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Welcome to the July 2008 eBulletin

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BCITO Building Careers Month showcases opportunities in the industry

Wellington builder Matt Sharp says young people thinking about their futures should definitely be considering a building apprenticeship. Matt studied towards a bachelor of commerce at Victoria University before completing his Building and Construction Industry Training Organisation (BCITO) carpentry apprenticeship.

He says BCITO Building Careers Month, which is being held in August, is a great opportunity for young people to find out more about careers in the construction industry.

"I was encouraged to go to university because I had done well academically, but I think more people should be encouraged to enter the building industry – it's rewarding work and, best of all, you get paid to train and don't finish with a huge student loan," Matt says.

BCITO chief executive Ruma Karaitiana says many young people venture down a training or career path without having a clear idea of what it's really like to work in that industry or the variety of job opportunities that might be available.

BCITO Building Careers Month is about showcasing career options in the construction industry to help make the picture clearer for anyone interested in a building career, he says.

Activities during BCITO Building Careers Month include "behind the scenes" site visits for high school students as well as a series of breakfast events and information evenings to highlight pathways into the industry, career opportunities and to showcase the benefits to employers of training an apprentice.

Building Careers Month culminates in the announcement of the winners of the BCITO Build-Ability Challenge, in which 18 teams of high school students from 16 schools throughout the country undertake a building project for a local community group.

For more details about BCITO Building Careers Month activities and for information about BCITO apprenticeships, visit www.constructionzone.co.nz.

Find the Perfect Fit

Apprenticeship vacancies advertised on Career Launcher at www.bcito.org.nz reach some of the keenest aspiring apprentices in the country.

BCITO Career Launcher is an online tool that connects employers in the industry with potential apprentices. It's easy to use, it's free and employers can tailor their apprenticeship vacancy to find the perfect fit for their business.

Amber and John Hamilton, of Christchurch based building firm John Hamilton Construction, found Career Launcher reaches a targeted audience of people specifically looking for apprenticeships when they recently listed an apprenticeship vacancy.

"We were impressed with the calibre of the applicants, they weren't just people who were surfing the job sites – they seemed to already understand our industry and apprenticeships which made it much easier for us as employers", said John.

John and Amber received over a dozen applicants and decided to employ Matt Withington, who has just signed into a training agreement as an apprentice with the BCITO.

When asked about why they took on a BCITO apprentice Amber says "It isn't just about the extra pair of hands, we know that as the business grows we need to increase our capability in terms of skills and grow our own wood so to speak".

BCITO Career Launcher is a free service with no charge for placing an apprenticeship vacancy. If a company has not trained with the BCITO before, a BCITO staff member will visit to ensure training requirements can be met.



Employers who register online with Career Launcher before 31 August 2008 go in the draw to win one of ten pairs of John Bull boots.* For more information, to register as an employer or to list an apprenticeship vacancy go to www.bcito.org.nz and click on Career Launcher.

*Terms and conditions apply and can be viewed online

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