

MITO News

September – October 2008

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Racing to the front of the pack

Christoph Kalin has just received a tremendous accolade. He was presented with the Tom Hodgson Memorial Award as the MTA 2008 Apprentice of the Year.

The Tom Hodgson Memorial Award recognises an apprentice who shows maturity, initiative and leadership qualities as well as displaying technical ability and aptitude.

Christoph flew to Melbourne to attend the MTA annual conference and accept the award. He was joined by his supervisor, Roy White from Agrifarm Machinery. "Agrifarm is very proud to have Christoph as part of the service team in Ashburton. This award shows young people what they can achieve through hard work and study," says Roy.

Christoph was "stoked" to receive the award, not to mention the prize that went with it. He was given the chance to join the Greg Murphy Sprint Gas motorsport team pit crew for the Phillip Island V8 Supercar Round. Christoph was able to assist the pit crew on the practice and qualifying days as well as experiencing the action of the race days.



Christoph Kalin, MTA 2008 Apprentice of the Year, with Greg Murphy at the Phillip Island V8 Supercar Round. Photo courtesy of Sprint Gas Racing.

The award was the icing on the cake for Christoph, who has just completed his National Certificate in Motor Industry (Automotive Heavy Engineering) in Agricultural Equipment in record time.

MITO Customer Services Manager (CSM) Richard Wright who was also in Melbourne to help celebrate Christoph's success says, "Christoph is fairly humble about his achievements but his abilities quickly become obvious to those around him. He has a very successful future ahead."

Set in stone

At MTA's annual conference in Melbourne this year, recognition was given to the strong partnership between MTA and MITO. MTA presented MITO with a stone carving, symbolising the bond between the two organisations. MITO is dedicated to continue working with MTA to realise our shared goals.

Competing with the best

With the chance to represent New Zealand at the 2009 WorldSkills in Canada up for grabs, competition was fierce.

Competing in 18 different trades, representatives from regional competitions and the NZ Defence Forces gathered in Wellington for the 2008 National Finals of WorldSkills New Zealand. Held 18-20 September, competitions took place at the WelTec Petone campus, with the award ceremony at The Beehive.

Congratulations to the following winners:

Autobody Repair

- 1st Jesse Clinton
Elite Collision Care
Christchurch
- 2nd Hamish Hellyer
Autobodies Wellington (2006) Ltd
Wellington
- 3rd Greg Paques
Maidstone Panelbeaters Limited
Wellington

Automotive Refinishing

- 1st Jemma Bond
Rowells Collision Repair Centre
Whangarei
- 2nd Jacob Engelbrecht
Transvisual Spray Painters Ltd
Auckland

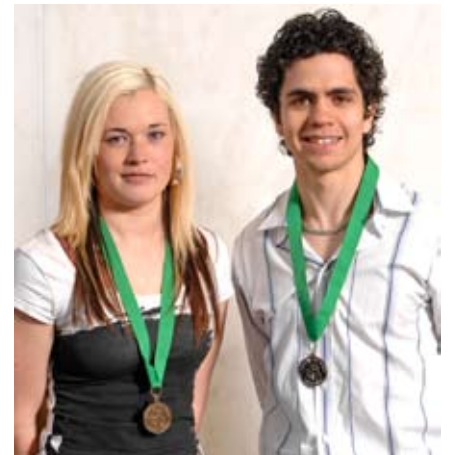
Automotive Technology

- 1st Marcel Woods
Renton Motors (1976) Limited
Kaikohe
- 2nd Joshua Blankenbyl
Autocare Service Centre
Whangarei
- 3rd Michael Reece
Forde Auto Services Ltd
Invercargill

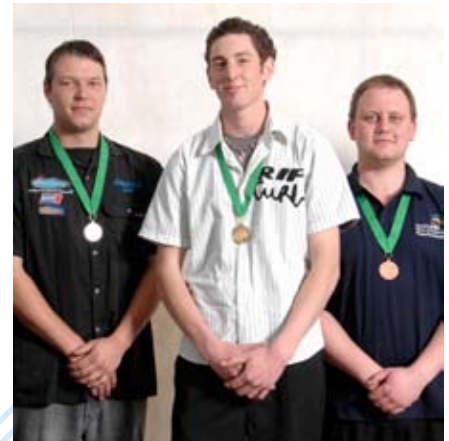
For those selected to attend the international competitions in Calgary, Canada this is just the start of the hard work. They'll be honing their skills to ensure they are ready to compete with representatives from 49 countries and regions in September 2009.



Autobody Repair: Hamish Hellyer, Jesse Clinton and Greg Paques.



Automotive Refinishing: Jemma Bond and Jacob Engelbrecht.



Automotive Technology: Joshua Blankenbyl, Marcel Woods and Michael Reece.

Welcome additions!

To ensure we are able to continue providing the most professional and valuable service, MITO has recently increased the number of CSMs from 26 to 28. Additional positions have been allocated to the Auckland region – taking our total to seven. We have also increased our Christchurch based team to three.

The three new Christchurch based CSMs are Peter Currie, Garry Kilday and John Edwards. Peter was working in a specialist technical analyst role prior to joining MITO and has extensive motor vehicle assessing and sales experience. Fresh from an automotive tutorial role, Garry has previously contributed to the development of unit standards. John had been working in a role co-ordinating apprentice training and was an active MITO workplace assessor.

New Look for MITO News

We welcome your comments to info@mito.org.nz.

Shell Helix Ultra Competition

Shell has been one of the leaders in motor oil research for more than 50 years, often at the sharp end of Formula One racing due to a strong partnership with Ferrari. With the goal of assisting aspiring automotive technicians to jumpstart their careers, Shell and MITO developed the Shell Helix Ultra Competition.

Jackie Maitland, Corporate Communications Manager, Shell New Zealand, competition winner Jarrod Brown of Davie Motors Holden and Mark Lawrence, MITO CSM.



Competition winner Brendon Nash of R & M Automotive and Adrian Hill, MITO CSM.



Congratulations to Jarrod Brown of Davie Motors Holden, Manukau and Brendon Nash, R & M Automotive, New Lynn, the two winners.

Jarrod and Brendon were each presented with a Snap-on/Blue-Point toolkit valued at \$5300 and 20 litres of Shell Helix Ultra. Both Jarrod and Brendon correctly answered the six questions in the competition open to MITO apprentices studying towards a National Certificate in Motor Industry (Automotive Engineering).



Christchurch CSMs: John Edwards, Garry Kilday and Peter Currie.

Joining our Auckland based team are Brian Messer, Mark Lawrence and Richard Burgess. Brian previously worked for MITO as a CSM before returning to the private sector. With experience in the motor industry spanning two decades Mark has worked in the UK, France and China. Richard has worked as a lead automotive technician across the Auckland region.



New Auckland CSMs: Brian Messer, Richard Burgess and Mark Lawrence.

New programme off to a flying start



Michael Strudwick, City Nissan Lower Hutt, Graham Ellis, Valley Flyer and Kathryn Gillum, Metro Training Services attend a MITO Administration Programme workshop in Wellington.

MITO's Administration Programme (Introductory Management, Business and Computing) kicked off in May, when the first group of participants attended a two-day induction course.

The two-year programme is designed to provide opportunities for both administration and technical teams to enhance their skill base. It covers topics ranging from personal leadership and managing workplace priorities to business writing, customer service, quality control, computing and workplace safety.

They're all skills that programme participant Graham Ellis is keen to learn. Eighteen months ago, he was appointed as Engineering Manager for Valley Flyer – the company that supplies most of Lower Hutt's bus services. With 160 buses in the fleet (and more arriving later this year), he's on the go seven days a week. He loves his job – and he's overwhelmingly enthusiastic about the new programme.

"I've been a technician all my life and I've missed opportunities to learn the administration and management side of things that I need to do my job," he says.

"For me, this course is all about learning the everyday stuff – especially how to manage, deal with, listen to and talk with the people in my team. And of course I need computer skills – if someone had told me two years ago that I'd be communicating by email today, I wouldn't have believed them!

"This programme is innovative and informative. I've learned so much already, and I'm doing my absolute best to put it into practice – through more effective time management, analysing how I work and finding ways to make the most of my team's individual skills to improve our overall performance. It's full on, but I'm hugely motivated and excited."

With MITO's Administration Programme you can achieve two Level 3 qualifications – a National Certificate in First Line Management and a National Certificate in Computing.

If you're interested in taking part in the programme – or know someone who would benefit – simply phone MITO on 0800 88 21 21 or contact your local CSM.



Contact us

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Graduations

Here are some of the upcoming industry training graduations:

Gisborne District
5 November 2008

Southland
6 November 2008

Coastal Otago / Dunedin
7 November 2008

New Plymouth
11 November 2008

Manukau City
19 November 2008

Auckland City
9 December 2008

Contact 0800 88 21 21 for information on venues/times.