

VOS

The Voice of SANIT

Issue 1, 2012 • Free



Voice of SANITI

Magazine of the Student Association of NMIT

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SANITI.ORG.NZ



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THE INAUGURAL PRESIDENTIAL SPEECH



Kia ora I'm Scott the new President at SANITI. Welcome to all the new students taking on study this year for the first time - last year I was a new student and remember well the fun of getting my head around study and timetables and what not! Also welcome back to the returning students and congrats for making it this far!

For those of you I'm still yet to meet just a bit about me; I am studying BCom with a double major in accounting and marketing. In April last year I was elected onto the SANITI executive and then moved up to Vice President in June and found I enjoyed governance so much I decided to throw my hat in the ring and have a crack at the top spot... and here I am! So for 2012 I'm President of the Student's Association, on the NMIT Council and also studying - so it's going to be a busy ol' year ahead! Meh, could be worse.

Something else to let you all know is that this year is the 10th anniversary of SANITI. We are still going strong, acting on behalf of all students and plan to continue to do so for many years to come.

I hope you all have a great year with study but remember to find a balance between study and life, don't let the beginning of the year defeat you, keep calm and carry on! Good luck!

Also I do love a good natter so if you see me roaming the campus at any point please feel free to stop me for a chat!

*Cheers,
Scott*

SANITI'S 2012 MAKEOVER



If you've come through our doors this year to ask for help, grab a coffee or to just sit down and have a breather – you would have noticed our fabulous office makeover! At the end of last year the walls came tumbling down (literally around us) to make way for a much needed meeting room and our student friendly zone (near the coffee) is bigger too. And then there are the fabulous colours; frothy butter and limeade green have been real jaw droppers! Our green feature wall for sponsors is a work in progress – cheers to Gary for his awesome design! And you might have noticed staff in their new T-shirts – you can't miss them they're bright green too!

SANITI'S NEW STAFF



Welcome to Tracy Sawtell (pictured top left), with a legal background Tracy joins Pip on the advocacy team to help you with any troubles you're having as a student. Melissa Savage (on camel) joined the SANITI team at the end of last year, taking over the marketing role from Lucy Funaki (pictured with Soane) who left to have her first baby.

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UNCLE RANGI JOSEPH, NMIT KAUMĀTUA

passed on 29th February 2012

Many of us have met and seen Uncle Rangi and Aunty Helen Joseph at pōwhiri, campus events and graduations. He was our kaumātua, cultural advisor and a great friend to NMIT.

Of Ngāti Toa, Ngāti Rarua and Ngāti Maniapoto lineage, Rangi Te Wehenga Joseph was born at Wairau Pa, and raised in Te Kuiti. He returned to this region with his wife (Aunty Helen), where they had four children; Rangi, Myrna, Johnny and Trisha. The whānau were raised at Wairau Pa, where Uncle Rangi lived amongst his people on his turangawaewae, until his passing.

He was very proud of the fact that Te Tau Ihu had its own tertiary education facility, and that NMIT provided good opportunities for people to learn and better themselves. Uncle Rangi was a tireless advocate of many causes that uplifted the people he was working with and representing; including during recent periods of very challenging ill health.

As a respected leader in the Marlborough/Te Tau Ihu community, Uncle Rangi advised staff and students about

te reo Māori, whakapapa and tikanga. He supported students over the years with scholarship applications, as well as a wide range of requests of him. He also made connections with students who came from afar to ensure they felt engaged and connected to NMIT and this area.



Uncle Rangi will be missed greatly by NMIT staff and students for his support, advice, leadership and friendship. This is one of his favourite whakatauki (proverb):

He aha te mea nui o te ao?

He Tangata! He Tangata! He Tangata!

What is the most important thing in the world?

It is people! It is people! It is people!

GRADUATION 2011

So Graduation was rescheduled for 2012 and what a fabulous day it was on Friday 24 February – complete with the street parade and onlookers actually stopping their cars in the middle of the street to applaud the graduates walking past in their robes. Numbers were down for a variety of reasons, from students moving away from the area to finding fulltime work but according to Graduation coordinator Marama Bevan, 150 students still graduated and had a fabulous celebration. *The Johnnys* entertained the crowds back at NMIT as friends and families enjoyed the grad after function run by SANITI in conjunction with NMIT, giving them a chance to make a toast (or several) to their success.

Photos can still be purchased by going to the NMIT Graduation website page.



INCOME MOVE WELCOMED

SANITI president Scott Tambisari stated the move to publish the average income of graduates from specific courses would help students when they came to choosing their tertiary study but said that the financial value of courses should not be the only thing students think of when making their choice.

"You've got arts students and nurses... adventure tourism – those students are not really in it for the financial outcome, they are in it because they are passionate about it," said Scott Tambisari.

This move indicates that the Government was focusing mainly on the

economic outcomes of graduates while ignoring the social benefits for both the individual and their community.

"I don't want to see [education policy] focusing too much on the economic side of things. It is a social benefit for a lot of people too."

He was also concerned that the information on graduate earnings could be used for other purposes, like lowering the funding component for courses that had graduates on a lower average wage.

"Education should be available to everyone, no matter what they want to study."

STUDENT PILOT FUNDING UPDATE

In addition to cutting the number of students that can receive Student Pilot funding (which takes effect from this year), the Government has now proposed that the amount of funding available per-EFTS be capped at \$35,000.

SANITI President Scott Tambisari has recently made a submission to the Minister for Tertiary Education, the Hon Stephen Joyce, raising concerns that such a cap would mean that students may face a shortfall of \$15,000 - \$30,000 to complete a Diploma in Aviation Science (Fixed Wing), and even more for a Diploma in Aviation Science (Rotary) and that this would severely limit access to the Diploma.

"Ultimately, only those students who can afford to meet the shortfall will be able to undertake the Diploma. This is the wrong benchmark

and will result in students who could have made highly suitable trainee pilots instead choosing to study other courses which don't have such limitations on funding.

"The reduction in the number of students will also result in those students who do take on the course taking longer to pay back their loans as there will be less demand for instructors from training providers, which in turn will make it harder for graduate pilots to obtain employment," said Scott Tambisari.

He is also concerned that providers may not be able to maintain the quality of their courses if their income is not high enough. SANITI will continue to actively lobby the government regarding funding for trainee pilots.

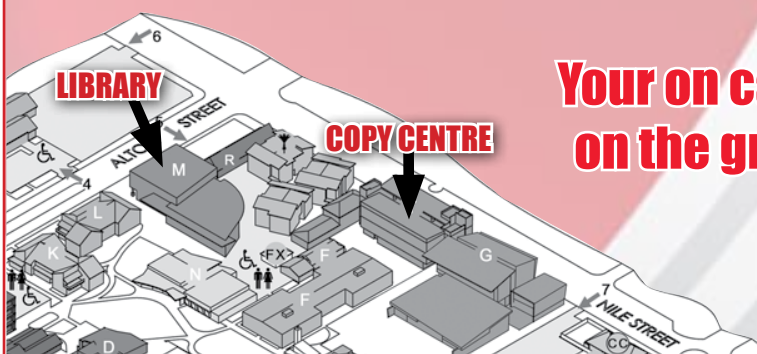
CANCELLATION OF GRADUATION 2011

For the first time in the history of NMIT Graduations the 2011 Nelson Graduation at Trafalgar Park was cancelled on Friday 14 December last year. Following successful Graduations for Te Tari Māori at Whakatu Marae and Marlborough students (pictured below) in Blenheim, torrential rain caused floods throughout the wider Nelson region. CEO Tony Gray had to make a difficult call on Thursday evening as the safety of students and their families was compromised with flooding all around the Trafalgar Centre venue which was also on standby as an emergency evacuation centre. Using every form

of technology possible the word got out to hundreds of students, many who were stranded outside the main centre of Nelson city. International students booked to leave the country on the weekend were particularly disappointed – but the weather did a surprise turnaround and an impromptu International Awards (pictured right) was pulled quickly together. SANITI provided catering and support to let the students and their families who travelled from all parts of the globe feel special in this much smaller-scale ceremony.



FUJI XEROX



Your on campus Copy Centre is NOW located on the ground floor of T Block off Nile Street

Neville and Gary are the friendly Fuji Xerox guys!



ORIENTATION 2012



Three weeks of Orientation madness were all about welcoming new and returning students to Nelson and Marlborough campuses. This year students competed for heaps of awesome prizes - they suffered spectacular carnage in sack races, danced cheek to cheek in sexy tango styles and strummed solo on designer ukuleles. Free food was always a crowd pleaser and queues were a common sight!

Please support the great sponsors who helped make Orientation the success it was.



ORIENTATION BIG PRIZE WINNERS



The Smirnoff Sound Cube and MP3 Player prize was sponsored by **Liquor King** who also supplied tasty non alcoholic drinks to students during Orientation. Pictured here is the winner *Manjihder Singh* receiving his prize from Liquor King staff member, *Lianne*.



Flight Centre Nelson ran a prize draw for \$500 worth of travel vouchers throughout Orientation. Winner *Ashden Havik* who has never travelled overseas, is pictured here with *Hannah* – thinking about where he wants to go on the wall behind him.

A special thanks to short term staff and supporters who pulled us through the busiest time of the year especially Arana, Pom, Andy and Millie - all of you were stars under pressure!!!

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Thank you for helping SANITI run a fantastic Orientation!

SUPPORT YOUR SPONSORS!

Check out the discounts available for NMIT students in your 2012 SANITI Diary.



The 2012 Student Executive

MILLIE BELL

What are you studying this year?

This is the final year of my degree in Creative Writing.

What colour are your eyes?

Green/blue, but I have brown in the center near my pupils...strange.

If you were a superhero, who would you be?

I would totally be *Tank-Girl*, not officially a 'superhero' but she is pretty awesome!

What's your favourite quote?

'...Upon the upland road, ride easy, stranger: surrender to the sky your heart of anger...' J.K.Baxter.

What was the last book/movie you read/watched?

Nights at the Circus by Angela Carter and the last movie was....

The Book of Eli, which i definitely rate and would recommend to anyone.

In five words, why did you want to be an Exec?

For my saniti - and yours.



WAYNE KERR

What are you studying this year?

Arts and Media.

What colour are your eyes?

Blue and green.

If you were a superhero, who would you be?

The Joker .

What's your favourite quote?

"Don't cry because it's over, smile because it happened."

Dr. Seuss.

What was the last book/movie you read/watched?

Hunger Games.

In five words, why did you want to be an Exec?

Free food. Lol.



SCOTT TAMBISARI

What are you studying this year?

BCom double major Accounting / Marketing.

What colour are your eyes?

Brown.

If you were a superhero, who would you be?

Superman!

What's your favourite quote?

"If you have to ask the price, you can't afford it" J.P Morgan.

What was the last book/movie you read/watched?

This Book Will Save Your Life, A.M Homes.

In five words, why did you want to be an Exec?

Governance and representation is awesome!



LINDA NICHOLS

What are you studying this year?

Visual art and media.

What colour are your eyes?

Some kind of brown.

If you were a superhero, who would you be?

I just want to be the Doctor's companion and cruise around time and space in the Tardis!

What's your favourite quote?

'Who? Me?!'

What was the last book/movie you read/watched?

The White Cat, by Holly Black.

In five words, why did you want to be an Exec?

To (eventually) take over the world and rule it with an iron fist. When I rule five words are as many as I say.



AARON FISK

What are you studying this year?

B.I.T, majoring in Systems development and programming.

What colour are your eyes?

Varies between green/hazel to really light blue.

If you were a superhero, who would you be?

The manly non psychotic version of Jean Gray.

What's your favourite quote?

The poet tries to live with his head in the heavens. The logician tries to live with the heavens in his head, and it is his head that cracks.

What was the last book/movie you read/watched?

Derek Prince, A Biography.

In five words, why did you want to be an Exec?

Do what needs be done.



JAMES RUSSELL

What are you studying this year?

I'm in my second year of a DipIT.

What colour are your eyes?

Rusty-brown.

If you were a superhero, who would you be?

Do you seriously want to spark this debate? I liken my debating skills to The Big Bang Theory, but I would be Ironman. :D

What's your favourite quote?

"Thou shall not muzzle the ox, while he treadith out the corn"

What was the last book/movie you read/watched?

Last book – *Scarecrow & the Army of Thieves* by Matthew Reilly. Last movie – *Megamind*!!!!!! :D

In five words, why did you want to be an Exec?

I'll need more than 5 to explain this one ;)



TESSA DONALD

What are you studying this year?

This year I am studying a Bachelor of Commerce – majoring in both awesomeness and geniusness (otherwise known as Management).

What colour are your eyes?

My eyes are the colour of sparkling rainbows and buttercups – they could also be green.

If you were a superhero, who would you be?

Wolverinette – who doesn't love some kick-ass claws and they would double as really good steak knives.

What's your favourite quote?

Be who you are and say what you feel, because those who mind don't matter and those who matter don't mind. Dr. Seuss.

What was the last book/movie you read/watched?

The last book I read was *Northanger Abbey*, Jane Austen.

In five words, why did you want to be an Exec?

Because I am always right.



JANET ABRAHAMHU

What are you studying this year?

I am studying for my Certificate in Tertiary Studies Pathway (English Language Programme) at NMIT till August and after that I will be doing my Competency Assessment Programme for three months.

What colour are your eyes?

Dark brown.

If you were a superhero, who would you be?

I would like to be Batman.

What's your favourite quote?

"A stitch in time saves nine."

What was the last book/movie you read/watched?

Second Hand Wedding.

In five words, why did you want to be an Exec?

To encourage participation of all students in extracurricular activities.



WHAT DO THEY DO?

The Student Executive set the direction of SANITI through the development of a Strategic and Operational Plan. They meet monthly to discuss progress against the plan and any current issues. If you would like to get in touch with any of the Executive on specific matters you can contact them through the President or come in to the SANITI office.

SCOTT THE PRESIDENT'S DATES FOR TERM TWO VISITS IN MARLBOROUGH

- 7th & 8th May
- 28th & 29th May
- 11th & 12th June
- 25th & 26th June

Contact him: pres.saniti@xtra.co.nz
or text or phone 027 545 7492

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CULTURAL CELEBRATION

On Leap Day, February 29th a lineup from Aotearoa to China kept international students and their families entertained. Opening the event, Doc Ferris, Director of Māori Education was supported by Te Tari Māori students singing waiata, followed by solo guitarist Aaron Fisk. Students enjoyed a BBQ and shared kai. The unique sound of the guzheng (traditional Chinese harp) was brought to us by Rebecca with Piki Mai kapa haka group's performance a great way to end the evening just as the rain started.



SAANZ CONFERENCE

Student Association Advocates New Zealand
Advocates from around New Zealand's Universities, Institutes of Technology and other tertiary institutions have been meeting annually for the last few years. At the end of last year SANITI hosted the SAANZ Conference on NMIT's Nelson campus. The ten advocates (including Pip) focused on the new law change in Student Association membership, from Compulsory to Voluntary and how this might affect their advocacy work. This has meant for many students' associations that they are now in a contractual arrangement with their Institution to provide services which include independent advocacy and support services for students experiencing difficulties. The advocates also looked at how they promote, conduct, record and report student advocacy work (whilst still maintaining confidentiality). They discovered that they'd all been seeing a lot more students experiencing financial hardship in the last year and talked about ways to support them including hardship funds, food banks, vouchers etc. Pip received great feedback from attendees and reported that as well as the serious stuff the group had some good fun and great food!



ST PATRICK'S DAY

Everything was green – from the chips to the bread to the drinks to the ridiculous hats – to be sure, to be sure it could only be St Patrick's Day!!! Students got their Irish jig on and battled it out in some heavily competitive potato races to celebrate this traditional day.



SANITI AGM 2012

Held just before the end of Term One, the SANITI Annual General Meeting was every SANITI members' chance to have a voice and elect a new Student Executive. Congratulations to the five newest Exec members (check them out on pages 8 & 9) and thanks to Vic Brewbar for providing free vouchers.

FREE SANITI MEMBERSHIP WHERE DID ALL THOSE NOODLES GO?

SANITI is delighted to offer students FREE membership this year which gives you access to all SANITI services including representation and advocacy. During Orientation you might have seen a lot of hustle and bustle around the blue marquee and our Membership coordinator Bernie Goldsmith hard at work! In just under a month we gave out over 1,000 free packs to students who signed up – thanks to

Indomie noodles, Lone Star in Nelson and Fairweathers in Blenheim for their fabulous sponsorship. Every form filled out also went into the draw to win a SANITI scholarship of \$500 (full time students) or a SANITI Study Starter Pack (part-time students).

This is the first time SANITI have trialled a membership database after the law change last year removed the ability for students to vote for compulsory student membership.

We need members to make sure that the student voice is heard by the Institute and to support SANITI's activities.

If you're not a member of SANITI please come into our office and join up today – you've still got a chance to win a SANITI Scholarship or a Study Starter Pack in the second Semester draw!



Kasandra Raizada, Business and Admin NMIT student – her Study Starter Pack is sponsored by Office Max Nelson, Café Gingko on Blenheim campus and Nutrimetics products from Bonnie Stretton.



Steven Barbour, Viticulture & Wine Production NMIT student, delighted to be receiving his \$500 SANITI Scholarship from Scott!



We're here to help you reach your goals!

NMIT STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

 **0800 422 733 Ext 655**
studentsupporthelp@nmit.ac.nz



You're now half way through the first semester so we hope your classes are going well! Remember the team are in the Student Centre if you need any support... *we're here to help you!*

Shortly there will be some changes in our team! Kerrie Dillon, who you will have met on our Student Support Helpdesk, is moving to a new role within our team as one of the Student Advisors for International Students. Kerrie's main role will be to support all our international students settling into Nelson, cultural induction, organising homestays and helping with any problems and concerns. Kerrie is also here to help ALL domestic students too, so please come and have a confidential chat to her if you have any issues!



Also check out our other FREE services:

- Look at our notice boards for up and coming events, accommodation and items for sale
- Log onto our Facebook page for the latest NMIT news and events
- Borrow our sports equipment for FREE
- Check our International mail board
- Remember the Campus Nurse, Alison, works 8.30am-1.00pm daily

***Visit us in the
Student Centre***

LEARNING AND STUDY SUPPORT TEAM

Have you been into the Library Learning Centre lately?

There are lots of computers, books, study nooks and much more! But best of all there's the Nelson Learning & Study Support Team – the service also extends to Marlborough, Woodbourne & Richmond. We're here to help you achieve your goals and successfully complete your journey at NMIT. Our new team member, Holly, will provide cultural support along the way.

Introducing our new team members:

Holly – Maori & Pasifika Learner Journey Developer

Gillian – Learning and Study Support Tutor



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Our Marlborough-based team member is:

Paulette – Learning & Study Support Tutor



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email: learning.support@nmit.ac.nz

COURSE PROFILE – Diploma in Applied Fitness

So rocking into a class of fitness students you might expect to see a lot of muscle flexing or hear constant chatter of how much everyone can bench press or what's the latest technique for body sculpting...well you couldn't be further from the truth! Words like 'sub acromial' and 'supra spinatus' were being casually tossed around the room when SANITI scribe Melissa Savage joined some students recently.

Standing at the front of the class, tutor Claire Dallison cuts a confident picture next to the skeleton she points at, sweeping her hand across key points in its anatomy. Sitting at the back of the room I'm impressed as Applied Fitness students happily chant words like 'winging' and 'retraction' in answer to her questions. I had no idea how much biology I could learn in a few minutes – damn that scapula movement! – or how interesting it could be. And this was just a tiny taste.

Developed by Claire seventeen years ago, the Certificate in Applied Fitness naturally progressed into a Diploma in 2006. The scope of applied fitness has also broadened over the years from mainly 'gym instructors' to now encompass management roles, teaching, sports marketing, mental health, asthma education, and motivational coaches of high profile teams.

Students described a number of reasons for wanting to get their Diploma, from personal health transformations to wanting to teach to having a career in a positive environment and making a commitment to help others achieve their goals. All admirable reasons and one thing that stood out to me was a strong motivation and camaraderie in the class. The students explained even though there was a competitive element – "it gets you going in a good way."

But it does make sense if you're into sports to go for this course and students seem to cover all the bases from codes like rugby to individual sports such as triathlons and cycling. Talking to the students I discovered they all agreed that the hands on, practical approach of the Diploma was a key to its success as well as having tutors with a wealth of experience who are still active in the



industry. They get to have a dose of the 'real commercial world' as personal trainers to NMIT Adventure Tourism students, taking them through their paces at Results Gym in Nelson. On top of the gym, fitness students have the chance to work with St Joseph's School (Certificate, first year) and Waimea College with Elite Sports Pro (Diploma, second year).

The statistics stack up strongly in favour of this course as Claire explains of the 37 graduates over the last three years, all but one are gainfully employed in the industry. There is an opportunity for Diploma students to carry on to a third year degree run in conjunction with AUT but many of the students I talked to seemed more excited about finishing their Diploma this year to pursue their dream jobs – whether it be helping train the All Blacks or running national sporting campaigns.

So keep an eye out for these guys - who knows next time Sonny Bill takes off his shirt it might just be one of the NMIT Diploma in Applied Fitness graduates kindly helping him.

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ACTING A GREAT STRESS RELEASE FOR STUDENT

Social work student by day, actress by night – well for the first term at least – this was Emma Schwass' life while she took to the local stage as Sister Augusta in the play *Drinking Habits* by Tom Smith.

Being part of the Nelson Repertory Theatre's production was a return for Emz to acting after a seven year break (she graduated from Hagley Theatre Company in 2005), where she'd travelled overseas and worked in roles more behind the scenes, including helping kids perform in a range of Drama and Youth programmes. On her return to New Zealand Emz realised she wanted to do something else as well as acting, still working with youth but in a job where she could earn a reliable income.

"I went to an interview and was persuaded by the tutor that a career in social work was for me so I enrolled at NMIT. It was a pretty hard year being back at study and I was given advice to do something fun and something I liked to relieve my stress."

So at the end of last year Emz saw an ad for auditions and despite being worried about having been out of the acting game for years and not being known to the Nelson Repertory

Theatre, she gave it a shot. She was surprised and happy when she got a phone call congratulating her for winning one of the lead roles as Sister Augusta and weekly rehearsals began in January with her fellow cast of eight actors who all had different experiences and backgrounds.

"It was a lot of fun and took heaps of stress off at the start of the year," she explained and *Drinking Habits*, a traditional laugh-out-loud play with a lot of dramatic entrances and exits was received very positively by Nelson audiences, averaging around 200 people on each of the six nights. Emz is very encouraging about the Nelson Repertory Theatre who are always looking for people to join their production teams. If you're shy of the stage, there is a wide range of other jobs in wardrobe, construction, publicity, lighting and sound.

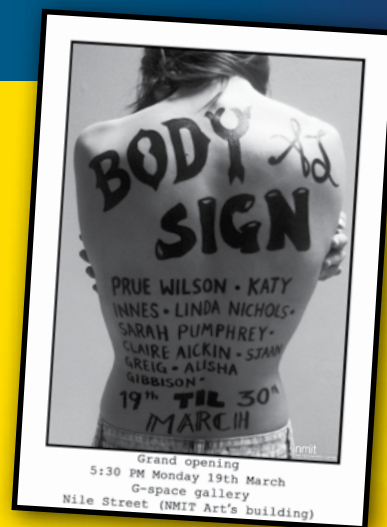
And Emz is definitely going to stay involved and might look to auditions a bit later in the year, "If you're interested just put yourself forward. There's nothing quite like being part of a cast family."



The cast of *Drinking Habits*, front row (from left), Father Chenille (Tom McInerney), Sister Mary Catherine (Brenna Miller), Mother Superior (Lynley Bradshaw), Sister Augusta (Emma Schwass), Sister Philamena (Allison Cormack); back row, groundskeeper George Donnelly (Frog Twissell), journalists Paul Billings (Tim Coughlin) and Sally Andrews (Freya Clayton).

Check out www.nelsonlivetheatre.org.nz **for more information.**

EMERGING STUDENT ARTISTS



Having their art exposed to the public was a totally new experience for a small group of second year Arts & Media students with their recent exhibition "Body As Sign," held in the G-Space Gallery at NMIT. One of the exhibitors, Level 6 student Linda Nichols explained that the design brief was an assignment in the second semester of 2011 and earlier this year, tutor Kay Van Dyk called for expressions of interest. Linda was one of seven students who responded and says she saw this is an awesome opportunity to learn about the process of being part of an exhibition.

Most of the students stayed with their initial concepts as the turnaround time from planning to exhibition date was less than two weeks! It was baptism by fire as poster design and an opening had to be planned, Linda said it was still an unknown quantity on the first night: "We had no idea – we were terrified!" But their hard work paid off

with nearly 80 people showing their support on opening night. As the students had responded in very individual ways Linda explained there was a wide range of art; from jewellery to ornamental pieces to items you could wear.

She describes her own works as inspired from the lyrics of the song 'Prettiest Eyes' by the band *The Beautiful South*, exploring aging using fabric stretched out on frames. Linda said, "Skin tells a story about us," and she wonders if people would give up a wrinkle for a memory. Part of her aim was to open a conversation about age and beauty and what is valued in our society today.

And to the question, "Would you do it all again?" - Linda beams and nods her head vigorously, "that's why I'm here, it's really important to get it right; I'd love to work on exhibitions all the time!"



Finding Love On the Internet

Love. Surely, no other subject has been more written about, filmed, fought over and wept over. And speaking about tears, what is one to do when it ends? When the sparkle has gone, when Elvis has well and truly left the building, possibly with half of everything you own?

...by Jaycob Brown



If stalking isn't for you, then it might be time to put yourself out there (after a suitable mourning period). So 'dating' here you come - but where to start? Like most questions I have, it's off to the internet and Mr Google who I trust more than my parents.

Rather than spend my time scanning the literally hundreds of websites with promises of finding that 'special someone,' I asked around to find out if anyone I knew had tried it out. After coming up empty (I know a lot of people who tell lies obviously) I struck gold! A mate's mother was currently using one - Booya! In order to protect her identity, I'm going to call her Lafawnduh.

Q. So Lafawnduh (LoL) what made you decide to try internet dating?

A. I thought it would be a bit of fun, I wanted to meet someone and have a laugh. Luckily I knew someone who was already doing it and had heard a lot of success stories.

Q. How did you choose a website?

A. A close friend was already using a site so it came highly recommended.

Q. Lafawnduh what stood out about this particular website?

A. As soon as my profile was on I got hits! People also responded to me really quickly. The site was easy to use. Although, you do need to be careful! People usually aren't what they say. The site managers are really good; if they have concerns about someone they block them and contact users of the site. They also send you tips on using the site and staying safe.

Q. What was the selection of people like?

A. Well sadly George Clooney wasn't on there! But there were a lot of people in my target bracket. It's helped me make friends all round New Zealand. I did discover one or two serial internet site users - I compared notes with some friends who were on there a few years ago who recognised their user names. So be aware some people stay 'dating' for years and years and probably aren't really looking for anything long term.

Ironically although Lafawnduh didn't find her perfect partner on a website, (she met him in a pub whilst waiting to meet someone from the website) she spoke highly of the experience. But she insisted that it was important to be sensible.

So thanks to Lafawnduh and a Cosmo mag I read in a doctor's waiting room - here's my special guide...



Guide to Making a Profile for Internet Dating

Self-promotion

You might be hesitant to really play up your assets because you worry it will make you seem cocky or self-involved. But leaving out interesting info, like how you're awesome at snowboarding or speak two languages, results in a lack lustre first impression. If this is slightly painful then get a friend to write your profile (a good friend that is).

Try to avoid commonly used phrases

Everyone knows you are "nice, smart, funny and sweet," but there are thousands of other people online saying the same damned thing about themselves. Plus, most people have learned to dismiss those generic descriptions since they've been on dates with someone who describe themselves the same way but are total duds in person. Same goes for your likes and hobbies. Um, who doesn't enjoy travel, movies, and friends? Just remember original stories and funny past experiences can get you two thumbs up!

Negativity isn't attractive

While it's tempting to say, "Don't message me if you were born before 1970 or live with your parents" to get rid of douche bags, it can sometimes backfire because it makes others think you have issues or are high-maintenance. Even ones who meet your criteria will hold back because they'll be wondering what you're going to hate about them.

Remember resist the temptation to write about what you don't want. For every 10 losers who send you a message or a wink, there might be one person who deserves a chance. And unlike being sent a drink by a creepy stranger, to ignore unwanted advances online you just need to hit the delete button.

Being too honest

Maybe your BFF signed you up for online dating to help you get over your ex. Save that little secret for your journal. Anything you wouldn't say on a first date doesn't belong in your profile. Oh, and no one needs to know that you have two cats (or more), spent two years as a Goth, and are OCD. You may think that in the interest of full disclosure, you have to spill all your guts but save those exciting details for date #2, when you've already won them over.

Profile photos

Look at the photos first. Period. And even if you have the perfect profile, the wrong mix of pictures will make other people scroll past. Choose a photo that's fun, in focus, clear and looks good. Every photo should tell a story. Sadly men by far seem to put the worst pictures on their profiles. Can you picture a deer in headlights?

Important tips:

- ♥ Never ever give your personal contacts (home phone number, address) out on the first date. If you have any doubts watch *Single White Female*.
- ♥ Always meet in public places with other people around. Be sensible, perhaps I shouldn't meet them at midnight in the middle of a park... *really?*
- ♥ Remember not everyone is after the same thing. Some people are just looking for friends and some for a hook up.
- ♥ Be open to meeting different types of people.
- ♥ There are people of all ages internet dating (the five websites I looked over had people from 18 all the way up to late 60's), make sure you're up front with people.
- ♥ What you see may not be true. Take everything with a grain of salt and really who hasn't told a little or a large white lie in order to look better? Guilty as charged!
- ♥ Breathe, relax and have fun. They're probably just as nervous as you.

Koxy 'Blackheart'



What are you studying this year?
Applied Fitness.

What got you into Roller Derby? It was actually a 20/20 episode, maybe in 2005/06 when I first heard about Derby. One of the founders in New Zealand, 'Pieces of Hate' was on the show, and I just thought she was inspiring. She's got two personas, her normal everyday life and then her rough and tough side for derby.

How long have you been involved?
Since the end of 2010, we had our first official 'bout' this year in Feb. Before that we were training and learning the game, it was a slow process because we didn't really know what we were doing, but we've got it sussed now.

What is the attraction for women?
Getting all sweaty and causing a ruckus is really empowering, Derby releases the 'rough' side of women – without being too rugby *winks*. Women are great tactical thinkers, and it's great for our stamina. Love it!

How often do you train? We have two

team trainings that we have to go to each week, plus there are two other trainings – any extra training is always beneficial. You gotta learn how to walk on skates before you can run!

So how do you score points? With my pretty looks *laughs*. Ok, there are four blockers in each team, they start first. Then for each team there is one jammer, they get released once the blockers have started. You get points for overlapping, but only the jammers score, and only on the second run around the track. For each blocker overtaken [from the other team] the jammers get a point, you also get points for overlapping the other team's jammer.

Have you had any broken bones? Nope, nothing broken, but some pretty gnarly bruises, especially on the hips and upper thighs, there are bleeding noses from time to time as well.

Is there much community support?
Not so much for sponsorship yet, but people[the community] are really into the idea of Derby. We make our own uniforms, promotions, well, we do everything for our team. A New Zealand governing body is in the process of being organised, which will help the sport heaps.

Where/how far do you want to go with Derby?
The Derby world champs!
There were 13 teams at the

last world champs in Toronto, and the next one is in two years, New Zealand has a bid to hold the champs – which would rock! Applied Fitness is ideal; I can use my knowledge and apply it to Derby.

Are there any age issues? Not really, your body gets hammered, but it's just about looking after yourself I guess, there are women who are around 40 and 50.

How, where or who can people contact if they are keen to try out Derby?

Through Facebook (Sirens of Smash) or email – sirens.of.smash@gmail.com. We are always looking for 'fresh-meat'. We also need Non-Skate-Officials too, so you don't have to even skate to be involved.



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Pitfalls and Perils of Social Networking Sites

Social Networking sites such as Facebook and Twitter are so much a part of everyday life - we natter away like we are chatting face to face and forget that we're putting things in print. SANITI Advocate Tracy Sawtell thought it would be helpful to discuss some of the issues that can arise. [CLICK LINK TO READ.](#)

Pre-Employment Checks

Employers are increasingly running Google, Facebook and Twitter searches as part of their background checks for prospective employees. If a prospective employer asks you for your username and password you are not obliged to give it over and we recommend you don't.

Facebook's default privacy setting is to allow everyone access to your profile and photos, so unless you have changed those settings to limit access in some way, such searches will allow employers to view everything on your profile, including your photos and comments as well as photos others have posted of you.

If you would like to check your privacy settings on Facebook, click on the down arrow next to 'Home' on the top right corner of your Facebook page. A drop down menu will appear. Select 'Privacy Settings'. Under the heading 'Control your default privacy' there are three options:

- 'Public': which means everyone can see your profile and its content. This is Facebook's default setting
- 'Friends': which means that only your friends can see your profile and its content
- 'Custom': which means that you can tailor your settings to how you would like

Underneath these options, there are also further methods of controlling access to your profile, particularly relevant are:

- 'How you connect': you can control who can look you up using the email address or phone number you have provided; who can send you friend requests; and who can send you Facebook messages
- 'Timeline and Tagging': you can control who can post on your

timeline; who can see what others post on your timeline; who can see the posts that appear on your timeline because you have been tagged; and who sees tag suggestions when photos that look like you have been uploaded. You can also ask to review posts that friends tag you in before they are posted.

- 'Apps and Websites': you can control what information about you is available to Applications and Websites; including what information will be shown about you should someone search your name in a public search engine such as Google.
- 'Blocked People and Apps': this is important if you feel you are being bullied or harassed. Come into SANITI if you or someone you know is having this happen.

Profile Hacking

It is also possible to secure your Facebook profile which can minimise the potential for your profile to be hacked by someone else.

If you would like to do this, choose 'Account settings' from the drop down list in the top right corner of your Facebook page. A page headed 'General Account settings' will appear. Choose 'Security' from the list on the left hand side of the page. A page headed 'Security Settings' will appear. Next to 'Secured Browsing' it will tell you whether it is enabled or not. If you would like to enable secured browsing, click on 'edit'.

Disparaging Remarks

You should also remember that the comments you make on Facebook or Twitter can potentially land you in some hot water!

For example, if you make disparaging comments about NMIT or your tutor or other students, it could lead to a Student Misconduct allegation against you.

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Pip's Tip's

The Top 10 Things You Need To Know About NMIT Policies & Procedures with SANITI Advocate Pip Bowler



- 1** If your situation changes and you need to pull out of your course know your withdrawal dates – 3 weeks (21 days) from course official start date (for domestic students – may have to pay \$100 administration charge but otherwise should get a full refund of your fees). For international students you are unlikely to get a refund of fees if you withdraw from your course after it has started. If there are exceptional circumstances around why you no longer wish to study at NMIT you may be granted a refund.
- 2** If you're unhappy with an academic result then take action immediately. Step one in the Academic Appeal process is talk to your tutor or Programme Area Leader directly and do this within 10 days of receiving the result. If you are unhappy with their response then you have 10 days to write of your concerns to the Academic Committee for your programme. Come in to SANITI for help with this process.
- 3** If something unforeseen happens and you can't make class or your assessment deadlines then immediately send an email to your tutor and/or Programme Area Leader explaining your situation briefly and ask for an extension.
- 4** Keep all log ons and passwords written somewhere safe for NMIT and Studylink etc – DON'T give out your password for someone to use your nmifi
- 5** If your performance in an exam was impaired due to health, noise, unforeseen circumstances, exam disturbances then you need to contact your tutor or SANITI within 7 days of the assessment and apply for Impaired Performance or Aegrotat. DON'T wait to get the result!!
- 6** Resit and Resubmit policies differ between Programmes so it's good to be clear about them.
- 7** Formal Complaints should be a last resort. SANITI always aims for the lowest level resolution with the best interests of the student and their goals firmly in mind. For ideas and suggestions on how to manage an issue, conflict or complaint please come in to SANITI. However if you wish to make a Complaint under NMIT's Complaints Policy then it says you must lay them within 90 days of the alleged incident occurring. We would also suggest that if there is something you wish to complain about that you keep records and details written down as this can be very helpful.
- 8** If you withdraw from a course or programme at any time before 60% of the course or programme is complete your academic record will show 'withdrawn'. After this period you cannot officially withdraw and where you do not continue with your studies for that course or programme, your academic record will show a failing grade/no pass. If you have exceptional circumstances and can verify this please come in and we can support you through this process.
- 9** Finally whatever's happening seek advice or help early...
- 10** *If you're puzzled about any of the above come in and see our smiling faces at SANITI*



BRING THE LOVE Valentine's Day 2012

We ♥ students! Love Love Love... Dancing, chocolate, music, games, pancakes, and people who care about YOU! Bring the Love was a fun event held to let y'all know about some of the people and services who care about you in our Nelson/Tasman community. Also the Nelson Mail came and as a result of the event and talking to people on the day, reported on the hardship experienced by students in the current economic climate.

We had with us:

- Operation Friendship – offer fun social events for international students
- Whakatu Marae Health and Social Services – have health assessments and programmes and a really good deal for gym membership
- Speak Out Nelson Tasman (SONT) – reporting system for racist incidents in our community
- Nelson Budget Advice Service – provide advice and support about financial matters
- Lifeline – counselling and support 1:1 or on the phone

We also had a competition to guess how many student advocacy cases SANITI had in 2011. The correct answer was 264 and the winner who guessed very close to the correct amount was Andrea Hewitson (pictured top right). She won the HUGE jar of lollies and chocolates. MMMMMMMmmmm! Also big thanks to Marcio and Jeannie for their fun Zumba demo and Ras Judah for the wonderful tunes.



Pip & Tracy's Term 2 Marlborough Campus Visits

Tuesday May 8th & Tuesday June 12th

- Morning tea at Woodbourne & Lunchtime soup at Blenheim and Programme Rep meeting

Tuesday May 29th

- Morning tea at Blenheim & Lunchtime soup at Woodbourne

**If you need to talk to
SANITI's Advocates Pip
or Tracy, call or text their
hotline! 027 544 7491**



I'm feeling pretty good at the moment. I've worked hard and been a relatively good girl (minus one or two minor drinking indiscretions) so I think it's time for a treat...

Passing the telly in the lounge I see a news item about a young actress starring in *The Hunger Games*. Well decision made. Let's do that.

The Hunger Games comes from a series of books written and published in 2008 by author Suzanne Collins and is told from the point of view of Katniss the main character. Set in a post-apocalyptic world, the nation of Panem annually forces each of its twelve districts to send a teenage boy and girl to compete in the Hunger Games. Part twisted entertainment, part government intimidation tactic; the Games are a nationally televised event in which 'Tributes' must fight until one survivor remains. Pitted against highly-trained Tributes who have prepared for these Games their entire lives, Katniss is forced to rely upon her sharp instincts as well as the mentorship of drunken former victor Haymitch Abernathy.

After seeing this movie I was struck by a couple of things:

- Hello - the new *Twilight*!
- Has the director ever seen the Japanese movie *Battle Royale* (long story short - teenagers forced onto an island to fight each other to the death, winner is the last person standing)?

Don't get me wrong I enjoyed the movie, Jennifer Lawrence as Katniss was really fantastic, she was totally believable, a great choice. But while watching I was

struck a number of times by déjà vu. There seem to be a couple of trends in cinema lately - obviously one is the retelling of old stories and the other is making books into movies.

The thing with the latter is that as a director/writer you have to make decisions about what to leave in and what to take out. Watching *The Hunger Games* I had a sense that I was missing some of that background story. So which is it? Put everything in and have the movie run over five hours, causing severe bum numbing problems and your audience to become comatose, or cut background and start a fan-fuelled riot? Although *The Hunger Games* manages to stay on the right side of that I really wanted more. More I say! More!



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IMPORTANT DATES

- 21 June • Matariki
- 29 June • End of Semester One
- 17 July • Mid-Year Orientation Nelson Pōwhiri
- July • Mid-Year Orientation Marlborough Pōwhiri
- 23-29 July • Te Wiki O Te Reo Māori
- 23 July • Next issue of VOS

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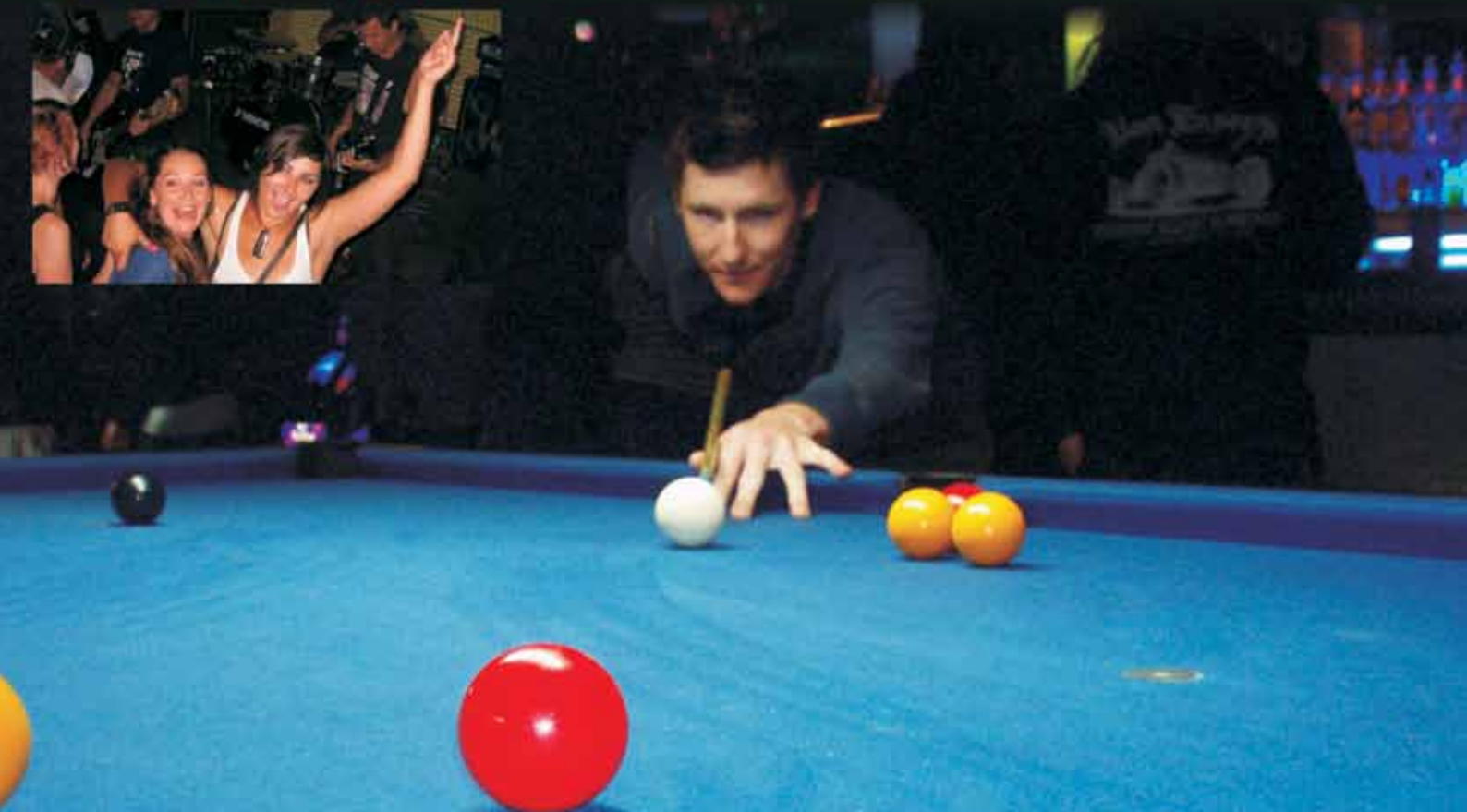


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