



Introducing Tool Blacks Team Member

Name: Stephen Pope
Skill: Cooking
From Wellington

Stephen is dedicated to what he does - teaching and nurturing New Zealand's chefs of tomorrow. Making his career choice was easy "I have enjoyed cooking from a young age", and over 30 years ago the British Merchant Navy was the perfect place to earn his Chef's hat. Years of cooking at sea in passenger and cargo ships, working as an Executive Chef in large hotels around the world, as well as owning his own restaurants, has given Stephen extensive experience in the industry.

He cites his most significant career achievement as winning a six-week scholarship at the New York Culinary Institute of America and now, once more, he will be representing New Zealand and wearing the Silver Fern as our Cooking Judge. The WorldSkills Competition is not his only involvement in high profile events and competitions, his résumé demonstrates the time invested and value he places on involvement of this type.

Moving into teaching was a significant step for Stephen, and he is wholly committed to passing on his knowledge to trainee chefs. He volunteers as a skills expert to WorldSkills as he believes that the domestic competition brings out the best in young chefs, generating new and adventurous ideas in their work.. Stephen also knows that international exposure of this type enhances the careers of young chefs and heightens New Zealand's profile in the international arena.

"Being a NZ Cooking Expert at an international level is a great way to continue learning and sharing new ideas and methods with chefs from around the world, and it provides the opportunity to pass the information on to the New Zealand industry when I return."

You can help Stephen get to WorldSkills in Calgary

By making a donation towards his total costs of \$12,900 you are confirming your commitment to the development of Hospitality skill levels in New Zealand. You will also give Stephen the opportunity to wear the Silver Fern and represent New Zealand among the top trainers and industry representatives from around the world.