

In this Edition of the VENT:

Welcome

Student Work Experience Programme 2016

Kawerau Container Terminal

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Welcome

Welcome to our second edition of the 'VENT'. In this edition I will update you with progress on the two key projects we are currently working on: the Student Work Experience Programme 2016 and the Kawerau Container terminal Research project with Scion.

Kawerau Container Terminal Research Project

We are very pleased to advise that we are finally beginning the Container Terminal (CT) Research Project. Thanks to all the project funders and supporters who have made this a reality.

To refresh your memories, the project will assess the economic and logistical feasibility of the CT. This will involve the Value Chain Optimisation group at Scion developing a discrete event simulation (DES) model to simulate train movements for full and empty containers between the Port of Tauranga and Kawerau.

The project will involve the simulation of different scenarios that will include varying levels of volumes, costs and fluctuations. This will enable Scion to establish critical thresholds beyond which the CT will become economically viable and highlight risk levels. Another key output will be the change in carbon dioxide emissions.

To start the project we are holding an initiation meeting with all the project's stakeholders in Kawerau on 19 April. The purposes of this meeting will be to (i) provide an overview of what will be involved with the project and (ii) advise the participating companies/businesses of the information they will be asked to provide. This information is vital to the project as it forms the necessary background data to be used in the modelling.

We expect the project to be completed in six months. In addition to our existing funding, we are also applying to the Agriculture and Marketing Research and Development Trust (AGMARDT) for a grant. If successful, this grant will enable us to complete the project at a higher level of detail and expand the project scope to include other logistical factors relevant to the CT.



Student Work Experience Programme 2016

We are continuing the Student Work Experience Programme for 2016. The programme involves businesses in the Kawerau industrial sector hosting students from Tarawera High School in their workplace for a week during either the second or the third term school holidays.

The Programme was hugely successful in 2014 and helped the students involved to make better informed decisions about their individual pathways to work. A number of the students also completed a life-changing Outward Bound course that was offered in conjunction with their placement. We are hoping to repeat the Outward Bound opportunity this year.

The team responsible for managing the Programme comprises:

- Deanne Butler (SLH Contracting/ISK);
- Faylene Tunui (Social Sector Trials/Kawerau District Council/ISK);
- Robyn Cannel (Tarawera High School) and
- Glenn Sutton (Kawerau District Council/ISK).

The Programme has been slightly modified this year with improvements based on feedback from both students and businesses. The key changes are:

- Two students are to be placed with each business at the same time. By having a "buddy" on the placement will make the students feel more comfortable in what can be a very unfamiliar environment.
- Placements are to be for a full work week, Monday to Friday as this not only gives the students a more realistic experience of working but is preferred by hosting businesses from an ease of management perspective. These would be during the school holidays to minimise the impact on class time.
- Businesses are to provide an outline of the activities planned for the students for the week.

Invitations have been sent to businesses to participate in the Programme. If you are a Kawerau industrial business who is interested in participating but hasn't received an invitation, then please contact me.