

Update 168, March 2007

In this issue:

1. **Modern Apprenticeships Milestone**
 2. **4th Vocational Education Research Forum**
 3. **Merger of Furniture Industry Training Organisation**
 4. **Tribute to life and work of Derek Swarbrick**
 5. **Just the Job gets NZ on Air Funding**
 6. **Report on cost of training and wage differentials in trades**
-
- INTERNATIONAL:**
7. **Australia tailoring vocational education & training to emerging labour market**
 8. **British Government calls on employers to sign a skills pledge**
 9. **Education and Training to be Compulsory for Under-18s**
 10. **£14m Boost to Manufacturing Skills**
 11. **Training the key to retaining top talent in the workplace**
-
12. **New location for the Industry Training Federation**
 13. **Upcoming events**
 14. **ITF Secretariat Vacancy**
 15. **ITO Vacancies**

NEWS:

1. **Modern Apprenticeship milestone**

The Minister for Tertiary Education announced this week that 3000 Modern Apprentices have completed their training.

“The Modern Apprenticeship programme works because it supports young people to

develop industry-relevant skills and provides them with a structured career pathway. “The numbers of young people participating in the Modern Apprenticeship programme has risen dramatically since its introduction. The announcement shows that these young people are achieving their goal of becoming qualified and skilled.

“The Industry Training Federation supports the Government’s goal of increasing the number of Modern Apprentices to 14,000 by 2008. Achieving this goal will require Modern Apprenticeships to be made available to a wider range of industries”, said Mr Baker.

“Modern Apprentices are part of a much larger group of over 180,000 people engaged in industry training. The success of all of these trainees is the key contributor to meeting the skill needs of industry and increasing New Zealand’s productivity. Continued support for increasing the numbers of employees involved in training is essential”, said Mr Baker.

For read press release from Minister of Tertiary Education

<http://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/PA0703/S00101.htm>

4th Vocational Education Research Forum

ITF is pleased to announce registrations have opened for the 4th Vocational Education and Training Research Forum.

This is a full day event with over twelve presentations providing an exciting opportunity to hear first-hand from researchers and network with groups involved in the areas of industry training and vocational education.

Registration forms and programme is available on the [ITF home page](#).

2. Merger of Furniture Industry Training Organisation

Furniture industry training is now a sub sector under FITEC (the ITO for the forest industries), following a recent merger. FITEC Furniture will operate out of FITEC's offices in Auckland. Service from the new office will commence on 26 March 2007.

"The move means that we can focus on serving industry training needs and be better connected into the wood processing sector," said Paul Mather, FITEC Furniture, Sector Committee member.

"Given the enlarged leadership role for ITOs in skill development, industry training plans and strategies it was logical we combine," Mr Mather said.

The furniture industry has 1,790 enterprises and approximately 10,280 employees (4.1% of total manufacturing).

3. Tribute to life and work of Derek Swarbrick

ITF was saddened by the news that Derek Swarbrick passed away. Derek was a dedicated member of the Federation Board for over 7 years, and also served on the Competenz Board. He made an immense contribution to industry training. A tribute to Derek's life and work was made at a service in Whangarei last week. Farewell Derek, you will be greatly missed.

4. Just the Job – gets NZ on Air Funding

TVNZ has recently confirmed approval of NZ on Air funding for the 'Just the Job' TV programme. The purpose of the television series is improving the understanding of industry training and wider career options for young people, their families and communities.

Acknowledgement goes to Dave Mason Productions the major force behind the series.

The ITF has been involved with the development process for the programme both at a national level, and through various industry training organisation members. This initiative is an exciting one as it furthers the mission of leading a skilled future for New Zealand.

The series is currently in production and intended to go to air later this year. Keep your eyes peeled!

5. Report on cost of training and wage differentials in trades

Research commissioned by the Ministry of Women's Affairs reports on wages and costs of education and training in occupations that use work-based training. A range of occupations has been surveyed, some of which tend to attract young women and others young men. This survey provides a snapshot of current market trends and practices.

www.mwa.govt.nz/news-and-pubs/publications/wagesandcosts.html

INTERNATIONAL - AUSTRALIA:

6. Australia tailoring vocational education & training to emerging labour market

These overviews from the National Centre for Vocational Education and Research (NCVER) are two page summaries of the key points from 13 reports of the research consortium – A well-skilled future:- Tailoring VET to the emerging labour market. While the key overview does not mention literacy, it provides useful information about forecasting labour market demands and skill shortages which are equally relevant in New Zealand. The summary also provides useful definition of "skills" as well.

See www.ncver.edu.au/publications/1721.html

The value of completing a vocational education and training qualification
www.ncver.edu.au/publications/1713.html

Further information on the initiative is available at: www.australianapprenticeships.gov.au

INTERNATIONAL- UK:

7. British Government calls on employers to sign a skills pledge

The Skills Pledge, part of a plan to equip Britain's workforce for the future, will share responsibility between the State, employer and employees and will be open to all employers. It is designed to stimulate demand for training services and support a new culture where gaining skills is taken as a matter of course.

This follows Lord Leitch's report into skills in December highlighting the need to achieve world-class skills by 2020.

The pledge builds on the recent experience in Wales (currently 10% of employees are covered by a pledge to guarantee them access to training in work) which has had a skills pledge running since 2004.
http://www.dfes.gov.uk/pns/DisplayPN.cgi?pn_id=2007_0022

INTERNATIONAL- UK/ CANADA:

8. Education and Training to be Compulsory for Under-18s

The Department for Education and Skills in UK has confirmed plans to **require young people to stay in school, training or workplace training until the age of 18** by 2013.

The proposals would seek to tackle the problem of young people leaving education without qualifications or workplace skills.

Among the examples of how this might be enforced is a similar scheme which has been in place in Canada since late 2005, where under-18 year olds cannot get a driving licence without proof that they are in education or training.

INTERNATIONAL- UK

9. £14m Boost to Manufacturing Skills

The UK Government is launching a £14m national academy to raise manufacturing skills. The new national academy will deliver courses designed for the first time by industry for industry, with the aim of training 40,000 students a year by 2012.

Some of the biggest names in British manufacturing, including Rolls Royce, Caterpillar, Ford, GKN, BAe Systems, Airbus UK, Corus, VT Group and Nissan are backing the project.

The national centre in Birmingham will join up with lead colleges in each region of England delivering courses under the National Skills Academy brand.

Trade and Industry Secretary Alastair Darling said: "Raising skills has to be a national mission. That is why some of the best-known manufacturers in the country are on board.

The government aims to have up to 12 academies for different industries operational by 2008. It is investing £90m in the programme, which will be delivered through the Learning and Skills Council working with employers and their Sector Skills Councils.

INTERNATIONAL:

10. Training the key to retaining top talent in the workplace

According to the latest International Workplace Survey released by specialist financial recruitment firm Robert Half International, companies are increasingly turning to training and development as a way to motivate and retain top talent. The survey was conducted with over 2,300 HR and finance managers across 13 countries and provides an insight into international workplace trends.

Globally, 73 per cent of managers believe training is the best way to boost retention in the workplace. This is closely followed by career development programmes (37 per cent) and financial compensation (31 per cent). Training courses are most widely favoured in Switzerland (93 per cent) and Luxembourg (91 per cent), while in the Netherlands and New Zealand training appears to be less popular, 58 per cent and 63 per cent respectively.

11. New Location for the Industry Training Federation Offices

The ITF National Office has moved to new premises. This is a positive move as it will mean we will be able to hold meetings at our own premises.

To view the new [premises](#)
Level 2, 276 Cuba Street
(Corner of Cuba Street and Karo Drive)
Te Aro, Wellington.

12. Upcoming Events

4th Vocational Education and Training Research Forum

Wednesday 28 March 2007
Museum of NZ - Te Papa Tongarewa,

More information available [here](#)

National e-Learning event - eFest 2007

"Making the change REAL"
25- 27 June in Wellington.
Institutes of Technology Polytechnics New Zealand and the Flexible Learning Leaders in NZ have put out a call for attendance.

See www.efest.org.nz for more info.

13. ITF Secretariat Vacancy

Our highly valued Senior Analyst, Toni, is leaving us for her much-delayed OE. So we are looking for someone with great research and analysis skills to join our team at the national office of the Industry Training Federation (ITF).

The ITF works on behalf of the industry training organisations (ITOs) across New Zealand, who lead skill development and arrange training for their respective industries. Right now is an exciting time for ITOs as they provide services for over 180,000 people learning on the job, and move to play a greater role in the tertiary education system.

A copy of the job description is available [here](#).

14. ITO Vacancies Page

View the new ITO job vacancies at www.itf.org.nz

If you have an item of interest or would like to have your event promoted in Training Talk please email rowena@itf.org.nz.

While not all items are guaranteed to be included we do welcome your contact.