

# Bright Sparks

A celebration of Porirua's Young Bright Sparks

**Brought to you regularly by Partners Porirua, a provider of the Youth Transition Service and facilitator of business, education partnerships**

Bright Sparks is a new column dedicated to the celebration of the achievements of Porirua's youth. Often the media are criticised for highlighting the negative news. Instead this column will celebrate the positive. If you have a nomination of a Bright Spark drop us a line at [info@partnersporirua.org.nz](mailto:info@partnersporirua.org.nz).

Whitby local, Chris Evans, is looking forward to representing New Zealand at an international trade skills competition in London this October.

Chris was selected from New Zealand's best young apprentices to join the WorldSkills NZ Tool Blacks team at the national finals held in Christchurch in September 2010. WorldSkills International is a bi-annual competition open to under 23 year olds from over 50 countries to compete across a number of trade categories.

Chris has a passion for working in joinery. As he ends his four year apprenticeship, he now has his sights set on London where he will take on 19 other competitors from around the world.

Chris's enthusiasm for woodworking resulted in him joining G&H Training shortly after finishing his homeschooling. "I originally looked at carpentry but then found that a career in joinery was exactly what I wanted to do. I did some work experience at 14 or 15 in joinery, which got me hooked."

After completing a work placement at Joinery Productions Limited in Lower Hutt, Chris was taken on as an apprentice and hasn't looked back since. His employer, mentor and tutor Wayne Wilmshurst is extremely proud of Chris's achievements.

"He's the first apprentice that I've taken on that's achieved at this level and I'm happy to help out with preparing him for London. All the team at Joinery Productions have been offering a bit of hands-on advice on what he's doing well and what areas he needs to work on."

Chris's focus is on practice and preparation in the lead up to the competition and he expresses open pride in representing his country. "It's just such a privilege to represent New Zealand and you can't beat wearing the silver fern on your chest," says Chris. "But I couldn't do it on my own. The support from family and friends is important, as is the financial support from my sponsors UCOL and Blum NZ. Plus my nominated 'expert' Peter Leith will join me. Every competitor must bring a tutor or skills expert with them and Peter will be mine."

Chris plans to stay with Wayne and the team at Joinery Productions Ltd into the foreseeable future but is also realistic in his career aspirations. "One day I'd like to strike out on my own and run my own business, but we'll see what happens!"

Michelle Robinson, Manager of Partners Porirua, says Chris is an outstanding example of a young employee who has the potential to excel as a future leader in the industry with his determination, positive attitude and energetic personality.

"The WorldSkills competitions are a wonderful opportunity for our most promising young trades people to get recognised on national and international stages and we wish Chris every success."

Partners Porirua deliver a community driven programme to enable young people to understand and transition into the working world.



Photo supplied by WorldSkills New Zealand

**DO YOU HAVE THE MOTIVATION AND ENTHUSIASM TO BE A FUTURE BRIGHT SPARK?**

**Partners Porirua** can help you to create a work and training plan to get your future on track. If you are aged between 15 and 24 give our friendly staff a call.

**DEVELOPING  
YOUTH  
FOR THE  
WORKING  
WORLD**

**Ph 237-1099** Located at The Employment Hub, 6 Hagley Street, Porirua