



Photo courtesy of WorldSkills International

WorldSkills New Zealand News

Welcome to our WorldSkills NZ August 2024 Newsletter.

Some of you may have been lucky enough to watch our Olympic sporting superstars from the benches in Paris. Back home, more and more of us became glued to ear pods and screens, listening and watching the events from afar. New Zealand became swept up in our most exciting and successful Olympic games ever.

What is abundantly clear, behind the trial and glory from each of our athletes, are years and years of intense calculated training and commitment. Endurance is as much in the run up as it is during the event.

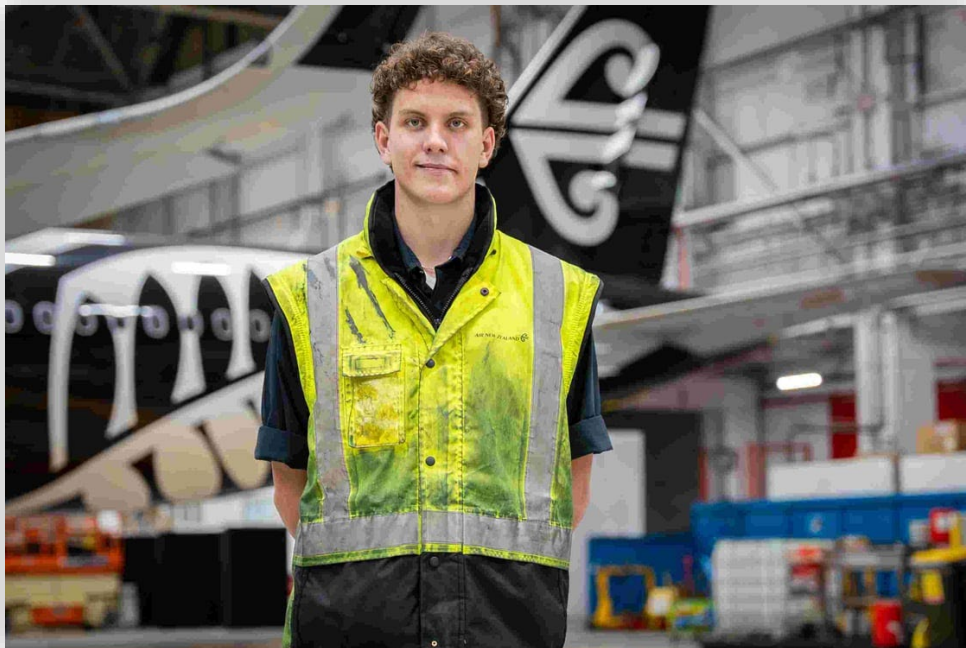
That brings me to the endurance of WorldSkills New Zealand, the team, the volunteers, our industry partners and our past and present competitors.

Next month, France will host another international competition and international TVET Conference. For the 47th WorldSkills International Competition, WorldSkills New Zealand will be taking a small team: Competitors, Elliott Farnan and Jack Butler, as well as support crew consisting of Team Leader, Experts and Delegates. We are thrilled to get back onto the world stage after a few years of disruption. This has not been without hard work and support of many - thank you!

We are now beginning to rebuild the presence of our 'vocational athletes'. The precursors to participating in this world class event begin with the grass roots of regional and national competitions. Supported by employers committed to high quality industry training, and enhanced through an efficient and innovative VET system. When we get that right, we don't just get the chance to see our young people shine on the world stage, we begin to see individuals striving to go well beyond mediocracy, to be the best they can be. Which benefits us all.

Finally, to our NZ Paralympians, here's to you having your best games ever!

Carl Rankin - General Manager



Spotlight on Aircraft Maintenance

This edition we introduce our second Lyon competitor, Elliott Farnan.

"I love aviation... It's such a cool feeling to be able to work in the hangar with a bunch of people interested in the same things," says Elliott Farnan.

Elliott is one of two-strong team along with Jack Butler, representing New Zealand at the WorldSkills International competition in Lyon in September. He will compete in the Aircraft Maintenance Skill.

Elliott is in his third year of training as a wide body aircraft maintenance engineer at Air New Zealand Auckland. Last year, he was Runner-up Trainee of the Year for Air New Zealand, this year was awarded Best Craftmanship of Year for the Auckland trainees.

"I am really enjoying the work that I am currently doing and hoping to become a licensed engineer."

When not at work, there's a good chance you'll find the Elliott diving into rounds of golf with mates, running with his girlfriend Lauren, playing social netball, basketball, squash, football, and rugby with friends — He's naturally competitive, though he claims that he didn't win many things in school, his success is building. One important person who will be following Elliott's progress closely from New Zealand will be his Nan.

"Nan has been a major influence in my life. I always enjoy the time I spend with her. Nan has taught me that no matter how hard things are, just get back up and keep going."

"I am so grateful for all the support from my family, and my girlfriend, and her family. And for all the support from Jeroen, AirNZ, Salus Aviation and WorldSkills New Zealand," says Elliott. "Everybody is supporting me."

Learn more about Elliott [here](#)

Kōrero with Skills Minister Penny Simmonds

In early August, we sat down with Minister Penny Simmonds to present how WorldSkills New Zealand and the work of the International movement can add value to NZ VET. We discussed the WorldSkills Occupational Standards and the potential for these to support standard development here, as well as the value of belonging to the International TVET network.

Minister Simmonds was well aware of WorldSkills NZ from a previous role as CE of SIT, and is genuinely interested in the value we can provide.

The French Government has officially invited Minister Simmonds to attend the 47th WorldSkills International Competition and take part in the WorldSkills Conference. The conference is a global event gathering some of the most important and influential people in Technical and Vocational Education and Training to discuss trends, innovations and

ideas around skills and vocational training worldwide. This presents an excellent opportunity for our Minister to network with 35 plus VET / Education Ministers and equivalents from around the world. This year, the WorldSkills Conference will focus on the theme: "Moving TVET to the top of the global agenda" and will include topics such as strategies for excellence in TVET, gender equity in skills, sustainability and green transition, the role of AI in education, women in STEM and the importance of addressing the needs of fragile economies.



Bienvenue à Lyon

From left to right - Jack Butler, Michael Naus, Jeroen Hattink, Neill Adkins, Elliott Farnan, Michael Hey, Carl Rankin, Bryce Arnold.

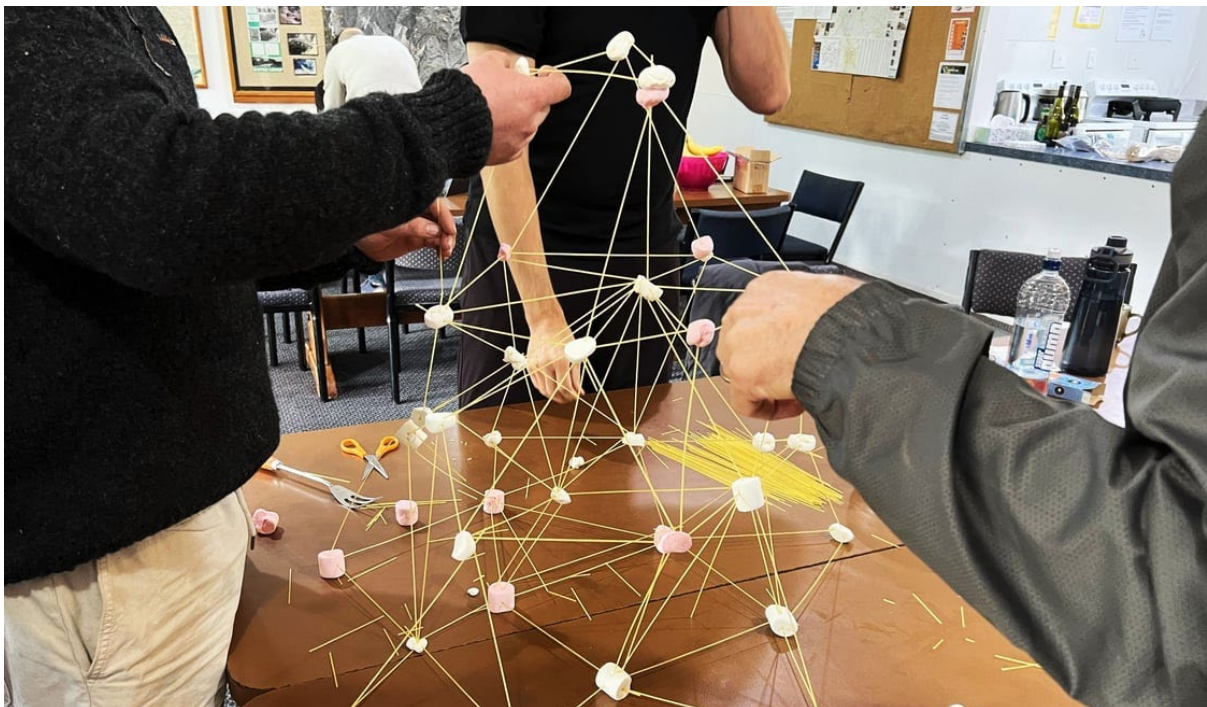
Meet the WorldSkills New Zealand team on their way to Lyon

So who is this smartly dressed ensemble? Well obviously we have the competitors, no prizes for guessing their roles. Then we have our skill

experts (Jeroen and Neill), who in the months leading up to the competition have been mentoring Elliott and Jack, and have been taking part in international forums for their respective skills.

Our team leader Bryce, who ensures the competitors needs and interests outside of the technical aspect are met every step of the way. Our two Michael's, Michael Naus is our Technical delegate, his role is to ensure smooth sailing in respect of present future competitions and technical related matters. Michael Hey is our newest member, as a Technical Delegate Assistant he will cover lots of ground, supporting Michael with technical matters and the wider team. Finally, Carl our Official Delegate, his role is to represent WSNZ in organisational matters and actively participate and contribute to the ongoing development of WorldSkills International.

Then there is "Dog" or "Skillver", as he is known nowadays. He's been around for a long time and attended many international competitions as an accredited member of the team. He's no longer age-eligible to compete but he is on his way to Lyon kitted out with a GPS tracker so we can keep track of his antics.



Team Camp II

Over a weekend in late July we gathered at a remote and beautiful part of the country. [Sixtus Lodge](#) in the foothills of the Western Ruahine

Ranges near Āpiti, provided the perfect backdrop for our second Team Camp to complete our preparations for Lyon.

As the team hails from across New Zealand, it was important to come together to go over logistics, discuss training plans, expectations, and build trust. As bonding activities go, the Spaghetti and Marshmallow tower is a classic to test communication and leadership styles!

Preparing skill athletes for world-class competition is a definitely a team effort: the competitors increasing their own technical knowledge and skills, the generous support from their employers and expert mentors, as well as the wider WSNZ team. Resilience, Mindfulness, Communication and Media Training are other areas we develop for the competitors, all of which aims to ensure they are in a good position to do well at the competition, as well provide long lasting life skills to help them be the best version of themselves.

Oh if you are still wondering where Āpiti is, it's in the Manawatū around an hour's drive North East from Palmerston North.



More change ahead for NZ VET

Public consultation around the redesign of the vocational education and training system opened at the beginning of August. There are three core areas within the Government's proposal:

- A redesigned Institute of Technology and Polytechnic (ITP) network that retains access to ITP provision in all regions, through a combination of stand-alone and federated ITPs.
- An industry-led system for standards-setting and industry training.

- Changes to vocational education funding from 2026 to better support the reformed system.

WSNZ will be submitting feedback on the proposal, specifically, on how using the WorldSkills International Occupational Standards can support a system for standards setting and industry training. As is taking place in other countries, Finland being a great example.

Consultation closes on 12 September.

See the links below for information on the proposed redesign.

[Consultation document](#)

[RIS](#)

[MOE Website](#)