



## Introducing Tool Blacks Team Member

**Name:** Ritchie Gorrie  
**Skill:** Plumbing  
**From** CPIT, Christchurch

Ritchie has been selected to attend the WorldSkills International Competition in Calgary, Canada in September 2009 as a judge in the Plumbing skill category. He is currently working at Canterbury Polytechnic Institute of Technology (CPIT) as a Plumbing and Drainlaying Tutor.

Ritchie has been in the plumbing industry in New Zealand for 28 years, spending the first four years of this as an apprentice. He has had a varied career pathway, including spending two years in Australia working as a swimming pool and solar heating technician. Ritchie owned his own business for 18 years and during that time was totally committed to training apprentices. Two years ago he took up the role of Plumbing and Drainlaying Tutor at CPIT. "I am really enjoying teaching at CPIT and find working with the young people very rewarding," comments Ritchie.

Ritchie is a very experienced Plumber and has carried out all types of plumbing, heating, ventilation & drain laying work in all sorts of locations. He's worked on ventilation ducting at Tiwai Aluminium Smelter, chiller lines at Invercargill hospital, cloud making machines at mushroom farms, a 10 storey hotel, a 22 storey office building, mass produced one bedroom accommodation portable units, a large rest home, 25 elderly person housing units, countless houses, kitchen & bathroom renovations, multi million dollar homes and large chicken breeding complexes with fully automated drinking/feeding systems and commercial and residential drainage.

Ritchie became involved with the WorldSkills competitions in 2008 when the Plumbing ITO asked him to design a regional project. It had been many years since Plumbing was contested at the WorldSkills competitions and the ITO felt Ritchie was just the right person to get Plumbing back on the world stage again. Ritchie took the opportunity to be a judge at the WorldSkills Australia National Finals in July 2008 and gained considerable knowledge which he was then able to put into the WorldSkill NZ National Finals. "I am enjoying being evolved with World Skills I find it a challenge and rewarding experience," says Ritchie.

### You can help Ritchie get to WorldSkills in Calgary

Ritchie has funding from the Plumbing, Gasfitting, Drainlaying & Roofing ITO. WorldSkills and Ritchie would like to thank the ITO for their support of the Plumbing competition.

Further donations towards Ritchie's total costs of \$11,500 would be appreciated. In doing so you are confirming your commitment to the development of Plumbing skill levels in New Zealand. You will also give Ritchie the opportunity to wear the Silver Fern and represent New Zealand among the top trainers and industry representatives from around the world.