

When the opportunity comes, will you take it?

An employee's story: Clinton Ngatokorua



Local business owner Niven Brown of KanDO Innovations and his newest staff member Clinton Ngatokorua were guest speakers at a recent Career Start programme.

KanDo Innovation are specialist designers of sophisticated automation systems. KanDO has expertise in mechanical, electrical and software engineering. Meeting customer needs from initial concept-design and prototyping work, through to manufacturing, installation and commissioning of complete automation systems, as they say "we kanDO it all!"

Niven Brown started the presentation "It is really good to see you guys here, doing what it takes to get a job. I used to be like you guys all shy and nervous."

Twenty year old, Clinton Ngatokorua is not a natural public speaker. He is a friendly young man, with a gentle voice and humble attitude. But on this day Clinton stands in front of 20 young job seekers smiling broadly as his new employer, owner Niven Brown of KanDO Innovation finishes explaining the high-end systems they create and introduces Clinton as KanDO's newest recruit, here to tell his work-search story.

"I didn't get much from school, only NCEA level 1. I've been spending my time helping Mum, taking her where she needs to go, looking after the kids, getting them to school, feeding them, bathing them, cleaning everything up. I wanted to work but how was that going to happen?"

It happened, as a result of Clinton joining the June 2014 intake of the Tamaki Redevelopment Company (TRC) and Auckland Chamber of Commerce Career Start youth employment programme in Glen Innes.

Career Start is a comprehensive programme designed and delivered by the Auckland Chamber of Commerce and has successfully placed hundreds of Auckland rangatahi into employment.

Clinton is a Career Start success story and an inspirational guest speaker for their second intake of young job seekers.

"It was a really good course for me. It got my confidence up. That really helped because I actually got an interview. I was so nervous, I was shaking and everything. But I remembered what we were taught and all of sudden everything came out naturally."

He did well in the interview says KanDO Innovation co-founder Niven Brown, but it was his attitude on two weeks' work experience that got him employed.

"We have strong values around employing young people and giving them a go, so when the Chamber asked us to offer him work experience, we agreed. His start time was 8 am every day for two weeks. But when we pulled up at 7.15 to unlock the gates, Clinton was already there, waiting. Every day. He put in long, solid work days. He worked hard, focused, listened. He showed initiative, asked questions and we were impressed. We get a lot of CV's through our business. The main thing is attitude. When the opportunity comes along, will you take it? Clinton took it."

They finish speaking and course participants fire in questions. Clinton's final response ends the day with laughter.

"What motivates you to go to work every day Clinton?"

He grins, "My alarm clock."

And as the laughter softens he tells us "Every day I wake up, I walk to work and I just thank the Lord. I am so happy with my job, with my life." ■

Story written by Timothy Giles, Trainer/Facilitator at Auckland Chamber of Commerce – August 2014.

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Business Vitality

CAREER START

The Migrant Employment Programme is for skilled and/or experienced migrants looking to gain recent relevant experience and to connect to roles in the following industries: IT, manufacturing, business services and finance. Participants must be in receipt of a benefit and from Auckland. Call **0800 709 907** or email recruitment@chamber.co.nz for more information.

The Career Start Programme is a partnership between the Tamaki Redevelopment Company in partnership with Auckland Regional Chamber of Commerce.