



## **Introducing Tool Blacks Team Member**

**Name: Teresa McNamara**  
**Position: Technical Delegate**  
**From: Auckland**

Teresa has been appointed as Technical Delegate for the New Zealand Team for the 2009 WorldSkills Competition in Calgary, Canada. Teresa is under no illusions about her role in Calgary in September. "This will be my sixth international, the third as Technical Delegate. For me the first international I attended was the most stressful professional role I had ever had. I found that I had strengths that had never seen the light of day before! In 2009 my role is to help prepare our New Zealand experts for the international event and to manage two skill categories at the international competition.

"I'm looking forward to the challenge of a significantly different competition this year. Many of the technical descriptions have changed significantly, a number of new procedures have been introduced and the competition programme has been shortened. It will be a real challenge to ensure that the experts understand the changes and work together to ensure the competition projects are completed and marked on time! I'm looking forward to the challenge of making it all happen in such a way that at the end of the competition the competitors and experts go home feeling good about the event."

Teresa is a very driven and motivated person. Teresa's role as Services and Projects Manager with national law firm Buddle Findlay requires just the same skills as the international – clear and timely communication, a good understanding of procedures, top problem solving strategies and the ability to encourage others to perform to their fullest potential.

With such a commitment required, why does she volunteer her time? "So often in the press you hear lots of negative comments about today's youth and all the bad things that happen. To me World Skills generates lots of 'positives'. It is young people taking pride in their chosen career option, showing that young kiwis have the interpersonal skills to succeed in an international event – planning and preparation, communication skills, hard work and a sense of humour. What keeps me involved is the look on the faces of the young people when they achieve something that they didn't know was possible."

"World Skills teaches skills like perseverance, goal setting, time management and having a positive attitude. If we could give this opportunity to every young person then New Zealand would be a much better place – if I wasn't involved then maybe less young people would get the opportunity so that's why I keep coming back year after year."