

careerone

Casual/Part-time	130
Employ Services	130
Positions Vacant	40
Self Employment	130
Training	114
Work wanted	130

Rewards of a smooth finish



Juggling work on building sites is no desk job, writes **Jenny Ringland**

JOE Gordon can't find a phone that will last. As a project manager for building company ICMG, taking hundreds of calls every day from clients, architects, suppliers and tradesmen is one aspect of the job.

"I go through a phone a month," he says. "I have an iPhone at the moment but I am yet to find one that lasts on a building site. They can't make one tough enough."

ICMG specialises in commercial fit-outs and at any given time Gordon can be juggling several jobs at shops, bars, cafes and restaurants.

"At the moment I'm working on three jobs: a restaurant in the city and two clothing stores," he says.

"I find restaurant refurbishments the most satisfying because the clients are always very passionate about what they want. The high-quality level of finishes means a high standard of craftsmanship is required. They can be the most difficult jobs but also the most rewarding."

The most satisfying aspect of the role is the completion of a project, Gordon says.

"I like seeing the end product, it's rewarding," he says. "The downside is you are constantly relying on other people to meet your obligations."

In Gordon's role being able to multi-task is paramount.

"I have a lot on the go at any one time," he says. "I have a site manager and a project administrator underneath me. I'm constantly liaising with them, as well as the other stakeholders in the job."

His long-term goal is to start a construction business of his own.

"I'd like to set up a business in a similar field to what I'm doing," he says. "That would be my ultimate."

Growing up on a farm in central western NSW, Gordon always yearned for a career outdoors.

"I didn't want to have to be stuck behind a desk all day," he says.

"When I was at school I initially wanted to be a fitter or an engineer. I eventually decided to study Bachelor of Building and Construction Management; it offered practical training as well as theory."

He worked as a builder's labourer for a year before starting a degree.

"I worked on a construction site so I got a foot for the industry," he says.

"In the four years that I worked for a small residential building company, mostly on the trucks, it gave me that edge of experience."

On finishing his degree, Gordon took up a role as site co-ordinator for Mivac in construction, which piqued his interest in management.

"I worked there for 2½ years and loved it. I was thrown straight in the deep end, I enjoyed the challenge," he says. "Then I started with ICMG."

Hectic: Project manager Joe Gordon spends much of his day on the phone co-ordinating tradesmen on building sites

Picture: Bob Barker

How to be a project manager page 40

Inside: Special report on careers in health and community services