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## **New Manager Excited to be Making a Difference**

Newly-appointed Eastland Wood Council driven Generation Programme manager Siobhain Fyall can't wait to get underway. For years she has listened to her husband – a forestry veteran of 25 years – talk about the issues the forestry industry has faced . . . and now, she has the chance to help make a difference.

“I hear a lot about the issues they face trying to find workers,” says Mrs Fyall. “It comes down to having basic common sense, a good attitude and an understanding of what it is to have a decent work ethic. Finding workers with these basic skills seems to be increasingly hard to find.”

She has 25 years tertiary teaching experience predominantly with youth, and focused on employment skills and work-based training, She lived in Balclutha, South Otago, for 12 years before moving with her family to Gisborne where she started work with Tairāwhiti Polytechnic, now EIT. Over the past few years Mrs Fyall had toyed with the idea of establishing her own agency that would match forestry workers with employers.

“I never got around to it, so when I saw this job advertised, I knew I would have to apply,” she says.

“I am excited to be part of his new innovative approach to forestry training. It offers a contextualized learning and a training environment that will allow our trainees an opportunity to experience working in a real work environment.

Trainees will get a mapped career pathway which will offer choices across different strands of interest in the industry.

“We aim to match the trainee with a suitable employer for their placement,” says Ms Fyall. “The initial six weeks will build their self esteem and confidence by providing robust pastoral care and identify any issues or barriers that may impede on their training.”

She is hopeful she will be able to lead the project and support all stakeholders involved in the implementation and success of the Generation Programme.

“This is all about growing our people to working in an exciting growing industry.”

The first intake for the programme start their six-week forestry base camp industry introduction on October 15, followed by ‘learn while you earn’ work with contractors while doing part-time courses through EIT Tairāwhiti, Turanga Ararau and Competenz. First Choice Employment provide the pastoral care component of the programme.

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