

MUSSEL HATCHERY DELIGHT

writer **PETER WHITE** // photographer **TIM CUFF**

CAREERS WITH SANFORD

SARITA SIM is a Hatchery Technician with Sanford Limited's SPATnz hatchery, based at the impressive Cawthron Aquaculture Park in Glenduan, Nelson.

The 23-year-old works at the biggest green-shell mussel hatchery in New Zealand.

"I love being part of a new and growing industry, experiencing the highs and lows, then problem solving with such an awesome team of like-minded people. Every batch is different and teaches us something new, therefore each month of the year is a new challenge," says Sarita.

"We spawn and run a new production batch of green-shell mussel larvae each month. Some are better than others, so being part of the highs and lows of each batch — having group discussions around what we can do and try next time — is an awesome thing to be a part of."

Sarita went to Marlborough Girls' College. In Year 13, she took Biology, Chemistry, Environmental Sustainability, Calculus and Statistics.

In that final year, she was part of the marine team's significant project that outlined the effects of human activities on marine species. Their report was presented to Marlborough mayor John Leggett.



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SARITA SIM

"I'm from Marlborough so the Marlborough Sounds have always been important to me. I spent a lot of time there when I was younger. I focused on the Marlborough Sounds for my project at school, as I wanted to help ensure that place would still be there in the future.

"One of the human impacts outlined in this project was the commercial fisheries. I had little to no interest in aquaculture at first, before realising that farming of marine animals can be a more sustainable method than fisheries.

"My goal after leaving college, and the work done with the marine team, was to study and hopefully come back to a career in environmental management of the Marlborough Sounds in the future — after some experience in an aquaculture career."

Sarita was not 100 per cent sure what she wanted to do after leaving school but after getting involved in Environmental Sciences in Years 12 and 13, she really enjoyed learning about marine life and human interactions.

"I knew I enjoyed science-based work and was planning to study a Bachelor of Science degree at the University of Canterbury. However, once I had started at UC, I soon realised it was not the right fit for me.

"I then decided on a gap year and applied to NMIT (Nelson Marlborough Institute of Technology) to study for a Bachelor of Aquaculture and Marine Conservation."

During her second year studying at NMIT, Sarita applied for casual work with SPATnz and got the job.

"It ended up being the best workplace for me so far."

Sarita encourages school leavers to consider a career with Sanford Limited.

"Sanford's is a large company with many different areas of work, so they are usually advertising

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different job roles. Working at SPATnz, we are a part of the mussel sector.

"Even if the jobs available are not what you are looking for, it doesn't hurt to apply as once working

for Sanford's, you can move into different and new areas."

KEY FACTS



- **SARITA SIM** IS A HATCHERY TECHNICIAN WITH **SANFORD LIMITED'S SPATNZ HATCHERY**.
- SHE HAS A **BACHELOR OF AQUACULTURE AND MARINE CONSERVATION** FROM **NELSON MARLBOROUGH INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY (NMIT)**.
- **SARITA** WENT TO **MARLBOROUGH GIRLS' COLLEGE**. IN **YEAR 13**, SHE TOOK **BIOLOGY, CHEMISTRY, ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY, CALCULUS AND STATISTICS**.

ONLINE



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