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Hamilton City Council's new Communication & Engagement Advisor Paris Miller says the role has given her more confidence to speak to others and to share her creativity.

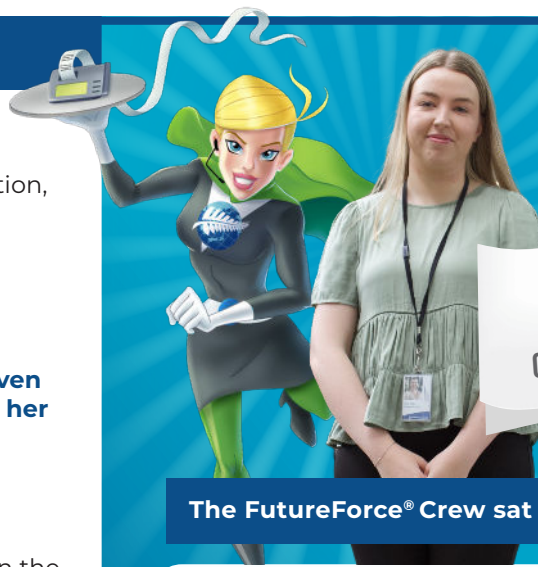
"I have definitely grown way more confident since I've been here. When I think back a year ago I wouldn't feel comfortable doing this but now I can talk to strangers in the community. I never would have done that before!"

I've learnt how to write media releases, how to do social media posts and also how to liaise with people outside our organisation such as designers, photographers, media people and advertising people."

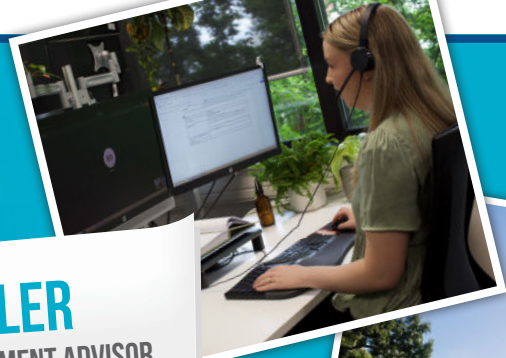
Paris' role is to develop and implement communication strategies that help to connect the Hamilton Kirikiriroa community with Council. She focuses on developing communications for Community facilities and spaces like parks and playgrounds.

To find out more about this sector, profiles of young people like you in the industry, and career tools and tips...

scan here



PARIS MILLER
COMMUNICATION & ENGAGEMENT ADVISOR



The FutureForce® Crew sat down with Paris to chat about her role...

TOP CAREER TIP

"DO WHAT MAKES YOU PASSIONATE AND DO WHAT MAKES YOU EXCITED!"

WHAT DO YOU DO IN YOUR ROLE?

I'm a Communications Advisor for the community space which is all about parks and playgrounds and our other community facilities. What I do is I help get communications out around projects happening in those spaces. So, if there is a playground renewal happening I will engage with the community and ask for their feedback about what they want to see at their playgrounds. It's kind of like connecting the council with the community, getting the messages across and making sure everyone knows what's going on.

HOW DID YOU GET THIS JOB?

I saw it advertised on Seek and I applied. I was a little under experienced because I had not actually finished University when I applied but I thought to myself I'm just going to give it a go anyway!

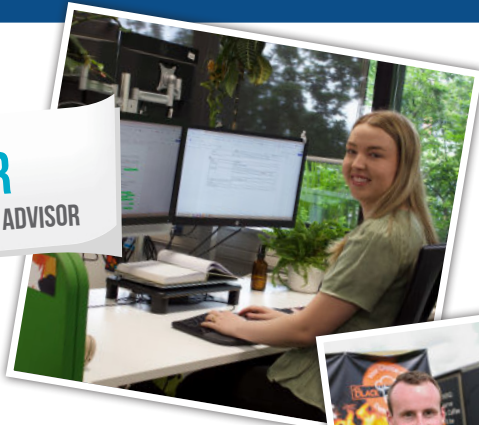
WHAT DO YOU LIKE MOST ABOUT WORKING AT HAMILTON CITY COUNCIL?

I wish I had learnt how to back myself I like how there are a lot of other young people starting out their career here. I'm in a group with other recent graduates, so we meet up once a month and it's been good to bond over starting a career. I also really like the support I've been given from my people leaders/managers when I first started my job. Since it was my first full-time job they've coached me on how a big organisation works and what I need to do, so the support has been really good.

WHERE WOULD YOU LIKE TO GO WITH YOUR CAREER?

I think just progressing as a Communication Advisor, but I might like to try another business unit in Council such as the Growth or Infrastructure space. It might be cool to try another portfolio. Also getting more responsibility maybe in a manager role in the future, but still in the comms space.

PARIS MILLER
COMMUNICATION & ENGAGEMENT ADVISOR



- WHAT HAVE YOU LEARNT ON THE JOB?

This is my first full-time job and I've learnt how to work in a team and how to manage work relationships. I've learnt how to write media releases, how to do social media posts and also how to liaise with people outside our organisation such as designers, photographers, media people and advertising people.

- WAS THERE ANYTHING YOU WISH YOU KNEW WHEN YOU LEFT SCHOOL?

I wish I had learnt how to back myself and how to be more confident, because I would never want to speak up and share my thoughts and opinions but now that I have started here I would share my ideas more. Even if it's not a good idea, it's just the fact that I've got it out there and someone may like it.

- WHAT CHALLENGES HAVE YOU HAD TO OVERCOME?

My main challenge is learning how to push back on things when we can't deliver. Learning how to say no I guess. I'm not a very confrontational person but if the outcome is impossible sometimes you have to be honest and do it in a way it doesn't upset anyone.



TO BECOME A COMMUNICATION & ENGAGEMENT ADVISOR YOU NEED...

- High level of motivation, initiative and proactive drive.
- Ability to pick-up new tools and technology quickly.
- An eye for branding and marketing and great attention to detail.
- Creativity and passion about understanding and engaging with Council community.
- Flexible and available to work some weekends
- Tertiary qualification in a relevant field

TIPS & ADVICE

- WHAT ARE SOME USEFUL SCHOOL SUBJECTS FOR THIS ROLE?

At university I did a Te Reo first year paper which I found very helpful! I always find that I want to incorporate Te Reo into comms. Communication papers are a requirement and they are very helpful! I also did lots of marketing papers which I've drawn from as well. English is also very good for comms because it involves a lot of writing.

- WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO SOMEONE WHO'S DECIDING ON THEIR CAREER?

Do what makes you passionate and do what makes you excited! Because at the end of the day even if you don't know how to do it or you don't think you're good at it you can learn those things on the job.

- WHAT DOES SOMEONE NEED TO KNOW WHEN STARTING OUT AT WORK?

If you don't feel ready you can learn almost everything you need to know on the job. Don't be afraid to give it a go! Give yourself time, don't feel you have to know everything going into a job, take the opportunities when you see them. I started as a Communications and Engagement Coordinator here and I would not have got this new job as an Advisor if I didn't put myself forward. So if you just show interest, people will notice and they'll support you to get where you need to be.