

Engineering, Roothing and Earthworks



Eastland Wood Council
Te Kaunihera Pororākau o Te Tairāwhiti

Forestry for life

Improving health, safety and wellbeing across the logging industry

The forestry industry accepts its responsibility to pay for the scale and impact of its use on a fair and equitable basis.

Eastland Wood Council (EWC) supported an increase in budget to maintain roads in a submission to the Gisborne District Council.

EWC also sought the establishment of working groups to improve collaboration between the forestry industry and GDC.

“We are pleased a roading forum, consisting of representatives from the forestry industry and GDC, is working together,” EWC board member Kevin McKay said.

“This collaboration is improving the forecasting, planning and delivery of regional priorities for roading maintenance.”

Eastland Wood Council acknowledged the leadership and support of GDC by presenting a framed and signed New Zealand Log Transport Safety Accord to GDC’s journeys operations manager Donna McArthur and infrastructure manager David Hadfield.

The accord aims to improve the health, safety and wellbeing of log transport across the industry, while enhancing the safety for road users on public and private roads.

INDUSTRY LEADERS: Eastland Wood Council board member Kevin McKay, third from right, presented the New Zealand Log Transport Safety Accord to GDC’s David Hadfield, second from left, and Donna McArthur, third from left. Also pictured is, from left: Warren Rance (Atatu Forests), Pat Bethel (PF Olsen), Connor Fahey (Ernslaw One), and Paul van der Voort (Forest Management NZ).



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Eastland Port



'Trucking is in Kevin's blood'

BORN TRUCKER: McKay Cartage co-owners Kevin and Megan McKay.

Kevin McKay is a born trucker and now has an award to prove it.

Kevin, who co-owns McKay Cartage with wife Megan, won the Cartage Excellence category at the Eastland Forestry Awards in May.

Cartage work requires long hours and early starts but that does not bother Kevin.

"If you tell a truck driver he's at work too early he will probably tell you you've got too much time on your hands," Kevin says.

The industry is full of hard-working people, he says.

"It's not just driving a truck down the road by any means."

"Trucking is in Kevin's blood. He's got three older brothers who are drivers. His father was a driver too," Megan says.

Growing up, Kevin spent a lot of time around trucks with his dad, he said in an article in New Zealand Truck & Driver magazine.

"The diesel bug gets you and that was the end of that." When Kevin dropped out of school as a teenager, his

mother told him he would need a job so he followed his father into the industry.

Now he is winning awards for his work.

Kevin says it is hard to know what he does differently from others in the industry because he does not see how other outfits run.

"We just do our job."

One of Kevin's strengths is his reliability.

"If you say you're going to do something for someone, you do it."

Staff shortages can make life difficult sometimes.

"Trying to find good people is hard. We have a good team of drivers but we are short in the workshop at the moment."

That means more work for Kevin.

Kevin and Megan were based in Mount Maunganui before moving to Tokomaru Bay in 2006 to start McKay Cartage.

They came just as the forestry and logging industries started to boom with the maturing of large swathes of pine trees.

It was a bold move at the time. Only a few years prior was the Huaguang disaster, when a Chinese company with cutting rights to East Coast forests went into receivership, leaving many operators saddled with debt.

"A lot of people had been stung and burnt," Kevin says.

For ten years Kevin worked in Tokomaru Bay on weekdays and would drive back to Gisborne for the weekend.

"Megan was basically a solo mum during that time, and I worked my ass off for that long," Kevin says.

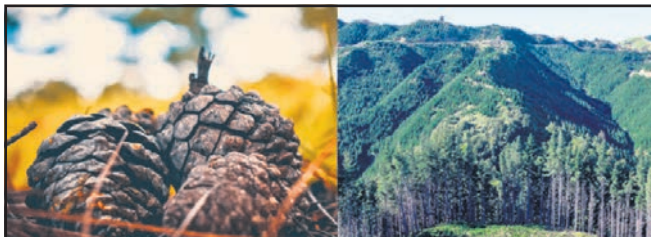
Megan initially knew nothing about the cartage business. "I wouldn't have known the front from the back of a truck before Kevin".

What set Kevin apart was his passion for the industry.

"He is the kind of person who will never overcommit to anything. If he says he is going to do something, he will do it," Megan says.

"And he doesn't set himself apart from his team.

"Anything he expects his team to do, he will do it too. He's the one washing the trucks. He's the one rolling around in the dirt."



Ka tika me mihi atu ki ngā kaitaraiwa me ngā pakihi taraka o te tairāwhiti. Ahakoa ngā taumahatanga o te wā me tuwhera ngā tatau o te ngākau.

Na mātou te whānau o Aratu.



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For all bulk cartage enquiries in the Gisborne/East Coast Region
Contact Kevin McKay 027 246 3350