

## **5 Squadron Association RNZAF Trophy 2017**

### **Awarded to**

### **Corporal Michael West**

It has been another outstanding year for CPL West where his influence and professionalism set the benchmark for Aircraft Technician tradespeople at 5 Squadron. He has cemented himself as the authority on P-3K2 high power engine running in the flight deck and is now undertaking a rewrite of the training material required to grow the next group of engine runners. His curiosity and drive often sees him researching and adding other systems knowledge and skills to his expansive repertoire. A clear example of this was his receipt of an RNZAF Well Done award for diligence and professionalism in discovering an indistinct fault whilst on OP TAKAPU.

CPL West is comfortable discussing any aspect of aircraft engineering with his team and Sqn command however, it has been the evolution of his management and soft skills that sets him apart from his peers. In the previous 12 months CPL West has embraced a junior leadership role within the Sqn and has been a key part of the positive shift in culture and professionalism in the maintenance hangar. He understands the Sqn's goal of being "The Squadron that leads the Air Force" and is constantly driving towards making the environment a place of success. Using his superior hand skills, knowledge, and a genuine desire to help others he is able to guide and direct his team to achieve high standards of work while adapting to continually changing requirements. With an affable and cheerful personality, CPL West easily relates to and builds trust with all of the Maintenance Flight team. These traits see him able to work exceptionally well in small team environments, and the younger members of the Sqn see him as the person who's team they want to be on.

Following on from his 2013 World Skills medallist success CPL West has now progressed to judging the World Skills competition at Regional and National levels. His previous experience as a contestant, and his open and stimulating approach to judging, earned high praise from many of the contestants at this year's competition with particular comment coming from the Air New Zealand sector. He has been selected as 5 Sqn's lead CPL representative in the new initiative from the Base Commander that empowers the CPL's to have more of a say in the operation of Base Auckland. Praise was again quick to come from the Base Executive Team who advised that CPL West stood out as a natural leader of the group after the first meeting.

With a service oriented, positive and proactive attitude, CPL West has stood out in the Maintenance Flight as an outstanding team member and junior leader. His efforts have made a clear impact on the professionalism and reputation of the unit and see him worthy of the award of the 5 Sqn Association Trophy for 2017,

June 2017