



Scarlett Hamilton

Rachel Morris

Clark Fountain

## INTERNSHIPS BRING YOUNG COASTERS HOME FOR THE SUMMER

The West Coast is working together to retain its youth with tertiary scholarships and internships.

"Like much of regional New Zealand, the Coast is facing the dual challenge of an aging population and youth leaving to study in the big city, with many not coming back," says Development West Coast chief executive Heath Milne.

But the region is working together in an attempt to stem the brain drain.

DWC offers four scholarships annually, valued up to \$32,500 per student over the course of their studies, and internships are being offered by local businesses to encourage West Coast tertiary students to come back home during academic breaks and after they graduate.

Last year's scholarship recipients have just spent the summer holidays doing internships on the West Coast.

Rachel Morris from Hokitika is one of DWC's 2022 scholarship recipients. She is currently studying nursing at Ara Institute of Canterbury and had the opportunity to work during the academic break as a healthcare assistant at Te Nikau Hospital in Greymouth.

"It has been an amazing learning opportunity, I have learned many skills such as how to deal with difficult situations and getting a glimpse of what nursing will be like in the future while working there," Rachel said.

Chrysantha Pereira a clinical nurse manager at Te Nikau Hospital said Rachel has brought with her "enthusiasm, hard work and a can-do attitude."

She believes the internship programme is important as "it enables the interns to see healthcare and its joys and challenges up close."

Clark Fountain, another of the 2022 scholarship recipients, is heading into his second year studying Industrial Product Design at University of Canterbury.

"I'm considering a career in design and engineering, because I have always loved making things as a kid and it's an area that I am passionate about," he said.

Clark has been doing an internship with

Greymouth engineering firm, Quality Machining Ltd.

"I have learned heaps about current computer-aided design packages which is going to give me a head start when I get taught them this year at university. Besides this, I have also learned a lot about management and administration, skills that aren't usually taught in my degree," he said.

Scholarship recipient Scarlett Hamilton from Westport is currently studying a double degree in Law and Arts, majoring in Cultural Studies and minoring in Political Science at University of Canterbury.

During the university holidays she has been doing an internship at Connors Legal.

"Working at Connors Legal has shown me the benefits of working at a smaller firm on the Coast rather than a large-scale firm in the city," Scarlett said.

"There is much more diversity in work available on the Coast and a better, more personal work environment. I would be super keen to help the people on the Coast as much as I can to give thanks for all the awesome opportunities that have been provided to me."

Shannon Hollis, a senior associate at Connors Legal, said "we want to attract Coast graduates back to work in our communities so offering the holiday internship gives students a taste of what returning to work in their hometown is like."

"To ensure the continued success of our region we need to entice our young people back home to work in their chosen profession. The best enticement is through providing as many opportunities to live and work in the region as possible."

The latest round of Development West Coast Tertiary Scholarships was awarded in December to Julian Guppy, Zoe Double, Portia Wyatt and Molly Williams.

"Local businesses are already lining up to take them on for internships," Heath Milne said.

"We've got some amazing talent here on the Coast, and it's great to see local businesses working together to help retain them in the region."

## CO.STARTERS BUSINESS START-UP AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

Expressions of interest are open for DWC's Co.Starters programme set to begin on 7 March in Hokitika and in June in Westport.

The ten week course is designed to help you find the best approach to starting and growing a business, and collaborate with others who share your entrepreneurial spirit as you work through your business model.

The programme will equip you with the insights, relationships, and tools needed to turn your ideas into a sustainable and thriving endeavour. Each week the cohort will work through a theme/topic together, with local entrepreneurs and professionals coming as guest speakers.

Co.Starters graduate Lisa Winter from MASH Mobile Mess Tent said the course was great.

"I would recommend Co.Starters to anybody. Anybody that's in business already, or anybody that's wanting to diversify their current business, or anybody that's thinking of starting," Lisa said.

If you would like to start your own business, develop your existing business, or explore and develop an idea or project then the Co.Starters programme is for you.

[westcoast.co.nz/co.starters](https://westcoast.co.nz/co.starters)

## CO.STARTERS GRADUATES



"I would not have been able to do this without the Co.Starters course."

Pana Leontiadu | Wavewise



"Co.Starters gave me the confidence and ability to believe in myself and that my business plans were achievable."

Paula Kerr | New River Kennels



"I learned heaps ... the advice was amazing."

Anne-Marie | Wild for Knots



"Co.Starters laid down some really good foundations."

Dion Findlay | Waka Puna



"Every week at Co.Starters there is a guest speaker: local entrepreneurs, accountants and lawyers sharing their knowledge and inspiring stories."

Miriam Rees | Blue Spur Milk & Honey



"My life changed when I attended Co.Starters over 3 years ago. Since then, I have been building a business I love and living a life I could only dream of before."

Hannah Fitzgibbon | Hannah Fitzgibbon Facilitation