

## News And Views

June 2008

**Great News-** the shortest day has been and gone and we are now on the downward slope to another great summer!

And while on the subject of downward slopes, I keep hearing people talk about the 'doom and gloom' in the building industry and about our great country in general.

Apparently the papers and media are full of it. My answer - read the sports pages and watch the sports channels.

**We're doing awesome!**

Unless of course you are a cricket fan, in which case, we must be about to improve, **and that's awesome.**

My point is, if you don't like what you read in the paper, don't read the paper, because I believe that what we focus on is what we get, and there must always be a positive side to everything. I also believe that every challenge presents an opportunity to grow and excel. So all those who insist on dwelling in self pity and focussing on a current situation or problem, get off your butt, look in the mirror and smile at yourself, be happy and positive, and instantly you'll find the world is a better place. Even if you are not one of the doom brigade, go now and

smile at yourself in the mirror. Great isn't it!

Well that's my views for this addition. I can hear a collective sigh of relief.

Again over recent months we have seen our T.E.A.M\* grow and evolve. This is to ensure we stay on top of our work load and to further our focus on quality and customer service.

Joining the T.E.A.M\* are tradesmen Dave Montgomerie (Monti), Nathan



Paku and Brendan Rogers. James Clarke and James Wilson are 3<sup>rd</sup> year apprentices and come to the T.E.A.M\* via previous employers. Kris Taylor

is our new 1<sup>st</sup> year apprentice, replacing Simon who decided that school was a more social place to be - after 2 days. Kris has been with us for several months now, so the 2 day endurance record is well and truly surpassed. A huge welcome to you all and remember while our safety handbooks refer to PPE as **Personal Protective Equipment**, just as important is **Pride Passion Enthusiasm**.

As a T.E.A.M\* who are committed to training and helping others to achieve their goals, it's always great to see our apprentices evolve and grow with experience, and I guess become 'more useful'. In recent times Cole has really

taken the initiative, stepped up and showed some leadership which in our T.E.A.M\* is one of the final steps towards becoming a qualified tradesman. Keep it up Cole; we're looking forward to that keg.

On the sporting front there have been quite a few events that T.E.A.M\* members have been involved in over the last few months.

Again we had five riders in the Tour of Northland cycle race, and with some or all of us riding much of the time at or near the front, Team Garland Builders were very prominent and gained lots of exposure for our sponsors. Thanks to our sponsors - in my un-biased opinion, we were the best presented team, and this coupled with the team's prominence led to a couple of great sponsorship offers for next year's event. The results were impressive too with most of the team bettering their goals, the most impressive being Gavin achieving 3<sup>rd</sup> in grade. On a personal note my overall time of 10 hours 27 minutes was an hour and 12 better than last year, and put me in 16<sup>th</sup> place in grade and 98<sup>th</sup> overall out of 450.

This was followed soon after by the Rotorua to Taupo race which I have finished twice before, and not without crashing. So the goal was to get to Taupo in a good time, with bike and

body in one piece. So a time of 2:35 and overall placing of 106 out of approx 2000 was very pleasing. Not bad results for a 'brick on a bike'.

Debbie took part in her first marathon at Rotorua and at the half way point was setting a pace for a cracking 3:30 finish time. Soon after half way Debbie's stomach ran out of tolerance for energy gels and sports drinks, and she proceeded to do some involuntary weed and lawn spraying for the next 15kms. Some of those lawns were actually in

quite nice condition, and didn't really need killing off!

Debbie does apologize. Not one to give up, some composure was regained and Debbie

finished in just over 4 hours, with no nutrition after half way! What an awesome effort and show of courage and determination.

Most recently Mark crewed on the yacht Bullrush in the Auckland to Fiji race. After a fairly slow start in light winds out of Auckland, Mark reported that the final 2 days were a "wild ride" with a few bumps and bruises and a bit of damage to the boat. Being the 6<sup>th</sup> boat across the finish line resulted in a 1<sup>st</sup> placing on handicap. Another courageous and outstanding effort. Congratulations to Mark and the team aboard Bullrush.



Socially the T.E.A.M\* and partners recently enjoyed a night at the trots in Auckland and while some success was had, we are certainly a lot better at creating homes than we are at picking horses. It was only Catherine's partner Dave that came to a late rescue with a reasonable collect that built the kitty to an amount that was greater than what we started with. Good on ya mate!

Back to the start. Let's challenge ourselves to find the positive side of everything and to find and focus on solutions to our challenges, because if we remain focussed on the problems we

may have in business or society, we'll get to keep those problems. Some inspirational and positive leadership would be one step in the right direction, and this can be achieved by turning out on election day. At the end of the day, we all like to be rewarded for our efforts.

That's about it for this issue, remember to check out the progress of our homes on the website, and stay tuned for our soon to be released DVD.

Smile and have a most outstanding day,

Murray Garland.

**\*Together Everyone Achieves More**

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