writer **SARA CARBERY** // *photographer* **ZACH STARK**

CREAM OF THE CROP

FONTERRA'S FUTURE LEADERS GRAD PROGRAMME

MOLLY GOODISSON describes her time on the Fonterra Future Leaders Graduate Programme as "full-on fun".

The Graduate Programme provided a well-structured introduction to the dairy industry, giving Molly the opportunity to gain experience across different areas of the business and build a strong foundation in dairy science and manufacturing.

Molly applied for Fonterra's technical graduate stream while completing a Bachelor of Science with Honours in Food Science at the University of Otago.

"I was lucky enough to have a qualitative topic interviewing fruit growers in Central Otago, which was where I fell in love with the hard work and passion of the primary industries."

She says the biggest skill she learnt on the graduate programme was how to talk to people ("Tip: everyone is human, and everyone wants to be treated with respect") and one of the highlights was gaining "15 new best friends".

Molly's first job after completing the programme was working as a Process Lead at Fonterra's Te Awamutu manufacturing plant, where she had "a fantastic boss".

"So, for me, transitioning off the programme was easy."

She moved from there into Fonterra's South Island distribution centres team, where she learnt a lot about managing people and projects.

Molly (25) recently started her third role off the programme, communicating the Fonterra milk supply and base commodity price forecast to the business – "A very central and exciting space to be in."

In Year 13 at Woodford House, Molly took Biology, Chemistry, Calculus, Geography and Home Economics (Food Tech).

It was her home economics teacher who suggested studying food science as an option for university.

"I loved Otago," she says of her four years at uni.

"I made some fantastic friends, got into the ski club, volunteered for a student-led mental health movement, lived out at the beach in fourth year, and worked the weekends at Beam Me Up Bagels."

For her degree, Chemistry was the most useful subject she took at school, while for work, Calculus has been "surprisingly" helpful.

She says Accounting or Statistics would also have been helpful.

Molly's advice for school leavers is, "You don't have to have it figured out.

"What you are studying, what grades you get and what you think you want to do with your life is not permanent.

"The only thing that matters is that you care, and you are curious."



KEY FACTS

- **MOLLY GOODISSON** TOOK PART IN **FONTERRA'S FUTURE LEADERS GRADUATE PROGRAMME**.
- SHE HOLDS A **BACHELOR OF SCIENCE WITH HONOURS IN FOOD SCIENCE** FROM THE **UNIVERSITY OF OTAGO**.
- IN HER **CURRENT ROLE** AS **MILK ECONOMICS LEAD**, **MOLLY COMMUNICATES** THE **FONTERRA MILK SUPPLY AND BASE COMMODITY PRICE FORECAST** TO THE BUSINESS.

ONLINE

For more information about **Fonterra's Future Leaders Graduate Programme,** ***scan the QR code*** *or visit* ***https://careers.fonterra.com/careers/Future-Leaders-Programme***