

Floral creations for all occasions

The *Weekender* takes a look at different jobs throughout the community. Since it is spring and flowers are blooming, we decided to find out what is involved in being a florist.

JOB of the WEEK

work surrounded by flowers. The best thing is when I deliver flowers to someone and see the look on their faces.

How did you first enter the industry/field? By mistake, by pure mistake. I had a part-time job when I was at school and a florist opened up in the same building. I was completely taken aback by what you can do with flowers. I begged and begged to work there until she finally gave me the job. It was a complete accident.

What skills/training do you need? You can do an apprenticeship if you work for a florist or you can train in Hamilton. You can do an apprenticeship through the New Zealand Professional Florist Association, or through Horticulture New Zealand.

What do you enjoy most about your job? Creating things specifically to people's needs and them being completely overwhelmed with the results. If I make something way better than they expected and they are blown away.

Name: Charis Marriner
Role: Florist and owner/operator
Employer: Fusion Flowers on Pukuatua St.
Hours: Monday to Friday 9am-5pm, Saturday 9am-1pm.
Describe your position: I create bouquets and things. I like to say I sell an emotion. Every bunch is for a baby, or a birthday or a bereavement. Every bunch of flowers is for a different purpose. We do a lot of weddings and create different wedding packages for specific peoples' needs. Not everyone can say they come to



FLORAL HAVEN: Charis Marriner became a florist after being overwhelmed by the beautiful flowers and creativity she saw in a florist's shop.

PICTURE: BEN FRASER

Any challenges? Flowers are a luxury item so when the money strings are tight, people draw back. I've got to keep up my game and make sure the flowers are good value for money. Also, changing people's mindsets that people really

do like flowers. A lot of people could benefit from knowing how much flowers can say.

Advice to someone interested in similar work? Approach a local florist and ask them if they've got any positions

available. Even if you only work one day a week, you are entitled to do an apprenticeship. Or do a course in Hamilton, it's not far. Or check out the Floral Art Group in Rotorua, or ask a local florist if you can do work experience.



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‘Have the wedding photos taken on the beach or in the park while friends and family enjoy a few drinks and nibbles.’



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