

# Mayors Taskforce for Jobs

NEWSLETTER FOR  
JANUARY 2009

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COVER PHOTO: Eritana Tiune  
READ MORE ABOUT ERITANA ON PAGE 6



Work and Income  
Te Hiranga Tangata

A service of the Ministry of Social Development



## Message from the Deputy Chief Executive, Work and Income

### Welcome to the first edition of the Mayors Taskforce for Jobs Newsletter for 2009.

I would like to take this opportunity again to thank all the Mayors who have worked hard throughout the last year. This newsletter demonstrates our commitment to ensure that all young people are supported as they transition into further education, training or sustainable employment.

Together we have accomplished so many successful programmes to secure jobs for young people through cadetships, skill investment subsidies and offering pre-employment training services. Youth Transition Services has been operating in New Zealand since 2004. It is now available in 37 Territorial Authorities reaching almost 50% of school leavers. It is fantastic to see that we reach so many school leavers and our aim now is to establish up to 10 more Youth Transition Services programmes by mid 2009.

We continue to grow our service programmes and have recently welcomed the Wairarapa Workforce Development Trust in Masterton as our newest Youth Transition Services Provider. John Bush and his team, cover the South Wairarapa, Carterton and Masterton, have a great deal of experience working with young people in the region as well as strong ties within the local community.

Young people need support to make good choices about things such as education and other life decisions. They need to develop skills that help them build resilience and prepare for life as independent adults. In the current economic down turn it is even more important to have available the right support for our youth.

In the coming years we are committed to helping young people achieve their potential. Initiatives such as Youth Transition Services and the Service Academies provide us with the opportunities to work closely with schools to encourage those teenagers at risk of leaving school early, to remain in education or enter training.

Like Dale says in his message, "we can't do this alone, our partners are really important" and I really believe that's true. 2008 was an exciting year and I am very proud of what we have achieved together.

I hope you and your families had a safe and relaxing break and I look forward to catching up with you this year.

Thanks very much

**Patricia Reade**  
Deputy Chief Executive

# Message from the Chair



Once again welcome to this MSD/MTFJ newsletter. As you will see from the initiatives in this issue, our partnership continues to strengthen and develop as we work towards the zero waste of young people. And partnership is what this is all about – none of us can achieve our goals alone and we are committed to working with our partners in central and local government, business and the community.

As Mayors we have been focusing on ensuring all our young people are making positive transitions into our communities. We are committed to getting youth transition services to all young people by 2010. At least 10 new areas will develop programmes in this financial year. Mayors, MSD Regional Commissioners and service providers are working together to make this happen with flexibility at the local level, so you get the service most appropriate to your area and therefore have the greatest chance of success. You know what will work in your community and we want you to own the solutions to your issues. With the new Government's policies in education likely to mean a stronger relationship between schools and the local community, transition/connection services will be critical. If you don't have a service in your area, please let us know how we can work with you to develop one.

Our new buddy system with Core Group Mayors contacting 2-3 other Mayors on a regular basis is working well and I encourage all Mayors to contact your buddy if you have ideas for your community or indeed for the Taskforce in general. It is all about working locally to achieve nationwide positive outcomes for our young people. In particular we would like your feedback on the youth indicator report which you should receive in December – how useful is it for you? Are there other statistics you need? Is the format what you want?

In October I was privileged to be at the Youth in Local Government Conference in Christchurch. What a fantastic event. Around 200 people, half of whom were under 25, attended the three day event. These young people convinced me that our future is in great hands. Many are involved in youth councils and are taking leadership roles to provide a voice for youth and to make their communities more responsive to young people. They had superb ideas, great projects and buckets of enthusiasm. I came away energised and more determined to spread the word around our Mayors and Councils to work with their young people and celebrate their successes.

We heard from great speakers including Canadian Kehinde Bah and Melissa Crocket from Potiki Adventures Maori Tourism. See our website for more details.

Our panel of young Mayors (under 45) and Councillors (under 30) showed that it is possible to take an active role in the political arena and bring another perspective to the decision-making table. These young people all said they felt it was crucial to have their voice heard at this level and encouraged those young people who wanted to make a difference to step up to the next level.

The next conference will be in Porirua in 2010. See you there!

I hope you all had a relaxing festive season and I look forward to working with you all this year and making even more progress on our goals and continuing to capture that infectious enthusiasm of our young people.

**Mayor Dale Williams**

Chair

Mayors Taskforce for Jobs

# An officer in the making

Drunk. That's the straight-up answer you'd get if you asked Billie Jean Clough where she would be if she hadn't enrolled with Rotorua's Youth Transition Service.

After fighting and winning the battle with alcohol this courageous 18 year old has her sights set on becoming a New Zealand Army officer within five years.

When she first came to the attention of Te Waiariki Pura Trust's Youth Transition Service in 2006 the homeless Rotorua teen was in desperate need of guidance and support. Support worker Ani Marsh admits that, when she first met Billie Jean, her thoughts were: "I don't know what we're going to do with this kid, we may lose her". But they didn't lose her. Instead they found emergency housing, enrolled Billie Jean in an alcohol rehabilitation programme and worked with the appropriate support agencies to provide constant encouragement and mentoring.

A childhood dream of joining the Army was the motivator, and when she was ready, Billie Jean was referred to a six week Limited Service Volunteer programme at Burnham Military Camp. A jubilant Billie Jean graduated with a Medal of Achievement – only the third person to receive this since 1996.

The girl who every day used to sleep through to the afternoon following a night of drinking was fired up and ready to go, determined to join the Army full time. NCEA credits were required, physical fitness criteria had to be met, and a clean lifestyle was a necessity. Billie Jean enrolled with Trade and Commerce to gain NCEA Level 1 and 2, began an exercise regime, and continued with alcohol counselling, all fully supported by everyone at Te Waiariki Pura.

Billie Jean Clough was accepted into the Army in September. She turned her life around. Her dream is no longer a dream but reality.



Photo – Billie Jean (on the right) with Regional Director Ski Wisnesky and Aroha Marunui, tutor at Trade and Commerce.

# Successful transition into study and work at the same time

After moving from Kaitaia to Whangarei Soraya Parkes registered with Youth Transition Services. She met with her coordinator and as a part of her registration completed her needs analysis.

Soraya and her coordinator discussed the benefits of getting her Learners Licence, so she completed the preparation phase of the Learner Licence programme, participated and passed.

Soraya met with Career Services onsite and together they identified that her career interest areas were the army, early childhood as well as a love for the outdoors and environmental issues. Soraya also attended an induction day to find out about the youth training opportunities.

Using the information from her career services interview Soraya's coordinator guided her towards the Environment Studies course at North Tec. Her passion for the environment combined with what she heard about the course excited her so much she enrolled and started studying full time that same week.

Soraya was keen to get a job while she was studying –and guess what? Of course she was successful! Soraya gained a part time job at Burger King which she absolutely loves.



Photo – Soraya Parkes

# Can-do attitude helps young tradesman

A can-do attitude and encouragement from Work and Income has helped 23-year-old Eritana Tiune into a bright future with Auckland firm BanTrans Engineering.



Photo – Eritana Tiune.

Eritana, who has been working with BanTrans for the past nine months after completing a trade's course at Manukau Institute of Technology (MIT), has just been offered a heavy fabrication apprenticeship with the firm.

Eritana had found it difficult to find sustainable employment when he arrived in New Zealand from Samoa three years ago. Now living in Mangere he turned to Work and Income for assistance. His Work and Income case manager suggested a six-month Preparation for Trades course at MIT, this course is designed to help new migrants and refugees into employment.

Eritana jumped at the opportunity: "I've made new friends and really enjoyed the course, which taught me how to do basic things like painting, laying tiles and plasterboard stopping." The course also covered basic computing and English language skills and when he had completed it Eritana was placed with BanTrans for work experience.

"I enjoyed the two-week work experience and felt I had learned a huge amount by the end of it," he says. "I really wanted to keep on working."

His hard work and natural enthusiasm for the job stood out to BanTrans workshop manager Mark O'Neil who decided to offer him a full time position. "Eritana has a very positive attitude to the job and that is the reason he has done so well with us," explains Mark. "It's not only his skill base but his attitude that has got him this far. He started out as a trade assistant, helping the other tradesmen, and now he has an apprenticeship."

Mark says BanTrans, which employs 50 people, undertakes a wide variety of engineering projects, including fabrication, machining and welding. Taking on students for work experience has paid off and he is willing to do it again.

# START are in touch ...

Palmerston North's Youth Transition Service START have found a fresh new way of engaging with the community and youth by organising, coaching and playing in a mixed touch rugby team.

The START Warriors mixed touch team have entered a local Touch Rugby competition made up of four START staff and 16 young people who they are currently working with, some of them have successfully exited the service and a few are still at school. "The reason we put the team together is to forge long term relationships with our Youth outside of the service setting. It's an opportunity to promote the service in another environment" service manager Peter Butler explains.

START conducted a Youth Participation Workshop in August 2008 to take stock of what clients thought about the current services and what ideas they may have to improve the services. One of the recommendations was for the START team to do more promotion of the service amongst young people. "Getting out there and being part of the team shows that we are not just offering a service, but that we're also people part of our communities and that's really rewarding. The Youth are wearing the uniform with the START branding and it's spreading the word" youth coach Stewart Fata says.

Julia Ryder, a member of the START Warriors touch team, is one of the successes of the service. Julia moved from Nelson to Palmerston North and found that school wasn't for her. The school referred Julia to START and she has worked with them for five months.

Julia is now working 32 hours and at the same time she is completing an Employment Skills course with Horizons Education and loving it: "The coaches are awesome and so easy to get on with. They know how to get to our level and make you feel really comfortable, the service is primo."

The START team are aiming for a successful touch season, with their sights already set on a winter code sport to maintain their profile within the community and being actively involved with the youth of Palmerston North.



Photo – Touch rugby team Start.

# REPLAY donate unused sports gear for young people to be active

An initiative by the Nelson Marlborough District Health Board, Work and Income, the Department of Corrections and Whakatu Rotary has resulted in a mountain of ready-to-use sports gear that will be free for young people in the Nelson/Tasman region.

REPLAY is the name of this sporty recycling initiative, which began as a round table discussion with government agencies as they looked for ways to improve the wellbeing of children. The Action for Healthy Children group discussed how sports could be made more accessible by taking away the barriers for participation, like the cost of both equipment and compulsory apparel such as special sports shoes.

Turning the concept into reality involved a lot of logistical challenges. How to collect the unused sports equipment and where to store it? Ensuring quality control, adequate cleaning and distribution methods were some of the other areas that needed resolving.

Enter the Whakatu Rotary Club – no strangers to organising and coordinating big events. With free storage provided by Storage World, people on community service to help clean the equipment and a team of volunteers to help collect and sort the gear, REPLAY was launched.

A request to the public to donate unused sports gear met with a huge response and in mid-October seven trailer loads packed with quality gear was delivered to collection points around Nelson. The trailer loads included: rugby boots, soccer balls, tennis racquets, hockey sticks, basketballs, cricket bats, softballs, skateboards, golf clubs and ping pong bats. Whakatu Rotary will now spend the summer cataloguing, cleaning and preparing the gear to get it ready for distribution before the winter sports season begins.

REPLAY has shown how a good idea with some goodwill and a generous dollop of community spirit can make a difference to helping our young people become healthier and more active.

Photo – REPLAY Rotary volunteers Jan Kuwilsky, Barry Signal, Sam Young find their first trailer filling fast at the start of the day's take outside Nelson College for Girls.



With a few NCEA credits under his belt Shayne Warburton was keen to learn a trade and become a builder. He was referred to *Work' n it Out* in Invercargill in March 2007. *Work' n it Out* assisted Shayne to discover new heights by helping him into a Roofing apprenticeship.

## A job in high places

Initially Shayne was open to any suggestions that would help him find work. With Tony, his *Work' n it Out* Youth Co-ordinator, they talked through the employment options in different sectors available to him as well as putting together a CV.

Luck was on Shayne's side when Tony heard about local roofing company C J Turner Roofing looking for an apprentice. It was the perfect opportunity for Shayne. Tony made contact with the employer and Shayne started a trial period with the company a couple of weeks later. Within a month he was offered an apprenticeship.

Shayne is now halfway through a roofing apprenticeship and he loves the challenge. Although he's still getting used to being up on the roof: "The fear of slipping is constant, you need to have your wits about you."

Shayne gives a lot of credit to *Work' n it Out* for helping him to find a job and their support along the way. "*Work' n it Out* really helps," says Shayne. "They give you choices, ask you what you would like to do, they listen and find the right thing for you."

Shayne's employer Chris Turner mentions that Shayne has had some ups and downs during his employment but that they have worked through them: "He's willing to try anything and is extremely punctual which is refreshing for a young fellow." C J Turner Roofing employs three staff including Shayne and Chris Turner says he would consider looking for more staff through *Work' n it Out* in the future.

In the meantime Shayne has big plans for the future which may well involve starting his own roofing company so he says.



### Letter from parents to *Work' n it Out*:

Dear Tony

Just a note to thank you very much with your help in finding Shayne a job. We first heard of *Work' n it Out* when a friend mentioned you were helping her son (who now has a job). I told Shayne then that if anyone phoned offering help to find a job, to definitely say "yes". Shortly after Shayne got your phone call, he met with you a few times and we were very surprised when not too long after you had arranged an apprenticeship as a Roofer for Shayne. We are really appreciative for all your help you have given Shayne and never imagined Shayne would gain an apprenticeship. He would never have done it alone. He had put his name down at a number of places for a job, and even now months later he hasn't heard from any of them. I would imagine without your help he might still be looking for a job. Once again Tony, Thank You.

Yours sincerely  
Murray and Averil Warburton

The road safety and driver behaviour showed a troublesome result in the Wellbeing-Outcomes report for the Porirua district. The young male drivers are a particular concern as well as the unlicensed drivers. Besides the safety issue the lack of an appropriate legal licence is a major impediment for young job seekers.

## Drive Safe Campaign: Good skills for youth in Porirua

Partners Porirua currently work with over 300 young people each year at local secondary schools to support school leavers into further education, training or employment. For many teenagers the costs of sitting a driver licence test, defensive driving course and driving lessons are key barriers for participation.

The Drive Safe Campaign from Partners Porirua is to encourage youth in obtaining their learner licence by offering a short intense course (usually 2 days) and a visit to the AA to sit the learner licence test. These subsidies have the intention to staircase them through to a restricted licence in six months and then on to the full test, in addition to promoting safe driving practices of course.

The programme will help young people, of any academic ability, learn to drive safely, and these skills can lead to sustainable employment. It will highlight road safety and how to be a good driver. It is also hoped that by supporting these young people in obtaining their licences it will alleviate financial pressure with fines incurred by young people indulging in antisocial and criminal behaviour.

The successful pilot of the programme achieved a 100% success rate with 53 young people sitting and attaining their learner licence. And so the campaign will make a very positive contribution to the independence, safety and wellbeing of youth in the Porirua community.



**Photo – Pictured from left:  
Christian Taefu aged 16,  
Jordan Huriwai aged 19 and  
Ah-Dar Taefu aged 20.  
Three of the 53 participants.**

# Job hunting turns to study first

The hunt to find the perfect job can often be a tough one as 16 year old Georgia Wilson discovered. After submitting a number of applications with little success Georgia needed some help to secure one of her dream jobs in the farming or hospitality industry.

By teaming up with her Youth Co-ordinator Chris, Georgia started to think creatively about her job search. Chris suggested that Georgia might find it helpful to get some qualifications before applying for more work. Together they explored the training options on offer in Timaru.

With Chris's support Georgia enrolled in a hospitality course. She is now studying her way to a bright future in the hospitality industry by completing NCEA Level 1.

Georgia: "I really love the course and being at the South Canterbury Community College."

Chris has seen quite a change in Georgia since she started the course: "Georgia is really enjoying the course and has developed a lot more confidence."

Georgia has been really impressed with the help and support she has received: "Chris has taken on board what I want to do and has helped me work things through so I can achieve my goals," she says.

Photo – Georgia Wilson



# Sausages and jobs for Ruatoria

Ruatoria locals were treated to a barbeque with a difference in November. The third Work and Heartland Services Expo came to town with lots of jobs, training opportunities and social service providers adding some seasoning to the sausages.

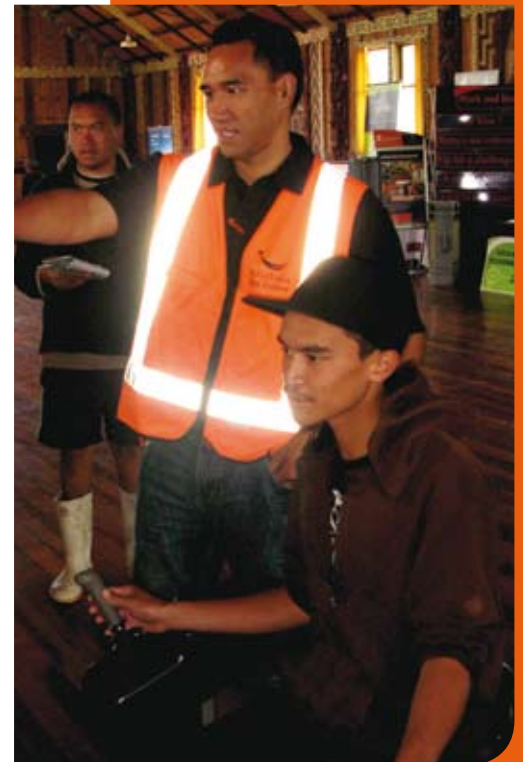
Work and Income's East Coast Labour Market team and Ruatoria Work and Income organised the day for the third successive year. Approximately 150 people from the Te Araroa, Ruatoria and Tokomaru Bay area came to the Uepohatu Marae for the event with 25 exhibitors taking part. Students from Ngata College also popped in for a visit.

On the job front exhibitors included Infra Train New Zealand, the Industry Training Organisation for roading and infrastructure. They brought along a digger simulator to demonstrate the skills needed to operate machinery at a road works site. The Building Construction Industry Training Provider (BCITO) provided their visitors the opportunity to try their hand with a hammer and nail and for the third successive year, the Westport Deep Sea Fishing School brought deep sea fishing as a career option for locals to consider.

Work and Income added a point of difference promoting their case manager cadet scheme.

Service Centre Manager for Ruatoria Work and Income Lawrence Tangaere says the day was a great success: "The expo has now become part of the Ruatoria calendar. Ruatoria doesn't get a lot of events like this coming to town so it's a good opportunity to bring the whole community together for a great day out."

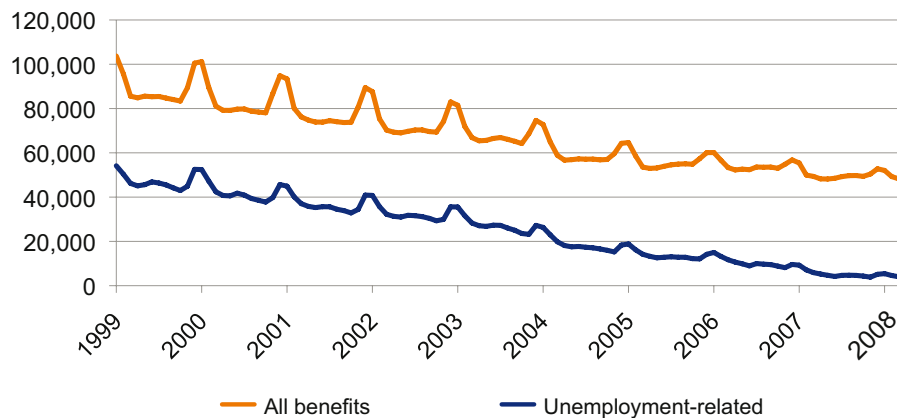
Photo – Angiata Tumene tries his hand with the 15 tonne digger assimilator with a word of encouragement from Berkie Kapa, Training Advisor from Infra Train New Zealand.



# National Statistics for Youth Benefit Recipients

## Youth (aged 16-24) benefit recipients: unemployment-related benefits versus all benefits

AS AT OCTOBER 2008



## Youth (aged 16-24) receiving unemployment-related benefits – by ethnicity

AS AT OCTOBER 2008

