

### From the CEO's Desk

The focus for this newsletter is on the Electrical and Engineering trades.

The Electrical Trade is at the forefront of a new direction for us. WorldSkills NZ has undertaken to provide a National and International forum for the Electrical competitions and the Electrical Trade has undertaken to liaise with us in providing candidates for these competitions using the ECANZ Challenge as the feeder. Since the WorldSkills purpose is to: *"Challenge New Zealand to achieve world-class standards by demonstrating excellence through workplace skills competitions for young people"*, who better than the Electrical Industry itself to manage these regional competitions.

To that end HPM Legrand and ETCO have undertaken to manage and fund the two electrical categories with funding support from Ideal Electrical Suppliers and we thank these companies for their foresight and leadership. HPM Legrand will take a special interest in Electrical Installations (WSI Trade 18) and ETCO in Industrial Control (WSI Trade 19) but they both have an over-arching interest in both Electrical categories and will ensure that they achieve their goals with support from other sponsors.

We believe this model is the way forward for WorldSkills NZ. We are working with other organisations to bring other broad categories (for example, the engineering trades) under this model and to have it running for the UK WorldSkills International in 2011.

The next event on the calendar is the Tool Black Team Camp in Christchurch. The International event can be daunting and it is good to know we can rely on our team mates. It is therefore important to have a strong team ethos so that we can have a supportive and positive atmosphere at the international event. Team Building is the focus of this camp and competitors and Experts are asked to make every effort to attend. The camp will involve personal and group challenges so everyone needs to come with a positive attitude.

I am looking forward to getting to know the team at this camp and watching them develop the skills needed to perform well in Calgary.

*Pete Spencer*



### Lead-up to

### Calgary

- February–August: Competitors working hard on individual Training—after work, weekends, etc.
- 8-10 May: Team Camp at Burnham Military Camp.
- 18–24 May: Mock International Competition in Australia.
- July 31 -August 2: Team Camp at ETCO Training Facility, Ak. Including a Farewell Reception hosted by His Excellency The Honourable Sir Anand Satyanand GNZM, QSO
- 26 August, 9:30pm: Experts depart for Calgary. Ex Auckland—Air NZ. Competition projects finalised and preparation completed before competitors arrive.
- 29 August, 7:15pm: Competitors, and Team Leaders depart for Calgary. Ex Auckland—Air New Zealand
- 1-7 September: WorldSkills international competitions
- 10 September, 6.40am: Triumphant team returns home!



## BLM Engineering Ltd

### Employer of Tony Wells, Polymechanics Competitor

BLM was established in 1947 by Jim Bates, Keith Limmer and Fred Moore, hence the company name taken from the initial of each surname. BLM's current share holders are all actively involved in the running of the company.

In its early days the company focused its business around the agricultural industry but broadened its scope of work to include major engineering projects such as the Marsden Point Oil Refinery, the Kaimai Rail Tunnel, forestry projects and chemical plants while still remaining faithful to its roots, the agricultural sector.

BLM is a Morrinsville based company with a proud history and strong ties to the local community. BLM specializes in all areas of the engineering trade, providing carbon and stainless steel fabrication, precision machining and gear cutting services. It has a strong reputation internationally as a leading manufacturer of food processing equipment and leads the way with support services of consultancy, repairs, routine maintenance work, maintenance contracts and engineering design. The ability to carry out most of its work in-house gives BLM an edge over its competitors. BLM currently has a staff of 32 men and 2 women, including 4 apprentices. Over the past 8 years there have been 7 apprentices who have gained their qualifications - two of whom still work for BLM.

BLM is very supportive of their Tool Black, Tony Wells. Peter Kenney, Machine Workshop Manager and Tony's supervisor, is giving Tony every opportunity to hone his skills preparing him for the big event. Tony is also given time away from work so he can attend Wintec in Hamilton one day a week to study both theory and practical work for the World Skills competition.

BLM has assisted Tony through his time away from work at the WorldSkills regional and national finals and is endeavoring to raise funds through sponsorship to assist Tony financially for his trip to Canada.

Matt Coombes from BLM, says, "This competition [WorldSkills International] is a unique opportunity for young people to test their skills against each other in their chosen profession. To win at any level against your peers certainly provides a confidence boost; to be chosen to represent both your company and your country at international level offers an opportunity that many young people can only dream about."

[Click here](#) for a link to the BLM Engineering Website.

[Click here](#) for Tony's profile

Roland Spirig is Tony's Trainer/Judge

[Click here](#) for Roland's profile

#### Engineering Category Sponsors



Matt Coombes and Tony Wells at BLM Engineering Ltd.



# Total Sheetmetals NZ LIMITED

## Total Sheet Metals NZ Ltd

### Employer of Jared Lamb—Welding and Elliot Wilkes—Light Fabrication

Total Sheet Metals NZ Ltd was established in 1991 in Palmerston North. The present owners are step brothers with Shaun Palmer and Damian Mulcahy purchasing the business from Shaun's father in 2004. The factory is based in Palmerston North with contracts in the previous 12 months spanning between Queenstown and Tauranga.

Total Sheet Metals is a light fabrication workshop which undertakes Stainless Steel fabrication, Heating and Ventilating contracts, CNC Profiling and Light Engineering. They have 38 staff, including 9 apprentices in the Light Fabrication and Heating and Ventilating areas.

Total Sheet Metals is committed to training their staff – and this obviously pays off as in 2007 they had tradesman Ross Anderson in the Tool Black team which went to Japan and this year they have two competitors in the team, Elliot Wilkes (Light Fabrication) and Jared Lamb (Welding). Another apprentice, Kingsley Etheridge also won the 2008 WorldSkills Regional competition for light fabrication but was just outside the age limit for the National Finals.

Shaun Palmer believes that WorldSkills is good for the company. He says, "We are striving for success, to upskill and be better at what we do, so we see WorldSkills as a opportunity to do this with our apprentices. It is a great way for them to put their skills to the test." The company encourages all their apprentices to enter the competitions and to aim high

Elliot and Jared are well supported by Total Sheet Metals, they are spending time with both Ross Anderson (who is now the factory foreman) and their mentors, Steve Brooks (Light Fabrication) and Jason Beals (Welding). Before they go to Australia to compete in the Mock Competitions, Jared and Elliot will have at least three more specific training sessions focusing purely on this competition – with many more to come before Calgary. The company is also supporting them financially and helping with fundraising.

[Click here](#) for a link to the Total Sheet Metals Website.

[Click here](#) for a profile on Elliot Wilkes

[Click here](#) for a profile on Jared Lamb

Steve Brooks is Elliot's Mentor/Judge—[Click here](#) for Steve's profile

Jason Beals is Jared's Mentor/Judge—[Click here](#) for Jason's profile

### Engineering Category Sponsors



Competenz  
INDUSTRY TRAINING



Elliot (top) and Jared hard at work at the WorldSkills National Finals in September 2008





**ETCO**

**Employed both Ben De Groot and Daniel Hunt  
while they were training.**

Both Ben and Daniel were employed by ETCO, (The Electrical Training Company Ltd), during their apprenticeships.

ETCO is a group training company. That means that ETCO employs the apprentices, provides them with basic training so that they can work safely in the electrical industry, and then seconds them to host companies to gain the necessary practical experience to satisfy the requirements of their qualification. ETCO covers all apprentice related costs and then invoices the host company for the apprentices time plus a small premium to cover overhead costs.

ETCO currently employs 450 apprentices who are placed with an array of host companies from small electrical contractors through to heavy manufacturing organisations, including hospitals, universities, abattoirs, dairy, steel and many more.

ETCO is also a registered and accredited private training establishment so all ETCO apprentices do their Off-Job training, as well as their On-Job training with ETCO.

ETCO also provides the Off-Job Training to a further 800 electrical apprentices who are directly employed by other companies.

Ben and Daniel earned the right to be considered for World Skills participation by competing in the ECANZ Challenge electrical apprentice competitions in Christchurch in 2008.

“Ben and Daniel are both excellent candidates for the World Skills Competitions and they are now well into their training, both technically and psychologically. They have a lot to do between now and the competition in September but they are both committed to the task ahead. Everyone at ETCO wishes them well,” says ETCO CEO, Peter Rushworth

[Click here](#) for a link to the ETCO Website



*Ben and Daniel working on their projects at the  
WorldSkills National Finals in September 2008*

# CONNOR & FITZPATRICK



## Connor and Fitzpatrick Betta Electrical Ltd

### Employer of Ben De Groot, Electrical Installations Competitor

Connor & Fitzpatrick Betta Electrical Ltd has been operating in Gore since 1949. They started off as simply Connor & Fitzpatrick Ltd and were mainly an Electrical contracting firm but they did have a small retail outlet which focused on lighting and appliances. About 15 years ago the opportunity came to join with Betta Electrical and now the retail side of the business is much larger.

The firm employs 17 people, 3 on the retail side, 2 in the office, one boss (Jeffrey Gillan) and 8 tradesmen and 3 apprentices (one of their own and 2 ETCO employees). Connor & Fitzpatrick Betta Electrical often uses ETCO as the trainer and employer of their apprentices and Tool Black Ben De Groot was an ETCO apprentice. More often than not once the ETCO apprentices have completed their qualifications they stay with Connor & Fitzpatrick Betta Electrical as an employee.

As well as the retail side to the business, the Electrical work includes domestic, commercial, industrial, appliance servicing, refrigeration and maintenance with a lot of work coming from local industries, District Councils, and dairy shed maintenance.

Good training is high on the priority list for Connor & Fitzpatrick Betta Electrical and they work with the local ETCO co-ordinator to make sure the apprentices get a wide scope to their training. Apprentices are encouraged to enter the ECANZ Challenge each year (which, since 2008, feeds into the WorldSkills National and International competitions) and in 2003 one of their apprentices came 3<sup>rd</sup> in the ECANZ National Finals.

Jeffrey Gillan thinks that going to the WorldSkills competitions will be a good experience for Ben and will be helpful for his future performance. "It will definitely be character building," he says.

[Click here](#) for Ben's Profile

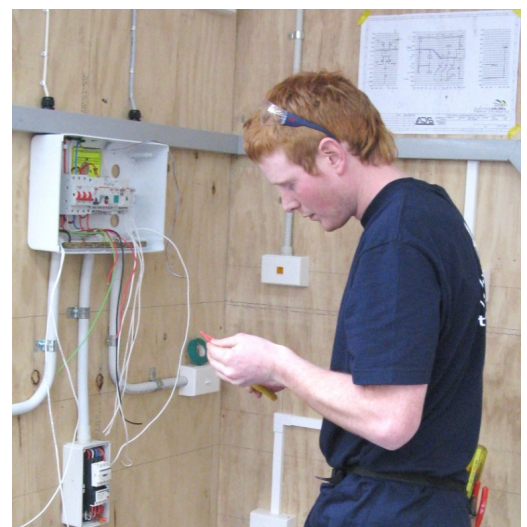
Ben's Trainer/Judge is Barry Warner

[Click here](#) for Barry's profile

**Electrical Category Sponsors:**



**Ideal Electrical Suppliers**



Ben concentrating hard at the National Finals in September 2008



## Professional Electrics Ltd

### Employer of Daniel Hunt, Industrial Control Competitor

Professional Electrics Ltd (Prolec) was formed in 1992 by the amalgamation of several well-established electrical companies operating in the Christchurch area. These companies had been trading for 30 years and their experience gave Prolec a solid base from which to grow. The company currently employs a total of 34 staff, covering a wide range of skills and including four apprentices. This staff base is supplemented with two subcontractors when needed.

Professional Electrics Ltd prides itself on offering its clients a complete, high quality service. The company gained ISO 9002 (now ISO 9001:2000) registration in 1993 and is one of only two companies in the South Island to have this.

Prolec seeks its work from the top end of its market, both in New Zealand and overseas. The company carries out servicing in a diverse field, across many industries. They especially like work that is out of the ordinary or demands lateral thinking. This means that their staff needs to be highly skilled and adaptable – so good training is an integral part of the business philosophy.

Prolec has found that it can no longer limit itself to just electrical work, so staff have undertaken training in Advanced PLC programming, SCADA operator interface programming, pneumatics, hydraulics and VSD servicing. Prolec can therefore offer a wide range of skills over many disciplines. This skillbase is the difference between Prolec and its competitors.

Examples of the type of work covered by Prolec are: Industrial Contracting, Industrial Servicing, Plant Automation, PLC Programming and Operator Interface Design, Boiler Conversions to Unattended Code, Danfoss VSD service and repair, Industrial Project management, Pneumatic & Hydraulic Controls, and Crane Maintenance. This is truly a diverse company.

Prolec are very supportive of their Tool Black, Daniel Hunt and will ensure that Daniel is given all the training he needs. Stuart Weaver from Prolec says that one of the big things about Prolec is that there are some very experienced people working for the firm who are all more than willing to share their knowledge. Daniel was an ETCO apprentice, and because he showed a lot of promise as a trainee Prolec were keen to keep him on once he finished his training.

[Click here](#) for a link to Prolec's Website

[Click here](#) for a link to Daniel's profile

#### Electrical Category Sponsors:



Ideal Electrical Suppliers



Daniel working on his project at the National Finals in September 2008

**If you would like to sponsor a competitor or Expert  
please contact  
Peter Spencer or Sally Gray**

**It's costing over \$13,000 per person to get  
the Tool Blacks to Calgary.**

**We still need organisations willing to sponsor part or  
all of the expenses for both the competitors and the  
Experts/Judges.**

### **Confirmed 2009 Tool Black Team Sponsors to date**

<b>Automotive Refinishing Automotive Technology Autobody Repair</b>	MTA, MITO, CRA
<b>Polymechanics Sheet Metal Technology Welding</b>	NZ Steel, BOC Gases, Competenz
<b>Industrial Control Electrical Installations</b>	ETCO, HPM Legrand, Ideal Electrical Suppliers, Pub Charity, Matura Licencing Trust, Alliance Group Matura
<b>Bricklaying Cabinetmaking Carpentry Joinery Plumbing</b>	Joinery ITO, Boating ITO, Naylor Love Ltd, Carters Building Supplies Ltd, Master Builders Assn, BCITO, Robinsons Marine Interiors, Plumbing, Gasfitting, Drainlaying & Roofing ITO, NZ Defence Force, NZ Brick & Block Assn, Pub Charity, Southern Trust, Southern Victorian Trust
<b>Cooking Restaurant Service</b>	NZ Defence Force, City & Guilds
<b>Floristry</b>	NZ Hort ITO, Academy NZ, Rodney Love
<b>Printing</b>	PrintNZ Training, BJ Ball Papers, Trust4Skills