

## Workexperience

Secondary schools release Year 12 students for up to a week of work experience in July and August as part of their studies. This is an excellent way to introduce students to a career and a valuable chance for you to share a love of your field and make an impact on the next generation.

Work experience programmes give students an opportunity to gain an understanding of what to expect when they eventually enter the workforce, as well as assisting with their Year 13 study option choices.

As these choices will have large implications on their futures it is important that students have some idea of where their education is taking them and what qualifications and skills they will require in order to attain their desired career.

If you are hosting a work experience student, then how you approach the experience is up to you. However, you're encouraged to take the opportunity to be as creative as possible. You could take them through 'an average day', to outline the realities of work in your field; or you could schedule your weekly production checks or lab tests for the days that the students visit to demonstrate what you do outside the office. You could treat them as your shadow, letting them follow



you and learn through observation; or you can put them to work on tasks that require enthusiasm but not a great deal of expertise. Or perhaps have them spend an hour in every department to give them a great broad overview of your company's work.

Careers Advisors and Futureintech Facilitators will help students find job placements where possible.

If you would like to show a student what you love about your field, then contact your local Futureintech Facilitator to volunteer.

Bravi Futureintech Ambassadors!

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Published by Futureintech  
tel 04 473 2023  
fax 04 474 8933  
enquiries@futureintech.org.nz  
www.futureintech.org.nz

### Futureintech Facilitators



**Angela Hart**  
North Auckland  
tel 09 302 0901  
[ahart@futureintech.org.nz](mailto:ahart@futureintech.org.nz)



**Phil Sadgrove**  
Wellington  
tel 04 473 2025  
[psadgrove@futureintech.org.nz](mailto:psadgrove@futureintech.org.nz)



**Margaret Brunton**  
Central North Island  
cell 021 479 803  
[mbrunton@futureintech.org.nz](mailto:mbrunton@futureintech.org.nz)



**Neil Potter**  
Canterbury  
tel 03 977 7015  
[npotter@futureintech.org.nz](mailto:npotter@futureintech.org.nz)



**Gay Watson**  
South Auckland  
cell 021 479 802  
[gwatson@futureintech.org.nz](mailto:gwatson@futureintech.org.nz)



**Bernadette Hannagan**  
Otago  
cell 021 479 804  
[bhannagan@futureintech.org.nz](mailto:bhannagan@futureintech.org.nz)

## Bravi...Ambassadors!

Futureintech Ambassadors go out of their way to help students and promote careers in technology, engineering and science. Across the country teachers and students are praising the creativity and professionalism of the Ambassadors who donate their time to share their specialist skills with their local community.



### **CRAIG BROWN**

**Transmission Specialist  
Meridian, Christchurch**

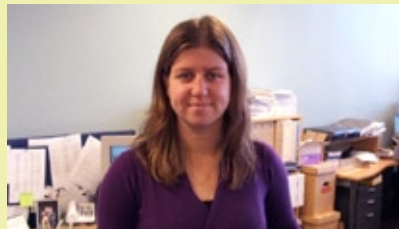
Craig Brown loves puzzles, which is just as well because he got one that had stumped student and teacher alike for weeks.

Craig was one of three Futureintech Facilitators who visited Unlimited Paenga Tawhiti to assist with their technology classes. All went smoothly until one particularly diligent student showed him her project. The ambitious girl had designed and built her own video game controller but was having trouble with the interface between her computer and the control.

Craig began mentoring the student immediately and while they soon came up with a solution to the problem together, one question quickly led to another and soon the circuit design was being completely revamped.

Dr John Boereboom, Unlimited's Learning Advisor, said that the day was a total success. The Ambassadors were able to answer all of the student's questions and Dr Boereboom says that many students

expressed an interest in pursuing a career in industry after the class. The student that Craig mentored is now firmly planning on becoming an engineer and has already asked Craig to assist her in developing contacts in his field.



### **BRIDGET DORAN**

**Roading Engineer  
Maunsell, Hamilton**

Bridget is always keen to volunteer when there are requests from schools in the Hamilton region. Her most impressive contribution has without a doubt been the organisation of the Hamilton Girls' High Accelerant Camp (Engineering Day).

Bridget organised the entire day for the girls from start to finish. She open the day with a presentation on her own work, and then invited colleagues from Maunsell to present to the students on the other fields of engineering.

The afternoon was spent visiting four different work sites, including the construction of the new West Field Shopping Centre, to demonstrate the practical aspects of the job.

Bridget liaised brilliantly to bring the day together. Teachers at the school,

the Futureintech Facilitator, the other young engineers co-opted to present and the personnel at the four work sites all commented on how easy she was to work with.

The day went without a hitch and every facet went to plan. There was no stress or rush but the students enjoyed a day jam-packed with activities and variety.

Bridget is a pleasure to work with, communicates well and quickly builds rapport with people at all levels, whether she's planning the event, presenting on the day or simply talking with students and giving advice.



### **SCOTT ABERNETHY**

**Senior Software Engineer  
Stratex Networks, Wellington**

An absolute love of his work and a laid-back attitude has meant that Scott Abernethy is still getting requests for encore visits more than a year after he first visited Wellington High School.

Scott has been assisting Wellington High students with their computing projects since early last year and doesn't intend stopping any time soon. Scott attributes his enthusiasm

for the subject to his own work at Stratex. While many of his friends grumble on the way to work on Monday mornings, Scott says he absolutely loves what he does and couldn't imagine a more rewarding career. It's this kind of passion that he brings to class whenever he returns to Wellington High.

Scott focuses most of his visits around Java programming, one of his many fields of expertise. His latest visit was to tutor students on the development of interactive tools for teachers (as class clients).

The sessions, as always, went extremely well. One student was so impressed by Scott's feedback on his project that he immediately set about re-writing most of his year's work in

order to accommodate the many tips and recommendations that Scott had given to improve the work.

The students are now developing their programs further before Scott returns in a few weeks to check on progress and help them take their work to the next level.



**BRONWYN HAWKER**

**Food Technologist  
Frucor, Auckland**

Bronwyn Hawker is greeted by

smiles and full classes whenever she returns to Macleans College to assist technology teachers with their classes. Bronwyn has returned several times in the last two terms to give in-depth presentations on product development, sensory technology and what life is really like for a Food Technologist.

Teacher Annette Toon praised Bronwyn for her exciting class demonstrations and interesting Powerpoint presentations that held the classes enthralled.

Bronwyn had jumped at the chance to teach when she heard where it was – she had spent five years at Macleans College and loves the fact that it's now her at the front of the class.

## Ambassadors...plus!



**LINDA SALAMOUN**

**Electrical Engineer  
Opus International Consultant**



**GINNY MOORE**

**Food Technologist  
Hubbards, Auckland**

In addition to working in schools with students as Futureintech Ambassadors, Linda Salamoun and Ginny Moore each ran a workshop for primary and intermediate school teachers covering electronics and food technology. Technology is a relatively new area for teachers. That's why Linda and Ginny collaborated with Team Solutions to offer these professional development sessions to up-skill teachers.

Both workshops proved to be very popular with teachers keen to stay up-to-date with professional practice. Not only did the teachers enjoy the training and gained valuable knowledge but they provided an excellent chance for education and industry professionals to network and make useful contacts.

Programmes like this benefit everyone involved, especially the students. Teachers that are confident teaching their curriculum are far more likely to pass on their interest to their students and Futureintech looks forward to helping develop more workshops like it in the future

# Futureintechnews

## TEACHING OUTSIDE THE SQUARE

What have a new sports energy bar, a skateboard park and a racing motorcycle have in common? One class at Rutherford High School can tell you: Futureintech Ambassadors.

When Molly Nepe was looking for inspiration for her class she turned to Futureintech Facilitator Angela Hart. Molly has plenty of students who love learning about technology and engineering, and being a textiles and fabrics specialist didn't stop her offering them more.

After discussions with both students and teacher about what they wanted to get out of the classes it was decided to let each student choose their own personal project within their field of interest. Once their project received teacher approval Angela Hart found each student a mentor from across the local industry.

The solution has proved highly successful and has been embraced with enthusiasm by both the students and the mentors. One look at the projects they're doing tells you why: **Tasti Products** is assisting in the creation of a new sports energy bar; **Isthmus** is collaborating on the design of a skateboard park; and Senior FSAE mechanical engineering students are overseeing the restoration of one Rutherford student's father's motorcycle, along with a few improvements.

The concept is an innovative approach to education and is proving to be highly successful, and more importantly, can be duplicated in other schools. Futureintech has Facilitators across the country with contacts in all of the major fields of technology, engineering and science.

If you'd like to establish a similar level of cooperation between your science

and technology professionals and a local school, then contact your local Futureintech Facilitator (see page 1).

## THE EDGEWORTH DAVID MEDAL 2006

The Royal Society of New South Wales is seeking nominations for suitable candidates for the Edgeworth David Medal. The Medal is awarded for distinguished contributions by a young scientist, including scientific aspects of agriculture, engineering, dentistry, medicine and veterinary science.

The conditions of the award of the Medal are:

- The recipient must be under the age of 35 years at 1 January 2006;
- The Award will be for work undertaken mainly in Australia or its Territories; or, contributing to the advancement of Australian science.

Every nomination must include a full CV, a list of publications and a statement indicating which part of the nominee's work was undertaken in Australia. Nominations close 30 September, 2006.

Contact the Honorary Secretary, email [royalsoc@usyd.edu.au](mailto:royalsoc@usyd.edu.au), The Royal Society of New South Wales, Building H47, University of Sydney, NSW, Australia.

## INTEREST CONTINUES TO GROW

Thirty schools are now involved with the **Transpower Neighbourhood Engineers Awards**, and close to 100 have registered their interest.

Robertson Road School has put a new spin on the programme by involving eleven classes in one project; building new playgrounds for the school.

The Transpower Neighbourhood Engineers Awards is a competition designed to promote engineering and technology in schools while improving

the students' community or school. Students work with their teacher and a local engineer to identify a need within their school or community and create a solution.

Like most programmes Futureintech supports, the Transpower Neighbourhood Engineers Awards encourages imagination in selecting a need. For example:

- David Henry School designed a sunshade for their students;
- Tamatea Intermediate designed a workstation specifically for their disabled students and
- Kim-Bolton School built a sculpture of a giant Tuatara for the school that also functions as a massive seat for the school's students – the children named him Kopaina (sunbather).

The programme fosters creativity and innovation and the kids are loving it.

If you'd like to work on a project and help your local school contact Susan Weekes, email [sweekes@ipenz.org.nz](mailto:sweekes@ipenz.org.nz), and she'll find you a school which would appreciate your help.

## WWW.FUTUREINTECH.ORG.NZ

Futureintech's website contains a wealth of information for students, parents, teachers and careers advisors. It has profiles of young people working in technology, engineering and science, and the companies they work for.

Our Employer Profiles pages, at [www.futureintech.org.nz/employers.cfm](http://www.futureintech.org.nz/employers.cfm), profile companies under headings such as: Company Background; Company Achievements; Staff profile; Hiring staff; Work style; Future opportunities; and Advice to career seekers.

To discuss having your company profile on these pages, contact Sam Sheppard, email [ssheppard@futureintech.org.nz](mailto:ssheppard@futureintech.org.nz).