

ENERGISED FOR THE FUTURE

AIM FOR A TRAINEESHIP

writer **PETER WHITE** // photographer **ALAN STEVENS**

"It is an exciting industry to be in. I love the dynamic environment and how no two days are the same, plus working with some cutting-edge equipment," says **EDDIE CRAIG**.

Eddie (27) is an Energy Centre trainee with Fonterra and is based at their Te Rapa site, which is near Hamilton. The role is hugely varied – across treated water, steam generation, electricity, refrigeration and compressed air – working to keep the site operational.

It is his second placement with Fonterra. Eddie did a four-year apprenticeship in mechanical engineering (Level 4), before leaving to work in other parts of New Zealand for two years.

"Competenz provided me with the resources and documentation during my apprenticeship. It was good, with a range of learnings that covered off quite a few skills and was job specific.

"I came back in as a mechanical engineer and then a role came up while I was here to move into the Energy Centre and do a traineeship. I am going through my Energy Chemical Processing Certificate at the moment, which is all about how to operate a plant that provides energy and various utilities to the production plant.

"We provide the dairy factory with all the utilities – like compressed air, boiler refrigeration, steam and power. We operate and maintain all the equipment that provides that."

Eddie says Fonterra look after their staff really well and there are lots of perks.

"The shift patterns are really good, making for a great work–life balance. I was provided with my tools and heaps of training when I did my apprenticeship. I have got my forklift and dangerous good licences, plus a range of different certifications that they put me through, and it didn't cost me a thing.

"There is such a range of experienced people you get to work with. I am grateful to have gone through my apprenticeship here and there are so many learning pathways available with Fonterra."

Eddie went to Forest View High School in Tokoroa. In Year 12, he took PE, High Performance Sport, English, Physics, Maths and Statistics. He continued to do well and achieved NCEA Level 3 but was always keen to get into engineering as a career.

"I left school and did kind of a gap year for a company making hydraulic hoses. I had actually signed up to go to uni to do mechanical engineering and then the apprenticeship came up."

"I have always been a hands-on person. I really like being able to pull something apart, understand it and how to fix it and put it back together. I like seeing how machines work.

"When I was younger, I really liked pulling my mountain bike apart and giving that a clean and putting it back together. I still enjoy that about my job now."

Eddie encourages school leavers to get an apprenticeship if they can.

"I wouldn't be where I am today. I have been presented with a range of opportunities, which would not have been provided to me without Fonterra."

"Doing an apprenticeship put me a step ahead of some of my mates who went to uni and have big student loans. You get straight into earning pretty good dollars and gain the skills you need on-the-job."

"I AM GRATEFUL TO HAVE GONE THROUGH MY APPRENTICESHIP HERE AND THERE ARE SO MANY LEARNING PATHWAYS AVAILABLE WITH FONTERRA."

EDDIE CRAIG

KEY FACTS



- **EDDIE CRAIG** WORKS AT **FONTERRA'S** ENERGY CENTRE AT THEIR TE RAPA SITE AND IS COMPLETING A **TRAINEESHIP**. IT COVERS A WIDE RANGE OF AREAS, SUCH AS TREATED WATER, STEAM GENERATION, ELECTRICITY, REFRIGERATION AND COMPRESSED AIR.
- HE HAS EARLIER COMPLETED A **FOUR-YEAR APPRENTICESHIP IN MECHANICAL ENGINEERING (LEVEL 4)** AND WORKED AS A **MECHANICAL ENGINEER** AROUND NEW ZEALAND.
- **EDDIE** RECOMMENDS A **TRAINEESHIP** AT **FONTERRA** TO SCHOOL LEAVERS SAYING HE HAS BEEN PROVIDED WITH MANY OPPORTUNITIES, GREAT PERKS AND HAS DEVELOPED PLENTY OF SKILLS.



For more information on career opportunities with **Fonterra** and to see all of their current early career programmes, visit www.fonterra.com/earlycareersnz

For more information and to learn about **Fonterra's** partnership with **Te Pūkenga** across a range of engineering and dairy processing apprentice programmes, visit www.tepukenga.ac.nz