

Newsletter September/ October 2011

Prepared by Mary Jensen WECA Co-ordinator



Mary Jensen, WECA Co-ordinator

Spring is here and while there is still plenty of life left in 2011, one can't help but turn one's mind to 2012 and aim to positively build on what 2011 brought with it. That is certainly what the WECA Board and I are doing right now as the AGM draws nearer and we develop our plans to present at the Annual AGM Dinner on October 20th (see more info below)

Make sure you book your tickets to this soon as it will be an entertaining event at Windows on Avalon at the Wintec Rotokauri campus. I recently enjoyed attending the World Skills Dinner which had a great turnout of WECA members, booking the restaurant out completely (see pics below). Organisers had to turn people away.

In past newsletters I have talked about the smaller numbers of engineering apprentices being signed up, and an increase in young people choosing a career in the agricultural sector. These sorts of trends will inevitably create a skills shortage in the Waikato engineering field that will take a very long time to resolve; mirroring the late 1990's to late 2000's. The lag between taking on people and having them at a productive skill level is significant so forward thinking is required. Last week I met with two Senior staff at Work and Income who told me that the Waikato region currently has 3000 unemployed people on their books. Sadly, 1000 of these unemployed (in other words one-third) are between the ages of 16 and 24. This figure will rise considerably as the school year ends. The majority of this group are keen to work. If you are predicting the need for more staff, please have the courage to take on new staff now! (see how Work and Income may be able to help you below)

At the AGM we will inform you of WECA's plans for 2012. We will stay true to our vision, offer greater value for our members and in so doing build membership and create a louder and more effective "voice" for engineering careers.

See you at the AGM

Mary Jensen



AGM Dinner Thursday October 20th at 6pm. (AGM held prior to this from 4.30 pm)

Featuring Guest Speaker Noah Hickey



Noah Hickey with Ronaldo

Noah Hickey is a former All White who represented New Zealand for ten years from 1997-2007. In this time Noah played against countries such as France, Brazil and players such as Ronaldo, Ronaldinho, David Beckham and many more. Noah also won a Premiership in Finland for Tampere United where he played for four years in some of Europe's best competition. Since retiring in 1997 Noah has founded a mentoring programme for students called SHINE and works heavily in the community in an effort to help individuals and groups reach their potential. Noah is now the Head of Business Development for fund manager Fisher Funds and has a passion for helping people realise the value in saving.

Venue: Windows on Avalon, Wintec Rotokauri Campus

Ticket Price: \$55 per head. Partners welcome.

Mark it in your calendar now! October 20th

More info to follow very soon.....

Brought to you by



weca Event – New members Energy Products International hosted an informative evening at their premises – thanks Peter and Julie McKenzie for the relaxed and interesting event!



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1. Dave Smith, James Driscoll and Graeme King 2. Peter McKenzie, John Cook and Peter Murphy
3. Steve McNae, Julian Ford, Trisha King and Levinia Paku 4. Dave Stuart, Peter Marshall and Dr. Jonas Hoffmann-Vocke

Financial Assistance available from Work and Income to take on apprentices

Work and Income have a new initiative available for employers called “*Skills for Growth*”.

Employers can receive \$5 000 to contribute towards the costs of investment in training for a new permanent employee aged 16 to 24 years who is currently receiving a main benefit. Work and Income has a pool of keen young people seeking work. They can arrange to have a group come in so that they can be interviewed at their local office by a prospective employer. A staged approach can be taken leading up to full employment being offered to the worker. For more information on eligibility and how you can take advantage of this initiative please contact Matthew Henderson on 07 957 1555 or 029 200 6214, or Marshall Tuhakaraina marshall.tuhakaraina001@msd.govt.nz. Or you can email mary@weca.org.nz for a fact sheet.



A service of the Ministry of Social Development



New Members and Affiliates

A warm WECA welcome to new WECA members and affiliates:

Energy Products International, Perry Metal Protection and World Skills Waikato. It's great to have you on board!

Waikato Trades Academy

Earlier this year, I (Trisha King) was invited to join the steering committee for the Waikato Trades Academy (WTA). My involvement is to add an industry perspective to the Academy and to represent the engineering industry on behalf of WECA.

In the Waikato, 16 schools with places for 48 students participated in the Academy this year. The 2011 programme of 3 x 2 week blocks has been completed with very pleasing results. The following link featured in the Waikato Times; <http://www.stuff.co.nz/waikato-times/news/5555246/Students-chop-into-trades-skills>

On the 6th September, the Hon Anne Tolley, Minister of Education announced ten new Trades Academies had been confirmed to open around New Zealand from 2012. It is clear the government sees Trades and Service Academies as a way forward with partnerships between secondary and tertiary education and industry working together to address the employment and skills challenges facing New Zealand.

Business New Zealand's Phil O'Reilly welcomes vocational pathways. See link below:

<http://pr.co.nz/vocational-pathways-youth-guarante-07042011/>

The NCEA framework is set to change next year with a focus on vocational pathways to provide clearer options for students. Simon Collins from The New Zealand Herald has written a very good article which talks about what has been happening since NCEA was introduced a decade ago and where to from here. Many of his comments sum up my thoughts on the education system which my own children (boys) have been through and as an employer in the trades sector, the difficulties of working through what Simon Collins describes as a "patchwork of qualifications that are no use to anyone". A good read.

http://www.nzherald.co.nz/employment/news/article.cfm?c_id=11&objectid=10747700

These changes will have a positive effect for industry and I look forward to seeing the benefits.

Trisha King
WECA Chair



www.worldskills.org.nz

World Skills Waikato Fundraising Dinner – a great success



Rodney Meredith SWPE Tokoroa, Brad Wood Worldskills Team member welding, Rolland Spirig International Judge (and Wintec), Harry van Vliet Modern Apprenticeship Co-ordinator



Bryan Smith Wintec Plumbing, Alfredo Huerta Wintec Carpentry, Mary Jensen WECA, Chris Stuart Wintec Head of School of Trades



John Lee Auctioneer, Derek Pinkerton Waikato World Skills Chair, John Spencer CEO World Skills NZ, Bruce Howat Board Chair World Skills NZ

WorldSkills Waikato held a successful Fund Raiser Dinner & Auction recently at Wintec Rotokauri Campus Windows on Avalon Restaurant. The evening was held to raise funds to support the 'Tool Blacks', a team of 17 young trades people who will represent New Zealand at the International World Skills Competition in London in October. This competition will attract around 15,000 people with 54 trades competing.

The MC for the evening was Derek Pinkerton, Engineering Manager Stainless Design. Speakers were Bruce Howat Chair of WorldSkills NZ, Peter Spencer CEO WorldSkills NZ, Brad Wood SWPE Engineering Tokoroa representing NZ in Welding, and Rolland Spirig Wintec tutor and Worldskills International Judge. Auctioneer John Lee proved popular and effective in generating bids for the 28 items that had been donated by local firms.

The local WorldSkills Waikato committee would like to express its thanks to all who supported the evening.

Doug Downs



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

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