

# Health and wellbeing, initiatives, people

## Forestry for life

### Eastland Wood Council/ Te Kaunihera Pororākau o Te Tairāwhiti

**K**ia ora koutou.

Welcome to our first issue for the year. May 2022 be kind to you and your whānau.

This month we shine a light on health and safety in the forestry industry, and take a look at the success of the Tairāwhiti Road Transport programme.

Eastland Wood Council's (EWC) biggest priority is the safety and wellbeing of our workforce and their families.

We are mindful that it is only a matter of time until Omicron reaches our community and it has the potential to significantly impact this industry.

EWC members have been busy attending to resilience and worker wellbeing planning.

We hope this preparation will lessen the spread and impact of infection and help workers recover as quickly as possible.

Evidence shows that vaccination remains the most effective way to protect whānau.

Together we share the responsibility to protect the health and wellbeing of Tairāwhiti, so please remain vigilant and adhere to Covid guidelines.

Please reach out and ask for help if you need.

Nga manaakitanga.



**R**andom drug testing within the forestry industry in Tairāwhiti started more than 15 years ago as an initiative of the Eastland Wood Council (EWC).

Providing a safe and healthy work environment is law in New Zealand and this is a strategic priority for EWC members.

Drug testing helps members meet this goal by removing the negative effects of drugs and alcohol abuse from the workplace.

Integrated Safety Solutions (ISS) has provided random drug testing services to the forestry industry since its inception.

There is no other industry in our region that has such a long history of continuous random testing.

ISS director Reece Needham leads the kaupapa of random testing within the EWC members' forests.

The work is often demanding with early starts in remote areas, but it is rewarding and effective because it puts the health and safety of the workforce first.

EWC members are testing a significant percentage of the workforce, including principal forest company staff, harvesting operations, silviculture, roading, cartage and service providers to the forest industry.

Every week, ISS staff are busy travelling to different locations to conduct on-site testing.

"On-site random drug testing has changed significantly over recent years, moving from predominantly urine screening to oral fluid samples, which are analysed using high-accuracy technology," Reece says.

There has been a marked improvement in the results of testing, with far fewer workers failing tests.

ISS also provides a wide range of occupational health services, including regular health checks and vaccinations.

## Prioritising worker safety



**LENDING A HAND:** The ISS team are (from left) health and safety consultant Jeff Cornwell, occupational health nurses Barbara Dockley, Nisha Spence and Sarah Davoren, and director Reece Needham.  
Picture supplied

## WHEN YOU CAN'T SEE THE DRUGS FOR THE TREES...

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**Eastland Port**

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# Ensuring wellbeing in the workplace

With a background in risk management and emergency medical logistics, Logic Forest Solutions Ltd's Jessie Bourke has a passion for all things health, safety and wellbeing-related in the workplace.

Jessie has fresh ideas and is regarded by many as the go-to health, safety and compliance professional in the region.

"The majority of the forestry industry has recommenced work after a longer-than-usual Christmas and New Year break," Jessie says.

"Many safe start-up meetings have been held across Tairāwhiti, covering health and safety,

Covid-19 — in particular the Omicron variant — and the fluctuating log market, which is the normal cycle the industry operates in.

"Resilience planning is a priority for our industry and this is reflected by the increasing number of forestry contractors supporting their crews by providing financial education and upskilling opportunities," Jessie says.

"Topics include managing debt, saving, home loans and compounding interest and insurances in either a one-on-one basis or a group session.

"Everyone is monitoring the Omicron situation, but in the meantime it is business as usual. Precautions are being taken

with personal hygiene, the vaccination roll-out, on-site record-keeping and general wellbeing.

"Across Te Tairāwhiti in 2022, management companies and contractors are investing heavily in mechanisation.

"They are continuing to refine specific policies around high-risk areas like breaking out and manual tree felling, with input from those using the policies," Jessie says.

"This kaupapa goes hand in hand with the forestry management companies utilising digital mapping technology advancements to assist with forest block harvest planning, with particular emphasis on health and safety and environmental considerations.

"In addition to the forestry industry's focus on compliance, we also champion topics like being sunsmart, fatigue, driving, weather impacts, mental wellbeing, hydration and nutrition to continue to improve the safety, health and wellbeing of everyone who works in the forestry region."

He aha te mea nui o te ao?

What is the most important thing in the world?

He tangata, he tangata, he tangata!

It is the people, it is the people, it is the people!



**COMMITTED TO FORESTRY SAFETY:** Logic Forest Solutions' health and safety/compliance manager Jessie Bourke (centre), with directors Matt Main (left) and Richard Smith.



**Jessie Bourke**



**SAFETY PRIORITY:** With the use of mechanised processing, head-stripping and log-cutting machinery such as this (below), safety procedures are paramount. Pictures supplied

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# Mobile harbour cranes will improve health and safety

ISO Limited welcomed the introduction of three mobile harbour cranes (MHCs) to its Gisborne operations at Eastland Port in November last year.

Before they were put into operation in December, Ngāti Oneone named all three MHCs in a blessing ceremony.

Hau, Maru and Rua are names significant to the local harbour area.

The placement of such meaningful names on the cranes is a visual reminder for workers to be safe, to encourage the use of Māori kupu (vocabulary) and acknowledge the harbour.

“The integration of MHCs into our operation is right on track,” ISO area manager Neal Ebbett said.

“They deliver a safer, more efficient and reliable method of loading and handling cargo for a wide range of vessels.

“We have local staff trained to operate these cranes and a plan in place to upskill several more.”

ISO commissioned the German-manufactured Liebherr mobile harbour cranes, a world first in terms of size and capacity, to suit its operating environment, with advanced technology and safety specifications designed by its technology team.

ISO is committed to continuing to apply world-leading innovation to its business, with safety the number one priority.

The mobile harbour cranes significantly improve safety by reducing staff working in a high-risk area. This has enabled ISO staff to be trained in

other key roles.

The cranes can lift maximum 35 tonnes, which is a 20 percent increase over ships cranes.

The cranes operate at the port 24/7 if there is a vessel to load and weather does not prevent it from loading.

Eastland Port loads 65,000 tonnes on average every week. Up to 3.5 million tonnes of logs go across the port in a year.



**Neal Ebbett**  
Area Manager  
Gisborne, ISO LIMITED  
EWC Board Member



## CHANGE YOUR OFFICE VIEW EVERY DAY

**TAIRĀWHITI ROAD TRANSPORT INDUSTRY**  
....MOVING THROUGH  
OUR REGION!

**COME AND BE OUR NEXT DRIVER. WE NEED YOU!**



# Competitive Couple Chasing their Dreams

Ngaruna Olsen and Sylvester Marino make no bones about it . . . Tairāwhiti Road Transport has changed their lives.

Ngaruna Olsen and Sylvester Marino make no bones about it . . . Tairāwhiti Road Transport has changed their lives.

The couple both have completed all the way through to their class 4 licences and are counting down until they can complete class 5. "It's just a matter of time," says Sylvester. "The best part about it all is that I am doing it with my partner and knowing when we come out on the other side we will be better off for our two kids."

It all came about when TRT pastoral care lead Natasha Tuapawa called by Eastlite where Nga was working. It was Truck Driver Appreciation Week and she was delivering platters of food to all the freight companies while educating drivers about what they offered.

Natasha says Nga who was busy at the time called her the following day and asked if she and her partner Sylvester could have a chat.

Nga is now driving trucks for Weatherell Transport which they had both applied for, while Sylvester is a trade assistant at LeaderBrand.

Both had long wanted to get truck licences but the financial barrier was too great. "You do a bit of research and ring up, trying to get on the free ones but there is always a catch. Even with both of us working there wasn't much left at the end of the week."

Sylvester says the assistance from Natasha and Dave (Pardoe) had been invaluable. "They take the stress out of the financial side. We can just turn up, study and focus one hundred percent on doing the test."

The two are pretty competitive too. "We are like teenagers," says Sylvester. "We both worry whether we are good enough but when we sat in the class at McInnes, we were like what are we worried about!"

He likes to rub it in that he had his class 4 a couple of months ahead of his partner of 17 years. Nga was busy with work and it took a bit of juggling to get it in. "Let's just say if she cooks a kai and I don't like it I try and do it better!"

On a more serious note, he says the couple can't thank Natasha, Dave and McInnes Driver Training enough. Nga, whose mum drives the daily bus between Gisborne and Wairoa, says she had dreamt as a child of driving trucks. "I was just too scared to do it. It is special to be doing it with my partner because we both gave each other the courage to do it, so now my goal is to be a Line Haul driver" says Nga.

She admits it can be a struggle sometimes, finding the balance between work, study and family but she knows once they are through their licences, things will be easier. "Our life has already changed so much, and it has all happened in only six or seven months. In that time we have both achieved so much."

The couple moved from Wairoa to Gisborne about nine years ago. Sylvester was a butcher by trade and the two worked at the meat works together. Wairoa is home to Nga but Sylvester hails from Uawa. His father drove trucks for around 45 years – 30 of those with the logging industry.

"Growing up you don't want to be like your dad, but now that's different," he says. He's hugely grateful that LeaderBrand let him work 'mum and dad' hours so he is home for the children when they finish school.

Nga, who is competing for the first time in crossyt's Metcon Madness and Fittest Mum Competition, is driving metro trucks, distributing goods around Gisborne. "I have up to nine pallets and have to move them with just a jolly, not a forklift. People are sometimes a bit surprised to see a woman driver but I think more and more they will see more doing it."

She is hopeful their couple's journey will inspire others to do the same.

At the time this feature went to print TRT pastoral care lead, Natasha Tuapawa was thrilled, Sylvester landed a truck driving job with Farmers Air and he starts his new heavy vehicle driving role this week (Tuesday 1st February).

Change your office view **EVERY DAY**

## Moving through our region

**Come and be  
our next driver.  
We need you!**