

going places Business Profiles

success stories from graduates of the school of business and administration (business section)

Leonard Gardner Accounting



Leonard Gardner, pictured above with the Peugeot he won for the year for being awarded the Young Chartered Accountant of the Year in 2007.

For someone unsure of what career he wanted to pursue, Leonard Gardner completed the Bachelor of Business at Wintec in 2000 and has since embarked on an inspired career as a Chartered Accountant with many successes along the way. 'If you want to go down a path of business, Wintec has a practical, hands-on approach', says Leonard. 'You're able to study with like-minded people who have the same goals. The tutors are passionate about their areas and want to pass on their knowledge and experience, and there are a good range of topics and areas of study on offer'.

In 2007 Leonard was awarded the prestigious Young Chartered Accountant of the Year title. The New Zealand Institute of Chartered Accountants awards this coveted prize each year for significant contributions made within an organisation, the community and the accounting profession. 'This award is a testament to having people believe in you and supporting you to work towards your dreams', he says.

When he started his career as a trainee Accountant at KPMG Leonard studied at Wintec part-time to complete his qualification. Wanting to gain commercial experience led Leonard to his current role in 2003 as the Commercial Manager of Foster Construction Group in Hamilton where he is also a director and shareholder in the company. His role is varied and includes components like human resources, marketing and financial management. 'I'm passionate about people working towards a common goal', he says. 'My current role enables this'.

In 2003 Leonard also bought a Wendys Supa Sundaes franchise which he employed his brother to run while he undertook the business management side of things. 'The franchise helped me to understand the importance of people', he says, 'how you work and interact with them, learn from them and inspire them'.