



Introducing Tool Blacks Team Member

Name: Michael Shieffelbein
Skill: Cabinetmaking
From Auckland

Michael gained a silver medal at the WorldSkills NZ National Finals in September 2008. He meets 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.

Michael has been employed by Robinson Marine Interiors Ltd for 2½ years. He is now halfway through his apprenticeship and is working towards gaining a National Certificate in Boatbuilding - Marine Cabinetmaking Level 4. Michael is registered with the Boating ITO for his training.

Attending the National Finals was a great experience for Michael and because there is an age limit, which makes it truly a "once in a life-time experience", he would encourage others to take part if they get the opportunity. "You learn a lot about how far you can push yourself under pressure and you see how other people approach the same task in different ways," says Michael.

Michael is really looking forward to the competition in Calgary, especially the challenge of training and learning new skills before the competition to bring him up to the standard required for the international competition. One of his aims at the competition is to compare the different cabinetmaking techniques from around the world. He's also looking forward to seeing a new country and meeting people from different cultures.

Michael knows that the whole experience will be a good confidence builder and an excellent way to build his cabinetmaking skills. He is prepared to put in the hard work to ensure it will be an excellent trip in all ways.

You can help Michael get to WorldSkills in Calgary

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