



Work experience turns into the real thing

Richard Bruce is often the first person you see at the entrance to Freyberg Pool.

His job is to keep the ‘front-of-house’ looking sharp. It’s a job he has done for almost 10 years – and pool manager Rowan Cordwell says that makes him one of the pool’s longest-serving employees.

Richard, 31, from Island Bay landed the job with the help of the Emerge Trust, a supported employment agency, after doing work experience at school. He works at Freyberg Pool on Monday and Tuesday mornings and then heads across to Wellington Regional Aquatic Centre in Kilbirnie for the afternoons.

Richard also spends some of the off-duty time there too, swimming on Sundays and lifting weights. “I love it at the Council pools,” he says.

Richard is one of three people with disabilities who have found jobs at the Council through the Emerge Trust. Elizabeth Mark and Philippa Wilson are employed in permanent part-time positions shelving children’s books and audio visual resources at the Central Library.

Philippa, 26, and Elizabeth, 27, had their first taste of work at the library while they were still at Queen Margaret College through the Trust’s transition programme.

Elizabeth has worked at the library for three years and when Central Library coach Bernice Dickie was recruiting to fill another vacancy, Philippa was the successful applicant. She started in April.

Elizabeth says she will often find a book in the wrong place.

“The worst thing is when they put them in upside down especially in the children’s section because the kids just put them anywhere.”

Philippa is enthusiastic about reading and children’s fiction. “I always wanted to work at the library,” she says.

Emerge Trust is a charity that was set up in 2000 by a group of parents who were concerned about how their children would get on in the community once they left school.

Eleven years on, Emerge Trust now provides a range of employment and transitions services for people with disabilities in Wellington.

Linda Fisher, operations manager at Emerge Trust, says the Wellington-based trust is very well known to people with disabilities looking for work, but less well known to employers. “We are currently supporting 70 positions – and we would have as many as that again looking for work,” she says.

But she understands why employers might have reservations. “An employer has to know that they are choosing the right employee and it has to make economic sense.

“It also has to make ethical sense. Don’t just employ someone with a disability because it’s the right thing to do; employ a person who is going to do your business good.”



Freyberg Pool manager Rowan Cordwell with long-serving employee Richard Bruce.

One in five people in New Zealand have a disability. That means employers using conventional recruitment methods are missing out on 20 percent of their potential employees. People with disabilities have a higher than average education level. 48 percent have a degree, with half of these having a post-graduate qualification. If you think your business could benefit from employing someone through Emerge Trust, you can contact them on 384 7456 or email enquiries@emergetrust.org.nz



Savage Island Man with Pure by Sofa Tekela-Smith, 2003.

See Oceania for free

This Thursday, 20 October, head down to Te Papa and the City Gallery, and check out the *Oceania: Early Encounters* exhibition for free.

The exhibition – which includes some of the museum’s most treasured items – explores the way the ocean connects the different people and cultures of the Pacific.

As part of our sponsorship of Te Papa and the City Gallery, we occasionally offer Wellington City residents and ratepayers free entry to certain exhibitions. But, as there are still visitors in the city thanks to Rugby World Cup 2011, *Oceania: Early Encounters* will be free to everyone – not just Wellingtonians.

While the City Gallery is open from 10am until 5pm, Te Papa is open from 10am until 9pm on Thursdays, so there will be plenty of time for people who work during the day to take advantage of this offer. Last entry is at 8.30pm.

These offers have been really popular in the past so people should be prepared to queue. The exhibition runs until Sunday 6 November. The usual admission charge is \$10. For more information, go to tepapa.govt.nz

Need some organic mulch?

Compost and other soil products made from the city’s green waste are now available in 15–40 litre bags as well as by the trailer load.

So if you’re getting stuck into the garden or spring cleaning and planning a trip to the Southern Landfill this weekend, pick up some organic weed-free compost while you’re there. Capital Compost sells a wide range of soil products, including garden and veggie mix, bark mulch and lawn mix. You can have your trailer loaded Monday to Friday or we sell it in bags seven days a week from our landfill recycling shop Second Treasures.

The Council’s CitiOperations Manager, Mike Mendonça, says illegal dumping of household garden waste spreads noxious weeds, which is why we always encourage people to compost it at home or bring it to the landfill so we can compost it for you.

Capital Compost processes about 6000 tonnes of green waste each year, along with the increasing amounts of food waste from Wellington restaurants and other food premises being collected as part of the ‘Kai to Compost’ scheme.

Our compost is batch-tested to the New Zealand Compost, Soil Conditioners and Mulches Standard, which ensures you are receiving a consistent high-quality, weed-free, and organic product.

For landfill hours or more information on compost, visit our website or phone 0800 COMPOST (266 7678).



Brooklyn resident Jocasta Whittingham digs in Capital Compost’s garden mix.

Finals fun – get involved!

After years of preparation, nearly six weeks of game-time and a wonderful Wellington celebration, Rugby World Cup 2011 is finishing this weekend.

You can get involved in the excitement of the finals at either the waterfront FANZONE or in the Town Hall.

Come along to enjoy the remaining two matches on the big screen and check out the roving entertainment before the matches and at half-time.

Both venues are suitable for families – although the Town Hall could provide a slightly warmer, drier welcome!

Food and drink will also be available at the waterfront FANZONE.

The Bronze Final kicks off on Friday at 8.30pm, and the Final is on Sunday at 9pm.

And remember there’s plenty of other great entertainment on around town – check out the red Festival of Carnivale beacons around the CBD or WellingtonNZ2011.com for information on exhibitions, shows, events, markets and more – both in Wellington City and around the region.

Get involved in social sport

Floorball, korfbal, futsal – now’s your chance to have some fun and try a new sport at the ASB Sports Centre in Kilbirnie.

The next round of social sport leagues start after Labour Weekend so you need to register now. Also on offer are leagues in basketball, volleyball and netball.

You don’t need to be in a team already to take part – the social leagues are keen to take individual entries. All sports offer mixed teams for men and women and the leagues cater for various abilities and fitness levels.

For the uninitiated, futsal is probably better known as indoor soccer. Floorball is a type of indoor hockey played with special lightweight sticks (you don’t have to bring your own), and korfbal is from the same family as netball and basketball.

So get a team together or get your name on the list.

Courses in Zumba, Pilates, tai chi and kickboxing are also running at the centre and the schools’ programme for term four starts on Tuesday 25 October.

For more information visit our website or phone 499 4444.

Not sure how to get to the ASB Sports Centre?

Our website has details on which buses to catch as well as driving, walking and cycling routes.

Thomas Te Paea gets ready for social Korfbal at ASB Sports Centre.