



Paul Leacock
Blacksmith Director
Age: 41

What's your proudest achievement so far? Being the best husband, son, brother, in-law I can be for my family because at the end of the day, they are the people that matter.

Is NZ ready to become a republic? I can remember as a little kid, staying up late to watch the Commonwealth Games – it was so exciting and everyone seemed to have a sense of pride about being included in the Commonwealth. I don't get that feeling anymore of belonging to something bigger than just our country – maybe it is time to stand alone.

Which team or individual will provide our best result at the Commonwealth Games in India? To be honest, my full attention has been on the All Whites. The Commonwealth Games has not made it onto my radar as yet – see answer 2.

How many grooming products do you use every morning? I use a natural shower gel and some moisturiser every morning, as well as a bit of shaving cream.

How much time do you spend online each day, including social networking? Less than ten minutes – I should do a bit more as it's a great way to keep in touch and a very effective business tool if you're smart about how you use it.

What do you do to chill out? Relax with friends and music.

Best advice you were given to overcome a difficult issue at work? If the issue is in your sphere of control, get it sorted quickly; if it's not, move on and don't sweat it.

How do we fix our national pastime of dismissing the tall poppies in our communities? I think this comes down to everyone choosing to look at success in a more positive way.

What's your guilty pleasure each day? Sneaking off to hang out with my dog for a while in the park.



Malcolm Phillipps
Marketing Manager,
2degrees Mobile
Age: 35

What's your proudest achievement so far? Bringing my ten-month-old son into the world. I had some help.

Is NZ ready to become a republic? Yes, definitely.

Which team or individual will provide our best result at the Commonwealth Games in India? No question – the NZ Rugby Sevens team.

How many grooming products do you use every morning? Plenty: shampoo, moisturiser... oh and this cream that apparently removes the bags under your eyes. Not sure on the brand but great stuff.

How much time do you spend online each day, including social networking? One hour or so. Not a lot, really.

What do you do to chill out? At the moment, sleep. I'm rather time-poor, especially with the young son.

Best advice you were given to overcome a difficult issue at work? Smile. It's disarming and confuses people.

How do we fix our national pastime of dismissing the tall poppies in our communities? Start appreciating that the tall poppies are the ones who are actually striving to make a difference. No one wants an average country.

What's your guilty pleasure each day? Playing Flick Football on my iPhone.



Paul Webber
Owner of the Empire Tavern
Age: 43

What's your proudest achievement so far? Buying one of the most iconic, well-known bars in Auckland.

Is NZ ready to become a republic? Yes, why not? NZ is a world leader in many things. We just need to believe in ourselves.

Which team or individual will provide our best result at the Commonwealth Games in India? Valerie Vili will take gold with a PB.

How many grooming products do you use every morning? Three.

How much time do you spend online each day, including social networking? Around four to six hours, on and off.

What do you do to chill out? I play basketball whenever I can fit it into my busy schedule.

Best advice you were given to overcome a difficult issue at work? Failure is not falling down, it is not getting up again.

How do we fix our national pastime of dismissing the tall poppies in our communities? Unfortunately, it does seem to be a national pastime that will take generations before it changes. We should celebrate success and successful people if achieved through hard work.

What's your guilty pleasure each day? Twitter and fast food.



Matthew Walker
Actor (currently plays Justin on Home and Away)
Age: 28

What's your proudest achievement so far? Being one of the 20 people accepted from more than 4,000 who auditioned for the acting course at NIDA (National Institute of Dramatic Art) in Sydney; and receiving a full scholarship.

Is NZ ready to become a republic? I think our association with the British monarchy is archaic now. I'd miss being in the Commonwealth Games though.

Which team or individual will provide our best result at the Commonwealth Games in India? Valerie Vili, Nick Willis, NZ Rugby Sevens.

How many grooming products do you use every morning? I scrub and moisturise.

How much time do you spend online each day, including social networking? My job takes me all over the place but nowhere near a desk or computer, so maybe an hour at the end of the day.

What do you do to chill out? Swim in the ocean – it recharges my soul.

Best advice you were given to overcome a difficult issue at work? The best way to deal with a person who is difficult is to learn more about them.

How do we fix our national pastime of dismissing the tall poppies in our communities? Travel. And see how other communities in the world embrace diversity. Then bring that ethos back home.

What's your guilty pleasure each day? MasterChef on The Food Channel.