



Introducing Tool Blacks Team Member

Name: Glenys McKenzie
Skill: Assistant Team Leader
From Southern Group Training Trust, Invercargill

Glenys has been selected to attend the WorldSkills International Competition in Calgary, Canada in September 2008 as the Assistant Team Leader. She is currently General Manager of the Southern Group Training Trust in Invercargill. As instigator in the establishment in 1999 of the Southern Group Training Trust, a Charitable Trust focused on encouraging and enabling more people to become involved in trade training by making it easier for them to do so, Glenys has had a long involvement in the recruitment, training and employment of apprentices.

Southern Group Training Trust currently employs ten staff and either employs or manages approximately 300 apprentices in the Southern region. As a group training company Southern Group Training recruits and employs apprentices and arranges for them to be placed with a suitable company to 'host' the apprentice on site for their off job practical training. Southern Group Training employs apprentices across a wide range of trades including automotive, carpentry, bricklaying, electrical, engineering, joinery, plumbing and assorted other trades such as printing, sports turf management and floor and wall tiling.

Glenys' involvement in WorldSkills was a logical progression in her role as General Manager of Southern Group Training as they too seek to achieve high standards by demonstrating excellence through workplace skills competitions for apprentices. Southern Group Training organises the Southern Apprentice Challenge which is designed as 'feeder' competition for WorldSkills and is held each alternate year to the regional WorldSkills competitions.

Glenys is currently the Chairperson of the Southland WorldSkills Committee and Chairperson of the Otago Southland WorldSkills Regional Committee and has been involved in WorldSkills since 2002. "In 2006 and 2008 I had the privilege of being Team Leader for the Otago Southland WorldSkills Team, and I am looking forward to being involved as Assistant Team Leader for the 2009 Tool Blacks. My experience with apprentices over the years should stand me in good stead," says Glenys.

In her work for Southern Group Training, Glenys has built extensive networks in both local industry and with the Industry Training Organisations. She, therefore, brings to the role of Assistant Team Leader a wide knowledge of industry and industry training in New Zealand which will give her a good understanding of any issues the competitors may have.

Glenys would like to thank the Southern Group Training Trust, Community Trust of Southland and Invercargill Licensing Trust Foundation for sponsoring her involvement in the 2009 Tool Black team.