



### **INTRODUCING John Henderson**

**Welcome to the NZAE Board John and thanks for supplying the following introduction.**

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. I am a fully trained auto electrician. I started my apprenticeship in a country auto electrical workshop in North Auckland. Once I became a tradesman I moved to Auckland and worked initially for a GM dealership running their Auto Electrical workshop. An opportunity arose to join the AA Emergency Breakdown Service as a Service Officer and worked my way up to become a Senior Service Officer.

Nine years later I left to open my own Auto Electrical business in Birkenhead on Auckland's North Shore. The business grew very quickly and I employed staff.

I sold the business and moved to the Motor Trade Association, looking after 42 apprentices employed in the MTA Group Apprenticeship Scheme. The scheme was disbanded after a few years due to the lack of government funding. My role changed and I became a Regional Manager for MTA. Following a restructure of MTA in 2014 I took up the opportunity to start my own consulting business and recently I was approached by NZAE to help with the administration of the group.

I am passionate about the auto electrical industry. I recognise the need to promote it and to train apprentices to ensure that the industry has a future.

### **MTA Salary and Wage Survey**

**MTA are in the process of planning the 2021 MTA Repairer Salary and Wage Survey and have extended an invitation to NZAE members to partake.**

**This year it will also include retail charge out rate and WoF inspection fee questions as well.**

**They are aiming to have the survey out to members by September so we will email the link to NZAE members. If they get enough data they will look at producing a specific Auto Electrical results booklet.**

## YOUR Board



Although you haven't received a newsletter for over twelve months the NZAE Board have continued to meet regularly, and now (with an optimistic outlook for a stabilised industry) intend to start activating plans.

Amongst these plans, the NZAE website and Facebook page will get a revamp with a focus on assisting those in the trade, trainers and students alike.

We will soon invite members to send job vacancies to us for listing on the website with the long-term goal of members logging in to add and remove jobs themselves.

### SAVE THIS DATE!

The 2021 NZAE Road Show is planned for August 25th in Auckland. We will confirm the details and send out more information within the next few weeks.

### AGM & Board Elections will be held in September.

Please contact us if you are interested in becoming, or electing a member.

### Below is a list of NZAE Board Members and their contacts:

Bruce Strang	Bruce.Strang@hcb.co.nz	021 950 212
Greg Lewis	glewis10a@gmail.com	027 491 4140
Jason Land	jason@collinsauto.co.nz	027 445 2635
Robert Newlands	Robert@newlands.net.nz	027 208 7555 <i>Chairman</i>
Brendan Thompson	brendan@aewestcity.co.nz	027 498 5813
Stu Stanners	stu.stanners@cyb.co.nz	027 468 6617
Lionel Rowe	lionel.aetech@gmail.com	027 445 6337 <i>Board Member &amp; Administrator</i>
John Henderson	ravenstone.consulting@gmail.com	027 493 9942



Members of the NZAE Board during a meeting held in early 2020

## CONNECTING WITH STUDENTS

### Unitech Automotive Connect Event

Written by John Henderson

It was a pleasure to be able to attend the Unitech Automotive Connect with Lionel Rowe and meet students doing level 3 in automotive engineering. Some of these students are very keen and are wanting to get into the auto electrical section of the automotive industry.

We have received some CVs from some of the students and if you are looking for an apprentice and are in the Auckland area please contact us and we can pass on a copy of their CVs. Unitech is wanting NZAE to be involved helping them plan the training which is required for auto electrical apprenticeship. The tutors are working very hard to make sure they are keeping up with technology and this is where NZAE can be involved.

NZAE are planning Road Shows in conjunction with Polytechnics. The idea is wanting to get in front of students, careers advisors and prospective employers. We all know there is a shortage of tradesmen and it is the opportunity to select an apprentice.

Many business owners start to panic as they get older as they haven't organised an exit plan. If we don't train people there won't be anyone to take over your business. Good apprentices can make good money for their employers. Apprentices who have done Level 3 at the Polytechnic come with workshop experience.

Many employers don't realise that there is a subsidy for apprentices. For further information please contact us.



Photos from Unitech Automotive Connect, 2021

# Immigration is a road safety issue

MTA MEDIA RELEASE 17 May 2021

The Motor Trade Association (MTA) is concerned the Government's approach to immigration will impact on road safety.

"A long-running skill shortage in the automotive sector threatens vehicle inspection and the industry's capacity to train for the future," says MTA's Advocacy and Strategy Manager Greig Epps.

"The current policy equates skill level with salary level and this is wrong," Epps says.

"Doctors and mechanics get paid vastly different amounts, but there's not many doctors who can fix your transmission as well as your fracture."

The MTA has been highlighting the increasing rates of Warrant of Fitness failures and high percentage of fatal crashes with a contributing vehicle factor for some time.

"WoF failures have increased from 36% to 41% in the past five years, and approximately 50 fatal crashes a year involve a vehicle factor," Epps says.

"Workplace training requires qualified staff to supervise the apprentice during their four years of study."

"With the current shortages, business owners simply do not have time to meet customer demands while also overseeing a learner in a skilled, highly-technical workspace."

Older automotive technicians are retiring or moving to vehicle inspection roles. But with a growing vehicle fleet, vehicle inspection organisations are struggling to find staff.

Epps notes Waka Kotahi NZTA has also expressed concern about this shortage.

"Vehicle inspection and repair were recognised as essential services during the Covid-19 lockdown last year," he says.

"We need to recognise the different skills mix in each industry and develop to industry needs, rather than setting arbitrary salary levels as a proxy

Source: <https://www.mta.org.nz/media/press-releases>



## **MTA's Advocacy & Strategy Manager, Greig Epps answered some questions about the current situation relating to Immigration NZ's view on Visa's.**

**This is copied directly from Greig's email dated Thursday July 1, 2021:  
Immigration is something we try to engage with the Government on whenever we can.  
There are two workstreams:**

### **1 – Making sure we understand how the system works**

We have recently met with the industry relationship manager from Immigration NZ to discuss the changes that come into force on 1 November 2021.

This is a new process which involves

- checking the employer (an accreditation scheme – annual cost to the employer)
- checking the job (cost per job description)
- checking the migrant (the employer might offer to reimburse the migrant, but they are not involved directly here)

At the moment, we are working on guidance for members about these changes.

### **2 – Trying to move the settings and open up space for automotive visa workers**

Immigration NZ is not in the mood to change the settings. Government policy (both current and previous governments) is to tighten the access into NZ and direct employers to hire/train Kiwis first. We are working to explain to the Government that there are not enough qualified Kiwis and, with low unemployment and booms in other trade sectors like housing and utilities, we are fighting amongst ourselves for a small pool of potential trainees. Nevertheless, we think there is an argument to make to Government that the safety of the vehicle fleet and the need for overseas experience to help train on new technologies (ADAS, hydrogen, EVs, etc) means we need to look at carving out exceptions in Immigration policy for automotive skills. This is an ongoing process and we'll keep people in the loop.



## **Te Raurau Kaiwhakamahi** – a conversation for employers with Te Pūkenga



Tēnā tātou katoa,

As part of our ongoing commitment to engage with employers and industry, Te Pūkenga is hosting a series of hui in July.

We're visiting seven locations across Aotearoa beginning Tuesday 13 July, with all sessions open to employers, industry representatives and Transitional Industry Training Organisation (TITO) staff. We will also be hosting two online sessions.

In each session we will present an update on the mahi that has been undertaken over the last six months. Part of that mahi includes researching and understanding the challenges employers and learners have with the vocational education and training system and how they might be addressed.

We will be presenting the eight service concepts that have been developed by the co-design team which has been helping Te Pūkenga form its operating model.

While these new service concepts have already been tested with a cross section of employers, industry and TITO staff they are now at a stage where we want to test them more broadly. The sessions will run for 2 hours so we can obtain your thoughts and feedback.

### **Dates and locations**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Time</b>
<u>13 July</u>	<u>Whangarei</u>	<u>12pm – 2pm</u>
<u>14 July</u>	<u>Auckland</u>	<u>10am – 12pm</u>
<u>15 July</u>	<u>Tauranga</u>	<u>10am – 12pm</u>
<u>19 July</u>	<u>Wellington</u>	<u>10am – 12pm</u>
<u>20 July</u>	<u>Napier</u>	<u>10am – 12pm</u>
<u>21 July</u>	<u>Christchurch</u>	<u>10am – 12pm</u>
<u>22 July</u>	<u>Dunedin</u>	<u>10am – 12pm</u>
<u>28 July</u>	<u>Online</u>	<u>9.30 am – 10.45 am</u>
<u>29 July</u>	<u>Online</u>	<u>9.30 am – 10.45 am</u>

**Registration** is now open for all session. *All venue locations and further detail can be found on the **Registration** site. (Click below)*