

Careers

Forestry for life

Eastland Wood Council Te Kaunihera Pororākau o Te Tairāwhiti

The Eastland Wood Council (EWC) is an incorporated society which provides a collective voice for the forestry industry in Tairāwhiti for the benefit of Tairāwhiti.

Kia ora koutou

EWC acknowledges the impact and subsequent damage the extreme weather has had on whānau, communities and infrastructure in our rohe, and we extend our thoughts to all those impacted.

Like other residents of Tairāwhiti, those who work in the forestry industry are all being kept on their toes by these weather events, which are impacting on the way we work and live.

Our priority through this event has been the safety of our people and their whānau.

We acknowledge the emergency services group ably led by Gisborne District Council and the first responders, contractors, civic leaders and gifts of time from volunteers throughout Tairāwhiti.

EWC is pleased with the response from the

forestry industry and its workers, who quickly mobilised to prioritise working with neighbours and communities in removing debris, opening waterways and restoring access.

We continue to offer our support to the community, district council and any individuals who require assistance.

We have earthworks machinery, trucks and people we can provide to help.

Our members have implemented measures to ensure slash debris from our forests is managed and mitigated.

This extreme weather event has provided us with confidence we are on the right track, and the changes we are implementing are having a positive effect in reducing the amount of slash debris.

Of course there is more to be done and we are committed to that.

The persistent rain has caused recurring slips on roads across the network.

Many council roads are residents-only access, so please continue to check the GDC Civil Defence webpage for updates.

People directly impacted by the flooding can apply for a Civil Defence payment. Details have been posted on EWC's website and Facebook page.

Covid remains a major health risk to Tairāwhiti.

We acknowledge everyone for continuing to adhere to Covid guidelines.

Self-care, too, is a priority. Ask for help if you need it. You matter!



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CEO, Eastland Wood Council

This month we show case success stories from the Generation Programme in conjunction with training provider Turanga Ararau and the Tairāwhiti Road Transport Programme. We introduce one of our board members and visit Te Kura Kaupapa Māori Ō Ngā Taonga Tūturu ki Tokomaru in conjunction with, Te Pai o te Peka Wood is Good Programme.



Danny Boyle
Regional Manager,
Summit Forests

Danny reaches the Summit

Danny Boyle is of Ngāti Porou descent. He spent his formative years in Tikitiki before attending Gisborne Boys' High and boarding at the Rectory.

Danny was introduced to the forest industry by a mate who was high-lift pruning radiata for a crew contracted to Hikurangi Forest Farms in the mid-to-late-1980s.

It was hard work but the challenge and money were attractive.

Shortly after, another mate talked him into joining a cable hauling crew working for JNL in Patunamu Forest.

Danny spent the next 20 years cable harvesting in various locations around the North Island in a variety of roles, including crew foreman,

contractor, trainer and supervisor.

In 2004, Danny started his tenure with Hikurangi Forest Farms as a harvesting co-ordinator. He spent nine years with this company and ended as the woodflow manager.

After a stint working for himself, Danny took on an opportunity with Summit Forests NZ Ltd in 2016. As regional manager for Eastland and Whanganui, he oversees the third-party managers who run the operations within Summit's forests.

Recent investment by Summit has seen it increase its forest resource in Te Tairāwhiti to around 12,000 hectares plus 1000 hectares of forest and land in Whanganui.

This substantial investment means significant expansion for Summit in the area and a strong

recruitment drive for new employees, including building its own management team and expanding the office in Gisborne.

Summit started its New Zealand operations in 2013. It is now the seventh-largest forestry business in the country, with over 52,000ha of forestry. Its estate is spread throughout iconic landscapes in Northland, the Coromandel, Whanganui, Gisborne and East Coast.

Summit's main areas of business include harvesting, exporting logs and private woodlots, and investing in New Zealand forestry assets for the future.

It proudly employs over 200 staff and contractors around New Zealand and is looking to grow this in the region.



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Setting up trainees for success

Henry Mulligan knows only too well the feeling of starting at the bottom of the forestry ladder . . . and the success that comes from hard work.

He has worked across the forestry industry — from the hills to corporate — for 30-plus years and now has a hand in changing the lives of those who sign up for the Generation Programme.

Henry runs forestry training and education for Tūranga Ararau, which has been a long-time supplier of training for the programme and now has the initiative under its umbrella.

The diploma is a welcome addition to Tairāwhiti as previously students had to leave the region to complete their studies.

As forestry training and education manager for Tūranga Ararau — the education provider of Te Runanga o Turanganui-a-Kiwa — Henry works closely with Generation Programme manager Siobhain Fyall.

He coordinates the forestry training, utilising his extensive contacts within the industry.

Henry started his forestry career in 1992 in silviculture in Rotorua and by 1996 was the crew boss. His dad was also a forester, who was based in the Whararatas from the late 1960s to 1986.

“I always thought it would be a good career but Dad had other ideas so he made me stay at school and then go on to university where I did a Bachelor of Arts degree to keep him happy,” says Henry. “It taught me a lot of things and is something I always had in my back pocket.”

After Rotorua, he moved to Napier where he was a registered trainer and assessor for Carter Holt Harvey Forests.

In 2002, he decided it was time to come home. It was a big jump from the corporate world he had been working in to Tūranga Ararau where the focus was on social aspects in the community.

“It was totally foreign to me.”

From 2006 he managed the diploma programme in forestry management.

He had plenty of other job offers in the industry, on and offshore, but in his heart he felt it was time to be in Tairāwhiti and put back into the community.

“I love what I do,” he says. “I am dealing with the young ones and ones not so young, and it is rewarding seeing where they get to. I choose the crews where I place our trainees carefully — that is critical. Everyone has to start somewhere and you need that to be on the right foot.”

It’s an all-encompassing role that sees Henry and fellow Tūranga Ararau forestry trainer/assessors Stan Hovell and Bruce McMahon heavily involved in the lives of those on the course.

“There is more to this than just learning chainsaw maintenance, silviculture and harvesting,” he says.

“I have worked with so many over the years and those I did my forestry training with 30-odd years ago are still my friends.”

Forestry is an industry that suits the hard working and honest, with plenty of money to be made.

“There are constant changes as the industry continues to become more professional. Our industry can be its own worst enemy but it’s getting better.”

The Generation Programme has a holistic approach when it comes to its students. Each day starts with an early pickup in time for 6am physical training, followed by a cooked breakfast and studies.

“We push them (in training) and ourselves,” says Henry. “We have a wider approach to education and are honest and straight up with our students. We show them how they should act. Life isn’t just about things out of a book. Forestry can be a tough industry and we know the challenges they may face.”

The three who run the programme bring a wide range of skills.

Stan comes from a silviculture, forest mensuration and harvesting background; Bruce worked in silviculture and forest mensuration and was a trainer/assessor at the port; and Henry has done silviculture, harvesting and management.

“I have had a lot of good people behind me and we offer a solid backing here at Tūranga Ararau for those on the programme, too.”

Each trainee arrives with different skills, qualifications, and challenges, so the team tailor their journey carefully.

“We are always trying to show them the bigger picture. I started at the very bottom pruning trees but could see further down the track. I just didn’t know how to get there then. You always need a goal and you have to do the mahi to get there.”

The programme has had lower numbers this year due to Covid but Henry says forestry can be very rewarding if you learn the skills.

“We set them up for success,” he says.

There is a lot of manaaki (support) wrapped around each student which continues for two years.

“If they need a little more training, refocusing or help they might come back into the programme.”

Henry and his team have big plans going forward, including the introduction of a leadership programme with an outside contractor.

“The Generation Programme is important to Tairāwhiti,” he says. “As well as an identified shortage of workers, it is about helping people make a positive change. Those who buy into what we are doing do really well. We can help those who want to be helped, but we also have to learn from the students who choose a different path.”

The other side of Henry Mulligan

Much of what Henry Mulligan rolls out in forestry training is what he has done for many years through sport.

“It is the same principles with both,” says Henry. “It is about creating opportunities and opening doors . . . showing them that there are rewards for hard work, commitment and dedication.”

Henry’s real passion is rugby league. He played nine seasons at club level in Auckland and Rotorua after shining at

rugby and hockey when at Gisborne Boys’ High School. He played hockey for the University of Auckland for two seasons before switching to league.

When his daughters picked up hockey he stepped up to help through support, training and coaching at primary, secondary and then representative level — Hawke’s Bay, Poverty Bay and Bay of Plenty.

He has coached Girls’ High teams since 2003, including the first 11 for two years before taking a break until 2010. He’s still there now as the first 11 coach.

Henry was the New Zealand Māori junior women’s coach for three years, and was assistant coach for the Central under-18 women’s team for three years, including when the team won gold (2017 and 2018) and silver (2016) medals at national level.

He has coached players who have gone on to represent New Zealand Māori and New Zealand’s Black Sticks.



Henry Mulligan Forestry Training and Education Manager for Tūranga Ararau, has been in forestry for over 30 years and is using that experience and his extensive skills to help young people achieve their goals in the industry.



The Tūranga Ararau crew making a world of difference to those on the Generation Programme are (from left) forestry trainer/assessor Stan Hovell, forestry training and education manager Henry Mulligan and forestry trainer/assessor Bruce McMahon.

Pictures by The Black Balloon



Generation Programme producing great leaders

Tahi Hiroki has always been one to watch within the forestry industry. As soon as he joined the Generation Programme he shone and now he has taken another rising star under his wing in Nelson Moran.

Tahi was one of the first on the Generation Programme while Nelson, a more recent graduate, signed up in January 2021.

Both now work for Dewes Contractors where Tahi, who is one of only a handful across New Zealand last year to achieve the Level 4 breaking out certificate, mentors Nelson. Together they have been successful with audits and awards.

Nineteen-year-old Nelson, who has just passed his Level 3 certificate in breaking out, learned about the Generation Programme while at school.

“Forestry had always been on my radar and I thought it seemed like a good career path,” he says. “There are lots of training opportunities and plenty of ways to move within it.”

It is the people who really make the difference, he says.

“It is a great work environment. We laugh and joke, but still work in a safe manner to get the job done.”

During his time with Dewes Contractors, Nelson has done breaking out, QC (quality control), log making and been a poleman.

“Tahi is a great guy to work with and learn from. He is a good leader and very safety conscious. He has a very positive and can-do attitude.”

Nelson hopes to try his hand at machine operation in the not-too-distant

future and has his sights set on moving up the ladder.

As well as Tahi, he also receives training from Johnny Hutchings — who comes up monthly to help put people through their tickets — and others in their experienced crew.

“I would recommend forestry to anyone but you need the right attitude and to be able to handle severe weather and early starts,” Nelson says.

Logic health and safety manager Jessie Bourke sees plenty of value in the Generation Programme, having worked alongside trainees and graduates since it started.

“It is hugely beneficial to the local forestry industry,” says Jessie. “The support received by the Generation Programme from contractors and foremen taking on

trainees is invaluable. The programme is a full wrap-around service with a lot of support for employee and employer.”

She has loved watching Tahi and Nelson develop their knowledge and skillset through the programme.

“Now Tahi has become the mentor to Nelson alongside other experienced head breaker outs. They both ask questions and continue to be keen contributors to the everyday aspects of life on the hill to ensure everyone gets home safely.

“They speak out about problems while also coming to the table with solutions. It is just what you want to see in your crews.”

“Nelson and Tahi have developed into highly skilled and valuable team members who are well-respected professionals. Both have bright careers ahead of them within forestry.”



Tahi Hiroki (left) and Nelson Moran are successful products of the Generation Programme, with Tahi now mentoring Nelson.

Pictures by The Black Balloon




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Wood is Good visits Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Nga Taonga Tuturu ki Tokomaru

Nestled under the maunga (mountain) Marotiri and beside the awa (river) Mangahauini is Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Nga Taonga Tuturu ki Tokomaru.

Into its 31st year, it is the first kura kaupapa Māori established in Te Tairāwhiti.

At Nga Taonga Tuturu ki Tokomaru, mokopuna learn through te reo Māori, with kaupapa localised to their iwi/hapū and embracing their distinct whakapapa.

The kura kaupapa is under the leadership of koka Herena Paranihi, who is of the people and is continuing a legacy of fostering Māori language and identity.

The kura was among the latest schools to experience the Wood is Good Te Pai o Te Peka programme — an activity-filled forestry log transport programme for primary school students and delivered through Eastland Wood Council.

Supporting this edition of the programme was Rangitukia-based log transport company Rewi Haulage, represented by driver Jimmy “Bo” Hailey and company co-owner and director Agnes Rewi.

Adaptations to the programme include embracing te reo Māori as a medium of instruction.

Programme coordinator Fushia Tibble was on hand to do just that in the sweet voice of te reo Māori o Ngāti Porou.

She presented to groups of enthusiastic junior and senior students, who also enjoyed the opportunity to engage in activities.

The day opened with a mihi whakatau (formal welcome) from one of the school’s talented kaikōrero (orators), which was responded to

by Wood is Good support person Matuakore Tibble and another talented kaikōrero from Gisborne-based Horouta Wānanga.

With Covid-19 restrictions in place, the kaupapa was shared in the great outdoors under SunSmart protection and appropriate ventilation.

The ākonga a Tānemahuta (outdoor classroom) provided an opportunity for a direct approach to road safety learning.

Obstacle-laden games demonstrated the difficulty of sudden stops; momentum interaction with trucks and trailers; the hindrances of blind spots; and the importance of being seen.

The lesson was more applicable given the speed limit around the kura — 50 kilometres an hour despite both school entrances being less than 100m from the highway.

All of this helped students understand and appreciate the impacts of logging truck safety.

Sporting new hard hats of leadership, teacher-elected student leaders guided their classmates to a logging truck and they clambered into the cabin to check blind spots for their friends.

Students also learned about the responsibilities of experienced foresters Bo and Agnes.

They asked Bo about his working days and lifestyle while Agnes answered questions about the truck’s capacity and the destiny of the logs.

Examining the impact of climate change on Te Taiao (the environment) was the kaupapa matua (topic) for senior students.

Through a discussion approach, students identified the various stages

of the pine forest lifecycle in their community, including the forests lining their roads, trucks driven by family members and wood products post-processing.

Students also learned about sources of hauā (carbon dioxide) such as farms, vehicles and factories, and the production of oxygen (aka hāora) through photosynthesis.

They were educated in the impact of deforestation, forests and biodiversity and carbon storage, and took these learnings home.

The junior scholars took a journey from seedling to truck to product through a reading of the Fred Forester book *Where Do The Pine Trees Go?* by Erica Kinder.

It was translated and delivered by Matuakore while students took turns to experience the art of storytelling.

Their curiosity and collaboration were encouraged and rewarded with prizes.

Te Pai o Te Peka works with the respective school or kura to tailor each programme to achieve even more effective delivery.

The programme has been newly translated into Te Ao Māori by Fushia in support of the Education and Training Act.

This event was also the first time the programme was delivered in te reo Māori.

“It has been a privilege to work in my home of the East Coast and recognising the challenges for our Ngāti Porou schools,” Fushia said.

She will continue to work alongside Matuakore and EWC chief executive Philip Hope to develop more resources for schools and kura, and continue to whakamāoritia (translate) the aspects of the programme.



Matuakore Tibble delivers the newly-translated reading of *Where Do The Pine Trees Go?* to junior students sporting new hi-vis vests.



Wood is Good Te Pai o Te Peka programme coordinator Fushia Tibble (left), Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Nga Taonga Tuturu ki Tokomaru principal Herena Paranihi, teacher Makere Atkins and programme support person Matuakore Tibble.



Wood is Good Te Pai o Te Peka programme coordinator Fushia Tibble teaching students about the sources of hāora (oxygen) and hauā (carbon dioxide).



Rewi Haulage directors, Chubby (left) and Agnes Rewi were acknowledged for their support by Eastland Wood Council chief executive Philip Hope, who presented them with a framed print of the NZ Log Transport Safety Accord.

Pictures supplied



Support and Encouragement Changes Life's Path

It took 30 job applications before Katrina (Treen) Rangihuna finally landed a job driving trucks for Robert Monk Transport, and she couldn't be happier.

After nearly a decade as a commercial cleaner, this mum of five decided it was time for a change, but as it turned out, that switch was a lot harder than she has anticipated.

She can look back now and laugh about it, knowing it has also shown her kids a thing or two about resilience, but there's more to it than that.

"It really has taught me to never give up," says Treen, who along her Tairāwhiti Road Transport journey collected tickets and licences for first aid, dangerous goods, Constructsafe, wheels, tracks and rollers, forklift driving, fatigue management and log book, as well as her class 2 licence. Add all that to working, raising a family, belly dancing and graduating from Te Wananga o Aotearoa with level 2 Te Reo.

"I like a challenge," she says. "I am really enjoying my current job which takes me all over town doing deliveries. Driving is a big change from cleaning! It is physically and mentally draining but so rewarding. I feel good about myself at the end of the day."

Those receiving goods from Treen often do a bit of a double take to see a woman with a full head of dreadlocks behind the wheel.

Treen, who is poised to sit her class 4 licence, says there is no way she could have achieved what she has without the support of Tairāwhiti Road Transport's Natasha Tuapawa and Dave Pardoe. "Their support has been amazing. They have really helped me build my self-belief . . . especially after so many knock-backs. They have been supportive, encouraging and opened doors for me. They have shown me the tools and what I can do with them . . . all I have to do is use them."

Her financial improvement means she feels she can now set some goals. 'This has changed my life hugely. I just never thought I would be a truck driver and Tash and Dave have taken me this far in a really short time. I can't believe I am actually driving and that this is just the beginning. It teaches my kids as well.'

Long term she will be driving line haul, out-of-town delivery trucks, but for now, she is just loving her new career path.

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