



WorldSkills New Zealand News

Welcome to our WorldSkills NZ December Newsletter.

It's been quite a ride, although 2021 is very nearly about to be confined to the history books. With a roller coaster of ups and downs this year will certainly prove to be memorable. Our highlights reel includes delivering four regional skill competitions and a national welding competition, increased engagement via our social media platforms, positive steps towards partnering with existing

industry competitions, and gaining more certainty of our position within the new vocational education framework.

A huge thank you to our partners, supporters, and volunteers throughout the year. Also, all competitors, their employers and training providers as well as competition venue hosts.

On behalf of the WorldSkills NZ team (Sally, Nina, Megan, and myself) along with our skill managers, regional coordinators and WorldSkills Board, all the very best for a safe and enjoyable holiday season, we look forward to connecting with you again in 2022.

Carl Rankin - General Manager

National Competitions

In October we held our last regional competition for 2021 (a little later than usual) so headed into the season of National competitions in early December. Our National Welding Competition took place in the Bay of Plenty. For our Northland competitor, an extra complication was the uncertainty of being able to travel. However at the last minute we were delighted that Justin Caldwell-Smith who had apprenticed with Absolute Stainless, was able to travel through Auckland to the competition, and it was worth the persistence as Justin ended up taking Gold!

Justin was joined by runners-up Kalis Simmonds from Impact Engineering in Tauranga and Virgilio Gapuz from Page McCrae Mount Maunganui.

The industry plays a massive part in providing inspiration and pathways for the pursuit of excellence and this year's National Welding Competition was well supported by our industry partners. Toi Ohomai Institute of Technology hosted the show with a great venue and cut and supplied the steel for the pressure vessel. Wakefield Metals supplied the stainless steel, Stafford Engineering cut

the stainless steel, and Stainless Design supplied the aluminium and did the cutting. A massive thank you to you all.





As reported last newsletter, due to lockdowns our **Aircraft Maintenance National** has been moved out to the beginning of March 2022. The two day competition will be held at the Airforce Museum in Christchurch from the 3rd to 5th of March.

WorldSkills NZ Organisation News

2021 has certainly had its challenges with delivery of skill competitions, although from an organisation perspective this year we have made good progress implementing our reset strategy.

Key focus areas have been increasing engagement with our stakeholders, promoting the benefits of competitions for individuals, industry, and NZ inc. as well as promoting linkages to the international WorldSkills movement. The current reform to vocational education in New Zealand has created an opportunity for WorldSkills NZ to be considered as key in encouraging learner achievement and providing independent measurement of the effectiveness of New Zealand vocational training and education. Finally, we would like to acknowledge the support from our funding partner for 2021, TEC.

The first six months of next year will be exciting. Along with delivering our 2021 aircraft maintenance final in March, we will be partnering with the Ministry of Education and Master Electricians through the introduction of skill competitions into schools. More on this early next year.



WorldSkills UK - Best Practice Exchanges

Our good friends on the other side of the globe have recently kicked off a best practice exchange series, where members of the International WorldSkills community come together to take part in a series of webinars designed to share insights and solutions on improving training standards across various vocational skills. We are taking part, where several of our Skill Managers are getting involved in this great initiative, and we look forward to sharing the learnings and recorded sessions across the NZ VET sector in the new year.



WorldSkills Champions shine at APAC TVET

Last month we had the pleasure of taking part in the inaugural APAC Technical and Vocational Education Forum. Experts, leading government and industry figures from across the Asia Pacific region presented ideas and information about current and future training, skill and workforce challenges.

Trends such as micro-credentialising, verified skill badging, AI integrated tasks and current issues such as cascading effects on business productivity for pivoting skill shortages such as forklift operators and truck drivers were some of the engaging conversations taking place.

WorldSkills was well represented. Four intelligent, articulate and talented [WorldSkills Champions](#) from China, Russia, South Korea and Australia were a highlight of the two-day event. Each shared their insights on driving excellence through competition and community, and encouraging the next generation of

youth into vocational skills training. You can watch the World Champions in action here [WorldSkills Panel of Champions - WorldSkills Champions Trust](#)



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