

Tasmanian Forestry Workers

ASSISTANCE SERVICE NEWSLETTER

Hi! This newsletter is provided for those involved in Tasmania's timber industry who have been affected by the industry restructure.

We hope it reminds you that even if you have successfully started a new career with the assistance of Workers Assistance Coordinators, we are still here to help you if required.

Just because you have employment doesn't mean we stop assisting you. Workers Assistance Coordinators can ensure you have the training required for your role and they can assist you with any questions you may have.

For those still seeking employment, please keep in regular contact with your coordinator. We will also be contacting you on a regular basis as we seek employment outcomes.

This is a service provided to you by ForestWorks, supported by Federal Government funding.



The role of Workers Assistance Coordinators

Assisting those that have worked as a part of the Tasmanian forestry industry, our coordinators can:

- connect forestry workers and their families to all Commonwealth Government service including registering with a Job Services Australia (JSA) and Centrelink
- assist with putting together your resume
- discuss what type of job you would like
- meet with prospective employers to find employment opportunities for you
- research and assist in organising further training
- assist you to apply for jobs and put together job applications
- help prepare you for job interviews
- transport you to an interview
- explore all other assistance and funding opportunities that maybe available to you depending on your needs and circumstances
- connect people to Rural Alive and Well (RAW)
- connect people to other available services

Craig Twining: A ForestWorks Workers Assistance Service success story

When Craig Twining was retrenched as a cable operator in native forest harvesting in May 2011, he found new employment with Venarchie, contracting at St Helens, as a civil operator.

Craig already had forest industry licences in excavator operation, but required civil endorsements to further his career with Venarchie.

Through Skills Tasmania's Rapid Response Skills Initiative and ForestWorks' Workers Assistance Service, he was able to undertake training in a set of skills that fitted him for work with his new employer, including:

- Excavator civil endorsement (RTO: Skills Institute).
- Road roller licence (RTO: Skills Institute)
- Chemical certification (RTO: Skills Institute)
- Workplace First Aid (RTO: St John's Ambulance)
- Forklift (RTO: Work and Training)
- Wheel Loader licence (RTO: Skills Institute)

Craig's training was made possible through the support of his employer, the guidance of Mark Blackwell at Forestworks, and through funding subsidies coordinated by Mike McGee from the Rapid Response Skills Initiative.

Craig is already using his new skills and can now work in other areas of the Venarchie business.



Best wishes to Adrian

We are pleased to announce that one of our coordinators, Adrian Littlejohn, has successfully completed a Certificate II in Logistics, fully supported by ForestWorks, and has secured a new position.

We would like to thank Adrian for his substantial contribution to the ForestWorks Worker Assistance service and acknowledge his efforts to support countless retrenched workers in northwest Tasmania.

The following is just an example of the assistance Adrian was able to provide to affected workers:

- A worker, who was made redundant from the forest industry in August 2012, was assisted by Adrian to complete civil excavator and civil dozer licences, as well as completing a construction white card. This worker has now gained employment with McConnell Dowel doing FI/FO in Qld, working on a gas pipeline project.

- A worker who was retrenched from a logging business in early August 2012, was assisted by Adrian to look for alternate employment, and has since started work at the Berry Exchange at Sulphur Creek doing maintenance. Adrian also helped the worker to start a course to gain a Diploma of Massage, so he can work in his wife's business.

The ForestWorks team is glad to see Adrian take on his new role with his newly attained skills and we wish him all the very best.

Rodney O'Halloran will now be assisting, so please do not hesitate to call and say hello on 0448 654 384.

He is looking forward to speaking with you all!

Winter Warmers Weekend charity firewood drive



ForestWorks was proud to support Workers Assistance Coordinator Rick Birch's involvement with the recent Dunalley Winter Warmer Weekend.

Rick helped coordinate 750 tonnes of dry firewood logs to be cut, split and delivered free-of-charge to the residents that were affected by the Dunalley fires, during January 2013.

Rick worked alongside a team of volunteers from the Tasmania Fire Service, SFM Forest Products, Forestry Tasmania, Norske Skog, St Vincent de Paul and various workers from logging coupes across Tasmania, who all donated their time and skills.

The weekend to-do list included: coordinating hundreds of volunteers; preparing the site; overseeing log deliveries; organising fuel mixing; setting-up First Aid stations; ensuring volunteers wore the correct personal protection equipment (PPE); and checking that all chainsaws were in good working order.

Sorell and Districts Bendigo Community Bank and The Rotary Club of Sorell also provided a lot of support over the weekend, making sure everyone had plenty to eat and drink.

To top off the successful weekend, Rick also managed to squeeze in some time on the chainsaw and block buster.

Safe Driving School warming up its engine

Craig Hingston is a former forestry worker with 35 years of industry experience. After becoming retrenched in December 2011, he was ready for a lifestyle change.

Craig was interested in starting a personal business and becoming a driving instructor. His Workers Assistance Coordinator helped him research the role and what it would involve, as well as the types of training he may need to carry out his new aspiration.

Craig has now completed a Certificate IV in Car Driving Training, Certificate IV in Training and Assessment and is now also a member of the Australian Driver Trainers Association (ADTA).

With the aid of his dual control car, Craig can now provide lessons to learner drivers or those wanting to brush up on their pre-test skills.

Craig can be contacted at Safe Driver School on 0417 393 525.



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

Rodney O'Halloran North West 0448654384

Skills Audits: Turning skills you already have into formal qualifications

A Skills Audit can provide you with formal recognition of skills that you may have been using in your work for many years. Organising a Skills Audit is easy and can be a huge boost to your working life.

What is a Skills Audit?

A Skills Audit looks at all your complete work history and the skills and training that you have received on the job. If possible, it matches these skills and training with formal, widely recognised qualifications.

How long does a Skills Audit take?

Skills Audits usually take around an hour, but in some cases can take two.

What do I need to bring to a Skills Audit?

Bring along copies of any certificates, qualifications, resumes, job descriptions or licences that you already have.

What qualifications can I get out of a Skills Audit?

Depending on what evidence (certificates, etc) that you are able to provide you could achieve a Statement of Attainment; a Certificate I, II, III, or IV; or even a Diploma.

Does it cost money to participate in a Skills Audit?

No, a Skills Audit can be provided as part of this service.

How can a Skills Audit help me?

By receiving formal recognition for what you have achieved in the workplace you will be able to demonstrate to potential new employers that you have a certain skills set and also that you are prepared to learn.

Where are Skills Audit meetings conducted?

A Skills Audit can be held at any location that suits you. It can even be done at your own home.

When are the Skills Audit being held?

Skills Audits will be held from July 2013.

How do I arrange a Skills Audit?

To arrange a Skills Audit or for more information, talk with your Workers Assistance Coordinator or contact Rick Birch on 0448654267



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