

## Jonathan's Personal Profile



In 1997 when the film 'Toy Story' was released I was 9 years old, little did I realise then that my favourite toy from the film, 'Woody', would have a name that would be especially relevant to my chosen career.

After leaving school I completed a three-year cabinet making course at Moulton College, Northampton, before starting to look for the right company from where I could develop my skills. I researched the top quality cabinet making companies, but it soon became apparent that any openings in the UK were few and far between with most stipulating that some level of commercial experience was necessary, and so I decided that my best chances of gaining experience would be to work abroad. After some research and a few carefully thought out applications, I obtained a cabinet making position at Robinson Marine

Interiors in Auckland, New Zealand. This company is highly regarded for the fitting-out of super yachts. I learnt a variety of skills, in particular veneering techniques which are essential as lightweight materials have to be used in building yachts.

My time in New Zealand was not all work, although with regular 4:30 am starts it sometimes felt like it. Being a keen sportsman I completed a 15,000 ft skydive, took part in white-water rafting and surfing, a 15k charity run and a 192 metre sky jump from Auckland's 'Sky Tower'. Looking back, the chance to visit New Zealand stopping over in both Los Angeles and Hong Kong were tremendous personal opportunities which I am fortunate to have experienced.

Once returning home I contacted N.E.J Stevenson and they offered me a place as a trainee in November 2008 which I gladly accepted and thanks to my veneering skills gained from my time in New Zealand I have been able to put these into good practice here.

At home I am 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of a set of triplets and both my brother and sister share my passion for rock music with me being a bit of a reclusive drummer and guitarist! Together we spend a lot of time travelling the U.K and foreign shores listening to various bands, recently returning from the Rhodes - Rock Festival.

My love of the outdoors has developed my interest in snowboarding which I am pleased to say, has been improved after a trip to Chamonix, France, last year, but there's some way still to go!

Any time I do have left is now taken up by helping others in the community as I have committed to working for Northamptonshire Police as a Special Constable. Now if only I could persuade the unit to set up a snowboarding section in the winter...there's a thought!