

Tasmanian Forestry Workers

ASSISTANCE SERVICE NEWSLETTER

With Christmas and the holiday break just around the corner, ForestWorks Workers Assistance Coordinators and support staff would like to wish everyone safe and happy holidays.

All coordinators will be on their holiday break between Christmas and the New Year, starting back first thing in the New Year. This means that there will be continued assistance in January.

Don't hesitate to contact a Workers Assistance Coordinator in your region to help you find further employment. Also, if you know of others that have been affected by the Tasmanian Forestry Industry restructure that may also require help, let them know to contact the ForestWorks Office on (03) 6331 6077, or to contact a coordinator in their region (contact details on page 4).

Please remember that this is a free service provided to you by ForestWorks and supported by Federal Government funding. You are not required to pay for this service.



Role of Workers Assistance Coordinators

Assist those that have worked as a part of the Tasmanian forestry industry:

- Connect forestry workers and families to all Commonwealth Government services including registering with a Job Service Agency (JSA) and Centrelink
- Assist with putting together a resume
- Discuss what type of employment an individual would like
- Meet with prospective employers and try and find employment opportunities for workers
- Research and assist in the organising and conducting of further training
- Assist in the applying for jobs including helping put together job applications and selection criteria
- Help prepare for job interviews
- Provide transport to interviews
- Explore all other assistance and funding opportunities that maybe available to each individual depending on their needs and circumstance
- Connect people to Rural Alive and Well (RAW)

Workers assistance personal profile

Rodney O'Halloran

Home: Irishtown TAS

Family: Wife – Chicky, son – Kayne and daughter – Demi

Previous Workplace: Gunns Smithton (20 yrs)

Favourite Food: Anything

Favourite Music: Fleetwood Mac, Eagles, Crowded House, Steve Miller Band

Favourite Pastime: Being involved in sport of any description

Before this position came along, I already had a real passion to be involved with making a difference in people's lives, whether it was sport or community involvement.

It's great to see workers able to up-skill and retrain to ensure a brighter future.

The gratitude that you receive when you make that phone call or visit, to let them know that you are still there for them, spurs you on every day.



ARTHUR RIVER TO RAILTON

When Adrian Littlejohn and Rodney O'Halloran were first told that they would be retrenched along with the rest of their work mates at Gunns Smithton they knew they wanted to help the workers and their community, but were not sure how. Since they became employed as ForestWorks Workers Assistance Coordinators they have had the opportunity to do both.

Covering the North West means they are on the road every day. Being available to help participants is critical so having flexible work hours is a must. The coordinators are happy to catch up with participants when or wherever it's the most convenient for the participant.

Over the past twelve months, Adrian and Rodney have gained a lot in helping to coordinate training, writing resumes and supporting their ex-workmates into new work. Searching for new job opportunities and cold-calling potential employers is a large part of their roles. Keeping in touch with the workers, to see how they are going, is important too.

Rodney and Adrian work closely with JSAs and RTOs to help arrange any training that the participants require to help them get a new job. This training has included computer courses, white card, civil tickets, truck licences, Certificate IV in Aged Care and Community Services, boat licences, motorbike, forklift, traffic management, personal training, Tas Dairy induction course, coxswain and senior first aid.

Participants have also been completing skills audits against the nationally accredited Forest and Forest Products Training Package. These skills are extremely transferable and enhance the participants' resumes. A presentation day for family and friends was organised by the Coordinators and the Deputy Premier, Mr Bryan Green, presented the certificates.

Connecting participants to LINC at the local library has helped by giving additional support with literacy and numeracy when required. This service has helped some participants with the theory component of some licences.



Examples of some training that has been undertaken

- Up-graded machinery licences from forestry to civil construction
- Forklift licences
- Truck licences of all classes
- Certificate IV Training and Assessment
- Traffic management courses
- Certificate II Logistics and Warehousing
- Coxswains ticket
- Certificate IV Personal Fitness
- First aid, level 2
- Diploma of OH&S
- OH&S White card
- Dangerous goods handling
- Test and tag electrical equipment
- Certificate IV GIS
- Certificate IV Business Administration

This is just a small sample of training that has been undertaken to help individuals secure employment. If you would like help with any training requirements and not sure on what is involved talk to one of your Workers Assistance Coordinators who will be happy to assist in arranging and researching any training requirements that will help you secure employment in the future.

Examples of some of the employment that has been secured

- Machinery operators in civil construction
- Truck drivers
- OH&S officer
- Clerical/admin work
- Aquaculture workers on fish farms
- Store assistant in hardware and other retail outlets
- Farm work including dairy farm workers, orchards and cropping
- Vegetation officers
- Timber yard workers
- Tradesman's assistants
- Groundsmen and maintenance
- Working in landscape supply yards
- Local government (councils)
- Apprentice plumber

All you have to do is contact your nearest Workers Assistance Coordinator:

ForestWorks office: 03 63316077

Rick Birch (south): 0448 654 267

Martin Clifford (north): 0418 137 274

Mark Blackwell (north): 0448 654 546

Adrian Littlejohn (north west): 0448 654 537

Rodney O'Halloran (north west): 0448 654 384

It is important to remember that once you secure employment, we will continue to assist you wherever we can.