

# INTERN INVASION

## TOBY



Hello, world. My name is Toby and I'm the development intern at Firebrand this summer.

I grew up in Upper Hutt, a smaller city within the Wellington region, nestled in the Hutt Valley. After finishing college at St Patrick's College Silverstream in 2018, I moved to Otago with a keen interest in Computer Science and some idea of a future career in software and web development. I currently have one more year left to complete my BAsC (four-year degree).

I think I first heard about the internship opportunity from an email that the Computer Science department at the University had sent out around early November or late October. It cropped up relatively late, considering the competitive Summer of Tech internships which interview around August and September. I had applied for more than a dozen roles and attended online boot camps throughout the entire year on said platform, without any success. At this point, I was slightly disheartened

after missing out on internship roles from multiple tech companies in Wellington and Dunedin. When I got an invite to do a speed interview for Firebrand in early November, I was supposed to drive from Dunedin back to Welly, which meant I went into the interview with low expectations and no pressure. A few days later, I got an email asking me to complete a technical code test. The only issue is I was due to drive back up north well before the test.

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I made the tough decision to stay in Dunedin and see if I could make something of this opportunity. My last hopes for a summer internship weren't dashed after all, and luckily I managed to get the final interview which culminated in me sitting at a Firebrand desk only a week later today, writing this. I learnt that if you want something badly, it's better to go all in, even if there's a chance things won't go to plan. I also learnt to always take advantage of the opportunities given to you.

**"I MADE THE TOUGH DECISION TO STAY IN DUNEDIN AND SEE IF I COULD MAKE SOMETHING OF THIS OPPORTUNITY."**

The motivation for me when seeking out an internship was to further my skills in the area that I would like to pursue as a career instead of mowing lawns for the fourth summer in a row. Although getting my hands dirty with labouring over the last couple of summers taught me the value of money and many practical skills, this experience will sharpen my technical skills in areas I'm interested in whilst also getting paid. It's like University... but real-world and instead of receiving debt, I'm receiving paycheques, invaluable experience, and a social environment to spend my summer immersed in.

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It's been seven days at Firebrand and it has been a sharp contrast to University life. Sitting in a silent Computer lab compared to the lively Firebrand office has been a change, and somewhat of a challenge. Over the summer I hope to learn if development is really for me and to hone my coding skills on tangible practical projects, which I've had started within the short time I've been here. I feel extraordinarily lucky to be here, and I want to make the most of it. To any young people that have a desire to intern shortly, I would recommend putting time and effort into your C.V, as the difference a fresh C.V. had for me was worth it.

**THANKS,  
TOBY MEYRICK**

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