

FORESTRY INDUSTRY VERY REWARDING SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

writer **SARA CARBERY** // photographer **SHAUN TUNNY**



“Many people would be surprised at the career opportunities available in the forestry industry,” says harvest forester **GEORGIA PAULSON. “Whether it’s the establishment of new forests, harvest planning or engineering, there is a job for everyone.”**

Growing up in Gisborne, Georgia would spend time at work with her forester father, eventually spending her school holidays working in logging crews.

But it wasn’t until a few years after leaving school that she decided to make a career in forestry.

“I started a health science degree straight out of school, but at the age of 18 I quickly felt that I needed a bit more life experience before investing time and a student loan into my career.”

Georgia worked in a logging crew to save enough money for a one-way ticket to the UK, where she worked for two years in administration, before returning to Gisborne and embarking on a two-year New Zealand Diploma in Forest Management.

During the first year of the diploma, she worked fulltime in a logging crew gaining valuable

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hands-on operational experience, while studying via night school at Turanga Ararua in Gisborne. The second year had to be completed in person at Toi Ohomai Institute of Technology in Rotorua,

so Georgia combined her studies with part-time logging work.

During this time, Georgia also began a New Zealand Apprenticeship in Machine Operations (Hauler and Loader), winning the 2018 Competenz NZ Apprentice of the Year Award, and was awarded scholarships from the Eastland Wood Council, New Zealand Institute of Forestry Foundation and PF Olsen.

Now 25, Georgia works as a harvest forester managing harvest operations for Forest Enterprises in Gisborne. This involves monitoring health and safety standards, ensuring environmental compliances are met and overseeing the logistics of the harvest operation.

“Forestry is very rewarding – from the basic fulfilment of being largely active outdoors through to the satisfaction of contractors excelling above industry standards and growing their businesses,” says Georgia.

“Every day is a challenge, with time spent between the forest and office, which I love.”

In Year 13 at Gisborne Girls’ High School, Georgia took English, Health Studies, PE, Geography and History.

“Geography has definitely helped with foundation knowledge and personal interest on how the land moves, varying land types etc. Forestry is built upon understanding these factors through and through.

“Personally, I loved Health Studies. This has helped grow professional skill-sets such as communication, resilience and a commitment to produce my best work.”



KEY FACTS



- **GEORGIA PAULSON** HAS A **NEW ZEALAND DIPLOMA IN FOREST MANAGEMENT** FROM **TOI OHOMAI INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY** IN ROTORUA.
- SHE WON THE **2018 COMPETENZ NZ APPRENTICE OF THE YEAR AWARD**.
- **GEORGIA** WORKS AS A **HARVEST FORESTER** MANAGING HARVEST OPERATIONS FOR **FOREST ENTERPRISES** IN GISBORNE.



For more information on **forestry scholarships** offered by MPI, visit www.mpi.govt.nz/forestryscholarships

For more information on **careers in the forestry industry**, visit www.forestrycareers.nz