

Forestry for Life



Forestry education, training

SKILLED: Iti te matakahi, paoa atu ano, na, potapota noa. While a wedge is small, when struck repeatedly a clean break results.

Locally-owned and responsive tertiary education provider, Turanga Ararau, has consistently provided forestry education and training in partnership with industry through a range of funding options since 1986.

Courses were initially in silviculture followed by logging in 1988 and the first year of the Diploma in Forestry Management working collaboratively with Waiariki Institute of Technology in 1996.

Turanga Ararau, through Ruapani Forestry Centre, is committed to providing the industry with employees with the right attitude, who are drug-free, dependable and have the necessary pre-entry skills and knowledge.

Turanga Ararau is in close contact with

the forestry industry, both locally and nationally, to identify changing needs and trends. Those changes influence how their tutors implement programmes to best meet the needs of the students and the industry. Recent changes to the Forest Management programme are in response to the introduction of the NZ Diploma in Forestry — Forest Management Level 6 offered by Toi Ohomai (previously Waiariki Institute of Technology), and next year Turanga Ararau will be offering the new NZ Certificates at levels 2 and 3 that have also been redesigned to meet changes in the industry including the increased use of mechanised harvesters.

Turanga Ararau also contributes to the upskilling of the industry through on and off-job training, privately and with the

support of Competenz. Many graduates have gone on to acquire higher level qualifications and advancement in the forest industry through full-time study, traineeships and apprenticeships. Turanga Ararau also offers flexible training modes enabling people in the forestry industry to achieve their career goals while still working.

Recognising that the bulk of the industry's future work force will be directly from school, Turanga Ararau supports them and the industry by providing forestry qualifications and promoting forestry as a career of choice and opportunities within local high schools. Many of the students who have undertaken forestry STAR and GATEWAY programmes with Turanga Ararau have gone into work in the forestry industry or advanced to higher level study

towards the Bachelor in Forestry degree at Canterbury University or the National Diploma in Forestry, initially with Turanga Ararau then on to Waiariki.

Among others are Kate Muir who graduated from the University of Canterbury with B.For.Sc (Hons) and is now employed by Juken NZ, David Beach who is currently studying at the University of Canterbury, Linda Waddell who graduated with the National Diploma in Forestry-Forest Management Level 6 and employed by Ernslaw One Limited, Trevor Tomoana who completed the National Diploma and is working for Hikurangi Forest Farms, and Shideen Nathan-Ngaronoa who is completing her first year of the NZ Diploma with Turanga Ararau.



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'Loving' her career choice

Kate Muir wasn't entirely sure of her career choice ... until she had the opportunity to work with Juken New Zealand while still at school.

That changed everything.

"I could see the opportunities there were in the forestry industry," said Kate.

She headed to the University of Canterbury where she graduated with a Bachelor of Forestry Science (with honours) before heading to Hawke's Bay to take up a policy and compliance officer position with Forest Management New Zealand. Just a month ago the 24-year-old returned to her home town to start work with Juken New Zealand as a forest development supervisor.

"My work in Hawke's Bay gave me good grounding and experience and my job at Juken allows me to build on that."

Currently she's the only female in the operational side of the company's East Coast Office, but others have paved the way before her.

"I don't see it as an issue, and Juken is an equal opportunities employer. Every day is different here and I am out in the field most days — I love it!"

She's looking forward to furthering her training through tertiary institutes while working at Juken.

"This is an ever-changing industry and Juken is keen to keep us up-to-date and always learning."

Kate, the daughter of Wayne and Janet Muir, says the forestry industry is very proactive.

"I am still finding my feet on my long-term plan, but I do enjoy the health and safety side of things across all parts of the operation. I believe the industry will continue the focus on all aspects of compliance in the future, so it is a good part of the industry to be involved with."

When not working, Kate is out and about in the region, enjoying Mahia, Lake Waikaremoana and all the other fun outdoor things the region offers.

LEARNING ABOUT LOGS: EIT forestry tutor Alan Paulson (facing, left) talks quality control with Blackstump Logging's QC/log maker Angus McEwan (facing, right) while EIT students listen and learn. Photo supplied



EIT offers gateway to forestry careers

If you're a smart, fit and ambitious person who enjoys the great outdoors, forestry is an industry that can take you a long way — in many directions.

The East Coast's "wall of wood" needs to be harvested and that means the region's forestry workforce will need to triple over the coming decade.

Now is a great time to get involved in this growth industry, and EIT aims to help people take those first steps into an exciting, varied and profitable career.

EIT forestry tutor Alan Paulson has 30 years' experience in the East Coast forestry industry. He is rapt to see the Level 3 forestry programme, the NZ Certificate in Forest Harvesting Operations now available.

"This will give students the knowledge and experience they need to safely hit the ground running in the forestry industry then go as far as their ambition will take them," he says.

"The 20 weeks it will take the first intake of students to complete the programme can't go fast enough for the region's forestry contractors," says Alan.

"I'm passionate about the industry and passing on my knowledge to people who are keen. Contractors are screaming for staff. I have had people ask me already if we have anyone good

to go."

Three days into the programme, the first of the programme's students watch and learn as a logging crew fell, haul, sort and grade some of the nine truck and trailer units of logs they process each day inland from Tolaga Bay.

All have passed their drugs' test, making them available to go straight out into the field to get a taste of the work they are training to do.

"I just got sick of doing field work and things like that for minimum wage," says 20-year-old Roka Jones.

"I have a young family and want to provide for them. I need a qualification that will allow me to earn good money and make progress. I like the way we're straight out there learning the practical skills, and that there are good jobs at the end of it."

For Tira Nikora, also 20, the programme will provide a practical boost to her management degree, which she is one year off completing.

"I love how forestry gets you out of the office," she says.

"The strength and growth in the industry gives me confidence that I can find an area within it that suits me, and even the option to eventually start my own business."

Helping people in the industry reach their potential

Activate Tairāwhiti is committed to helping local industry and employers reach their potential ... and forestry is one of those at the top of the list.

Economic development project manager Kim Holland says the key to success is a joint approach.

"Training is vital and is something the industry is looking at closely, to ensure there is a strong link between training skills and work skills," says Kim.

"It is about attracting the right people into the industry too. We have to create opportunities to engage with the

education sector from secondary school level."

Last year's Forestry Big Day Out, organised by Careers New Zealand and the Eastland Wood Council, did just that, showcasing the opportunities available from entry level through to forest science and management roles.

"We had great success stories out of the industry Big Day Out, including Shideen Nathan-Ngaronoa who went there not sure what she wanted to do and now has her sights set on being a forest manager. She is now at Turanga Ararau doing a Diploma in

Forestry and gaining valuable experience in the forestry sector."

The Eastland Wood Council and Activate Tairāwhiti are looking at more opportunities that highlight the expansive range of jobs available in forestry.

"Forestry isn't just planting trees and cutting them down," says Kim. "There is a lot of science and technology involved too."

Kim says relationships between young people and employers are crucial so that while they may go away to study and gain qualifications, they could gain scholarships, do holiday work or internships during the

holidays.

"We need to create an education to employment pipeline that allows people to see and experience what the forestry industry has to offer."

While attracting new people to the industry, it is also important to upskill those already in the industry.

Forestry is one of four interrelated key industries Activate Tairāwhiti is focusing on.

"If we help industry and employers reach their potential, it will improve our economic performance as a region," says Kim. "Everyone wins from that."