

Business Extra

Get edge with right IT set-up

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The IT Guy



HOW can smaller businesses without information technology experts on their staff get the edge on their competition using information systems?

It is fairly easy. Either hire a consultant to come in and set you up with the systems you need to allow your business to grow, or do the research yourself on the internet to find out what's out there that you can use.

For a sole trader setting themselves up in business for the first time, it's important right from the start to plan for growth and to use information systems that will future-proof your business.

That way, when you start expanding and hiring staff, you're not wasting valuable time dealing with templates,

"With the right IT knowledge, you can reduce overheads."

file storage issues or finding where your last proposal is saved.

By setting up templates that other staff can use, you save time by not having to redesign templates and you have the added bonus of controlling branding and setting quality standards. By storing files in the cloud instead of on your laptop, it is easier to share files with other staff. This saves you time.

With all businesses, time is money and any time spent redesigning or replicating work is time — and money — wasted.

With the right IT knowledge, you can reduce overheads and, when you're starting up, your biggest overhead — and your greatest constraint — is your own time.

The phrase "use IT to work smarter not harder" is often bandied about, but if you really want to make changes to the overall efficiency and professionalism of your business, invest early on in good systems that allow you to deliver better service with less effort, and that other staff can use as your business grows.

■ *Wanganui District Council information technology manager Jason Simons has worked around the world delivering IT solutions, including providing encrypted systems for governments, banks and corporates. Follow his blog at jasonsimons.nz*



KEY LINK: Gina Guigou has been handed the role of acting campus manager at Whanganui UCOL.

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UCOL eager to connect locally

Aim to boost ties with businesses, community groups

By Staff Reporter

WHANGANUI UCOL has created a key staffing position to provide a link between the downtown Wanganui campus and the district's economic development plans.

The campus manager will boost connections between businesses, community groups and staff at UCOL, as well as provide a central contact point.

UCOL chief executive Leeza Boyce said the role would give the tertiary institute the chance

to participate in initiatives which would build its educational economic viability and also contribute to regional and economic development.

Mrs Boyce said it was one of the initiatives recommended by the joint Wanganui District Council and UCOL taskforce to strengthen relationships with the community and with staff: "This is another big step in the journey."

While recruiting to fill the permanent position is still to be done, UCOL has named Gina Guigou acting campus manager for four months.

Senior lecturer for the catering and hospitality team, Ms Guigou was appointed after UCOL sought expressions of interest from staff. She takes up her position on June 15.

She has more than 20 years' experience in tertiary education, firstly for the Wanganui Community College, then the Wanganui Regional Community Polytechnic and now UCOL.

Ms Guigou has achieved expert status for her teaching in UCOL's academic career framework, and received a staff award in 2011 recognising excellence in teaching and

learning for her work with international students.

She is also a member of the inaugural chef exchange programme with China, teaching there on three occasions and attending education expos in New Zealand and China.

"I am passionate about what I do and about my community. This role is a perfect opportunity for me to express that passion and extend my horizons and I'm looking forward to the challenge," she said.

She is already active in the community with the Community Education Service, Wanganui Musicians Club, Jigsaw fundraising committee and Countdown fundraising ball.

2degree 4G coverage extended in regions

By Staff Reporter

2degrees is extending its 4G coverage to New Zealand's larger towns and regional areas as part of the second phase of its 4G rollout and with 4G is now live in Wanganui.

All 2degrees customers with 4G compatible devices — able to deliver data speeds more than 10 times faster than standard 3G connections — will be able to do more than ever faster.

Last year 2degrees was focused on bringing 4G coverage to NZ's largest cities starting with Auckland, central

Wellington, central Christchurch, Hamilton, Tauranga and Mt Maunganui.

This year the mobile company is focusing on coverage to the larger cities, towns and regions. It means cell sites are being upgraded or built across the country to bring the benefits of 4G to more Kiwis.

Mike Davies, 2degrees' chief technology officer, said the 4G rollout has been running well and demand for the faster network services was growing rapidly.

"The first stage of our rollout has been delivered well ahead of

schedule, we are now focused on NZ's other cities and towns," Mr Davies said.

"We're seeing customers using data even faster with 4G and uptake is strong. In fact 4G customers use 70 per cent more data on average compared to those using 3G. This is due to the increased demand for data services such as video, music streaming, web browsing and mobile gaming.

"We're prioritising our 4G rollout to those areas which are experiencing the greatest demand by our customers," he said.

Access to 2degrees' 4G network will be at no additional cost and will operate with all existing 2degrees customer's current data allocations.

2degrees was launched in 2009. In the 1990s a group of Maori challenged the Crown through the Treaty of Waitangi and won the rights to 3G spectrum. Despite financial and regulatory challenges, a Maori trust (Hautaki) was established to launch the country's third mobile network.

It now has a mobile network covering 97 per cent of the places New Zealanders live and work.