

World Skills

Plumbing & Gas Skills regional competitions get under way in March. The competition is an opportunity to test your skills against your peers.

Dates for the Regional Competitions are:

- Auckland: TBA
- Canterbury: Saturday, 22nd May 2010
- Central North Island: Friday, 26th March 2010
- Defence Force NZ: 17 April 2010
- Northland: Saturday 8th May 2010
- Otago: 15th May 2010
- Southland Saturday, 27th March 2010
- Waikato: Saturday, 10th April 2010
- Wellington: 17th April 2010

For further information go to www.worldskills.org.nz



Peter Fuller represented New Zealand at the 2009 World Skills in Calgary, Canada.

CE's report

Start the Job, Finish the Job

Our businesses throughout the country have to work hard to start jobs as agreed, keep to the deadlines and finish on time. An apprenticeship should be no different. At the moment many apprentices are slow to get started on their distance learning. As a result they fall behind on block course as well. They either take well over the four years to finish plumbing and gas or even worse – they never finish.

We all must make an effort to get trainees off to a good start, keep up with their work, and make sure they get qualified on time. The ITO has trialled “Start-up Workshops”. This is a week soon after sign up to get familiar with the training package, do some theory assessments, meet some of the block course tutors and for plumbing and gas, complete the specialist courses in Confined Spaces and Fall Arrest. This is a way to “get the job started on time”.

Night sessions are another good way to keep trainees on track. We will keep working to provide night sessions in more locations. It is also essential that employers do whatever they can to make their apprentices get the training job finished. Employers around the country have many tactics. Wage increases can be tied to stage completion. Deadlines can be set for assessments to be shown to the employer before posting in. Some employers have a regular fortnightly time to go over the distance learning. All of these work.



During February, I met with a number of employers in Nelson who all used some of the methods above. I am always impressed with how interested and supportive good employers are of apprentice success. I met a drainlaying apprentice who assured me he was “right up with his assignments and nearly finished Stage One”. I checked afterwards and while he was right, this was only after our Regional Training Advisor Robyn Brown, and his supervisor had seen him falling behind and given him a good kick along. It is a team effort!

The ITO and Modern Apprentice Coordinators can visit apprentices and employers to check progress. Employers can log-in and check trainee progress on our website. Let's keep working hard to sign up good workers in training agreements, get them off on the “learning job” and get the “job” finished on time.

Ian Elliott

The installation of an Onehunga Soakhole




Plumbing, Gasfitting & Drainlaying trainee Anthony Comley from Charleton Plumbing & Drainlaying Ltd hard at work on the property of Northern Regional Training Advisor Sam Gilmour's house. The team are installing an Onehunga Soak hole pit to dispose of all the roof runoff water.

Our Six Regional Training Advisors and Their Coverage



1/2
Peter Gembitsky
covers Northland to the North Shore and West Auckland ending at Mount Wellington.
021 318 435



4/5
Gillian Abbott
covers Coromandel, Waikato and the Bay of Plenty.
021 822 718



3/7
Sam Gilmour starts from Onehunga covering East and South Auckland. He also looks after the East Coast
021 759 279



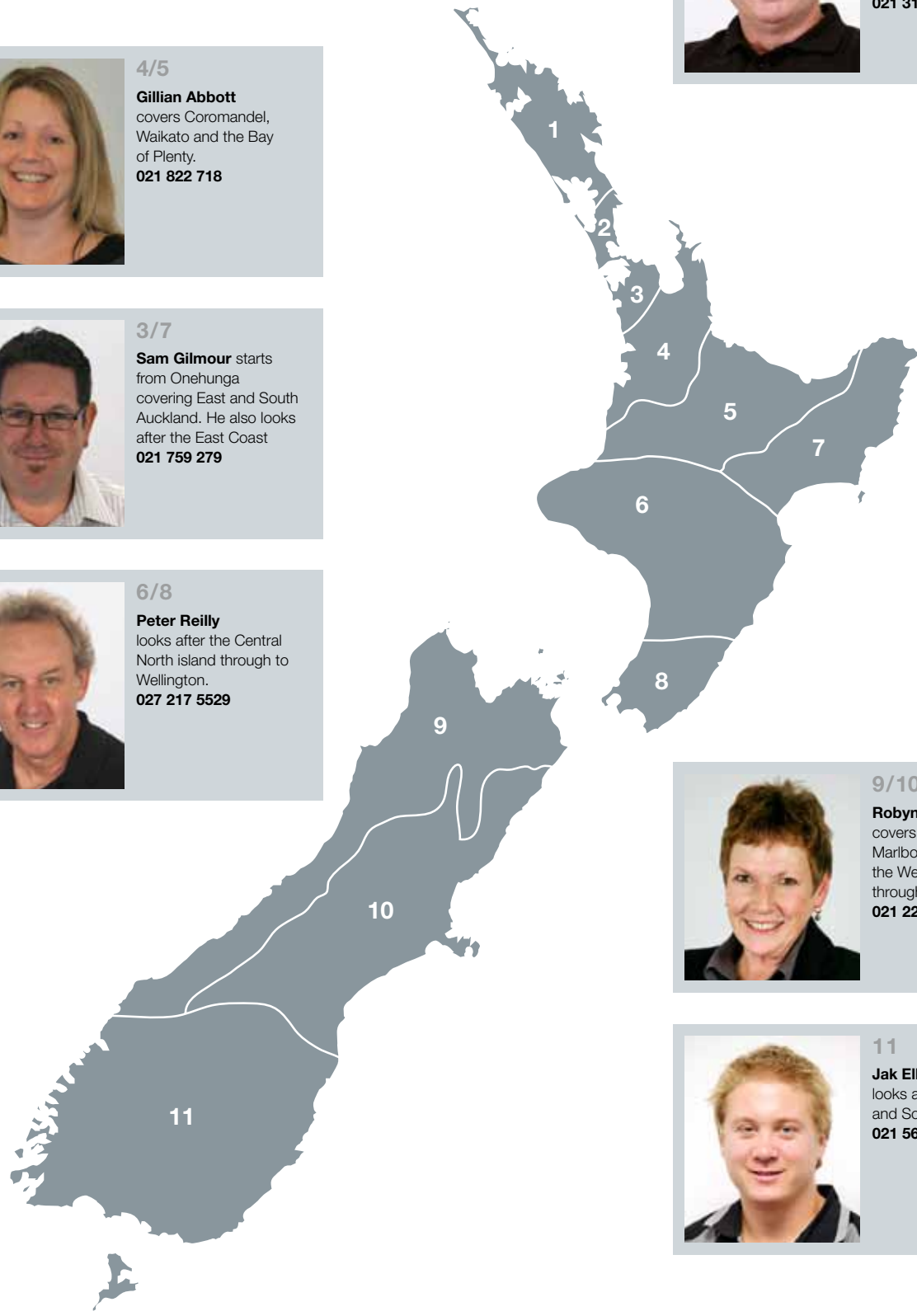
6/8
Peter Reilly
looks after the Central North island through to Wellington.
022 217 5529



9/10
Robyn Brown
covers Nelson Marlborough, down the West Coast and through to Canterbury.
021 220 7645



11
Jak Elliott
looks after Otago and Southland
021 569 077



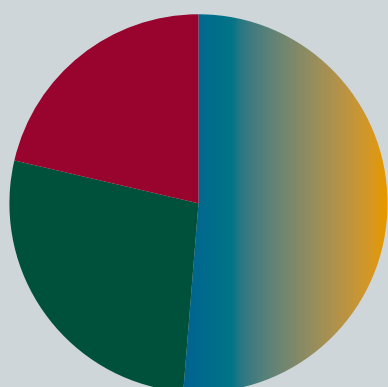


March 2010

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Number of Industry Trainees
as at 1 February 2010



	Plumbing & Gasfitting Trainees	1179
	Drainlaying Trainees	629
	Roofing Installation Trainees	421

Delivery Development Project



The PGDR ITO is working with polytechnics and private training providers that are contracted by the PGDR ITO to deliver plumbing, gasfitting and drainlaying industry training.

By working together we aim to make every block course as challenging and rewarding as possible for trainees. We must involve trainees' employers and key bodies such as Master Plumbers and the Board. To achieve this PGDR ITO has allocated

funding for the Delivery Development Project. To kick off the project a 2 day tutor and PGDR ITO workshop was held on the 3rd and 4th February hosted by Wellington Institute of Technology (WELTEC). Attending were plumbing, gasfitting and drainlaying tutors from Waikato Institute of Technology (WINTEC), The Open Polytechnic of New Zealand (TOPNZ), WELTEC, Christchurch Polytechnic & Institute of Technology (CPIT), Southern Institute of Technology (SIT) and from Auckland G&H Training, Manukau Institute of Technology (MIT) and UNITEC.

Modern Apprenticeships

The PGDR ITO offers Modern Apprenticeship Coordination services in Northland, Waikato, Bay of Plenty, East Coast, Central North Island, Wellington, Canterbury and Otago.



Pictured is Craig Wilson a Modern Apprentice with Wilson Plumbing and Drainage Ltd of Wellsford.

Modern Apprenticeships are available to the Plumbing, Gasfitting, Drainlaying and Roofing industries.

The Modern Apprentice scheme aims to get young people into the trades and to ensure that they succeed.

The PGDRITO can provide:

- An extra level of support through a Modern Apprentice Coordinator
- The service free of charge to the employer and Modern Apprentice
- Support for the duration of the Modern Apprenticeship

These services are in addition to the training arrangements already provided by the PGDRITO. To be eligible, apprentices must be under 22 years of age on the date of starting an apprenticeship.

If you would like more information on Modern Apprenticeships, or you want to locate a Regional Training Advisor in your area contact the PGDRITO.

Trainee Success Scheme Update

The recent focus of the PGDRITO's literacy and numeracy project has been on identifying the literacy and numeracy skills needed to gain national certificates through distance learning and block courses. Identifying the reading, writing and maths skills required for the qualification and the job means we can provide supporting materials for extra work on these skills.

The PGDRITO has worked with Workbase to produce "Literacy on the Job" profiles of the literacy and numeracy skills needed for roofing, plumbing, gasfitting and drainlaying. These are excellent for employers or schools to give to anyone interested in working and gaining qualifications in these industries. Check them out at: <http://www.workbase.org.nz/Article.aspx?ID=462>

Our Regional Training Advisers continue to work with trainees to identify if extra literacy and numeracy support is needed, and assist trainees to access this support.

Distance learning

Distance learning means you need to be well organised. Your PGDRITO Regional Training Advisers can help you plan for your study, and timetable your distance learning so that you progress through each stage.

If you do not pass an assessment on the first attempt you will be required to resubmit it.

Find out your local training provider's policy on the number of resubmits allowed and any costs involved, particularly for unit standard assessments.

Resubmits are frustrating for markers, apprentices and PGDRITO staff who chase them up. Assignments need to be posted to and fro and often this means delays for apprentices getting onto block courses.

Some tips to avoid resubmits:

- Have you read and understood the question?

As for an exam question, read it several times. Ask yourself what do you have to do eg "Give an example..." "List the steps..."

- Have you answered the question?

Sometimes you quickly skim read the question and write an answer based on your knowledge and experience of the topic, but find what you've written hasn't actually answered the question.

- Does your answer make sense?

Proof read your answer carefully. Have you given enough detail to show you do know the answer?



Avoid mistakes in calculations questions by following these 3 steps:

1. Use rounding to estimate what your answer should be
*Eg For a water pressure calculation of 1.5×9.81 kPa
Round 9.81 to 10, so 1.5×10 is 15
You know your answer should be slightly less than 15.*
2. Do the calculation $9.81 \times 1.5 = 14.715$ kPa
3. Check your answer against your estimate. Is it reasonable?

***Hint* Show your working so both you and your marker can check each step of a calculation.**

- Have you done all the work and provided all the required evidence?
Check you haven't missed any pages. If there is a checklist of items to send in, make sure you have them all.
- Have you asked for help? Can your employer help you?
All training providers have a tutor available by phone to answer your distance learning questions. Be prepared to leave a message and have your work available when your call is returned.

For apprentices enrolled in the National Certificates in Plumbing and Gasfitting since January 2009:

You need to understand the theory behind the practical skills being assessed at the block courses. Therefore you must pass the theory in the distance learning guides at each stage before you can attend the next block course.

Photocopy your work before you send it to be marked. If it gets lost in the mail and you haven't kept a copy you will have to do the work again.


Post each assessment as you complete it. Sending them all in at once could cause delays in marking, and you must pass each assessment before you can be sent anymore.

It's All Good!

Nick Eathorne has just signed up as the newest apprentice at Barry Dell plumbing in Dunedin and he's rapt.

"I love all of it. The work and getting outside, it's all good." Nick's been coming to Barry Dell from Kavanagh College every Wednesday for the last year as part of the Gateway programme. "I knew that I wanted to be a plumber," he says "but joining the Gateway and going out on the job made me really sure."

He's getting the opportunity to learn plenty of skills. "There'll be a wide scope to his work," says co-owner Barry Carmichael " 'cause we do all sorts from excavating and drainlaying to commercial abseiling here - as well as the routine plumbing and gasfitting." For Nick this is a great opportunity to learn his chosen trade and he can't wait to really get stuck in. "And will he do his homework?" asks Barry. "Um" says Nick grinning nodding hard.



Swinging out from above or getting right down to it, it's all in a day's work for Barry Dell Plumbing.

Plumbing the Heights and the Depths

The staff at Barry Dell Plumbing in Dunedin are not afraid of heights, and they can delve deep too. This means they can offer a range of specialist services.

'We started our abseiling with the work on the Frances Hodgkin's Building in Dunedin South' says Barry Carmichael one of the partners in the firm. The building is built up to a sheer rock face and, 'It was just too dangerous to put up scaffolding behind the building because of rock falls, so we used the ropes to get to the pipes on the wall. We replaced all the pipe-work that way.' At the time the firm had an employee who was a trained industrial abseiler and the decision was made to train two more staff members.

The firm quickly received several enquiries for more jobs which would be difficult to scaffold and they saw an opportunity for niche work. These days they offer abseiling training to all their plumbers though Adventure Southland the same firm that does the Height and Safety courses for all their apprentices.

So far the firm has worked on the Cadbury's building, Otago University and the Otago

Daily Times (ODT) Building. This was a particularly interesting assignment as the services for the ODT building run down an internal light-well. In this narrow space scaffolding was a problem, 'the firms would have had to cut down their scaffolding plank to get in there, but we could do it all with ropes. This was more efficient and caused less intrusion into the building itself.'

The firm employs 28 workers and they tackle many dangerous jobs including roof and gutter cleaning and maintenance on high rise buildings. All the workers on these jobs are fully rope access trained 'we can clamber all over the roofs of these buildings and hang over the sides of these buildings to get the work done easily.' Their industrial abseilers are Pete Derbyshire, Darryl Swann and Paul Williams.

And the low-down jobs? 'We have a hydro-jet high pressure drain cleaner for cleaning drains and a drain camera to make sure we have done the job properly. We also have 2 vacuum suction trucks for cleaning mud tanks (sumps). The ones on the road are done by the council and we do the ones on commercial properties,' says Carmichael.



New Rules for Plumbers, Gasfitters and Drainlayers

This information has been supplied by the Board

From April 1, 2010 some very important changes to the rules covering gasfitting work will come into force with the full implementation of the Plumbers, Gasfitters and Drainlayers Act 2006. These changes are primarily aimed at improving public health and safety.

Following extensive industry consultation in 2007 and, 2009, the Minister has accepted the Plumbers, Gasfitters and Drainlayers Board's recommendations on a wide variety of matters including changing the names of the main licence classes.

There will still be two classes of plumbers and gasfitter, those currently known as 'registered', will be described as 'licensed'. This better reflects the fact that they have a licence to practice, rather than simply being registered, which is a status that applies to other categories of non-qualified persons on the register.

The other class currently known as 'craftsman, will be described as 'certifying', as this better reflects the current role of certifying gasfitters, and allows for the

possibility of plumbers and drainlayers self certifying in the future. This also better reflects the Board's move to more actively enforce the requirement that "licensed" practitioners are supervised by "certifying" practitioners. The two-tier licence system for gasfitters and plumbers is also being introduced for drainlayers.

The other main changes being introduced are:

- A new requirement for continuing professional development for plumbers and drainlayers – a few hours per year attending courses or seminars
- Introduction of new exemption classes that will allow limited certificate non-trainees to continue working as they have under limited certificates
- Clearer specification of requirements for supervision and testing of work
- Requiring licence cards to be carried by all practitioners

All people involved in doing plumbing, gasfitting or drainlaying work are, from April 1, required to carry an identification card so homeowners and building inspectors

can check their status. Cardholders are required to produce their card if requested to do so. If a person is required to be supervised, the name and registration number of their supervisor is printed on their identification card. This supervisor is ultimately responsible for the work done by the person they are supervising.

A public register of all licensed and certifying people is available at www.pgdb.co.nz, you can use the search function to find contact details and license status of specific individuals.

If a person believes work has been done by someone who does not hold a current license, or has any other concerns about the competency of workers, they can make a complaint to the Plumbers, Gasfitters and Drainlayers Board. The Board can be contacted on 04 494 2970 or by emailing the registrar at registrar@pgdb.co.nz

For more information about the changes being introduced on April 1, 2010 go to www.pgdb.co.nz

New names for classes of licence that are being introduced from April 1

Description under old legislation	Description under new legislation
Craftsman Gasfitter	Certifying Gasfitter
Craftsman Plumber	Certifying Plumber
Registered Drainlayer	Licensed Drainlayer
(not existing)	Certifying Drainlayer
Registered Gasfitter	Licensed Gasfitter
Registered Plumber	Licensed Plumber
Limited Certificate Apprentice Drainlayer	Limited Certificate Trainee Drainlayer
Limited Certificate Apprentice Gasfitter	Limited Certificate Trainee Gasfitter
Limited Certificate Apprentice Plumber	Limited Certificate Trainee Plumber
Limited Certificate Drainlayer	Exemption Drainlaying under supervision
Limited Certificate Gasfitter	Exemption Gasfitting under supervision
Limited Certificate Plumber	Exemption Plumbing under supervision