

Health and safety silviculture

Forestry for life

Kia Ora,

The Eastland Wood Council is dedicated to the highest standards of health and safety, sustainable silviculture and environmental practice.

This issue of Forestry for Life profiles three members of the workforce who are tremendous ambassadors for the forestry industry.

Eastland Wood Council — Te Kaunihera Pororākau o Te Tairāwhiti

Leading the charge

Candice Gate — health and safety consultant

Ko Candice ahau
Ko Maungahaumi te maunga
Ko Waiapu te awa
Ko Takitimu te waka
Ko Tapuihikitia te marae
Ko Te Aitanga a Mahaki te iwi

Working in health and safety is caring about people, plain and simple. It also requires you to be proactive, says Candice.

Born and bred on the hills of Mangatu, it is no surprise she is back on the same whenua with a clear mission — to help her people.

Candice has worked in a number of industries; electrical substations, fisheries, farming, transport and forestry. The common thread across each of these high-risk industries is “workers are the key”.

For some time her health and safety work has been focused in forestry and transport.

Candice is dedicated to helping lead a kaupapa called Te Ao Maruiti, in conjunction with WorkSafe, to bring together the collective voice of the forestry workforce to help improve health and safety and wellbeing.

A series of wananga, Te Kotahitanga

o nga Kaimahi, beginning in June, will provide a unique health and safety learning experience — collaborating with workers, whanau, iwi, community, industry, Worksafe and Waka Kotahi.

The core aims of the wananga are:

- Mana restoration, connection to the land
- Wellbeing and representation
- Managing workplace risk
- Links to community support services
- Establishing industry relationships.

“This kaupapa is important because the loss of life in forestry is unacceptable.

“We acknowledge that initiatives for change in the forestry sector that rely solely on the worker are flawed. We need to do things differently.

“I have met some amazing and innovative people out in the bush. I get to work with awesome contractors and their teams, Speirs Logging and McKay Cartage.

“Through McKay Cartage and a membership with Eastland Wood Council I have been given the opportunity to help inform change, which is an opportunity I am grateful for.

“Working in health and safety is fulfilling, challenging and it saves lives. I would encourage those who put people first to consider it as a career.”



Candice Gate is committed to improving health and safety standards in the workplace. Picture supplied

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Stubbs Contracting Ltd's health and safety manager Maria Jeffery

'No day is the same'

Maria Jeffery — health and safety manager, Stubbs Contractors Ltd

"I enjoy working in the forestry industry because it is challenging and I love the outdoors. If I am not being challenged I can become disengaged."

"Being out in the forest also provides a sense of isolation from my busy life."

"No day is the same in my role as health and safety manager. Knowing that our staff go home safe every day is the best reward."

Maria has been working in the forestry industry since she was 16 years old, first as a skiddy/log maker before moving on to tree felling.

Her commitment to training and development has been ongoing. She is a certified level 4 tree feller and has good knowledge of breaking out

and operating machinery, rigging in the workshop, splicing wire rope and assembling heavy lifting equipment.

For the past two years Maria has worked for Stubbs Contractors and is now the health and safety manager, which includes the HR portfolio.

She is responsible for the safety of 30 employees and must ensure all policies and procedures are reviewed and adhered to. She is the lead for conducting investigations into incidents and reporting on them in a timely manner.

The experience Maria has gained from her years working in crew operations has given her a strong knowledge of health and safety requirements and the ability to mentor crews.

Maria has the trust and respect of men and women in the field.

Edward proud to be part of a family-focused crew

Edward Tuapawa — foreman of pruning and trainer, Pride Forestry

Born and bred in Tolaga Bay, Edward Tuapawa is a family man. He married his high school sweetheart and together they have two beautiful girls, aged 10 and 17.

When Edward is not with his family he is fishing or diving and then cooking for whanau.

Edward went straight into the forestry industry after school but took a decade-long break from forestry and worked in meat works. When he was ready to come back into the industry he approached Stacy Habib and

asked to join the Pride crew in Tolaga Bay.

He started working with Pride Forestry in 2017. During his time with the company he has been promoted to foreman of pruning and is also a trainer.

Edward enjoys training and supporting new recruits in all aspects of pruning — thin to waste and planting.

He has gained national certificates in the time he has been employed with Pride Forestry.

Edward enjoys passing on his skills and knowledge to new crew members who all contribute to a good work culture.

We are like one big family, says Edward.



Family man Edward Tuapawa is a foreman of pruning and a trainer with Pride Forestry in Tolaga Bay.




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