

Nathan's new view of IT leads to success

By CANDICE FALCONER

LEAVING school in Year 9 Nathan Carter didn't think it was possible to start a university degree the same year he was due to start the Higher School Certificate, but the 17-year-old did.

Nathan left school due to illness but 12 months later wanted to continue his education – so he enrolled in a TAFE computer programming course.

After 18 months a friend mentioned that he was applying for universities and Nathan decided that instead of undertaking a TAFE diploma he would apply to complete a university degree in order to widen his options.

"I thought there was no way a university would take someone who didn't even have their Year 10 certificate, so I applied for a bit of a joke," Nathan said.

"To my surprise I was offered two positions, one at CSU in Bathurst and one at Macquarie University in Sydney.

"We looked into Macquarie, but I could not afford to live in Sydney, so I accepted the CSU offer and started that in 2003, the same year I should have been starting my HSC."

Three years later, and as the youngest person in the course, Nathan completed his degree and graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree.

Wanting to put his degree to use he started working with an IT company as an application developer.

After 12 months Nathan decided to go out on a limb and start his own business, Nathan Carter IT Consulting.

Nathan also took a job at a local school to ensure he still had money coming in, but used the flexibility of his own business to work after hours.

Three years later the business has gone from strength to strength and Nathan resigned from the school and turned from sole trader into a company.

Carter Tech Pty Ltd believe that computers should be designed for what people need them for, rather than people adjusting to use the computer system.

"In general, people adapt to the computer system, when in fact it should be working and doing what you want it to do. That is what they were designed for," Nathan said.

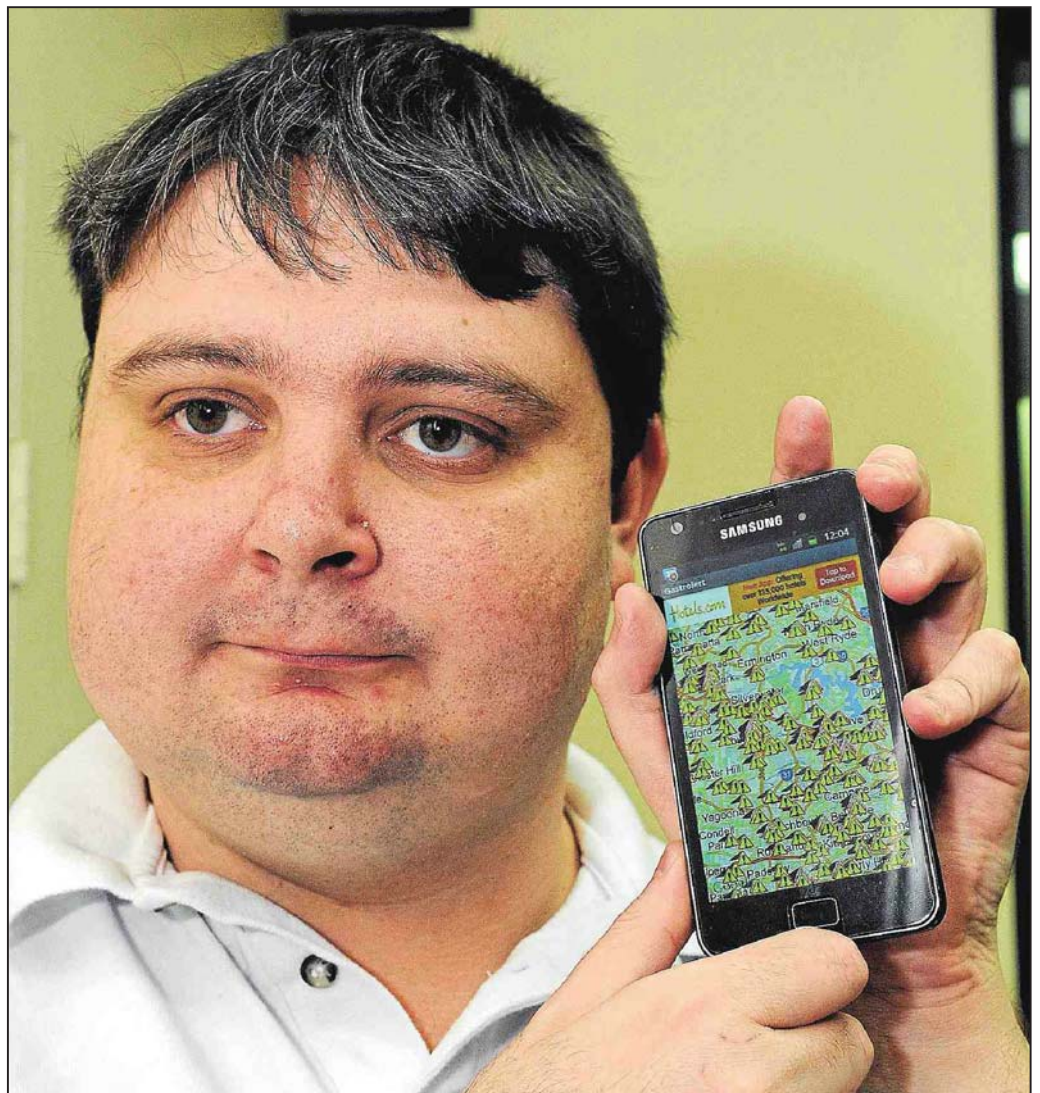
"That is the problem in IT. Generally computer systems don't do what people need them to do, so my job is to get the system to work for clients and not the other way round."

Nathan gains a lot of satisfaction from his job.

"I can get call outs because systems have crashed and I have to go and fix it," he said.

"When computers are down it can cause a lot of stress, so people are really appreciative when I can fix something for them."

Like most businesses, the IT industry is continually changing and Nathan



NAME AND SHAME: Nathan Carter has developed an app for android phones so people can check out the Food Authority of NSW's name and shame list for food safety breaches. Now people can look at a map of Bathurst, or anywhere in NSW, and make wise choices when they eat out.

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has to have his finger on the pulse to ensure he understands the latest technology.

The latest trend is mobile technology and Nathan has come up with an app that shows people on their phones the Food Authority of NSW's name and shame list for food safety breaches.

"There was nothing for Android phones so we developed it for NSW. People download the app and then see what food places have been listed in the Food Authority of NSW shame list," he said.

"There are not many places in Bathurst, but when you go to Sydney and are not used to eating out at certain places, the app is great and can help you avoid some food outlets."

Nathan came up with the idea of the app after he and a friend, who worked in the cleaning industry, were talking about standards.

"I knew there had to be something out there and when there wasn't an app for Android phones, we created one," he said.

"There is the name and shame list

which people can view, but we thought it would be easier for people to see a map rather than go through a huge big list.

"The app is updated weekly, so information is always current."

Nathan is now studying a post graduate law degree via distance at the University of Southern Queensland.

"I have a general interest in the law, and now IT and the law have so much in common; people put information on the internet which can be defamatory," he said.