

MEDIA RELEASE
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BUILDING TRAINING NUMBERS HIT NEW HIGH IN THE WELLINGTON REGION

The Building and Construction Industry Training Organisation [BCITO] announced today that a milestone has been reached in the Wellington region with the signing up of the 500th apprentice in training at any one time.

The Wellington region's 500th apprentice, 17 year old Matt Goodin works for Raumati builder Michael Goodin Builders Ltd.

Matt started working for Mike during his school holidays and decided at the beginning of this year that he wanted to pursue a full time career in the building industry. "I grew up watching my Dad build and have always loved working for him in the school holidays. It's the variety of the job that really appeals to me – every day is different and I get paid to do something I really enjoy" says Matt. The possibility of working overseas is another aspect of the job which is very appealing to Matt, "a couple of guys who used to work for Dad have gone on to work overseas, it's a great way to see the world and get paid at the same time!".

Matt is not only the fifth apprentice that Mike Goodin has trained, he is also his son! Mike was delighted when Matt decided to enter the family business and encouraged Matt to enter an apprenticeship. Mike takes his role as a trainer of apprentices very seriously. "It is common knowledge that New Zealand has a shortage of skilled tradespeople" says Mike, "the number of qualified people in our industry are only going to increase if we commit to and continue to train and encourage young people to work in the industry".

After achieving a 12% increase in 2002, the BCITO had a 41% surge in trainee numbers in 2003 - a trend which BCITO Chief Executive Pieter Burghout expects to continue throughout 2004.

"Getting to 500 apprentices in the Wellington region is a major milestone for the BCITO, and reflects the huge commitment from the wider building and construction industry, our trainees and the BCITO staff," says BCITO Wellington Regional Manager Graeme Paton. "We're looking forward to maintaining the momentum over coming years."

Pieter went on to note that the BCITO would continue to work closely with the Government over the proposed licensing regime outlined in the Building Bill before Parliament.

The BCITO was set up following the changing of the Apprenticeship Act to the Industry Training Act in 1992.

The BCITO is the national body – recognised by the Government and appointed by the industry – to set the standards for qualifications and training for the sectors the ITO covers (carpentry, cement & concrete, floor & wall tiling, interior systems, proprietary plaster cladding systems, solid plastering, and 'Health and Safety'). The BCITO is currently training 5300 trainees in these areas.

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To arrange photo opportunity contact Graeme Paton 027 2245644 or 0800 422 486.
For more information about the BCITO please visit the BCITO website www.bcito.org.nz