

APPRENTICES – DREAMING OF EARNING THE BIG BUCKS? FIRST GET THOSE EXAMS OUT OF THE WAY!

With an old man who was a sparkie, Jeremy Haynes grew up around electrical stuff – and always swore he'd never get into the industry. But the lure of electrical work proved too strong and when the opportunity for an apprenticeship came up, Jeremy decided not to let a good thing pass him by. For the past three years Jeremy has been working towards his National Certificate in Electrical Engineering [Level 4] with Lake Wanaka Electrical and he's got about a month to go.

"Getting through an apprenticeship in three years is a pretty good effort," says Mike Grinder, ETITO Training Manager for the Southland [Aoraki] region. "And part of the reason Jeremy's been able to do this so fast is that he's kept up with his workplace assessment and passed every one of his exams the first time."

"Exams aren't that hard," says Jeremy, who believes they just take a bit of effort and preparation. "The most important thing is to pay attention to your tutors. They know what the

examiners are looking for – and if you know that you're already halfway there," he says.

Jeremy also suggests that it's really important to get course work out of the way before exam time comes around. "It's not too much of an effort to keep at it, and if you don't it just piles up and becomes a problem."

So aside from making the time to study and paying attention to the tutors, what's Jeremy's secret? "Old exam papers! I usually have a good look over the past 10 or so exams – it gives you a really good idea of whether you're ready to sit the exam."

Mike's impressed with the speed that Jeremy's gotten through his apprenticeship. "It's just about taking a measured approach and making sure you get things done properly, the first time around. And key to that is making sure you don't have to waste enormous periods of time re-sitting exams that you could have passed with a little preparation earlier."

With about a month to go, Jeremy's future's looking pretty good. "I believe the next step is global domination! But first I'll probably go into business for myself."



Jeremy Haynes, Apprentice at Lake Wanaka Electrical

If you'd like some advice or help preparing for exams, contact your ETITO training manager.



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Mike Grinder, ETITO Training Manager

FIND US AT AN EXPO NEAR YOU!

This year ETITO will have a presence at a number of trades-based careers expos around the country where we'll be promoting electrotechnology and telecommunications careers to school students, teachers and the wider community. One of the most significant events on the calendar is the Pathways to Employment Expo, which was recently held at Mt Smart Stadium in Auckland. Here over 1,500 high school students were given the opportunity



to discover the advantages of gaining an electrotechnology or telecommunications career. "I think young people understand that times are getting tough out there – and there isn't the same certainty that they'll find a good job unless they put a bit of effort in," says Brett Piskulic, ETITO Training Manager. "So it was great to see a good level of interest and a number of students keen to earn life-long skills and get stuck into an apprenticeship."

NEW ETITO TRAINING MANAGERS



Mike Grindler

With a commitment to supporting apprentices and their employers throughout the training process [and throughout New Zealand], ETITO has a nationwide network of training managers who are always on hand to provide training support. And two new training managers have joined the team!

Bob Thomas is the new training manager for the greater Hamilton [Hauraki] region spanning South Auckland, the Coromandel and Waikato. Bob has over 20 years experience in the electrotechnology industry working at the Huntly power station. And, having spent the last two years with the Apprentice Training Trust helping plumbers earn national qualifications, Bob knows a thing



Bob Thomas

or two about apprenticeships as well.

We're also pleased to introduce our new training manager for the Southland [Aoraki] region, Mike Grindler, who is based in Dunedin. Mike is taking over from our three training advisors for the Southland region – Fred Black in Dunedin, Robin Johnson in Timaru and Don McLellan in Invercargill. Marty Matheson, who previously oversaw the entire South Island, will now focus solely on the Canterbury, Nelson and Marlborough regions. Mike comes from an appliance servicing background and is looking forward to providing support to apprentices and employers in the Otago, Southland and South Canterbury regions.

AND WITH OUR NEW SOUTHERN MAN COMES OUR NEW SOUTHERN OFFICE!

With Mike joining the team, we've opened a new ETITO office in Dunedin, allowing us to offer a greater level of support to employers and apprentices in the lower South Island. You'll find the address and phone number on the back of this newsletter.

EVIDENCE SHEETS

Evidence sheets were introduced in 2008 to ensure that all assessment evidence is thorough – and already we've seen them prove their worth. Apprentices are finding they make gathering evidence for assessment a cinch, and also ensure no mistakes are made concerning the nature of evidence required for moderation.

By now, most apprentices should have received a CD containing copies of the evidence sheets, and these are now included with all new Workplace Logbooks. Evidence sheets can also be accessed on the web – in the downloads section of our website: www.etito.co.nz/downloads

If you have any problems accessing or using evidence sheets, contact an ETITO training manager who will be able to explain the process in detail and remember, the sooner apprentices start using evidence sheets the better!

NEW INDUSTRIAL MEASUREMENT AND CONTROL [LEVEL 4] WORKPLACE LOGBOOKS ARE ON THE WAY – KEEP YOUR EYES PEELED!

Following a recent review of the qualification, new Industrial Measurement and Control [Level 4] Workplace Logbooks are being introduced. These will be sent to any apprentices who are transitioned onto the revised qualification, you'll be notified if this is you.

If you have any questions or concerns, contact your ETITO training manager.

A WORD FROM OUR NEW CHIEF EXECUTIVE



“Despite being only a couple of months in my role as Chief Executive, I can confidently say that ETITO is in an excellent position to support the electrotechnology and telecommunications industries. As these industries encounter new market realities – peering down the barrel of a global recession marred with looming demographic challenges, there’s no doubt that for many businesses 2009 will be a challenge. But when it comes to helping industry upskill, you can guarantee we’ll be here to help.

This year, ETITO will further our commitment to being responsive to the needs and concerns of our stakeholders through in-depth consultation and planning. We’ll continue to find new and innovative ways of enhancing the service we offer your industry and consult with advisory groups to ensure that national qualifications and training support services continue to be of the same high standard industry expects.

We’re also working with industry associations to find ways of maintaining training levels in the face of an economic downturn and significant decrease in work, particularly in the construction sector. While we of course understand the position of some employers, it is important that we actively work together to find ways to ensure those people currently in training are given the opportunity to finish their apprenticeships. And of critical importance is to ensure that training levels do not fall to a level that will have a future detrimental effect on the ability of our industries to recover.

Essentially our goal is to grow the skill-levels of the electrotechnology and telecommunications industries – and we invite you to work with us to achieve this.”

Mike Henderson joins ETITO in the role of Chief Executive following many years in the finance industry. He has also held roles as Chief Executive or Managing Director of several successful franchise operations and, having served on the advisory board of the Retail ITO, has a strong understanding of industry training.

STATS

CURRENTLY THERE ARE 3847 ELECTROTECHNOLOGY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS APPRENTICES IN OUR TRAINING SYSTEM

311 NEW APPRENTICES HAVE SIGNED AN ETITO TRAINING AGREEMENT SO FAR THIS YEAR

180 NEWLY QUALIFIED TRADESPEOPLE HAVE ALREADY ENTERED THE ELECTROTECHNOLOGY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS INDUSTRIES THIS YEAR

1,421 EMPLOYERS ARE CURRENTLY TRAINING APPRENTICES

APPRENTICES – GET RECOGNISED FOR YOUR ACHIEVEMENT!

Every year, the Mayors Taskforce for Jobs organise regional graduations to celebrate the achievement of those who gain national qualifications – and this year is no different! So, if you’ll be finishing your apprenticeship in the near future, keep an eye out for an invitation which will be sent to your workplace.

The graduations are an opportunity to stand-up and take a bow for your achievement – which in the case of completing an electrotechnology or telecommunications apprenticeship is no small thing! Apprentices will also find the graduations are a great way to thank your employer and your family for their support throughout the process – so make

sure you invite them to come along. Simply RSVP when you receive the invitation in the post and you’re good to go.

Note: these graduations are held in different regions at different times throughout the course of the year, so if you complete your apprenticeship in 2009 the graduation might not occur until 2010.

BEHIND THE SCENES

Inside ETITO there's an ongoing process of consultation with industry as we work to ensure that our national qualifications are current, relevant, and reflect the needs of our industries. This may involve us working with industry to make changes to existing qualifications, or developing entirely new ones.

This year, we've finished a review or revision of a number of qualifications, including:

- National Certificate in Electrical Engineering [Level 3]
- National Certificate in Electrical Engineering [Level 4]
- National Certificate in Electrical Engineering [Electrical Appliance Servicing and Electronic Servicing] [Level 3]
- National Certificate in Telecommunications [Level 2]

We're currently working on:

- Electrical Equipment in Hazardous Areas Unit Standards
- National Certificate in Industrial Measurement and Control [Level 5]
- National Certificate in Electrical Engineering [Level 5]
- National Certificate in Electronics Technology [Level 3]

In the near future we'll be looking at:

- National Certificate in Electronic Security [Installer] [Level 3]
- National Certificate in Electronic Security [Level 4]

If the qualification you're completing is mentioned in this article – don't worry, we'll always inform you if any changes affect you. If you want to find out more about what we're doing in this area, or if you would like to be part of an upcoming consultation group, contact Beverley McNamee, Qualifications Manager on 09 583 1351 or email beverleym@etito.co.nz

STRATEGIC TRAINING PLANS – WHAT ARE THEY?

This year, ETITO will continue to evolve our strategic training plans for the electrotechnology and telecommunications industries. These documents reflect ETITO's skills leadership role, and are developed through comprehensive consultation with industry representatives and extensive background research. Along with other sources of information, we use the strategic training plan to inform improvements to our training support systems and national qualifications.

To read the strategic training plan for your industry, visit the research section of the ETITO website at www.etito.co.nz/research

GOT AN ISSUE WITH A UNIT STANDARD?

If you would like to raise an issue or suggest a change to a unit standard – let us know! You don't need to be part of an advisory group to have your say, simply put it in an email, and send it to: reviewcomments@etito.co.nz

Advisory groups read over a list of issues raised by others whenever they complete a qualification review, which means your suggestion will be considered.

IS THERE ANYTHING YOU'D LIKE TO SEE MORE OF IN THE NEWSLETTER?

ETITO is here to support you – so tell us what you want! One of the main ways we talk to the wider community of apprentices and employers is through this newsletter.

If there's anything you'd like to see us include in future newsletters it's up to you to let us know! Put it in an email and send it to antonyg@etito.co.nz

ETITO TRAINING MANAGER LOCATIONS



www.etito.co.nz

HEAD OFFICE

& Auckland Regional Office
Freepost 5164, PO Box 24469
Royal Oak, Auckland
Phone: [09] 525 2590
Fax: [09] 525 2591

Hamilton Regional Office
PO Box 4027
Hamilton East
Phone: [07] 839 7395

Rotorua Regional Office
PO Box 539
Rotorua
Phone: [07] 349 3461

Wellington Regional Office
PO Box 12537
Thorndon, Wellington
Phone: [04] 499 7670
Fax: [04] 499 7680

Christchurch Regional Office
PO Box 2946
Christchurch
Phone: [03] 365 9819
Fax: [03] 365 9259

Dunedin Regional Office
PO Box 13
Dunedin 9054
Phone: [03] 479 2978
Fax: [03] 470 1670