



Introducing Tool Blacks Team Member

Name: Jason Beals
Skill: Welding
From Palmerston North

Jason has been selected as an international judge in the Welding skill category for the 2009 WorldSkills Competition in Calgary, Canada. He has 16 years experience in the industry having started his apprenticeship in 1993 and qualified with a Trade Certificate in Welding and Advanced Trade Welding while in the New Zealand Army and has also gained a Diploma of International Welding Specialist in 2008.

Jason joined the New Zealand Army in 1991 and began his apprenticeship as a Fitter Welder in 1993. He has been employed in various positions during his tenure in the Army. One of the highlights was when he was employed as a Maintenance Fitter Tutor and Course Manager for 4 years at the New Zealand's Army Trade Training School. During this time he was involved with instructing on various trade related courses. Jason continues to work in the Army and is passionate about maintaining the skill levels of the apprentices and tradesmen within the industry. He is very passionate about ensuring the availability of quality industry training and works hard to keep up to date with the latest trade developments. He enjoys the interaction with people and seeing the growth of trainees through out their apprenticeship.

He is very excited about being involved as a judge at the WorldSkills International Competition and sees it as an opportunity to help raise the standards of training in New Zealand by meeting other judges and bringing back new ideas and techniques. He realizes that this will be a great opportunity to compare the standards of our young tradesmen with those of the rest of the world. Jason understands what a unique experience it will be for the competitors and will be putting every effort into the training of his team.

Jason has been involved with WorldSkills for the last 6 years and considers the WorldSkills Competitions to be a vital training tool which boosts the self esteem and confidence of the competitors and helps to raise skill standards within all the trade industries. He cites the ability to listen and a good attendance record as the essential building blocks from which an apprentice will go on to achieve success in his chosen field.

When he is not training our young people, Jason's main sporting activity is Karate but he also enjoys fishing and any other type of team sport. He knows that he will probably not have much free time over the coming months as he focuses on all the extra training his competitor will need to give him every chance of a podium finish and a real boost for the New Zealand Welding industry.

You can help Jason get to WorldSkills in Calgary

Jason has funding from BOC for his trip to Calgary. WorldSkills and Jason would like to thank BOC for their ongoing commitment to the Welding competitions.

Further donations towards Jason's total costs of \$13,900 would be appreciated. In doing so you are confirming your commitment to the development of Welding skill levels in New Zealand. You will also give Jason the opportunity to wear the Silver Fern and represent New Zealand among the top trainers and industry representatives from around the world.