



toolbox

NEW ZEALAND CRAFTSMAN TRAINING FOUNDATION (INC)

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Lunch time Cruising

Another of the events organised by our very own Chairman of the Board, Michael Tuck, was a lunchtime cruise along the Waikato River on the Waipa Delta.

Delivered by bus, we were treated to an interesting look at some of the back yards of a variety of Hamilton river bank homes. This varied from the very ordinary - read untidy - to some magnificently expensive homes with gardens and surrounds to match. And from the anonymity of the boat you didn't have to feel guilty of invading anyones' privacy!

The trip itself was very smooth as was to be expected, which allowed all present to continue with what much of the weekend was really about - catching up with longtime friends and meeting well known names from other parts of the country, while partaking of yet more good food and refreshments before the return trip had us back at the bus ready to move on to the next stage - some stopping off for a walk through the Hamilton Gardens while others had the pleasure of a visit to Owen Embling's plastics extrusion factory - where, along with a very informative and well run tour of the plant, we managed to increase the carbo load even more.

Summary of key issues facing the New Zealand Craftsmen Training Foundation.

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1. Difficulties with the work placement in UK and Europe, cannot obtain visas for trades people carrying tools.
2. No awardees since 1998. 196 scholarships provided up until 1992.
3. Challenges for small businesses that have less than 19 people and make up 80 percent of the workforce. Losing one young staff member may be too much of the sacrifice.
4. Pay rates.
5. Can we do both, educate the people, Schools etc, or will we continue with the scholarships.
6. Do we have adequate funding, likely we do.
7. Competition amongst other organisations.
8. Career development opportunities.
9. Do we understand parent Views, children's views.
10. Do we understand the needs of the employers?
11. How do we get young people started into apprenticeships?
7. Target specific developments overseas for awardees.
8. Seamless awardees procedure, a system whereby every year one apprentice is provided for a foreign company, and one return so that they have a continual stream of labour.
9. Forward promotion of the awards and scholarships.
10. What barriers are we putting on our awardees?
11. Issues of education are different, trade Training and first response.
12. How widely is the Foundation known, to the current industry groups like ITO's do they have a full understanding of the Foundation.
13. Local skills development in New Zealand, exchange apprentices within companies with the NZ.
14. Closer relationships to be developed with Rotary group exchange programmes and alike.
15. Forge relationships with the Employers Association.
16. Re-establish a communications strategy for the Foundation, the Brand.

Key points from our workshop.

1. Do we continue to work of Foundation, all workgroups agreed to continue with the work in some format albeit a revised format.
2. Trade and technician must still be the focus.
3. Perhaps time flexible more variation dependent upon the needs of the company or the individual.
4. Shorter time commitments perhaps.
5. Funding appears not to be an issue at this point.
6. Develop focus groups; industry based specific task groups of 4, 6 or 10 for local exchange tours.



Lunch cruise

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Reunion Reflections

by Ross Hammonds

I remember, as a new Awardee about 22 years old and that's some time ago, attending a gathering in Melbourne of the Victorian Overseas Foundation and commenting to Jan, my best and still best wife "just look at how old these VOF members are white hair and all!" Well time does ravage the body but not the mind as I reflected on a similar gathering but this time of NZCTF members attending the 40th Reunion of the Foundation in November 2005 at Hamilton. I am sure that my hair has not coloured – just not one bit.

To the gathering. Past awardees, Board Members and partners (57 in total) travelled to Hamilton from Auckland, Invercargill Christchurch, Levin and Taupo etc with a strong presence from South Island members accepting the distance traveled and costs involved for such a short visit. To just make an effort was not the driving force it was clearly a chance to renew past contacts, meet those faces talked about by others and consider some significant matters like where to from here? We had the opportunity to do this and more.

Friday, the rush to get to Hamilton and the flow of questions like - have we left behind the address lists, do we have all hand out materials including receipts in the correct reunion packages, who is this Owen Embling directing a session on Saturday and have we met Michael Waddell and Paula, Les and Nancy Bamford etc – sounds like all systems out of control. And don't forget who is picking up who at the Hamilton Airport!

Mike Tuck's Hamilton team had planned the Reunion so well that all activities just slid into place.

Thinking about Friday night and the informal gathering - simply a talk fest. Someone even had the cheek to spread out photos on a table suggesting to others – who is who? Obviously hair colour and lack of needed to be taken into account. Who said to me "I didn't recognize you with that mop of black hair?" and "well - you have changed!"

To have longstanding directors of the Foundation - John Fraser, Barry Roberts and Jack Riddell - gave the gathering real meaning and their contribution was significant. Drinks, nibbles and talk lasted well into the evening before calling "time please" and suggesting an early breakfast before Saturday business sessions.

Where to from here dominated most of Saturday's discussion sessions. Owen Embling did appear and directed the session well with contributions from a local National MP discussing one approach to a similar problem of selection and term for farming related education/training awards. Owen's spreadsheet target approach kept all in focus and where to from here generated positive steps to revitalize principle work of the Foundation and ongoing business.

A not too stressful bus ride to enjoy lunch on the paddle steamer SS Waikato and again a chance to catch up. "It's almost like musical chairs" was commented more than once. A good break and discussion over lunch brought out more points for consideration with comments like "we just need to get one Awardee away and this will start the ball rolling again" and "unlocking the Visa door is a critical issue"

Plastic that is flat and stretched and printed and if it's regarded as regrind it's milled into pellets so the process can start again was just part of the site visit to Owens Embling's plastic film blowing and converting business. Did you get a sample of the Keep Fresh Vegetable bags? Can assure you that these are really effective for keeping those veggies fresh in the fridge.

A strong commitment to staff was evident by a display of Awards in the reception area and the enthusiasm of those showing us the plant. Again a commitment to ongoing education and training of the team that makes a direct contribution to business performance.

So what happened on Saturday night?

Well a dinner, some refreshments, presentations and again a chance to catch up with others.

For me a chance to recognize the contribution made by past directors of the Foundation was realized by the reunion and the presentations made by Chairman Mike and MC Peter on the night. Commitments made by the Board of the Foundation over time have been very significant even just to select and manage 204 Awardees travelling to various parts of the world. I am sure that John, Barry and Jack representing, in my mind at least, those not present but having made a difference would reflect on some measure of success. This very enjoyable dinner progressed well into the night for some.

On Sunday the Hamilton team called for a final meeting after breakfast to "wrap up" and summarise contributions before departure. It was decided to make every effort to get at least one new Awardee "away" as soon as

possible to break the working visa issue and spear head direction.

Ian Close and Gerald Rickerby, Christchurch Awardees, proposed that the next Reunion, being the 45th, will be held in Christchurch and this was agreed.

On reflection - how could we measure the success of the Foundation? Have past awardees, on return, made a real contribution to their industry? With the awardees enthusiasm would this contribution have been made anyway?

I believe that in the past the Board of the Foundation has been correct in selecting, motivating and encouraging young people to step outside their comfort zone, to survive and absorb in a new environment, to learn to be self reliant, and to be sensitive to others by making their contribution, not only to their industry but to their community.

Just how well can we contribute to making a difference in the future of others by continuing to motivate and support those willing to take their chance?



Barry Roberts - Life Member



John Fraser - Life Member



Mike Tuck - Chairman NZCTF



Margaret, John & Wendy cutting the cake



Ladies luncheon - Hamilton



Ian Close & crew

Danielle Frost – Awardee in Automotive Diesel In 1991

It was with a sense of shock, some disbelief and much sadness that Board Members learnt of the death of Danielle late in 2005. John Fraser and Barry Robert represented the NZCTF at the memorial service held for Danielle in Auckland in February this year.

Her Report on a short training period at Z. F. Transmissions principle training school and works was published in Sept 1992 Newsletter to Members. This Award organized with her Employers – The Yellow Bus Company in Auckland provided her with opportunity to become a specialist in Automatic Transmissions in particular.

She returned to the Bus Company which had a short life thereafter so she applied to be a Tutor at Manakau Institute of Technology where she was tutor for 3 years and greatly respected by the students—almost all males.

MIT had a contract for the Government of Arab Emirates to upgrade their Technical Institutes training and systems so she joined the team there in Dubai as the first ever female Tutor in such Institutions in the Arab countries.

Her outstanding capacity to gain peoples confidence and her support to other Team members made her a very effective part of that teams success.

A strong desire to travel took her to many countries nearby ,to Europe again and other countries and she later returned to Lebanon where she married a young Moslem man.

At a Memorial Evening for Danielle on 18th February 2006 her family were supported by over 100 friends and relatives including her Husband who arrived from Lebanon.

Her Father announced that she had been so welcomed by the Lebanon Village where they lived that her parents agreed to her burial there on land the couple had purchased to build a home. Her passing was result of M.S. syndrome [for which she had been diagnosed during last visit to Germany] and complications from the use of anti-inflammatory drugs without Medical Supervision , at age of 37 years.

Eulogies from Colleagues expressed recognition of her;

- skill as Auomotive Diesel Mechanic ,
- successs as a Tutor in her Trade,
- assisting other people including the villagers in Lebenon

- living life to the full at all times,
- having a loving Family and a wide group of friends,
- her love of motor bikes and the only regret she was declined an apprenticeship because of her small statue was considered inadequate to Test ride them.

Conclusion ,

The Foundation chose a worthy Awardee who returned great benefits to many other young people be they Students or villagers befriended.. She restored two vintage motor bikes and traveled extensively on such transport so enjoyed her first choice of transport.