
Job Opportunities, near and far

- ◆ Check your job options.
Full time / Part time.
There are plenty here.

Become successful young, in your 20s

- ◆ Here is a list of sensible
suggestions – some you
could do at any age. **P.10**

Chat-To-Your-Tutor days in May

- ◆ Get your questions or
comments ready. If it's your
first time – make the call.
P.2
-

Bargains with leopards?

If one came calling, would you make a treaty with him? P.4



Book Promotion

- ◆ How could you get exposure
more effectively – and sales –
for your newly completed
fiction, or non-fiction book? **P.9**

Carol's Writing Tips

- ◆ The third part in the series by
Registrar Carol Morris on ways
to make your writing better.
Failing to anticipate reader
response. **P.8**

Kate Chopin: Regret

- ◆ What would you do, if you
were childless, and suddenly
had to care for four, the
youngest still small enough to
lift? A great short story. **P.12**

NZIBS tutor's play hits Off-Broadway

Tutor Joan Rosier-Jones took her play "The Stars Go Down" to New York.

Now she's back home, and happy.



"It is classed as 'experimental theatre' so after each of the five performances there was a Q&A session involving the audience, actors, producer, director and myself as playwright," said Joan. "That's where ideas are exchanged, concepts questioned, and the audience participates actively – which makes it far more exciting than the usual static production."

Joan's granddaughter, Sacha Murray, was director, ". . . and she did a marvellous job with the multi-national cast of Americans, Australians and a Swiss, all recent graduates of AMDA*.

"They live for acting and seemed wise beyond their years.

"They taught me a lot about being a playwright.

"When I talk to NZIBS students about writing a novel or non-fiction work I say 'Remember your readers'.

"In the case of writing a play, the playwright must think of the audience but also the actors.

"Both are equally important.

"The audience response was enthusiastic and very encouraging. There is talk of taking the play to Sydney in October and maybe another season in NYC. But we shall see . . ."

*AMDA = American Academy of Music and Drama.

Indie-Pub Book Fair, August, Auckland.

Louise de Varga is coordinating the first Book Fair for independent book publishers.

She invites any authors of printed books, ebooks or wannabe book authors to contact her.

c4s@clear.net.nz

Date = Sat 16 August 2014.

Venue = St Paul's Church Hall, 100 Victoria Road, Devonport, Auckland 0624.

Map ref = tinyurl.com/kjxvvk9



The programme for the Fair is still being developed, but make your diary note now.

Would you like to reserve a table to show and sell your books?

Register your interest with Louise.

Brian Morris ♦ Principal

Chat To Your Tutor Day

Robert van de Voort

Monday 12th May - 4pm - 8pm

Tina Shaw

Tuesday 13th May - 4pm - 7pm

Bartha Hill

Wed 14th May - 9.30am to 2.30pm

Phil Linklater

Wed 14th May - 2.30pm to 7.30pm

Dick Ward

Thursday 15th May - 9am to 1pm

Bartha Hill

Thursday 15th May - 4pm to 7pm

Dick Ward

Friday 16th May - 9am to 1pm

David Pardon

Friday 16th May from 1pm to 7pm

Janice Marriott

Wednesday 21st May - 5pm to 7pm



Proofreaders wanted here and there.

Ten ways to set yourself up for success – in your early twenties

by **Richard Feloni**. Abridged.
Reproduced for educational purposes.

Use your early twenties to see as much of the world as you can. Your post-teen years are a strange time in your life.

Usually you're figuring out what it means to be an adult.



Whether you're fresh out of school or uni, on your own or living with your parents, consider some advice from those who've already figured out how to survive in the real world.

1. Learn to manage and balance your time.

Without the structure of school, it's up to you to figure how to organise your day.

Since you'll be busy laying the foundation for your career, investing in your romantic life, and trying to have time for yourself, you'll need to learn how to prioritise and juggle competing demands.

Try experimenting with different approaches until you've mastered the art of time management. > >

<http://tinyurl.com/l6ncs35>

2. Put down your smartphone.

This generation grew up with social media, and many are too attached to their smartphones. Realise that someone 'liking' your photo on Facebook isn't as important as learning about what's going on around you, here, now.

If you're living in the moment you can actually learn something new, listen better, and contribute to the conversation with real people.

3. Travel as much as you can, while you can.

When you're in your early twenties you are mature enough to go out on your own.

But you're also immature enough to still need to learn from others. Take trips that introduce you to new places, new cultures.

Open your mind to new ways of thinking. In addition to gaining confidence and social skills you'll make memories that will last the rest of your life. Get a passport!

4. Pursue passion not money

At this stage, you won't have a spouse and kids to take care of. Nor a mortgage.

Use this freedom to follow your heart rather than chasing big pay.

Remember Steve Jobs? He said: *"If you don't love something, you're not likely to go the extra mile, work the extra weekend, or challenge the status quo as much." Do what you love doing.*

5. Figure out who you are.

Use this period in your life to figure out what truly drives you, what scares you, what your strengths and weaknesses are, and who truly cares about you.

Understanding who you are and what you'd like to achieve in life will give you peace of mind and set you up for future success.

6. Remember - a larger world exists beyond your doorstep.

As you become more successful, give back to society's less fortunate people.

You can volunteer or donate to charity. Money or time or both.

Plenty of evidence shows those who 'pay it forward' lead happier lives than those who don't.

7. Learn to ignore the voice that tells you to give up.

Fight the voice in your head urging you take the easy route. If you don't learn to ignore it, that same voice will plague you throughout your life, whether you're trying to be healthier or going for a work promotion. Or trying to be an entrepreneur on the Internet.

"If you can overcome doubt you can push yourself to heights never imagined, and it will help you during the hard times." Sang Young Noh.

8. Start saving regularly.

Even if you're paying off a student loan, you should start the habit of setting aside a tenth of every pay into an emergency fund. Set the goal of having enough money to cover at least six months of expenses in case of injury or unexpected redundancy.

Take advantage of any retirement plan offered by your employer because you'll appreciate the accrued interest years from now. It adds up!

9. Take care of your body.

You're in the prime of your life. Now's the time to establish a healthy exercise routine and wholesome eating habits because it won't be as easy to change once you grow older and fatter.

Take good care of your skin to avoid the onset of wrinkles.

10. Get more education.

How much?

"As much as possible."

If you want to get a graduate degree or diploma, go for it.

But even if you don't spend any additional time in a classroom or home study programme, read as much as possible, about as many things as possible.

<http://tinyurl.com/khe59hg>

Get some writing published.

You'll never have as much free time and energy as you have now, so gain as much knowledge as you can.

11. Accept your mistakes and learn from them.

As you establish yourself in the world, you're going to make mistakes in all aspects of your life. Don't react too emotionally to any of them.

Just learn how to avoid repeating them. If you understand this, it will make you patient with other people who make mistakes, and you will learn forgiveness.

It's a very short hop from there to kindness, the greatest virtue a human being can have.

12. Always give more than people expect.

This report said "Ten Ways ..." but getting a double bonus creates a smile of satisfaction.

Make it a habit to **always over deliver**. Give the baker's dozen. Go the extra mile.

Take the scenic route and you'll enjoy the journey more. □

Job Opportunities

[Social Genius/Web Editor](#), stuff.co.nz, National
Excellent journalistic credentials are required. Closes 12 May.

[Product Description Editor](#), Torpedo7, Hamilton
Edit and write suitable product descriptions for bicycle products. Closes 5 May.

[Online Sports Editor](#), Yahoo!, Auckland
Write stories and blogs for Yahoo!NZ. No closing date.

[Photography Tutor](#), Bring Your Own Laptop, Auckland
Seeking experienced photographer to be a weekend freelance trainer. Closes 8 May.

[Marketing & Communications Coordinator](#), Geeks on Wheels, Wellington
Seeking a great writer who's willing to muck in at a practical level. No closing date.

[Social Work Academic Writers](#), Open Polytechnic, Wellington
Write case studies and explanations for students studying at degree level. No closing date.

[SOP Writer](#), AWF, Manukau
Help improve all quality, good manufacturing practice and health & safety initiatives and programmes. No closing date.

[Marketing Communications Officer](#), NorthTec, Whangarei
Requires a proven track record in the area of Communications and PR. Closes 12 May.

[Media Assistant](#), Tourism NZ, Auckland
You must have great writing skills and be able to formulate proactive story angles. Closes 7 May.

[Commissioning Editor](#), Dove Medical Press, Auckland
Requires excellent written communication skills. Some medical knowledge. Closes 16 May.

[Pre-Production Coordinator](#), Royal New Zealand Foundation of the Blind, Auckland
Acquire and prepare digital text for production in accessible formats. Closes 8 May.

Websites to explore

The Pulitzer Prizes

At the end of April, the 2014 Pulitzer Prizes were awarded.

Images submitted for judging in the photo-journalism section are, as always at this level, extraordinary.

On the Pulitzer Prize site, you can view images from finalists in the 2014 round, as well as from previous years. ☺

<http://www.pulitzer.org/>

Phrontistery

It's a thinking-place for reflection and intellectual stimulation.

Go and explore the various site features on language and lexicography.

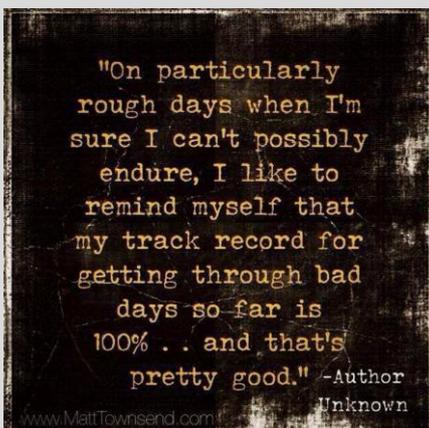
You may find a half-remembered rare or obscure word you need, to win a competition . . .

<http://phrontistery.info/>

Big Sky Words – the Writing Blog

Author, adventurer and candidate for political office in Montana, he's Greg Strandberg. He maintains an interesting writing blog with lots of bits and pieces for those who write and publish – or who want to.

<http://www.bigskywords.com/writing-blog.html>



The Leopard and the Goat Covenant

Ahmed-hamid Woody Bagala-alina

A short story example for students.

Once upon a time, in a village far, far away, a leopard appeared one night and goats began to be killed and eaten. Actually, three goats usually got killed, yet only one was eaten.

The villagers convened a meeting to investigate the death and disappearance of their goats.

In the meeting, a few of those trusted by most villagers were tasked with investigating the saga.

A few days later they reported to the elders indeed a leopard was responsible for their losses.

The elders called another meeting during which two opposing views were aired.

One was that they should hunt down the leopard and kill it before it caused more damage.

The second was that they should talk to the leopard and work out a compromise on the situation.

The elders chose some brave men to go and talk with the leopard after it transpired that the majority of the villagers did not support the killing of the leopard.

"Gentlemen, I must eat," said the leopard when confronted.

"But why do you kill three goats if all you need to eat is one?" asked one of the braves.

"You have a point there, sir," said the leopard, his head inclined to one side.

"Suppose we bring the goat to an agreed location," said one of the elders. "That way, you don't need to trouble yourself coming down to the village, the villagers will feel safe and everyone wins."

The leopard nodded.

"I think that makes sense."

So they agreed on a location and the villagers went back to report to their anxious people and from that evening, a goat was delivered to the location every evening.

All was well for several months until one morning, one of the villagers discovered that one of his goats was dead, and two were missing.

Another group was selected to go to the leopard's lair and ask about the new development.

"Oh, well now, at the time of our agreement, I was alone. But now I have a wife who needs to feed."

"But why kill three goats when you only need two?"

The leopard inclined his head to one side, looking at the Elder.

"You got a point there, old man."

"Tell you what we shall do," the Elder continued, "we shall leave two goats at the location for you."

"Thank you," beamed the leopard. "Let me go and tell my wife the good news."

"What about the goat we left you this morning?" asked another.

"Oh, we had that one earlier, to celebrate our marriage."

The party left and headed back to the village. They made their report and though there were several dissenting voices, the villagers agreed to contribute to the leopard's wellbeing. This state of affairs went on for almost twenty months.

Then, another farmer discovered a dead goat and four missing. As usual, the elders sent a group to meet the leopard.

"Well, now I have three lovely cubs. They just started eating solid food," said the leopard. He added with a grin, "You won't believe the big appetite of those cubs!"

They worked out a compromise, once more, but two years later, a visiting cousin and several new cubs had swelled the leap of leopards' population.

<http://tinyurl.com/nlwhegp>

Now ten was the minimum number of disappearing goats, every night, with three of four killed in the mix.

The farmers did not want to accommodate the leopards anymore. At a meeting, the villagers decided to ask the leopards to move to another location, preferably one with a lot of goats to spare and quite far away. The leopard laughed at this.

"This village is as much ours as it is yours," he said, "we just cannot just up and leave."

The party returned to the village, and a consensus determined to forcefully evict the leopards.

The villagers gathered weapons and attacked the leopards' lair.

Both sides fought ferociously, and bravely, and at the battle's end, sixteen leopards were dead, including six cubs. Four villagers were dead, eight gravely injured.

The elders resolved never to enter into such agreements again.

□ **If you'd like to write your own short stories, click here >**

<http://nzibs.co.nz/writing-short-stories/>

Inverted Art

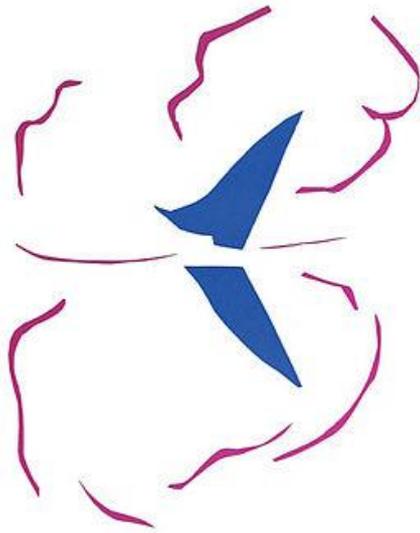
by **Jack May**

New York's Museum of Modern Art held an exhibition of French impressionist art in 1961, including works by Henri Matisse.

One of Matisse's famous paintings, *Le Bateau*, had been hanging upside down for 47 days before a visitor pointed out the error to the art curator.

His curt reply said it all.

"Yes, we are embarrassed."



Well . . .

Which way up would **you** hang it?

A History of Sayings

FEET OF CLAY

If a person we admire has a fatal weakness we say they have feet of clay.

In the Bible King Nebuchadnezzar dreamed of a statue.

It had a head of gold, arms and chest of silver, belly and thighs of bronze and its legs were of iron.

However its feet were made of a mixture of iron and clay.

When a rock hit the statue's feet the whole statue crashed and broke.

The prophet Daniel interpreted the dream to be about a series of empires, all of which would eventually be destroyed. (Daniel 2:27-44)

Do you have problems with Windows 8.1?

By Tutor **Bartha Hill**

When my son and his family moved to Cambridge, UK, I needed 'Skype' to keep in touch with them. But my old computer couldn't cope with Skype so I bought a new one.

That's when I discovered every new computer now has Windows 8.1 as standard.

This didn't trouble me until I learned that Windows 8.1 was a 'major new development', and everyone seems to have trouble with it.

After I had struggled with 8.1 alone for some time, I bought '**Windows 8.1 for Dummies**'.

Its author had written books on all the previous editions of Windows, but unlike the others this Windows 8.1 edition was "flying out of the shop," the salesman told me. I was lucky to get the last one he had.

It has proved to be a wonderful help to me.

The author suggests not to read the book at one sitting (417 pages) but to use the index to find the topic bothering you, read what it says and act upon it.

That method works, I can assure you! The book now lives on my desk within easy reach. Whenever I am stumped I look up the problem/solution. It hasn't failed me yet.

I highly recommend it.

Get a terminal degree right here, no waiting:



Job Opportunities

All these jobs are on NZIBS **Student Discussion Board**. Fresh jobs go up every three days.

[Reporter](#), Southland Times, Gore
You must be capable of generating an endless supply of story ideas.
Closes 9 May.

[Reporter](#), Matamata Chronicle
Produce copy and photographs for publication. Closes 7 May.

[Marketing Communications Consultant](#), Beyond Services, Auckland
Are you creative? Can you capture a story and bring it to life?
No closing date.

[Reporter – Seven Sharp](#), TVNZ, Christchurch
Seeking reporter who's brimming with ideas and energy and has a proven track record in delivering great TV. No closing date.

[Magazine Journalist](#), Review Publishing, Auckland.
Write about food service for supermarketing magazines.
No closing date.

[Communications Manager](#), Vista Entertainment, Auckland
Seeking social media guru to help bring Vista brands to life.
Closes 8 May.

[Mid-Level Graphic Designer and Marketing Support](#), Aspect Furniture Systems, Auckland
Prepare state of the art print and online material. No closing date.

[Graphic Pre-press Artist cum Photographer](#), Christchurch
Ability to translate English text to Mandarin accurately is essential.
No closing date.

[Sports News & Highlights Producer/Journalist](#), SKY TV, Auckland
Write, edit, produce and voice programme material, including Sports news bulletins.
No closing date.

[Senior Journalist](#), JDJL, Auckland
Write about issues relating to the NZ economy and the property markets in particular.
No closing date.

Organisations

Society of Authors

The NZ Society of Authors works in the interests of authors in New Zealand. The Society is guided by values of fairness, accountability and responsiveness.

The mission of the Society is to support the interests of all writers in New Zealand, and the communities they serve.

Join here:

<http://www.authors.org.nz/>

How to get a job is an ebook you'll find at Amazon.com. This short \$5 book gives you all the steps for getting a job. Age 16 to 65? This is the book. <http://tinyurl.com/pgvqjky> Call 0800-801994 for a chat about your new career options.

The Poets Society

Membership of the New Zealand Poetry Society entitles you to their bimonthly magazine and reduced fees in their competitions.

Several other benefits include a **members-only** website page. <http://www.poetrysociety.org.nz/join>

New Zealand Freelance Writers' Association

Have you found their site yet? If you haven't found a suitable writer's group locally, look online. Here's where you can go to connect with other writers.

<http://www.nzfreelancewriters.org.nz/>

Romance Writers of NZ

This non-profit organisation was founded in 1990 by **Jean Drew** (NZIBS tutor). RWNZ has over 260 members (published and unpublished writers) from NZ, Australia, USA, UK and SA.

<http://www.romancewriters.co.nz/>

MEDIA caps for NZIBS graduates

- ❖ Journalist,
- ❖ Sports Journalist
- ❖ Photographer
- ❖ Travel Writer.

If you'd like one, please send \$10 and a letter detailing your name, postal address and former student number. One size fits all.



Use the net; get wealthy

Ben Cardwell's story.

Reproduced for educational purposes.

Only six months ago, Ben Cardwell* was a struggling university student working part-time in a petrol station and living at home with his parents — now he has a company that has leapt to \$1.5 million in sales and has just featured in an Australian business publication that has been translated into multiple languages.



In August last year the 22-year-old started **Deal Man**, an ecommerce clothing business aimed at men.

He was a year into a Master's degree in science at the University of Waikato.

It was the start of a journey that has seen him quit university to concentrate on the business which is attracting sales all over the world. (Just as Bill Gates and Steve Jobs did.)

The Deal Man website was initially slow until Mr Cardwell, from Cambridge NZ, was offered an advertising voucher by social media site **Facebook**.

He placed an ad, which appears in the newsfeed of targeted Facebook users, and suddenly there was a spike in orders.

The clothes, all non-branded and made in China, Singapore and the Netherlands, were shipped DIRECTLY to buyers in New Zealand and around the world.

Slowly, his online business began to tick over.

The LIKES on his Facebook page began to grow and another ad doubled the sales in one day to \$2,000 prompting Mr Cardwell to take out more ads.

"Sales kept doubling every week. It really took off in America. That is my biggest market."

But by Christmas, after Mr Cardwell quit university and his job, sales were dropping because Facebook changed the way it directed prospective buyers to his website.

"You pay more for somebody who is more likely to buy to see your advert. All my advertising was reaching a lot of people who weren't interested in buying."

Yes, Facebook can be cunning.

"On Boxing Day, I got some new campaigns ready and rolled out five different advertisements."

The next day, sales were higher than ever, hitting 250 in one day or \$10,000, and snowballing to a steady \$16,000 a day.

"The highest in one day was \$25,000." (Remember, the products get shipped DIRECTLY from factory to the customer. Cardwell never touches the products. He has no wharf fees, no storage, no insurance, no pilferage, no stocktaking etc.)

Now his Facebook page has 242,000 genuine LIKES and business is so busy he employed five part-time staff in January to work at home sorting orders.

His biggest market is 18- to 35-year-old men who happily pay \$30 for a dress shirt or \$85 for a suit.

Mr Cardwell puts a 50 per cent mark-up on the clothing he buys and said the quality is comparable to menswear chain Hallensteins - but says he would never open a physical shop.

"When you run an online store you can have 1,000 people in your store at one time."

"A customer can be in his pyjamas but he's just two clicks away from buying something."

After he pays the clothing factories, pays his staff and buys Facebook advertising (about \$100 a day per ad and he places five a day = \$3500 per week), his venture leaves him with about 15 per cent of the earnings as profit.

To date, his profit is \$150,000, and he is on track to earn between \$500,000 and \$900,000 annually.

Mr Cardwell, who emigrated with his family from Britain when he was 15, said he never dreamed he would be so successful, but success was no fluke.

He spent months swotting up on marketing and spends hours every day analysing the sales data to make sure his Facebook advertising is reaching the right people.

NZ Herald ran the story.

"Go ye and do likewise."

*Ben Cardwell has no link with NZIBS, except by being an inspiration to us all.

You can set up an Internet business at home:
<http://nzibs.co.nz/internet-entrepreneur/>

The Shadow Minister

In 2007, there was something curious about the Congolese minister of foreign trade — he didn't exist.

When the prime minister asked for two nominees for the post, UNACEF party leader Kisimba Ngoy nominated himself and "Kasongo Ilunga," perhaps thinking he was bound to win against a phantom.

The plan backfired when the prime minister chose Ilunga. The enigmatic 36-year-old failed to appear at the opening of the new government, and he didn't claim his office. Ngoy said the invisible bureaucrat had resigned, but the prime minister insisted he must do so in person.

That left Congo without a trade minister — and Kisimba helplessly offering a dubious resignation letter. "He wrote it himself," he insists. "He signed it. Could an imaginary man do that?"

Do you want new employment?

Try this:

"I'm Richard Bolles.

I'm your jobs guide.

This site:

<http://www.jobhuntersbible.com/>

is designed as a supplement both to my annual guide, *What Color Is Your Parachute: A Practical Manual for Job-Hunters and Career-Changers*, as well as to my new 100 page book, *The Job-Hunters' Survival Guide: How to Find Hope and Rewarding Work, Even When There Are No Jobs*.

We know we make our own luck, create our own jobs etc.

Visit Bolles' website:

<http://www.jobhuntersbible.com/>

and suggest it to others.

It's election year so expect more bloopers

by **Jack May**

When Dan Quayle was US vice-president he posted thousands of Christmas cards — with a glaring spelling mistake. "*May our nation continue to be a beakon of hope to the world.*"

Dan wasn't noted for his spelling prowess. In 1992 he instructed little William Figueroa to put an 'e' on the end of potato "to make it right". Thankfully, Mr Quayle was never in charge of education.

Wait. There's more ... When Tony Leone became clerk of the Illinois House of Representatives in 1981 he sent a memo to all staff members urging more accuracy in their written work. It contained nine embarrassing spelling errors.

A simple typing error in the instructions sent to NASA's 1999 Mars space probe caused it to switch off its rockets prematurely. Thus the \$165million space craft crash-landed, dropping the final 131 feet without soft-landing thrusters.

A missing comma was blamed. Is there a proofreader in the house?

Job Opportunities

[Reporter NCA](#), TVNZ, Auckland
Seek an experienced reporter to join the ONE News reporting team. No closing date.

[Freelance Translators and Proofreaders](#), Chambers, Wellington
Translate documents; proofread and edit translations. No closing date.

[Sales & Photo Lab Assistant](#), Camera Corner, Auckland
Operate photographic processing equipment; edit and restore images. No closing date.

[Corporate/Life Coaches Wanted](#), YB 12 NZ, Wellington
Be your own boss working as a Personal Development or Corporate Coach. No closing date.

[Science Communications Advisor](#), Scion, Rotorua
The ability to build and maintain a rapport with our science staff is critical. Closes 19 May.

[Business Case Writer](#), Frog Recruitment, Wellington
Prepare and deliver business cases for a government department. No closing date.

[Digital Marketer and Content Writer](#), MOCA, Tauranga
Requires the ability to develop and execute digital strategies. No closing date.

Reporter. Northern Advocate. Whangarei
Grad of FLJ could do this easily. Find stories around Northland. Work in print, websites, video etc. Email CV + 300words cover letter to Craig Cooper, Editor.
editor@northernadvocate.co.nz
No closing date. Do it NOW!

All these jobs were listed on the Student Discussion Board SDB when they were fresh. That could have been a week ago!

[Social Genius/Web Editor](#), stuff.co.nz, National
Excellent journalistic credentials are a must. Closes 12 May.

[Editor](#), Victoria University Press, Wellington. Assist in selecting and editing books for publication. No closing date.

Online Openings

for editors and proofreaders

When searching online, search for variations of what you want, i.e.:

- **Proof reading**
- **Book editing**
- **Editing**
- **Manuscript correcting**

Get creative. Look for variations.

Craigslist.org

Check this international billboard of opportunities, jobs etc.

<http://auckland.craigslist.org/>



Must we guess what is intended?

Online Writing Jobs

<http://www.online-writing-jobs.com/jobs/freelance-proofreading-jobs.php>

Virtual Vocations

The whole spectrum of vocations is here – so use a targeted search to find your specialty.

<http://www.virtualvocations.com/jobs>

You'll probably have better English than the boss.

iFreelance

Advertise your services here:

<http://www.ifreelance.com/>

Freelance Writing Gigs

Online references, contract jobs and plenty of contacts.

<http://FreelanceWritingGigs.com>

Freelance Writing

This site gives links to writing, proofreading and editing work:

<http://FreelanceWriting.com>

E lance.com

<https://www.elance.com/q/find-work/online-work-overview/>



Carol's Writing Tips

Part 3:

Failing to anticipate the reader's response

A plot flaw is a glitch in believability or causality.

When a character acts in a way that doesn't make sense, or when one scene doesn't naturally follow from the one that precedes it, readers will stumble.

Imagine your protagonist hears that a wild killer is in the neighbourhood and then, in the next scene, decides to spend a cozy evening in the kitchen making homemade pasta.

Readers will think, What? Why doesn't she lock all the doors and windows, or call the police, or run to her car and get out of the area?

Thus, at the very moment where you want them to be drawn deeper into the narrative, your readers pull away and start to question your character's actions—and, to some degree, your storytelling ability.

As soon as an event isn't believable, it becomes a distraction.

Therefore, ask yourself at every plot point: "Is there enough stimulus to motivate this action?" Then make sure there is. Always anticipate your readers' response.

Step back and read your work-in-progress as objectively as you can.

Imagine looking through the eyes

of a reader who has never seen it before.

If you come to a place where you think, *Why doesn't she just . . . or, Wait, that doesn't make sense*, that's where you have some revising to do.

The solution doesn't have to be complicated.

Often, you can solve a plot flaw in your story simply by having your character point it out.

If your protagonist says something like, "I couldn't believe she would do such a thing—it just didn't compute," readers will think, *Yes, exactly—I thought the same thing! There's more going on here than meets the eye.*

The more you admit the scene has a believability problem, the less readers will hold you responsible for it.

With this in mind, you should also make sure every special skill or gadget needed in the climax is foreshadowed earlier in the story.

Coincidences drive a wedge in believability. Foreshadowing an event removes them.

So, if the diver in your story suddenly needs a harpoon to fight off a killer barracuda and he reaches down and — how convenient — he just happens to find one, readers won't buy it.

Show us the harpoon earlier so it makes sense when it reappears at the climactic battle scene.

"A Curious Will"

Among curious bequests to wives, the will of John Lambeth, who died in 1791, is conspicuous for its bitterness.

After declaring 'the strength of Sampson, the genius of Homer, the prudence of Augustus, the patience of Job, the philosophy of Socrates, the subtlety of Hannibal, the vigilance of Hermognes, would not suffice to subdue the perversity of her character,' he bequeathed to his wife Elizabeth the sum of one shilling!

Bizarre Notes & Queries, February 1886.

Dedication!

In 1924, university professor Hidesamuro Ueno brought his dog, Hachiko, to Tokyo. Every morning Hachiko saw his master off at the front door, and every evening he greeted him at the train station.

The professor died in May 1925, but the faithful dog still went to the station every day to wait.

He kept this up for 10 years.

The dog became a national sensation in 1932, when this story was published, and he's since been the subject of books and movies. Today a bronze statue stands at Shibuya Station, where he kept his faithful vigil. Good dog!

Need Online Book Promotion?

- Don't ignore the potential and importance of book reviews to the success of your product.
- An audience's applause, which in book buying terms is 'heard' by reading positive reviews, does more for advancing the book's prospects than any other method of promotion.
- You know publishers spend a lot of time getting the 'right' agents and journalists to review new books – and then print those reviews on the back cover.
- So . . . at book launches, on Twitter, on Facebook, and wherever you go, ask for reviews of your book.
- www.Amazon.com www.Goodreads.com and other booky websites all provide easy ways to get customer feedback.
- For more, ask for reviews on blogs and forums; wherever your readers are likely to see them.
- Promote snippets of your book – this generates interest in advance of publication, but ensure what you 'leak' in advance represents the best of your offering. You want curiosity at its peak.
- You can use video pieces too, and make sure you have created a channel that enables feedback.
- There is no 'one magic plan'. Each book and author is different and you have to work with your particular book, comfort level, resources and available time.
- Be choosy about which social media channels you use. Engagement is key –so don't spread beyond your capacity to engage or you won't get results.



Our NZIBS website

You can learn new skills and make a new career for yourself. Please pass on our website URL to your friends. "Thanks." Brian Morris

Freelance Travel Writing & Photography:

http://nzibs.co.nz/?page_id=40

Journalism & Non-Fiction Writing

http://nzibs.co.nz/?page_id=38

Sports Journalism

http://nzibs.co.nz/?page_id=60

Creative Writing

http://nzibs.co.nz/?page_id=28

Romance Writing

http://nzibs.co.nz/?page_id=58

Mystery & Thriller Writing

http://nzibs.co.nz/?page_id=50

How to write poetry

http://nzibs.co.nz/?page_id=44

Writing Stories for Children

http://nzibs.co.nz/?page_id=83

Writing Short Stories

http://nzibs.co.nz/?page_id=79

Writing Your First Novel

http://nzibs.co.nz/?page_id=85

Internet Entrepreneur

http://nzibs.co.nz/?page_id=1726

Life Coaching

http://nzibs.co.nz/?page_id=46

Digital Photography Beginners

http://nzibs.co.nz/?page_id=30

Freelance Photography

http://nzibs.co.nz/?page_id=130

Proofreading and Book Editing

http://nzibs.co.nz/?page_id=56

Information on any course we provide is available by telephone.

Call: **0800 801 994**.

Ask for **Carol Morris**, Registrar.

You already have one foot on the first rung of life's ladder. Your climb could take you to the stars.

Job Opportunities

[Editor](#), NZ Performance Car, Auckland
Manage New Zealand's best-selling automotive title. No closing date.

[Commissioning Administrator](#), Drake, Auckland
Commission new manuscripts; liaise with authors and editors. No closing date.

[Reporter](#), Southland Times, Gore.
You must be capable of generating an endless supply of story ideas. Closes 9 May.

[Reporter](#), APN, Wellington
Opportunity for an ambitious up-and-comer to make their mark in national news. No closing date

[Copywriter](#), Metier, Auckland
An experienced Copywriter with a focus on Direct. No closing date.

[Marketing Communications Consultant](#),

Beyond Services, Auckland
Coordinating company public relations. No closing date.

[Journalist](#), NZ Doctor, Auckland
Seeking mid-grade journalist or an enthusiastic junior. No closing date.

[Experienced Journalist](#), Radio NZ, Wellington
Have you the chutzpah to investigate news stories? Closes 5 May.

[Photographer](#), PhotoWonder, Waikato
Pre-school and family photography. No closing date.

[Digital Content Editor](#), Bayleys, Auckland
Create and maintain content for websites, intranet, social media, etc. No closing date.

[Graduate Editorial Writer](#), Castleford Media, Auckland
Wanting your first proper writing job?. No closing date.

[Marketing Communications Journalist](#), Beyond Services, Auckland

Can you capture a story and bring it to life? No closing date.

[Professional Automotive Photographer](#), Andrew Simms, Auckland

Photograph cars; edit and upload photos. No closing date.

International Writers' Workshop

Meets on 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month, February to November inclusive, at the Lake House Arts Centre, Takapuna, Auckland.
<http://www.iww.co.nz/>

Hibiscus Coast Writers

Members enjoy workshops and six competitions a year including poetry, short stories, drama and non-fiction. Meet local writers.
<http://hibiscuscoastwriters.weebly.com/>

Photography Clubs

They are everywhere - nationwide. Photography clubs keep you up to date with events, seminars, competitions, and more.
NZ Photographic Society details:
http://www.photography.org.nz/clubs_map.html

Kiwi Write 4 Kids

Kiwi Write4Kidz is an organisation for adults who like to write tales for children. If you want to learn more about technique, you can hear it direct from the mouths of the finest Kiwi children's authors.
<http://www.kiwiwrite4kidz.co.nz/>

Literary Reunions

While browsing in a Paris bookshop in the 1920s, the novelist **Anne Parrish** came upon an old copy of *Jack Frost and Other Stories*, a favourite from her childhood in Colorado.

When she showed it to her husband, he found it was her own copy, inscribed with her name and address.

George Bernard Shaw came across one of his own books in a used books shop in London. He was surprised to find his handwritten inscription inside — he had presented the book "with esteem" to a friend. He immediately bought the book re-wrapped it and delivered it again, after adding a second inscription:

"With renewed esteem,
George Bernard Shaw."

The Story Mint

Participate in a serial here:

<http://thestorymint.com/story-mintery>

You can add one chapter of up to 500 words to the latest serial.

Put your name down for a slot and write 480 -500 words to carry the story forward.

That makes you an on-line author.

The Fish Awards Short Story and Poetry

Stories on any theme written in English, maximum 5,000 words.

The 2014 competitions will be open soon. Details here:

<http://www.fishpublishing.com/writing-contest-competition.php>



Writer's Digest has been shining a spotlight on new writers in all genres through its Annual Writing Competition for over 80 years.

You can enter their 83rd Annual Writing Competition for your chance to win and have your work seen by US editors and agents!

The winning entries in this writing contest will also be on display in the 83rd Annual Writer's Digest Competition Collection.

Early-Bird Entry Deadline: 5 May 2014

<http://www.writersdigest.com/competitions/writers-digest-annual-competition>

Photo Competitions

More than 200 competitions are listed here:

<http://www.photographycompetitions.net>

Among them all, there must be at least ONE you'll like. **Enter it.** You only have to win once to be famous, like Lorraine Downes!

GLIMMER TRAIN



SHORT STORY COMPETITION for NEW WRITERS

Entrant guidelines:

Open to all subjects and themes. Most entries run from 1,500 to 6,000 words, but stories up to 8,000 words are accepted.

Held quarterly: Open to submissions in FEBRUARY, MAY, AUGUST and NOVEMBER

Next deadline: May 31.

<http://www.glimmertrain.com/writguid1.html>

Writer's Relief

30 day 'Know Thyself' challenge

Define who you are as a writer - and there is a prize. . .

You do need a Facebook account.

<http://www.facebook.com/writersrelief>

Money Talks

At the General Peace of 1814 Prussia absorbed a portion of Saxony, so the king issued a new coinage of rix dollars, with the German EIN REICHSTAHLER, impressed on them. The Saxons, by dividing the word, EIN REICH STAHL ER, made a sentence which means

'He stole a kingdom!'

<http://tinyurl.com/lvxs6tf>

Two Down

On 10 August 1628, as hundreds of Swedish citizens looked on, the new royal warship VASA crossed the Stockholm waterfront, set her sails, foundered, and sank. The ship covered less than one nautical mile. (Great story material.)

During the Battle of Öland in 1676, the Swedish flagship KRONAN was heeling to port when commander Baron Lorentz Creutz said, "Make sure the cannon ports are closed and the cannons are made fast so we don't suffer the same fate as befell the VASA." They didn't close the cannon ports and they did sink.

Competitions



Have a go! 😊

For details of all competitions, click the links and join in!

Winners' names are posted on the SDB after the competitions are judged at month's end.

See the competitions here:
<http://nzibs.org/forums/forumdisplay.php?f=11>

Photography competitions:
<http://nzibs.org/forums/forumdisplay.php?f=4>

Robert V

Photography tutor

If you're sending in photos for assignments, or for challenges or competitions, please remember to give these important details:

- **Aperture setting – including why you chose that one**
- **Shutter speed – including why you chose that one**

The aperture and the shutter speed are the two most important aspects of making a photograph so they deserve serious consideration.

The photography tutor can help you better if you give reasons for choosing specific settings.



Except I regret going to a cheap tattooist who couldn't spell.



Student Success!

Leo Swart writes:

"I thought I'd let you know - I put up an ad for proofreading on the bulletin board at the local hospital telling them I was soon to qualify in my course and wanted proofreading assignments to get me going.

"That was Monday - it is now Friday and I'm booked chocker with work to do - three new ones just this morning. Most of it is editing work and not strictly proofreading. Those guys have their heads so full of science but have no clue on how to write plain English and express themselves, nor how to put a coherent essay together.

"So, thank you!

"Once I get my diploma I'll start charging for my services - but it is good to have a reputation built up before I start charging!"

Fiona McAlister was invited to proofread a website for a minivan tourism business.

The website had been created by someone with English as a second language – and it showed.

Site seeing is not the same as sightseeing.

Generating a good rapport is not spelt report.

Otago is a province, not a provence.

The client was thrilled to see all the errors I found and fixed.

Well done, Fiona.

Proofreaders are needed everywhere . . .

Every Our Draft Is

- ✓ Absolutely Tailored
- ✓ Creatively Written
- ✓ Double Proofread
- ✓ Neatly Formatted

And Don't Forget about **20% Discount!**

Job Opportunities

[Senior Journalist](#), Bay of Plenty Times, Tauranga
 Write hard [news](#) and news features. No closing date.

[Newspaper Reporters](#), Allied Press, Balclutha
 Requires regular travel stories, interviewing people, taking photographs and covering diverse events. No closing date.

[Intermediate Writer](#), Jo Bayley, Auckland
 Are you able to translate business strategies and vision into compelling stories?
 No closing date.

[Online News Editor](#), Yahoo! NZ, Auckland
 Write stories and blogs; select and optimise photos; maintain quality control and editorial integrity.
 No closing date.

[Online Sports Editor](#), Yahoo! NZ, Auckland
 Mainly weekend work updating the Yahoo! NZ Front Page and Sports sites. No closing date.

[Freelance Feature Writer](#), Rotorua Daily Post
 Meticulous writing skills, customer focus, accuracy, grammar and meeting deadlines are critical.
 No closing date.

If the closing date has passed, ask whether the position was filled. You could still get lucky.

[Production Assistant \(Pre-Press\)](#), Calendars.co.nz, Auckland
 Requires a flare for selecting images and excellent proofreading skills. No closing date.

[Photographic Business Opportunity](#), Open2view, Invercargill
 Real estate photography franchise opportunity available in Invercargill. No closing date.

[Highlights Producer](#), SKY TV, Auckland
 Write, edit, produce and voice programme material, including Sports news bulletins.
 No closing date.

Regret

by *Kate Chopin 1850-1904*

Reproduced for educational purposes.

Mamzelle Aurlie possessed a good strong figure, ruddy cheeks, hair that was changing from brown to gray, and a determined eye. She wore a man's hat about the farm and an old blue army overcoat when it was cold, and sometimes top-boots.

Mamzelle Aurlie had never thought of marrying. She had never been in love. At the age of twenty she had received a proposal she'd promptly declined. At the age of fifty, she didn't yet regret it.

So she was alone in the world except for her dog Ponto, the negroes who lived in her cabins and worked her crops, and the fowls, a few cows, two mules, her gun (with which she shot chicken-hawks), and her religion.

One morning Mamzelle Aurlie stood upon her gallery contemplating, with arms akimbo, a small band of very small children who, to all intents and purposes, might have fallen from the clouds, so unexpected and bewildering was their coming, and so unwelcome. They were the children of her nearest neighbour, Odile, who was not such a near neighbour, after all.

The young woman had appeared but five minutes before, accompanied by these four children. In her arms she carried little Lodie; she dragged Ti Nomme by an unwilling hand; while Marcline and Marclette followed with irresolute steps.

Her face was red, disfigured with tears and excitement. She had been summoned to a neighbouring parish by the dangerous illness of her mother. Her husband was in Texas - a million miles away - and Valsin waited with the mule-cart to drive her to the station.

"It's no question, Mamzelle Aurlie; you jus' got to keep those youngsters fo' me tell I come back. Dieu sait, I wouldn' botha you with 'em if it was any otha way to do! Make 'em mind you, Mamzelle Aurlie; don' spare 'em. Me, there, I'm half crazy between the chil'ren, an' Lon not home, an' maybe not even to fine po' maman alive encore!" - a harrowing thought that drove Odile to take a final hasty leave of her disconsolate family.

She left them crowded into the narrow shade on the porch of the long, low house; the sunlight was beating in on the white old boards. Some chickens were scratching in the grass at the foot of the steps; one had boldly mounted, and was stepping heavily, solemnly, and aimlessly across the gallery. There was a pleasant odour of pinks in the air, and the sound of negroes' laughter was coming across the flowering cotton-field.

Mamzelle Aurlie stood contemplating the children. She looked upon Marcline, staggering beneath the weight of the chubby Lodie. She surveyed Marclette

with the same calculating air which was mingling her silent tears with the audible grief and rebellion of Ti Nomme. During those few contemplative moments she collected herself, determining upon a line of action, identical with a line of duty. She began by feeding them.

If Mamzelle Aurlie's responsibilities might have begun and ended there they could easily have been dismissed; for her larder was amply provided against an emergency of this nature. But little children are not little pigs. They require and demand attentions which were wholly unexpected by Mamzelle Aurlie and which she was ill prepared to give.

She was, indeed, very inept in her management of Odile's children during the first few days. How could she know that Marclette always wept when spoken to in a loud and commanding tone of voice? It was a peculiarity of Marclette's. She became acquainted with Ti Nomme's passion for flowers only when he had plucked all the choicest gardenias and pinks for the apparent purpose of critically studying their botanical construction.

"Tain't enough to tell 'im, Mamzelle Aurlie," Marcline instructed her, "you got to tie 'im in a chair. It's w'at maman all time do w'en he's bad: she tie 'im in a chair." The chair in which Mamzelle Aurlie tied Ti Nomme was roomy and comfortable, and he seized the opportunity to take a nap in it, the afternoon being warm.

At night, when she ordered them one and all to bed as she would have shooed the chickens into the hen-house, they stayed uncomprehending before her. What about the little white nightgowns that had to be taken from the pillow-slip in which they were brought over, and shaken by some strong hand till they snapped like ox-whips? What about the tub of water which had to be brought and set in the middle of the floor, in which the little tired, dusty, sun-browned feet had every one to be washed sweet and clean? And it made Marcline and Marclette laugh merrily -- the idea that Mamzelle Aurlie should for a moment have believed that Ti Nomme could fall asleep without being told the story of Croque-mitaine or Loup-garou, or both; or that Lodie could fall asleep at all without being rocked and sung to.

"I tell you, Aunt Ruby," Mamzelle Aurlie informed her cook in confidence, "me, I'd rather manage a dozen plantation' than fo' chil'ren. It's terrassent! Bont! Don't talk to me about chil'ren!"

"T ain' inspected sich as you would know airy thing 'bout 'em, Mamzelle Aurlie. I see dat plainly yistiddy w'en I spy dat li'le chile playin' wid yo' basket o' keys. You don' know dat makes chillun grow up hard-headed, to play wid keys? Des like it make 'em teeth hard to look at in a lookin'-glass.

Them's the things you got to know in the raisin' an' manigement o' chillun."

Mamzelle Aurlie certainly did not desire knowledge like Aunt Ruby, who had "raised five an' buried six" in her day. She merely needed a few mother-tricks to serve the moment's need.

Ti Nomme's sticky fingers compelled her to unearth white aprons she hadn't worn for years, and she had to accustom herself to his moist kisses; affectionate, exuberant expressions.

She got down her sewing-basket, which she seldom used, from the top shelf of the armoire, and placed it within the ready and easy reach which torn slips and buttonless waists demanded. It took some days to become accustomed to the laughing, the crying, the chattering that echoed through the house and around it all day long. And it was several nights before she could sleep comfortably with little Lodie's hot, plump body pressed close against her, warm breath beating her cheek like the fanning of a bird's wing.

But at the end of two weeks Mamzelle Aurlie had grown quite used to these things, and she no longer complained.

It was also at the end of two weeks that Mamzelle Aurlie, one evening, looking away toward the crib where the cattle were being fed, saw Valsin's blue cart turning the bend of the road.

Odile sat beside the mulatto, upright and alert. The young woman's beaming face indicated her home-coming was a happy one.

But this coming, unannounced and unexpected, threw Mamzelle Aurlie into a flutter that was almost agitation. The children had to be gathered. Where was Ti Nomme? Yonder in the shed, putting an edge on his knife at the grindstone. Marcline and Marclette? Cutting and fashioning rag dolls in the corner of the gallery. As for Lodie, she was safe enough in Mamzelle Aurlie's arms. She screamed with delight at sight of the familiar blue cart which was bringing her mother back to her.

Excitement over, they were gone. How still it was when they were gone! Mamzelle Aurlie stood upon the gallery, looking and listening. She could no longer see the cart. The red sunset and the blue-gray twilight had flung a purple mist across the road that hid it from her view. She could no longer hear the wheezing and creaking of its wheels. But she could still faintly hear the shrill, glad voices of the children.

She turned into the house. There was much work awaiting, for the children had left a sad disorder behind them; but she did not at once set about the task of righting it. Mamzelle Aurlie seated herself, and gave one slow glance through the room into which the evening shadows were creeping and deepening around her solitary figure. She let her head fall down upon her bended arm, and she began to cry. Oh, but she cried! Not softly, as women often do. She cried like a man, with sobs that seemed to tear her very soul. She did not notice Ponto licking her hand.