

Tasmanian Forestry Workers

ASSISTANCE SERVICE NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the first newsletter for those in the Tasmanian forestry industry that have been affected by the industry restructure.

Have a read and pass it around to anyone that you know that has not yet registered with ForestWorks. Don't hesitate to contact a Workers Assistance Coordinator in your region to help you find further employment.

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.



The role of Workers Assistance Coordinators

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

- connect forestry workers and their families to all Commonwealth Government services including registering with a Job Service Agency (JSA) and Centrelink
- make sure that the JSA is providing the services that you are entitled to
- assist with putting together your resume
- discuss what type of employment you 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 with applying for jobs including helping put together job applications
- help prepare you for job interviews
- transport you to an interview
- exploring all other assistance and funding opportunities that maybe available to you depending on your needs and circumstances
- connecting people to Rural Alive and Well (RAW)

Examples of some training that has been undertaken

- upgraded machinery licences from forestry to civil construction
- forklift licences
- truck licences of all classes
- Certificate IV in Training and Assessment
- traffic management courses
- Certificate II in Logistics and Warehousing
- coxswains ticket
- Certificate IV in Personal Fitness
- first aid, level 2
- Diploma of OH&S
- OH&S White Card
- Dangerous goods handling
- Test and tag electrical equipment
- Certificate IV in GIS
- Certificate IV in Business Administration

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



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

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

ForestWorks office 63316077

Rick Birch South 0448654267

Martin Clifford North 0418137274

Mark Blackwell North 0448654546

Adrian Littlejohn North West 0448654537

Rodney O'Halloran North West 0448654384

Workers assistance personal profiles

Mark Blackwell

Home: Scottsdale

Family: 3 children - Emma, Jaidyn and Liam and granddaughter, Sakye.

Previous workplace: Gunns and Gumatj Association

Years in the timber industry: 20

Football team: Carlton

Food: Roast Lamb

Music: Whatever sounds good

Pastime: Watching footy and motorbike riding



I returned to Tassie to work as a Workers Assistance Coordinator as I felt I had a lot to offer fellow timber industry personnel. I have managed to assist approximately 160 employees to transition into training or jobs. The service we provide through ForestWorks is a face-to-face, on the ground service, for affected workers and their families. I gain satisfaction from being able to help families change direction or just assisting with funding for training.

Ricky Birch

Home: Levendale

Family: wife Carolyn, 3 children - Joseph and twins, Tom and Sigrid.

Previous workplace: Forester/ Harvesting Supervisor
Gunns Triabunna

Years in the timber industry: 25

Football team: only one team - Hawthorn

Food: anything at all but partial to steak

Music: anything but heavy metal

Pastime: spending time with family, gardening and working on my small farm



I first commenced employment in October 2011 as a Workers Assistance Coordinator having myself been made redundant from Gunns Limited at Triabunna where I was employed as a Forester/Harvesting Supervisor. During this time I have been able to stay in touch and assist many people that I had previously worked directly or indirectly with. This job has enabled me to maintain an involvement with the forest industries but in a different capacity and still maintaining some long lasting friendships. I have assisted over 160 individuals in gaining employment in one form or another and also assisted in accessing further training and up skilling. This has involved in excess of 1000 contacts with these people. I hope to continue this service in to the future so please feel free to contact me or any one of the other Workers Assistance Coordinators if you have any query whatsoever.

Through the eyes of Mark Blackwell

Workers Assistance Coordinator

I am currently working with approximately 160 people and their families, since starting my role as a Workers Assistance Coordinator in November 2011.

This assistance includes connecting participants with re-training funding as well as Job Services Australia, RAW, many different RTOs and any organisation required so as to benefit the participant's needs. We have an active database that we use for keeping up to date with participants as well as being able to identify suitable candidates for positions vacant. Many employers use our service to find skilled and job ready people to fill their vacant positions.

Some successes to date include a participant from Western Junction Sawmill gaining a position in Administration at a firm in Launceston. Our service was able to give him the confidence to apply for these sorts of positions as well as giving him one on one resume help and advice.

Another is a participant pursuing a desire to become a driver trainer and assessor. He has completed his Certificate IV in Training and Assessing and is part way through Driver Safety Training.

We have also placed a client with a JSA in a front counter customer service role.

The following is some of the training people are completing or have completed:

- forklift
- confined space
- work at heights
- first aid
- bobcat
- excavator
- dozer
- wheel loader
- white card
- computer courses
- Certificate III in Business and Administration
- Certificate II in Business
- various truck licence categories
- Chemical Certificate ATV
- traffic management
- Certificate IV in Training and Assessment
- security
- horticulture
- high voltage switching
- weed management
- HiAb crane
- various language and literacy courses.

Many people have completed a skills audit through Timber Training Creswick, which benchmarks the skills gained throughout their working career within the industry against the nationally accredited Forest and Forest Products Training Package FPI11.

We have been actively working with a number of employers in the region to secure positions for forestry industry workers and have had an excellent response to our approaches from many businesses.



forestworks@forestworks.com.au www.forestworks.com.au (03) 6331 6077
Shop 4 Cornwall Transit Centre Cimitiere St, Launceston TAS 7250

The Tasmanian Forestry Workers Assistance Service is supported by the Australian Government.