



# APPRENTICESHIP TRAINING TRUST

## Welcome to December 2009 'PIPELINE NEWS' Newsletter

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## Events

2009 has been an interesting one for the Trust and a number of significant developments took place.

**Partnership with the PGDR ITO.** The most evident development was the 9 July announcement of our Partnership with the Plumbing, Gasfitting and Drainlaying Industry Training Organisation. This was well received by the industry and seen as a helpful step towards resolving issues that still fragment the industry.

This partnership means most existing and all new Trust apprentices are now being trained under the PGDRITO's single national training system. This system is giving our industry clarity and certainty about how its apprentices are now trained, as well as greater consistency and quality of outcomes. The Trust looks forward to developing other aspects of this partnership.

**New Trustees.** In July the Trust appointed two new independent Trustees, Peter Fitzsimons OBE and Vikki Brannagan. Peter is now the Trust's Chairman having taken over from Darryl McDonald who held that role from when the Trust was first formed in 1991.

**Sustaining Apprenticeships in New Zealand.** In February the Trust wrote to Prime Minister John Key; this was at the time of the Employment Summit. The economic situation had deteriorated and many apprentices were being laid off and fewer new ones were being taken on.

We put forward two suggestions to sustain apprenticeship numbers in all trades, and avoid resulting skill shortages that could arise 3 or 4 years out. Sadly, and despite subsequent meetings with two other Ministers, these suggestions were not taken up and acted upon by the Government.

Many apprentices in various industries have been made redundant, been unable to complete their apprenticeship and in many cases are now lost to that industry. For the Trust it has meant saying farewell to 17 of our apprentices over this period, some of whom were in Level 3 training and close to completing their apprenticeship.

Across the Tasman it is a very different story! There they have various assistance packages targeted at sustaining apprentice numbers as well as encouraging others to return to industry and complete their training. This is all part of Australia's planned imperative to come out "stronger than before" as their economy comes right!

**Thank You to Our Host Employers.** The Trust is so grateful to the support and assistance of its host employers over the past year; many of you have gone to extraordinary lengths to keep your Trust apprentices on so they can progress and complete their training. *Thank you so very much!*

**Shared Apprenticeships.** This was how the Trust first started back in 1991 – an apprentice is shared between two or more host employers depending on respective work loads. It also gives the apprentice wider work experiences.

This scheme was reactivated in late 2008. It has meant some apprentices who might otherwise been handed back and become redundant have been retained and have continued their training.

The Trust asks present and potential host employers to give serious consideration to this alternative - for taking on new and retaining existing apprentices.

### **Transitioning to the PGDRITO Scheme of Training**

This commenced in August and a Guide to Transition for Apprentices and Host Employers was published to assist explain all that is involved. An Update went out in October - both documents are available on our website. A further update for those apprentices who had or are still enrolled at Unitec was announced last week.

As the year closes we are part way though the detailed process of progressively transitioning all Level 1 and 2 apprentices over to the PGDRITO scheme of training.

The last of these apprentices will complete their Q course and transition in May next year. The last remaining Level 3 apprentices will complete their 3QP block courses next November.

This move to PGDR ITO training has given some long needed clarity and certainty to the issue of distance learning. There is now no longer any confusion over the requirement for this to be completed; if it is not then apprentices cannot attend block courses and effectively cannot progress their apprenticeship.

This in turn means that candidates for Registration Exams will be more knowledgeable and better prepared. This should see a further improvement in the percentages of Trust candidates who pass these exams.

Access to Modern Apprenticeships, as well as for numeracy and literacy support, regional night classes to assist apprentice's complete correspondence, as well as prepare for Registration exams, all mean further assistance with the Trust apprentices and their host employers.

This is all in addition to what the Trust already offers by way of mentoring and coaching, and the present OSH, Backflow and Limited Electrical training.

## Employment Relations



### CHRISTMAS PAY ARRANGEMENTS:

By now the Trust payroll office should have received all annual leave application forms.

Wages will be paid as follows:

- 16/12/2009 Wages for 7<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> December
- 22/12/2009 Wages for 14<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> December
- 23/12/2009 4 Days statutory holidays plus annual leave days applied for
- 13/01/2010 Wages for 21<sup>st</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> December and any period worked up to 10 January 2010

### Note:

The Trust office will be closed from midday 24 December 2009 and reopen on Monday 11 January 2010

Emergency points of contact during the Christmas break:

24-31 December 2009	Ross	Mobile: 0274 769306
1 – 11 January 2010	Lorraine	Mobile: 0274 769309

## Host Employer News

Congratulations to Ken & Sandra Stephens of Stephens Plumbing, winning the “ASB Awesome Service Award”. This award was sponsored by the Auckland Chamber of Commerce, ASB and Newstalk ZB.



# Apprentice News

## Chesters Plumbing Award



John Berridge, General Manager of ATT; Paul Fa'alonga, Award winner; Jim Roskvist, Tutor at MIT; Anthony Linford, of Chesters Plumbing & Bathroom Centre

Paul Fa'alono a Stage 2 Trust apprentice who has been working for Chenery Contracting since July 2009, recently received an award on from Chesters Plumbing & Bathroom Centre, as the "Most Promising Student from 2008 studying at Manukau Institute of Technolgy".

The award was presented on the 17<sup>th</sup> of September 2009 by Anthony Linford of Chesters, at the Plumbing Distribution Associations Trade Night held at MIT's Plumbing and Gasfitting School at Mahunga Drive, in Mangere. This award pays for Paul's enrolment into the National Certificate in Plumbing & Gasfitting.

Congratulations Paul!

## Other Celebrations:

**Births:** Congratulations to Ben and Wendy Tomkinson on the birth of their baby daughter.

**Weddings:** Aaron Vaafusuaga tied the knot on 5 December – Best wishes to the Bride and Groom.

# Health & Safety

## ACC helping employees get back to work after injury

Something to think about.....

Recently at an ACC seminar, a speaker said this:

*"We do not make people better in order to get back to work, but we get people back to work in order to make them better".*



## General

### The Stork has visited the Trust again!



Natasha has been the Training Coordinator at the Apprenticeship Training Trust since June 2005 and is now expecting her first child early next year.

Natasha will be taking a year off from the Trust to enjoy fulltime motherhood, but is planning to be back in office on January 2011.

We wish Natasha and Justin all the best for their expanding family.

### We welcome Rachael:

The new contact person covering the role of Training Coordinator in Natasha's absence will be Rachael Tan. Rachael is originally from Malaysia and has been here for some years. She lives in Birkenhead and has a professional background in IT and related areas. She also speaks a number of languages besides English and enjoys playing Badminton



### Other:

As valued stakeholders of the Trust, we would love for all Trust Host Employers and Apprentices to share your achievements, celebrations and news with us – So we look forward to hearing from you.

**We would also like to take this opportunity to wish you a Merry Christmas and a safe an peaceful festive season.  
Best wishes for 2010!!!**



# THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS



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**A New Year's resolution is something that goes in one year  
and out the other.**

~Author Unknown

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## APPRENTICESHIP TRAINING TRUST



**A charitable trust established in 1991**

***“Providing opportunities for people to train  
and become successful tradespeople”***

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