

Prepared by Mary Jensen WECA Co-ordinator



Mary Jensen, WECA Co-ordinator



**Youth unemployment in the spotlight.** Recently I attended the “Our Workforce: Our Youth” Forum organised by Trust Waikato as a result of their concern at the high unemployment rate of youth. The number of NEET (Not in Employment, Education or Training) Youths (16 – 24 yr olds) has risen in NZ from 63,237 in June 2005 to an alarming 81,920 in June 2011. A total community effort is required to ensure that our youth are adequately prepared to enter the world of work and have the opportunity to transition into it. There is no quick fix in a fairly flat economy, nevertheless by all accounts by the end of this decade there will be an enormous shortage of skilled workers as our experienced and aging workforce retires.

WECA members are doing their bit to keep the flow of young people coming into their workplaces either through Gateway, or through other work experience in pre-employment, diploma or degree engineering courses and gradually transition them into the workplace (such as Rowland Davies is asking for with NZDE students later in this newsletter). The more members we have, the more WECA can assist in the co-ordination of these excellent, best practice initiatives. If you know of any companies that should join our fold, please let me know.

Recently we held an excellent Teachers Engineering Evening where approximately 60 people came together including Technology Teachers from the Waikato and Bay of Plenty, Wintec, University of Waikato and WECA employers to meet and learn from the Stafford Engineering tour and from each other. This group are all vital in growing the workforce and ensuring the qualities and calibre of Mechanical Engineering students coming through meet employers’ needs.

Alas, amidst all of the need for better career promotion, the CareerPaths Waikato Expo is not happening this year which creates a greater need for the **Get a Life day on May 8<sup>th</sup>** (see below), and the **WECA Waikato Mechanical Engineering Video** (see below also) that we are working on with employer input over the next few months. We appreciate your involvement in these projects. Have a great Easter!

.....Mary Jensen

## Get A Life – May 8<sup>th</sup> 2012

On this day school groups are invited to gain an insight into pathways for engineering careers and study options through **onsite visits to WECA Engineering companies** combined with visits to Wintec.

**If you can assist by hosting a school visit (or two) of Waikato Year 12 or 13 students on Tuesday May 08, please contact Sarah Hickey [sarah.hickey@wintec.ac.nz](mailto:sarah.hickey@wintec.ac.nz)**

Thank you for your involvement; this is an important day in the WECA calendar.



## WECA VIDEO PROJECT

The WECA Board has agreed to endorse the following Video promotional strategy, a video depicting the Waikato Mechanical Engineering Sector and employee profiles within it, undertaken by Mary Jensen (through Brella Projects) alongside the WECA contract:

### Objectives

- To reach more young people in Hamilton/Waikato schools through a video resource utilising a number of channels
- To showcase the Waikato Mechanical Engineering Sector and the jobs and companies within it
- To promote training options and career paths within the Hamilton/Waikato Mechanical Engineering Sector

### Strategy

The video project will be developed in a three phase strategy. Company and employee video footage will be amassed on a user pays basis. This footage will be cut into a sector wide DVD with the assistance of grants and sponsorship. A distribution strategy for the video will also be implemented

#### Phase One: Company and Employee profiles

This is a user-pays approach, fully funded by the WECA member whereby a company profile video is produced for the Mechanical Engineering firm's own use, and at the same time an employee profile is gained for the WECA website. The company paying will also be in the sector video.

#### Phase Two: Sector DVD

Commencing in August a 12 minute (approx) video will be produced (utilising the above footage) and edited as a resource profiling the Waikato Mechanical Engineering sector and the jobs and career paths in it. This will be funded by grants and sponsorship and all contributors will be acknowledged.

#### Phase Three: Promotion/Distribution of Video

This will primarily be done through Waikato Technology and Engineering teachers who recently congregated at a WECA Teachers Engineering evening and were informed and invited to attend the WECA AGM in October where the video will likely be launched at the Wintec Atrium. Other avenues will be utilised such as the WECA website, maybe digital brochures, You Tube clips, electronic newsletters. Careers NZ (Wellington) has expressed an interest in loading the video on its national website. The video can be played at Careers evenings and can be loaded onto virtual career expo sites as school bandwidth capacity is developed to accommodate this.

Please contact Mary Jensen on 021 2955 951, or [mary@brella.co.nz](mailto:mary@brella.co.nz) to find out more...



## **NEW Affiliate members and sponsors – WELCOME Competenz, Vitae and Gold Sponsors Kelly Services and the University of Waikato.**

**Vitae** is a not-for-profit organisation that has been in the business of supporting people in their workplaces for over 40 years. The support is for emotional problems which may be caused from work situations - communicating with a difficult personality, conflict, managing change, workplace bullying etc. Support is also provided for personal problems such as relationships, drug and alcohol, budgeting advice, dealing with anger etc. For more info contact Carolyn Casey on 0800 277478.



Lindi Engelbrecht

### **Emmy Noether prize awarded to Waikato engineering student**

University of Waikato second-year Bachelor of Engineering student Lindi Engelbrecht has been awarded the Emmy Noether prize for the top female student in first-year mathematics. The \$500 New Zealand Federation of University Women Emmy Noether Prize in Mathematics is awarded each year to the top first-year female mathematics student. Lindi is studying chemical and biological engineering specialising in biological processing and is hoping to be invited into the honours programme in her fourth year. The prize is a cash grant to spend on books. All female students enrolled in first-year mathematics papers are considered without application.



### **Wanted! Engineering companies – work experience required**

Wintec in partnership with WECA wish to implement a student training scheme for their final year NZDE Mechanical Engineering students. The scheme would require approximately 12 Engineering companies to participate. One student would be placed with one company each Friday of the week during term time. Each student would spend approximately 8 weeks with an employer and then move on to another new employer the next term. The scheme would start on Friday 27 April and run for 3 terms. Each employer would host 3 students at different times during the year (i.e. one at a time). Students would expect little or no pay.

The scheme would better prepare students for the workforce and allow employers the opportunity to trial different students with no expectation of being offered permanent employment.

*The NZDE is a National 2 year full time course of study giving students well-rounded practical and academic knowledge in the field of Mechanical Engineering to level 6. It is the modern equivalent to the NZCE, for further details please visit [www.engineer.org.nz](http://www.engineer.org.nz)*

For further details or to offer a work experience opportunity please contact Rowland Davies [rowland.davies@wintec.ac.nz](mailto:rowland.davies@wintec.ac.nz) or [mary@weca.org.nz](mailto:mary@weca.org.nz)



## WECA Teacher's Engineering Evening



**Science & Engineering**  
Te Mātauranga Pūtaiao me te Pūkaha



Active Plastics' Bart Engelsman gives a demo of his Akwakat invention to Weca chairwoman Trisha King, of Mainline Sheetmetals.

**The Teachers Engineering Evening** at Stafford Engineering was a great success with technology teachers from St John's College, St Pauls Collegiate, Te Awamutu College, Matamata College, Paeroa College, Tauranga Intermediate, Hamilton Boys High School, Melville High School, Morrinsville College, Papamoa College, Cambridge High School and Fraser High School along with Wintec Tutors and University lecturers meeting up with WECA employers at the event. Bart Engelsman's AKWAKAT innovation was a drawcard and the tour of Stafford Engineering was a hit with attendees – as were the drinks and nibbles contributed by Stafford and the University of Waikato. Thanks to everyone for attending this collaborative event.



From left, Waikato University's Janis Swan and Jenny Mangan with Vitae's Carolyn Casey



Stainless Design's John Cook, left, with Terry Mitchell of St Johns College

### Introduction to Effective Supervision

The programme is an entry level 2 day workshop which provides new supervisors and team leaders with a tool kit to assist them gain confidence in managing others.

BR Training have training scheduled in **Hamilton** on the **15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> of May 2012**. For more information contact B R Training on (07) 838 7493 or [info@brtraining.co.nz](mailto:info@brtraining.co.nz) [www.brtraining.co.nz](http://www.brtraining.co.nz)

### WECA thanks sponsors



**Articles and photos welcome for May Newsletter.** Please email to [mary@weca.org.nz](mailto:mary@weca.org.nz)

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