

# CONNECTIONS

## talent central news

### March 2023

We have started 2023 with very high levels of engagement from our partner schools. This year schools are required to have students connected to the WorkReady Course or the WorkReady Programme before they can participate in any of the activities that Talent Central (TC) provide. Each of the TC activities has a set of WorkReady requirements that need to be completed before students can participate.

For driving lessons, students must complete the Driving Licence Module.

For Forklift Licencing, students must complete the Health and Safety Module and the Forklift Module including the quizzes.

For Industry Visits all students must complete the Health and Safety Module before participating in a visit.

On the recommendation of our business partners, we are placing a strong emphasis on Health and Safety. This is to prepare students for the “world of work” and to assist businesses when students enter their premises. All students receive a health and safety briefing when arriving at an Industry Visit. Students prior learning from the Health and Safety module in the WorkReady Course prepares them, and they know what to expect and how to be safe on the site.

## Driving Lessons

Lessons started in late February with a total of 40 one-hour driving lessons being provided each week. Participating schools have been quick to identify students who have had their Learner Licence for a minimum of 4 months, are committed to taking lessons each week, are able to pay for, or access funds to pay for their Restricted Licence test and have preferably have some support for practice outside of the lessons provided by Talent Central.

All of the spaces are filled with most schools having 4 to 6 students waiting in the wings if there is a cancellation, or to take over when a student has reached the right level to sit the test.

These numbers indicate the level of demand and support required to prepare students for work. The Manawātū requires people to be mobile to have access to employment opportunities, and Talent Central is pleased to be providing this level of support.



The fleet for driving lessons for 2023, Alltrain staff standing by ready to meet new students.

# Industry Visits

This year we already have 26 Industry visits booked in term one and two. Our business partners are keen to have school students visiting their sites and seeing and learning about opportunities for the future. TC provides visits to a wide range of businesses including Warehousing and Logistics, Engineering, Transport and Repairs, District Councils, Kitchen and Joinery Manufacturers, Building and Electrical, Food Services (New World, Foodstuffs, Gilmours) and Retail Outlets.

Most of these businesses have multiple roles available. One transport and engineering business has 26 different roles within the one enterprise, including administration all the way to driving a pilot vehicle for special loads.

With nine students per visit, you can see that there is a commitment on behalf of the business to providing an interesting experience to encourage young people to join them. There is a commitment from schools as they release students for two hours to experience what work looks like.

With 230 students already booked for visits, TC is committed to supporting students to experience the opportunities available across our region.



Awatapu College on an industry visit to PTS Logistics Ltd.



PTS provides visits for students to see the workings of a logistics company and the range of roles available in this sector.

# Forklift Licencing

TC in collaboration Central Region Skills Hub and AllTrain Limited will be providing 160 placements to our partner schools. Students 16 and over can gain their Forklift Licence, and it can be used as a precursor to attaining a car driving licence. There is a large component of Health and Safety when sitting the Forklift Licence test and employers see this as a “transferable skill” to take to any worksite.

In 2022 we had 125 students successfully gain their Forklift Licence. From this group 31 went on to be employed, with many more gaining holiday work before returning to school in 2023.

TC is looking to build on this experience and provide further opportunities for students with their Forklift Licence to upskill to a variety of workplaces.

# Departures

## **Conrad Wilshire**

On March 20<sup>th</sup> at our Annual General Meeting, Conrad Wilshire tendered his resignation from the Board of Talent Central. Conrad was one of the founding members of Talent Central and his tenure goes back 10 years, from the conception of Talent Central through to delivering our current programmes to support school students into the world of work.

The Board would like to take this opportunity to thank Conrad for his significant contribution and the expertise he has provided.

At a personal level I would like to thank Conrad for the insights he has provided. He has shared his extensive knowledge of the community and the importance of connecting to all, across the Manawatu.

## **Ron Armstrong**

With our change in direction this year, Ron's role has come to an end at Talent Central.

As CEO I would like to thank Ron for all he has done to support Talent Central over the past years. Ron's connections to businesses has provided many opportunities for industry visits and the placement of students into Work Experience and Employment.

The staff and Board of Talent Central would like to take this opportunity to thank him for his time with the organisation.

# Work Experience and Employment

We encourage employers looking for students to upskill and fill gaps in your rosters to contact us and we will identify suitable candidates for you.

Contact  
[enquiries@talentcentral.ac.nz](mailto:enquiries@talentcentral.ac.nz)

**[www.talentcentral.ac.nz](http://www.talentcentral.ac.nz)**

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