

# ENJOYMENT FACTOR IS HIGH

## FORESTRY INDUSTRY FUTURE IS BRIGHT

writer **PETER WHITE** // photographer **PHIL WILLIAMS**

**CALLUM MAZE** has quickly made his mark in the forestry industry.

The 18-year-old joined Roxburgh Contracting in Milton, Otago earlier this year after getting valuable work experience through the Gateway programme he did in Year 13 at South Otago High School.

"I did my Gateway through the school's Ready to Work course. On Fridays, I would go out to do practical skills in the workplace to learn and watch and have hands-on experience with ground-based logging and using the skidder," says Callum.

A skidder is a key piece of machinery in forestry work. It is similar to a bulldozer and can have either tracks or rubber tyres depending on how steep the land is. It drags logs from the bush up to the skid by using a winch or a grapple attached at the back.

"I am doing my two-year apprenticeship to get my tickets for loading trucks, fleetling and skidder extraction.

"You can also extend that qualification if you want and do a course on felling trees safely, which is

either with a chainsaw or a machine. Ultimately, you can one day own your own business."

Callum works fulltime on the skidder pulling out trees. He loves working outdoors but he says safety is the most important factor as the job can be dangerous if you don't know what you are doing.

"I like working in the bush and we have a good crew. We are fairly busy all the time, which makes the days go quickly. You have to have a good work ethic and you are always thinking in this job. It is a high-risk job, so you have to have your brain switched on all the time.

"The job is challenging at times, so you have to be really observant, watching and learning, and making sure you are listening to rules and regulations about the bush as well. There are a lot of rules involved in logging to make sure we keep safe."

Callum says the future is looking bright for him and for school leavers who want to join the industry.

"The logging business does go up-and-down but they are always looking for workers."

The key attributes employers look for in new trainees is a good work ethic, being safety conscious and practical, the ability to work well as part of a team and being physically fit.

Glen Mackie from New Zealand Forest Owners Association says people of all ages and abilities will find great careers in forestry.

"These include planting and managing native and exotic forests, looking after the forest environment, managing people and resources, working with state-of-the-art technology, and potentially operating million-dollar machines and equipment.

"Some forestry jobs go all year, while others are seasonal. Some are inside, some are outside. Forestry offers many opportunities for school leavers from on-job training and training through polytechs or degree-level training at university."



### KEY FACTS



- **CALLUM MAZE** WORKS FOR **ROXBURGH CONTRACTING** IN MILTON, OTAGO AND IS CURRENTLY COMPLETING A **TWO-YEAR APPRENTICESHIP**. AT THE END, HE WILL BE QUALIFIED AND HAVE GAINED HIS TICKETS IN **LOADING TRUCKS, FLEETING AND SKIDDER EXTRACTION**.
- HE COMPLETED A **GATEWAY PROGRAMME** IN **YEAR 13** THROUGH **SOUTH OTAGO HIGH SCHOOL'S READY TO WORK COURSE**. THROUGH THIS, HE GAINED **PRACTICAL WORK EXPERIENCE** AT **ROXBURGH**, WHICH LED TO HIS CURRENT POSITION.



For more information on career opportunities in the forestry industry, visit [www.forestrycareers.nz](http://www.forestrycareers.nz) and [www.nzfoa.org.nz](http://www.nzfoa.org.nz)