

FACILITATION

FMD, University of Waikato

Issue No: 32 - June 2005

Invited Comment

My name is Michael Knapp, I am the Technical Manager of the Academy of Performing Arts.

When asked what I do - I say "get 'em on and get 'em off" - I make them look good. Also make all technical and performance spaces and shows work within the Academy. In my deep past, I was in the music business. No, I mean very deep past. Sitting outside St John's on the hill, a van, amps, a few lights made from coffee tins with Xmas wrap for colour. Waiting for the band to finish school. (I had already had enough of that. Worked for a year and saved enough to purchase the transport, band equipment). Once clear of school it was off with the band to play a summer of gigs.

Now in the grounds next door to that school, as Technical Manager for the Academy of Performing Arts. Between those old coffee tin lights and today's hi tech equipment at the Academy I have worked in venues, cities and shows all over the world. I am lucky to have worked with some of the best in the business.

I lived in Australia for 18 years. Left Hamilton as a drummer and arrived back with a few more feathers. One band the Drop-bears opened for acts U2, UB40, the Cure, Talking Heads, INXS, and Midnight Oil - touring for weeks on end across Australia. 18 hour drives leaving at midnight from Sydney to Adelaide, but I was young and it was fun. Drumming with Dave Dobbyn and the Warratahs as drummer was pretty much the career highlight with Rock n roll.

With Opera Australia I learnt detailed theatre. Every major theatre between Sydney and beyond. Worked on 114 different Operas. Didn't even know there were that many when I started. Three months in Sydney, 3 months Melbourne, then back to Sydney for the rest of the year with side trips to Adelaide, Perth, Brisbane and the odd one in Auckland. 250 people on the road in 28 to 30 semis. Two shows a day, seven days a week, for nine years (with a break in the middle for the fabulous Warratah's) - a University of Theatre.

In my down time I was Lighting Designer for the Flying Fruit Fly Circus. Sold out shows in New York, Singapore, Wellington. Why am I back here? My son when he was five asked me where I lived, so knew it was time to come off the road.

The best advice - "Shut up, watch me, and listen" and "ask a million questions!" For me I have worked under the arts umbrella. The more you know, the more times the phone will ring.

My umbrella is made up of Opera, Circus, Rock n Roll, Ballet, Directing, Management, Musicals, Costumes, Wigs, Makeup, Recording, Lighting, Sound, and Design. Which one do I like? Well after four years at the Academy, I could go for some drumming right now. I would pay good money to head out the door on a tour, but then I would want it to look good. Bring out the lights, then sound, crew to run it all. Before you know it I'd have the band set up on the Academy stage. One more night? Yeah! Why not? I love it!



FMD Social Club – Coromandel Bus/Train Trip 28th May

Thanks to all those who came along on this trip. We were lucky with the weather managing not to get wet (apparently the weather was a lot worse in Hamilton). We left at 7.30am and stopped in Thames for a break. From there we hit the winding road to Coromandel making it to the Driving Creek Railway just in time for our ride.

There were some very spectacular views to be seen on the trip. We then headed back to downtown Coromandel for some lunch and time to browse the shops. A few of us bought some rather unique mussel sausages from the local butcher - mmm yummy!

We got back to Hamilton at 5.30pm, in time for those who wanted to see the Rugby on TV, and for the bus driver to clean and return the bus.

Everybody thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

Linda Buchanan



Waikato University High Energy Achiever

The table below is the outcome of an audit undertaken on the University by the Energy Efficiency Conservation Authority (EECA). A representative from this organisation met with John Cameron, Robin Dunmall and Tony Dicks and evaluated how well we were going against the criteria listed below. Given the lack of space I am not going into all of the elements listed below, but the significant point is that by most measures we were seen as being very proactive and up with the game on energy efficiency. This doesn't mean to say that we have solved all of the issues or replaced all of the fittings with energy efficient fittings but rather that we are well underway, and indeed well down the track in most cases.

There were two areas where it was felt we could improve. The first related to ensuring that we have key people who are responsible for controlling energy costs. Whilst Robin and others are involved in this already, by moving to having more key people out throughout the University this would be improved. The other area was to actually set specific targets for energy intensive equipment and buildings so that we all collectively try to achieve or better most targets.

Element	Not Yet Considered	Needs Attention	Room for Improvement	Got it Right
1. Leadership				★
2. Accountabilities			★	
3. Awareness and Training				★
4. Understanding of Savings Opportunities				★
5. Planning				★
6. Targets and Key Performance Indicators			★	
7. Budgets and Purchasing				★
8. Energy Load Management				★
9. Energy Supply				★
10. Operating Procedures				★
11. Maintenance Procedures				★
12. Innovation				★
13. Metering and Monitoring				★
14. Reporting Systems				★
15. Achievement				★

Some positive feedback from SMPD

A Block gardens

Kia ora Mark

I was talking to Shar and some of her colleagues, and commented about how lovely the grounds are looking, and I asked who was their upline manager, so Mark they have done a wonderful job out there!!

I know that they always do a wonderful job, but this latest one was even better!!

Ngā mihi, Dale-Maree Morgan

Grounds Workshop renovations

With much delight the Grounds workshop toilets, change-rooms, shower and tearooms are presently undergoing renovation. Mua Taito assures us it will be finished soon and well worth waiting for.

Thank you to all the people involed who have made this improvement happen.

Meanwhile

– enter the Grounds workshop at your own risk!!
Seen here is **Tony Duke** making alternative arrangements!!

Mark Thompson, Grounds Manager



Did you know ...

You can now purchase your car registration on-line from the LTSA. All you need is the Registration Number of your vehicle and a credit card to charge it to. This is weird because testing stations and post offices won't accept credit cards for Rego! On completion of a couple of web pages they will mail it out to you. Also you can buy diesel mileage, change ownership & Put your registration on hold
Go to www.ltsatransact.govt.nz

*Info supplied by Robin Dunmall
Manager, Technical Services*

MISSING ---- Has anyone seen Stephen Cunningham??



Well Autumn leaf fall has arrived. For the grounds staff that means a daily routine of sweeping and sweeping and a load more sweeping up trailer loads of leaf litter throughout the campus. Once raked up the leaves are either placed into garden beds on the ridge or taken back to the yard where they will be collected and taken to the Hamilton Organic Centre.

The University grounds hosts a number of large deciduous trees on campus, while the leaves are an annual clean up they do provide an excellent assortment of colours and textures throughout the Autumn, one example, as the photo above illustrates.

The trees are swamp cypress *Taxodium distichum*, which are native to SE United States growing in swamps and stream banks, a dominant feature in the Everglades region of Florida. Trees growing in water produce roots above water level as they mature. A good example of this can be seen on the edge of the Knighton Road Lake by the board walk. They have light green foliage in the summer changing later to brownish green and then turning a rich golden brown before falling - grows to a height of 40 metres or more.

Mark Thompson, Grounds Manager