

# Industrial textile fabrication careers on show

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# MITO NEWS

JULY / AUGUST 2008

## Award winners announced



Adam Wilson, Peter M May Ltd, shows Peg Lockyer, Onehunga High School, some of the equipment on display at the OFPANZ tradeshow.

When OFPANZ announced that its 2008 conference and tradeshow would take place in Auckland, MITO was keen to participate!

MITO held a special lunch event at the conference venue, with the aim of promoting careers in the industrial textile fabrication industry to secondary schools and students in the Auckland area.

School principals, career advisers, Gateway co-ordinators and interested students accepted MITO's invitation to the event. They had the opportunity to meet MITO and OFPANZ representatives, graduate MITO apprentices Katie Wiseman and Adam Wilson, and visit the tradeshow. Afterwards, the visitors were treated to a preview of a segment on canvas fabrication (filmed at Baytex Manufacturing Company Ltd), which was screened as part of the Just the Job TV series.

Peg Lockyer, Associate Principal, Onehunga High School attended the event and said, "It was great to have an opportunity to hear from successful apprentices who have been involved in the industrial textile fabrication industry. They demonstrated to the students and others present that industry based training is a pathway option that offers depth of learning and opens many doors for their future".

Two of our industry associations have announced their 'Apprentices of the Year' in the past few months – so it's time to spread the good news!

MITO was excited to join the New Zealand Collision Repair Association (CRA) and the Outdoor Fabric Products Association of New Zealand (OFPANZ) for the award ceremonies.

"It's vitally important that we celebrate success and achievement in our industries, so MITO is delighted to support these award programmes," says MITO Chairman Peter Hancock, who announced the award winners. "By recognising the performances of our top apprentices, we're also inspiring others to succeed, no matter their age or their experience in the industry."

"The awards are a huge thrill for everyone," says Peter. "It's wonderful to see so many talented apprentices at the beginning of what are sure to be exciting and fulfilling careers."

### Congratulations to the winners:

**Lauren Gray**  
CRA Golden Gun Award winner.

**Max Bradley**  
CRA Golden Hammer Award winner.

**Michelle Cunningham**  
OFPANZ Apprentice of the Year.

MITO Chairman Peter Hancock presents Michelle Cunningham of Charman Motor Trimmers & Upholsterers Limited (Napier) with her award.



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## INSIDE

## Profiles of the winners...

# Sewn-up

Napier-based MITO apprentice Michelle Cunningham entered the OFPANZ Apprentice of the Year competition for two main reasons: to represent Charman Motor Trimmers & Upholsterers Limited, where she works, to the best of her abilities; and to demonstrate the skills she's learned in her four years working there.

She's done both – winning first place in the competition, and doing it with a motorcycle pannier bag that's a statement in style!

Michelle's bag – created over eight weeks – features details such as piping, zipping and quilting. It's also a refreshing change from

the bags you'll find in motorcycle stores, featuring bright orange flames, pockets for toiletries and a mobile phone, and back-straps for off-motorcycle use.

"I was very pleased to win!" she says, "In fact, I think everyone should enter the competition. It's a great way to prove you can do what you say you can."

Michelle says she feels "very lucky" to have the support of her employer and MITO Customer Services Manager Clyde Cunningham. "They have been absolutely great and really supportive."

With her apprenticeship now complete, Michelle isn't planning to give up her study – she has plans for more learning. She also wouldn't mind having a motorbike to go with that bag...



Michelle Cunningham, OFPANZ Apprentice of the Year, at Charman Motor Trimmers & Upholsterers Limited in Napier.

# Paint it GOLD



Lauren Gray, CRA Golden Gun Award winner, at North Clyde Panel & Paint Wairoa.

She's already running the company paint-shop, so it's no surprise that Lauren Gray won the CRA's Golden Gun Award.

The Award – for the Refinishing Apprentice of the Year – recognises Lauren's achievements with North Clyde Panel & Paint Wairoa. The 21-year-old has proven she has the skills for the job, as well as the aptitude to learn and the motivation to study.

Lauren was "stoked" to win the Award – and so was her employer, Mark Ripia. "She's a real asset to the business," he says, "with a great attitude that means we never have to push her to get the study or her work done."

Interested in cars since she was young, Lauren loves her job. She's also looking forward to the next stage in her career development, made possible by an ATech® scholarship from MITO.

"Winning this Award is a really big thing for me," she says, "and MITO's support means I can go to another level. I'm looking forward to working towards this advanced qualification."

# Golden Hammer with a future

Max Bradley's busy – with two National Certificates under his belt and another underway, he also manages to fit in motorcycle racing, wake-boarding, jet-skiing and quad-bike racing, to name a few of his sporting pursuits.

The 22-year-old panelbeater puts it down to "just doing it" – which could be why he's won the CRA's Golden Hammer Award. It could also be why he's eager to start on the next step in his career, an ATech® scholarship from MITO.

Max says he's looking forward to starting on the ATech® challenge once he's finished his National Certificate in First Line Management. Fortunately, as one of three MITO apprentices at Dittmer Collision Repairs in Palmerston North, he gets plenty of support from his boss – who just happens to be his father. "Dad trained me himself, and has always supported me in my work and career decisions," he says.

Max is particularly keen to develop his management skills, and hopes that in a couple of years he'll move up in the business. "It's amazing to have national recognition through this Award," he says. "It's a big deal, and really important for my future."

Max Bradley, CRA Golden Hammer Award winner, at Dittmer Collision Repair in Palmerston North.



## Win New Tools with Shell Helix Ultra

If you are studying towards a National Certificate in Motor Industry (Automotive Engineering) with MITO, Shell is giving you the chance to win the tools you need to get ahead. Make sure you complete and return the entry form before 1 September 2008 to go in the draw for one of two state-of-the-art Snap-on/Blue Point toolkits valued at \$5,300 each. Competition entries can be downloaded from [www.shell.co.nz/helix](http://www.shell.co.nz/helix).

