

What does work look like in New Zealand in 2030?



What do secondary school students think work will look like in 2030? Flying cars, genetically modified humans or robot managers? These were some of the responses of the students who attended the Skills Workchoice Industry Experience Event held at Whangarei Boys High School in August 2019.

Work Ready staff asked over 600 students to write down their opinion on the following questions:

1. What industries will be important?
2. Greatest challenge?
3. What jobs will exist?

4. What will be different?
5. What skills will be required?
6. What opportunities will people have?

Work Ready examined and collated student's comments. We concluded:

- Collectively students have a strong belief that technology will shape their work future
- Not all students were positive about the future. There were concerns over the impact of technology and work on individual, families and the sustainability of the planet.
- Industries of the future were technology, entertainment and tourism-based with transport, construction and health is important but also being technology-enhanced.
- Students believed technology-related skills also needed the ability to cooperate, be social, teamwork and learn quickly.
- The technology theme played out with future jobs, e-sport, world studies, a military person (robocop) and space engineers anyone?
- Opportunities included greater flexibility and some seeing technology as a way of pursuing their interests.

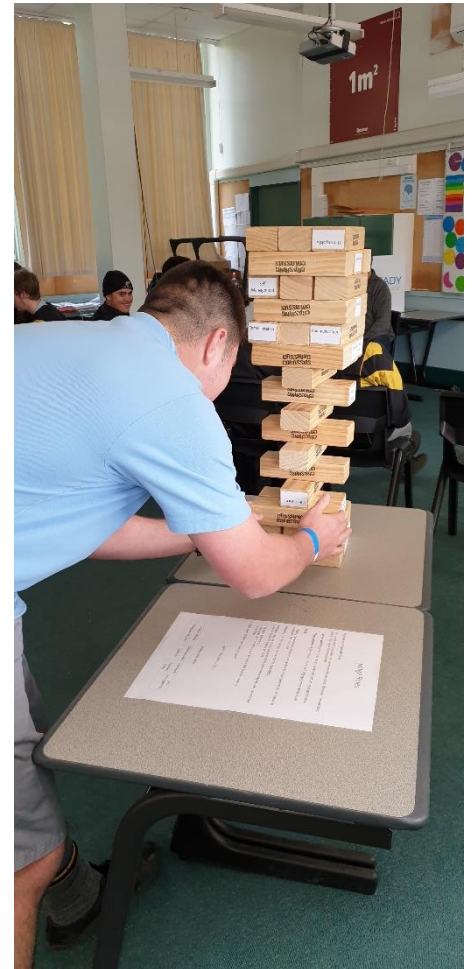


Figure 1 Solving the employability puzzle

Work Ready saw similarity from the student response and the wealth of reports that have recently come out concerning the future of work. The

overarching similarity of both student and research was balancing technology skills, collaborative teamwork and the environment.