



AIMING FOR ANTARCTICA

AQUACULTURE AND MARINE CONSERVATION

writer **SARA CARBERY** // photographer **KATE MacPHERSON**

MORGAN PUKLOWSKI knows all about aquaculture – the farming of aquatic plants and animals, such as green-lipped mussels, Pacific oysters and king salmon.

Morgan graduated in November from Nelson Marlborough Institute of Technology (NMIT) with a Bachelor of Aquaculture and Marine Conservation, and is working at Plant &

Food Research in Nelson as a Culture and Husbandry Technician. In fact, she started this job while studying, completing her degree online.

Make aquaculture your career

Aquaculture is one of the world's fastest growing food producing industries, with great prospects for qualified professionals. If you are thinking about marine studies, aquaculture is for you.

Enjoy many field trips during your studies including snorkelling in marine reserves and visiting aquaculture farms. Scholarships available.

- > Postgraduate Diploma in Sustainable Aquaculture
- > Bachelor of Aquaculture and Marine Conservation
- > Diploma in Aquaculture (Fish Farming and Fishery Management)

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Te Whare Wānanga o Te Tau Ihu o Te Waka a Maui

Her role involves developing culture-rearing techniques of local marine fish species to support the development of a new and sustainable aquaculture industry in New Zealand.

"You eventually get used to smelling like fish!" jokes Morgan, who raised fish in an aquarium as a child and grew up with a love for the outdoors and conservation.

After a gap year spent working and thinking about what she really wanted to do, Morgan transitioned back into study in her hometown of Nelson.

"Getting outdoors with practical learning was the highlight for me, as well as the great opportunities to apply learnt skills during industry placements and internships."

She also loved the week-long field trip to New Caledonia in her final year.

The main challenge Morgan faced was time management; understandable given she worked fulltime, studied by correspondence, participated

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MORGAN PUKLOWSKI

in a habitat restoration project with the local council and bought a house, all while finishing her final-year dissertation!

Morgan is enjoying the daily challenges of her job.

"For me it is a great combination of laboratory and microscope work, calculations, cleaning, feeding and monitoring the daily progress of the species being cultured."

In Year 13 at Nelson College for Girls, Morgan took a variety of art, science and maths subjects

including Painting, Sculpture, Geography, Earth and Space Science, and Calculus.

All of these have been incorporated in some way into her studies and work – for example, the ability to be creative and think outside the box. But it's the skills, work ethic and ability to study and research that have been the most useful. In hindsight, Morgan says it would have been helpful to have studied more science subjects at school.

Looking ahead, the 22-year-old intends to gather skills she can apply in the international industry, with a focus on sustainability and a goal of one day working in Antarctica.

As well as research and development roles like Morgan's, graduates find employment in aquaculture business, production or policy management, and as environmental officers, marine rangers, fisheries inspectors and public aquarium curators.

Graduates can also go on to complete a Postgraduate Diploma in Sustainable Aquaculture.

KEY FACTS



- **MORGAN PUKLOWSKI HAS A BACHELOR OF AQUACULTURE AND MARINE CONSERVATION FROM NELSON MARLBOROUGH INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY.**
- **SHE WORKS AT PLANT & FOOD RESEARCH IN NELSON AS A CULTURE AND HUSBANDRY TECHNICIAN.**
- **THE OVERALL FOCUS OF MORGAN'S ROLE IS TO SUPPORT AND DEVELOP A NEW AND SUSTAINABLE AQUACULTURE INDUSTRY IN NEW ZEALAND.**



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