

MITO News

November – December 2008

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Inspiring a new generation of inventors and innovators

Not only is he one of the greatest painters the world has ever seen, he was also a scientist, mathematician, engineer, anatomist, sculptor, architect, botanist, musician and writer. But before all that, Leonardo da Vinci started out his career as an apprentice.

This makes the Leonardo da Vinci Machines Exhibition a great way to showcase the opportunities an apprenticeship offers. MITO joined with the Aviation, Tourism and Travel Training Organisation (ATTTO) and the Building and Construction Industry Training Organisation (BCITO) in sponsoring the exhibition.

"Da Vinci is an example to young people - he inspires them to dream big dreams. He teaches us not to be shy of brilliance and flair," says Janet Lane, MITO Chief Executive. "The three ITOs are supporting this unique exhibition as many of the models are relevant to our industries, in fact some still have clear links to our industries today".

The exhibition presents over sixty machines based on da Vinci's original drawings. It features his amazing flying machines, vehicles, hydraulic and architectural innovations, groundbreaking applications of civil engineering and incredible war machines. The interactive machines give



Elizabeth Valentine, ATTTO Chief Executive, Ruma Karaitiana, BCITO Chief Executive, Leonardo (Ken Benn) and Janet Lane, MITO Chief Executive.

visitors the chance to touch and handle them to gain a first-hand appreciation of how they work.

Over 75 school groups have signed up to visit. Students take part in activities to inspire their curiosity and creativity and show them the amazing possibilities in the world of engineering, invention and design.

Opened in early November with a launch party that included the Mayor of Wellington, the Italian Ambassador and Leonardo (well probably just a look alike!), the exhibition will be at the New Zealand Academy of Fine Arts on Wellington's waterfront until 15 February 2009.

Merry Christmas

Wishing you a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year from the team at MITO.

MITO will be closed over the Christmas break. We re-open on Monday 5 January 2009.

Modern Apprenticeship Co-ordinator Conference

Held in Taupo in November, MITO's annual Modern Apprenticeship Co-ordinator (MAC) conference was attended by MACs from around New Zealand.

The conference provided a mix of presentations, regional updates and the chance to network with colleagues.

Topics included MITO's Administration Programme (Introductory Management, Business, and Computing), Distance Learning Materials and CDX, a computer based learning tool customised for MITO apprentices.

Denise Loseby, Modern Apprenticeships Co-ordination Manager, Faculty of Engineering and Trades, Manukau Institute of Technology, was there for the third time. "The conference is always of great value. It provides the chance to connect with our colleagues from around the country and share good practice," she says.



Conference participants on the shores of Lake Taupo.

"The conference is a great example of how well supported we are by MITO. You come away knowing that you are up-to-date with MITO's qualifications and programmes. It means we can provide the best service to apprentices," comments Denise.

MITO has recently appointed Yvette Bartholomew as National Co-ordinator (Modern Apprenticeships). Yvette has been with MITO for two years and is well placed to provide an effective service to MACs. She can be contacted on yvette.bartholomew@mito.org.nz or 04 494 1624.

Automotive Educators Conference

The opportunity to discuss emerging technologies and specialist techniques drew over 80 people to MITO's third annual Automotive Educators Conference.

Attendees included tutors, programme leaders and heads of department from automotive programme providers around New Zealand. All were keen to take advantage of the opportunity to find out more about advances in the

motor industry and network with colleagues from around the country.

The conference, held this year in the capital, included a visit to WelTec's autotronics lab and the chance to try out their virtual welder and virtual spray gun. The opportunity to see these new training resources was welcomed by attendees.

Among seven presentations were keynote addresses from Dr Mike Duke, Senior Lecturer at the School of Science and Engineering, University of Waikato and Selena

Chan, Principal Academic, CPIT School of Food and Hospitality. Dr Duke spoke on electronic cars and Ms Chan on "e" and "m" (electronic and mobile) learning.

A first time attendee at the conference, Iain Seymour-Hart, Head of School of Transport Technology, Unitec, was particularly impressed with the quality of the presentations. He also comments, "this conference is important – the strong focus on the development of educators quickly comes full circle and greatly

Improving skills to reduce road toll

Improved attitudes to driving and improved driving skills for apprentices. These were the results of the pilot MITO Safe Driving Campaign in November 2007 according to employers.

With the safety and wellbeing of our apprentices at the forefront, MITO has extended the campaign. Employers of all MITO apprentices aged between 18 and 25 years were invited to send them on an 'AA Defensive Driving for Experienced Drivers' course. This led to almost 400 apprentices attending one of 34 courses throughout New Zealand.

The course included a four-hour classroom session and a one-hour supervised drive with a mentor.

And if the apprentices are looking for an example of someone who practices what they preach – they could do no better than Emma Gilmour. The top female rally driver is one of the course

tutors and knows the importance of understanding your car and surroundings, whether on the rally circuit or on the road.

"This campaign is a fantastic initiative. The majority of MITO's apprentices fall into the age group that has the highest representation for road deaths in New Zealand. Although the apprentices are reluctant to

believe they have anything further to learn about their driving, by the time the four-hour classroom session is over they have started to realise that driving is very much an important life skill that none of us should take for granted," says Emma.

"As a nation we need to change our attitude to driving. People need to realise that it's not enough to sit our license once. We should never stop learning or thinking of ways to drive better or safer on our roads."

Emma Gilmour leads the AA Defensive Driving for Experienced Drivers course in Pukekohe.



benefits students by improving their technical vocational education and training."

"The provision of a CD containing many of the presentations means I can share the information with my teaching and support staff, which again leads to benefits for our students," says Iain.

Dr Mike Duke, University of Waikato (left), with Doug Preller, Mara Marketing.

Tackling the technology challenge



Tom Glendinning using CDX at Armstrong Prestige Wellington.

Improving workforce literacy is not only about ensuring an employee can read and write. Numeracy, problem solving, critical thinking, speaking and listening skills, and the ability to use technology are crucial to performing well in the workplace.

The exponential increase in the use of technology is industry wide. Whether in vehicles being worked on, tools used to repair the vehicles or systems to track jobs, being able to learn and use new technologies is essential to stay ahead in your career.

MITO has developed a number of programmes and resources to help apprentices tackle the technology challenge.

Literacy programmes

MITO apprentices who would benefit from numeracy and/or literacy development can access up to 30 hours of support by contacting their MITO Customer Services Manager. MITO is committed to ensuring apprentices are equipped to make best use of technology in the workplace.

Electronic study resources

MITO is developing electronic study resources which, as well as providing essential learning materials, allow apprentices to become familiar with the use of electronic technology.

Resources which have already been developed include the electronic Training Manual and a customised version of CDX.

CDX is a computer based learning tool which allows apprentices to watch videos, animations, graphics and simulations to explain or reinforce the concepts and processes they are learning in the workplace.

Information and Communication Technology Programme

To help apprentices get the most out of the electronic study resources MITO has recently developed the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Programme.

The programme was piloted with over 300 apprentices in October and November. Thirty one induction workshops were held nationwide. Apprentices were shown how to make better use of MITO's electronic study resources. In 2009 they will continue the programme through on-job training and off-job courses.

The programme will take approximately 12 months and can be completed at the same time as an apprenticeship. As well as becoming more competent in using computers, apprentices can also achieve a National Certificate in Computing (Level 2).

mito
Qualifying Your Future

Contact us

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STOP PRESS

MITO annual training fees stay the same for the 8th consecutive year!