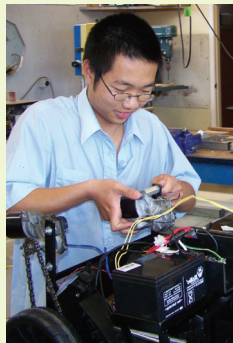


Technology Scholarships: a springboard to success

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Technology education presents students with unique and exciting opportunities. Students find innovative and practical solutions to real-life issues and, through interactions with business, industry, and members of the community, they are encouraged to identify real opportunities and needs and develop confidence in using a variety of technologies.

An approved subject for university entrance, Technology provides students with academic opportunities to develop high levels of knowledge, analytical skills, and critical thinking.



Kevin Huang MOUNT ROSKILL GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Inspiration for Kevin Huang's innovative, award-winning design came to him in an attempt to provide his grandparents with an easier way to maintain their lawn. The Mount Roskill Grammar student designed and constructed a remote-controlled lawn-mower so his grandparents could mow their lawn themselves with little effort.

Kevin needed a substantial budget and to find sponsorship he went straight to the top, contacting TV3 and Prime Minister John Key who both agreed to provide the necessary funding. Lawnmower company Briggs and Stratton also offered one of their basic models which included the body, blade and battery that Kevin could modify.

After weeks of research, trialling and testing, Kevin's completed mower ran for 90 minutes of remote-controlled mowing, with batteries that could be easily recharged by a household socket.

It was a hit with his grandparents. "They can now mow the lawn while sitting down in the shade having a cup of tea," says Kevin.

Kevin says that he has learned an incredible amount from his project – he developed skills such as programming, circuitry and welding through to networking and communication skills.

For those interested in studying Technology in school Kevin has nothing but encouragement. "Definitely go for it! You can research and get into the stuff that you like at school and because it's fun it's not like you are forced to study because you really want to do it."

Kevin received an Outstanding Scholarship in Technology for his work as well as first prize at the regional science fair and second place at the Bright Sparks Awards. His success has attracted media attention – his project was on TV One's *Breakfast* and TV3's *Sunrise*, and another appearance is due on TVNZ's *Asia Downunder* this year.

Kevin is currently studying Engineering at the University of Auckland.

In 2009, 32 students from schools around the country received a New Zealand Scholarship award in Technology in a range of areas including Digital Technologies, Electronics, Soft Materials Technology, Hard Materials Technology, Food Technology, and Biotechnology.

To celebrate this achievement, Techlink has profiled two Scholarship students from 2009 who talk about their projects, how they feel Technology has benefited them, and what the future holds.



Lucie Gray MOTUEKA HIGH SCHOOL

Former Motueka High School student Lucie Gray has the potential to be one of New Zealand's rising stars in the fashion industry, making an impressive nine-piece fashion collection for Auckland fashion model Selina Daysh as part of her Year 13 project.

Serious about making her mark in the exciting yet competitive fashion industry, Lucie contacted professional photographer Robyn Smith and fashion model Selina Daysh and struck up an agreement with them: Lucie would make Selina a high fashion formal occasion dress and in return this would be modelled by Lucie and photographed by Robyn in his Auckland studio.

Realising what a great opportunity this was, Lucie decided to design an entire nine-piece collection for the photo-shoot, using Selina's dress as the visual inspiration throughout.

Lucie consulted extensively with Selina throughout her project and, with good organisation, ongoing planning and evaluation, was able to maintain a good client relationship despite the fact that she and her client were in different cities.

Once completed, the final photo-shoot showed off an impressive collection.

Lucie's success in producing a collection worthy of the catwalk earned her a 2009 New Zealand Scholarship. However, Lucie feels the project gave her more than just academic success.

"I really enjoyed doing this project and I gained lots of experience working in a professional environment and dealing with people who actually work in the fashion industry. My technical ability was pushed to the extreme, but I was able to produce a one-off high-quality collection that I'm really proud of."

Lucie is currently a design student at Massey University, Wellington.

To find out more about what's happening in Technology in schools please visit www.techlink.org.nz

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