

Welcome to Issue 37 of the Network for Women in Forestry (NWIF) newsletter. If you would like to subscribe to receive the newsletter directly please email sonya@blackburnegroup.co.nz. **This newsletter is for you, Women in Forestry, and we welcome your feedback and suggestions for future content.**

Drink Driving – An Important Notice

From the 1st of December 2014 significant changes will be introduced to NZ Drink Driving limits.

Drivers who fail an evidential breath test between 251 and 400 mg/litre will be fined \$200 and incur 50 demerit points (100 demerit points results in a loss of license for three months).

Drivers who are over the 400 micrograms threshold will face criminal prosecution and the sanctions that currently stand.

If you are under 20 years of age or on a restricted license the zero alcohol limit that is currently in place remains.

The new lower threshold (250 – 400 micrograms) means that most people will be able to consume only one standard drink in an hour (330ml of beer, 100ml of wine, 32 ml of spirits) and be able to legally drive without penalty.

The police estimate that in the first year there will be an additional 19,000 offences!

With Christmas just around the corner make sure you are safe and sensible regarding alcohol and driving; it would be a good bet that the number of check points will be increased significantly.

At Last – Safety Gear Designed to Fit Women

A range of hi-vis gear aims to make the job more comfortable for female workers.

The clothing, which includes fitted vests and shirts, has been made by NZ Safety to fit women who are working in the construction sector.

Engineer Kimberly Jupp was behind the initiative and says even the smallest men's safety vest equates to a size 14 for women.

"For safety and comfort, it needs to fit well and not catch on equipment", she said.

The launch in Christchurch on 20 November 2014 was part of a Ministry of Women's Affairs initiative to encourage businesses to employ more women in trades and construction work.

Women now make up 16% of people employed in the construction industry - up from 9% two years ago.

Minister for Women Louise Upston says a new handbook for employers gives practical advice on how to attract women to trade jobs, as well as finding qualified female workers for trade positions.

"Demand for skilled workers in Canterbury is high and is forecast to continue," says Ms Upston. "Some businesses are having difficulty attracting skilled workers to their jobs. My message to employers is to consider all workers when they recruit for their industries."

"There are thousands of women working in trades roles across New Zealand and research has shown there are benefits they can bring to businesses. These include stronger connections with customers, improved performance of businesses and greater diversity of leadership."

Source: One News, 20 Nov 2014

This is a newsletter for you - the Women in forestry. Please email us and let us know what you want to see and read about in the next newsletter.

How to Fight Climate Change by Harvesting Wood

By: *The Seattle Times* (14 Nov 2014)

The amount of carbon dioxide in the Earth's atmosphere has increased by 20 percent in the past 50 years. We must make it a global priority to reverse this trend or risk the severe consequences of climate change.

To date, our carbon-reduction efforts have been focused on finding more ways to generate energy other than burning coal or natural gas or to, at the very least, reduce the amount of carbon that is emitted when these fossil fuels are burned.

Current data demonstrates that improving the efficiency of using fossil fuels will only slow the rate that carbon emissions are increasing. The only way to stop the increase of greenhouse-gas emissions is to expand and employ carbon-negative technologies that take carbon out of the air.

Relying more upon solar energy to power electric utilities is one carbon negative technology when it displaces the use of fossil fuels. Another employs the sustainable harvest and use of wood.

We've long known and accepted that forests absorb and store carbon in the trees. However, peer-reviewed research conducted by a consortium of research institutions over the last 15 years finds that sustainable forest management while using the harvested wood can be even more effective in reducing carbon in the atmosphere.

Data shows that wood harvested at the right time in the forest lifecycle and used in building products provides a renewable and sustainable carbon-negative resource.

As trees mature, like a garden, the carbon they sequester from the atmosphere slows down, and as trees or plants die and decompose they emit the carbon back to the atmosphere. So planting a new forest results in a one-time decrease in atmospheric carbon, but not a sustained reduction year after year.

Using wood products to displace fossil-intensive product emissions while storing the carbon removed from the forest in building products is the kind of carbon-negative technology we need to reduce the risks of global warming.

Further efficiencies are captured at the end of a product's life when the wood is recycled or burned to directly displace fossil energy. Even when disposed in a landfill, wood products sequester carbon for as long as it takes for them to decay. Modern landfills can even capture the emissions during the decay cycle and burn them for energy, displacing fossil fuels.

Just growing trees and setting aside the forest is not enough. Sustainable forest practices and better uses of wood can efficiently reduce carbon dioxide in the atmosphere for the long term.

Source: The Working Forest Newspaper, 20 Nov 2014

Make Sure You Get The Holiday Pays Right

Holiday and statutory entitlements are calculated on average weekly earnings for an employee. This means if the employee always works more than 40 hours then he/she is paid his average earnings.

If you are using a computer based system, don't assume this is correct! The payroll system needs to have the correct settings, better to check now than end up with a complaint.

The Department of Labour website has useful information on this, which can be found at <http://www.dol.govt.nz/>.

