



Giving People a Go

Many of our clients have hidden talents and the staff at Catapult value the excellent working relationships we have with a number of employers who are willing to give these clients the chance to show their skills. One of these employers who is always willing to give people a go is Norm Dewes, the CEO of Te Rūnanga O Ngā Maata Waka, the local urban Māori authority in Christchurch, which is based at Ngā Hau e Whā National Marae in Pages Rd in Christchurch. Norm has spent many years in the health and social service sectors, supporting the most disadvantaged people, from all cultures, to move ahead in life. This support has often come through the offer of employment — all that Norm requires is that a person is prepared to give their best at work and to have a keen attitude to working.

Recently, our client Matt Cox had an interview with Norm. When Matt was asked how he would approach the job, he answered “with a fire in my belly!” This enthusiasm for work immediately struck a chord with Norm, and so Matt was offered the work opportunity.

The work at the Marae involves working in the large ten-acre grounds, which are being upgraded, as well as working in the kitchen when groups visit. This variety of work gives Matt the opportunity to gain skills in gardening and grounds work, as well as kitchen preparation, all of which are good skills for further employment.



Matt Cox, right, with Supervisor, Clayton Parai, at Te Rūnanga O Ngā Maata Waka

Groups are welcome to visit the Marae to see the grounds and to experience Māori culture. Book a visit or overnight stay by contacting Tania Curtis on 382 6628 or email Tania at administration@ihug.co.nz

Tribute to Ben Allan



Ben Allan

05-08-1989—05-01-2010

Catapult staff were saddened by the death of Ben Allan, who passed away on the 5th of January 2010 after his cancer had returned following a period of remission.

Ben was employed at PEEEP Trust and will always be remembered for his large friendly smile and his ability to make new friends. He was always willing to talk to new participants and his friendly smile helped many clients overcome their first-day jitters. Ben's sense of humour and smile were his trademark, and he was seldom without both.

Ben was not afraid to say what was on his mind. He could be quite vocal when cajoled into a task that he didn't want to do. Ben's sense of humour and easy manner always came through, and in the end he would get involved with all aspects of the work, satisfied that his own views had been heard.

Although Ben sometimes experienced poor health while at PEEEP he was always reliable and often pushed himself to do many of the tasks that PEEEP undertake. The fact that Ben could engage in many of the physical tasks at PEEEP was quite an achievement as he was still undergoing some cancer therapy while at work. He would have completed his time at PEEEP in February this year and was looking forward to moving onto further employment.

We would like to extend our heartfelt condolences and kindest thoughts to Ben's family. We will always remember Ben as a warm and loving person who was characterised by a large and engaging smile and as someone who was not afraid to share that smile with others.

www.catapult.org.nz

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What It Takes To Make It Happen

James Scott-Crawley has made a great start in his journey from school to adult life. Last year James was a student at Middleton Grange High School and a client of Catapult's Transition Service. He began the year with a strong focus on building work and had not spent much time exploring this or looking at other options. It was quite challenging for James to go straight from school into the workplace culture of building sites and seeing firsthand some of the pressures involved. He did work experience with a builder and with a furniture maker and gained some insight into what the trade is really all about. Some of the challenges included coping with the rough talk and also having a go at a large number of new and complex skills.



James collecting trolleys at New World

James started to wonder if being a builder was really a suitable job for him. He was experiencing and learning about the building industry but also decided it would be good to explore other jobs and skills as well. He became involved in Catapult's radio show project for Plains FM and started announcing on air. He did further work experience in shelving and trolley collection at Pak 'n Save Northlands and New World Halswell. The feedback from New World was so positive regarding James's enthusiasm and attitude to customer service that they quickly offered him a paid job on Saturdays.

Towards the end of the year we continued to explore avenues for James to access work in the building trades and we looked at several training courses. He attended a course for a trial period but eventually came to the conclusion that other areas of work would be a better choice. As well as continuing with his trolley job and his involvement in the Plains FM radio show, James has been considering the computer industry.

In 2010 an interesting time table is evolving where James will continue with his supermarket job but also develop skills that are transferable to a wide range of workplaces. He will continue developing his literacy and numeracy and also study computers. Over the Christmas period James was offered extra hours at the supermarket and this went very well. Despite the several set-backs James has made some great steps forward. The key things that made this happen were James's attitude, enthusiasm, perseverance and a willingness to rethink and change direction.

Our Supporters

Catapult is supported by the following organisations:

- Ministry of Social Development
- Work and Income
- Christchurch City Council
- Canterbury Community Trust
- ACC
- Maurice Carter Charitable Trust
- Pub Charity
- Eureka Trust
- The Tindall Foundation

Catapult are also members of the following organisations:

- ASENZ (Association for Supported Employment in NZ)
- Disabled Person's Assembly
- CEIG (Community Employment Initiatives Group)
- EEO Trust
- Canterbury Employers' Chamber of Commerce
- FINZ (Fundraising Institute of New Zealand)

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We may have just the right person for the job!