

Forestry for Life

Health & Safety



From school to forestry industry achiever

SHIDEEN Nathan-Ngaronoa is quite the poster girl for the forestry industry.

While still at school she was sent to the Forestry Industry Big Day Out in 2015 — the rest is history. She headed to the event with no clear picture of what her future would look like. Today she has a raft of qualifications under her belt and is a biotransformation field technician at Scion, the New Zealand Forest Research Institute in Rotorua.

While still at school she set herself up to excel in the forestry industry, working in a contracting crew during the holidays and gaining as much experience as she could. She passed the National Certificate Chainsaw Operating (level 2) through Turanga Ararau, while still at school. On leaving she did the New Zealand Diploma in Forest Management (level 5) and (level 6) through the Waiariki National Centre of Excellence for the Forest and Wood Industry (Toi Ohomai), and finally the National Diploma in Forest Management.

Along the way she caught the eye of many, winning awards and scholarships.

"I am somewhat proud of what I have achieved thus far," says Shideen. "But I know I can do more — whether it's studying harder or doing more within the diploma or other future studies. That would make me feel more satisfied, although I have worked hard for how far I have come. It is my passion for this industry that has really set my head straight, in knowing what I want to achieve. I am more excited for what's to come . . . if this is only the start then I can't wait for more."

Her new position involves supporting the monitoring and compliance requirements for field trials, as well as supporting researchers with delivering science projects.

"I had the opportunity to work in a lot of the different sciences while an intern at Scion, including soil science, forest industry

informatics and being part of the forest systems team, among other things."

It continues to inspire the 20-year-old to great things.

Scion is a government-owned Crown Research Institute tasked with carrying out scientific research for the benefit of New Zealand.

Based in Rotorua, the organisation specialises in research, science and technology development for the forestry, wood and wood-derived materials and other biomaterial sectors.

"It's where she wants to further her career. "I love the work environment here. I love the people and especially love the never-ending attainment of knowledge in science, management and improvement of this amazing industry."

She also has eye to gaining a degree so she can help with the changes and improvements the industry brings to New Zealand.

"I want to one day influence my own children to join the industry and enjoy the work within it. I want to show them how great forestry is."

Shideen has advice for those keen to follow a similar pathway.

"Keep going. Put your head down and work a little harder," she says. "Focus on your work and manage your time better. You are the only one who can help yourself achieve what you want, but keep close to the good people around you. Don't give up because it is all worth the effort."

They are words she wishes she had known as a young teen.

"I have had those days where I wanted to just give up on my studies," she says.

She took on board some great advice along the way, particularly not to bring issues from home into the workplace.

"I knew if I did that they would affect the way I produce my work. You have a better

day without interrupting thoughts when you leave them at home."

Shideen says there are plenty of people to thank for her achievements to date, and particularly friends and family, but also her tutors Henry Mulligan, Henare Tawhai, Mark Cleland, James Broadley and college careers advisor Sue Peard.

"They helped me with work but also encouraged me to continually strive when things became hard with my life. I love the quote 'work smarter, not harder' . . . it has helped me to think about what I really want to pursue and where I want to be for the remainder of my life within the forestry industry."



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The Generation Programme

Whakatipua to tatou iwi (Act upon Growing our People) is the Eastland forestry industry solution to the current challenges it faces in attracting, recruiting, training and retaining its work force; particularly for the projected labour growth required to meet the increased harvest, (predicted to exceed 4 million tonnes), over the next 2-5 years.

A key component of the programme includes the **Forestry Base Camp Induction Course**, providing a comprehensive introduction to the industry, so that trainees are 'work ready' when placed with employers. The course utilises existing training providers, i.e. Competenz, EIT, and Turanga Ararau, providing pastoral care and a supportive approach.



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TRAINING OUR PEOPLE IS INTEGRAL TO OUR BUSINESS



GETTING QUALIFIED WITH MITO: (from left) Gabe Tuhi, Phil Rowe, Rob Watson, Tim Stevens, operations manager Steven Kent, Rangī Taukamo-Pohio, Karl Tombleson, Sandy Brodie, Brian Lawrence, Ron Skelton, Shaun Smith and Richard Campbell. Absent/Still working are: David Priestley, Craig Lewis, James Waihape, Nick Scammell, Paul Rice, Eugene Stephens, Murray Jackson and Trevor Sturm.

Picture by Liam Clayton

PACIFIC Haulage Ltd knows the importance of investing in their people. That's why they've recently enrolled 19 drivers into MITO's training programme that leads to a National Certificate in Transportation of Logs by Road (Level 3). The 15 month programme provides drivers with the knowledge and skills for the safe and efficient transport of logs by road. Pacific Haulage operations manager, Steven Kent, says the simple reason why they're investing heavily in driver training is because they want highly qualified people driving their trucks.

"It's good for the forestry companies we work with, it's good for our drivers, and it's good for us," says Steven. "It's important

that we invest in training our people as it shows them that they are an important part of our business and they get a lot of pride from that. It also shows forestry companies that we are investing back in our business and providing them with the trained people that they require on a job."

38-year-old Rangī Taukamo-Pohio is one of the drivers now getting qualified through MITO and knows it is a great opportunity. "To gain this qualification would be a great achievement for me and my family is very proud that I'm doing it. Driving trucks has been a passion of mine since I was young and this qualification will prove I have the skills and experience to do the job well and progress my career in the

future."

Steven says Pacific Haulage makes the programme a compulsory part of new driver training, but they also offer it as an option to some of their more experienced drivers. "For those completing the qualification, we definitely notice an improvement in compliance and a far greater understanding of the whole job in general," says Steven. "The investment pays off for us as it makes them more well-rounded and professional truck drivers and they graduate with a national certificate, which opens up a lot of opportunities for them going forward. It's definitely something we see a lot of value in."

Tim Stevens is another driver enrolled

in the training programme. He says that despite not having any experience driving trucks, Pacific Haulage took him on and provided him with the training he needed. "I used to work as a tree cutter and watched trucks drive by on the road," says Tim.

"It was always something I wanted to do. So I got my Class 4 licence, met with Steven, and the rest is history. Pacific Haulage is a great employer — they really look after you and this qualification is proof of that."

There's a saying that Steven notes as significant; "What if you train your staff and they leave? What if you don't and they stay? It's an apt way of looking at it — we invest in them and their training because they are integral to our business."

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