

## July 2014. Overseas Training Award Boosts Trade Knowledge and Confidence

Winning a New Zealand Craftsman Training Foundation (NZCTF) overseas training award has boosted a sheet metal engineer's trade knowledge and made him a much more confident manager of projects and people.



Sam Allen went to the United States for three weeks last November to learn about the latest technology in his industry.

He kicked off his trip by attending the 2013 Fabtech Metal Forming expo in Chicago - North America's largest metal forming, fabricating, welding and finishing event – and then visited several industry-leading factories in Chicago and Los Angeles.

The goal of the trip was to research cutting technology for a new machine for Sam's employer Thorburn Engineering in Hamilton, and to assess forming technologies.

Sam is now in the process of applying the research he did during his trip by evaluating the purchasing of machinery he looked at in the USA.

*Sam also got to see some leading engineering displays during his leisure time as well. He is pictured here in front of a replica of the Mars space probe, at the Adler Planetarium in Chicago.*

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Sam's boss, Thorburn Engineering Director Len Guilford says, "Sam packed a lot into his time away. Attending Fabtech and many American industry visits has exposed Sam to cutting edge technology. We have seen many changes since his return. Sam gained confidence from having to be self-sufficient while he was away and he now contributes to Thorburn Engineering at a higher level.

Along with gaining valuable technical knowledge about water-jet, laser and press brakes while he was in the USA, Sam says, "I feel the most value I got out of the training trip was confidence."

He explains, "The confidence to travel alone for weeks and seeing larger workshops in action has made projects I do back here seem far less daunting than they used to appear to me. Taking control of a project and having others work under my guidance seems like no drama now. I used to over think these things but now it's just not a worry for me. The experience has changed my attitude in many aspects of my life."

"I truly feel it was priceless and would encourage anybody with an open mind to do it."



*NZCTF awardee Sam Allen (left) with his employer Len Guilford*

## **Top Quality Printing Training Rewarded Once Again**

Convex Plastics confirmed they are still one of Australasia's leading flexographic printing trainers by winning two gold medals at the 2014 New Zealand Pride In Print Awards in May.

The two gold medals for Nestle Supercoat Adult with Real Beef dog food and Sun Valley Pitted dates took the Hamilton packaging company's Pride In Print gold medal tally to a total of six since 2002. Convex also received silver medals at the Australia & New Zealand Flexographic Technical Association (ANZFTA) Print Awards in 2012 and 2013.

In addition to winning awards for their top quality printing, five Convex-trained apprentices have achieved the pinnacle of industry recognition by being named the top flexographic

apprentice of the year. In 2009 Convex-trained Jeremy Hancock took the crown for the whole of Australasia by winning the Australasian Flexographic Technical Association (AFTA) flexographic apprentice of the year award.



Convex Printing Manager Gary Dillistone says, “We have a very high achieving team here where everybody plays a part and is recognised for their input. Because of this we produce a consistently high standard of printing and are widely regarded as one of the leading trainers of printing personnel who are likely to become the industry leaders of the future.”

Gary and his assistant manager Danny McNamara are considered two of the finest mentors and trainers in the plastic-printing industry. In 2007 Danny McNamara was officially recognised as one of Australasia’s best printing trainers and was inducted into the Australasian Flexographic Technical Association (AFTA) Hall of Fame.

Gary says “We work really hard to make sure all our printing is the highest possible quality. The packaging we are printing is going out to a global market so our skill as individuals has to be as good as the best in the world. Our customers expect their printing to be absolutely perfect so we need to be continuously stepping up our game. We need to be able to compete well with packaging printed in Asia using alternative cheaper processes, which are not cost effective to use in New Zealand.”

Convex’s commitment to developing industry leaders has resulted in several Convex-trained printers securing key positions overseas, and has helped establish Convex as a recognised leader in the industry.

Gary says, “While it’s always disappointing to see people go, our apprentices have taken the Convex name around the world and have helped us become well known. We are committed to investing in the leaders in our industry and we plan to keep on doing that.”

**Print Award Photo Caption:** *Convex Printing Manager Gary Dillistone with samples of his latest gold medal winning printing.*



## Nominations Open for 2014 Overseas Training Award

The New Zealand Craftsman Training Foundation (NZCTF) will be awarding another Overseas Training Award this year and is looking for a young trade's person eager to advance their careers.

If you know someone suitable, with a positive attitude and a strong desire to learn – then please encourage them to apply.

**This year the awards are open to all trades** and applications will be accepted until the end of September.

The NZCTF has been assisting young people trades people advance their careers for almost 50 years by offering industry-focused travel awards which enable them to gain overseas industry skills and experience without leaving their jobs in New Zealand.

The long-standing NZCTF Overseas Training Awards were modified in 2008 to help New Zealand employers train, retain and develop good staff with a short-term overseas training placement that will have them back at work in New Zealand in only four to eight weeks.

NZCTF Chairman, Owen Embling, says most award recipients have found the overseas training trips to be hugely beneficial to their trade careers by providing them with skills and experiences that they wouldn't otherwise have had. Owen was the recipient of a NZCTF Overseas Training award himself and has a first-hand understanding of how valuable they are.

Each Award is custom-designed with the employer to benefit the company and the trainee. Travel and some specified accommodation grants are included.

You can find out more about the award and how to apply by visiting [www.craftsmantraining.co.nz](http://www.craftsmantraining.co.nz)



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