



Introducing Tool Blacks Team Member

Name: Royce Richards
Skill: Printing
From Christchurch

Royce gained a gold 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.

Royce has been in the Printing industry for three years and completed his National Certificate in Printing – Sheet-fed/Off-set (Level 4) in 2008.. Royce started working for Chaucer Press on Work Experience and was then taken on as an apprentice. Chaucer Press was taken over by Rainbow Print late in 2008 and he now works for Rainbow Print. Royce did his training through PrintNZ, mostly by a combination of on-the-job training and correspondence but with a few short courses added in.

The WorldSkills Printing competitions are run in the competitor's workplace so they have access to the required machinery, with the completed project being sent away for marking. The top three place getters complete further tests at the National Finals. Royce enjoyed the experience of the competition, especially going to the National Finals and seeing other industries. He recommends that every young printing apprentice should enter the Competition because, "It is definitely worthwhile doing and the more people in the competition the better."

Royce is looking forward to competing in Calgary. He has started a training programme to ensure he meets the high standard required for the international event. Having people watching him work at Calgary will be an added pressure but Royce is certainly up for the challenge. Royce believes that "it is a tremendous accolade just to be going to Calgary" and he knows he will gain from the experience both in his career development and in his personal growth.

Royce is being totally funded for his trip to Calgary by PrintNZ Training, BJ Ball Papers and Trust4Work. WorldSkills and Royce would like to thank these organisations for their support of the Printing competition.

