

Joel Hornell

The Jasmine McBeth Memorial Scholarship

Not only was the celebration about 40 years of formal hairdressing qualifications, it was about celebrating our future hairdressers that will take us through the next 40 years. The 2008 recipient of the Jasmine McBeth Memorial Scholarship was awarded to: Joel Hornell from Rodney Wayne, Bayfair, Mount Maunganui.

The caliber of entries for this scholarship was very high, making it a tough decision for the judges. The key attributes that they looked for were someone with passion, motivation and dedication to succeed in their apprenticeship and in the hairdressing industry. After you have read Joel's story you will agree with the judges that he was very deserving of this prestigious scholarship.

At 16, and living in Whangarei, Joel set out on his hairdressing career. He remembers getting a lot of grief from his mates, as hairdressing wasn't 'cool'. Joel's partner Margaret was behind him 100% and gave him the encouragement and push that he needed to take the leap. After a short time Joel stopped hairdressing and went to work in retail.

The next turning point came when he, Margaret and the kids took a well-deserved break in Mt Maunganui. Joel spotted an advertisement for Rodney Wayne, Bayfair, Mt Maunganui salon. He felt that he was at a point in his life where hairdressing was his passion.

Joel has just completed Year 2 of his apprenticeship. His wife, Margaret, is the front desk manager at the salon and they aspire to own their own Rodney Wayne salon in the future.

When Joel learnt about the scholarship he recalled reading an article in the Apprentice Newsletter about Jasmine McBeth. He felt very emotional leaving Whangarei at the time, was missing his family and after reading the article he realised that actually, he had it 'pretty sweet'. Jasmine's story inspired him even more. Later he read that Jasmine had passed away and felt really sad, as he knew that a young person who was totally in love with the industry had lost a hard fought battle.

2009 will see Joel 'putting himself out there heaps'; and he aspires to be part of the regional Rodney Wayne team for 2009 and do the colour work for the magazine. It is a big financial commitment and if he is selected to be part of the team, having this scholarship will assist him pursue his goals. Being a part of this team, in the Rodney Wayne world," Joel says "is a very prestigious achievement."

Joel is also the recipient of an amazing pair of Kieran Jane scissors to the value of \$1,000, to be personally fitted for him.

The Jasmine McBeth Memorial Scholarship has given a very deserving individual the opportunity to spread his wings, and watch this space as he is going to be flying high.

Congratulations Joel.



Erica Cumming and Joel Hornell





Letter from Ardita Rakovica after winning the HITO 2008 Apprentice of the Year.

Things are going amazingly. I am very busy as usual. I got beautiful balloons and I have my two beautiful trophies right in front of the desk with the rest of the other trophies but mine are right in the front. Clients are amazingly happy for me. Its incredible and even I have to stop and just think again that I actually did win it. I am so proud of myself and my family is so excited about my future. My dad asked me if I would be able to open my own salon now. Friends are blown away and the neighbours all came to visit me and congratulate me.

First let me tell you a little bit about myself. I arrived in NZ with my family from Kosova 9 years ago in 1999 just straight after the war. We couldn't get out earlier during the war so my dad decided to stay at home and pray that everyone will be safe so we did too. After the war, we had the offer to come to NZ and we took the opportunity in both hands. We decided to come and left everything there. We came with nothing just us as a family. My mum was pregnant and when we arrived she had a beautiful son after 6 girls. We were so happy to have him here in NZ and he's our little Kiwi.

When we arrived, the New Zealand people really looked after us and signed us up for schools. We came with no English at all, all I knew was "Hi" and "Bye" - the simplest words. It did take a while until I picked it up and started feeling comfortable with people around me speaking the language. It was difficult but I was willing to learn, so slowly I made lots of friends and we had special ESOL English classes.

I started working at the age of 18 at Bettjemans and couldn't speak English very well. I had a very funny accent, and I couldn't understand properly. I always knew that I had a passion for styles and beautiful hair and was always inspired by magazines. I started working as a salon assistant. I started on a Wednesday and I worked all day then at the end of the day Grant Bettjeman said to me "Ardita you belong here, we would love to hire you and we want you here". I was so excited.

During this time I quit my dance course at Unitec and took the opportunity to work in the salon even though I didn't know how to approach Grant or how to start doing hairdressing.

Then one beautiful day, I was putting the towels outside and he called me into his office. I was like "Oh my god, I hope I'm not in trouble". I knew deep down I wasn't but I didn't understand. So here I am in the office and Grant smiles and asked me if I wanted to do hairdressing because he could see potential in the way I treated clients and staff. All I said straight away was "yes" even though I didn't understand half of his conversation because English was still a problem. I am so glad that an opportunity like this came to me out of nowhere and especially in one of the top salons in NZ. I feel privileged to be working with them and I know that so many other people would die for my place. I really appreciate the way they looked after me and always helped me with my English.

The team at Bettjemans have encouraged me and sometimes pushed me to achieve things I didn't know I would do. I work in a very competitive environment and I am encouraged and willing to enter as many competitions as are available. I am grateful for that.

At Bettjemans there is a strict training schedule and very high expectations of quality in everything we do; from our own personal presentation to how we serve a coffee and all the things in between. This philosophy is the same as mine so I blossomed in the environment and the expectation to succeed made me work extra hard at off job training. I always finished my tasks and units on time and made sure that I was always organised with my models.

Another thing I get to do is work in fashion shows, NZ Fashion Week. This year I worked backstage with the judges for LOREAL COLOUR TROPHY 2008. Just to be helping them behind the stage prepping the models and just seeing their work was the most amazing experience. I also got to work for the opening of the Gucci shop here in Auckland and that has always been my dream; to get involved and style with the top fashion designers.

I think winning HITO Apprentice of the Year 2008 has added credibility to my work with both staff and clients. Now that I have won I have a new found confidence in my work. I have loved the congratulations from everybody and basked in the glow of doing amazingly in the future.

I feel so proud of myself and it's a wonderful feeling knowing that I've done both my family and work proud.

Warm regards
Ardita Rakovica