

CV for Steven Brown

Personal information

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Introduction

I am a junior developer who graduated from Enspiral Dev Academy in April 2015. I originally studied programming at university but drifted away from it as a career which I regretted. It has been amazing to retrain on modern tools and techniques and to now be looking for my first role.

Prior to attending EDA, I had a career at Parliament facilitating the workings of the House and its committees. While I was on leave to attend EDA, the office I worked in at Parliament was restructured. Immediately after EDA, I returned to my position at Parliament until it was disestablished in early July 2015.

Key Skills

- **Technical** - Git and Github, Ruby, Rails, the Sinatra framework, Javascript, SQL, HTML5, and CSS.
- **Life-long learner** - always looking to add tools to my toolbox. I have been attending Ember.js classes (hosted at EDA), and trying out Elixir and Swift 2, among others.
- **Agile practices** - experienced with pair programming, and its value in different situations. I look to fail early where appropriate. Have used kanban, sprints, and retrospectives.
- **Language and communication** - my most recent roles have focused on producing reports that are readable, accurate, and represent the views of all parties involved.
- **Judgment** - getting the detail right, but also making sure it's the right detail to be working on. Finding the 'win-win' solutions.

Enspiral Dev Academy

By attending Enspiral Dev Academy, I put myself through 9 weeks of preparatory work (while still working full-time), then 9 weeks of bootcamp immersion (while on leave without pay), which added up to over 1,000 hours dedicated to coding. This included work on both the hard skills of learning the tools (as listed above) and how to best apply them to the problem in front of you, and the soft skills of finding the best way to arrange your working day, of improving your ability to focus and concentrate, of working in teams in situations replicating real working environments, and of managing having more work and learning in front of you than can possibly be fitted into waking hours.

Relevant Experience and Education

With the Office of the Clerk - 27 October 2004-3 July 2015

27 October 2004 – 11 May 2008

Parliamentary Officer (Hansard Compiler), Parliament House, Wellington

This position entailed preparing Hansard (the report of the debates in the House) for publication, in both online and printed versions. This involved entering corrections from proof-reading into the text, joining 'turns' into speeches, speeches into debates, debates into days, and so on through to (usually) four weeks in each bound volume. I also assisted with distributing early drafts to members for their feedback on the transcription of their speeches. During this time, the Australian developers of the production system visited to work on finishing the indexing component of the system. I became involved in supporting the transition of the indexing process from fully manual, to manual entry into an XML schema, to a system where a code for each different collection of index entries was matched in the document XML, and XSLT was used to generate entries in the index XML. I learned enough XSL to fix errors in existing stylesheets and create new stylesheets that the developers had not gotten to.

12 May 2008 – 25 January 2009

Parliamentary Officer (Hansard Publishing), Parliament House, Wellington

In the previous position, I had also worked closely with the Office's Website Administrator on the processes for uploading Hansard to the new Parliament website. This position was a resizing of the previous role to recognise the ongoing work on the index XSL, the work with the website uploading, and various other technical work with the production system.

26 January 2009 – 26 May 2013

Parliamentary Officer (Report Writer), Bowen House, Wellington

During my time in Hansard, I had assisted Select Committees by taking on some report writing when Select Committee Services was short-staffed during a busy time. I enjoyed this work, and applied for the next Report Writer vacancy. In this position, I was part of a team of three providing secretariat services to a particular select committee. This involved reading all documents received by the committee (advice, evidence, reports from other agencies), attending all meetings of the committee, and writing the committee's reports on each item of business before it.

27 May 2013 – 11 November 2013

Acting Team Leader Hansard Publishing, Parliament House, Wellington

I returned to Hansard to act in the role that supervised my previous position, while the incumbent was seconded to a project team. During this time, a replacement for the Hansard production system was being developed, and I served as a subject matter expert for indexing and compiling, working closely with the contractors undertaking the development. I was the team leader for a group of three, responsible for ensuring the timely and accurate publication of Hansard, and spent some time learning the roles supervised by the other team leaders (Reporting and Editing).

12 November 2013 – 6 April 2014

Acting Parliamentary Officer (Clerk of Committee), Bowen House, Wellington

This position managed the provision of secretariat services to a particular select committee, including supervising someone in my previous report writer role and one other person. The role involved working closely with the Chair of the committee to schedule the committee's work programme, including calling and receiving submissions on legislation and petitions, arranging hearings of evidence, producing the agenda for each meeting and writing the minutes, providing procedural advice, and ensuring the smooth running of committee meetings.

7 April 2014 – 3 July 2015

Parliamentary Officer (Report Writer), Bowen House, Wellington

In this time in the report writer position, I accompanied (with one other staff member) a select committee on their visit to Australia as part of the joint committee exchange programme. I was also involved with the development of a new electronic committee system, mainly with testing and writing documentation. I also had a second stint as an acting Clerk of Committee during this time when I postponed my attendance at EDA to provide cover for a committee whose clerk gained other employment.

In Hamilton

From 1999 to 2003 I was enrolled either part-time or full-time as a Law student at the University of Waikato. I completed the 7 Part 1 and Part 2 Law papers in 1999 and 2000, and passed 5 Part 3 Law papers in 2001. In 2002 I passed two Part 4 Law papers (including Law and Information Technology). I passed one further Part 4 Law paper in 2003 (Mediation, Facilitation and Conferencing) before I was forced to withdraw due to financial and health concerns. One significant health issue was resolved in 2004, the other in 2006.

March - October 2002, March - October 2003

Student Assistant, University of Waikato Law Library, Hamilton

This position involved sitting at the issues desk in the Law Library, issuing 'desk copies' to fellow students, sorting lists of new books from publishers to staff to recommend what should be acquired for the library, keeping an eye on supply levels and other problems in the adjacent computer lab, and clearing the floor before the main library closed for the evening.

August 1992 - February 2001

Computer Support, Berkley Normal Middle School, Hamilton

This position encompassed a wide variety of tasks over the years. A school-wide network was installed during my time there - I hooked up computers in each classroom, and in two computer labs. I set up and administered a server, including user accounts and DNS. I assisted teachers with lesson planning and developing their computer skills, and was present as a resource for both staff and students during sessions in the computer labs. I assisted with setting policies and future planning, and liaised with outside contractors. To quote from the reference I received on leaving:

'Qualities that became very apparent to all staff were his ability to problem solve, patience, to work long hours, to work without supervision and to be looking ahead at "big picture" scenarios.'

'I have no hesitation in recommending Steven for a position that has attributes similar to the above. He is a very intelligent person who is a true life-long learner.'

I completed a B.Soc.Sci. at Waikato in 1991, majoring in Computer Science, including, at third year level, 57.313 Programming Languages (A+).

The work for this paper included examples from: Modula-2, C, C++, Smalltalk, the Scheme dialect of Lisp, ML, Prolog, and Ada. I gained a good understanding of all the paradigms covered (except perhaps Ada's concurrency model), and regard this course as the beginning of becoming skilled at choosing the right tool for a programming task.

In 1994, I completed two papers at Masters level (Programming Languages and Compilers, and Topics in Artificial Intelligence).

In Wellington

24 November 1986 - 8 June 1988

COM Operator, Centron Micrographics, Wgtn Branch, Wellington

This position involved producing microfiche for a large number of companies in a 24-hour bureau operation.

5 August 1985 - 23 March 1986

Temp. Office Asst., Operations, Herd St. EDP, POHQ, Wellington

This position involved running the COM machine on night shift, and sorting the resulting microfiche with printed reports for distribution to POSB branches.

24 March - 26 September 1986

Temp. Clerk, Systems Section, Herd St. EDP, POHQ, Wellington

This position provided clerical support for the project team writing the Post Office's new supply system. The project was disbanded ahead of the Post Office being split up for corporatisation.

11 March - 26 July 1985

Clerk, Recruiting Section, Police National Headquarters, Wellington

This position involved the manual processing of applications to join the Police.

It required a high level of trust, and a security clearance.

Abilities, Achievements and Activities

I was a member of the Waikato University team that won TVNZ University Challenge in 1989, and represented New Zealand in the Trans-Tasman University Challenge match of September 1989. As a result of this I was awarded a Campus Blues Certificate by the University of Waikato.

In 2000 I was one of twelve members of the New Zealand team for the Trans-Tasman Scrabble Challenge held in Melbourne, which was won by New Zealand. I was also a member of the New Zealand team for the Trans-Tasman in 2004, 2006, 2008, and 2010. I founded the Kapiti Coast Scrabble Club – the club meets weekly, and we have held nine annual open tournaments so far. I maintain the ratings system and administer the mailing lists for the New Zealand Association of Scrabble Players.

I have an interest in critical thinking and science communication, and have twice been a speaker at Nerd Nite Wellington.

References - Available on request