

Natalie Powell
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Test Engineer
Wellnomics Ltd

A passion for cross country horse riding, soccer and softball all keep Natalie Powell fit and healthy, and provide her with the perfect balance to working in front of a computer screen all day.

Working for a software company that's focused on employee wellness means that fitness and non-computer based recreation is highly encouraged, according to Natalie, who is just as passionate about her job at Wellnomics as a software testing engineer.

"Wellnomics is quite unusual in that there is a great relationship between the testing side and the development team. We have a lot of fun and work very closely together to make sure product development stays on track," she says.

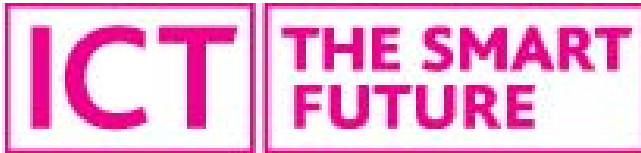
Wellnomics' products WorkPace® and Wellnomics Risk Management software are designed to assist computer users to manage and avoid injury such as RSI (repetitive strain injury) or OOS (occupational overuse syndrome).

The WorkPace software is installed on individual user machines and provides regular reminders during the work day to take micro pauses, and from time to time, to take a longer break and do some stretching exercises. The more sophisticated Risk Management modules also factor in issues like overall fitness and stress, at work and outside work, and create a risk profile for each computer user, which means managers can ensure each employee has an appropriate workload and is looking after their health and wellbeing properly.

As well as testing new product, Natalie acts as an intermediary between the company's customer support team and the development team, helping to deal with issues that customers have come up against and where necessary taking them back to the developers to have modifications made.

Born and bred in Wellington, Natalie gained her Bachelor's degree in Information Technology from Central Institute of Technology (now Weltec), and also completed post graduate papers in business and e-commerce.

Her career focus once completing her degree was customer helpdesk work, starting out at the WINZ contact centre. Within WINZ she was able to transfer to Christchurch, where she saw the position of test engineer with Wellnomics and thought it was something that was a good fit for her combination of skills and experience.



Primarily her job involves designing and executing test cases, reporting results, reviewing product design documentation, providing quality trends and technical support.

As far as future progress in her career goes, Natalie would like to become a senior test engineer and eventually take on a test lead position, and perhaps further down the track move into a quality assurance or business analyst role.