

# A SUSTAINABLE WAY FORWARD

## FORESTRY INDUSTRY CAREERS writer PETER WHITE photographer DUNCAN BROWN



“FORESTRY IS SUCH A VARIED INDUSTRY AND I REALLY HIGHLY RECOMMEND DOING THE BACHELOR OF FORESTRY SCIENCE TO ANYONE WHO LIKES THE OUTDOORS.”

GRACE MARSHALL

**“I love the forestry industry, I love the challenge and being able to get outside and work with so many different people,” says GRACE MARSHALL.**

Grace, 25, is juggling two major roles. She is a part-time Operations Scheduler for Pan Pac Forest Products Ltd based in Napier and studying for her PhD in Forestry from the University of Canterbury (UC) – focused on exotic (pine tree) to native forest transitions.

She was not thinking of a career in forestry at high school but says doing a Bachelor of Forestry Science (Honours) degree at UC was “the best decision I ever made”.

“At Pan Pac Forest Products Ltd, I work with the operations teams with harvesting and engineering. My main role is looking after the harvesting crews, giving them a programme – usually about 18 months of work for each – and we have between 17 and 19 harvesting crews.

“We have to balance the forest harvest at the right age and is it pruned or unpruned – as our mill has different demands at different times. Weather plays a big part. We also harvest private wood lots so have to slot those in.

“I also do a lot of budgeting. I work with the forest leadership team for the bigger picture, strategic planning – and with the engineering team developing a new scheduling tool.”

The forests are all in Hawke’s Bay – from Mohaka in the north near Raupunga and Gwavas in the south near Tikokino – with three more in-between.

In February this year, Cyclone Gabrielle caused catastrophic damage to the forests and infrastructure in the Hawke’s Bay. Grace put her PhD on hold and returned to work fulltime for four months to help with the project management of the recovery.

“We lost all our offices and our sawmill and pulp mill are both still down and all the electrics were destroyed. We had a lot of damage to the forests and public roads.

“It was quite a stressful time because we really needed to get our contractors working – but we were really limited where we could put our crews.”

The opportunity to study for a PhD came from being awarded a UC Accelerator Scholarship that covers her fees and pays a generous stipend.

In July, Grace was honoured to be awarded the Prince of Wales Sustainability Cup – for her PhD in transition forestry and its link to Iwi landowners.

The Prince of Wales Sustainability Cup is awarded to a young professional in New Zealand’s forestry sector.

It recognises individuals who demonstrate an outstanding commitment to sustainable forest management principles – both the Prince of Wales and King Charles signed the award.

Grace attended Cashmere High School in Christchurch. In Year 13, she took Photography, Print Making, Drama, Statistics, Biology and Year 12 Chemistry.

“Forestry is such a varied industry and I really highly recommend doing the Bachelor of Forestry Science to anyone who likes the outdoors.

“It has a lot of science but also economics – and you can go down many different roads with this degree.”



**FOREST OWNERS ASSOCIATION**

### KEY FACTS



- **GRACE MARSHALL** WORKS PART-TIME AS AN **OPERATIONS SCHEDULER** FOR **PAN PAC FOREST PRODUCTS LTD** BASED IN **NAPIER** – WHILE ALSO **STUDYING FOR A PhD IN FORESTRY** FROM THE **UNIVERSITY OF CANTERBURY**.
- **GRACE** WAS **HONOURED** TO BE **AWARDED** THE **PRINCE OF WALES SUSTAINABILITY CUP** – FOR HER **PHD IN TRANSITION FORESTRY** AND ITS **LINK TO IWI LANDOWNERS**.
- **IN YEAR 13**, SHE TOOK **PHOTOGRAPHY, PRINT MAKING, DRAMA, STATISTICS, BIOLOGY** AND **YEAR 12 CHEMISTRY**.



For more information on career opportunities in the Forestry Industry, visit [www.forestrycareers.nz](http://www.forestrycareers.nz) and for more information on studying for a Bachelor of Forestry Science at the University of Canterbury, visit [www.canterbury.ac.nz](http://www.canterbury.ac.nz)