

# September Insights

## September 2021

Welcome everyone to the Central Skills Hub Newsletter.

As we start our second year with a Level 4 lockdown the word resilience springs to mind as we think of all those working through this difficult period.

Our thoughts go out to those employees and employers who have engaged with us over the past 12 months. This is a trying time for us all and we need to support each other through this time and reach out to those we can support and ensure they are not disadvantaged.

The past year has seen significant contributions from many of the Skills Hub partners. A special thanks goes to PTS Logistics Ltd. PTS have provided the building at 429 Rangitikei Street for our office. They have also provided a vehicle and this has been invaluable for providing driving lessons to prepare people sitting their restricted drivers licence.

Thank you again for your support and assistance.



Throughout the year the Skills Hub has developed many relationships with businesses and employers. Having sites to visit that allow candidates to experience real workplaces is a key element to the success of the Skills Hub. For candidates it either reinforces their desire that, “yes this is where I want to be” or “this isn’t what I expected”. These opportunities have led to successful placements with many of these businesses.

## Higgins Concrete

Higgins Concrete has provided support and direction to the Skills Hub throughout the year. The Higgins Cadet Programme leads the way in providing a pathway for new entrants to the sector. Higgins Concrete had identified that with an aging workforce it was time to develop a succession plan for their drivers. The move to larger agitator trucks was effectively excluding new entrants from joining their business. Higgins Concrete have purchased smaller trucks for their Cadet Programme to enable new employees to join the organisation and progress through different stages over a period of three years. Higgins Concrete is taking a long term approach in creating a skilled, engaged, sustainable workforce that benefits all the region.



## Tararua Alliance

The Tararua Alliance is a collaborative working agreement, or partnership, between Tararua District Council and Downer NZ Ltd to manage the council's transportation activity and water, wastewater, and storm water reticulation infrastructure. The Tararua Alliance is collaborating with the Skills Hub to provide support to the Sub-Contractors of the Alliance. The Alliance has identified that local subcontractor's will benefit from having an independent body working with them to meet the social outcomes required under the agreement. This is a new service that the Skills Hub has established to support local contractors to engage in the Major Projects happening across the region. The long term outcome of this collaboration is to support workforce development and identify the training and development requirements of the future workforce. For more information go to the Tender Ready Portfolio on our website.



## Kānoa

The Skills Hub main supporter is Kānoa, formally the Te Ara Mahi Provincial Growth Fund. The agreement between Kānoa and the Skills Hub sets out the activities and the regional strategy. Covid 19 has thrown a few curve balls and Kānoa has allowed the Skills Hub to flex somewhat from the original plan. The Skills Hub Board and manager appreciate this flexibility and it has enabled the Skills Hub to deliver services and support to a wide range of businesses and to place a significant number of local people into employment. The Skills Hub appreciates this support from Kānoa and their local representatives.



**Kānoa**  
Regional Economic Development & Investment Unit

## Te Ahu a Turanga Alliance

The Te Ahu a Turanga Alliance connects to the Skills Hub as a major project within the Manawatu Region. The Alliance contribution to the Skills Hub offers significant support by the provision of an Alliance Manager to the Skills Hub Board. In this position they are able to provide insight into the project and progress to date. The Skills Hub appreciates this direct connection to the Te Ahu a Turanga Project.



## Manfeild Park Trust's National Driver Training Centre (NDTC)

NDTC and The Skills Hub share a common goal to support as many people as possible to gain their driver's licence. The Skills Hub connections can provide a pathway to NDTC for candidates to move through the stages and achieve their licence.

Support our region to grow and connect to the Skills Hub.

Come and see us at 429 Rangitikei Street or email us at [operations@centralskillshub.org.nz](mailto:operations@centralskillshub.org.nz)