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*Cont on page 3*



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## Timaru Tradesmen Take Out Awards

The New Zealand Craftsman Training Foundation (NZCTF) and James awarded two overseas training awards in 2010 to help further the careers of a pair of talented young South Island tradesmen.

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Award winners Ryan Blackie and James O'Connor both hail from Timaru and are top performers in their respective trades – Ryan

in composite engineering in automotive mechanics. Ryan has worked in composite manufacturing, boat building and traditional fibre glass and

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# NZCTF 45th Reunion Looks To The Future

The 45<sup>th</sup> reunion of the New Zealand Craftsman Training Foundation (NZCTF) in Christchurch on the 29-31 October combined a celebration of the past with a strong focus on the future of advanced trade training.

This was highlighted by the presentation of the 2010 NZCTF overseas training awards on the Saturday evening to Ryan Blackie and James O'Connor by four recipients of the Foundation's very first overseas training scholarships in 1965: Laurie Moran, Don Petchell, Gerald Rickerby and Michael Tuck.

*Sitting at table from left: Nancy Bamford, Les Bamford, Margaret Johns (Hon. Sec), Stephen Matthews (MTA), Gayle O'Brien, John Fraser (Founding NZCTF Board member and past Chairman), Owen Embling (Chairman), Peter Hancock (MITO).*

*The Saturday tram ride showed reunion attendees some 'never to be seen again' sights of Christchurch city.*

NZCTF Chairman Owen Embling spoke to the approximately 40 guests at the presentation dinner about the history of the Foundation and its current and future endeavours to promote advanced trade training.

The reunion included a visit to Christchurch company Tait Electronics to see what a private local company can achieve in the global marketplace by progressing from value radios to world-leading radio communication systems. Attendees were also

treated to a tram ride through Christchurch's central city, which was devastated just a few months later by February's magnitude 6.3 earthquake.

Owen Embling says, "It was very exciting to meet together in the South Island for the first time in a number of years and celebrate the success of two

talented young local tradesmen. Looking back, it was also very rewarding to have been able to invest our time and resources in Christchurch at that time, between the two big earthquakes."



## Timaru Tradesmen Take Out Awards Cont from previous page

is the assistant manager of one of New Zealand's largest composite and fibreglass manufacturing companies, Aeromarine Industries Ltd. Ryan and his employer are very much into new materials, techniques and niche markets; and can see opportunities in the automotive and aeronautical industries as well as traditional areas.

The New Zealand Craftsman Training Foundation (NZCTF) awarded two overseas training awards in 2010 to help further the careers of a pair of talented young South Island tradesmen. Award winners Ryan Blackie and James O'Connor both hail from Timaru and are top performers in their respective trades – Ryan

Twenty-nine-year-old Ryan has used his award to take a six-week training trip to the USA. Ryan has worked in composite manufacturing, boat building and traditional fibre glass and is the assistant manager of one of New Zealand's largest composite and fibreglass manufacturing companies, Aeromarine Industries Ltd. Ryan and his employer are very much into new materials, techniques and niche markets; and can see opportunities in the automotive and aeronautical industries as well as traditional areas.

Twenty-four-year-old James

O'Connor is a former Motor Trade Association (MTA) Apprentice of the year (2009) and works as a truck mechanic at Timaru Motors. He plans to use his award to extend his all-round vehicle knowledge by taking part in a study and training programme at Daimler in Germany, the company famous for producing Mercedes Benz. Both MTA and the Motor Industry Training Organisation (MITO) have provided financial support to help fund James's training.

James's long term goal is to get involved in vehicle manufacturing and design and he is looking forward to learning about the new technology that Daimler has in place.

MTA General Manager, Advocacy and training, Dougal Morrison says, "James has a clear passion for the motor industry and that was hard to ignore. I have no doubt that he will succeed in becoming a leading automotive technician and industry leader."

NZCTF Chairman Owen Embling says Ryan and James exhibit the can-do attitude, ability and leadership qualities that the Foundation is keen to foster to help both the award recipients and their employers.

Owen says, "One of our primary objectives is to help young people, just starting out in their trade careers get international experience without having to leave their jobs in New Zealand."

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# High Schools Providing A Gateway To Trades

A number of secondary schools around New Zealand are helping young people take their first steps towards a trade career by offering Gateway programmes with real on-the-job experience.

The purpose of Gateway is to strengthen the pathway for learners to progress from school to the workplace. Although not specifically focused on trade careers, a reasonable percentage of participants use the programme to get a taste of one of the trades.

Gateway is available to state and integrated secondary schools with funding from The Tertiary Education Commission (TEC). The programme supports senior secondary students (Year 11 to Year 13+) to undertake structured workplace learning across a range of industries and businesses around New Zealand, while continuing to study at school.

Hamilton's Fraser High School is the largest provider of the Gateway programme. Fraser was one of the initial Gateway pilot schools in 2001 and now puts 350 students through the programme each year.

Melanie Tooke, Director of Frasernet at Fraser High School, says around 50% of the students participating in the Fraser Gateway programme participate in trade-related work placements, with many of them going on to gain permanent employment after getting a taste for the work.

The Fraser Gateway programme offers students work experience in a wide range of trade-related areas including hairdressing, building, electrical, mechanical engineering, panel beating and plumbing.

Melanie says, "Gateway provides an opportunity for students

to explore different career options and the world of work while gaining unit standards relevant to the workplace. This will ultimately help them make decisions and lead them either into further study, apprenticeship or work."

So far three of last year's Fraser High School Gateway participants have gone on to start apprenticeships and 47 have secured some form of employment. Most of the remaining students have either remained at high school or commenced some further training.

Melanie says the Gateway programme is a good way for students to define what they want to do. For instance, an initial vague 'building bent' may progress to a more definite career path such as a gib-stopper, painter or even an electrician.

New Zealand Craftsman Training Foundation members can support the programme by providing participating high schools with work placements and informing them of upcoming employment and apprenticeship opportunities. Members and businesses can also partner with the schools to help encourage students to actively consider trade training as a viable career option.

Melanie says by providing a work placement, "You will be doing the community a real service and giving young people hope and some 'real world experience'. It gives you the opportunity to 'try before you buy', a fresh face, energy, and young and creative ideas not to mention an 'extra pair of hands'".

You can find out more at: <http://www.tec.govt.nz/Funding/Funderfinder/Gateway/>

For more information please visit our website: [www.craftsmantraining.co.nz](http://www.craftsmantraining.co.nz)

## Memorial Brian Michael Withy 11 April 1945 ~ 6 December 2010



Brian Withy

In 1966 Brian won a New Zealand Craftsman Training Foundation (NZCTF) award in boiler making which took him to Sydney to further his trade training experience. At that time there were eight NZCTF trade

training awardees in Australia and frequent social get-togethers were organised, which resulted in long-standing friendships.

When Brian returned to New Zealand and shifted south to Christchurch from Auckland, he and his family joined the annual Easter NZCTF weekend at Rakaia Gorge which still continues today although now at Albury.

After a short period at Andersons Ltd in Christchurch, Brian moved south to join Sims Engineering where he enjoyed his venture into boatbuilding and estimating – even perk trips to Milford Sound – business of course!

From Sims Engineering he joined Naylor Love and subsequently Millers Mechanical from where he retired a short time ago.

A keen supporter of the trades, Brian was a member of the NZCTF Board for many years and participated in the selection and interviewing of the two 2010 award winners where his input was most helpful. He attended the presentation of awards in Christchurch just six weeks before his passing.

We remember Brian as a well organised, quiet, caring, precise person, willing to help anybody. Farewell fellow craftsman.

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Cont from page 1*

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