

# Newsletter July 2011

Prepared by Mary Jensen WECA Co-ordinator



Mary Jensen, WECA Co-ordinator

June has been a very busy month getting the WECA website upgraded and new Engineering Careers brochures in place ready for the Waikato Careers Expo. We are thrilled with the result. I spoke with a number of School Careers/Gateway Co-ordinators and am concerned at their anecdotal feedback that fewer of their students are asking for engineering placements. Agriculture is drawing them in, after many years of Dairy NZ and the AgITO pushing this vocation. We have plenty of work to do to ensure that engineering remains top-of-mind as an attractive career option for high calibre students. Natalie Jackson, Demographics expert at the University of Waikato shared some information with Roger Evans, Clive Hamill (principal of Melville High School) and me earlier this year. Baby Boomers will be leaving the workplace in droves over the next 10 years. In about 12 years it is forecast that the number of people retiring will surpass the number of young people entering the workforce. (See interesting graph at the end of this newsletter relating to the workforce demographics in one classification of the Waikato manufacturing sector).

The labour market will become a very competitive place as a result – not just here, but globally. My advice is to keep your pipeline of staff flowing. Interview and take on eager students for work experience. Offer new apprenticeships if you feel you can accommodate them. There is a mood of positivity in the marketplace. The Waikato is fortunate to be home of a successful agricultural sector and we have just made second (behind Auckland) for economic growth in the last quarter. Start now. Take on a good, keen young worker! Contact me with any queries and I will point you in the right direction.

Also, the elusive Mike Pohio event is back on – Thursday July 21<sup>st</sup> at Stainless Design (see below). Looking forward to seeing you and your mates there!

Mary Jensen



Mike Pohio, CEO Tainui Group Holdings

**weca Event** – RESCHEDULED - **Thursday July 21st**. Mike Pohio guest speaker on the proposed Inland Port Development of Ruakura

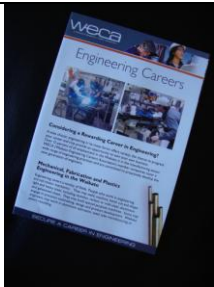
**Date:** Thursday 21 July  
**Time:** 5.15 – 6.45pm  
**Venue:** Imai Room, SDL Training Centre, Stainless Design, 17 Kaimiro Street, Hamilton  
**Entry:** Free

Join members (by all means bring a friend) to hear Mike Pohio, CEO of Tainui Group Holdings talk about the Inland Port proposed for the 500 hectare Ruakura Estate (3km east of Hamilton's CBD). The owners of Ruakura Estate – Tainui Group Holdings and Chedworth Park Ltd – propose to develop the site to be a sustainable commercial and industrial hub that supports economic and supply chain activities throughout the golden triangle (the regions of Auckland, Waikato and Bay of Plenty). The inland port will serve as the core of the wider Ruakura development. **Mark the date in your diary now.**

**RSVP:** Mary Jensen [mary@weca.org.nz](mailto:mary@weca.org.nz) by 12 July 2011 for catering purposes

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## WECA Website and brochures

The new website has sections on Engineering pathways, Waikato Engineering and Members profiles. If you haven't sent in your profile please get hold of me – I have a simple form for you to fill in. The idea is to paint an attractive picture of the Engineering Sector in the Waikato and simplify the information on education/training paths available to would-be employees. This is a work in progress – we will bring it to life with photos and video profiling Waikato people in engineering jobs.

The brochure, seen left, is a great start to achieve the above objectives. Special thanks to Paula Stuart whose services were kindly offered by Dave Stuart, WECA board member, to do the marvellous graphic design on a voluntary basis. Thanks a bunch Paula.



[www.worldskills.org.nz](http://www.worldskills.org.nz)



Brad Wood, Waikato rep

## Worldskills NZ Team, departs for Australia, and then London

The NZ International Worldskills Team, the Tool Blacks, leave 4<sup>th</sup> July for Australia, to take part in the Global Skills Challenge as part of their warm-up for Worldskills London in October.

Following the regional competition held last year, Waikato entered in eight categories at the national competition and came back with 6 medals. Brad Wood, pictured, of South Waikato Precision Engineering, is the International team competitor representing Waikato in welding. The NZ team has two Wintec support staff including Roland Spirig, Fitting, International Judge and Deputy Chief Technical Expert.

Derek Pinkerton (Stainless Design) Chairman of the Waikato Worldskills Committee, a not-for-profit organisation explained, "For the NZ Team to attend Worldskills London, the cost is around \$28,000 for each trade. Although we have received donations and sponsorship from Wintec, we are still looking to raise around \$30,000. A fundraising dinner is being planned for August and we look forward to support from Waikato Companies and trade organisations to make the evening a success."

The next Waikato Regional Competitions are in April/May 2012 followed by Worldskills 2013 in Leipzig Germany. For further info contact Harry vanVliet, 021 673 297, email

[harry@jobfinders.co.nz](mailto:harry@jobfinders.co.nz)

Doug Downs



## Career Paths Expo

This was held on June 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> at the Claudelands Event Centre. WECA shared a double site with Stainless Design and thanks goes to Stainless Design for sponsoring the WECA site. Special thanks to Vaughan Wetton and Roland Spirig - Wintec, Bart Engelsman- Active Plastics, Trisha King – Mainline Sheetmetals, Allen Bryce – Competenz, Melinda Deller and Laura Thomas – NDA Engineering, Doug Downs, Dean Renner – Convex Plastics, Keith Fraser – Alto, Dave Stuart – Stafford Engineering, Peter Marshall – J P Marshall and Harry vanVliet – Jobfinders for your valuable assistance in staffing the awesome WECA stand! We spread the "word" in style!

Left: Laura Thomas stands next to "Alan".



Right: Trisha King speaks with Steve McNae





www.brtraining.co.nz

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www.totalcnc.co.nz



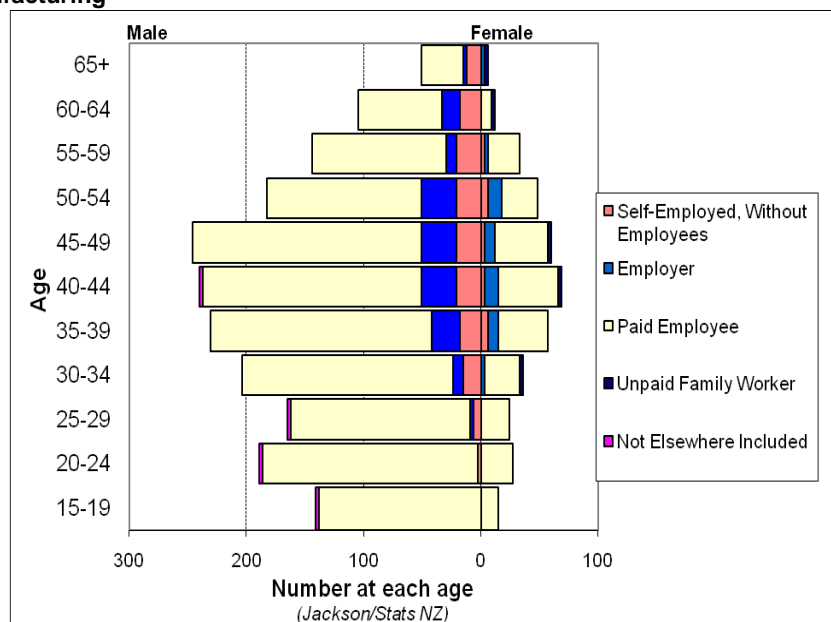
www.easysteel.co.nz

## Welcome to our new Affiliate Member - BR Training

Pauline Wrigley, of BR Training says, "We are looking forward to building a more formal relationship with WECA and its members. We have a solid reputation in the market and are recognized as partner providers for Competenz and Pampito, among other ITOs. We are passionate about ensuring robust pathways exist within businesses to build supervisors, leaders and Project Managers, with qualification linked programmes that also produce ROI for the businesses. It is about sustainability; retention, succession planning and maximizing performance and productivity. BR Training's commitment is to support members, with recommendations around quality customized pathways to complement core technical skills within their businesses. It is how we work so that business owners and senior managers can have confidence they are making a wise investment in their people with carefully selected training solutions that are part of a planned strategy." *A timetable of public courses is available at [www.brtraining.co.nz](http://www.brtraining.co.nz)*

Table below (Source: Natalie Jackson, Professor of Demography, University of Waikato): Six years on, work out where the bars are now – and then ponder how many young ones have started since then...probably not as many as in 2006...

**Age-Sex Structure, 2006**  
**Waikato Census Region**  
**C286 Industrial Machinery and Equipment Manufacturing**



Source: Stats NZ  
 Customised Database,  
 Area of Usual Residence, Industry (ANZSIC96 V4.1) and  
 Status in Employment by Age Group and Sex  
 for the Employed Census Usually Resident Population Count Aged 15 Years and Over, 2006

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

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