



ANGEL NEWS

April 2009

The T-Shirts say it all

"I'm not crazy – I'm only medicated for a chemical imbalance". Wendy was diagnosed with rapid cycle bipolar when she was in hospital for post-natal depression, after the birth of her second child. Since then art and humour have been part of making a life for herself and her children.

While Wendy was in hospital she had access to an art room and she found that making art was helpful and part of putting her life back together. Wendy started with painting but also moved onto making funky art from junk. And so her business got its name junk2funk.

Wendy says her experience is part of who she is and "we should be proud of who we are". She also thinks its good to be able to "poke a bit of fun out of it".

Not everyone would describe having bipolar as great but Wendy says most of her ideas happen when she is having what she calls a great bipolar moment. At one such time, she got the idea for the t-shirts. She wanted them to be bright and colourful – and they are – check out her website



www.junk2funk.co.nz. And she wants them to be positive, to make people smile when they see them but also to be an opportunity to get people talking. Since she has been wearing the t-shirts, Wendy has found she gets a lot of reaction to them and its all good.

But Wendy's t-shirts have another dimension. They are the start of a small business where Wendy can generate some income for her and her family by using her artistic skills and sense of humour. Being in business is the hard part says Wendy.

"I took the t-shirts round several organisations that work in the mental health area and they were very supportive but it was awkward sometimes because I wouldn't always have the right colour and size in stock. Wendy used her small Angel Fund loan to increase her stock. This meant she could more easily fill an order on the spot and avoid placing small, more expensive orders. Wendy is now poised to take her T-shirts nationwide.



Want a T-shirt? Order from the website or Wendy on junk2funk@vodaphone.co.nz.

Get on the Internet - Free

Everyone's doing it. Some are baring their souls as in a diary, others are commenting on whatever interests them, still others are doing it for business. What are they?

Blogs. Most are free, some are customisable and a few are very easy to set up.

I first heard about blogs last century, when people were using them as a kind of online secret diary. Arguably the most popular site for this kind of blog was livejournal.com – and browsing through their highlighted journals would often expose you to the innermost thoughts of some unknown person.



Nowadays, blogs are for anything, from the highly personal and quirky (apron designer olivejuiceco.typepad.com from whom I even bought an apron) to the political and topical (many of the blogs at stuff.co.nz).

When people ask me about getting an online presence, although I know they are talking about their own website, I recommend they at least make a start with a blog. They can incorporate this into their website at a later date (which will make their website look very established/credible if they blog regularly in the meantime) or keep it as a standalone blog. Which is a website, after all. Particularly if you get a customised header.

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The blogs I recommend are blogspot.com (part of the google umbrella) and wordpress.com - both are free and easy to register/setup. I have used them both. Any blog site can have your own domain name pointed at it any time you like too (the registrar where you bought the domain name should be able to arrange that), and on my wordpress gardening one, undermyhat.wordpress.com, I even designed my own header. I can also add extra pages there, as if it was a website.

So if you want to be on the web for free, or get a website at a later date, get started with a blog.

Want some help to get on the net? Julianne (who wrote this piece and did the Angel Fund website) offers borrowers very favourable prices. Email j@nzwebs.com or ph 331 7022.

What is the Angel Fund?

We are a women's saving and loan fund. We aim to support women in their efforts to improve their financial position. The Angel Fund offers a savings scheme and small loans to women on low incomes for the purpose of small business, education, or moving into work.

Recent loans have been for

Jewellery materials, Real Estate course, Floristry resource, Framing and Calligraphy supplies, Fees & Resources for women doing Early childcare, Natural medicine and Computer study.

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