



## Introducing Tool Blacks Team Member

**Name:** Ben De Groot  
**Skill:** Electrical Installations  
**From** Southland

Ben gained a gold medal at the WorldSkills NZ National Finals in September 2008. He met the criteria and high performance standards required for WorldSkills, and has been selected to be part of the Tool Black team competing at the 2009 WorldSkills International Competition to be held in Calgary, Canada in September 2009.

Ben has been in the Electrical trade for 4 years. He has recently completed his National Certificate in Electrical Engineering (Level 4), and passed his registration exam in 2008. He was employed by ETCO while training but now his Host Company, Connor and Fitzpatrick Betta Electrical Ltd, have taken him on as an employee. While training Ben attended block courses at ETCO in Dunedin and also attended weekly night classes in Invercargill.

Ben entered the ECANZ Challenge and was selected to go through to the Finals in Christchurch where he won the distinction of being the highest scoring WorldSkills age eligible apprentice and, as a result, was offered a place in the WorldSkills National Finals. During 2008 Ben also attended the WorldSkills Australia National Finals where he was able to test his skills against the top Australian electricians. While not an official competitor Ben did New Zealand proud at that competition.

Ben would encourage other young people to enter competitions like ECANZ and WorldSkills because "it is good to challenge yourself and to see how you compare with your peers."

Ben is looking forward to the challenge of preparing for the WorldSkills International competition in Calgary. His aim is to learn more about his trade and he is keen to meet new people with different backgrounds.

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

By contributing toward his total costs (\$12,900) you are confirming your commitment to the development of the Electrical industry in New Zealand. You will also give Ben the opportunity to wear the Silver Fern, represent New Zealand, and gain valuable life experience through testing his skills against top young Electrical competitors from around the world.

WorldSkills NZ and Ben would like to thank ETCO, HPM Legrand, Ideal Electrical Suppliers, Matura Licensing Trust, Alliance Group Matura, Southern Trust, Community Trust of Southland, Pub Charity, WorldSkills Southland, and various Gore Lions and Rotary Clubs for their support.

