



## Introducing Tool Blacks Team Member

**Name:** Thomas Townsend  
**Skill:** Cooking  
**From** Auckland

Thomas 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.

Thomas has been working as a Chef at Sky City in Auckland for three years and hopes to complete his National Certificate in Cookery (Advanced) Level 4 in January 2009. Thomas is doing his training through the Hospitality Standards Institute (HSI) and in 2008 was named the HSI Apprentice of the year. Part of the prize for winning this award is a trip to the UK to work in a top restaurant for 8 weeks. Thomas will be taking up this opportunity early in 2009.

Thomas highly recommends that other young chefs take up the challenge of entering the WorldSkills competitions. He enjoyed being part of the Auckland team at the National Finals in September. He met some great people and had a lot of fun but he says the competition was intense and at a very high standard. "It [the WorldSkills competition] is definitely a great opportunity for young people - the younger the better because you may not win it first time but if you're young enough the next round of competitions is only two years away. From what I witnessed the younger competitors in cookery will be back with an even higher standard in two years time. I was impressed with their high skill level at their young age. WorldSkills is a great chance to further develop your skills."

Thomas is training for the Calgary competitions with a very positive outlook and hopes to come home with a gold medal! He is very excited about the WorldSkills competition and believes it is going to be a great trip where he hopes to make some more friends and enjoy the time there. "But essentially," says Thomas, "I am going to Calgary to showcase my skills against what the world has to offer. Hopefully with all the hard work I will be putting in throughout the next year I will walk away with a broader range of skills and a gold medal around my neck."

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

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