INTERN INVASION DAN

In terms of writing about myself, I'm not the best but I guess the best thing to do first is to introduce myself. My name is Dan Wilkinson. I'm 24, and I was born and raised in Dunedin.



I went to Kings High School until 2015 before taking some time off to work at timber mills in Southland, Milton, and Mosgiel. It wasn't until 2019 I decided to get involved with my passion for Photography & Videography at Otago Polytechnic and studied Photography for two years, graduating in 2020.

All through 2021 I had been working doing freelance photography for a variety of clients, as well as working part-time for a local recruitment agency doing social media content. One week a snowball effect of sorts began occurring. I saw a targeted ad on Facebook from Firebrand looking for a videography intern for the summer and like many ads on social media, I didn't think much of it and kept scrolling.

"... I HAD BEEN WORKING DOING FREELANCE PHOTOGRAPHY FOR A VARIETY OF CLIENTS, AS WELL AS WORKING PART-TIME FOR A LOCAL RECRUITMENT AGENCY DOING SOCIAL MEDIA..."

The next day my best friend tagged me in the same ad I saw the day before and encouraged me to apply. I started to think, "hmm, maybe I should consider applying for this role." The day after my workmate sent me, (yep you know what's coming next), the exact same ad and also encouraged me to apply. So after three different days of seeing the same post pop up in my feed and many friends encouraging me, I went ahead and applied.

Now, I'm not an overly spiritual person but the saying "everything happens for a reason", is something I've lived by and to see the ad and having a number of my friends send it through to me was a sign of sorts. So with that in mind getting ready to be involved with a brand as big as Firebrand was a challenge within itself.

"GOING FROM WORKING PART-TIME AND DOING SOME FREELANCING, TO BEING INVOLVED WITH SUCH A HUGE ORGANISATION WITH SO MANY CLIENTS DID OVERWHELM ME A BIT..."

Going from working part-time and doing some freelancing, to being involved with such a huge organisation with so many clients did overwhelm me a wee bit but at the same time, I saw it as a challenge, something I should dive headfirst into. As I mentioned, I was initially very overwhelmed with the enormity of work that Firebrand had going on. However, I went head first and don't regret doing so. From the date I'm writing this (06/12/2021), I've already been all over the countryside doing photo & video work for several different clients.

"TO THINK AFTER SEEING THAT FIRST AD TO BE A VIDEO INTERN I HAD IGNORED IT."

From Gore to Christchurch and even edited a number of videos from areas in New Zealand I've never even been to before. To think after seeing that first ad to be a video intern I had ignored it. If it wasn't for my friends and family hounding me to enrol I wouldn't have had the experiences I have and all I have to say to finish on is thanks to those friends and family.

