

Jessica starts IT career

Working it out

IQ follows graduates into the workplace

Name: Jessica Hull.

Job: Developer at Omnidrive, a Wollongong online storage-solutions company. I am currently responsible for design and coding of the administration and user-management section of our web application. I also assist in user support and database design.

Age: 22.

Graduated from: University of Wollongong, School of Information Technology and Computer Science.

Qualifications: Bachelor of Computer Science (Honours) 2005, majoring in software engineering and network management.

Pay: Currently on probation offer, approximately \$36,000.

Hours: Pretty flexible as long as we do our 40 hours a week. I try to stick to 9am-6pm with a one-hour lunch break, Monday-Friday, and some overtime.

Best part of your job: Being challenged to contribute and having those contributions valued and used, and being supported by a great team who I'm constantly learning from.

Worst part: Finishing well after dark during winter.

Scariest part: Being asked to take

over the project I'm working on, looking through the code and having no idea where to start.

Worst experience: Being sick and working late from home one night, my boss asked me to help out by writing a script to assist in user migration and after a couple hours struggling, I had to apologise and tell him I just couldn't get it done in time. Thankfully he was really nice about it and let me sleep in the next morning.

Best experience: Seeing the great response after a few recent articles that have been written about us. Visits to the website have jumped dramatically and we have thousands of users queuing up to join.

What did you want to be when you were a kid? I think at one stage I wanted to be on the radio, but since early high school, I've been very interested in computers, the internet and programming. My mum really encouraged me, buying me a computer and telling me how I'd go to uni and one day earn huge amounts of money in America.

Are you doing what you really want now? Absolutely. I get to do a lot of practical coding, and contribute in other areas of a really exciting company. It's all good experience and I intend to learn as much as I can.

What do you want to be doing in five years? Hopefully by then I'll have had a chance to travel and work overseas.

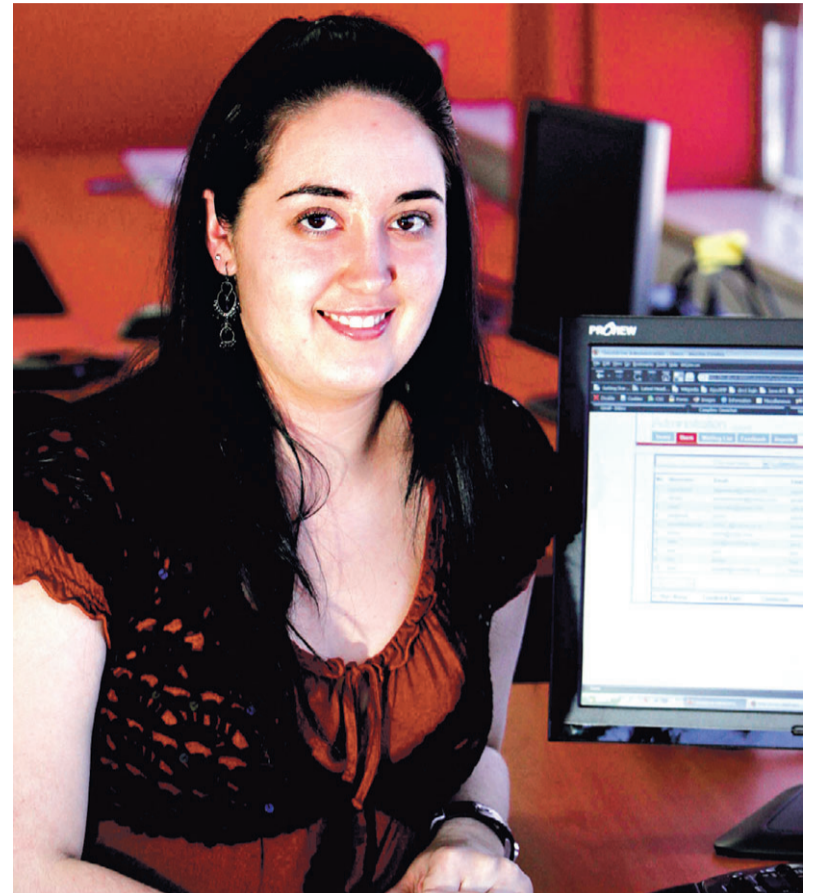
How did you land your job? When I

saw the job ad online I was already aware of the company and had met the CEO before, at the time he worked in the same office as my boyfriend. I wasn't sure if I was qualified and wasn't going to apply. The CEO knew that I was looking for work and through my boyfriend asked me to apply. I put it off but eventually wrote a quick email with my resume attached on a Monday night thinking nothing of it. I was invited in for an interview the next day, was offered the job on Thursday and started the following Monday.

Advice for young students: Try out as many things as you can, and find something you really enjoy and feel passionate about. That way the hard work doesn't seem so hard.

Do you need a particular kind of personality to succeed? I think it takes a balance of initiative, perseverance and self-confidence with knowing when to step back and ask for help, or re-evaluate. If you're getting nowhere, often you're making it too hard for yourself. A bit of luck also helps.

What role did the university careers service play in finding your job? I used to check the listings for openings, information sessions and graduate positions and did apply for a few. I wish I had used it more, earlier on, to set up some more opportunities, even if it was just interview practice. In the end, I found a job through another avenue and am loving working here.



Jessica Hull works on Omnidrive's web application and assists in user support and database design. Picture: GREG TOTMAN



Tenor saxophonist Jamie Oehlers will appear on August 25 at the UniBar.

Noticeboard

FREEBIES

Tomorrow

Listen to Year 9 high school students read from their favourite books as the Friends of Wollongong City Library present the 2006 Michael Kent Golden Page Award, 6.30pm, city library theatre. Open to the public. Finals August 25. Inquiries: Jillian Blakey 0408 489 423.

CHEAP THRILLS

Today

Tightarse Tuesday, \$2 tachos, \$3 Coronas, featuring Vespertina, 6.30pm, UniBar.

Wednesday

foreplay, cheap drinks, UniBar, 5pm.

Thursday

Arrive Alive band comp final, 7.30pm, UniBar, UniCentre Gold Members free, others \$5, with Darcy, Free Agent Crew, Inanimate Objects, The Grand United Theory, Elia Fell, Afterwake and Nuance.

Friday

Friday Slide, cheap drinks, 4.30pm, UniBar.

EXHIBITIONS

Saturday and Sunday

Artfest, modern and traditional art to view and purchase, includes jewellery, pottery, glass and needlework, at Edmund Rice College, Mt Keira, On from 10am-4pm, with a \$4 entry fee, while children are free.

Until August 24

Yang Sheng-An Memorial Art Prize, Long Gallery, Faculty of Creative Arts, UOW, until August 24, Monday-Friday, 10am-5pm, free.

Until 20 August

The Sound Before You Make It, Jaki Middleton and David Lawrey. A three-dimensional flipbook in which miniature zombies are brought to life by the flashing of a strobe light. Wollongong City Gallery, cnr Burelli and Kembla Sts.

Until August 27

Fences Woamera, Delyn Williams, 2005 resident artist, exploring the notion of being excluded. City Gallery.

MOVIES

Today

The White Masai, 12.30pm, 4.50pm, 9.10pm. Gala Warrawong.

Tomorrow

Cars and Ella Enchanted at UniMovies, 7.30pm, UniHall, \$5.

OPPORTUNITIES

Wollongong Workshop Theatre is calling for directors and actors to be involved in Workshorts, an annual mixed bag of short plays. All plays are written, directed and performed by Illawarra residents. Submissions needed by the end of September. Inquiries: Lajos Hamers, 0409 421 088.

COMING UP

August 25, The Jamie Oehlers Quartet, UniBar, 6pm and 8pm.

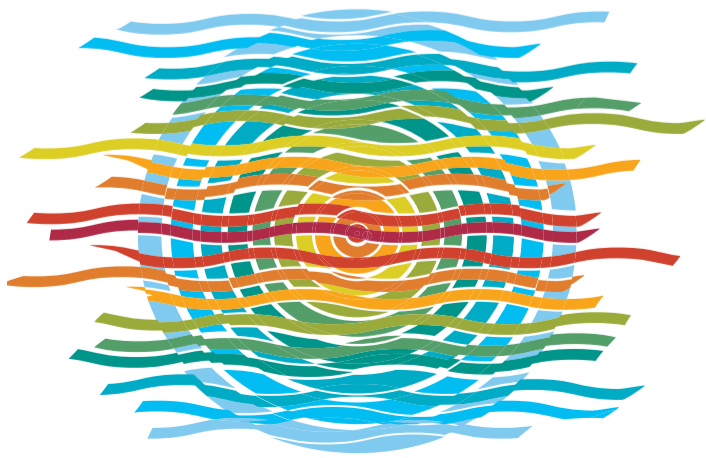
September 2 Spring Into the Con, Conservatorium of Music, 10am, 4228 1122.

Noticeboard deadline is Friday: education @illawarramercury.com.au.



southern stars 2006

Presented by the Illawarra and South East Region Department of Education and Training



from the centre to the sea

> WIN Entertainment Centre <

Friday 1st September | Schools Matinee 10am | Evening 7.30pm
Saturday 2nd September | Matinee 2pm | Evening 7.30pm
Tickets at all Ticketek Outlets

Presented by



Principal Sponsor



Major Sponsor



In association with Media Partners

