

DR MARTIN DE BOCK
paediatric registrar



Martin says the most rewarding part of his career is working with children and their families.

"Kids are great fun to work with," Martin reflects. "I really enjoy helping them get well and feel better." With the present skill shortage of doctors, paediatric registrar Dr Martin De Bock could have found a position anywhere in New Zealand but chose Taranaki because it is regarded as one of the best District Health Boards in the country. "Co-workers are supportive and friendly compared to some big city hospitals." There are many departments within a hospital that doctors can choose to work in and Martin likes the fact that being a doctor helps everyone at some stage in their life. "We play an important role in peoples' lives, from being born through to their last day." Being a doctor is a challenging, rewarding and exciting career and one that 27 year old Martin encourages students to consider for their future.

"Doctors will always have a purpose and a job."

"If you like animals and being outdoors, than farming is the perfect career choice - just do it, its great fun!"

Natasha Walsh
farm assistant

Natasha Walsh knew from the age of 11 that she wanted to work on a farm when she grew up. And she couldn't wait till she was old enough.

Now 18 years old Natasha is exactly where she wants to be and happily gets up for a day at work. However, she does admit the winter months are a little tougher, "But you do get used to it," she laughs. "I have always enjoyed out-doors. I also love animals, so the combination of what I love makes my farm career really enjoyable." Natasha gets a huge buzz from using the farm machinery. She has also bought her own motorbike and car, and suggests that girls can do anything! Being a farm assistant is not a difficult career path, and Natasha loves the independence and freedom she has of working, earning and living on a farm in beautiful Taranaki.

Phil Jones
graffiti artist



Phil Jones, a free spirited 28 year old, never imagined his passion for street graffiti would actually earn him a living.

After being 'busted' for graffiti, Phil decided it was time to use art to his advantage and put his images on canvas, instead of the city streets. "My first work sold for \$500," Phil recalls. He has been a self employed artist for the last two years and has also owned his own gallery. Phil didn't like the boundaries and discipline of high school, but always loved art classes. "By sixth form that's pretty much all I did," Phil laughs. He is inspired by nature, fine arts and tattoos. Phil describes his art as a mixture of stencil and graffiti, with aerosol spray painting being his preferred medium. "It is possible to find a great balance of work and lifestyle in Taranaki. And if you are creative and inspired, success will follow."

"It was a little suspect, but it's legal now!"

Ryan McDonald
mechanical engineer



Ryan McDonald recalls building things in the dirt and sand when he was just a toddler.

One of the most exciting things about being a Mechanical Engineer is seeing your design completed. Twenty five year old Ryan often gets to oversee the installation of his designs and says it is a hugely satisfying job. "After four years studying his degree at Massey in Palmerston North, this 'Naki' boy chose to work in Taranaki where the oil and gas industry has been booming. "Three years ago I worked with ten engineers, now there are twenty four," Ryan explains. The rugby and great surf were a draw card for his return to Taranaki as well. "I am a qualified joiner, but am a self-taught designer with no formal qualifications," Sean says. "I always enjoyed technical drawing and woodwork at school so my career has made a natural progression towards design." The best part of his job is seeing a design come to fruition. "There is immense satisfaction in my career."

"Now I get to design and build in the real world!"

Sean Rice
business owner
elite kitchens



Sean Rice had never considered the prospect of running a business until he lived and worked in England.

Clients in England were aware of the high quality of the Kiwi man's workmanship. He was offered a lot of joinery work and saw the potential to 'go out on his own' in England. Armed with his business experience overseas, Sean returned to his home town and now owns Elite Kitchens in New Plymouth. Motivated and hard working, Sean can offer clients his expertise in both joinery and design. "I am a qualified joiner, but am a self-taught designer with no formal qualifications," Sean says. "I always enjoyed technical drawing and woodwork at school so my career has made a natural progression towards design." The best part of his job is seeing a design come to fruition. "There is immense satisfaction in my career."

"I worked as a joiner when I was overseas and ended up with loads of work."

Te Paea Wero
business owner
PLS builders



This entrepreneurial builder builds beautiful homes and then adds a touch of his own personal signature design concrete and paua floor.

Now when Te Paea Wero (Nukes) learns, he always sits at the front of the class. Growing up, Nukes had never considered being his own boss. "I had always worked for someone else, then one day I thought, 'I could make a go of this myself'," recalls the motivated and inspirational builder. "Anyone can work for themselves if they have goals and stay focused. Right now there are amazing opportunities for young people in Taranaki within the building industry." Nukes manages three employees and their work environment is often inspiring, with some of the houses situated on the ranges under beautiful Mt Taranaki, and with a view of the Taranaki coastline. PLS Builders' work attire says it all: Plum Level Square - Vision Design Action.

"I never did that well at school and was a bit of a bully! And I always sat at the back of the class."

Tom Parsons
business owner
Taranaki Tours



Tom Parsons is an inspirational and motivated man and could quite possibly have one of the most enjoyable jobs in Taranaki.

Tom is owner operator of Taranaki Tours who promotes Maori Tourism in the region. "We have some beautiful scenery - Lake Mangamahoe, the beaches, Dawson Falls and of course Mt Taranaki," Tom says. "I get to hang out in the great outdoors, meet interesting people and tell them the stories and legends of Taranaki. It's like one big playground." A karakia before entering the Egmont National Park is an essential ritual for Tom who often wonders why he stayed in a desk job for so long when he could have been his own boss and having a ball. "I wish I had thought about it when I was younger." Standing at the edge of Lake Mangamahoe, Tom spreads his arms wide and says "Welcome to my office!"

"Don't be afraid of your weaknesses, make them your strengths."

Zara Ryan
executive director



After graduating with a Bachelor of Business Studies at Massey University, Zara Ryan was keen to return to Taranaki and begin her career.

Proof of this is how Zara has accelerated through her career to become Executive Director of Education Taranaki. "I love new challenges and leading a great team of people," Zara says. "And managing an organisation is very exciting." Zara wasn't always sure what she wanted to do after leaving high school and admits she went to university because all her friends were going. "It wasn't until I did a marketing paper that I realised the possibilities of a great career." Zara says there are many different avenues available with her marketing degree. Job variety includes research, sponsorship, advertising, right through to sales and event management. "Variety and not knowing what will happen next, is what I enjoy the most."

"I felt that it would be much easier to excel in Taranaki than one of the big cities."



Michelle Dwyer
process technologist

Michelle Dwyer says her job as a microbiologist is challenging, varied and interesting.

"Having a natural curiosity is an essential part of this profession. You should never be afraid to ask questions." Michelle works for Fonterra, the world's fifth largest dairy company, at its Whareroa site and she says that each day is never the same. A major element of her job involves working with staff to solve problems. "I hunt for design faults in the factory's equipment, do staff training in general microbiology issues and/or food safety, and work in a laboratory to develop new lab methods and introduce new technology." Michelle says that a love of science can offer you many job opportunities within New Zealand. "Basically we are ensuring quality of a product and are not solely present in the dairy industry. My Massey University qualification can be used widely, e.g. the alcohol or pharmaceutical industry, plus many more." Michelle says. "It is a satisfying and exciting career."

"Lab work is great fun. I am always learning new things."

Nicci Goodin
business owner
Nicci Goodin Designer Florist



Nicci Goodin remembers being amazed and inspired by some young ladies she saw making flower arrangements when she was only a girl.

"From that moment I knew that's what I wanted to do when I grew up," she recalls. Nicci has always enjoyed art, flowers and being creative so it seemed the natural thing for her to become a designer florist. She has come a long way from only recognising two flowers. "I only ever knew a rose and a carnation," Nicci laughs. After gaining experience in New Zealand and then London, Nicci returned to Taranaki to open her own designer florist shop and she has loved every minute of it. Nicci likes to be a little different and funky so you will often find fruits and vegetables hiding among the flowers. "I had never considered being my own boss, but am really glad I gave it a shot."

"Being surrounded by beautiful flowers everyday is inspiring."



Renee McKay
builder

Building is a great industry to be in right now - and girls should think about giving it a go suggests 18 year old apprentice, Renee McKay.

Building is a satisfying job, where you gain skills and dollars in the bank. Renee says that doing her building apprenticeship with Robert Anderson Builders is something she had never envisaged. "I originally wanted to be a chef, but I prefer the hours of this industry. The pay is good and I will gain a trade I can use when I travel overseas someday," says the independent 18 year old, who will have completed her apprenticeship by the age of 21. Working in a male orientated industry can be fun says Renee. "You have to get used to their jokes though," admits Renee. "I love that every day on the job is different - today we are wrecking and tomorrow we will be rebuilding."

"Seeing something you have built is really rewarding."

Scott Ireland
accountant



Working as an associated chartered accountant in Taranaki has its benefits.

"I enjoy living and working in Taranaki because I can still play rugby and hang out with mates," says Scott, a member of the Taranaki NPC team. He never studied accounting at school and had his sights set to become a lawyer. While studying a double degree in Law and Commerce at Victoria University he realised the accountancy paper appealed to him more than law. He is now employed at Staples Rodway Taranaki Ltd and says he enjoys his work and the people he works with. The sporting aspect of Scott's life balances well with his work environment and enables him to remain focused at work. Scott suggests it is more difficult to move 'up the ladder' in a big city. "There are definitely more opportunities for career growth in a smaller firm, so I think Taranaki is a great place to live and work," Scott says.

"Taranaki is an excellent choice for graduates. A great lifestyle, my family and friends, and of course rugby."



Stephanie Orchard
automotive refinisher

Stephanie Orchard is one of only a small number of women in New Zealand working in a male orientated industry and she is passionate about her work.

Having the right attitude and gaining work experience in an industry that appeals to you is extremely important suggests Stephanie. "Even if it means working for free sometimes." Another important factor for a female trying to get a foot in the door, to what has been traditionally a man's world, is to never give up. "Just keep trying and don't be put off if people discourage you from choosing a career in a male domain." Stephanie wishes she had followed her career when she was younger, but for now this vibrant and motivated young lady has recently completed her apprenticeship in just three years and is looking forward to becoming a tutor one day and inspiring young women to join the automotive industry.

"I have always loved art and fixing cars; car painting was a way for me to work with both."

Tessa and Shane Wallace
business owners
Taranaki Sportszone



Tessa and Shane are sporting achievers, successful business owners and a positive couple with a message for teenagers.

They have combined their love of sport with business and opened Taranaki Sportszone Ltd in Waitara, a retail shop specialising in team wear and equipment to clients nationwide. Shane was a member of the New Zealand Maori Rugby League team and represented many provincial sporting teams. He is an inspiring role model and is quite famous in Waitara. Tessa has achieved success in netball and is a member of the New Zealand White Sox Softball Squad. She also holds a Bachelor of Management Studies. "Shane is the front man and I am the brains behind the business," Tessa laughs. Tessa and Shane want to encourage young people to follow their dreams and goals just as they have done.

"Surround yourself with positive people and always give something new a try."



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ADAM BROOKES
ELECTRICIAN

While most twenty year olds are watching their student loans grow, Adam Brookes is gaining an electrical trade and saving for his own home.

Adam has completed three years, of his four year apprenticeship with Rimu Electrical Ltd and says that earning while he is learning suits him just fine. "I didn't really like school that much, but I enjoy doing electrical work," Adam says. Working with electricity can be quite dangerous, and Adam says he has had a couple of small jobs. "You soon learn to be very careful," Adam confesses. The job is varied and the highlight of Adam's career was when he was transported by helicopter to a job to maintain some remote Telecom sites at the back of Whangamomona. Adam says he enjoys providing a service to people. "And you also get to see some interesting homes around Taranaki."

"Getting a pay cheque is the best thing about doing my apprenticeship."



ANDREW KURIGER
BUSINESS OWNER ARCHITECTURAL SPACES

Andrew Kuriger was 16 when he designed a new playground for Mimi School, in Urenui.

"It was a fantastic project and helped me realise that design work was what I wanted to do," Andrew reflects. The former Waitara High School student gained bursary before leaving school to begin studying a National Diploma in Architectural Technology at WITT. "I had considered doing a degree, however, the thought of studying in Auckland for five years seemed rather daunting." Studying locally worked well for Andrew. He was successful in obtaining hands on holiday work with a local firm, who in turn, offered him permanent employment at the completion of his diploma. After years working and gaining experience from local architects, this ambitious and visionary young man now runs his own design business called Architectural Spaces in New Plymouth.

"I like being in control of my own future."



CHRISTINE RUKUWAI
REGISTERED NURSE

Christine Rukuwai wishes she had studied to become a nurse years ago.

"I always wanted to be a nurse but never followed my heart until a few years ago when I decided to study a Bachelor of Nursing degree at WITT," 29 year old Christine explains. For years she worked in various administration positions but often felt there should be more to life than what she was doing. And she was right. "I love my job at the Taranaki District Health Board, and the best part of all is helping people to get well," Christine says. Christine lived in Wellington for a number of years before deciding to return to Taranaki to be with family. She now has a four and a half year old daughter and a fiancé who, along with her family, have encouraged and supported Christine throughout her studies. If you are interested in a nursing profession, Christine suggests you should just go for it! "Don't wait."

"I absolutely love working with people."



DANIELLE MANU
ENGLISH TEACHER

Danielle Manu is a motivated and passionate teacher who just adores her job at Francis Douglas Memorial College.

Danielle is inspirational in both her teaching career and her lifestyle. Last year she took the title of Overall Winner at the Taranaki Bodybuilding Championships. "It's important to have good time management to be able to achieve a balance in life," sport, success is achievable. Having good values is something that Danielle aspires to and likes to encourage with her pupils. "If you are passionate about what you do, whether it is work or sport, success is achievable," Danielle suggests. A teaching career allows Danielle a fabulous lifestyle in beautiful Taranaki. "And I quite enjoy the school holidays as well!" she laughs. With a shortage of qualified teachers, her profession is an important industry and one with many new challenges each day. "It's an exciting career."

"My philosophy in life is to work hard and smart and always have a positive attitude."



DUSTIN HORTON
BUSINESS OWNER AUBERGINE

Having dyslexia hasn't hindered Dustin Horton from becoming chef and owner of one of New Plymouth's few fine dining restaurants called Aubergine.

Dustin started his career in various restaurants, washing floors, doing dishes and peeling potatoes. However, having hands on experience, "even the dirty jobs," is potentially going to get you a job in the end he suggests. "With my vast experience in hospitality, I was able to live in Queenstown, Ohakune, and also Canada. I had a great time snow boarding and working," Dustin recalls. He suggests if you are interested in hospitality, experience it first. Good work ethics, creativity and determination are essential in the hospitality industry. This motivated, self-taught chef declares - "Don't let anyone stop you from reaching your full potential. I had a teacher who told me I wouldn't amount to anything, so when I saw him dining one night, I said 'Remember me? Welcome to my restaurant'."

"School was never really my forte, so I left at 15."



GEORGINA HEAD
BOAT BUILDER

Georgina's advice is to gain work experience before deciding on a career.

Georgina Head was schooled in England and has travelled the world. However, Taranaki is the place she has chosen to follow her career as a marine cabinet maker. During school Georgina knew she wanted to be a boat builder. Now, ten years later, she has graduated from the prestigious International Boat Building College in England and worked on boats all around the world. Georgina works on million dollar super yachts. "I help assemble the boat and also do cabinet work inside." Georgina is one of only a few qualified female wooden boat builders in the world. Georgina has fallen in love with New Plymouth. "I can climb the mountain, canoe, horse ride, and sky dive. It is a fantastic place."

"If you aren't sure what you want to do, don't rush into university."



JAMIE KELSEN
BUSINESS OWNER EMPIRE CAFE

Twenty three year old Jamie Kelsen, chef and owner of Empire Café has come a long way from the girl who hated school.

"When I was 15, I worked in café's during the holidays, then after leaving school at 17, I studied a Commercial Cookery course at WITT," Jamie recalls. She was top of the class and was awarded a scholarship to study a professional Chef Degree the following year. Even though Jamie has formal training she says that gaining work experience is an important part of helping you decide what career is suitable when you leave school. Right now the shortage of skilled hospitality staff means it is possible to get work experience locally before starting any formal qualifications. Jamie is an ambitious, hard working young woman who is keen to inspire enterprising young people to consider owning their own business. And this young lady is proof that being entrepreneurial is possible at a young age.

"The hospitality industry requires you to be friendly and creative!"



KERRI BOOKER
EARLY CHILD CARE EDUCATOR

Things don't always go to plan in life Kerri Booker explains. "Attending university was not a viable option for me after becoming pregnant at nineteen."

Combining her son's up-bringing, with her own education, has allowed Kerri to have the best of both worlds - scholar and mother. "Keenan attended ABC Educare while I gained my qualifications. That is also where I gained my hands-on experience and am presently employed today." Kerri emphasizes the importance of her career. "There is a misconception about childcare - some people think it is just a babysitting service. It's much more than that. We are constantly encouraging children's developments using the skills gained throughout our training," Kerri says it is a rewarding job and is keen to encourage people to consider the challenging job of childcare. "The job is fun and each day is different. You never know quite what to expect."

"Originally I wanted to become a school teacher, but after having my son, I realised that I really enjoyed being around babies,"




AMELIA COURTNEY-TENNENT
VETERINARIAN

Amelia Courtney-Tennent loves working with animals - big and small.

Amelia is a qualified veterinarian working at Stratford District Vet Services in South Taranaki and she says the chance to qualify as a veterinarian is a pretty 'cut-throat' business. "You may not even be selected to study at Massey University in Palmerston North, so it pays to be enthusiastic and hard working at school," Amelia advises. "My job involves treating small animals like cats and dogs in the surgery, and then on other days, I am on farms working with huge cows." Her work is challenging, varied and sometimes a little messy, especially when she has to vaccinate a herd of cows. Gumboots are particularly important attire for a farm vet! "She didn't grow up in Taranaki but absolutely loves the scenery and lifestyle here. "I enjoy the interaction with farmers, and working in the fresh air under Mt Taranaki is pretty good too."

"I decided that I wanted to become a vet when I was just 12 years old."



BROOK SANDS
HEAVY VEHICLE DRIVER

Having goals and motivation is what drives 21 year old Brook Sands.

This is where Brook says he is at his best: "behind the wheel of a truck." Brook recently finished his apprenticeship and with the present shortage of qualified heavy vehicle drivers, he was soon head hunted by an Auckland company, who required skilled drivers, to work in the big city. "Some companies have amazing trucks to drive. One I drove was worth \$400,000," he recalls. However, Brook prefers driving the Taranaki roads. Fully loaded the truck has a different feel says Brook, who has used logic and equation while loading a 45 tonne truck for Hookers Pacific Ltd. "You have to make sure the load is balanced, so you need a good knowledge of maths," he explains. Brook says the work hours can be long, but the money is great. "But, it's not about the money. I'm not just bumming around. I'm doing something I love and saving money too."

"Driving big trucks is not like working at all."



CORY BROWN
BUSINESS OWNER RAW RECORDS C U HDIT

Cory Brown suggests that you need to be prepared to start at the bottom, but the rewards will come quick.

"Men like to create and build and hairdressing is a bit like that," Cory suggests. "I also really enjoyed hanging out with girls when I was young and I thought hairdressing would be an excellent career choice," Cory laughs. Cory had his life journey planned from quite young - travel the world and become famous. But then he fell in love, married and had two sons. After being employed for some years he decided to open his own salon and become his own boss. "It just seemed the right thing to do." He suggests you have to be prepared to start your apprenticeship by sweeping floors and making coffee, but owning your own business is always a possibility. There is presently a skill shortage of qualified hairdressers, so if you are considering an apprenticeship, chances are, you will be successful.

"I believe guys make really good hairdressers, it's not just for the girls."



DONNA HUTTON
BUSINESS OWNER RAW RECORDS

Donna Hutton loves the fact that she can combine her love of music with owning her own business.

Donna, who is trained in classical music, owns a funky little store called Raw Records in New Plymouth's CBD. When she was young however, she really wanted to be a rock star! "But I could never be the centre of attention and I get terrible stage fright," Donna laughs. However, she is now the central player in her own successful business. Donna had previously worked in the record store, so had some retail experience before buying the business. She suggests taking opportunities that come your way. "It is important to be assertive in life, to gain new skills and take on new challenges, even if it is a bit scary." Donna expresses her love of Taranaki and all it has to offer people. "Especially art and music. It is a very cultural and happening place right now."

"I never considered my passion for music would lead me to becoming my own boss."




GEORGE PHILLIPS
BUSINESS OWNER GEORGE PHILLIPS PLUMBING AND GASFITTING LTD

George Phillips was not satisfied with being a plumber, a gas fitter, a drain layer and his own boss!

"Once I had completed my plumbing apprenticeship, I decided I would continue learning. I am now a fully qualified registered craftsman," George explains. This profession takes dedication and brains. "It's not just about fixing leaky pipes," George reflects on the misconception some people have of plumbers. "It is intricate, technical work and an important industry to be involved in." There is presently a skill shortage of plumbers, so if you like getting a little messy, doing a bit of hard work and visiting some interesting job sites, a plumbing apprenticeship is what George suggests you try. "Especially with Taranaki's exciting growth. My team and I are always flat out. People will always need a plumber, gas fitter and drain layer, so I will always have a job."

"Having goals has ensured I have reached the top of my trade."

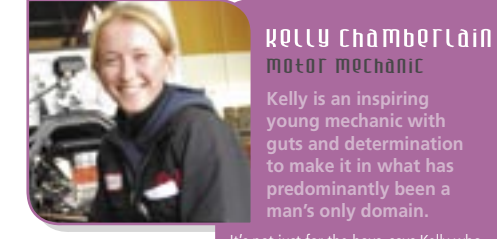


HAARE O'BRIEN
ENGINEER

Haare has no regrets about bypassing university to go straight into an apprenticeship.

After taking engineering while at High School, Haare worked he enjoyed the subject. He has worked at Fitzroy Engineering ever since and is now in the final year of his Heavy Fabrication Apprenticeship. "I'll come out of this with a good trade and I've still got the opportunity to go on to university later on." Haare has gained many skills during his apprenticeship - from fabricating geothermal power stations to offshore oil drilling platforms. "I have the skills to work in anywhere throughout New Zealand and the world!" Haare says that he is Taranaki proud. "Taranaki is a great place to live. Oil and gas has sky-rocketed so there is a lot of engineering work available."

"Why pay to go to university, when you can do an apprenticeship and get paid to learn."



KELLY CHAMBERLAIN
MECHANIC

Kelly is an inspiring young mechanic with guts and determination to make it in what has predominantly been a man's only domain.

It's not just for the boys, says Kelly who has also partially completed an auto electrical apprenticeship. "Girls can do just as good a job, if not better," Kelly laughs. The upside of doing a mechanical apprenticeship is that Kelly is being paid to learn and earn, and at the end of her 'time' she will have a skilled trade that is presently in demand. "I don't have to attend university to get an exciting and interesting job." Kelly says working with the 'boys' can be quite interesting at times. "They do like to joke around a bit, so you have to be a bit rough and tough to fit in," she admits. Kelly enjoys working on the big trucks generally, but also works with smaller engines. "It is challenging and I am always learning something new. It can be quite physical, but you soon get used to it."

"If you don't mind getting your hands dirty, it's a great job!"



LUCY AND CRAIG BRADLEY
50/50 SHAREMILKERS

Lucy and Craig Bradley love being outdoors and say they both share the same goals and ambitions.

Craig and Lucy Bradley have been 50/50 sharemilking for the past two years on a farm in Rahotu, but never imagined they would be named Taranaki Young Sharemilkers of the Year 2006. They attribute their success to positive thinking and listening to the advice of others. "Having the chance to showcase our business to judges was an enjoyable experience," Craig and Lucy recall. They have a herd of 330 cows, and are still learning new skills everyday to help in the running of a farm and a business. "Farming is a great career and I would encourage anyone who wants a great lifestyle and a challenging job to give the farming industry a go." They say there is no other province like Taranaki for successful dairy and for the Bradley's it's also a fabulous place to raise their two young children.

"Good old fashioned family values go a long way for success in life and in business."



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