

Prepared by Mary Jensen WECA Co-ordinator



Mary Jensen, WECA Co-ordinator

The Digital Age. With ultrafast broadband being rolled out, the digital world is really gaining momentum. It will be a fantastic utility for our NZ businesses, providing a great conduit for growth. The high speed fibre will not only reduce costs by increasing productivity, it will also allow business to get closer to its customers. New Zealand's "tyranny of distance from the rest of the world" will be conquered and eventually the information superhighway will allow effective business conferencing including HD video, holographic and 3 D imagery from point to point at the speed of light. Sounds impressive, does it not? – I have to confess to "borrowing" some of these terms from three very interesting Youtube clips from Australia's National Broadband Network (NBN) (thank you Nicola Browne of Opportunity Hamilton for the links). I urge you to look at them – the "homes" one is quite fascinating. [NBN for business](#) [NBN in homes](#) [How NBN is built](#) .

What is the relevance to WECA? Aside from the fact that WECA members need to embrace the technology in their operations and sales strategies, WECA itself must use the medium to better promote its message. Hence, in association with the WECA Board, we have devised a plan to create DVD footage on the "hidden" Mechanical Engineering Sector. See more info on this later on in the newsletter. I encourage you to take up the opportunity.

Also, sadly, it would appear that the Waikato Careerpaths Expo may not be taking place this year. WECA is therefore even more committed to connecting direct with schools. Our first initiative is the upcoming event "**Teachers Engineering Evening**" detailed below. It's a member event so come and meet the Waikato school teachers. WECA is also committed to the "Get a Life" project in association with Wintec, where students visit WECA workplaces. This will happen on May 8th.

There's a definite air of cautious economic optimism and it's great to have assisted so many employers recently to put them in touch with new apprentices. Please call/email if you would like to offer work experience, or an apprenticeship in the near future. I look forward to catching up with you soon. All the best for 2012!

.....Mary Jensen



WECA Event : **Teachers Engineering Evening**

You are invited to this event, hosted by Stafford Engineering, presenting modern, state of the art design and manufacturing techniques to our Waikato educators. The innovative Akwakat story will also be told. Meet the teachers, go on a tour at Stafford and network.

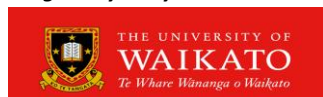
WHEN: Tuesday March 13, 4.00pm -6.00pm

WHERE: Stafford Engineering, 15 Aztec Place, Hamilton

RSVP: Mary Jensen – mary@weca.org.nz

All WECA members & Waikato educators welcome- Refreshments included. Free entry.

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WorldSkills Waikato Bay of Plenty Competition 14th April 2012

The Regional Waikato / BOP competition will be held at Wintec Rotokauri Saturday 14th April. Please encourage your staff enter the local competition. Winners of the local competition attend the New Zealand competition later in the year in Christchurch. From the Christchurch competition the New Zealand team is selected to attend the world competition 2-7th July 2013 in Leipzig Germany.

Competitors must be under 21 in December of 2012. See You tube, WorldSkills Leipzig 2013 Best Choice .

Further information and entry forms can be obtained from Kaleb James kaleb.james@stafford.co.nz or Doug Downs doug.pua@gmail.com



WECA DVDs – embracing the digital age

As part of an initiative to create a Waikato Mechanical Engineering sector promotional DVD, Mary Jensen has been given the green light by the WECA Board to offer a service of creating company profile DVDs for WECA members at a special, standard rate. This will be a complete turnkey service including client liaison, copywriting, filming, editing, voice over etc, taking the hard work out of it for WECA members. It will be a “user pays” service and will occur outside of Mary’s current WECA contract. At the same time employee profiles will be filmed for the WECA website. From the individual profiles a sector-wide DVD will be created and sponsorship will be sought for this. This resource will be invaluable in promoting engineering as a career in the Waikato. More information to follow soon.



Steel & Tube’s Chain & Rigging Services Ramp Up

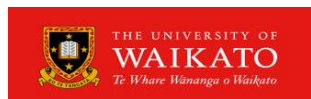
Among the crucial requirements of any lifting operation is being compliant to the codes of practice and regulations. Steel & Tube have made it easy to ensure that you comply, by adding a third van to the local on-site testing fleet.

Trained personal have extensive practical knowledge and experience, backed up by a booking system with one month advance notice to ensure all products are available at the time of testing. They will contact you when it’s time to schedule your next check and all testing will be done at your site to avoid disruption to operations.

To ramp up your Chain & Rigging checks and find more about this service, please call **Steel & Tube on 0800 100 260**.

School of Engineering Work Placement Programme

The School of Engineering at the University of Waikato has been operating for 10 years and currently has five IPENZ accredited degrees: Software, Electronics, Materials and Process, Chemical and Biological, and Mechanical Engineering. Enrolments are growing, and of significant appeal is the University of Waikato’s Work Placement Programme. Through this programme engineering students are assisted to find relevant work for their degree. This recruitment agency-style service is unique to Waikato – no other engineering degree in New



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Zealand offers a similar service.

Levinia Paku (pictured) is a placement coordinator for students enrolled in Mechanical Engineering. "Every year I have about 60 students at various stages in their studies to place; some find their own placements but the majority come to me to help them out. Not knowing where to look or what is suitable work can be a problem for them." Networking with the right companies is therefore vital to all placement coordinators, as is finding out how students can support companies in terms of short-term work. "Our students need the practical hands-on skills to complement their studies; the focus for them is learning. It's more than just a job".



This summer, Graeme and Trisha King from Mainline Sheetmetals took on a Waikato engineering placement student, under the Study Award Scheme, where a financial transaction takes place between the University and the company in return for a set number of hours worked. Luke Overton, (pictured), a 3rd year Mechanical Engineering degree student, was provided with a great opportunity to become competent in the workshop. "I have learnt lots of things here such as cutting, folding and welding sheetmetal and have been involved in the process of all of their products. It has given me focus and a good grounding for my engineering degree."

The University of Waikato School of Engineering is delighted to be involved with WECA as it supports WECA's initiatives of bringing together companies and educational institutes to work together.

If you would like to discuss a work placement opportunity for a University of Waikato engineering student, please contact Levinia Paku lpaku@waikato.ac.nz or ph: 07 838 4517.



Regional Business Partner Waikato - are you eligible?

Opportunity Hamilton's Regional Business Partners Waikato team has been busier than ever, issuing support and funding of up to \$5000 a year to dozens of eligible businesses.

The government initiative, managed locally by Opportunity Hamilton and Waikato Innovation Park, allows eligible business owners to receive a 50 per cent subsidy towards course, training or workshop costs.

There about 40 RBP service training providers in the region.

To see if your business is eligible please e-mail robyn@opportunityhamilton.co.nz.



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

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