

Bright Sparks

A celebration of Porirua's Young Bright Sparks

Brought to you regularly by Partners Porirua, a provider of the Youth Transition Service and facilitator of business, education partnerships

Bright Sparks is a new column dedicated to the celebration of the achievements of Porirua's youth. Often the media are criticised for highlighting the negative news. Instead this column will celebrate the positive. If you have a nomination of a Bright Spark drop us a line at info@partnersporirua.org.nz.



Craig Drayton

Craig Drayton has turned two of his passions into a valuable career opportunity. With a knowledge of IT and experience as an ambulance volunteer he found himself embedded within the Online Learning Centre Team at Whitireia New Zealand working on a special training programme for paramedics around the country.

Last year 23 year old Craig was employed on a nationally funded contract to expand access to paramedic education nationwide. In a partnership between Whitireia and Wellington Free Ambulance Craig has taken on a role which is quite exceptional for his age. The BHSC (Paramedic) is one of only two such programmes in New Zealand and is taught largely by experienced and well qualified paramedics. As the ambulance industry experiences a time of unprecedented growth Craig was charged with ensuring that the degree programme and the professional development programmes are available via distance learning to students around the country.

According to his manager, Carmel Haggerty, Craig has brought a unique combination of information technology, web design skills, project management capability, marketing knowledge and as a volunteer ambulance officer knowledge of the paramedic industry. Carmel says, "Craig has demonstrated during the last twelve months that he is a true team player with quiet, confident leadership skills. He has applied himself diligently to a project which will ultimately benefit those who use ambulance services throughout the country".

Working at Whitireia Craig has proved himself as a local Bright Spark for his contribution to the economic development of Porirua. As a key member of the team Craig has helped to secure a second round of funding for the project and led marketing initiatives to secure more than 50 new applicants for the distance learning programme. This has meant the programme can continue for a second year and become sustainable after that.

As a Bright Spark Craig keeps seeking improved ways of working. During his time at Whitireia he has enjoyed researching different techniques for distance learning via the internet. He's been looking at new software which allows tutors and students to work interactively. Craig describes his best result as seeing the first distance students expanding their paramedic education as they completed their first year of study.

Outside of work Craig has an eclectic interest in sports and arts. He plays Ultimate (a team sport played with a Frisbee) and sings in a barbershop chorus. Not content to just sing for fun Craig will be travelling with his chorus, Vocal FX, to a competition in America in July. He also enjoys home brewing!

When Craig was nominated as a Young Employee last year Michelle Robinson, manager at Partners Porirua, said Craig was an outstanding example of a young employee bringing their knowledge of information technology into the work place. Partners Porirua sponsor the Young Employee Award and deliver a community driven programme to enable young people to understand and transition into the working world.

DO YOU HAVE THE MOTIVATION AND ENTHUSIASM TO BE A FUTURE BRIGHT SPARK?

Partners Porirua can help you to create a work and training plan to get your future on track. If you are aged between 15 and 24 give our friendly staff a call.

DEVELOPING
YOUTH
FOR THE
WORKING
WORLD