

Health & Safety Road Safety Driving Training



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.

Our philosophy

Forestry is a vibrant, respected industry in Tairāwhiti.

Our Strategic Goals

- Kaitiakitanga — care for the environment
- Haumarutanga — health and safety
- Whakawhanake — growing our people
- Te Huarahi — roads to market

“Kotahi te kakano, he nu inga hua o te rakau. A tree comes from one seed but bears many fruit.”

Kia ora koutou

This year has delivered many challenges and reminded us all about resilience planning, the importance of health and wellbeing and the value of collaboration.

Our biggest priority remains the safety and wellbeing of our workforce and their families.

We hope everyone will use this festive season to rest and enjoy time with their friends and whanau.

Together we share responsibility to protect the health and wellbeing of Tairāwhiti and on that note please remain vigilant and adhere to Covid guidelines.

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

Nga manaakitanga



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This month we shine a light on health and safety in our industry. We also take a look at the success of the Tairāwhiti Road Transport Programme and visit Tikitiki School in conjunction with Te Pai o te Peka (Wood is Good), a forestry log transport safety programme.

Supporting a safe, sustainable and professional sector

The Forest Industry Safety Council (FISC) was established in 2015 as a result of the Independent Forest Safety Review. FISC supports a safe, sustainable and professional forestry sector, in partnership with workers, industry and government.

Safetree provides health and safety information for people working in the forest industry and is a key partner of Eastland Wood Council in Tairāwhiti and other wood councils across New Zealand.



Wade Brunt Safetree Toroawhi, Tairāwhiti

Wade is Safetree's Toroawhi/worker engagement champion in Tairāwhiti. He spends his days working with crews and others in forestry to help give workers a stronger voice in health and safety decision-making. Toroawhi means together we create change — which pretty much sums up what worker engagement aims to achieve. Wade knows his stuff. He has 17 years front-line forestry experience, including as an experienced processor/operator. After going on his own journey to improve his physical and mental

health, Wade began working to improve the health of his fellow forestry workers. This includes running exercise classes specifically designed for forestry workers and organising Jogging for Logging relays from Gisborne to Tolaga Bay. In 2019 he received a Tairāwhiti Man of the Year award for his contribution to the health of forestry workers on the East Coast, and an Eastland Wood Council Scholarship. In 2021 the Toroawhi programme won a Judges Commendation Award at the NZ Health and Safety Awards.

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Local Heros

Gavin and Chrystal Edmonds, of Stirling Logging, have been helping troubled forestry workers get back on their feet and back to work in the forest.

They've been supporting workers with drug problems through rehabilitation, then helping them to find work and stay healthy.

See more of their story at:
www.safetree.nz



Stirling Logging Rehabilitating workers and getting them back into the forest

Gisborne contractors Gavin and Chrystal Edmonds are helping forestry workers recover from drug problems and get back to work in the forest. Difficulties accessing rehabilitation support for workers prompted the couple, who run Stirling Logging, to start bringing workers into their own home to help them recover. Gavin and Chrystal say they're motivated by a desire to help workers who want to change, who they consider to be good people who've made bad choices. They also say forestry can't afford to lose experienced workers to drugs when there is such a shortage of skilled workers.



Gavin and Chrystal Edmonds

Leading the way in forestry safety

Fiona Ewing is a highly qualified and experienced health and safety professional who has been at the helm of the Forestry Industry Safety Council (FISC) since it came into being in October 2015. She has led the development of FISC's strategy and the successful delivery of its work programmes, including the revamped Safetree Certification. Fiona has played a central role in bringing together a diverse range of stakeholders — WorkSafe, unions, forest owners, managers, contractors and workers — to focus on the

shared goal of improving the safety, health and wellbeing of people working in forestry.

Her focus is on care for people and good business outcomes. Before joining FISC, Fiona held roles in the energy sector in New Zealand and with the health and safety regulator in the UK. She is a chartered member of the Institute of Occupational Safety & Health, a chartered member of the Institute of Directors and is on the steering group of the Business Leaders' Health & Safety Forum.



For the latest Eastland Port news, see twinberth.nz




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On a mission to change lives

Philip Hope, Natasha Tuapawa, Steve Wikotu, Sylvester Marino, Ngaruna Olsen, Katrina Rangihuna, Dave Pardoe, Caleb Philips, Joel Campbell. Tamariki: Ormond Hope, Te Ata Miharo, Malcolm Roberts, Naz Campbell.

The passion in the small team behind Tairāwhiti Road Transport is plain to see. Talk to any of the 220 trainees who have been through the programme and they'll tell you Dave Pardoe and Natasha Tuapawa are on a mission to change lives.

The programme was established in 2019 with support from the Provincial Growth Fund, to try to fill a gap in the trucking industry. There continues to be a critical shortage of drivers across the country, but Dave and Natasha's focus is clearly on Tairāwhiti.

Originally the goal was to put 78 people through their licences and into well-paid jobs with clear career paths over a two-year period. To September 2021, they've had 220 trainees through the programme, which runs under the Eastland Wood Council, with a massive 21 joining in August this year.

Most of the TRT "business" comes through word of mouth but both Natasha and Dave are very proactive in seeking people out as well as keeping a close eye on job sites for vacancies that could be filled by

their graduates.

The TRT quarterly report (to July), reported 91 percent of their trainees into employment.

Getting a truck licence is important but adding endorsements like dangerous goods, wheels, tracks and rollers and a forklift certificate make them more employable.

As the programme manager, Dave says he tries to interview as many of the candidates as he can to find out all he can about the person, their aspirations and their motivation for wanting to become a professional truck driver.

"From there I can usually work out a pathway with timelines that will assist the candidate in reaching those goals," says Dave. "Supervised in-cab training is a large part of the process and where progress is monitored. Any necessary changes can be made along the way."

The overarching goal of TRT is to have competent, safe, well-paid professional drivers who are happy in their work.

Natasha has been with TRT for nearly

two years and while she is officially the administrator, her qualifications in social work give her the knowledge to provide the pastoral care component of the programme.

"I absolutely love my job," she says. "I love seeing lives changed and dreams accomplished. I usually pop in on their first day in the classroom just to say hi and see how they are doing. Some look like deer in headlights because they haven't been in a classroom environment for a long time and for many, their memories of being in that environment weren't positive."

She sits with some the whole day to support them with the literacy side of the studies but says the end result is worth it. "They are generally the ones who, once in a vehicle or a machine, are in their element," she says.

"What I love most is when we meet people who have been knocked back over and over because of past mistakes, convictions, facial gang tattoos or drug addictions. They come to us because someone will have suggested our programme

and we book an appointment to meet. You can see them expecting a 'sorry, we can't help you because you have convictions or whatever'."

When Natasha says they'd love to help, the response is huge.

"They are the ones who put in the extra effort and seeing them around town driving a truck, waving out proudly really makes my heart swell."

She's quick to point out though that the programme doesn't take everyone.

"It is all about their attitude, not their past," says Natasha.

TRT's ability to fund the licensing costs is big for trainees.

"I love telling them that the course is free, they just have to put the work in. Of course the next question is 'what's the catch'? It is great to be able to just encourage them to take advantage of the opportunity and live their dreams."

This is the first in a series of inspiring stories about those who are on the Tairāwhiti Road Transport journey.

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www.logtruck.co.nz

Wood is Good



Levi Grant getting a feel for the wheel.

Te Pai o te Peka Road safety and education by the forestry industry

Eastland Wood Council is prioritising delivery of this programme to schools that experience a large proportion of logging truck traffic.

Wood is Good Te Pai o te Peka is a forestry log transport programme that includes a range of activities tailored to primary school students. Knowledge of the sector and staying safe around logging trucks is delivered through video, publications and hands-on activities. Other topics include climate change, processing of trees for wood products and career pathways.

First to engage in the programme in Te Tairāwhiti was Pae o te Riri School. Located in Tikitiki on the northern side of the Waiapu River, the school is rich in its 134 years of history. Named after Lt. Parekura Tureia, Pae o te Riri has seen generations of families through its doors and continues to be a valued resource for learners, whanau and community.

As regional programme coordinator of the Tairāwhiti Eastland Wood Council, Fushia Tibble shared the programme with learners on Friday November 26.

Attending in support was

owner driver Andre Mansell (AKM Trucking) and Philip Hope of the Eastland Wood Council.

The mihi and opening karakia led by kaiāwhina Matuakore Tibble, a student at Horouta Wananga, affirmed connections to the area and paved the way for learning to start.

With students eager to get a closer look at the shiny vehicle, a presentation on logging truck safety followed. Tauria (students) learned about truck blind spots, the importance of high-visibility clothing, and when encountering logging trucks on the road to follow the rule of “be safe, be seen”.

Shouldering their new uniforms of hi-viz vests which are part of the resource provided, the students applied their new-found knowledge to a life-size resource: a logging truck supplied and operated by Andre Mansell.

Students were able to experience first-hand the limitations of drivers’ vision and gain an appreciation for the size of the machine — reasons for knowing how to be safe and share the road with trucks, especially out the front of their kura.

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Eastland Wood Council
Te Kaunihera Pororākau o Te Tairāwhiti



Andre Mansell gives students a safety briefing about his logging truck.

Andre of AKM Trucking shared insights into his role as a logging truck driver and encouraged rangatahi to “live your dreams and don’t give up”. Starting out with one truck in 2014 to a fleet of seven today, he has worked alongside a range of companies including Hoia, Tokararangi and Whakaangiangi.

A second presentation took a deeper look into the complex faculties within the forestry industry. Students were introduced to the wider world of forestry including scientists and technologists, silviculturists, logistics, processing, and engineering.

“This brings awareness to our tamariki about the many potential vocational opportunities in forestry” says Koka Latasha Wanoa. “We have been given a different perspective and have found a new appreciation for our forestry workers and the mahi that they do.”

Of particular interest to the students, the role of CEO was left for EWC’s Philip Hope to talk about. He shared with

the students his relationship to the land and emphasised the importance of their cultural heritage and assured them they could do anything they put their mind to.

Fred the Forester, a character in the book “Where Do The Pine Trees Go” held the attention of the pīpī taura as they embarked on their own forestry voyage through a reading session with Matuakore. Through this story, these students explored pine trees as a renewable resource, and the associated jobs in forestry.

“Overall, it was a great day,” says Fushia. “We had a wonderful time and I am grateful to have started my journey in this role with Pae o te Riri”.

Leaving students to demonstrate their artistic flair with a colouring competition offered to all schools as part of the programme, Fushia is looking forward to engaging with more schools.



Andre Mansell standing alongside two of AKM Trucking’s logging trucks.



The teina listening to the kaiāwhina Matuakore read “Where Do The Pine Trees Go?” by Erica Kinder.

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Perfect job for Ruatoria mum

Erana Keelan has found her groove in the trucking industry.

The 33-year-old mum of three from Ruatoria comes from a family of farmers, shearers and wool handlers, an industry she started in as a 14-year-old.

As much as she adored rousing, with a family to support she yearned for more stability.

Earlier this year she did a three-week metal truck course through Tairāwhiti Road Transport. But when her 12-year-old daughter became unwell, Erana put the course on hold and put her family first.

Tairāwhiti Road Transport pastoral care leader Natasha Tuapawa held her spot in the course until she was able to return and successfully gain her class 2 licence.

Now, she has a full-time job as a driver operator with Fulton Hogan and plenty of opportunities on the horizon.

How that came about was a bit of a surprise for Erana. Once she completed the licensing course, she attended a Fulton Hogan presentation about positions available in the civil construction company, which was attended by around 50 people. From that, 18 were interviewed and nine people got jobs. Among them was Erana.

“During the presentation they said they had no jobs up the coast, which is where I need to be for my family,” she said.

However, it turned out the perfect job was waiting there for her.

“It was just awesome to get the job. We travel around the quarries, most of which are up the coast anyway.

“There are just three people in our crew and my foreman is a good trainer.”

Erana drives an articulated dump truck, digger and loader.

She’s the first to say there is no way she would be on her new career path without the support from Tairāwhiti Road Transport.

“I am lucky too that I have great support from my parents Hemoata (Reedy-Keelan) and Bart (Keelan) who help with my children.



I couldn’t do it without them.”

She is thriving at Fulton Hogan.

“I am really enjoying it there. It is so good to be learning new and different things. They definitely push for us to keep learning and offer training, which is meke about them,” she said. “They are training us on the job too,

which is cool.”

She is now about to sit her wheels, tracks and rollers course.

“I am still finding my way in the industry so who knows where this will lead. I actually want to be in transport eventually and stay with Fulton Hogan. They are a good company.

They say it is up to us as individuals to say what it is we want to do and then they support us, but honestly, if I hadn’t had the support from Tash and Dave (Pardoe), I wouldn’t be here. They gave me the confidence to keep moving forward, and the people at McInnes Driver Training were also awesome.”



Train Safe, Work Safe, Home Safe

Enrolling now! Interested?

Give us a call or text for more information



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