

"I've always valued what I learnt" – Scott Bennett

It's been more than a decade since Scott Bennett studied for the UK Diploma in Logistics. FTD caught up with him to see what progress he's made since graduating.

When I first enrolled in the UK Diploma in Logistics at the Massey Graduate School of Business in 1999, I was employed as the Auckland wharf supervisor for Owens Transport. In our first block session, Walter Glass, then the course director for the diploma, announced that by the end of the course, we would all have moved up at least one position in our job. True to his word, I had been promoted to Auckland wharf manager by the time I graduated, and then to Palmerston North branch manager soon after.

The diploma was completed when I was 28 years old, providing me with a wide knowledge base at a relatively young age in an industry that, at the time, was dominated by staff that had been in the industry for many more years.

With my elective being transport on the diploma (under the old structure), it brought together my everyday work knowledge and put structure around that, and gave me the tools to learn and express my ideas. The practical teaching method and realistic scenarios that were employed during the course were and still are easily translated into real-world situations.

Young executive

After Owens Transport I moved on to Toll Tranzlink Refrigerated where I was initially the Palmerston North branch manager before being promoted to lower North Island manager. From there I moved to Foodstuffs Wellington as their Palmerston North dry goods distribution centre (DC) manager. There I further developed my skills in people management, supply chain management and warehouse development.

During my time at Foodstuffs I was awarded the 2006 CILT NZ Young Executive of the Year award. I also served on the board for the Manawatu Chamber of Commerce and EMA employment committee. After a brief break from logistics I returned to spend two years with Fonterra as their Manawatu/Hawke's Bay DC manager.

I have always valued what I learnt during my time on the diploma, therefore I have encouraged my staff to further educate themselves by recommending courses to them. The course has since been renamed as the CILT-UK Professional Diploma in Logistics & Transport and is offered by LTG, the Logistics Training Group – of which Walter has been the course director since 2005 – but still retains its association with Massey University, and now a certificate programme is also offered. Many of my staff have followed through with their own studies, completing the diploma or certificate courses.

Specialised solutions

Last year I started my Masters in Logistics and Supply Chain Management at Massey University. However, this will have to take a back seat for a little while, as I have recently purchased Rose City Wood Panels in Palmerston North that acts as a wholesaler and retailer of furniture and joinery supplies for the lower North Island. The business also does small-scale third-party logistics (3PL) warehousing which I am looking to grow and expand.

A smaller-scale operation allows us to provide our customers with dedicated and specialised solutions, and with Palmerston North being such a central location nationally, this allows us to service both islands overnight. With our



Scott Bennett, owner/operator of Rose City Wood Panels in Palmerston North: "A smaller-scale operation allows us to provide our customers with dedicated and specialised solutions – we can custom-tailor a solution to fit a client's needs"

flexibility we can custom-tailor a solution to fit a client's needs and further improve the Rose City Wood Panels value chain.

I firmly believe that if I hadn't completed the diploma and pushed myself, I would not have had the achievements in my career to date. If you are a person that enjoys a challenge and wishes to

further develop yourself in the logistics and supply chain sector, then the Professional Diploma in Logistics and Transport is for you.

The CILT-UK Professional Diploma in Logistics and Transport is offered in New Zealand by the Logistics Training Group; for further information, visit www.ltg.co.nz

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