flying the Mckenzie's pass to Omarama, New Zealand's gliding capital and home to one of the best gliding spots in the world! After refueling and stopping for lunch, we flew to Wanaka via Lindis pass. Landing there was best described as landing at Los Angeles International Airport. Aeroplanes galore and all coordinated by good airmanship and a very good air traffic controller! We had nine aircraft inbound when we arrived and it was very stressful at times but also good practice. After landing, we tied down and settled in for the night before two full on action packed days at Warbirds over Wanaka. On the return journey home, we stopped at Rangiora and Omaka to refuel before finally returning to Fielding. Total flight time was 11.5 hours and I would definitely recommend the actual cross country flying trip to any student pilot or aviation enthusiast.



AVIATION CONFERENCE '10

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!

This year the conference will take place from July 5th to 8th in the heart of the South Island's best little city, Nelson. Now into its seventh year the conference has grown to become a must-attend for all student pilots throughout the country. Last year a total of 75 student pilots from thirteen flight schools attended.

This year's conference is going to be bigger and better than ever! The theme for SSPC'10 is 'Stepping Stones to Success'. 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.

Student rep's 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 classmates 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@extra.co.nz) before the end of May.



www.saniti.org.nz

- **Read previous issues of VOS**
- **See photos of events**
- **Learn more about how SANITI can help you!**

MAKING CONNECTIONS

Sharon McGuire has 35 years experience working for local businesses and community organizations. Her role at NMIT can be best surmised in her title: Business, Community Relationship and Development Manager. She helps maintain the relevancy of NMIT courses, not only with industries and employers, but with community, schools and iwi. VOS met with Sharon and discussed her role and how students can be proactive in reaching their employment goals.

It only takes a quick glance through the employment section of the local paper to see that there aren't many jobs going around at the moment. Factor in the government doing their best to get beneficiaries into jobs plus people delaying their retirements - job hunters have to be on top of their game to get their dream job. Here some tips from Sharon on how to increase your chances of employment.

Is The Course Right For You?

Sharon is quick to emphasise that students have to be proactive before they even begin leafing through their course books. The first thing that you can do is try to make sure that the course you choose is the one for you. Maybe do an introductory paper or two. Also do some research on the employment prospects in your chosen field.

What is the best way to study?

After you've established your course, your personal life needs to be factored into the mix. You want to make sure that your life is manageable to ensure that you can commit the appropriate time to achieving your academic goals as well as having a personal life. Some options include on-line courses and papers, maybe look at part time study. Quitting your job, organizing childcare, moving house, even moving town - plus the financial commitments are life changing so try to think long-term.

Plan ahead and start networking

Sharon emphasized that it is best to plan and be active in getting employed while you're studying. Start networking, especially in your final year. Take advantage of the opportunities that present themselves during class time, like work experience and placements. NMITs' Careers Express Day, the Aviation Conference and SANITI events where people like WHK, BNZ, and tourism operators are on campus are great opportunities to meet and network.

Get good marks

Sounds simple, but getting good results will increase your chances of getting employed. Some businesses actively headhunt the best students before they even graduate. If you are not the top in your class, work extra hard in the areas of experience and complimentary skills.



Develop all-round skills for your CV

Most New Zealand businesses employ less than 20 people and regionally it is more likely to be less than eight. This means that every employee is critical to a smooth running operation. Having a variety of skills and being experienced in a variety of ways can make you an invaluable team member. More specifically, be appropriately skilled in your area. If you work in marketing, for example, having some Photoshop skills will be an advantage.

Be humble when job hunting

Most likely you will not start in your dream job. You may need to start at the bottom rung and work your way up the ladder. Take it all in your stride and keep your eye on your goals. Learn, grow and continue networking.

Networking

A key part of business is networking. As the TV advert goes, "Everyone knows someone that knows someone". It is a great way to meet people in your perspective industry whom you can learn from and who can give you a job. You can gain confidence dealing with people and it shows that you are keen and ready to work. It is also something that can be done whilst studying.

As mentioned previously, take advantage of opportunities that present themselves during class and on campus. Ask your tutor if they have industry contacts. Become aware of the activities of the local Chamber of Commerce, while this may cost you to attend their events they are specifically designed for meeting and mingling.

CVs

- Get one!

Having an up-to-date CV is a must. Get it sorted before you need it so you aren't rushing around at a crucial moment. Sharon stated that while the whole CV is important, the cover letter is crucial. A cover letter should summarise you, your personality, your skills, experience and qualifications. Keep your covering letter concise and keep it relevant to the job application.

- Develop your CV

Supplement your academic achievements with other successes in your life. How are you involved in your community? Everyone has hobbies (try to extend beyond reading, cycling and cooking). Include group activities, as it shows you can work as part of a team. If you aren't active in the community, get involved with a group of people in an area that interests you. This will help develop your social skills and build up confidence. Being a Student Executive member is a great

option. It introduces you to the formalities of meetings and involves you in a group decision-making process.

- Get it out there

Don't just email an electronic version of your CV to a business out of the blue. Call them and try to make an appointment with the Human Resources Manager. Take in a hard copy so they can file it. This not only shows that you are serious but also means you can meet them face to face and show off your top quality personal and social skills. They may also show you around and introduce you to other people. Ask questions – don't just talk about you and your wants. Use this as an opportunity to show that you're keen and are genuinely interested.

Attitude and Appearance

Always aim to impress. Be personable, well dressed and better than punctual. Be confident, shake people's hands and look them in the eye. Be relaxed but professional. Networking and being active in the community will help build your self confidence. If you feel that you need to improve your social skills, consider joining Toastmasters or getting some kind of professional training.

Another side of this coin is being careful in all social and professional settings. Getting boozed and acting like a fool may be fun but if you're seen by someone in your industry you can ruin your burgeoning reputation overnight. Being smart on Facebook and other such websites is a great idea but keep your personal information to a minimum, avoid being controversial and use a pseudonym.

Goals

Use everything you do as a stepping stone to reach for the next goal in your life. Getting a qualification is the start – getting experience and developing other skills is essential. The self motivation it takes to develop a well-rounded CV will shine through.

International Students

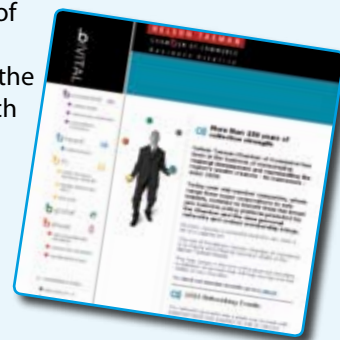
Finding employment is especially difficult in a foreign country. Compounding the stress of studying, you also have to learn a new culture and language. Sharon was quick to emphasise the need for good English skills for international graduates. Sending in a CV, for example, with grammatical and spelling errors can mean that your application can fall at the first hurdle. Take every opportunity to extend your social circle beyond other international students. Make friends with native English speakers and meet them for a coffee or drink and work on your communication skills. If you need to fast track your development, get extra professional help.

On this page is more information of how students can contact the Nelson-Tasman Chamber of Commerce and Career Advice.

Nelson-Tasman Chamber of Commerce

The Nelson-Tasman Chamber of Commerce holds regular events for local business owners to hear from industry leaders and people of interest. These events are also an excellent opportunity for them to mingle. While not explicitly developed for job hunters, these events are open to the public. NMIT is a member and has taken groups of students to events in the past. There is a nominal cost to attend the open events but breakfast or lunch is provided.

Keep an eye out on their website for upcoming events:
www.commerce.org.nz



Are You Looking For A Job?

If you are looking for a job here are some websites that may be able to help you:

www.sjs.co.nz
www.seek.co.nz
www.trademe.co.nz
www.search4jobs.co.nz
www.worksite.govt.nz
www.jobs.govt.nz
www.ag-jobs.co.nz
www.seasonalwork.co.nz

SANITI also has a folder of jobs in the office, feel free to come in and have a look.

Career Advice

All New Zealanders can access free career advice through the appropriately named Career Services. Their website is a good place to start www.careerservices.co.nz You can also contact them through the front desks on the Nelson and Marlborough Campuses and Student Services front desk ext. 655



Savage & Savage
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

Proudly providing financial
management services to
SANITI
Can we help you?

"We talk your language"

www.savage.co.nz info@savage.co.nz Business 03-548-4894

**DO YOU HAVE A STORY IDEA?
ARE YOU AN ARTIST?
DO YOU WRITE?**

**CONTACT US
SANITI@XTRA.CO.NZ
03 546 2425
OR COME INTO THE SANITI OFFICE**



Student Life

VOS writer Fraser Heal caught up with double NMIT graduate and former SANITI Student Executive member Jared Wallace to see how life was after graduation.

When I called Jared and asked him if he could spare the time to have a beer and discuss his current employment situation, he stated that he may not be the best person as his view of entering the employment market was rather skeptical. I stated that a dash of reality was what I was after.

While Jared's experiences may not be typical, he does provide an insight into some aspects of employment and illustrate some of the decisions that graduates may have to make. Job hunting, networking, up-skilling, and juggling ones personal life are all part of employment. The transition from graduate to full employment an exciting but turbulent one.

Jared Wallace graduated as a Aviation Engineer at the end of 2008 having earlier obtained a Diploma in Aviation, he is also a commercial pilot and qualified instructor. But even though Jared is an intelligent, confident young man his ideal of permanent full-time employment in the aviation industry has not come to fruition. He has found opportunities in other engineering based fields but has been left slightly jaded about his chosen field due to the economic downturn in a temperamental industry.

Jared says, "I started making connections in the aviation industry whilst studying. I volunteered myself to a Nelson company and drove to Nelson from Blenheim every semester break. When a position became available it was filled by an experienced, licensed engineer, so I learnt that there are no guarantees. I also volunteered at an aero club down south, where there was often up to twenty three CVs waiting to fill unpaid roles! I've been struggling to get any regular engineering work in the aviation industry since."

"The grim reality is that everyone is qualified. I already have two qualifications, yet I am *still* studying to get myself ahead. It is a stark reminder to under-graduates that having a qualification is but one check box on a job application form. You really need a CV that sticks out from the rest. Even more so, you need to know people in the industry. Most jobs are not actually advertised and if you don't know a position is open, you've got no chance of filling it."

While Jared's first experiences in the aviation industry have left him a bit bruised, he is still hopeful that he can get his dream job in an industry he has an obvious passion for. "I'm predicting that there will be a bit of a mad rush when the aviation engineering industry comes out of the doledrums and the work that has been delayed needs to be done. There are a few of us out there up a certain creek paddling for our lives, so it's a case of sitting the hard times out."

Jared is lucky to have other skills he can fall back on when times are tough. Not one to simply give in, Jared has made a horizontal shift into other forms of engineering. He has set himself up as a contractor to be able to fill in jobs for employers when they have work available. This reduces their commitment - and therefore any job security - but means that he can continue working, pay the rent and keep moving forward. "I've set myself up as a sole trader and have been doing joinery and other such things."

"Setting yourself up as a sole trader or self-employment is risky as it is essentially two jobs, primarily the job that you are qualified to do, the second is running your own business. I've made shitloads of mistakes over the last year, expensive mistakes too. I'm constantly juggling what work I do have with other opportunities, as well as studying."



Jared has had opportunities come his way. He has even been approached with large contracts, which he has declined because of the risks involved. "Sure, I could commit myself to a project and hire staff and spend money that I don't have on equipment, but what happens if the contract falls over, as jobs tend to do. What happens if someone else comes in and undercuts me? I am left with a huge loan, cars and equipment I don't need. It would topple me."

"Sometimes you have to make big decisions and be prepared to compromise. Move town if you have to." As soon as I point out the contradiction of this statement when considering his own situation, he adds "I have committed myself to Nelson. My fiancée has a job that over 200 people applied for and we are thankful for her opportunity". Life is never simple.

While every industry and job is different, every student can learn from Jared's situation. Getting good marks is always essential but experience can make you shine out in a crowd.

FREE Lonely Planet London guide when you book a Contiki tour of 10 days or more.



House of Travel Nelson exclusive offer.

Offer expires 15th December 2010

House of Travel Nelson
256 Trafalgar Street • P: 546 8780 • E: nelson@hot.co.nz

HOUSE OF TRAVEL



Most people might not know it but New Zealanders are amongst the most multi skilled job seekers in the world. Most if not all of us will change our careers at least three to four times. I myself have been gainfully employed in a number of positions. Pun very much intended.

This is in stark contrast to a German friend of mine who is frankly amazed at Kiwis' ability to jump from job to job. "That doesn't happen back in Germany", he clarifies, "you study at University for something and get a job in that field, then that's it."

Really? If I'd done that I would have been a computer analyst. The computer industry in particular and the world in general breathed a huge sigh of relief when I decided it didn't suit me.

I've had a number of fill in jobs that have got me through some tight spots. Strangely poverty, starvation, homelessness and being unable to buy pretty clothes and amazing shoes as well as general destitution are strong motivators for employment in my opinion.

So, in this issues review I will be looking at some of the occupations I have moonlighted in and have got me through a tight spot or two. All of them are in the customer service industry in which a cheery personality (or at least pretending to have one) and the ability to make witty repartee will ensure you do well.

Waiter/Waitress (hotel/restaurant)

Requirements: A memory longer than three seconds - having less could see you moved to functions as I eventually was - in fact there were some gold fish out there that are better at this job than I. People have this nasty habit of wanting food when they order it. Go figure. Strong manish hands are a plus.

Ups: As with most hospitality jobs, if you're readily available (never an issue for me) you can clock up some serious hours. If you like to meet new sober people outside of cocktail hour this could be the way.

Downs: Unfortunately what makes this fun can also make it your worst nightmare, in a word: People. Working in this job made me realise just how rude some people can be. I'm a waitress not an idiot or your personal body slave. My job is to order and collect food for you, not provide you with an avenue for despotism.

Verdict: Everyone should do this as your first job. If more people worked in this occupation then perhaps they'd be nicer to waitresses. I can think of a few places I go (apart from bars) where the service is great but the food is very average, however I go there because the staff make me feel special



Food conveyance operator (fast food)

Requirements: A brain, an ability to work and the skill to crack a smile all of the time.

Ups: There's no such thing as not enough hours. If you're willing to kiss good bye to your life, family and friends (unless of course those things are present at the job) then this is the one for you. Hours can vary greatly from early start to late nights.

Downs: Sadly this job has always seemed to be one where ass kissing equals employability. Meaning, in general that people much dumber and far less opinionated whose lips are firmly attached to your boss's posterior are much higher up the ladder than you. That's how it is, get used to it.

Verdict: If you can handle the fast food jangle, you can make some money reasonably fast. In a recession this could be the job for you. However if you don't like people, can't multi task and can't work quickly, this job isn't for you!

Cinema Attendant

Requirements: like the above job, being able to work quickly at more than one thing is a plus. And like all customer service jobs having a loud blousey personality. Some interest in movies would also be of benefit.

Ups: Movies! Whilst employed at a cinema I got to go for free and take along a friend. I also got discounts on food.

Downs: Like waitressing this job exposed me to the rudeness of some of the general public.

But there was also this.

Patron "what time does the 6pm movie start?"

Me "6pm sir"

Patron "can I sit at the back?"

Me "Sorry sir that movie start's in 5mins and it's down to the front two rows so the back is completely full"

Patron "What about here?"

Me "No, that's the back row"

Patron "How about there?"

Me "That's also the back row. And before you ask where you're now pointing is also in the back row"

Patron "Are you sure?"

Me in disbelief "Yes, yes I am." Need I say more?

Verdict: Apart from the appalling amount of human stupidity you get exposed to, this job was awesome. I was lucky enough to be working with a number of cool people and got to see lots of cool movies. The money was average unless of course you're a projectionist (a profession now closed to me after the fateful evening labelled 'films of fire' by my workmates) and the hours were shift work.

And there you have it. Let's face it, we're all waiting for that winning lotto ticket but waiting doesn't pay the bills or buy you nice things.

THE ANONYMOUS FLUFFY REVIEWER



We interrupt this broadcast with a special edition of the anonymous cafe reviewer. Our stand-in anonymous cafe reviewer borrowed three younguns for a special 'fluffy review'. Here's some super info for all our student parents out there looking for a haven to take your kids to while enjoying a great brew.....our regular broadcast will be back next issue, promise!

Zumo Coffee House

Rutherford St, Nelson

Zumo Coffee House opened its doors in 2009 and has since become a popular haunt for locals seeking out a decent brew, particularly on a Saturday morning when on your way to or from the Nelson markets. Uncle Aiden and I took the girls, aged 5 years, 3 years and 18 months to test out their fluffies and just how child friendly they were:

Cost: \$1.00

The All Important Marshmallows

Just two this time, and not enough pink ones!

The fluffy itself

'yummy' said the three year old, 'not enough chocolate' said the five year old. Last time we went they were filled to the brim with fluffy goodness, this time the cup was only half full so we were a little disappointed.

Toys

An A+ for toys. Zumo has a huge selection, plus books, and a wonderful fish tank in its 'bored room' that had the girls fascinated.

Bathrooms

Spacious enough, with a baby changing table provided.

Service

Impeccable. Fluffies and coffees both arrived within two minutes of ordering – certainly a record there? I managed a spectacular spilling of the eighteen month old's fluffy, and it was replaced immediately and at no charge.

For the big kids

Uncle Aiden and I both scoffed down yummy 'Zumo Two' blend flat whites. A little too much froth for my liking, but Uncle Aiden was very happy with it. We loved the variety of coffee blends available. There was a good selection of newspapers and magazines on offer (particularly if you're into motorbikes), but for regulars it would be good to see them replaced a little more frequently.

Ambience

Seating is predominantly at a European-styled long shared table. Zumo Coffee House is large and spacious with plenty of space for kids to muck about with toys. We loved being able to sit at the table, chew the fat, sip the coffee and devour the reading material, while the kids happily played in a different area. Was great to see the beans being roasted too.



Overall rating

Definitely a hit with the adults and the kids - the kids had to be dragged out of there! Would be good to see a real commitment to a perfect fluffy and full marks would be on offer.



(ratings out of five)

Morrison St Cafe

Hardy St, Nelson

Yes we are crazy. Straight after Zumo we headed off to another local fave, Morrison St. This award winning cafe is a must visit, with amazing brunches on offer and lovely art work.

Cost
\$1.00

The All Important Marshmallows

Two, unlike Zumo, the marshmallows were placed on the saucer, which made them perfect for dunking.

The fluffy itself

Came in a cute wee china cup, so top marks for presentation. Lots of chocolate sprinkles on top too. Both the three year old and the five year old commented that it tasted nicer, although the five year old noted it wasn't as big as the Zumo fluffy and it went cold quite quickly.

Toys

Reasonable selection of toys and books on offer. Good to see colouring in pencils, but no paper? Luckily we brought our own. Uncle Aiden and I were a little concerned at the placement of the toys though – right in the walkway to the bathrooms. We didn't appreciate the resulting disapproving glances from two of the Cafe's staff members.

Bathrooms

Nice and clean, with a baby changing table. We weren't impressed by the sign instructing us to head upstairs to Fashion Island reception if the bathrooms weren't up to scratch. Surely that job should rest with the cafe staff? Especially for customers with young tots to take everywhere they go.

Service

Friendly enough.

For the big kids

Uncle Aiden had a flat white, which was very disappointing. It smelt and tasted bitter, and the crema was too dark. There were grains left over at the bottom, too much froth for a flat white and it wasn't hot enough. Pity because the cheese scone I devoured was spectacular. There were magazines and newspapers available, but it wasn't as relaxing as Zumo because we couldn't send the kids off to a separate toy area to play.

Ambience

Quieter than Zumo, felt more like a cafe compared with Zumos 'loungy' feel.

Food available

Lots on offer. Cakes, muffins, slices and scones. I have it on good authority that Morrison St do a great gluten free cheese scone too.

Overall rating

The quality of the coffee and fluffies, together with the placement of the toys let Morrison St down.



(ratings out of five)



GIZMOS



www.gizmos.net.nz

STREETWEAR..SK8BOARDS.. HARDWARE
JEWELLERY & ACCESSORIES..BODYPIERCING..TATTOOING



111 BRIDGE STREET, NELSON **PHONE:** 03 548 4667 **FAX:** 03 548 4630



\$17 STUDENT SPECIAL
2 x 1 Litre Jugs
2 special shooters

**FREE POOL
EVERYDAY
5-7PM**

NMIT Student ID
& 18+ ID Essential

132-136 BRIDGE ST - WWW.SHARKCLUB.CO.NZ



contemporary food in a stylish atmosphere

Go Straight to Plan B



Open 11am until late

Lunch / Platters / Dinner / Cocktails / Coffee / Conversation
visit us online: www.gotoplanb.co.nz



7 Alma Lane, Buxton Carpark, Nelson. ph 03 - 546 6479

www.tbpc.co.nz:5C1632 8