



## Nelson Forests' scholarship leads to job with the Company

As the old saying goes, you create your own luck. If ever there was a person this applies to, it's Danielle Inglis.

BY JOHN COHEN-DU FOUR

Danielle is a Bachelor of Forestry Science graduate who recently secured full-time employment with Nelson Management, which manages the Nelson Forests Ltd estate. She now works as a Technical Forester, analysing and reporting data findings to two managers, while also providing operations and supply chain support.

Danielle completed her four-year degree in July 2014, but the time she had spent in Nelson Forests' Tertiary Scholarship

Programme gave her the additional practical experience that equipped her so well for a job.

Heather Arnold, Nelson Management's Planner for Environmental and Operations Support, oversees the Scholarship Programme and explains that it provides funding and work experience for up to four Bachelor of Forestry Science, Bachelor of Forestry Engineering or Mechanical Engineering students at any one time.

"Scholarships can be awarded for up to five years of study per participant, with students from Nelson and Marlborough given priority.

"Whenever learning opportunities within the Company's operations become available, whatever the time of year, Scholarship students can undertake a range of practical training focused around four key areas: harvesting, silviculture, roading and sawmilling. This allows the students to truly

understand the theory they are learning in their university classes, because they actually are working out in the field, grounded in the day-to-day realities of the forestry industry."

Since its inception in 2006 the Scholarship Programme has enjoyed a 100 percent success rate, with every participating student securing employment within the forestry industry. Heather says that in Danielle's case she'd only just completed her forestry degree when Nelson

Management notified her of a pending retirement within the Company workforce.

"We were delighted that Danielle had not only successfully gained her degree, but also shown such commitment to the opportunities that arose from the Scholarship Programme. We knew exactly what we were getting, as did she. Danielle is a very good fit for our organisation."

Danielle found the Scholarship's practical learning opportunities varied and stimulating. "Because I was a full-time student, my Nelson Management work always occurred during my holiday breaks," she says. "I really valued the Company's flexibility, and the terrific diversity of the experiences it provided. I was even able to pick up extra training in log-making."

Log-making is the critical process of evaluating harvested logs to maximise their value. Despite now being in full-time employment, Danielle has continued working towards gaining her log-making

qualification.

"My big passions are around harvesting and wood flow, which is basically the supply chain. I enjoy being out in the field assessing current and upcoming harvesting in terms of achieving highest quality from the estate.

"I'm so grateful for the support of Nelson Management. It has a wealth of highly experienced managers and workers, and they've all been good teachers for me. I've found the Company's corporate culture, its sound values and, in particular, its constant striving for excellence highly motivating."

The gains work both ways. Nelson Management values new workers like Danielle highly, says Nelson Management Chief Operating Officer David Robinson. "Our harvest volume is stable," he says. "The Company is improving its management practices, and utilising exciting new IT-based technologies. We need young people who think differently from the past. Diversity in our team is important.

"Danielle is tenacious in

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Opposite page: Danielle Inglis

This page left: One of Gillespie Logging's loaders at work at a site in Marlborough  
Right: Former scholarship recipient Jacob Fairhall at Adams Forest Block, Onamalutu during time spent with Nelson Management contractors Edridge Construction. Jacob is now a Masters candidate in forest engineering at the University of Canterbury

her pursuits," David adds. "She stays 100 percent focused and has a great sense of order. As a business we are constantly looking for improvement and that means doing the everyday well, which is where Danielle is proving so valuable. Her growing understanding of operations and the supply chain, and how they function from the ground up, provides her with a strong understanding of what supports senior staff – to the benefit of all concerned."

For Danielle, the best part of her new job with Nelson Management is its variety. "It's great. I never get bored because every day is a new challenge. I feel very lucky."

Given her determined approach to carving a career within the forestry industry, and the unique work experience opportunities offered by Nelson Management's Scholarship Programme, it's safe to say that luck had little to do with it.

For more information about the Scholarship Programme, go to [www.nelsonforests.co.nz](http://www.nelsonforests.co.nz)

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