

PRESS RELEASE

ILT Foundation scholarship grant \$2,500 26/02/2009

SOUTHLAND WOMAN TO MANAGE NEW ZEALAND WORLDSKILLS TEAM

INVERCARGILL woman Glenys McKenzie is winging her way to Canada in September in her role as manager for the New Zealand Worldskills team. The Worldskills competition is like an Olympics for apprentices with 50 countries represented at the competition.

And her huge fundraising effort has been made just that much easier after receiving a \$2500 scholarship from the ILT Foundation.

The New Zealand Worldskills team includes 17 trades representatives, aged up to 22 years, who have met the strict qualifying criteria in both regional and national competitions. Also accompanying them will be 17 New Zealand judges who have been training the apprentices in the lead up to the competition.

Glenys became involved in Worldskills through her job at Southern Group Training and is now the Worldskills Otago-Southland regional committee chairwoman.

Her job in Canada will be to make sure everyone is doing what they should, when they should as well as building the group into a supportive cluster who are all working to their optimum.

She is organising team training camps in May and July and will be escorting the team to Canada for the competition which runs for five days from September 1.

And she is hoping to get some valuable advice from New Zealand Olympic team Chef de Mission Dave Curry when he talks at the Professional Administrators Day at the Ascot Park Hotel in Invercargill on May 8.

"I want to pick his brain before we go into camp," she said.

Her work has started already.

At the moment she is making sure everyone has up-to-date passports and that they are all on their way to getting the \$13,000 together needed for the trip.

ILT Foundation chairman Alan Dennis said aiding Glenys' trip to Canada is acknowledgement of the work she does to improve standards in trades.

"Glenys is dedicated to the Worldskills philosophy of challenging New Zealand apprentices to achieve world-class skills standards through competition, so it is only right we support someone who is so committed.

"We are always striving for best standards in our contributions to the community so it seems this scholarship fits in well with our objectives."

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