

Learning on the job

Working it out

IQ follows graduates into the workplace

Name: Adam Trevarthen.

Job: Systems analyst and programmer with Pillar Administration in Coniston. I am responsible for developing and maintaining a variety of information systems.

Age: 22.

Graduated from: University of Wollongong in 2005.

Qualifications: Bachelor of Information and Communication Technology (Business Information Systems and E-Commerce), Honours, Class 1. University medallist - Faculty of Informatics.

Hours: 9am-5pm, five days a week (however, usually more at my own discretion).

Best part of your job: Working with and learning from experienced, high-calibre and friendly colleagues on a wide variety of projects. This has allowed me to apply and expand my skills. My team undertakes an assortment of projects and is responsible for many different applications, including development of new applications, maintenance and enhancement of existing applications. This has given me experience in a broad range of



For systems analyst and programmer Adam Trevarthen learning didn't stop once he graduated from university. Picture: HANK van STUIVENBERG

development environments and the opportunity for heavy involvement and leading roles in projects, thus exposing me to the management and human side of the IT industry also. Working for a company that is a leader in its field, it is a fast-paced environment where there is rarely a dull day.

Worst part: The occasional frustration when an application you're developing decides not to co-

operate with you. The upside is that these moments are always followed shortly after by a refreshing "light bulb" moment that brings it back into line.

Scariest part: Anytime I re-organise my desk.

Best experience: Being given the opportunity to assume the lead development role on a major project.

What did you want to be when you were a kid? Professional sports

player for Australia - soccer or rugby league.

Are you doing what you really want now? For this stage of my career, yes.

What do you want to be doing in five years? Managing a strong team.

How did you land your job? I was offered a position in a graduate program mid-way through my third year of university studies (of a four-year degree) by my current employer, Pillar Administration. They held an information session at UOW seeking candidates for graduate positions. After the interview process I was fortunate to be one of two students selected for a position. Upon completing my degree, I accepted their offer to move to full-time employment.

Advice for young students: Take a positive approach to your studies and endeavours in life. While times may seem tough, others have gone before you and others are there with you now. It is achievable. The hard work and sacrifices you make now will pay dividends in the long run.

Do you need a particular kind of personality to succeed? Just be yourself.

What role did the university careers service play in finding your job? They assisted by organising and promoting the Pillar information day at the university. They advertised the session and the offer of graduate positions which enticed me to attend.