

National Technical Forum



MITO Technical Advisor, Denis Sharpe and Maurice Rotherham, Hyundai Motors NZ Ltd, form part of a discussion group at the Forum.

National training and technical service managers, representing distributors of new passenger cars as well as light and heavy commercial vehicles, participated in a National Technical Forum organised by MITO at the end of April.

This initiative was designed to provide a Forum for information sharing on new technologies, discuss the future direction of the industry, reinforce the importance of education and training – and enable participants to network.

“It was a great opportunity to get together with trainers from the industry and share valuable and useful information, but I think the most important aspect of the Forum was MITO’s receptiveness to our ideas and opinions”, says Maurice Rotherham, Dealer Training and Development, Hyundai Motors NZ Ltd.

A great outcome of the day was participants agreeing to make themselves available as a “Technical Reference Group”. This will provide MITO with ongoing advice on new and emerging technologies – crucial to our qualification development.

There was great enthusiasm for making the Forum an annual event.

John Reynolds, Nissan NZ’s Technical Training and Product Support Manager summed this up well. “We all have a common goal; to ensure that our workforce has the very best training technicians possible. MITO gave us the opportunity to discuss this and must be congratulated. We need to hold this Forum on a regular basis.”

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Qualifying Your Future

MITO NEWS

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Extending our influence

Held on Thursday 1 May, the Industry Training at Work Day gave politicians, business people, community leaders and the media the chance to experience industry training in action.

This initiative organised by the Industry Training Federation, in collaboration with industry training organisations, saw key ‘influencers’ invited to 60 workplaces around the country, enabling them to talk with employers and apprentices about what industry training is all about, how it’s organised, and how it benefits both businesses and employees.

Visits organised by MITO were to Continental Car Services in Auckland, Wanganui Motors in Wanganui, GT Motors in Wellington and Kolorful Kanvas in Christchurch.

Phil O’Reilly, Chief Executive of Business NZ, was hosted by MITO at GT Motors, “Skills are fundamentally important for New Zealand’s quest to become a high-skill, high-wage economy. We need to establish a ‘training culture’ in every workplace, to maximise our resources and abilities and achieve the best for every New Zealander,” says Phil.

“The day was very worthwhile,” comments GT Motors’ Service Operations Manager, Thinus van Greuning. “Phil spent most of his time talking to apprentices and learning how things have changed in the automotive industry over the past few years. Developments in vehicles and technology are very fast and these changes have meant that training has to evolve as well. I think everyone benefited from the experience.”



Apprentice Steve Shaw demonstrates a diagnostic tool to Phil O’Reilly (Business NZ) and Jeremy Baker (Industry Training Federation) at GT Motors in Wellington.

INSIDE

V8 Supercars a Smash Hit!

Fault-diagnosis goes super-tech!

With the increasing complexities of new vehicles it is important to ensure that there are sufficiently skilled technicians to meet the growing needs.

Degem Systems, an Israeli company specialising in training and education systems, have developed an 'Autotronics Laboratory' to help teach electronic and electrical systems within the automotive industry.

The Laboratory combines simulators and demonstrators with computer workstations – creating a comprehensive, flexible system to diagnose and correct faults using the in-lab car or motorbike.

There are several installations world-wide and recently WelTec (with support from MITO) celebrated the grand opening of New Zealand's first 'Autotronics Laboratory'. There to 'cut the ribbon' was Smokin' Joe McAndrew, one of the country's most successful rally drivers.

The opening was attended by industry professionals eager to try out the equipment. Neil O'Callaghan, Mitsubishi Motors New Zealand's Technical Service Engineer, was impressed with the Autotronics room. "I like the concept of being able to work on and troubleshoot systems without being hampered by all the other vehicle components," he said. "The interfacing training software enables a tutor to set faults or exercises and leave the trainee to get on with the task. Assessment is easy because the system monitors what the trainee is doing. The Laboratory is a great complement to training on actual vehicles."



MITO Chief Executive Janet Lane, Joe McAndrew and WelTec Chief Executive Dr Linda Sissons with the Degem lab demonstrator car.

V8 Supercars a smash hit!



State Smash Repair team apprentices Tom Williamson (WB Price Panelbeaters) and Sho Okumoto (Peter Hendriks Panel & Paint) hard at work at the Hamilton V8s.

"It blew me away!"

That's the reaction from Greg Paques to his experience at the Hamilton 400 V8 Supercars in April.



Greg and five other State sponsored apprentices were part of the State Smash Repair Team. Involved on all three days of the event, 20-year-old Greg was soon making decisions on his feet and fixing cars late into the night. It's an experience that he says he's now applying to his work at Maidstone Panelbeaters in Upper Hutt – "I'm working a lot more efficiently now and getting the work done faster; it's made a huge difference to the way I work."

The event was a success all round, with MITO's exhibitor stand – featuring giant TV screens and a Toyota racing car – proving a popular stopping point for potential apprentices, employers and qualified technicians.

And thanks to an awesome surprise, Greg will be back at the V8s next year; he and fellow State sponsored apprentice Matt Lee are off to Bathurst for a week, and they'll be back as 'trainers' in 2009. So will MITO of course – in fact, keep your eyes peeled for our stand at other industry-related events through the year!

Our Distance Learning Materials are going to change

How will this affect you?

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 As new packages are released you will notice a change in the assignments and tests from SIT, Wintec, WelTec and NorthTec.
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 Old assignments and tests will only be marked for a limited time after the new ones become available. Please talk to your CSM about the options for completing them or trading them for an updated one.

If you have any questions please contact your local CSM or call MITO National Office on 0800 88 21 21.

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