



Mary Jensen, WECA Co-ordinator

The new year is upon us.... and Summer is still with us. It's been a great season for the camping grounds but not so good for our farmers – let's hope the rain comes soon so that the grass grows again and our local agricultural economy and all associated aren't too heavily impacted on.

The WECA board and I have discussed the WECA plan for the year and we intend to have a big burst on the careers promotional front starting with a substantial Mechanical Engineering spread in the FutureForce magazine going out to all Waikato senior secondary school students in April. Thank you WECA members for your support (at the time of this newsletter publication these included *NDA, Stainless Design, Stafford Engineering, Mainline Sheetmetals, Alto Packaging, Competenz, University of Waikato, Wilkinson Transport Engineers, Mighty River Power, Tidd Ross Todd*).

Our first WECA opportunity for you is to meet the pre-trades students in action at the Wintec workshop on Wednesday 27 February. If you are thinking of taking on new staff or offering an apprenticeship this year, perhaps commencing with work experience, I encourage you to come in and see the new intake for yourselves. I spoke to them recently about WECA and opportunities for them in the region and encouraged them to work hard and put themselves forward. They are a big group and there looked to be some very good potential employees among them. (see below for more info on this opportunity to meet the students).

The Get A Life Engineering day is set for May 21st, an "Engineering for Educators" evening is scheduled for mid-year and this year heralds the return of the Careers Expo in August. We will upgrade our display material for that. I hope that you will support our stand as you have in the past as this contact between employers, students, parents and teachers is unfortunately quite rare, but very valuable for all involved.

At WECA we are always looking for new members and sponsors so if you can think of anyone who you think should join – they may be a business associate or a supplier – please send me a referral and I will go and chat to them about the benefits of being part of our positive, future-focussed organisation.

Please read on to see the latest update regarding changes to the apprenticeship system and other relevant information. We promise to keep you up to date with everything in the engineering skills and careers space. All the best with 2013!

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



Meet the Pre-trades Mechanical Engineering Students

Our first WECA opportunity for you is to meet the pre-trades students in action at the Wintec workshop on **Wednesday 27 February at 1pm. Meet at the Wintec Trades Office reception at the Rotokauri Campus.**

If you are thinking of taking on new staff or offering an apprenticeship this year, perhaps commencing with work experience, come in and see the new intake for yourselves. Please RSVP to mary@weca.org.nz.

New Zealand Apprenticeships Update

The nationwide scheme entails various new initiatives for apprenticeships:

- Modern Apprenticeships and other apprenticeship-type training will be combined into a single scheme entitled 'New Zealand Apprenticeships' from 1 January 2014. **What this means for you as an employer is that you can still remain with your Modern Apprentice Coordinator AND ITO Account Manager (they both call on you and apprentice) OR you can request that you have one or the other if you prefer only one person to call on you.**
- All apprentices in this new scheme, however young or old, will receive the same subsidy.
- Funding for the scheme will be boosted by \$12million in its first year – an increase of approximately 20%. The current 'top-up' for Modern Apprentices will be redistributed across all apprentices as an extension to their learning subsidy.
- The educational requirement will increase so that an apprenticeship must comprise a Tertiary Education Commission-approved programme of study of at least 120 credits, resulting in a level four qualification.
- Industry training organisations will be more closely monitored by NZQA.
- The first 10,000 apprentices to enrol after 1 April 2013 (and their employers) will receive \$1,000 towards their tolls and off-job course costs (or \$2,000 if in a priority construction trade).
- Employers will have the opportunity to access industry training funding directly from 1 January 2014, to increase competition.

The Otago Daily Times 26 January 2013 said

- The current top-up for Modern Apprentices would be redistributed across all apprentices. In addition, overall subsidy payments would be increased by about \$12 million in the first year, rising over time. *(n.b. across all trades)*
- By rebooting apprenticeships, the Government estimated there would be an additional 14,000 new apprentices starting training over the next five years - over and above the 7000 who enrolled every year. *(n.b. across all trades)*
- **Higher subsidy skills**
 - Construction: Carpentry, painting, decorating, plastering, steel fixing, concreting, plumbing, gas fitting, drain laying, roofing, scaffolding, rigging, joinery, brick and block laying, paving, tiling, masonry, construction.
 - Infrastructure: Plant operator, road construction and maintenance, bituminous surfacing, foundation works, pipe laying, bridge construction and maintenance, engineering (highways), quantity surveying.
 - Engineering: **Boiler making, welding, sheet metal working, diesel fitting, fitting and turning, civil engineering, mechanical engineering, fabrication.**
 - Electro-technology: Electricity supply (electronics and communication), instrumentation and control, refrigeration and air conditioning, electrical engineering.

Set aside these WECA dates:

May 21 – Get a Life Engineering Day

August 4 and 5 – Careers Expo, Claudelands Event Centre



Engineering prize for University of Waikato student

University of Waikato student René Englebrecht is the first recipient of the New Zealand Federation of Graduate Women prize.

The \$1000 prize was established last year and will be awarded annually to the most outstanding female student in their third year of study towards an engineering degree.

The NZFGW is affiliated to the International Federation of University Women which works to empower women and girls through lifelong education for leadership and aims to assist the advancement of women in higher education.



Recognising women in education: From left, Waikato Graduate Women Trust Administrator Vivienne Evans, Professor Janis Swan, Rene Englebrecht and Professor Ann Mc Kim.

Assistance for Rugby Players Sought



Judy Clement, Professional Development Manager for Chiefs and Waikato rugby, has approached WECA for assistance in helping find potential opportunities for players in our region. This may be in the form of work, work experience/shadowing and mentoring. Judy often has academy level players who are brought in from outside the region who are looking for casual or contract work that might fit with their rugby training schedule. She also has young players who are keen to have a taste of an industry to gauge if this is what they would like to focus on outside of rugby. Judy hopes she may be able to place some of these motivated, hard working young men in an environment where they can have a mutually beneficial relationship and share their many skills gained from being semi-professional/professional athletes.

Please contact Judy for further discussion phone (07) 853 0231 X 207 or 021 471 862

judyc@chiefs.co.nz



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



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