



Where *are* they now?

Hannah Staines

Masters of Planning Student, Lincoln University

SAM COOPER

Sam Cooper graduated from Lincoln University in 2017 with a Bachelor of Environmental Policy and Planning (Hons). Following a high school geography project about the Wellington airport extension Sam became inquisitive about planning and the environment, and after meeting with the careers advisor was sold on the course at Lincoln.

At university Sam relished all opportunities afforded him, but particularly enjoyed learning and appreciating the cultural history unique to New Zealand. As part of his degree he also undertook a research paper which enabled him to gain greater awareness and understanding of local government, particularly in the area of strategy and policy. This has proved invaluable to his current employment.

After taking a few months break after graduation, Sam found work with Hutt City Council initially as a front counter planning technician, then moving into his current position as a policy advisor in the strategy and planning team. His job involves writing reports and reviewing the implementation of key growth documents, as well as managing projects, conducting workshops and engaging with key stakeholders. Sam has provided valuable input to the council's homelessness strategy and is currently involved in a project relating to healthy families, healthy eating and housing growth. On a daily basis Sam is motivated by the challenge and reward he receives from his job. He enjoys engaging with community members, local NGOs and government department officers to inform his critical thinking regarding real socioeconomic issues affecting everyday people, which in turn

can influence councillors in their decision-making.

In the short to medium term, Sam hopes to further his career in strategic policy and move towards a role in central government. Longer term he has ambitions to transition into politics and has a goal of being an MP. However, in his spare time Sam is an accomplished piano player and the grand piano located in the Stewart Building on campus at Lincoln has been witness to Sam's talents. Therefore, he would also like to work part-time as a classical pianist (see <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLnWESYWsoq8qnbAWsfC8e-QdQSNI1zOtj>)

PIPPA HUDDLESTON

Pippa Huddleston is currently employed by the engineering consultancy Jacobs and is based in the Christchurch office. Her daily focus is on major infrastructure, which is a far cry from her original intentions to study graphic design at Massey, Wellington. After an international school exchange programme Pippa undertook a review of her plans and by accident happened on the Bachelor of Environmental Policy and Planning (Hons) course at Lincoln. She could see the course touched on so many different subjects and supported her ambitions to work overseas one day, therefore her career path took a change of direction.

Whilst at university Pippa became passionate about inclusive and adaptive planning, and the importance of multi- and inter-disciplinary planning. This was harnessed by undertaking papers in Catchment Management and Risk and Resilience.

Prior to graduation in 2017 Pippa had been offered her position at Jacobs and has never looked back. She loves her job and the supportive team environment. Her role is diverse, challenging and rewarding. Primarily responsible for obtaining various approvals under the RMA and LGA, she has exposure to working with various sustainability rating systems, and at present is also working in a tender team for New Zealand's largest infrastructure project. She acknowledges this is an amazing opportunity. Pippa attributes her skills to managing large, complex issues faced at work to the broad and transferrable skills learned throughout her degree at Lincoln. She learned how to think systematically, how to identify webs of effects, and how to communicate these to a range of audiences.

With a love of adventure Pippa hopes in the future to extend her work in environmental sustainability and community planning and embrace opportunities to work and travel overseas.

JOSIVINI KALOUMAIRA

Josivini Kaloumaira was born and raised in Fiji. Her education provided her a double major bachelor's degree in Land Management and Human Geography, and a Postgraduate Diploma in Real Estate Property Management. With these qualifications she aimed to work in the Town Planning section of Nasinu Town Council in Fiji. After achieving this she was keen to further her studies in planning and in 2015 was awarded a New Zealand aid scholarship to undertake her Master of Planning at Lincoln University and graduated in 2017.

On returning to Fiji Josivini found work with a Monash Sustainable Development Institute research programme called Revitalizing Informal Settlements and their Environments. This programme is implemented through a local NGO called Live and Learn Environmental Education. Her daily work is busy and involves a thorough understanding of planning laws and regulations, field visits, facilitation of stakeholder meetings, brokering relationships between lead researchers, technical coordination teams and government departments.

In the future Josivini aspires to establish her own planning and environmental consultancy, undertaking her own research work as well as environmental impact assessments.

She remembers her time at Lincoln fondly and particularly enjoyed undertaking the Advanced Professional Planning Methods and Practice paper which enabled real planning issues to be analysed and options considered. After being requested to provide planning evidence in court back in Fiji, Josivini understands the importance of learning planning laws and regulations and wishes this had been fully appreciated before she started her Masters. She is thankful to Lincoln for providing her with the valuable skills and knowledge to embrace such challenges and enable her to pursue her career in the planning field.