

FORESTRY OPPORTUNITIES

REWARDING CAREER OPTIONS

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"Forestry is a huge industry in New Zealand. It is our third largest export, after dairy, sheep and beef, and there are wicked career opportunities," says LIAM WALKER.

Liam (23) has been working as a Forester with Forest Enterprises in Masterton since January, after a year spent in a graduate role with the company.

His role is varied and full of new challenges focused on the pristine New Zealand forests.

"The main thing I love is the mix of office and field work. I spend about 70 per cent of my time out in the forests. My job is to manage and oversee commercial plantation forests in the Wairarapa and Manawātū. We look after about 20,000 hectares. I guess I am the guy who makes the in-forest stuff happen," says Liam.

"I coordinate everything from planting, pruning, spraying prior-and-post planting, harvesting, engineering earthworks, organising where contractors are going to go and who is going to do what work, how everything looks and the budgets behind that."

The interaction he has with so many different people is something else he loves about his role.

"Supervising contractors and dealing with that can be fun and is pretty rewarding — looking after people and being involved in that side."

Liam was given a wonderful overview during his year as a Graduate Forester, which meant learning all the practical sides of the role.

"I was just learning everything I could and I spent time doing silviculture harvesting, mapping, earthworks engineering, planning and writing resource consents.

"Uni teaches you the theory of why things are done, so that graduate year was very much learning how Forest Enterprise does things, meeting people and getting involved anyway I could."

Liam has a Bachelor of Forestry Science (Hons) degree. He was awarded the prestigious Schlich Memorial Prize for the top graduating student from the New Zealand School of Forestry, based at the University of Canterbury.

It is the only university in Australasia that offers professional forestry degree programmes.

"At the start of the fourth year of the degree, I was invited to do honours and took up the opportunity. I just worked hard through uni and took pride in what I was doing.



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LIAM WALKER

"I got first class honours, which is quite an achievement, and ended up top of my class in my graduating year."

There are numerous career options available to forestry graduates. Liam says the degree he did is well recognised in the forestry sector.

"I just think it is a wicked degree for anyone who enjoys the balance between outdoors and office work — and wants something interesting that is a bit different.

"Graduates are quite sought after in the industry. There are very good job opportunities straight out of uni. You will find a lot of forestry students walk straight into quite a well-paying job, often with personal use of a ute and various other benefits."

Liam went to Shirley Boys' High School in Christchurch. In Year 13, he took Maths, Statistics, Physics, Biology, Geography, PE and a Sports Academy course.

"I did not want to do engineering and work in an office job, so looked at other options and forestry popped up. It looked awesome — that mix of practical and outdoor work.

"I think there are a lot of school leavers out there who would love forestry but just don't know it is a career option. I advise them to get in touch with the School of Forestry, go to the open days, and also talk to your local forestry company. They will be happy to talk to you about what they do."



**DISCOVER
FORESTRY
NEW ZEALAND**

KEY FACTS



- **LIAM WALKER** HAS BEEN WORKING AS A FORESTER WITH **FOREST ENTERPRISES** IN **MASTERTON** SINCE JANUARY.
- HE HAS A **BACHELOR OF FORESTRY SCIENCE (HONS)** FROM THE **NEW ZEALAND SCHOOL OF FORESTRY**, BASED AT THE **UNIVERSITY OF CANTERBURY**.
- IN YEAR 13 AT **SHIRLEY BOYS' HIGH SCHOOL**, **LIAM** TOOK **MATHS, STATISTICS, PHYSICS, BIOLOGY, GEOGRAPHY, PE** AND A **SPORTS ACADEMY** COURSE.

ONLINE



For more information on **career opportunities** in the **forestry industry**, visit www.discoverforestry.co.nz and for information on the **Bachelor of Forestry Science degree** at the **University of Canterbury**, visit www.canterbury.ac.nz