



toolbox

NEW ZEALAND CRAFTSMAN TRAINING FOUNDATION (INC)

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Training Trip Awarded To Hamilton Sheet Metal Engineer

The New Zealand Craftsman Training Foundation (NZCTF) awarded an overseas training award in January to help a top performing sheet metal engineer expand his knowledge of technology.

Sam Allen, who works for Thorburn Engineering in Hamilton, will be travelling to the United States in November to spend three weeks learning about the latest technology in his industry. The trip will include visits to several industry-leading factories and attending the 2013 Fabtech Metal Forming expo in Chicago; North America's largest metal forming, fabricating, welding and finishing event.

Sam says, "I'm looking forward to gaining some knowledge about the new technologies coming up and any technologies out there that we don't yet know about. I will be researching cutting technology for a new machine we need here in the future, and will be looking at forming technologies as well."

Sam completed a National Diploma of Mechanical Engineering (NDME) at Wintec in 2010 and finished top in his class his first year. Since graduating Sam has applied himself to precision stainless steel fabrication and has impressed his employer with his capability and commitment.

Thorburn Engineering Director, Len Guilford says, "Sam is really prepared to put in the effort and has applied himself to what I've asked him to do so I encouraged him to apply for the award. The training trip will accelerate Sam's development and help our company in several ways. Sam will be able to see up-to-date equipment and manufacturing methods that he can bring back for us to apply where we see value; he may be able to spot potential export sales opportunities; and he will lift the bar in the organisation in terms of what's achievable and become a positive role model."



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

Thorburn Engineering is a multi-disciplined provider of precision engineering solutions for a broad range of industry sectors, including packaging, dairy and architecture. You can find out more about them at: www.thorburn.net.nz

Award Feedback Needed - To Help Fund Further Trips

World Skills is asking past NZCTF awardees to provide some notes about their overseas training experience and the value it added to their New Zealand career and employer. The information will be used to help obtain funding from the

Tertiary Education Commission (TEC) to send young New Zealand tradespeople to compete in World Skills competitions offshore. As part of the funding application process World Skills needs to demonstrate the value of trades-related overseas travel,

for both the individual and their industry. If you are a past awardee and have a positive story to tell, can you please contact:

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Training Awards Target World Skills Competitors

The New Craftsman Training Foundation (NZCTF) is aiming to encourage World Skills competitors to apply for the NZCTF overseas training awards.

Talented young New Zealand tradespeople travel overseas every two years to compete in World Skills competitions against their international peers. The competitions are open to all tradespeople aged 22 years and younger, and involve approximately 30 trades and competitors from 50 countries,

NZCTF and World Skills Board member John Fraser says the NZCTF introduced World Skills in New Zealand, in 1987, to provide another avenue for young tradespeople to obtain overseas 'skill' experience.

Johns says, "All young people, both male and female, need to be challenged to aspire for "Skill" experience as a step to maximise their future employment opportunities.

The number of New Zealanders who have competed in local and national World Skills competitions now numbers many thousand and the experience of 'self-challenge' will surely have improved their skills confidence. Many of the Craftsman Awardees and World Skills competitors are now mature managers of other trainees or in their own business. We have not had a World Skills Competitor participate in a NZCTF Award yet but the opportunity is available."

The NZCTF Board is keen to help World Skills competitors broaden their overseas experience with a NZCTF overseas training award.

NZCTF Chairman, Owen Embling, says, "The young tradespeople who have participated in these competitions are exactly the type of people we are looking to support with the NZCTF training awards. These people have already demonstrated a high level of commitment and skill, and are the potential future leaders of their industries. We would love to be able to help some of these people participate in an award and gain more value and knowledge for their industry."

The NZCTF is asking Toolbox readers to make the World Skills competitors they know aware of the awards and to encourage them to apply.

Past Awardee Climbs High - An Update From Darryl Judd



Darryl Judd started his business Guardian Tree and Landscape Services in 1991. The company prunes and removes trees all over the Hawkes Bay, Manawatu and surrounding districts. You can find out more by visiting: www.guardiantreeservices.co.nz

A New Zealand Craftsman Training Foundation (NZCTF) overseas training award enabled Darryl Judd to travel to the UK in 1989 to study Arboriculture at Merrist Wood College; a leading agricultural training institution at that time. Darryl graduated with a N.C.H Arb. with distinction and then gained a year's working experience in the south of England before returning to New Zealand to start his own business. Darryl tells us in the following report what he has been doing since then and how the NZCTF award has impacted his career and industry...

Seems a life time since I was awarded a scholarship by the NZCTF; well over twenty years ago now. I have been off the radar for a considerable time as I have been growing a family and also a business. Life has been busy but I feel that I have followed the NZCTF mandate: to learn abroad and share the knowledge with fellow Kiwis.

After returning from the UK and upon completion of my Arboricultural Certification I set up a business in the Manawatu, got married and had a family.

The arboriculture industry is a fast mover, with new techniques and new knowledge every year. I became an active member within the New Zealand Arboriculture Association. As part of the NZCTF agreement I assisted in the sharing of information within my chosen field. I became a member of a select group which was involved in the writing up of the first arboricultural apprenticeship course to be delivered in New Zealand.

At the time I was also working with the Horticultural Training Organisation (HITO) and delivered training to people who wanted to have recognition of their skills or who were new to the industry. I have shared information and skills with many enthusiastic young men. This was only a small part of my business as I also had a company to grow and a market to service. As I was an assessor to the industry I also trained my own apprentices. Several of these are now active within the industry and either running their own businesses or valuable members of other companies throughout the country.

I have the pleasure of catching up with past staff and colleagues at annual conferences. I have competed in the New Zealand climbing competitions, representing the Wellington region three times. I have also completed the New Zealand certification in arboriculture, International Society of

Arboriculture certification and recently the Telford Diploma in Arboriculture, (a division of Lincoln University).

Recently I have registered as a tree registrar for the New Zealand Tree Trust. I have identified this as a worthwhile use of my time and a way I can enjoy my passion of climbing and being inspired by trees, their beauty and the history associated with them. I welcome any information of exceptional trees which you may have had a relationship with to add to the New Zealand tree register.

I have continued to keep at the front edge of the industry and try to keep up with the changes in new technologies coming into New Zealand. While I am considered a fossil within my chosen field, (average active working life as a climbing arborist is 8 years) I am still climbing 23 years after first putting on a harness.

Lastly many thanks to the NZCTF for believing in a young man with a desire to learn. I am not certain that I would have been as successful without your support and inspiration.

Sincerely,
Darryl Judd.

Overseas Experience Valuable For Electricians



Steve Utukolo.



Mark Carter in 2006, standing in front of Berlin's Brandenburg Gate.

Two qualified electricians in the process of taking another step forward in their trade careers have verified the value of overseas work experience.

Steve Otukolo and Mark Carter both believe they benefited from working overseas after they completed their apprenticeships in the mid-nineties. The two tradesmen, who are currently training to be electrical inspectors at the Manukau Institute of Technology, say working in another country provided them with valuable trade knowledge and experience, and made them appreciate working in New Zealand.

Steve, who now runs his own Auckland-based business, Electrical Service Company, spent two years on the Hawaiian Island of Maui, doing electrical work in luxury residences valued in the tens of millions of dollars US.

Steve says, "It was quite mind boggling to see what can go into a house when the owner has lots of money and it feels like there isn't a budget. Everything we put in had to be the absolute best. One of the houses I worked on was basically a huge party house specifically used for entertaining clients and guests. All it had was a big kitchen, a large swimming pool and outdoor entertaining area, and a large changing and shower area."

Along with seeing how the 'other half' lived, Steve says the high end work he did in Hawaii forced him to pay more attention to detail and exposed him to a higher quality of workmanship, which he was able to bring back to New Zealand. Steve now does a lot of work in multi-million dollar homes around Auckland.

Working in Hawaii also made Steve appreciate the New Zealand working conditions.

He says, "It made me aware that we have an easier job here physically. The types of materials the Americans use are much more robust and mostly made of metal, rather than plastic - so I was actually quite happy to come back because I knew it was going to be easier physically".

Working in a country with a different climate to New Zealand with people from many different nations also boosted Mark Carter's career.

Mark, whose wife is German, worked in Berlin for four years. Although the work was every similar to what he did in New Zealand, Mark found the work practices and environment very different in Germany.

He says, "The most valuable thing for me was seeing how the German system operates, what their working practices are like, and what tradesman working habits are like over there. The Germans take a very organised and structured approach to electrical work. Another key benefit I gained was the ability to work harmoniously and effectively with people from very different

cultural backgrounds to mine. I think that is a very big advantage and something that has certainly helped me."

Germany's more extreme climate, with temperatures ranging from around -12°C in winter to 37°C in Summer, also exposed Mark to different ways of working. He still has vivid memories of repairing neon signs on the outside of a building in winter, with fingers so cold that he could barely feel the screws or the tools he was working with.

Mark says, "The buildings are constructed to allow for the coldest possible temperature and that changes the entire game in terms of how cabling and electrical systems are installed. The whole methodology of running cables in Germany is very different to how it is done here."

Mark now works as a consultant project manager for Auckland's Torque IP. He views overseas experience as a 'value add' in a potential staff member. If young tradespeople have an opportunity to gain trades-related experience overseas, Mark's advice to them is, "Go for it and do it while you can."



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