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Finding the right mix

Many paths can lead to a dream job, reports **Samantha Stevens.**

A cocktail of different jobs made the perfect blend of experience for Beckett Tucker when the opportunity to own and manage a bar and restaurant fell into his career path.

At 22 years of age, Mr Tucker has just opened a business in the heart of the trendy restaurant suburb of Leichhardt.

Working hard to ensure the restaurant does not end up on the rocks, he handles the staff, food and wine orders, and even the marketing and promotions.

But, for Mr Tucker, it hardly seems like work.

"I love bars, love everything about the bar culture," he enthused. "I have good mates in bars who are so easy-going. It's a great industry.

"When I was offered a share in a restaurant and bar, I jumped at the opportunity."

Mr Tucker set up the bar himself and is the licensee of the premises.

"As the licensee, I am responsible for all liquor sold and will cop it if anything happens," he said. "I have to make sure that the laws are adhered to.

"I'm on the floor managing the restaurant and bar areas on a day-to-day basis, working five nights, and days as well."

Mr Tucker is used to handling more than one job at a time.

He still works as front of house manager for the David Jones Fashion Week shows, and is finishing a Bachelor of Visual Arts and Media Arts at Sydney University.



Valuable experience: Beckett Tucker at the Vanilla Room in Leichhardt

Picture: Rohan Kelly

"I was originally interested in following in my father's footsteps into film editing," he said.

"I spent a year in a London school on the gap exchange program after the HSC, and concluded the year teaching A-level (Year 12 equivalent) visual arts and film-making."

Mr Tucker pursued this creative path after returning home, but it was not to be his career.

During the course he began night shifts at Channel 7, log-

He also started part-time work with promotions in bars and bottle shops.

"I began to really appreciate the wines that I was promoting," he said.

"I was blitzing the sales, and landed a job promoting and educating people in the industry about wine products."

Mr Tucker moved to a position at Fiji Water, running the Sydney area and events and marketing for the company.

and other perks were available, he missed the wine.

So, when he was approached by two industry contacts and offered a 33 per cent share of new Vanilla Room restaurant, he splashed out with his life savings and a loan to become his own boss.

"I'm loving what I do," he said. "The bookings are going off — we are already accepting function bookings for November next year. Plus, I get to spend