

Commitment to training, safety ‘simply good business’

Forest Enterprises’ Gisborne
Harvest Forester, Georgia Paulson
in Te Karaka Forest near Gisborne



FOREST Enterprises is a new sponsor of the 2019 Eastland Wood Council Forestry Awards, supporting the Training Company/Contractor of the Year category.

“As a member of Eastland Wood Council, we’ve wanted to support their popular awards programme for some time. It’s great to be on board for their 10th anniversary, and to champion training,” says Forest Enterprises’ CEO Bert Hughes.

“In any sector, it’s simply good business for companies to have well-trained staff who focus on best practice in protecting people and their environment,” says Hughes.

“In an industry like forestry, its essential.”

Fully certified

Forest Enterprises was the first principal forestry company operating on New Zealand’s East Coast to have all of its harvest contractors achieve Safetree Contractor Certification.

“From the outset, we took the stance that all our logging contractors had to be Safetree certified”, says Hughes.

“Our investors have high expectations of our standards as their manager. In

turn, we have the same expectations of our business partners.”

Spiers Logging, Raywood Contracting and Blackstump Logging are contracted to Forest Enterprises to harvest their 10,000-hectare estate in Gisborne over the coming decade. All three contractors are now certified.

The goal of Safetree Contractor Certification is to improve health and safety and employment conditions. It provides a standardised assessment of a contractor’s suitability to work in forestry, involving employees as well as the owner.

Gisborne harvest all go

Forest Enterprises’ Gisborne harvest is expected to produce 340,000 tonnes of logs this year. This is projected to peak at 700,000 tonne per year within a few years’ time. Almost all is exported from Eastland Port.

With harvest in full swing, investors are seeing returns. Forest Enterprises has paid \$28.7 million in harvest distribution payments to its investors since January 1, 2018.

Harvest is currently under way in 11 of Forest Enterprises’ 28 Gisborne investment forests, with four local

logging crews and two road construction crews active in the forests.

Every hectare harvested is replanted the following winter. Forest Enterprises will plant 230,000 trees this July.

The company has a permanent team of three based in Gisborne city — Gisborne regional manager and co-owner Dan

Fraser, forest operations manager Dave Grogan and Harvest Forester Georgia Paulson. Georgia was nominated in the Woman in Forestry category this year. She won Apprentice of the Year in the awards in 2018, and graduated this April with the New Zealand Diploma in Forest Management.

Williams & Wilshier are proud to be associated with the Eastland Wood Council Forestry Awards 2019.

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Wade Brunt

“I then wanted to transfer my knowledge to others in the industry so I founded the forestry Health Camp — an eight-week fitness and health challenge open to anyone in the industry who wanted to improve their health. It proved a big hit and he would often have up to 30 people turning up for the camp. To celebrate the end of the challenge he ran the Jogging for Logging run from Eastland Port to Tolaga Bay Wharf.

“I firmly believe a happy and healthy mind, body and soul go into the workspace and makes a productive and safe worker,” he says. He plans to help turn the unhealthy to healthy — one person at a time.

Reihana (Ngati Porou —Te Whanau a Hinerupe), who grew up in Te Araroa, is in his fourth and final year at the University of Canterbury in Christchurch where he is studying towards a Bachelor of Forest Science. He’s still deciding on what his focus will be within the forestry industry in the future but as part of working towards that, he has been busy investigating many areas.

“As a graduate forester I expect I will be exposed to a range of opportunities within the industry,” he says.

“Building on that I will then be able to identify an area of interest in which to further my career, be that harvesting or silviculture, or something else.”

During his university breaks, he has worked as an intern with New Zealand Forest Managers (NZFM) in Turangi where he has been exposed to a range of forest operations including pruning, inventory, harvesting and forest mapping.

He has also helped university lecturers in their research by collecting inventory data. During the summer of 2018-2019, he was heavily involved in the planning and operational side of a volume and taper study for NZFM.

“This experience has given me a good insight into research preparation and has broadened my understanding of field inventory.”

The data from the study is being used to complete his dissertation project.

Reihana is confident his skills will be put to good use within the East Coast region in the future.



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