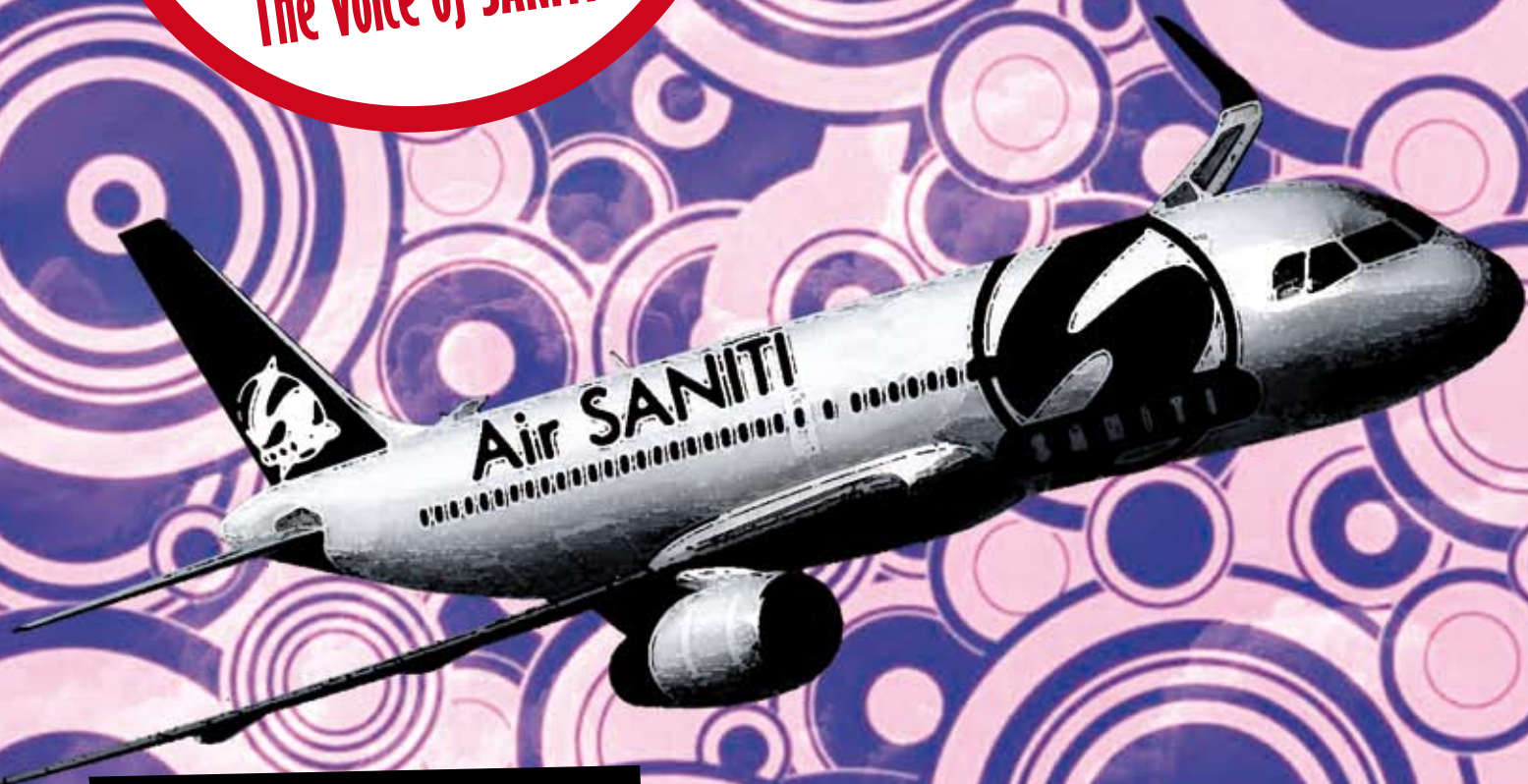


Issue 2 • 2010
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VOS

The Voice of SANITI



AVIATION CONFERENCE TAKES OFF!

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NEWS & EVENTS
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Vos

Voice of SANITI
Magazine of the Student
Association of NMIT

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Alison Hart
Fraser Heal
Dan Mather
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STUDENT PRESIDENT RACHEL BOYACK



Kia ora, and welcome to second semester everyone!

Big congratulations to those who have completed courses this year, and best of luck to those of you striving to finish your qualifications this semester. Remember that SANITI is here to help if you're having hiccups along the way - pop into the office or give us a call so we can help you access the right support. We know that your studies are very important to you and we're committed to helping you get across that finish line!

You'll probably pick up from this issue that there is a lot of CHANGE occurring within the tertiary education sector. Our Polytechnic is having to respond to a dramatic cut in funding, mixed with requirements from Government to show better educational performance - read more about that on the inside.

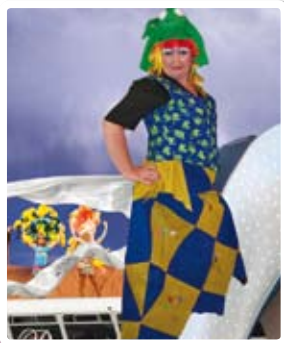
Here at SANITI, the Executive and staff have been talking about how we may need to change to ensure we are continuing to deliver for NMIT students. At our upcoming Second General Meeting in October, we'll be looking at constitutional changes and delivering a Strategic and Operational Plan that aims to keep SANITI delivering on its goals into the future.

We will be holding a series of workshops at all major campuses, as well as consulting with Programme Reps around the country. Keep your eyes out for these, so that you can stay informed, as well as providing your input to how we move ahead next year and beyond.

Cheers,

Rachel

IN THIS ISSUE



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BIG SHAKEUP OF STUDENT LOAN ELIGIBILITY

For the first time since the introduction of the Student Loan scheme, students will now have to prove their worth to receive a Student Loan to support the cost of their study. Students who fail to pass half of their course will risk a stand down period of two years before becoming eligible again for further Student Loan support. The Government introduced the new measures in its May Budget, and they will be enforced from the start of the 2011 academic year.

At the same time, students will have limits placed on the number of years they can access Student Loans for; undergraduate students will be able to access Student Loan payments for up to seven full time years, with further years available for post graduate students. Student President Rachel Boyack is relieved this measure won't be applied retrospectively. "That could have severely impacted on some students' ability to complete their current programmes, so I'm pleased it will only apply from 2011 onwards" she said.

VSM DECISION ON ITS WAY

The Education and Science Select Committee will report back to Parliament in September on the Education (Freedom of Association) Amendment Bill, following months of submissions from student associations, individual students and other interested parties. The bill would force all student associations to offer voluntary membership only, risking a loss of essential services and dilution of the student voice. At a general meeting of students on 27 April 2010, students voted unanimously to oppose the bill. SANITI gave their presentation to the Select Committee on 21 July and are hopeful Parliament will listen to students and vote the bill down.

NMIT SIGN MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

NMIT and Christchurch Polytechnic Institute of Technology (CPIT) are the first two Polytechnics to sign a Memorandum of Understanding, the purpose of which is to "establish a co-operative working relationship based on mutual respect, understanding and benefit."

NMIT hopes this could lead to decreased costs in the provision of tertiary education, and better educational outcomes based on collaboration between institutions.

Tony Gray, CEO of NMIT says, "Councils and management teams have agreed to identify a series of projects to progress this collaboration. The Tertiary Education Commission is working with both institutions to undertake a feasibility study that quantifies the possible costs and benefits of these projects, including academic board collaboration. This study could inform other Polytechnic collaboration activities."

Hon Steven Joyce, Minister for Tertiary Education, has welcomed the move. "I look forward to other ITPs following the lead of these institutions and investigating their options. Enhancing performance through collaboration is a positive way to strengthen each ITPs longer term position, and allow them to best meet the future needs of their regions."

SANITI Student President Rachel Boyack is cautiously positive about the agreement. "If the memorandum of understanding leads to higher quality education at a lower price to students, without losing the unique flavour that is NMIT then it will be a success," she said.

NEWS IN BRIEF

NMIT to train Japanese pilots: NMIT and CTC Aviation Group have signed an agreement with J.F. Oberlin University in Tokyo to train their airline pilots. The deal will see up to 30 airline pilots trained at CTC's Crew Training Centre in Hamilton. The first students arrive in September

NMIT's Arts and Media building is making good progress. An open day on 10 June saw the building shown off to building industry representatives. The new building will be completed in time for the 2011 Academic year.

For the first time in a long time NMIT introduced a **Semester 2 Enrolment deadline of 21 June** to help manage their enrolment cap for the year.

There are currently two reviews being undertaken into the funding of **student pilot training**, by the **ATTTO and the TEC**. SANITI are contributing and keeping a careful eye on both.....

The TEC will shortly be releasing **performance information data** on all publicly funded tertiary institutions. The purpose of this information is to inform funding decisions and help students make better choices about where to study.



The new Arts and Media building on Nelson campus

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ON AIR

2010 SANITI STUDENT EXECUTIVE

Student Executive members are elected each year by NMIT students. The Executive consists of up to 16 students from NMIT campuses throughout New Zealand. It governs the Association, makes policy decisions and ensures members' money is well spent.

The Executive meet fortnightly on a Friday, with other meetings as needed. They also help out at events and organise any political events on campus.

The current Exec are:

Rachel Boyack, (Prez) Bachelor of Commerce

Lavana Ramsteijn, (Vice Prez) Bachelor of Information Technology

Daniel Moran, Bachelor of Information Technology

Deone Greer, Diploma in Arts and Media

Neil Williamson, Diploma in Aviation Science
(Mainland Aviation College, Dunedin)

Kaye Blance, Bachelor of Arts and Media

Dean Cooper, Diploma in Adventure Tourism

Dominic Ison, Diploma in Viticulture and Wine Production
(Marlborough Campus)

Regan Oliver, Certificate in Advanced Aircraft Maintenance
(Woodbourne Campus)

Qi Wang, (King) Bachelor of Commerce

Sam Smith, Certificate in Professional Restaurant, Wine and Bar Service

Hayden Lowe, Diploma in Aviation Science (Air New Plymouth)

Natasha Wilkinson, Certificate in Business Administration



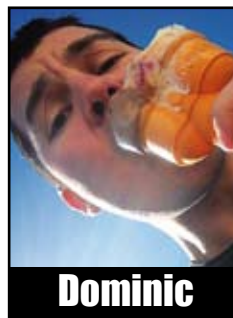
Dan



Dean



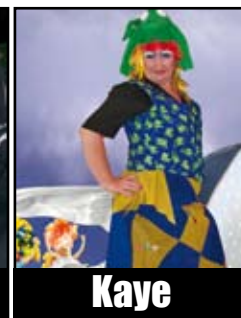
Deone



Dominic



Hayden



Kaye



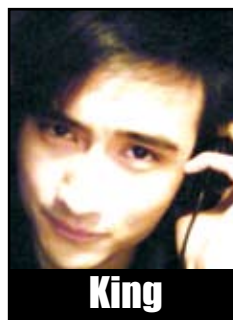
Lavana



Natasha



Neil



King



Regan



Sam



Pictured
Student Prez
Rachel and 2009
Exec Member **Yoyo**
on Marlborough
Campus

PROGRAMME REPRESENTATIVES

As of 17 February 2010, it is NMIT Policy that all programmes lasting 10 weeks or longer shall have a Programme Representative ("Programme Rep"). The key role of the Programme Rep is to assist communication between NMIT staff and students in relation to programme / course matters and to provide a point of contact for students. A secondary role of the Programme Rep is to assist communication between students and SANITI in relation to advocacy and personal matters through regular meetings with the SANITI President and email communications.

There are currently around 50 Programme Reps operating across all schools, including Aviation. Programme Reps meet with the SANITI President 3-4 times per year to discuss key issues on campus.

Does your programme have a Rep? If not, get in touch with the SANITI President, Rachel Boyack, by emailing pres.saniti@xtra.co.nz

PROFILE OF A PROGRAMME REPRESENTATIVE

Hi, my name is Lucy Ryan. I am currently in my second year of a Bachelor of Commerce majoring in marketing and management. A main draw card of this course is the people that you meet and the friendships that are created over the time spent at NMIT.

I am looking forward to being a student rep for the BCom as I feel all students have a right to be heard and can add value to the Institute and their education. I am keen to see this happen and keen to be a part of it.



Events

FRUIT, SOUP AND PANCAKE DAYS

SANITI holds regular events for students on all campuses. Nelson and Marlborough have had a variety of events from BBQs to fruit and pancake days. Some of the most popular events on Nelson campus are the soup days. The soup is prepared by cheffing students from T Block and are always extremely tasty! Thanks to James and the students for such tasty soup.



MATARIKI

Matariki is a constellation that appears around the end of May or start of June that signifies the start of the Māori New Year. This year SANITI warmed up a chilly campus with some tasty fish (thanks to Lynette from T Block for the help) and some tunes from Prince Tui Teke, Patea Māori Club and Herbs. Thanks to NMIT and Kim Hippolite for the help.



AGM

SANITI's Annual General Meeting was held at the end of April. This is where we report to students and elect the Student Executive. Thanks to the Vic Rose for helping with sponsorship!



FUTURES BBQ

SANITI held a couple of BBQs for secondary students attending NMIT's Futures events in May. Thanks to the carpentry students who helped out.



MP'S ON CAMPUS

In May, Nelson Campus was graced with the presence of a few Labour Party MP's who served up some pancakes to students.



CAFE

Ake Ake

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Friday 7am-3pm



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PIP'S TIPS

In this issue SANITI's Advocate Pip Bowler takes a closer look at harassment

Harassment really sucks. It can make you feel ill with worry, unable to sleep, depressed, unsure and worried about your future. Let's hope it never happens to you and let's face it most people are basically nice, *but* if it does while you're at NMIT here are some things to think about.

Harassment is behaviour which is:

- **Unwelcome**
- **Offensive**
- **Intimidating**
- **Humiliating**
- **Threatening**
- **Unsolicited**
- **Repeated**

Some examples of harassment are...

- Written or verbal abuse or threats
- The display of visual materials which are offensive
- Repeated comments or teasing
- Offensive hand or body gestures
- Unwanted physical contact including touching, petting, pinching or kissing
- Requests for sexual favours including suggesting preferential treatment or threats
- Sending offensive material, emails, messages or faxes
- Deliberately excluding or ignoring people with the intention of isolating or hurting them
- Bullying

It's important to note that harassment can be repeated incidents or it might be a significant isolated incident. Harassment negatively affects people and can really impair their performance and even their ability to cope with the day to day tasks of everyday life.

If you or someone you know is experiencing harassment you may choose who you feel comfortable talking to. At NMIT you could talk to SANITI staff, NMIT Student Support, a trusted tutor or friend.

Dealing with harassment is difficult but the following are suggestions:

- Tell the harasser directly that the behaviour is not liked and ask the harasser to stop
- Involve a third person/party to help resolve the situation.
- Make a formal complaint.

Making a formal complaint involves describing the situation and the outcome that you seek. NMIT staff will then manage an investigation of the issue. To make a formal complaint at NMIT forms can be obtained from: NMIT Student Support, NMIT School offices and reception desks, SANITI and on the NMIT website. Reports of a criminal nature can go to the Police.

Acknowledgements to NMIT's 'Preventing Harassment Policy'. This policy can be found in full on NMIT's website www.nmit.ac.nz

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AVIATION CONFERENCE A HIT!

For the seventh year running SANITI, in conjunction with NMIT, hosted the New Zealand Student Pilot Conference at the NMIT Nelson campus from July 6 to July 8. Student pilots from NMIT's 12 partnered flight training schools as well as flying students from Massey University and the Eastern Institute of Technology attended the three day conference. This year SANITI was able to bring together 26 speakers and nearly 100 student pilots.

The theme for NZSPC 2010 was 'Stepping Stones to Success'. The aim of this year's conference was to directly link trainee pilots with aviation industry experts and employers as well as providing information they could use to increase their chances of gaining employment after completing their training.

On the final day of the conference, helicopter and fixed wing students broke off into separate groups. Helicopter students visited NZ Helicopters at Nelson Airport then returned to the Nelson Campus in the afternoon to listen to a host of industry speakers including Simon Spencer-Bower from Wanaka Helicopters, a Queen Services Medal recipient for his achievements in the New Zealand helicopter industry.

Fixed wing students attended a general aviation session with speakers who covered all facets of the general aviation industry. In the afternoon the students attended a four hour presentation by the Air New Zealand Group.

Air New Zealand Captain David Love was one of the keynote speakers representing the Air New Zealand Group and said his airline takes seriously the chance to talk with student pilots. This was the 4th year Air New Zealand has presented, but the first time it combined a large number of representatives to talk at the event. "It gave us the opportunity to communicate directly with a large group of potential future employees." Captain Love says while the pilot

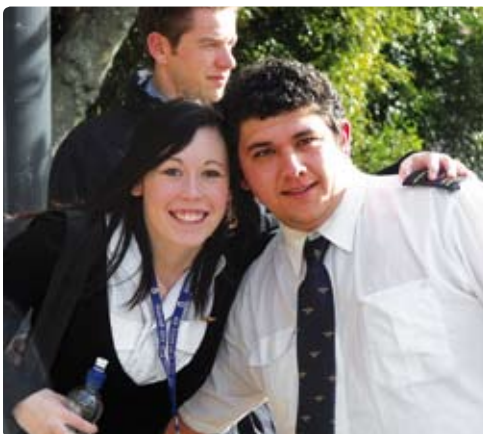


SANITI Distant Campus Manager Hayden Campbel reflects on another successful New Zealand Pilot Conference

shortage is not evident at present due to the global economic recession, the signs are there that a turnaround is on its way. "I suspect we will be looking at an even bigger pilot shortage once we are fully recovered from the recession." He praised the conference for addressing the real issue for student pilots of how to improve their flying hours and make themselves more attractive for employers.

The conference ended on Thursday evening with a formal dinner held at the NMIT student centre. A big thanks needs to go out to Rae from the Ake Ake cafe who cooked up an absolutely delicious evening meal.

This year's conference could not have gone ahead without the sponsorship and generous support from NMIT, Air New Zealand, Aviation Services Limited, The Aviation Industry Association, NZALPA, Waypoints, Sun Air, Super Air and Ardmore Flying School.



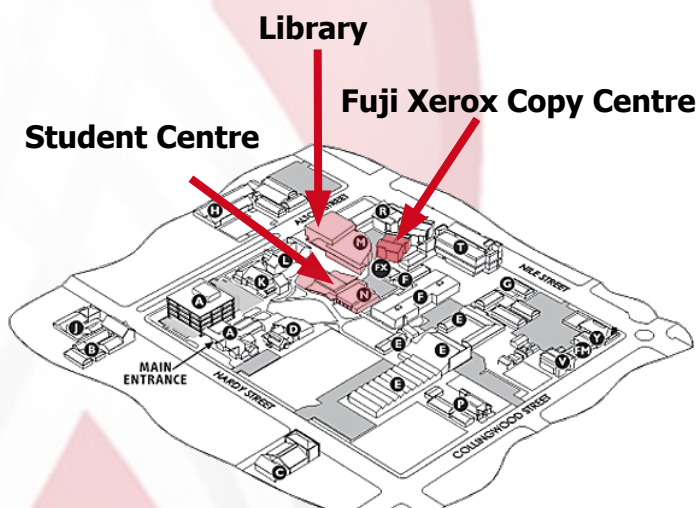
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NMIT'S NAKED CHEFS

As part of the cheffing qualification, NMIT cheffing students participate in an assesment that has been named 'The Naked Chef'. VOS writer Fraser Heal becomes a fly on the wall, figuratively speaking of course, and observed what went down.

The 'Naked Chef' assesment is when a second year student creates a menu then oversees a first year class preparing, cooking and serving the food to the public in the Rata Room, the fully functioning restaurant in T Block on Nelson campus. At the end of June Hongxun Dong stood up to the mark.

Dong's brief was to design a small but varied menu to try to please all of the patrons. He chose dishes he was familiar with, as well as some he hadn't cooked before. For entrees diners could choose from a watercress, pear and feta salad, a prawn, rocket and couscous salad, and a creamy corn soup. His mains consisted of Hanoi-styled pork and vegetables, roast monkfish with a bacon and white bean cassoulet, a mushroom and chicken risotto and a ricotta raviolini with mushrooms, lettuce and mint. And for dessert: Pannacotta, tuile biscuits with exotic fruit salad or the lemon tart with berry ice cream and honey sauce. The Rata Room also has a fully functioning bar run by students serving beers, wines and cocktails.

2pm Preparations starts. Everything has to be ready for diners at 5:30pm. An hour into it and things appear to be running smoothly. Dong seems relaxed, although this could be due to the fact he could still be a bit numb from having three teeth extracted in the morning! He states that, "Communication is the key to avoiding mistakes. There are no silly questions. When I started I had to ask what feta was!" Dong emphasises the trust that is required when overseeing a service. The first year students are jovial and while they are under a little bit of stress, they are enjoying the experience. Only the kitchen tech Lynette is a bit on edge having to fend off obtuse questions from the slightly anxious students.

4pm The students busy themselves with their own individual dishes. Dong is quiet and focussed on his own chores. Tutor James is zipping from work bench to work bench, showing the first years how to make each dish: the subtle techniques, the right tools to use.

5.30pm After a steadily productive afternoon, the intensity increases a notch or two in the early evening. One student is a bit too vigorous when cutting potatoes and slices his hand, James switches his cheffing hat to nurse's hat and tends to the wound. The other students have to pick up the slack.



5.45pm The students return from a quick break before the service. Individual dishes are finished and presented to Dong for his approval. Tricks of the trade regarding presentation are then shown to the first years by Dong and James. At 6pm the call is given by James "Is everyone OK?" The students are too intently focused on their dishes to reply, James looks a little nervous.

6:20pm The first orders come in. The students whose dishes are called are visibly excited, one is a bit too eager and presents his meal to Dong even before the entrees have gone out. The students are relieved that while the restaurant is almost fully booked, the orders are manageable and evenly spread.

Things appear to have reached a state of no return enabling me to catch a few words with James. He explains that while the highest of quality is always strived for... "You have to let a few things go wrong or else they won't learn anything". His relaxed demeanour is visibly tested only once during the early stages of the service. While it isn't a Ramsey-esque expletive laden tirade, the hush that lowers over the kitchen speaks louder than F-bombs. "James is a good teacher", one student explains.

In the restaurant itself, the public seem content. The comforting hum of mild mannered conversation is broken once by a couple verses of 'Happy Birthday' sung by the waitering staff. Bar tender Jordan seems a little like a possum in the headlights with two groups of diners propping up the bar eyeing his every move and offering advice. The night progresses successfully with a steady stream of patrons coming and going satisfied with the unique experience the Rata Room offers.



VOX POPS



Dong, Cheffing
Favourite TV Chef

Jamie Oliver

Favourite food style

Chinese and Korean

Your quick and easy meal

I'm Chinese so I find that easy to cook, but I also do Western meals like pasta and steak.

If you were a kitchen utensil, what would it be?

A knife because I am sharp!

Favourite cocktail

I don't drink

Gorden Ramsey...

He's a leader but he's horrible



Lynette, Kitchen Tech
Favourite TV Chef

Giorgio Locatelli, he's

handsome and I like his food

Favourite food style

Italian

Your quick and easy meal

Going to a restaurant is quick and easy!

If you were a kitchen utensil, what would it be?

Tongs, so people treat you carefully

Favourite cocktail

The ultimate - G and T

Gorden Ramsey...

He's an A hole



Sam, Wine & Bar
Favourite TV Chef

Ramsey, all the way

Favourite food style

Packet. I tend to cook Cajan styles, i.e. blackened

Your quick and easy meal

Spag from a can, straight up

If you were a kitchen utensil, what would it be?

Garbage disposal. I eat every-one else's meals

Favourite cocktail

It's all good. Even the shit ones can be good if mixed and matched well

Gorden Ramsey...

He's the man!



Hamish, Cheffing
Favourite TV Chef

Ramsey in 'The F Word'

Favourite food style

Italian, especially pizza

Your quick and easy meal

Hamburgers

If you were a kitchen utensil, what would it be?

Chefs knife: no one messes with the chefs knives!

Favourite cocktail

Tequilla sunrise

Gorden Ramsey...

He's a leader, I've followed him since his football days

DRUG DRIVING - WHAT IS IT EXACTLY?

After some feedback and some healthy debate generated by Matt Bowler's article 'The Highs and Lows of Job Hunting' in the last issue of VOS, we decided to investigate 'that ad' on TV with the laughing, munching carload of young people who get pulled over at a checkpoint. The driver passes the breathalyser test and their brief moment of euphoria turns to outrage when the officer tells the driver he must now accompany him to the police station.

And what happens then?

If you switched off your news media antennae last year you would've missed hearing about the new law that came into effect in November - NZ Police are now able to conduct compulsory tests on drivers they suspect of being under the influence of drugs (this includes some pharmacy medication).

So 'that ad' according to the New Zealand Transport Agency is realistic and yes, seven words and eight seconds is long enough for the officer to decide the driver needs drug testing (you might've missed that he also knocks over a road cone before stopping). They've had to defend their new anti-drug driving advertisements after a formal complaint was laid by David Small with the Advertising Standards Authority in February. Small, a Canterbury University lecturer claims the ads are misleading, inaccurate and send the wrong message.

Aside from the media hype this is what you can expect...

The Police have got three steps they must follow before charging someone under the Land Transport Amendment Act with the offence of 'driving while impaired and with blood that contains evidence of use of a controlled drug or prescription medicine'; (1) good cause to suspect, (2) unsatisfactory completion of a compulsory impairment test (CIT) and (3) the presence of a drug or drugs in a blood sample.



The first one, as you've seen on the TV ad can be decided pretty quickly by erratic driving and/or the driver's personal demeanour. So moving onto the second step, where if a driver passes an alcohol breath test, the officer can still require them to do a CIT. This is a combination of the following; 'the walk and turn', 'the one leg stand' and finally assessing the driver's eyes - the pupil size and responsiveness. If you refuse to complete a CIT you can be charged and that carries the same penalties as an impaired driving offence. Failing a CIT leads us to the third step; the driver will have to undergo an evidential

blood test.

So if you've been taken down to the station, a doctor has to be called in to take your blood. Even though the results can take up to four weeks to process, if you've been deemed to fail your CIT on the night - the doctor will give his medical opinion here - you will be forbidden from driving for a number of hours, basically however long it will take for the 'suspected' drug effects to wear off. Drugs targeted include opiates, amphetamines, cannabis, sedatives, antidepressants and methadone, but various medicines are exempt and there is a defence provision for people who can prove they were using a qualifying substance.

The other big deal here is that you'll get a date for a court appearance and believe it or not, this can happen before the blood results are processed so it could be your word against the doctor and the police in court. Your name will get printed in the paper and this could lead to questioning by your employer or even for them to request you do a drug test at your work place.

Under the LTAA 2009, roadside drug testing is not allowed, mainly because the technology doesn't exist yet. As this new drug driver testing only came into play late last year, everyone's still trying to get their heads around it - we hope this has blown apart a few of the myths and that you've got a better idea of what to expect at your next checkpoint.

DRUG TESTING AND EMPLOYMENT

Pre-employment and random drug testing are a common occurrence these days. You can expect to almost depend on being tested if you work in industries where you handle drugs (specifically, Healthcare), operate large machinery or even work for a larger company in areas such as commerce who may have a standard drug testing policy. Operators in industries such as Tourism and Fisheries vary greatly in their application of drug policy, but when there are accidents and vigilant people around, it is feasible to accept that you are likely to be tested at some stage.

The notion of drugs and testing is contentious with all kinds of issues being raised, such as people's rights and privacy, as well as health and responsibility. Common sense states that the best way of having a clean bill of narcotic health is to avoid illegal drugs altogether, but not everyone is an angel. There is also the fact that while legal, alcohol and prescribed drugs show up on tests. This raises the question of how do drugs, legal or not, stay in the body?

The easy answer is: it varies, from drug to drug, but also from person to person. According to 'Get Frank' a New Zealand magazine website, if you are in good shape, have a high metabolism, are an infrequent user and are young, drugs such as marijuana, ecstasy, methamphetamines, prescribed drugs, et al. will stay in your system for up to a week. If you are older, unfit, have a slow metabolism and are a chronic or long-term user, it can be many weeks. Alcohol and the psychoactive element in magic mushrooms will show up if you have consumed it within 24 hours of the test.

But who would really want to rely on factoids from the net when dealing with your future and employment?! With damaging side effects, risks of dependency, legal ramifications, compounded with the damage that can be done to other people and property whom you have been trusted with, drug use and employment make for an incompatible coupling. SANITI would like to remind students that pre-employment drug tests are commonplace and having a blot on your employment record can do lasting damage to your career.

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THE STUDENT SERVICES TEAM IS HERE TO HELP YOU!

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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.

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Rachel's Tertiary Rant

Opinion: In a time of change for Tertiary Education, how can NMIT continue to deliver quality education to the top of the south region? Student President Rachel Boyack gives her thoughts to VOS.....

2010 brings a time of change to the Tertiary Education environment; a new Tertiary Education Strategy focussed on 'outcomes', a new round of funding agreements for tertiary institutes, and a smarter, more politically-savvy Minister for Tertiary Education in the form of Steven Joyce.

For Polytechnics, add to this a new Governance framework that is designed to focus on financial 'sustainability' and 'viability' and strong encouragement (instruction) from Government to 'collaborate together'. Pop this all into a financially squeezed funding environment, whereby NMIT has lost approximately \$2 million from its annual budget, and it makes for the perfect storm.

So what does this mean for NMIT, and how do these changes trickle down to the experience we, the students, receive in the class room? As a student filled to the brim with assignments, placements and tests, is your educational experience influenced by meetings of big-wigs in Wellington and political musings?

The short, cold answer is: yes. Let's face it. NMIT is in the 'market' for tertiary education. With a directive from Government to return 3% profit each year, the biggest challenge NMIT faces is to keep afloat financially. Unfortunately, the risk is that academic quality and plain old good teaching can be easily lost amongst the need for good-looking figures and happy graphs.

Steven Joyce plays a critical role in the midst of all this change. While he appears as a friendly and cuddly type, he is also known around the traps as a 'smiling assassin' and without an 'ideological bone in his body'. Joyce is the man behind the failed 2005 Don Brash / National Party election campaign, and is seen as a central strategist behind brand John Key. He is known for responding to evidence, figures, and a clear argument. Unlike his predecessor, "Chopper (Anne) Tolley", he will attempt to take the sector with him as he stamps his mark on it.

Student leaders have been smart to recognise that engagement with Joyce is essential to good outcomes for students, and so far, Joyce is playing nicely with us. It will be interesting to see how he responds though when the rubber meets the road; when programmes are cut, students are shut out en masse from attending institutions, or if the worst happens, and student associations are left to wither and collapse under voluntary student membership.

I'd like to know why he can't see the real benefits to society and the economy by investing more heavily in tertiary education during the current global recession. It's what Australia did as part of its stimulus package - "where's ours?" you ask.

A key frustration within the sector is the lack of response from Government to the increased demand for tertiary education. Managing the caps on enrolments is a difficult and frustrating job for tertiary institutes, and it doesn't seem like the right approach for our community. Do we as a Nelson-Marlborough community prefer people sitting at home on their butts getting bored, or accessing tertiary education, increasing their skill base, and lifting our economic performance as a result?

One leading opposition MP has commented to me that the Government's decision to limit enrolments when there are people desperate to access tertiary education is 'counter intuitive'. I'd be inclined to agree. A common response we hear is "well, there is no more money". I'd say it's a question of priorities - do we want to spend money on prisons, a cycleway, tax cuts for the wealthy, or invest in social capital through education?

So how can small regional Polytechnics like NMIT continue to stay afloat when the squeeze is on and Government is demanding more out of us?

The latest 'buzz word' appearing as an answer is 'collaboration'. I first came across this term in 2005 as a student of Employment Relations at the University of Auckland, where guest lecturer Nigel Haworth (then an officer in the Association of University staff) talked about the need for greater collaboration within the sector. He was basing his thoughts on (management guru) Porter's cluster model, where organisations located in the same sector or region are encouraged to work together to compete.. His argument was that New Zealand competes with Australia in the tertiary education market, both for quality overseas teachers and the international student dollar.

Five years on and it's now a centre-right, business-led Government that is employing the term. But is it really the much-needed silver bullet to improving both the cost efficiencies required and educational outcomes for students?

I think the concept has many benefits - less time and money spent developing identical programmes, better consistency across the country in terms of educational options, and better sharing of ideas and the latest trends amongst tutors and students alike. But the risks exist too. If you rush or force collaboration, or fail to see the nuances that exist within some programmes, you risk seriously pissing off the Academic staff. And they have a point. As an

ex student of music, I know that students will make choices about where to study based on a particular tutor or programme offered, and this of course poses risks to the institution. It's a risk that has existed since the beginnings of education and which will always be there.

Another risk is that we lose the unique 'flavour' of education provision at NMIT. Do we want to begin down a path that could lead us to being merely an outpost of CPIT, where we have no tutors, just video link ups to Christchurch?

There's another side of collaboration that hasn't been explored much of late. It happens a lot in Auckland, and I think could offer huge benefits not just to NMIT, but to its students and to the Nelson-Marlborough communities.

I'm talking about collaboration with other sectors in Nelson-Marlborough, particularly those sectors that are key to our economic success. Obvious examples include viticulture, horticulture, tourism and aquaculture.

This is why it is a huge disappointment to see the Whakatu / Cawthron / NMIT funding bid for aquaculture development turned down. Sure, it looks like their bid may not have led to the desired public outcomes needed for Government funding, but the philosophy behind a shared project that leads to educational and economic returns for the region should be commended. NMIT is a drop in the economic ocean, and by working with other sectors to develop research-driven projects it can only increase its importance to the region and to the students it serves.

In the meantime, it's important that we the students keep a careful watch on what NMIT is doing to weather the storm, and where we may see negative impacts for students.

A timeline for just what is happening is outlined below:

Curriculum Review - now until July / August

NMIT has been working on a 'curriculum review' document, which will likely see teaching hours cut, programmes cut and staff made redundant. At the moment this document is for NMIT's internal use only, and has been developed based on financial outcomes, student performance outcomes, self assessment reviews and student survey feedback. A consultation document will be released on July 23, giving a short window of opportunity for 'stakeholders' to give their feedback. Included amongst the stakeholders are we, the students.

Development of the 2011 - 2014 Investment Plan - July / August

The Investment Plan is the document signed between NMIT and the Tertiary Education Commission - the Government agency tasked with funding tertiary institutes. In simple terms, it sets out what education the Government will 'purchase' from NMIT for the next three years. The curriculum review document mentioned above will be an important source document for the development of this plan.

Implementation of any Programme cuts or changes - 2011 onwards

We'll see the sharp end of any changes next year. So if you're a Programme Rep for a course that is looking under threat, expect a phone call.



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NEW TRAINEE RANGER CAMPUS UP AND RUNNING

In May this year the Brook Waimarama Sanctuary Conservation Centre was opened. The centre, which is situated up the Brook Valley a few minutes drive from Nelson Campus, is the home for NMIT students studying the year long Trainee Ranger course. Graduates can progress onto the two year course run within the Department of Conservation.

As the Ranger course is unique in New Zealand, the students are from all over the country.

The centre also houses the offices for the Community Gardens as well DOC's own classrooms.

Top Left: SANITI Nelson Campus Co-Ordinator Jaycob Brown welcomes the new Rangers to NMIT.



DIRTY BUTTS NO JOKE

The smoking issue is still smouldering on the Nelson campus. While other campuses around the country are planting edible gardens, NMIT staff and students are using their gardens as ashtrays. Due to time restrictions, the NMIT maintenance crew are unable to remove the butts from gardens and are digging them in. These butts are toxic, affecting plants, and take thousands of years to break down. Butts that are flung into the drain eventually end up in the ocean.

Student Vice President Lavana Ramsteijn and Sustainability Committee student representative felt motivated enough to spend her entire lunch break picking up butts alongside the business school. NMIT has refused to supply ash trays near the areas where smokers gather on the edge of campus as it is not consistent with its smoking policy.

While NMIT's stance is understandable and it is ultimately smokers who are causing the problem,

NMIT should make an effort to provide some type of disposal facilities for smokers as this problem has been compounded since the removal of the ashtray in the smokers shed. If you are a smoker please dispose of your butts in a manner that is respectful to other people, the Institution and the environment.

Currently Nelson and Marlborough campuses are completely smoke free, other campuses and places of study operate under their own rules.

SANITI is investigating options to supply smokers with portable ash receptibles.

Smokers wanting to give up can contact Alison Horn, Nelson Campus Nurse for more information. There are different options to aid giving up the habit and it can cost as little as \$3 a month. Contact Alison at alison.horn@nmit.ac.nz or call her on 03 546 9175 extension 804.



REGIONAL KAPA HAKA COMPETITION

Despite the cold and the driving rain, hundreds packed into Nelson College auditorium on Saturday June 26, to show their support for the two teams (including NMIT tutors and students) going head to head to represent this region, Te Tau Ihu, at next year's Te Matatini competition in Gisborne.

This year there was real anticipation as after over ten years of retirement, Kia Ngāwari was going to flex their performance muscles back on stage again. Anyone who's ever been involved with a kapa haka team will know what kind of a huge commitment that can be, for up to forty performers and two guitarists – and that's only what you see on stage – behind the scenes are kaumatua, composers, costume designers, choreographers, cooks and overwhelmingly solid whanau support. Then you've got months and months of weekends, practising and perfecting the final items for competition day.

Te Whatukura, who have nationally represented Te Tau Ihu since 2000 were the first team on – delayed by a strong show of support from their opposition at the back of the auditorium. Whatukura have

performed as a tight unit for a number of years and the depth of their experience and stage confidence came through on the night. After a short break and a reciprocal rousing display of support from Whatukura, the team Kia Ngāwari had their turn. Even after their long break, Kia Ngāwari has maintained their unique style. This was highlighted by their vocal prowess in part-harmonies and their revival of well-known waiata about this area – a reflection of the three generations present in the team.

The winners on the night were Te Whatukura, and they will now go on to perform against over thirty other teams at the national Te Matatini competition in February next year.

Results of Te Tau Ihu Senior Regional Kapa Haka Competitions: Whakaeke - Te Whatukura, Waiata Tira - Kia Ngāwari, Mōteatea - Te Whatukura, Waiata-ā-Ringa - Te Whatukura, Poi - Te Whatukura, Haka - Kia Ngāwari, Whakawātea - Te Whatukura, Kākahu - Te Whatukura, Kaitatiki Tane - Kia Ngāwari, Kaitatiki Wahine - Kia Ngāwari.



VINTAGE RAMBLINGS

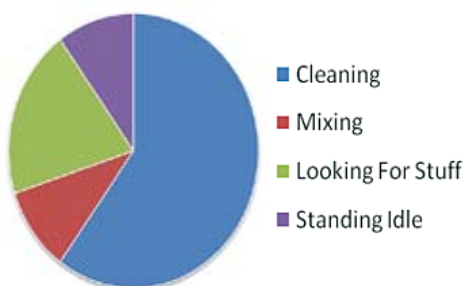
Dan Mather, Viticulture student, lets us into the crazy life on producing a wine vintage...

It's just before dawn. The deep violet of night is passing and a shimmer of pink is peeking its cheeky self over the horizon – glinting off the stainless steel forest that is the winery. It gives the morning a delicious ambient atmosphere which is subsequently shattered by the high pitched wail of the alarm signalling the activation of a grape press. It's 6am and you have 12 hours of physical and mental work ahead of you. You sip your coffee, see the cluster of men and women from around the world and wonder why, in God's name, you ever wanted to be a winemaker.

One of the wonderful things that separate university degrees from polytechnic degrees is that of practical experience. In my case, as a winemaking student, this consists of block placements in vineyards and wineries. The latter has a very panic-stricken period known as "vintage" or "crush" which runs for two months and sees the frantic picking and processing of grapes before the weather turns shit and all the foreign workers lose their visas. This is a record of my 2010 vintage experience, bastardised from my updates on the SANITI Facebook page.

First off I need you the reader, to appreciate the scope of what goes on. This isn't your old school "stompy-stompy" kind of winemaking where everybody lives in some small quaint country village and it's all done by tea time. In the winery I worked at (which will remain unspoken to safeguard my future career in the industry) their maximum capacity is about 9 tonnes of juice. That's 9 million litres, or 12 million bottles of wine. There were about 40 staff (of various nationalities) and only two months to get all the grapes in and out of the wine tanks. "How do so few people do so much work?" I can hear you exclaim. The answer will frazzle your lazy student brain: 12 hour shifts, for 7 days a week for two months. I was lucky. I got two whole days off. Can you imagine anything more vexing for a fellow student to be surrounded by enough booze to kill a herd of elephants, being required to taste it constantly and never have enough time off to recover from a hangover? I bet you can't.

In a winery, the average breakdown of your total time spent is highlighted in my graph (unless you like, own it):



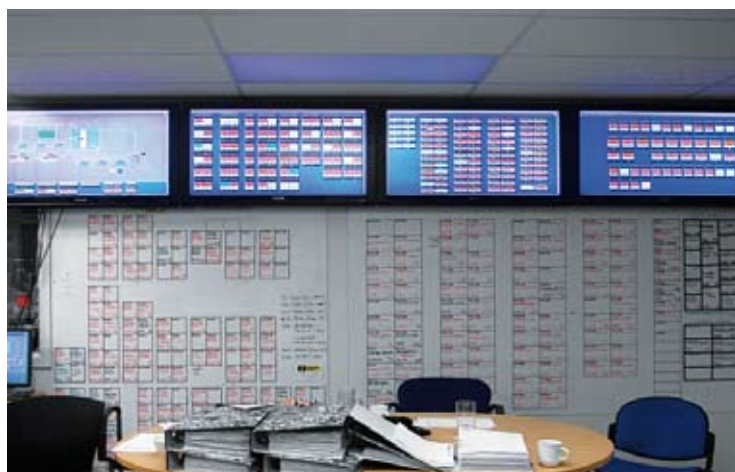
Cleaning is the most monotonous, dangerous and necessary task in the industry, as any yeast or bacteria left over from last year or even last week can turn a potential \$100 bottle of wine, into a \$10 one in a matter of hours (yes it happened, and yes it was funny because the yelling wasn't directed at me). One cool thing about this is that water fights are commonplace (the centrifugal pump pushes water at 10,000L/min). We also use the kind of chemicals that could give your future children three eyes if you're not careful. This brings a sense of danger and excitement to an otherwise dull task. Every now and then you think to yourself "What's that funny smell? Oh, it's my skin peeling off."

Every day at 6am (yes, I'd forgotten that there even was a 6am, being a student and all) the birds are just waking up inside the winery, and commence their choreographed shitting on top of the tanks. As you can imagine, the student has to clean this off. I learned the benefits of tank cleaning when one day I opened a dirty 2,7000L tank hatch and stuck my head in. It smelt like a body had been left in there to decay since 2009 vintage.

When you start turning the grape juice into wine (achieved by yeast eating the grapes and converting them to booze and flavours*) certain gases are excreted. These include carbon monoxide (think car exhaust) carbon dioxide (the stuff that makes coke fizzy) and hydrogen disulphide (The smell you get in Rotorua and if you eat too many eggs). All of these will kill you in relatively small doses. As a result, whenever you lean over a fermenting tank you really have to be careful. A few people have actually drowned in wine, because there's no way out of those tanks short of drinking your way out and no one is going to jump in to save you.

*Yes. You're drinking yeast shit.

One of the amazing things I noticed about the winery is how you can legitimately spend half your day looking for a single piece of equipment. It's like "writing a report" or something at the library, when you turn up just to check Facebook and take hour long coffee breaks. They are vast mazes full of sneaky equipment goblins; stainless steel alleyways with nooks and crannies for lazy staff to loiter in and people to hide shit in, presumably for their own use later, but most likely simply to vex me.



Plunging, or mixing, is when you go to every Pinot Noir (or any red wine) ferments and push the "cap" (all the skins that are in with the juice/wine) back into the liquid. They're all pushed to the top by that carbon dioxide I mentioned earlier, so it's one of the more dangerous jobs. This achieves better phenolic extraction and keeps the oxygen off the fruit, thus limiting nasty aerobic bacteria. Interesting factoid: you get vinegar by letting bacteria (acetobacter) into your wine. True.

It's physically hard work. My shoulders and back were aching for weeks afterwards and my skinny academic wrists were burly and masculine for the first time in years.

So at the end of vintage: I lost weight, got stronger, grew a beard, ruined clothes (red wine splattered all over you really makes you look like a serial killer, and you get funny looks at the supermarket), learned the difference between theory and real life application thereof, and despite the epic effort and lack of time off, thoroughly enjoyed myself.

As you can see, winemaking is a dirty and dangerous business. Similar to prostitution and combat in that respect, just without the chance of chlamydia or arterial bleeding. Next time you crack open a bottle of wine, do me a favour and remember the danger we put ourselves in every year solely for your ability to rant on about how you can get a "hint of cinnamon on the nose", look posh at parties and regret something in the morning.

Student Life

Student Vice President and Information Technology student **Lavana Ramsteijn** picks a few days from her journal of her experiences at Outward Bound while on a NMIT Scholarship.

Outward Bound

Destination: Anakiwa, Marlborough Sounds

Date: March 28, 2010

Duration: 3 weeks

Things to bring: Warm dry clothes, lots of shoes, a smile, a sense of adventure and a sense of humour

Day 1: Arrive at Picton Ferry Terminal, 12noon. Eagerly awaiting the next move. Perfect place to learn *Lesson 1: You will never know what is about to happen when at Outward Bound*. Number of people: HEAPS! We all jumped on a waiting boat, chatted, and rehearsed songs for the powhiri at Anakiwa. After arriving at school we were divided up into groups – different ages, different courses, different lengths of stay, but they all had 14 people. My new home and family for the next 21 days. I am part of the group 'Batten Watch'. *Lesson 2: Run whenever you can!*

Day 11: Morning run time: 17 mins 14 secs. This was our first day of service. Man it was awesome. For service our team was put to the task of building some of the Linkwater pathway.

It really didn't matter if you didn't know how to build a track, or use a shovel; enough of our group did to help the others out. Such a fun time. Talking, working, telling stories and just having fun in the sunshine.

After a hard days work we earned a night to ourselves where we were dropped off at an old gold mining site (Cullensville) with our gear to camp and have a good time. We stayed up late telling stories, cooking dinner and having a ball. *Lesson 15: People may surprise you. Everyone has amazing life stories.*

Day 13: Morning run time: 16mins 39 secs. Another fantastic day that started with my best run time yet! After breakfast we grouped up and had a session writing something inspirational on the back of our hand. I wrote "This is easy". After this we found out we were going to do the high ropes course. I wasn't fazed. At least not at the beginning! I was quietly confident that it would be fine. But then... I was to jump across a gap with my eyes closed! That was the most difficult thing I had to do. I like to be in control and not being able to SEE was a huge thing for me. EVERYONE else in my group did it. So big ups to Batten Watch. *Lesson 17: Trust. Trust yourself, trust your gear and trust your peers.*

After grabbing the high ropes opportunity with both hands, I was ready for what was next. Turns out our next task was to have lunch in a tree!!! *Lesson 18: Communication is key.*

As it turned out it was all fun and games, until we lost track of time and were late for our next task. *Lesson 19: Being late has consequences.* And this time our 'punishment' was a bit

of team bonding and communication practise. We were to build a raft, carry it down to the jetty, get on board, paddle it back to shore, and then dismantle it again. It was an epic team building activity. We were given mussel buoys to build the raft with, and bits of rope and wood. We had to use everything we had. Nothing was to be left over. And we had to carry the raft to the jetty, without crossing the road, and without anyone losing touch of the raft! EPIC. Needless to say being part of the mighty Batten Watch: we blitzed this challenge, had heaps of fun and did it in record time and finished up smiling. Who would have thought that it started out as punishment? I found that it really turns out Communication is KEY in EVERYTHING you do. And... the bigger the challenge, the bigger the reward.

Day 20: The day before we leave, and the last little walk out after our 3 day tramp. Or as it turned out for us, 3 and a bit days. Yesterday we walked hard, but it wasn't enough to get out of the bush before night fall, and so we spent an EXTRA night out. *Lesson 24 (and Outward Bound motto): Il est plus en vous - There is more in you.* As it turns out - there really is! We walked the last little bit down the hill and crossed the river where we were picked up and taken to one of the OB outstations. Here we refuelled (as we had pretty much run out of food and water the night before). We sat in the sun, relaxed and talked about the wicked walk. Some of the group shared how they felt bummed that we had missed the last day half marathon.

Again our actions had consequences. As we were late getting back from our tramp we had missed the full school run. Little did we know that when we got back to school we would actually be taken out to run 14km. So after 3 and a half days walking in the bush, we finished it off by a 14km run. It was awesome. I got to run 14km of the Queen Charlotte track. I was one of the last back, but NEVER in my wildest dreams had I thought that I would EVER run 14km. When I crossed the finish line I was on the biggest high. What a way to finish three weeks of challenges, adventures and self discovery.

Recommendations:

Anyone that wants to have an experience, Outward Bound is the place for you. There is something for everyone and so much that you can take out of it. Don't be put off by the physical stuff, there is reflection time too. Have no expectations, just go to enjoy and see some of the most stunning parts of New Zealand.

NMIT gives out two Outward Bound scholarships near the end of each year. This is how I got this fantastic opportunity. If you want to give it a go, apply for one of these. Check out the NMIT website.

Looking back on my time at OB, these are the things I think would have made my experience that much easier, and so is a bit of free advice to anyone considering going. My recommendation of extra things you should take with you:

- A trusty, loud, lightweight battery alarm clock
- sharp knife (for cutting tomatoes, onions etc)
- cheese grater
- head torch

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HOUSE OF TRAVEL



The world seems to be caught in the fevered grip of a number of oddly attired entertainers. And all one has to do to be considered fashionable and hip is wear strange things or not wear anything (whichever will upset people more at the time) whilst gyrating with similarly dressed or undressed people. Although Lord knows I've worn some very questionable outfits myself, Lady Gaga seems to be dragging herself and a number of others to new bizarre heights.

And that's saying something, many of my before mentioned ensembles have been said to cause a number of physical reactions. In a general way this led me to thinking about entertainers, and as I was wandering down the street (carefully avoiding heel grabbing cracks) I chanced upon an old friend, Shazz.

Shazz or Sharyn, is unique in a lot of ways; one of the most noticeable things about Shazz is her dedication to punk styling. In a world of wannabes and sycophants, her black scary looking romper stomper boots, jet black hair and red tartan skirt are a breath of timeless fresh air. However it's not her style or irrepressible charm that is her most striking feature. Sharyn is a piano accordion player. I'd like to see Lady Gaga do that. This presents a fantastic opportunity; where else will I get to interview an accordion playing punk?

Like a lot of people in the world I look to the internet for information. Wikipedia had this to say about accordion playing: 'The piano accordion is also predominant in Italy, New Zealand, and Australia'. Really? Even I'm having trouble with that one.

So on a sunny afternoon, in a local coffee shop I sat with Sharyn and delved into the life of an accordion player. Between sips of coffee I asked her what got her started. 'About four years ago, at a Saturday morning market I saw two women busking' she mused.

'The Dandelion Junk Queens were from the States; one played the piano accordion and the other a saw'. Sharyn said she was so enthralled by the accordion she had to have one! The next day whilst perusing the Sunday market she saw one, it was a sign!

Lugging it around for about nine months, a mate offered to teach her. After being taught about three chords, she started a band. Made up of one banjo, one spoon and of course one accordion player. "We called ourselves the Bling Hillbillies and played gangster hill billy music," she said, at which stage I wasn't brave enough to ask what that was. When asked about peoples' general reactions to her instrument of choice, she rather philosophically says it's either absolute horror or delight - no ho hums about it. She does say that the number of fans in the older set is quite large. "Whenever I busk it's always the oldies who love it", she says enthusiastically.

Sharyn's current artistic expression has found life in a band called the Burgess Gang, who shares their name with an infamous local gang who were tried and convicted of murder. "We play mostly murder ballads" (actually at this stage I have to say, I had no idea what she was talking about, and had to ask a friend, who said it's like that song Nick Cave and Kylie did, *Red Rose*).

Shazz also teaches the accordion and is more than happy to share what she's learnt with others but confesses there's so much more to know. "Anyone can do it and it's great for looking flasher than you are," she says "God I just learnt four new chords and wrote five new songs!" That's what I like about Shazz not only is she hot, she tells it like it is.

Regardless of your musical persuasions, accordions and accordion playing is a definite attention grabber. And Sharyn's favourite accordion band? For accordion playing of the kind that you wouldn't bring home to your mother try www.tigerlillies.com





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