

**The Opus International Consultants Civil Engineering and Surveying
Cadetship Scheme and the National Diploma in Civil Engineering (Applied)
Personal, Practical, Professional**

**Framework for Achieving the National Diploma in Civil Engineering
(Applied)**

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Abstract

The Opus International Consultants Limited (Opus) Civil Engineering and Surveying Cadetship scheme involving the recruitment and training of engineering and surveying cadets was presented at last years conference. This presentation covered the background, recruitment, training and development of the cadets as they progress through their Diploma in Engineering (Civil). Over 200 young school leavers have joined this programme since 2005.

With the launch of the National Diploma in Civil Engineering (Applied) in October 2007 the cadetship scheme has entered a new phase. This new qualification developed and owned by InfraTrain New Zealand effectively replaces the practical work based component of the old New Zealand Certificate in Engineering (Civil), it is a 132 credit unit standard based qualification which requires the trainee to achieve three unit standards demonstrating their practical aptitude in civil engineering. The three unit standards contain work experience guidelines for trainees in Local Authority, Contractor and Consultancy organisations. This qualification requires the Diploma in Engineering (Civil) as a prerequisite and is effectively the modern equivalent of the old NZCE (Civil). InfraTrain have also launched their unit standard based version of the Diploma in Surveying allowing industry based training of technician surveyors throughout New Zealand.

This presentation will demonstrate how Opus have adapted to the new qualification to ensure that the trainees acquire the required work based training, coaching and mentoring to achieve the applied diploma. This will include how Opus is working with industry partners to achieve the diverse experience needed and will present the pathway to Associate Membership of IPENZ and to the second professional year of a Bachelor in Civil Engineering at Auckland and Canterbury Universities.

Local Authority Asset Managers, Contractors and Consultants all need to fully understand the implications of these new qualifications and fully appreciate the value of them to their future businesses.

Bio

Jim Muir is South Auckland Area Manager for Opus International Consultants Limited, he is a Chartered Professional Engineer with 34 years experience in the maintenance and development of infrastructure in New Zealand the last 15 of these years in the Local Authority sector. One of Jim's sideline roles is managing the Opus Civil Engineering and Surveying cadetship Scheme.