



Mary Jensen, WECA Co-ordinator

The year that was.... All in all it's been a pretty good year. We have moved on from a situation 3 years ago when the recession really took hold and the skills shortage eased to a point where staff were being shed with some people were saying "what skills shortage?", to an acknowledgement of the need for a quality, skilled workforce. Now the Government is putting some real energy into ensuring that schools will align their education with the needs of the workplace – a good start has been made on this. Hon. Steven Joyce has repeatedly said that we need to be training more engineers. Hooray for that! More investment is promised into this space – we now just need to encourage more bright young sparks into engineering (therefore we require more investment into the promotion of engineering as a career too - go WECA 😊).

The Government was recently quoted in a good series of skills- based articles in the NZ Herald. Some alarming facts; of domestic bachelors students in 2011 a staggering 67,300 were enrolled in Society & Culture based courses; 36,740 in business; 30,800 in Science; 24,790 in Health; 22,940 in Creative arts; 16,400 in education; 16,120 in Information Technology and 5,570 in Engineering (source: NZ Herald November 19 2012). In another article in the same paper the Government eluded to setting up 18 networks next year linking schools, training providers and employers. After a bit of digging I found out that this is the Youth Guarantees Scheme and met with a Chief Advisor of Youth Guarantees Networks, Ministry of Education, to find out more. A network is being formed in Hamilton City involving Wintec, PTEs, schools, industry training organisations etc. Manufacturing and Technology is one of the sectors where it is hoped alignment of secondary and tertiary education will ensure subject/credits attained are part of a career pathway and not a mismatch (aka mishmash) leading nowhere.....*more excerpts from this Herald series later in newsletter.*

And the year for WECA? We've made good progress and had some fun on the way. The highlights for me have been:-

- Working with such a committed and expert Board
- Increased membership and sponsorship
- The Engineering for Educators evening at Stafford Engineering. Great to see teachers, tertiary education providers and employers all networking in an industry setting. Lots of publicity generated from this both regionally and nationally.
- The Phil O'Reilly, CEO Business NZ, event. Combined with Regional Business Partners Waikato to receive a great turnout to the entertaining influential guest speaker who commented that he thinks NZ would be a far better place if there were more "WECA's"
- The Perry Metal Protection and Convex Plastics events
- The association with Waikato WorldSkills and seeing our lads do so well both regionally and nationally
- Mixing with students at Careers Evenings
- Working on higher level Central and local Government initiatives on behalf of WECA – the industry training organisation review, the targeted review of qualifications (TROQ), Waikato regional economic strategy development
- Receiving high profile news coverage – reinforcing that we are the "Voice of Engineering" in the Waikato
- The WECA AGM with Dave Rennie – *see pics later in newsletter*

I thank you for your support of WECA, wish you the very best for a safe and happy holiday and look forward to further progress in 2013! Take care

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



WECA AGM – with Dave Rennie.

What a great night had by all! A pleasing turn out – including 7 men named “Peter” in attendance – proving the fact that if your name is Peter, you are likely to be an engineer ☺



1.



2.



3.



4.



5.



6.

1. Dave Rennie, Simon, Peter and Peter (Energy Products) with Gary and Peter (J.P Marshall) 2. Mel Deller (NDA), Dave Rennie, Lynne Lusty (Tidd Ross Todd), Jillian Stone (St John’s College) 3. Steve McNae (Stainless Design), Ray Pryor (Millennium Plastics) 4. Trisha King (Mainline Sheetmetals), Dave Rennie, Catherine Beeson- Smith (Kelly Services) 5. Julian Ford, Kaleb James (Stafford Engineering), Scott Pritchard (Stainless Design) 6. Blake, Peter, Brad and Sean (Convex Plastics) with Mary.

With special thanks to





Excerpts from NZ Herald Skills Series

Source: Skills crisis: Minister's threat to uni on funding. NZ Herald Monday November 19.

"Engineers NZ says engineers made up 5 percent of all tertiary graduates in New Zealand in 2007, compared with 7 percent in Australia and an average in OECD developed nations of 12 percent."

Source: Tragic skills mismatch shuts rising generation out of jobs. NZ Herald Monday November 19.

"Today most of the unskilled assembly lines are overseas and even the least skilled service jobs that have replaced them are much more likely to require at least basic literacy and numeracy."

"John Blakey of Competenz....says apprentices have to document everything they do and their manuals are full of diagrams and maths. When Work and Income recently gave his agency a list of hundreds of unemployed people in Christchurch, only two had the basic skills required to become apprentices."

"An Education Review Office evaluation reported in August that only four in a sample of 44 high schools provided "high-quality" school-wide careers advice. Many schools did not offer careers interviews until year 13, too late for the most needy students who had already gone."

"Infometrics economist Andrew Whiteford says the mismatch is partly geographical – skilled vacancies in Canterbury jumped by 36.5 percent in the year to October but most Kiwis live in the North Island where vacancies have been flat. On top of that, we have been hemorrhaging skills to Australia and we have failed to replace them with enough immigrants. "I would tend to suspect (the mismatch) is temporary, and as the economy recovers and net immigration reverses it will sort itself out...."

"The Government has begun to help students plan careers by grouping our confusing array of about 6000 qualifications into a much smaller number grouped in five overlapping "vocational pathways" – n.b. known as TROQ (Targeted Review of Qualifications), WECA is involved with this process and will pick up momentum next year

"A "youth guarantee" scheme will provide 8750 free places for 16 and 17 year olds in training institutes next year and a further 2760 high school students are in trades academies and service academies. The Government has also funded 2660 extra trades trainees this year in polytechnics around the country for rebuilding Christchurch, and is recruiting 900 people who will get six to 14 weeks of training to rebuild the city's roads and pipes."

"The changes will also need closer interaction between education and the world of work, two spheres that need to learn how to talk to each other. "Business speaks the language of business and schools speak the language of education, and it's like speaking French and German", says Business NZ head Phil O'Reilly."

"The Government is setting up 18 networks this year linking schools, training providers and employers to try to overcome the "language" barrier."

Gallagher Rotary Scholarship Industry Awards 2012

Held in mid November at the Wintec Atrium, the awards (which began in 2004) highlighted excellence in the construction, light engineering, heavy engineering, plumbing and plastics manufacturing trades. 3 WECA companies were involved : Stafford Engineering, Tidd Ross Todd and Convex Plastics.

TRT Tidd Ross Todd Ltd

TRT Apprentice of the Year. Winner : Raetea Robinson – NC Heavy Engineering – Road Transport & Plant and Equipment.

Finalists: Jeff Eckert –NC Composites. Timothy Cresswell – NC Engineering-Heavy Fabrication



Tidd Ross Todd Team

Back Row, from left:

Robert Carden,
Bruce Carden,
Kevin Chubb

Front Row, from left:

Jeff Eckert,
Raetea Robinson,
Timothy Cresswell,
Lynne Lusty

Convex Plastics Ltd

Apprenticeship Kickstart Award. Winner: Brad Jordan

Achievement Award: Gurpreet Singh



Convex Plastics Team

Back Row, from left:

Peter Drube,
Evan Bradley,
Gary Dillistone,
Dean Renner,
Robbie Hall,
Brad Dillistone,
Michael Johnson.

Front Row, from left:

Owen Embling,
Gurpreet Singh,
Brad Jordan

Stafford Engineering Ltd

Trainee of the Year - Winner: Lonny Smets

Merci

THANK
YOU

Gracias

To the amazing WECA Board!

On behalf of all WECA members – thank you very much

Trisha King – Chair Person. Managing Director – Mainline Sheetmetals

Steve McNae – Chief Information Officer – Stainless Design

Rosemary Wyborn – Head of School of Engineering, Science and Primary Industries - Wintec

Melinda Deller – GM HR & HSE – NDA Engineering

Dave Stuart – Sales Engineer – Stafford Engineering

Keith Fraser – Human Resources Manager, NZ – Alto

Bart Engelsman – Director – Active Plastics

Roland Spirig – Principal Academic Staff Member – Wintec

Cheers!

KELLY®



MERRY CHRISTMAS

In lieu of gifts this year, Kelly has made a donation of one year's worth of books to Blaketown School on the West Coast, in association with Duffy Books. This is a very deserving community, and a fantastic group of young Kiwis – we hope this gift will make a real difference to their education and a bright start to their year in 2013.

*Best wishes,
the Kelly Team!*

AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR

WECA thanks sponsors:



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

WECA, Waikato Engineering Careers Association,
P14, Centre for Industrial Training,
Wintec Rotokauri Campus, Private Bag 3036
Hamilton 3240.

DDI 07 834 8868
Mobile 021 2955951
Fax 07 849 1438
www.weca.org.nz



If you wish to be removed from the email list please make your request by email to mary@weca.org.nz



**For a limited time on all
orders received up to 30/11/12**

Applies to EA/PA/Office Manager/Secretary/AP and AR
permanent roles only with salaries up to \$70K per annum.
All other standard terms and conditions apply.

**Contact your local team at Kelly
and see how we can help you.**

RECRUITMENT | OUTSOURCING | CONSULTING

0800 4 KELLY
kellyservices.co.nz



Kelly's offer extended until Dec 21st