



Mary Jensen, WECA Co-ordinator

A bit of a nip in the air... and I gather some quarters of the economy are still biting a little. The drought won't have helped matters much. I think there may be some truth in one economist's view of things – we may be experiencing an economic recovery, but it is one with less jobs.

On a brighter note, we have a lot of activity lined up for engineering career promotions. You will see below that Get a Life Engineering Day is scheduled for May 21st and the Careers Expo is in August. The first issue of Waikato's FutureForce magazine has been published and WECA has an outstanding 10 page exposé of engineering and employees which is currently being distributed to 10,000 senior secondary students.

I am currently organising our next WECA get-together – keep your eyes peeled for an email invitation. Go well until then.....

.....Mary Jensen, WECA Co-ordinator

Meeting the Pre-trade Mechanical Engineering Students

On 27 February WECA members visited the Wintec mechanical engineering pre-trades students.



Engineering employers, from left: Kaleb James – Stafford Engineering, Allen Bryce – Competenz, Lou Ewington – Mighty River Power (Chair -Wintec Mechanical Trades EPG), Bob Marden (JP Marshall Engineering) in Wintec's Mechanical Engineering trade workshop.



Harry van Vliet, Competenz, takes down the details of a Wintec pre-trades student gaining skills in readiness to take on an apprenticeship.

Engineering in Action – Tuesday 21st May 2013



Wintec, in association with WECA would like to invite your company to participate in our Engineering In Action day. The aim of this day is to provide Waikato secondary school students an opportunity to see the type of engineering undertaken in companies around the Waikato, and the career opportunities that the Engineering Industry can provide.

We have very much appreciated the support of a number of engineering companies for the previous "Get-a-Life" Engineering Days and we do hope that engineering industries will continue to open their premises to these visits. Young people and their teachers are always extremely enthusiastic about the industry visits as they get to see for themselves the work that engineering companies engage in.

"Engineering in Action" will be held Tuesday May 21st, this year and we are planning school industry visits from 9:15am – 10:15 am and 1:00pm – 2:00pm.

We do hope you can participate this year. Can we ask that you email the contact details of the person in your company that we should liaise with to discuss details of visit; namely visit times and the numbers of students that you can show through your premises.

If you can host a tour, contact Lauren Saunders, Wintec

Phone: +64-(07)-834 8800 ext 3351

Email: lauren.saunders@wintec.ac.nz





New Zealand Apprenticeships Update From NZ Parliament

[Sitting date: 13 March 2013. Volume:688;Page:8468..]

6. Apprentices—Reboot Scheme

6. SIMON O’CONNOR (National—Tāmaki) to the **Minister for Tertiary Education, Skills and Employment**: What progress has been made with the Government’s Apprenticeship Reboot?

Hon STEVEN JOYCE (Minister for Tertiary Education, Skills and Employment) : In late January the Government announced a raft of changes to simplify and strengthen industry training to ensure more New Zealanders have the skills and qualifications they need to set them up for their working lives. To lift the participation in apprenticeships, we set up the apprenticeship reboot initiative, **which will provide the first 10,000 new apprentices to enrol a grant of \$1,000 towards their tools and off-job costs, or \$2,000 if they are in priority trades. Employers receive an identical payment for each new apprentice they take on.** The apprenticeship reboot initiative was due to start next month on 1 April, but due to its popularity with employers and with industry training organisations I am very pleased to announce that it has been brought forward a month and is now under way.

Simon O’Connor: What reports has he seen on the reboot’s popularity?

Hon STEVEN JOYCE: Well, of course, it is very early days, and official numbers are still being collated. I can report that in just 1 week, since the reboot initiative was brought forward to last Wednesday, approximately 350 young people have signed on as apprentices in the building and construction sectors, while around 60 have signed up already in specialist trades such as plumbing, drainlaying, roofing, scaffolding, and rigging. These enrolments are in key trade sectors that will support increased demand in Canterbury and Auckland. Although we expected the first 10,000 reboot places eligible to be available for 18 months, I have now seen reports that 10,000 could sign on within 12 months. That is very good news for industry training, young people, and employers.



FutureForce Waikato

The first issue of FutureForce is currently being distributed to 10,000 Waikato senior secondary school students free of charge. Thank you to WECA members who supported this including Stainless Design, Stafford Engineering, Mighty River Power, Competenz, NDA Engineering, Millennium Plastics, Wilkinson Transport Engineers, Mainline Sheetmetals, Alto Packaging, Tidd Ross Todd, Wintec, University of Waikato. We have a great feature in the magazine as a result.

Go to www.futureforce.co.nz to see the electronic copy of this 40 page magazine.

Congratulations to Mainline Sheetmetals’ Cameron Besley

Cameron is one of seven talented young New Zealand engineering tradespeople who have just been awarded the Ivan Fisk Memorial Scholarship of \$1,000 each to go towards advancing their careers – moving from a Level 4 apprenticeship to the National Certificate in Mechanical Engineering, Level 5. Well done Cameron!

Farewell Rowland and Doug

Many of our Waikato employers have been taught by Rowland Davies, tutor at Wintec, who has chosen to retire after 37 years of teaching. Quite a remarkable legacy you leave behind Rowland.

Doug Downs is also retiring from service to the Wintec EPGs and Worldskills Waikato. Doug has contributed a significant amount to the Engineering community through these groups and also through his time working for WECA. We wish both Rowland and Doug well.



Final Wintec Mechanical Engineering Employer Partnership Group (EPG) meeting for Rowland and Doug. From left: Trudy Harris, Matt Fowlkes, Rosemary Wyborn (Wintec), Ray Pryor (Millennium Plastics), Shelley Wilson (Wintec), Rowland Davies (Wintec), Owen Embling (Convex Plastics – Chair), Mary Jensen (WECA), Peter Marshall (J P Marshall), Doug Downs. Absent : John Cook (Stainless Design).

Seeking your views: Message from Owen Embling –

As Chairman of the Employer partnership group EPG for mechanical engineering at Wintec, we are looking for your views.



For a number of years we “The EPG” have solicited the views of our engineering industry and provided feedback to Wintec via the EPG. This year we would like to widen our reach and invite someone from your business to provide feedback on how Wintec could assist your business and our industry going forward. The opportunity exists to speak to, or provide written feedback around your thoughts and needs from your business. We are looking to develop this feedback over the next six weeks and present at our next EPG meeting.

The opportunity exists for your company to be represented on the EPG going forward and you are very welcome to attend our next meeting personally, this might additionally provide you insight as to how currently Wintec services the engineering manufacturing industry in the region.

Your own Weca organisation has provided excellent feedback over the years and will continue to do so via Mary Jensen.

Should you have any questions I'm available for discussion.

Owen Embling. Managing Director Convex Plastics Ltd DDI +64 7 846 1757
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New Tutor for Wintec

Trudy Harris is a new tutor in Mechanical Engineering within Wintec's School of Engineering, Sciences and Primary Industries. Trudy comes to Wintec from the University of Waikato where she worked in the Teaching Development Unit. In that role Trudy was responsible for improving teaching quality.

Trudy has a First Class honours degree in Engineering with Management, from Napier University in Edinburgh, and a PhD in Engineering, Design and Manufacture from the University of Hull. The PhD was a scholarship, funded between the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) and the industrial arm of DeBeers, known as Element 6. The subject of the PhD was the Mechanical Properties of Ultra-hard Materials, and looked at the mechanical properties of polycrystalline diamond cutting tools and other related materials.

Trudy has 15 years of teaching experience in a range of British tertiary institutions, and really enjoyed these roles. At Wintec Trudy is teaching Strength of Materials, Engineering Fundamentals and Engineering Management. Her main pedagogical focus with these papers is to integrate problem based learning with the aim of emulating the real life situations that graduate students are likely to encounter. So beware if she comes knocking at your doors looking for examples.

Trudy, originally from Wales, has lived in New Zealand since 2005 and has recently received her citizenship.

All the best in your new role Trudy.

WECA thanks sponsors:



Articles and photos welcome for May 2013 Newsletter. Please email to mary@weca.org.nz



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