

2010— WorldSkills International 60th Anniversary!

From the CEO's Desk

The stage is set and we are about to embark on a new round of competitions, with the ultimate goal of competing at WorldSkills London in October 2011. I would like to take this opportunity to wish all competitors in preliminary competitions all the best for their respective competitions.

The WorldSkills NZ National Finals are to be held in Christchurch in September. Obviously to get to the National Finals you need to compete in the preliminary competitions and I urge all eligible young people to get their registrations in—check out our website if you are not sure—www.worldskills.org.nz. I can assure you that whilst a placing in the preliminary competitions looks good on your CV, a placing at the National Finals looks better! But the ultimate would be a world ranking if you are chosen to be part of the 2011 *Tool Black* team to represent New Zealand in what is essentially the Skill Olympics

What have you got to lose? Opportunities like this come but once or possibly twice in a lifetime and they can be the break you need to show your abilities to those potential employers. Why not give yourself the opportunity to shine!

The WorldSkills National Final Competition at CPIT in Christchurch is shaping up to be our best ever. CPIT are making a huge effort to ensure that these competitions will run at an International standard with the biggest number of categories we have seen for many years. Judges from all around New Zealand, and maybe a few international ones, will come to benchmark our trade training. A big Thank you to CPIT for putting their hand up to host the 2010 and 2012 National Finals.

Planning for the International competition is well under way for London 2011. Many countries vied for the opportunity to host these competitions and we expect the London Competitions to exceed the high standard set at Calgary in 2009.

See you at the Finals.



Peter Spencer
CEO



Countdown to London

Regional Competitions

- 26 March-Central Nth Is
- 27 March-Southland
- 10 April-Waikato/BoP
- 17 April-Wellington
- 17 April-NZDF
- 8 May-Northland
- 15 May-Otago
- 22 May-Canterbury
- - May-Auckland

22-26 September 2010
National Finals CPIT,
Christchurch

23-10 October 2010
WorldSkills International
General Assembly &
Youth Forum—Jamaica

October 2010—February
2011
Selection process for
Tool Blacks

February—October 2011
Training, Team Camps,
Fundraising

5-8 October 2011
WorldSkills
London

2009 Tool Blacks— Looking back on their experience

What was the best thing about the whole Calgary Experience?



The Team on an excursion to Banff before the competition started.

I think the best part for me was gaining confidence and being outside my comfort zone with people I didn't know much before. I'm glad we all bonded so tightly and had an awesome time. Getting to see a wonderful place in the world while at the same time being busy in a competition made all the hard work worth it. The whole experience in general was amazing.

The best thing for me would have to be having the opportunity to represent my country and travel with a great team and make new friends along the way.

For me the best thing was representing our country, and meeting all the people we did in the competition environment.

The best thing about the whole Calgary experience for me was, and still is, the networking. There were many great experiences along the journey even at team camps before we went. Through facebook I still keep in touch with competitors and judges from around the world, and I have even had job offers from different countries.

What Challenges did you have to overcome?

The main challenge I had to overcome was training and fundraising on my own, it was hard work, but with support from my family and employer we managed to make it happen. I had a lot of fun organising it all, as well as learning how to approach and talk to people when asking for sponsorship. I basically had to set aside so many hours a week to keeping on top of my paperwork and following up potential sponsors. There were a lot of people aware of what I was doing and who were willing to help out.

My biggest challenge was getting to Calgary and seeing the level of backing the other countries had - it was very difficult knowing how much time and money had been spent on the other competitors. I overcame this by doing my best and telling myself that once you start anything can happen. It doesn't matter how much more money or time the others had, you are all in the same position once you start.

For me it was mental challenges mostly—nerves and coping with all the spectators watching you. I had to just phase them out and concentrate on the job at hand.

There were many challenges I had to overcome along the way starting from the small things, like it being my first time out of New Zealand through to doing the haka at the opening ceremony and the bigger pressure of being watched, filmed/photoed and judged while I worked. The only way through this for me was knowing everyone was dealing with the same or common problems as me. Giving and receiving support with my team mates helped deal with any discomfort or stress I had.



Opening Ceremony at Calgary—The NZ Team has a reputation for performing the Haka on stage.

How has being part of the Tool Black team changed you personally and/or at work?

Being apart of the '09 experience has changed me hugely as a person, it has given me a lot of confidence in everyday life, and taught me that being out of your comfort zone is a massive way to grow as a person. Having done all that travel set me up well for travelling 37hrs to England on my own, and coping with living overseas by. It is an awesome learning experience for anyone my age!!

I think the experience of competing for New Zealand had the biggest impact for me. It has made me feel very proud of who we are and what New Zealanders' represent as a nation. At work I am doing the same but have found there are always more expectations on you once you return from something like this.

I am more confident both personally and professionally now. The experience has allowed me to take the next step in my career, and I have now set new goals for the future.

This competition has changed me by showing me what I can achieve and how to put in 110% every day to get it. It was a once in a life time experience that I often reflect on.

What advice do you have for the 2011 Tool Blacks

TRAIN as much as possible, as hard as possible, and always get feedback from your employer/judge as to what they think of the work you are producing. This will help you to keep up the quality and constructive criticism will do wonders!

Get in early with finding sponsorship and get as much money as possible as quickly as possible. Always keep the sponsors informed on how your training, team camps, etc are going so they feel their money has gone to a good place.

Remember that the year of training and preparation for the competitions is one of the most important of your career. If it means cutting back on your social life then be prepared to do this—once you've experienced WorldSkills International competition you'll understand that it was all worth it!

Train hard and do your best but make sure you enjoy the trip and the whole experience. It takes a lot of work to get there and the time goes very fast so make the most of it.



Team members arriving for the Closing Ceremony at Calgary—the competition might be over but the stress is still high as they wait to find out who has won medals.



The pressure is off! —the team back at Auckland Airport, pumped up and ready to move on to the next step!

Dont put anything off! Get straight into the fundraising, training etc. Theres no time like the present. And be aware of all the people helping you along the way—make sure you thank them.

My biggest piece of advice for the 2011 toolblacks is to make sure you and your team mates are a close bunch of people because when you're feeling the pressure, going back to homebase and talking with your team before, during and after the daily debrief is the biggest relief.



National Office
PO Box 189
FEILDING 4740

Email: info@worldskills.org.nz
Phone:
CEO—021 747-506
Events Co-ordinator—027 453-1002

WorldSkills New Zealand
“See how far you can go”

www.worldskills.org.nz

**If you want to register for a Regional Competition get a registration form from the Website www.worldskills.org.nz and send it to the appropriate regional contact person
Or contact [Sally Gray](mailto:Sally.Gray) for more information**

It's not too late— Register now for the WorldSkills Regional Competitions!

2010 Regional Competitions and Contact People

Central North Island 26 March 2010 UCOL, Palmerston North	Steve Brooks s.brooks@competenz.org.nz
Southland 27 March 2010 SIT, Invercargill	Glenys McKenzie glenys@apprenticeships.net
Waikato/ Bay of Plenty 10 April 2010 Wintec, Hamilton	Roy Adams R.adams@skills4work.org.nz
Wellington/NZDF 17 April 2010 WelTec, Petone	Vaughan Crimmins crimmo@netaccess.co.nz
Northland 8 May 2010 NorthTec, Whangarei	Simon Phelps sphelps@northtec.ac.nz
Otago 15 May 2010 Otago Polytechnic, Dunedin	John Findlay John.findlay@tekotago.ac.nz
Canterbury 22 May 2010 CPIT, Christchurch	Bryn Holland Tworks.holland2@gmail.com
Auckland—MIT Date yet to be set MIT—Manukau	Paul Jeurissen Paul.jeurissen@manukau.ac.nz
Auckland—Unitec Date yet to be set Unitec—Auckland City	Naringan Singh nsingh@unitec.ac.nz