

# FACILITATION

*FMD, University of Waikato*

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## **University of Waikato- University of York Staff Exchange Visit – Ruth Hale**

Let the race commence! Who would get to London Heathrow airport first – me or the Icelandic volcanic ash cloud? As the day of departure arrived, the race began and with Scottish airspace closed overnight, airspace over Northern England due to close during the morning and my late night departure time, things were not looking promising. But with a lot of praying and a very welcome change in wind direction, I landed at Auckland airport with a huge sigh of relief.



As one of this year's five successful applicants from the University of York to participate in the Staff Exchange Scheme between our two institutions, I am spending three weeks in the kind hospitality of FMD experiencing how capital projects are planned and delivered here at the University of Waikato. A Planning Administrator at York, I report directly to the Project Director of the £500m campus expansion project and occupy a varied role with responsibilities ranging from committee servicing, information management systems, communications and finances to procurement assistance and staff training. With a background in University administration and strategic projects, and qualified in project management, I jumped at the chance to add an international dimension to my experiences. Although secretly I was also desperate to return to New Zealand after falling in love with the country after my first holiday here back in 2007.

And I haven't been disappointed. From Tauranga to Taupo, Karapiro to Rotorua, the Student Centre to the tearoom, and not forgetting the lively nightlife of Hamilton, colleagues here at Waikato have made me feel incredibly welcome, sharing their knowledge, experience and insights. Project planning, architectural features, change management, the NZ higher education system, geothermal features (I always wanted to be a volcanologist if it wasn't for the physics), the advantages of old Formula 1 circuits over new (another secret passion), the finer points of the New Zealand Sauvignon Blanc ... no topic has been left untouched. I feel very privileged to be here in such a beautiful country amongst such friendly colleagues that it's a pleasure to come to work each day. I would like to thank everyone for making my visit so incredibly enjoyable and worthwhile, especially to Tony, John and Katie. I plan to make the most of the time I have left here (next week Zumba classes) and only wish I could stay on longer. And if you're ever passing through York, please do call in and say hello. Now about that ash cloud....

## **Turning Right - Charlie Watson**

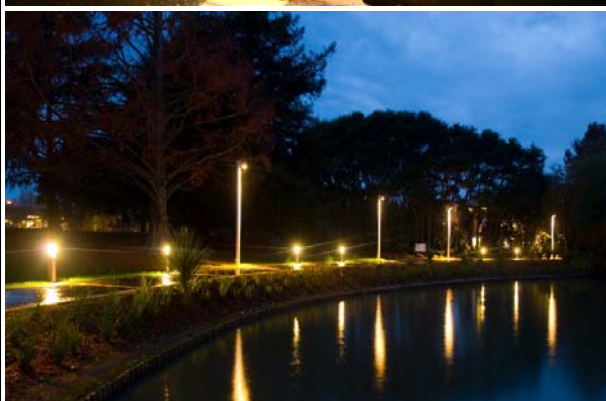
The trouble with getting a new job is that you actually have to do it. I realised that after I was informed that my application to be a Porter was successful. That felt great. We were on a family holiday on our way to visit some long lost friends when I got the call. We all celebrated and I had a great day buzzing about the fact that I could still actually get a job. That night it struck. Me - Oh no - I actually have to do that. I have to go through the awkward first week when you don't know anything or anyone. I have to learn all the processes that take a while to get the hang of and it was only a week away.

In October 2008 I started at FMD. It did not take me long to work out that part of *doing my job* involved navigating the mighty Rabbit Warren. On my first morning Laurie gave me the grand tour. He seemed to know every door and everybody behind that door. By the end of the tour he had thrown so much info at me that I was slightly confused. After I had trundled around behind James for the afternoon I was well and truly disoriented. I could not tell where we had been in and I got home wondering what I got myself into. Not only did I have no idea where I was going but I had a huge bunch of keys that all looked alike and it seemed to me I should know everyone that I met during the day.

I accompanied James or Laurie for a while before I was let loose. I had my campus map and managed to get to my first solo job and back without getting lost. I was slightly relieved to get the job done and get back to the yard without taking all day about it.

That is all a distant memory now. There are still plenty of doors and the odd corridor I have not been through but I know how to get to most places and I don't think I ever actually got lost. I did however develop a habit of turning right. Not so much in the vehicles but I find myself sporadically turning right out of doors and lifts for no reason. From time to time James will ask me if I am lost when I hastily appear from the wrong direction. I must admit I have found myself in some odd places but I usually just turn around and find my way back to the job. I can honestly say that it's happening less lately but if you happen to see me looking slightly confused or doing an abrupt 180 degree turn - I am not lost - I just turned right. All right?.

## Gate 2b path to the Academy - new lighting



Drew thought the Porters might appreciate this:



**SPECIAL DELIVERY:** The driver shows us how it's done. (Source: [Arbroath.blogspot.com](http://Arbroath.blogspot.com))

## FMD Social Club – TAUPO TRIP

On the 15<sup>th</sup> May those participating in the Social Club outing to Taupo had a most enjoyable day.

We set off in the 20 seater GoBus at 7.30am with a stop in Tokoroa. Then when getting to Taupo, managed to miss the turnoff for Aratiatia Road which the Huka Falls River Cruise leaves from but quickly realised this and made it there in plenty of time. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the trip down the river with the boat going right up to the bottom of the falls.

After the 1 hour 20 minute cruise we headed into town and had lunch at the Cossie Club with a choice of fish, steak or chicken with salad and fries - very nice. Some of us then chose to either go for a stroll up town & along the river or for a hot dip at the AC Baths.

By 3.00pm it was time to head back home. We stopped in Tirau for a break and arrived back in Hamilton at 5.30pm.

For those of you who did not participate in this, you missed out on a really good time and should really consider going on our next trip.

--- Linda Buchanan

Pictured (L-R): Linda, Lorna Nicholson, Tom and June Reidy

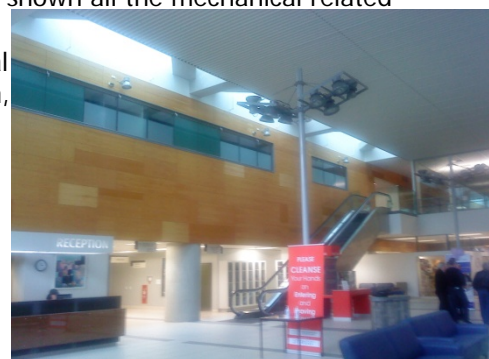


## IRHACE Conference

From 6-9 May I attended an Aircon/Refrigeration conference in Wellington. It consisted of many seminars, trade displays and exhibition stands. There was a tour of Wellington's new regional hospital where we were shown all the mechanical related equipment - the cost alone for the mechanical services was \$42 million, so everything was state of the art.

Thanks to Tony Dicks for making it possible for me to attend this conference.

Drew McDonald



Pictured above: Hospital Atrium (Main Entrance)

**Super 14 rugby competition:** We concluded another in-house competition for the 2010 super 14 with the prize giving being held on 19<sup>th</sup> May. This was again lots of fun with some new participants from around the campus, and a few surprises in the end. Results were: 1<sup>st</sup> equal with 145 points – Alan Neilson and Tony Thompson; 2<sup>nd</sup> with 144 points was Jo Curry (ITS); 3<sup>rd</sup> equal with 143 points – Nola Dicks and Stu Banks. Every competition has winners and every competition has a loser – Sonny Te Karu was very consistent with his "6" points in most games and ended up on the bottom with 96 points – better luck next time Te Karu.