

INFINZ

JOURNAL

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on the challenges and
opportunities ahead

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months

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find favour
among Young
Finance
Professionals

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NEW YEAR, NEW FACES

Two new boards have heralded the start of a second successful year for INFINZ's flourishing YFP initiative.

A new set of faces has taken on the challenge to lead INFINZ's Young Finance Professionals (YFP) initiative in 2015, with a new board in Auckland and one also established in Wellington as the group continues to grow.

Briar Malpas (Chapman Tripp), Anna Dorrington (PwC), Simon Worker (Cameron Partners) and Lucy Drake (ASB) have come on to YFP's Auckland board, replacing outgoing members David Sainsbury (PwC), Charlotte Baird (Chapman Tripp), PJ Cairns (ASB), Michael Peters (OMF) and Hannah Broederlow (PwC). Richard Milsom of Elevation Capital remains the board's chair.

A separate Wellington YFP board has also been set up comprising Fiona Foster (PwC), Raiko Shareef (BNZ) and Philippa Poole (Russell McVeagh).

The YFP initiative, which aims to increase the engagement of under-30s with INFINZ, began running its first events early in 2014 and has since grown its ranks to over 170 young finance professionals and close to 50 student members.

Kicking off activities this year were 'tips and tricks' sessions aimed at aspiring finance interns and graduates, held at AUT University on 16 March and Victoria University on 17 March. Rachel Dunne, recruitment partner at Chapman Tripp; Alexander Hyndman, recruitment consultant at Debbie Graham and Associates; and Karl Dwight, recruitment partner at PwC, were on hand at the Auckland event to share their advice on applying for graduate and internship positions, which traditionally close at the end of that month. Josh Blackmore, a partner at Chapman Tripp, and Amy Ellis, a director at PwC, offered their tips and tricks in Wellington, and YFPs were also on hand to chat and share their experiences with students at both events.

"We do these events annually and the purpose is to help guide university students through the application processes and to give them some tips and tricks around what makes a good application," explains YFP chair Richard Milsom.

"It also allows them to meet senior hiring managers of firms face to face, as well as people who are a couple of years ahead of them in terms of what they're trying to do with their careers."

In April, technology entrepreneur Vaughan Rowsell of Vend, and ASB CEO Barbara Chapman spoke at an event called 'Keeping it fresh - innovation across the board', held in Auckland for the more established members of the YFP community in Auckland.

Also planned for this year, says Milsom, is a panel discussion or debate on a topic of interest to those in the finance community, and a breakfast event. Both events will be held in Wellington and Auckland. ■

STEPPING UP

The second year of INFINZ's highly successful Mentoring Scheme is now underway amid acclaim from both mentors and mentees alike.

The inaugural INFINZ Mentoring Scheme was such a success it will now run annually as part of the YFP programme.

The idea behind the scheme is to develop younger or less experienced members of the industry and provide a new and interesting proposition to younger INFINZ members, and also to encourage others to join the programme.

Ten mentors were matched with individual young finance professionals last year, with mentees rating the programme on average 8.5 out of 10.

Ferrah Wells, who is now a relationship manager in the financial institutions, government and health team at Westpac Institutional Bank, was mentored by Contact Energy's head of treasury and tax, Louise Tong, as part of last year's scheme.

Wells joined Westpac five years ago, initially as a graduate, then becoming an analyst in the corporate and institutional banking team. She says she was attracted to the scheme because it offered mentors from a broad spectrum of financial services, all of whom had successful careers in financial services and who could advise and help with the next step in her career.

"I thoroughly enjoyed my job, had amazing bosses and team, but I felt I was ready for a change," says Wells. "I have had some great internal mentors but I wanted some advice from an experienced financial professional as to how I could take the next step up in my career."

Wells says Tong was able to provide perspective and knowledge, giving her the benefit of her perspective and experience so she had a clearer view of her goals and how she was going to achieve them. Mentoring also helped to give her an holistic approach to problem solving, inspiration, and the opportunity to network with other senior members of the industry who have been a valuable sources of advice.

"From the mentoring I received, I became more focused as to how I was going to achieve my work goals. From the experience I gained, I was able to successfully land my dream job, working as a relationship manager in the financial institutions, government and health team," she says.

For her part, Tong says she saw being a mentor as an opportunity both to give something back and to get involved with young, bright and enthusiastic people in the finance industry.

"I've worked in a number of different areas in banking and more recently in corporate treasury – as well as juggling raising three children – and I thought this might put me in a position to provide insights that might be of value to someone just starting out in their career," says Tong.

"It was great to spend time with Ferrah and be inspired by her youthful enthusiasm and positive attitude. I also found it useful to reflect on my career and how I ended up where I am. It also puts you in great heart that the industry has such fabulous talent coming through."

“ IT'S AN AMAZING OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN FROM EXPERIENCED FINANCE PROFESSIONALS WHO CAN HELP YOU WITH YOUR CAREER. ”

**FERRAH WELLS
– RELATIONSHIP MANAGER,
WESTPAC INSTITUTIONAL BANK**

Both Wells and Tong recommend that anyone interested in the programme gets involved.

"It's an amazing opportunity to learn from experienced finance professionals who can help you with your career," says Wells. "I would also mention that mentors are not there to tell you what to do; it's more about giving you the tools to make your own decisions."

Mentees with at least two years' work experience and who are under 30 years old have now been selected for this year's scheme, and will be paired with one of the following mentors: Andrew Wallace, director, Antipodes Capital; Binaifer Behdin, group treasurer, Vector; Craig Stephen, chief investment officer, Tainui Group Holdings; Geoff Zame, head of institutional equities, Craigs Investment Partners; Graham Ansell, general manager of investment management, ANZ Investments; Paul Goodwin, head of institutional relationships, ANZ Bank New Zealand; Mark Butcher, chief executive, of New Zealand LGFA; Mike Faville, head of debt capital markets, BNZ; Richard Wallace, structured finance, Commonwealth Bank of Australia; and Ross Pennington, partner, Chapman Tripp. ■

