

CONNECTIONS

talent central news

December 2023

As the year draws to a close, we can look back on another successful year for Talent Central. We have focussed on all students engaging in the WorkReady Course (WRC) as a pre-requisite for participating in the activities we provide. Students who complete

the required sections are then prepared for industry visits, driving lessons and forklift licencing. This pre-engagement has enabled students to understand the requirements of workplaces and be better prepared for driving lessons and forklift licencing.

WorkReady Course

The WRC is the main point of difference between Talent Central and other service providers. The WRC provides students the chance to develop the tools and soft skills to assist them to transition from school to the world of work. Students must engage with the course before they engage in any of the activities we provide. An example is that they must complete the Health and Safety section before going on an industry visit. This is to prepare them for the Health and Safety briefing they receive when they arrive at a business. The WRC content explains the "why" of Health and Safety in the workplace, and the need for businesses to deliver a briefing before entering their premises.

A similar process must be followed by students before they attend Forklift Licencing. Students must complete the Forklift module in the WRC and answer all the questions before they can participate in the forklift training and licencing. The module introduces students to the language used to describe a forklift and how to operate a forklift safely. The requirement to complete this module before attending the training has reduced the classroom time and allowed more time for the practical. With 100% completion in 2023, we believe that the Talent Central process is effectively preparing students for this activity, as well as providing a pathway to future employment

Industry Visits

Visits started off really well this year and then became a casualty of the teacher industrial action. It was very difficult for schools to have staff available to accompany students offsite. A special thanks to Tararua College who managed to achieve this during the industrial action period.

For the first time this year in November, we have been given access to Year 10 students from QEC and Fielding High School. This has enabled us to set up visits to local businesses, Te Pūkenga and Massey University, which has allowed us to connect with these students and demonstrate pathways for their future. We will be able to reconnect with these students in Year 11 to support their development in their chosen field.

Our industry visits are made possible by the great youth-ready businesses we work with. On the 25th of October, we held an event to thank all the businesses who have supported us throughout 2023. This provided an opportunity for businesses to hear success stories about connecting to young people and the value of having training pathways embedded in the workplace. Talent Central would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have provided opportunities for students to visit and see how they can transition from school to work.



Year 10 students at Massey University examining and dissecting sheep respiratory systems.



Year 10 students at PTS Transport Distribution Centre where all Suzuki products are consigned to retail outlets.

Driving Lessons

Driving lessons have continued throughout the year and special thanks go to the schools for continuing this activity through the industrial action period. Our process this year was to focus on having students move directly from their lessons to sitting their restricted licence without a gap.

This required the instructor and the student to agree on a test booking date after six lessons, so they could then continue lessons up to that date. This process has worked well, with 79 students passing their restricted licences in 2023.

Forklift Licencing

The Regional Skills Leadership Group (RSLG) identified that there is a shortage of qualified people to operate forklifts in the region. Talent Central has taken this information and responded by providing students with a chance to gain a Forklift Licence. While this may not be the student's chosen career it is an opportunity to work with and gain

experience on machinery in a workplace. The freight, logistics and distribution sector is one of the largest employers in the region and we believe that gaining a Forklift Licence is an entry point for students seeking employment. The collaboration with Central Region Skills Hub and AllTrain Limited has seen 125 students receive their Forklift Licence in 2023.

Talent Central Staff

A special thank you to Caroline and Tina. The effort you have put in this year has made Talent Central what it is today.

Caroline's role with the WRC keeps it up-to-date and relevant to life and transitioning from school to work. Her work in marking the activities within the WRC ensures students receive their results promptly and with feedback when necessary. Caroline your management of the driving lesson programme has been the main contributor to the success we are now seeing with 79 students passing their restricted licences this year.

Tina has worked tirelessly to make industry visits happen. This has been extremely challenging with many visits postponed during the period of industrial action. Tina your ability to manage the expectations of both businesses and schools has ensured that you have kept strong relationships intact. When we needed support for the Year 10 visits late in the year you were able to mobilise these businesses and provide memorable experiences for the students.

Talent Central Board

Talent Central has welcomed four new Board members: Toni Wilson, Lara Blackmore, John Bryant, and a new student representative Lisa Claire

from QEC. This refresh of the Board has brought new ideas and strategies for 2024 and beyond.

Finally

Overall, while there have been some challenges, it has been a rewarding year with Talent Central continuing to support schools and students to be inspired about their futures, for when they transition from school to further education

and/or employment. Finally, I would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Mark Wootton
(CEO)