



Te kōrero mō ngā ringarehe Talking about trades

Ākonga (learners) introduction to our trades



Competenz



Te Pūkenga

At school? Finished school? Already working?

We've got a trade for everyone!

As ākonga (learners), your background, journey, and reasons for choosing trades training are all unique. Whether you want to choose the trades to do something you really enjoy, be able to earn while you learn or support your whānau, we can help find the right fit for you across our 37 industries.

At Competenz our goal is not only to help you achieve qualifications; it's about providing you with the skills and knowledge to build a strong career for yourself and give back to your whānau and community.

If you don't know which trade is right for you or want to find out where to start, head to competenz.org.nz/jobseekers/getting-work-ready or scan below, to begin your journey to getting qualified.



Read on for
personal stories
from some of
our ākonga
(learners)...

- » **Sulia Pepa**
- » **Frank Uati**
- » **Marlane Harmer**
- » **Paul Taurima**
- » **Bex Savage**
- » **Joji Chute**
- » **Jaz Kuru**
- » **Ollie Lovell**

This booklet is a collection of personal accounts from our ākonga on their trades training experiences. Although they each have unique backgrounds, and have different motivations for choosing trades training, they are united by the opportunities they have experienced for personal and career growth in the trades.

Sulia doesn't let the fact that she is the only woman in her team of five get in the way.

"I'm okay with it and don't feel out of place; they are all very supportive and, in many ways, treat me like a daughter or younger sister."

"Think about where you'd like to be in the future."

Sulia Pepa

Refrigeration and air conditioning engineering apprentice

Before she left school, young Pasifika woman Sulia Pepa decided she didn't want an office job.

Sulia spent two years in carpentry before changing tack to an apprenticeship in refrigeration and air conditioning with maintenance company City Care.

Now two years into a four-year apprenticeship, Pepa says she loves the challenge the job offers.

It has taken me out of my comfort zone, but I like the work, problem solving and having to understand how machines work.

"I would definitely encourage other women and Pasifika people to go for it (a trades apprenticeship). All my friends thought it was awesome I chose this career and I often get men saying how proud they are to see a woman in the trades. It makes me smile."

Trialling it for a year, Sulia ultimately decided to take on the apprenticeship through the government's Targeted Training Apprenticeship Fund (TTAF). She says she has no regrets and hopes more Māori and Pasifika people will, like her, be attracted to the trades.

Squarely in Sulia's corner is her Competenz training advisor, Bevan Paul: "He does an awesome job and is very encouraging. He comes (regularly) to check on how I'm going; I can also contact him if I get stuck with anything or have questions about my training."

"After I qualify I would love to be in a position where I don't need to work 40 hours a week and can use some of my time and skills maintaining and building places of worship for my Christian organisation in New Zealand and overseas."

Frank Uati

Pia whakamahi mīhini tā
Print apprentice

When Frank Uati saw his friends graduating from university with huge student debts and no guaranteed jobs, he knew he made the right choice to become an apprentice.

"I had nothing to lose but everything to gain. No fees, no student loan, no secret clauses. You earn while you learn and gain a qualification that's internationally recognised. I'm 100% behind trades because I know they can provide a pathway to a great future."

"Printing is really challenging; it's so much more than standing in front of a machine and pushing buttons. I learn something new every day, and my workmates motivate me and push me along."

"Competenz has been with me every step of the way to make sure the apprenticeship isn't too daunting. They want to see me succeed in my dream."

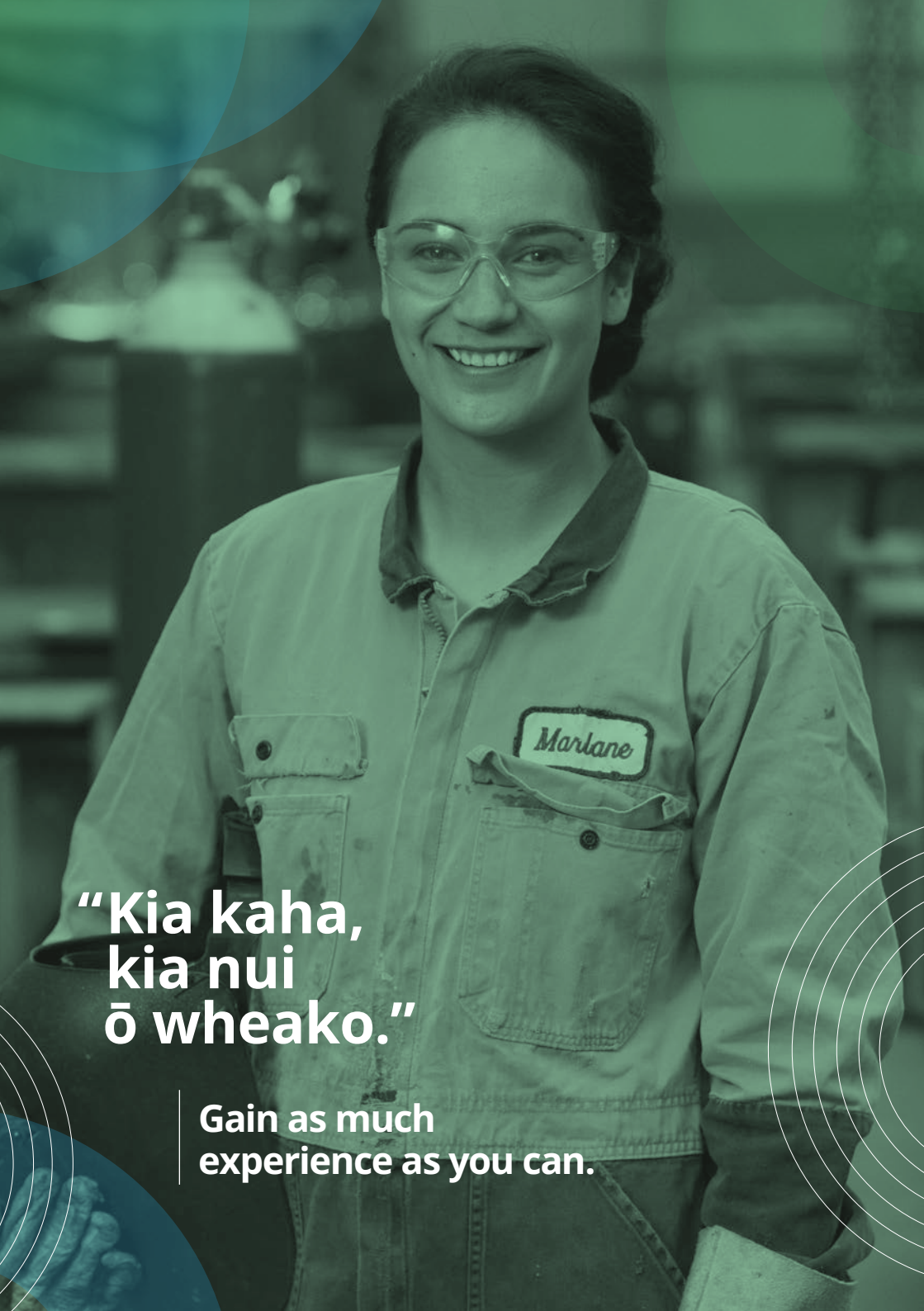
As an apprentice, I've gained a lot of skills but the one that stands out above the rest is being independent. I've become more confident in the work I do and the decisions I make, and it's helped me grow as an individual – and made me an awesome printer. I've been able to hone my craft and trust myself.

"Doing an apprenticeship has changed my life and my family's. Trades is a great career option for everyone. With the skills that I have gained I know that the world is my oyster."

Frank's apprenticeship has allowed him to work across the business and gain a good understanding of how the company operates.

"I had nothing to lose but everything to gain. No fees, no student loan, no secret clauses."





**“Kia kaha,
kia nui
ō wheako.”**

**Gain as much
experience as you can.**

Marlane Harmer

**Pia mataaro pūkaha
Mechanical engineering
apprentice**

A chance meeting was the beginning of a career pathway for the mother of one.

“I was a barmaid at a local pub when I ended up having a chat with Rob Miller (Maintenance Manager at Ravensdown),” Harmer says.

“I was handing out CVs everywhere in town but not having much luck. Rob said he’d put in a good word for me. I had one printed CV left when I applied for the apprenticeship. I guess it was lucky last for me.”

Marlane believes practice makes perfect. Rob says Marlane is passionate about engineering, and this shows in her attitude and commitment to her work.

“From my 30-plus years of working in the trades, Marlane is the best apprentice I’ve ever come across,” Rob says. “She’s outstanding. All our management team clapped for her when she came into the canteen the other day. We’re all behind her 100%.”

I love my job as a mechanical engineering apprentice. Nothing is boring; there’s always something new to learn, even on the dirty jobs. I love to get right into what needs to be done.

Marlane is proud that as a mother, she is a good role model for her daughter and that she can provide for her.

Marlane’s advice to others thinking of doing an engineering apprenticeship?

“Give it a go. And when you do decide to do an apprenticeship, give it all you’ve got. Learn as much as you can. Gain as much experience as possible.”

Paul Taurima

Pia mataaro pūkaha
Mechanical engineering
apprentice

Paul Taurima has a huge variety of jobs and responsibilities as a mechanical engineering apprentice.

My job has progressed from not knowing how to use a grinder properly, to being 40 metres in the air in a man cage with another tradie cutting seized bolts off two seven-metre pipes. I learnt on the job as it's the only way. You can't be told you might need to hold the angle grinder on this angle to cut there, for example, you need to be doing it.

Paul says he is well supported by his workmates.

"Everyone knows I'm an apprentice and if they see I need help, they step in. Having a young manager and foreman in the workshop is good because they still know what it's like to be an apprentice."

One of the main reasons Paul chose to do an apprenticeship was so he could earn money while learning.

When he's not at work, Paul is a family man, spending time with his nieces and nephews. After a hard day's work he enjoys fishing, plays rugby, does waka ama and coaches basketball.

So what does the future hold for Paul?

"I want to build a home out of shipping containers one day so I need some skills. Every day is a challenge and that's why I love it."

"The skills that I'm learning while doing my apprenticeship will stay with me forever. I can take them with me overseas. It just opens up so many options."

Frank's apprenticeship has allowed him to work across the business and gain a good understanding of how the company operates.



**"He rā hou,
he wero hou!"**

**Every day is a challenge
and that's why I love it.**



Bex Savage

Pia tunu parāoa
Craft baking apprentice

"It's a no-brainer."

Apprenticeships give you a great foundation in life.

The tattooed baker

Bex is unmissable – her body is a tattooed canvas dedicated to baking.

One of her arm sleeves features cupcakes and doughnuts; her hands boast 'cake' and 'bake' in flourishing calligraphy. She loves her trade!

Bex says the places you can go after completing a baking apprenticeship are "endless".

I have worked in a small craft bakery, a supermarket bakery, a large factory bakery and a small café. A bakery apprenticeship is great because it teaches you so much more than just baking; you learn about the food industry, you make lifelong friends and it sets you up for other paths you can take like presenting a baking show or writing a cookbook. You just have to be a go-getter.

"I was a fully qualified baker at the age of 21 and had no student debt! So while my high school peers were living a broke student life at university, I was debt-free and earning a good wage. So good that I was able to buy my first home at the age of 22."

Joji Chute

**Pia mataaro pūkaha
Mechanical engineering
apprentice**

A life-long fascination with how things work led Joji Chute into an apprenticeship in mechanical engineering.

When he left school, Joji completed a Certificate in Aeronautical Engineering at the Air New Zealand Aviation Institute.

"I used to watch my dad magically fix things when I was young. My apprenticeship is the stepping stone to becoming a certified engineer so I can bring things back to life too."

Joji has found the job extremely challenging at times, but he has been well supported by his workmates.

"My first time working with the milling machine was definitely a challenge. Trying to work out the number of turns, which handles move what, and a fear of spending a lot of time with less progress was tough but I was able to overcome it. With a lot of practice and help from my colleagues, I was able to learn it and come up to speed."

The coolest thing I've worked on was one of the production machines that was built from scratch. I helped to build it and seeing it run for the first time was the coolest thing ever. It gave me a great feeling of achievement and success.

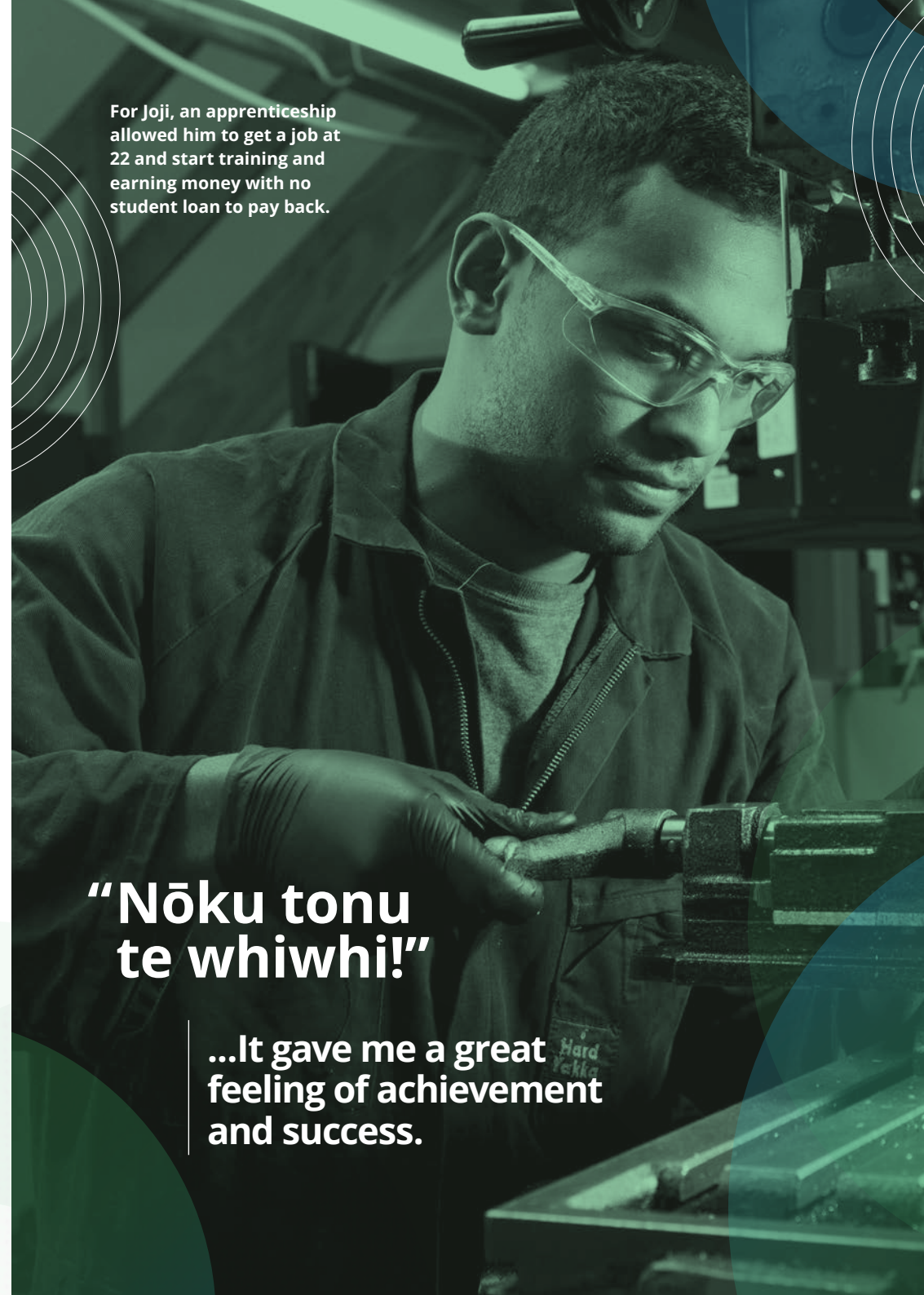
As well as technical skills, Joji also learns communication and time management skills vital for any workplace.

"I chose to do an apprenticeship because I learn better when I do things. Being able to apply what I learn in my every day work means I can relate to it and understand it much better."

For Joji, an apprenticeship allowed him to get a job at 22 and start training and earning money with no student loan to pay back.

"Nōku tonu te whiwhi!"

...It gave me a great feeling of achievement and success.



"I own my own home,
and I enjoy being able to
work with whānau and
meet new people."

**"Pau te kaha
kia puta te ihu."**

**I pushed myself to be
the best I could be.**

Jaz Kuru

**Pūkaha
Forestry apprentice**

**Award-winning forestry
apprentice follows her heart.**

For Jaz Kuru, working in the forest is in her blood.

She started out with Kuru Contracting in Gisborne, her parents' business, when she was just 16 years old.

Since then, Jaz has completed her apprenticeship and won numerous forestry awards.

"When I left school, and was unsure what the future had in store for me. I received a pair of orange spiked forestry gumboots for my 16th birthday and decided to try working for the family business. I was a little bit apprehensive at first as I wanted to be in the police force, but after a couple of weeks in the bush, I realised that my heart was set for the forestry industry."

**The training advisor from
Competenz got me started
and explained how an
apprenticeship worked,
and I signed up.**

"It's not easy being a young woman in the forest, surrounded by men, and being the boss's daughter, I felt I had a lot to prove."

When asked what advice she would give to her 16-year-old self, Jaz says: "I wouldn't change a thing. I have been proudly following in the footsteps of my dad and poppa."

**"I pushed myself to be
the best I could be, by
putting all my energy
into my training and
qualifying to be a skilled
forestry worker."**

Ollie Lovell

Fire detection and alarms apprentice

New Plymouth's Ollie Lovell discovered the Fire Detection and Alarms trade while doing a pre-trade electrician course at the local Polytech.

"When I came to end of my study and had completed my course, my employer, NPE-Tech, sat me down and offered me a FD&A apprenticeship in their Fire Division."

"During my study, I would spend a couple of days working in the Fire Division – and I've been here ever since. I've not regretted changing trades one bit."

Ollie completed his FD&A Level 4 qualification earlier this year, and is planning to take on Fire Extinguisher papers to gain more industry knowledge. He says 'earning while you learn' is something he has really enjoyed.

It's certainly nice gaining knowledge about your career while making money and studying for a qualification.

Both Competenz and Ollie's employer have helped him throughout his study.

"I can't rate them highly enough. They always offered assistance and helped me get my qualification."

"Doing an apprenticeship was great, knowing I was working my way towards a qualification, getting paid as I was learning, not racking up any debts at all and thoroughly enjoying every day on the job!"

"It's really good getting hands-on with all kinds of tools and equipment which give you skills that will last a lifetime."

"I had always been interested in technology."

I've not regretted changing trades one bit.



Want to know more?

Competenz has 37 industries to choose from:

Engineering

- » Metal Forming/Casting
- » Fire Protection Engineer
- » Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Engineer
- » Locksmith
- » Toolmaker
- » Maintenance Engineer
- » Fitting and Machining Engineer
- » Machining Engineer
- » Mechanical Building Services
- » Fabricator
- » Dairy Systems Technician
- » General Engineer

Food and Beverage

- » Food and Beverage Manufacturing
- » Plant Baking
- » Cellar Operations
- » Craft Baking

Forestry

- » Harvesting
- » Silviculture

Manufacturing

- » Saw Doctor
- » Furniture
- » Pulp and Paper
- » Wood Panels
- » Plastics Operations
- » Plastics Engineering
- » Timber Machining
- » Finger Jointer
- » Sawmill Operating and Managing
- » General Manufacturing

Print, Packaging and Signmaking

- » Packaging
- » Signmaking
- » Print Designing and Operating
- » Print Machine Operations
- » Print Finishing

Textiles, Apparel and Laundry

- » Apparel
- » Laundry
- » Textile Machine Setting
- » Textile Technician
- » Textile Dying and Finishing

Transport

- » Train Managing
- » Train Driving
- » Marine Engineering
- » Ships Officer
- » Maritime Crew



Scan the code to
find out more information
on each of our industries.

Competenz is a division of Te Pūkenga.



Te Pūkenga