

Event backgrounder: Minister Si'o's attendance at New Zealand Certified Builders' Association Apprentice Challenge event in Auckland

To:	Hon Aupito William Si'o, Associate Minister of Education (Pacific Peoples)
From:	Panny Litras Acting Manager Delivery & Projects
Date:	4 April 2022
Reference:	E-22-00122

Purpose

1. You are scheduled to visit Te Pūkenga subsidiary the Unitec Institute of Technology's Mount Albert Campus on Saturday 9 April 2022, to celebrate the New Zealand Certified Builders Association (NZCB) Apprentice Challenge. The Challenge is sponsored by Independent Timber Merchants Cooperative Ltd (ITM).
2. The event runs from 8.00am - 4:30pm, with the best time to attend being from 3:00pm onwards. Competition results are scheduled to be announced at 5:00pm. In attendance will be competitors, NZCB regional presidents and members, public supporters and local media.
3. This backgrounder provides you with information about NZCB, along with talking points for the event.
4. We recommend that you release this event backgrounder in full.

About NZCB

NZCB

5. NZCB is a trade association operating in the building and construction industry since 1998 and representing approximately one third of all builders throughout New Zealand.
6. To gain membership of NZCB a builder must hold a recognised trade qualification equivalent to or better than National Trade Certificate in Carpentry Level 4. To ensure high standards NZCB also takes into account a builder's history of stability and success, continued solvency, absence of complaints, reputation and brand, and consistently high standards.
7. NZCB member companies are a mixture of volume/group house builders and smaller to mid-size companies, operating primarily in the residential sector (both new builds and alterations) and in light commercial.
8. NZCB is not a tertiary education organisation (TEO) and is not funded by the Tertiary Education Commission (TEC). However, the Industry Training Association – Building (ITAB) apprentice scheme is a NZCB initiative that draws on the knowledge and expertise of

polytechnics, large construction companies and employers throughout New Zealand to support students.

9. ITAB provides a broad range of training courses covering professional skills and practical, on-the-job training with employer builders. Students are taught and assessed by professionals with years of industry experience.
10. Students enrol via a local Polytechnic partnered with ITAB and attend polytechnic to learn the required theory to gain a New Zealand Certificate in Carpentry (Level 4), while continuing to work and earn while learning. ITAB apprentices also receive one year free membership with NZCB.
11. NZCB operates in accordance with the Incorporated Societies Act 1908. The affairs of NZCB are governed by a constitution and managed by a Board of 4 Directors; including a Chair, as well as up to two additional Directors.
12. The current NZCB Chair is Ian Chamberlain, with Katrina Bach as (Acting) Chief Executive. Biographies of both individuals are appended to this event backgrounder.

The Apprentice Challenge

13. On Saturday 9 April 2022, local carpentry apprentices will be given eight hours to complete a building task that will test their skills, before their work is scored by a panel of expert judges. The event is a celebration of local building talent and recognises the critical role apprentices play in the future of New Zealand's building and construction sector, which is so crucial to New Zealand's economic recovery from Covid-19.
14. The Auckland event is one of 20 regional heats being held around the country on the day. The winner will go on to represent Auckland at the national NZCB Apprentice Challenge final in Hamilton in November.
15. The Challenge is sponsored by ITM, a nationwide network of hardware specialists in building materials and kitchens for trade and DIY enthusiasts.

Talking points for apprentices

16. Suggested talking points are outlined below.
 - The construction sector is important for the success of New Zealand and its economy.
 - Investment in housing and infrastructure are important parts of our recovery from the effects of the pandemic.
 - I'm very pleased to see so many of you making a commitment to the industry and know you have a great future ahead of you.
 - Government is investing heavily in your success.
 - Your industry is going through significant change, both in terms of the market and in terms of the way we train people.
 - COVID-19 is obviously a critical issue right now and has impacted the way you work.
 - But we are also making changes to the way we get people ready for work, with the right skills and opportunities for ongoing learning.
 - Part of this is driven by the Construction Skills Action Plan we developed to address the skill and labour shortages in the industry.

- And we are seeing results. Construction is currently the biggest study area in vocational education.
- More than 42,000 construction apprentices have been supported through TTAF (Targeted Training and Apprentice Fund) since July 2020. Another 19,000 trainees have been supported to get a range of construction qualifications.
- The action plan is backed up by the RoVE programme (Reform of Vocational Education).
- This is reshaping vocational education to create a strong, unified system fit for the future with a stronger focus on employers, delivering the skills they need.
- Learners will receive more support while they are training, and vocational education that is more relevant to work.
- You will be able to move more easily between regions and between different forms of training. And you will be able to continue your training more easily if your employment situation changes.
- We've also supported the establishment of a construction Centre for Vocational Excellence, or ConCoVE, based at MIT.
- It is dedicated to your industry, supporting the growth of excellent vocational education with a focus on teaching, learning and research to help fix the industry's long-standing skills challenges.
- It reflects a key theme of the reforms - bringing together industry and educators to make sure New Zealand's workforce is fit for today's needs and tomorrow's expectations.
- So there is a lot going on, which will benefit you as you complete your training and build your careers.
- You are obviously enthusiastic about your trade and it is good to see you here, getting involved.
- You've made a great career decision that will benefit you, your families and your communities for years to come.
- I wish you all the best in the challenge.



Panny Litras

Acting Manager Delivery & Projects,
Delivery Directorate
Tertiary Education Commission

04 April 2022




Hon Aupito William Si'o

Associate Minister of Education (Pacific Peoples)




Appendix: Biographies

Chair: Ian Chamberlain

 A black and white portrait of Ian Chamberlain, a man with short dark hair, wearing a dark button-down shirt with a small badge on the left chest.	<p>Having qualified as a carpenter and joiner in the UK in the 1980s, Ian has been working in the building industry for over 38 years, including more than 33 years of management and client service experience.</p> <p>Ian held the position of NZCB Board Vice Chair for a year and was voted in as Chair in early 2021. Previously he was on the NZCB Committee Taupo for nine years, holding the role of NZCB President Taupo for four of those years.</p> <p>Ian is involved with the Building Officials Institute of NZ (BOINZ) and aims to bring a 'construction industry viewpoint' to its debates.</p> <p>As a member of Lake Taupo Rotary he organises events and helps young people gain direction in their life, which he thoroughly enjoys.</p> <p>Ian's passion is to make the building industry a better place for everyone by educating people within and outside of the industry about ways to create better outcomes.</p>
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Acting Chief Executive: Katrina Bach

 A black and white portrait of Katrina Bach, a woman with short dark hair and glasses, wearing a dark patterned top.	<p>Katrina is responsible for leading the delivery of NZCB Strategic and Management Plans.</p> <p>She manages governance, advocacy and operational engagement with the NZCB Board of directors and liaison with other strategic stakeholders.</p> <p>Her public relations responsibilities include managing all press/news stories. She also leads the operations of NZCB, including overseeing the National Support Office Staff.</p>
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