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The torque

MITO NEWS – ISSUE 5 | 2011

In the driving seat for 12 years!

On Wednesday 27 April representatives from the motor industry and education sector from around the country joined the MITO team in Wellington to farewell Peter Hancock, who has retired as Chairman of MITO's Board of Directors.

When Peter was appointed Chairman of the Board in 1999, he brought with him 30 years' experience in the automotive industry. Holding an 'A' Grade qualification, he joined Nissan New Zealand in 1969 and then progressed to become a Director of Nissan Datsun Holdings and Executive Director Sales and Marketing Nissan New Zealand.

"As a young apprentice I would never have dreamt that I'd become Chairman of MITO one day," he laughs, "but it does reflect my lifelong interest in education and learning. It's been fantastic to help make a difference in young people's lives – encouraging them to be ambitious and to dream big dreams."

For Peter, the highlights of his 12-year stewardship include the launch of new programmes and the recognition of high achievers. "It was always a thrill to present the annual 'Apprentice of the Year' awards for our industry," he says.

"It was particularly rewarding to see our WorldSkills automotive competitors head off to international competitions – then watch

them come through the gates at Auckland International Airport with the biggest smiles I've ever seen."

MITO Chief Executive Janet Lane says that during his tenure as Chairman, Peter showed enormous integrity, enthusiasm and dedication to the industry. "He had a strong and compelling vision for MITO

and he was steadfast that we would become recognised as a high performing organisation. He can be very confident that his legacy will continue."

David O'Kane succeeds Peter as the new Chairman of MITO. 🚗



Retired MITO Chairman Peter Hancock with incoming Chairman David O'Kane (right).



The personal tributes for outgoing MITO Chairman Peter Hancock resonated with a common theme – clearly a man of integrity who was immensely passionate about industry training.

Peter had a singular vision which has seen MITO transformed into a high performing organisation with a strong customer ethos.

It is significant that during his 12-year stewardship of MITO new qualifications were developed, career pathways devised, workforce development strategies expanded and industry partnerships consolidated.

Peter inspired young learners to dream big dreams and for thirteen MITO trainees their dreams have just become a reality as the recipients of our inaugural scholarship programme. We wish them every success as they further develop their credentials and aspire to leadership roles.

Meantime, Drew Avery, Andre Prinsloo and Curtis Hartley are aspiring to bring back a medal from the international WorldSkills competition in London later this year. They have committed to a rigorous training regime and we are confident they will do well.

We will continue Peter's legacy, including personally greeting the "Tool Black" team on their return to New Zealand!

Janet Lane
Chief Executive



CDX video presenter Clinton Randall with Krishna Chand of Truck Stops (NZ) Ltd.



Filming for Just the Job in the Audi workshop at Continental Car Services in Auckland.

Reality TV show highlights motor career pathways

MITO has just wrapped up the filming and production of an episode of reality TV show 'Just the Job', exploring a career path in the motor industry.

MITO co-ordinated filming Just the Job with the Sime Darby Group and most of the episode's action takes place in the Audi showroom and workshop of their elite dealership in Auckland - Continental Car Services in Newmarket.

The episode features Massey High School student Scott Legg trying out three different automotive roles with the guidance of Nikki Winnard the Human Resources Manager for the Sime Darby Group.

Scott starts out as an automotive technician and picks up some maintenance and diagnostic tips from Porsche automotive technician Robert Wengert.

Scott then meets Audi workshop supervisor Devon Scott who shows him the tasks required of an automotive workshop supervisor.

Finally, Scott gets his chance to learn what's involved in a management role as he works alongside automotive service advisor Phil Davis of Continental Car Services.

The episode was organised and produced by Dave Mason Productions. The crew included director Les Dawson, cameraman Stephen Moody and researcher Matthew Donaldson. The production crew filmed three individual segments over a week and the footage was edited for the 30 minute programme.

The new Just the Job series will screen on TV in September. Tune in to learn more about motor career pathways and get an insider's view of the workshop and showroom of one of New Zealand's leading car dealerships. 🚗

MITO's CDX Plus Online Video

An introduction video on how to use CDX Plus Online can now be viewed on MITO's website.

CDX is an internet-based learning tool which allows most MITO apprentices access to over 800 videos, animations and simulations to explain or reinforce the concepts and processes that they are learning in the workplace.

CDX has been designed to support learners as they work towards completing their national qualification.

Go to www.mito.org.nz to view the CDX introduction video.



2011 inaugural MITO Scholarship winners announced

The waiting is over with the 2011 recipients of the inaugural MITO scholarships announced. Thirteen scholarships were up for grabs across three categories, with \$20,000 in the funding pool.

There were over 40 applications from around the country all seeking to advance their study and career goals. Over half of the scholarship applicants had already completed at least one national qualification with MITO. The scholarship funding will go directly to study costs.

The **School Leavers' Scholarship** is for secondary school students who intend to enrol in a MITO apprenticeship. Six scholarships, each worth \$1,000, were awarded:

- **Neil Adams**, Neils Auto Centre, Waiuku
- **Kane Skelsey**, L W Watkins Motors Ltd (t/a Watkins Motors), Wanganui
- **Ryan Thompson**, Te Aroha Tractors and Garden Machinery, Te Aroha
- **Scott Mallinder**, Craig Wills Upholsterer and Motor Trimmers, Wanganui
- **Kieran O'Connell**, Smith & Davies Limited, North Shore
- **Aaron McIlroy**, Team Auto Centre, Clive

The **ATech® Scholarship** is for automotive technicians who have completed a National Certificate (Level 4) with MITO and who aspire to work in advanced technical roles. They will complete ATech®, MITO's elite training programme. Three scholarships, each worth \$1,000, were awarded:

- **Hayden McCulloch**, Otago Farm Machinery, Mosgiel
- **Daniel Packwood**, Fairview Motors Limited, Hamilton
- **Michael Paaymans**, Lodge Auto Centre Limited, Hastings



James O'Connor was MTA Apprentice of the Year 2009. He has received the New Zealand Craftsman Training Foundation Overseas Training Scholarship, which he will use with his MITO Graduate Scholarship to assist with funding a visit to the Daimler (Mercedes Benz) operation in Germany.

The **Graduate Scholarship** is for MITO graduates who have completed a National Certificate (Level 4) and intend to pursue further training through another MITO qualification, international study or practical experience overseas. Four scholarships, each worth up to \$3,000, were awarded:

- **Ryan Purvis**, Perfect Autobody Ltd, Christchurch
- **David Hadfield**, Thames Panelbeaters Ltd, Thames
- **James O'Connor**, Prestige Commercial Vehicles, Timaru
- **Daniel Townsend**, AMT Auto Electrical, Wanganui

MITO Chief Executive, Janet Lane, congratulated each of the scholarship recipients, commending them on their commitment to study to advance their careers.

"The calibre of applications was impressive. We had school leavers present comprehensive CVs and provide compelling reasons why they wanted a MITO apprenticeship and at the other end of the spectrum, graduates who have fantastic aspirations for leadership roles within the industry. We are delighted to be able to support them to achieve their ambitions".



Kieran O'Connell

Kieran O'Connell's lifelong interest in trucks has been rewarded with a MITO School Leavers' Scholarship.

When Kieran was growing up his father owned a 20-tonne truck so he learned some valuable skills by working on the truck with his father.

While at Westlake Boys High School, Kieran expressed an interest in the motor industry so his teacher enrolled him in the MITO Startup® programme which included regular work experience at Smith and Davies Ltd on Auckland's North Shore.

Kieran's manager Graham Foley was excited to hear the news of the scholarship win, "He's a great kid; he deserved to receive a scholarship and we're keen to get him into an apprenticeship."

Kieran enjoys the variety of his role and says a highlight of his job is working on the larger trucks, "not many people get to work on massive sized trucks and that makes it a pretty cool job."

Kieran is keen to complete the National Certificate in Motor Industry (Automotive Heavy Engineering). He likes the idea of the training programme being relevant to his job.

Meanwhile instead of working on a 20-tonne truck at home, Kieran is now putting his skills to work by restoring a 1972 Ford Fairlane. 🌀

Daniel Packwood

Daniel Packwood is striving to be the best technician he can be – and now as a winner of one of MITO's ATech® Scholarships, he is one step closer!

Daniel is a 22-year-old working at Fairview Motors Ltd in Hamilton. After completing his National Certificate in Motor Industry (Automotive Electrical and Mechanical Engineering), he decided he would have a year off study before giving ATech® a go.

After hearing about MITO's new scholarships earlier this year, Daniel thought this would be the perfect opportunity to get his ATech® qualification. Once he was told he'd won, Daniel admits he was in a state of disbelief! "I'd always planned on doing ATech® so this really is perfect timing. I'm pretty excited and very grateful to MITO."

He is very prepared for the exciting challenge ahead and is very aware of the commitment involved when doing the

ATech® programme. Daniel's supervisor and service manager Greg Kerby describes Daniel as one of their 'finds'. "He's making a big effort to get to that next level which is extremely pleasing for us. He's got great potential and strong values".

Daniel can also see the advantage of working at Fairview Motors and the opportunities to pursue managerial roles. As he begins his ATech® programme, he no doubt has his sights set on climbing higher up that ladder! 🌀



WorldSkills team prepare for London

In the last issue of The Torque we profiled Drew Avery – one of the ‘Tool Black’ team who’ll be heading to London in October to compete in the four-day WorldSkills competition – the largest skills competition on earth!

In this unique event, 1200 young people from 52 nations will compete in 45 skill areas. Drew will be gunning for gold in the vehicle refinishing category, while his teammates Andre Prinsloo and Curtis Hartley will take on the world’s best young technicians in autobody repair and automobile technology respectively.

To help them to succeed, all three are getting one-on-one training with experienced ‘skill experts’. MITO is also contributing towards each competitor’s and automotive skill expert’s travel and accommodation expenses.


For the past three years, 21-year-old Andre Prinsloo has been working for collision repair specialist RJ Don Panelbeaters on Auckland’s North Shore. He is completing a MITO apprenticeship in collision repair. He says he loves helping to transform damaged vehicles into brand-new beauties, and is determined to be the best he can at his job. He says WorldSkills – and his skill expert Rick Lunn – will help him to achieve his goal.

“This is an amazing opportunity,” he says. “Honda New Zealand is sending me to London for training and Rick will be helping me with specific technical skills. Plus the team at work are always helping me to do better.”

For Curtis Hartley, five years of experience with Archibald Motors in Kaitaia have provided a solid foundation for the WorldSkills competition. The 21-year-old has also completed a MITO apprenticeship in automotive engineering. He is a great

believer in listening and learning, so he’s looking forward to the specialist training he’ll receive from skill expert Simon Phelps.

“I enjoy the challenge of solving problems, and I’m pretty focused when it comes to competition,” he says. “Plus I have great support from everyone here at work – they’re all giving me tips to help me do my best.”

With just a few months to go, the team will be in tip-top condition when they get on that plane to London. We’ll let you know how they get on! 



Andre Prinsloo



Curtis Hartley

APRIL, MAY, JUNE EVENTS AND GRADUATIONS

April 14	New Plymouth Graduation
April 15-17	ITM 400 – Hamilton V8s
May 18	Hauraki/Thames-Coromandel Graduation
May 19-20	Rotorua Careers Expo
May 25	Matamata-Piako Graduation
May 25	Waipa Graduation



MITO's Peter Solia with graduate Joshua Davis who was awarded a prize by the Otorohanga District Council for being the Mayoral apprentice of the region.

Pump it up!

Study says 71% of European drivers need more air in their tyres.

With the spotlight shining on hybrid vehicles, kinetic energy recovery systems and stop start functionality; it's easy to forget that a very effective way to reduce fuel consumption and cut emissions is right in front of us – air. A recent study by tyre manufacturer Bridgestone suggests that it's not only easy to forget, most of us do forget. The company checked 38,000 cars in 9 European countries during 2010 with results showing that 71% of the drivers were driving on under-inflated tyres.

Bridgestone equates the 71% figure to wasting 2.8 billion per year (2 billion litres) due to improper tyre usage. And the environmental impact – 4.8 million tons of additional and preventable carbon emissions per year or 1.8g/km for every car on the road.

Low tyre inflation means poor tyre rolling resistance, which is a major factor in how much fuel a car uses. Bridgestone estimates that taking into account road and weather conditions, tyre rolling resistance represents 18% to 26% of the total force on a car. Low tyre pressure also impacts on safety by reducing a vehicle's handling

ability, increasing drifting and making tyres wear out faster.

Other key findings of the study include:

- 7.5% of vehicles checked were using seriously under-inflated tyres (0.5 % severely under-inflated)
- 1 out of 14 motorists are putting their safety at risk due to seriously under-inflated tires and/or worn out tyres
- 2% of the tyres checked have 30% reduced mileage due to under-inflation
- 11.7% of tyres checked had a tread depth below the legal level of 1.6 mm
- 12.2 million tyres are lost because of premature wear
- 7.5% of checked drivers face significantly higher fuel consumption because of low inflation pressure.

The above article was featured in the Gizmag Emerging Technology Magazine April 2011 at www.gizmag.com
– By Bridget Borgobello

Nominations for MTA Apprentice of the Year closing soon

Nominations close Sunday 31 July. Go to www.mta.org.nz to download a nomination form.



MITO stand at the V8s

MITO was well represented at the ITM 400 Hamilton V8 Supercars 2011. The 3-day event attracted over 105,000

visitors and MITO staff had a busy time engaging with lots of young people and their parents.





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Kiwi ingenuity sparks battery powered motorcycle

THE silence is eerie. Iain Jerrett has just turned the key in his electric motorcycle, but there is no revving, no sputtering exhaust – no sound at all. In place of the usual petrol gauge and rev-counter on the dashboard is an LCD screen monitoring the 27 batteries under the bike seat.

This sleek black machine, a retrofitted Triumph, is a working example of lithium battery power. It is also the fruit of two years of tool-shed tinkering by clean energy consultant Jerrett, director of Astara Technologies.

Onlookers always wonder at the silence of the Triumph, Jerrett says. "When you listen to it, it just keeps winding up. People always say 'we're waiting for the gear change', but there's just no gear change."

How is it charged? You can plug it into a regular socket – a full charge takes eight hours and costs \$1.30. How long will a charge last? Depends how fast you ride – you can travel 150 kilometres if you're

going 50 km/h, less at the bike's top speed, 160km/h.

The core of Jerrett's business is a battery management system, a piece of hardware that ensures the lithium batteries are working safely, never over-charged or under-charged. The system can be used to supply electric power to a range of vehicles. "It doesn't have to be pushing a bike, it could be pushing a car, a helicopter, a boat," Jerrett says.

In answer to the question of what an electric motorcycle costs, Jerrett spent \$25,000 on the Astara Triumph in parts alone. In any case, the bike may have paid for itself by now, with all the attention it has attracted from sponsors, potential customers and business support services.

Funding and assistance has been crucial in getting the fledgling business off the ground. After building the Triumph in less than ideal conditions at home, Jerrett read in a local newspaper about Otaki's new Clean Tech Centre of Excellence. A few phone calls led to him setting up in the

centre, which offers cheap rent, business mentoring and networking opportunities. Once installed, Jerrett was able to build 10 battery management units thanks to funding from TechNZ, a government business investment programme.

Another source of help has been WelTec's Centre for Smart Product. The Centre organised for students to reverse-engineer and model an improved battery case for his new electric bike, a racing model.

Jerrett already has his next job in mind; once he finishes the electric racing bike, he will use WelTec's paint shop to spray it bright orange – electric orange. 🚀

The above article was featured in SmartNZ Autumn 2011 at www.smartnz.co.nz/ezine/autumn11 – By Andrea O'Neil.



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