

Trevor Barrett – “It’s a stepping stone to bigger and better things”

As the group supply chain manager for Bendon, Trevor Barrett would be the envy of many a logistics manager, being surrounded by images of beautiful and scantily-clad women for the bulk of his day. But there’s much more to his role than knickers and bras. This is his story.

As your work life grows, you look for ways to expand your skills and mind, and improve the processes or knowledge to help your company and career. I reached that point, and that’s when I started to look for the next step to a good education.

Having spent a few years in the transport sector at DB Schenker, a global third-party logistics (3PL) provider, I approached my manager as I was interested in logistics and supply chain. He was supportive and advised me to seek a course, and that DB Schenker would be willing to support me with a move in career and future growth within 3PL at their New Zealand warehouse.

I spent a few months reviewing and analysing the best courses and costs. I decided the CILT UK Professional Diploma in Logistics & Transport would be the best in terms of both education and price, with the convenience of doing it in my own time and having a local New Zealand team to deal with and consult.

A fresh outlook

Once I applied, it was all on from the get-go. I had to learn a bunch of new skills and relearn others as I also took on the challenge of starting a consumer electronics division within 3PL at work. Studying simultaneously was a positive as I had a fresh outlook on logistics and supply and demand. There were lots of days of hard work, often working weekends and long hours to understand and work through the tasks to ensure I had the quality of work and knowledge I needed to succeed. After three years I got it all done



Trevor Barrett, group supply chain manager for Bendon:
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and dusted, with a pass mark that was to become the stepping stone to bigger and better things. I was promoted to logistics operations manager the year before I completed the course and national logistics manager after I qualified. The knowledge I gained helped me make quicker decisions and gave me the confidence to implement strategies and ways for improvement, and how to manage costs within our supply chains.

The experience I gained through my diploma studies, in combination with my work experience with a global 3PL provider like DB Schenker, created unlimited opportunities for me. I have appreciated and also mentored and trained unique people within the organisation, and I look forward to them growing with the knowledge I have imparted through this process of studying and sharing.

Next steps

The opportunity to become part of the Bendon group was the big-

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gest career move for me ever, and ensured I could further my career in supply chain and logistics. Being based in Auckland was a great chance to become a global manager for an iconic company right here in New Zealand.

The position presented numerous challenges in all areas of supply chain and inventory management through 3PLs based in the USA, China, Hong Kong and of course here in Auckland. The

New Zealand distribution centre is a Bendon-operated facility and supplies the Australian market, which is unique in its own right.

The next step for me in studies would be the CILT Advanced Diploma in Logistics & Transport as this introduces students to strategic management and leadership skills at an international level.

I would recommend the CILT UK Professional Diploma in Logistics & Transport to all people wanting to advance and excel in their career. The team at the Logistics Training Group (Tessa and Walter Glass) were exceptional and I commend them for their hands-on approach to studies and their guidance while completing the course.

The 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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