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**BROOKE
ELLIS**

MAKING EVERY POST A WINNER

CAREERS WITH FONTERRA

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BROOKE ELLIS completed her **Electrical and Instrumentation** apprenticeship with **Fonterra** late last year – in just two and a half years.

Brooke (26) is the only female tradie working on the large manufacturing site at Maungaturoto in Northland.

“It is good to be out of my apprenticeship. I completed both my Electrical and Instrumentation so have a dual qualification, which comes in quite handy for work,” says Brooke.

“We do a lot of work on instruments at Fonterra, working on equipment such as pressures, temperatures and conductivity. We make milk powder, whey and casein at Maungaturoto.”

The variety of work is one of the aspects Brooke loves about her role.

“In my day-to-day, I can go from fixing a light, to fault-finding a process issue, to doing calibrations – which is why I was drawn to working for Fonterra.

“I’ve never been attracted to a job that requires sitting still all day. I enjoy being active, getting outdoors and engaging with plant operators to establish a strong connection.”

Brooke’s role is quite different to that of an electrician who works on residential properties.

“We are maintenance electricians and maintenance fitters on-site, not installation based. We do a lot of basic maintenance to prevent breakdowns, while an electrician goes to someone’s house to repair something that is already broken.

“We learn a lot about how the process works so when there are breakdowns and we are fault-finding, we have a pretty good understanding of what is supposed to be happening.”

Brooke appreciates the level of support she has received since she started working for Fonterra.

“Everyone has been welcoming. Fonterra are so supportive. If there is any training or further development you want to do, they are very encouraging of that.

“You get out of it what you put in. There are good career opportunities.”

Brooke would like to see more young women get into the trades if it is the right choice for them.

“It is not for everyone but if anyone is interested, I am happy to have that conversation with them.”

In Year 13 at Whangārei Girls’ High School, Brooke took Physics, Calculus, PE, History and English.

She was not sure what she wanted to do as a career when she left school, but says the science subjects directed her towards her current role.

Brooke took advantage of the excellent apprenticeship programmes run by Fonterra.

Her timing was good as there was a vacancy at the time she applied.

For school leavers with a desire to get into the trades, Brooke recommends following the Fonterra website for opportunities to apply for apprenticeships in different areas.

Once you leave school and start a trade, having a good attitude is number one on her list of things to have.

“Showing up on time, doing your best and also doing what you are told, are important.

“The type of environment you are in can be quite unfamiliar so take the lead from someone more senior than you while you are learning.”

KEY FACTS



- **BROOKE ELLIS** COMPLETED HER **ELECTRICIAN AND INSTRUMENTATION APPRENTICESHIP** WITH **FONTERRA** LATE LAST YEAR.
- SHE IS THE ONLY FEMALE TRADIE WORKING AT **FONTERRA’S** MANUFACTURING SITE AT **MAUNGATUROTO** IN **NORTHLAND**.
- IN **YEAR 13** AT **WHANGĀREI GIRLS’ HIGH SCHOOL**, **BROOKE** TOOK **PHYSICS, CALCULUS, PE, HISTORY AND ENGLISH**.

ONLINE



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information
on **career
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