

CONNECTIONS

talent central news

The year in review.

Since our last newsletter in April, New Zealand has certainly had its share of ups and downs amidst a variety of Covid-19 lockdowns.

Our region has been no different. The strength and resilience of the Manawātū has shone through with schools and businesses putting their best foot forward and carrying on as best they could. Staying connected to Talent Central and keeping us updated on their activities has meant Talent Central has been able to provide ongoing support through these changing times.

Post lockdown in October we saw a remarkable increase in activity. We were expecting schools and businesses to take some time to recover but from the day lockdown finished we were being contacted by employers asking about when industry visits would be starting and by schools with students seeking work experience opportunities. It was exciting to see how quickly everyone re-engaged and how enthusiastic they were about getting back to some kind of normal.

For businesses we re-designed the industry visits and dropped down to 4 or 5 students per visit to ensure we could meet all Covid protocols. The unintended benefit of this was that students had more time to engage with the business owners and managers and discuss the opportunities available. In the period from late October through November, businesses have been taking on students for work experience. We placed 18 students into work experience, a significant increase from the preceding 6 months. And it didn't stop there. Businesses were also looking for apprentices and we were fortunate to place 4 students as apprentices and a further 4 into roles with logistics companies. And it has not stopped. At the time of preparing this newsletter we had another 8 students available for work experience or employment. It is planned to have all these placed by mid-December.

Our other activities are continuing with schools who have engaged in the WorkReady Course. Feilding High School Year 11 Students continue to make good progress with the WorkReady Course. Talent Central will continue to provide the WorkReady Course through 2022 and are looking forward to adding more schools to the current group already benefiting from being connected to Talent Central.

QEC, Tararua College and Feilding High School have all engaged with industry visits, work experience, work placements and driving lessons that come as part of the package. These additional opportunities provide vocational outcomes to schools and assists them to meet their obligations to connect to local businesses.



Activities

The middle of the year saw us consolidating our activities with participating schools. The plan was for us to have concerted push with industry visits in term 3 and reach out to as many students as possible.

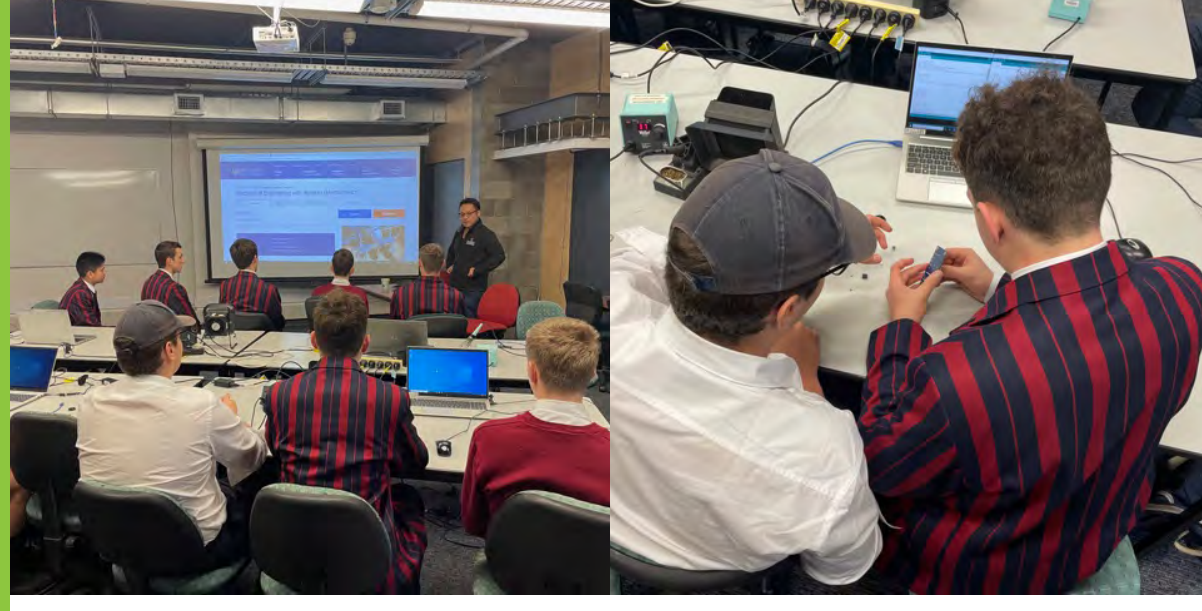
The plan was made, the dates were set, the businesses were onboard, 200 students were going out on 21 visits and then lockdown. The best laid plans can go astray but as you can see from previous comments the recovery has been a spectacular as the fall. As soon as lockdown ended employers and schools began contacting us and we were able restart the programme all be it in a scaled down format. To all those who connected with Ron Armstrong, a special thanks for willingness to come back on board and enable students the opportunity to visit your workplace.

The period of lockdown enabled Talent Central to look at our practices and processes and refine what works well. This has led to a revision of the

WorkReady Course for 2022. This review will not impact on existing enrolees or on the work they have done. We have taken the feedback we have received from schools and incorporated this into the WorkReady Course for 2022. The updates will include a clearer pathway for students at year 11 and will ensure that the soft skills they have worked through provide a sound basis for identifying career pathways in year 12.

We have completed the pathways for Agriculture, Civil Construction, Health, Retail, Horticulture, and Transport and Logistics sectors. These can be viewed at talentcentral.ac.nz/resources/industry-pathways/

Businesses have added their pathways to demonstrate how skills and knowledge translate into real jobs and the training and advancement that is available within these businesses. More businesses will be adding their pathways in 2022.



Cornerstone Christian School getting hands on at Massey University's mecatronics lab.



On site at Mobile Mechanical Solutions, Bisley Street, Palmerston North.

Our Partners

The Talent Central Board have been very active throughout 2021 in identifying new opportunities for the Manawātū.

The Board has taken the opportunity to collaborate with Central Region Skills Hub to support owners of Small to Medium Size (SME's) Businesses primarily in the Civil Construction sector. The Talent Central agreement with Kānoa, MBIE enables the board to flex the arrangement for the benefit of the Manawātū Region. The Board identified that with the large number of infrastructure projects coming on stream there would be an opportunity to support

subcontractors engaged in these projects. A process was set in place to develop a resource, The Tender Ready Portfolio, to assist subcontractors and SME's. This is now well advanced and will be completed in January 2022. The Tender Ready Portfolio will enable Talent Central and the Skills Hub to provide subcontractors with an engagement map and assist with filling any vacancies they have. The foresight of Kānoa MBIE and the Talent Central Board has enabled this to happen in a very short timeframe and provides valuable support to the wider Manawātū region.

A Big Shout Out to our Business Partners

Without you none of this would have happened. You continue to provide the connection between young people and the real world. As the year has progressed your generosity has ensured we have a wide variety of businesses to engage with and demonstrate to students how a workplace "works". You have proved you understand the future of Manawātū is in its young people and have employed school leavers and offered numerous apprenticeships. We thank you for your ongoing support and wish you well for the festive season.

Our Partner Schools have provided an opportunity for Talent Central to connect students to local businesses and further learning activities at both Massey University and UCOL. As we move into 2022 and students engage in the WorkReady Course they will be able to see that the pathway to employment in their chosen field may require some additional study for them to reach their goals. The Talent Central industry and educational institute visits provide a window to all of the opportunities available in the Manawātū.

If you are interested in developing young people and being part of a vibrant organisation, then contact Mark Wootton mark@talentcentral.ac.nz for work being a voluntary member of the Talent Central Board.



From the team at
Talent Central,
we wish you a very

MERRY CHRISTMAS

And
HAPPY NEW YEAR!

and we look forward to
seeing you again in 2022