

The Opening of a new Campus in Manukau City – A contemporary approach to learning, teaching and the student experience.

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Highlights

Richard, who just joined AUT in September 2009, will take you on a personal journey describing how the new AUT Campus in Manukau was successfully opened within a very tight time frame to more than 400 students for semester one 2010. The vision was to develop a contemporary approach to learning, teaching and the student experience.

This required a unique collaboration between building development, academic planning, student and administrative services planning, recruitment and enrolment. Despite the limitations of having to adapt existing corporate office buildings, AUT introduced innovations and new approaches to student learning such as flexible blended learning classrooms, collaborative social learning spaces, video conferencing, Dual-boot computer labs, kiosks for student top-ups, video conferencing and a wireless netbook loan-to-buy scheme.

Teaching programmes were established in consultation with the university's faculties, and through a major programme of community engagement with all sectors of the regional community including schools, ethnic groups and local business, linking closely with employment opportunities in South Auckland. As you can imagine, nearly the whole of the University was involved as internal stakeholders to the project.

So, how did we work together, collaborate, share, connect and communicate as a team to create a new experience for our students?

Bullets

- The new campus opened successfully on 1 March 2010 with approx 400 students
- Innovations achieved to connect, share, exchange & communicate in a changed environment with a strong student focus
 - people within AUT
 - allied with academic staff
 - academic staff within different faculties
 - academic staff with student
 - allied staff with students
 - campus facilities
 - flexible blended learning classrooms
 - collaborative social learning spaces
 - hot desking for allied & academic staff
- The Project & Approach
 - The project team
 - The project structure
 - How did we communicate, collaborate and share
 - What have we learned
- My journey
 - My first couple of weeks at AUT – how to spread my wings
 - How to get to grips with this huge task, coming in 4 months before launch
 - How to untangle the spider web
 - How to structure & organise the big team
 - How to connect & communicate with each team member at all levels – how to speak a common language everybody can understand
 - What made the difference
- The message
 - Collaboration, overcoming hurdles, having the goal in mind – making a difference

- Having sound project management practises
- Attitude – thinking outside the box, being “above the line”
- How can IT support the thirst for social / professional connectivity, innovation and communication
- Students come to Uni’s where they get want they want

Bio

With a BSc in Computer Science & Economics and other important industry and professional qualifications (Project Management Professional - PMP, Certified Scrum Master, Certified Group Facilitator), Richard is a results-orientated professional with a sound commercial background of over 30 years in a wide variety of different industries. He has worked with small, medium sized companies and big corporates in New Zealand and overseas as a project manager, business trainer and facilitator.

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