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## Welcome

Welcome to our fourth edition of the '**VENT**' and the final for 2016. In this edition I will update you on the following: the Student Work Experience Programme 2016, a proposed new workforce development initiative, progress with the Kawerau Container Terminal Research project and finally, we farewell Dr. Warren Parker (Scion CEO) from ISK

## Student Work Experience Programme 2016

The Work Experience Programme 2016, between ISK and Tarawera High School successfully took place during the third-term holiday. The students and their host businesses who participated in the programme included:

- Lane Walker-Foreman - Kajavala Forestry Limited (KFL);
- Manaaki Teirney - Sequal Lumber;
- Roger Niao - Kawerau District Council;
- Raydyn Kingi - CHH Woodproducts;
- James Te Riini and Sherraijka Bruintjes - SLH Contracting.

The feedback from both businesses and the students/High School was very positive. A big thank you also to Deanne Butler; Robyn Cannell and Faylene Tunui who got this year's programme off the ground and prepared/mentored the students.

We held a special event at the High School, where each student was presented with a certificate recognising her/his achievement in completing the programme. The students' whanau were also invited to the event.

A great example of the success of the programme is that KFL's student, Lane, is now permanently employed by the company!

## Proposed Workforce Development Initiative

ISK Steering Group members recently visited Tokoroa with staff from Toi Ohomai Institute of Technology (formerly BOP and Waiariki technical institutes) to view and discuss the successfully established Commercial Driver and Distribution training programme.



The Tokoroa programme enables students to take part in Certificate in Commercial Road Transport (16 weeks, Level 3) including Class two through to five driver licence, Dangerous Goods and Forklift Operator.

There is also a National Certificate in Distribution, 12 weeks (Level 2), which will become the NZ Certificate in Distribution L3 in 2017. There are opportunities for further study including Level 4 and 5 Certificates (available online) that can lead to a Level 6 Diploma in Supply Chain Management.

Following the Tokoroa visit, the initiative was discussed at the November ISK Steering Group meeting with senior Toi Ohomai staff and Kawerau Mayor, Malcolm Campbell. The Steering Group agreed that it would be beneficial to establish a similar, Kawerau-based programme in partnership with Toi Ohomai. Subsequently, the Steering Group are assessing the level of support for such a programme and investigating options for a training facility.

### **Kawerau Container Terminal Research Project**

We are near the end of the project, which we expect will be completed before Christmas. The Scion researchers recently met with the project funders to discuss and confirm the sensitivity analysis and decide on the scenarios that would be used in the final stage of the project: running the models.

### **Farewell To Dr. Warren Parker**



Dr. Warren Parker (or Warren as we know him), CEO of Scion, has announced he will be retiring from the organisation once a replacement has been found - which is expected to be early in the New Year.

Warren joined Scion in March 2011 and it was during his leadership that ISK was created. Warren was a member of the ISK Steering Group and a dedicated supporter of ISK. He strongly advocated initiatives to promote economic growth opportunities for our Kawerau industries, particularly wood processing.

We wish Warren the very best in his retirement (retirement is a relative term!).

And finally, I hope you all have a very enjoyable Christmas and New Year, take time out to relax, have a well-earned break and spend quality time with your family and friends.

**And let's be careful out there!**

