

Welcome to Issue 41 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.**

New resident director requirements

As of 1st May 2015 new rules applying to the governance, registration and reconstruction of companies in New Zealand will be introduced by the Companies Amendment Act (No 4) 2014. One of the aims of the Act is to assist with the prevention of the misuse of New Zealand companies. It strengthens the rules around the incorporation of New Zealand limited liability companies increasing corporate transparency and accountability.

From 1st May 2015 all New Zealand incorporated companies will need to have a director who:

- Lives in New Zealand; or
- Lives in an “enforcement country” and is a director of a company registered in that enforcement country. *The Companies Act 1993 Amendment Regulations (no 2) 2014 has confirmed Australia as the only enforcement country.*

For existing companies (i.e. incorporated prior to 1st May 15) they have until 27 October 2015 to comply with this requirement (i.e. timeframe of 180 days to become compliant).

From 1st May 2015 additional information requirements will be imposed on all directors for all New Zealand incorporated companies, including:

- Director’s full name
- Director’s residential address
- Director’s place of birth (will not however, be made publicly available)
- Director’s date of birth (will not however, be made publicly available)

For companies registered prior to 1st May 2015 this additional information will need to be provided to the Registrar as part of the filing of the Company Annual Return.

Mothers in the New Zealand workforce

The paper ‘*Mothers in the New Zealand Workforce*’ published by Statistics NZ on 23 February 2015 takes an initial look at how mothers’ and non-mothers’ engagement with the labour market has changed over the last 20 years, how the mother and child characteristics affect mothers’ levels of employment and unemployment, and the type and quality of work that mothers are employed in and how this compares with women with no children.

Social, cultural, economic, and policy changes have all affected women’s participation in paid work in varying ways over the last few decades. In the last 20 years the labour force participation rate of women has increased from 54.5 percent (June 1994 year) to 63.3 percent (June 2014 year). Over the same period, men’s participation rate was largely unchanged, but remained higher than women’s. While much of this growth in women’s participation was in the older age groups, significant gains have been seen for those aged 25–49 years (the prime child-bearing and rearing ages).

To read the full paper, view online at www.stats.govt.nz.

Source: www.stats.govt.nz

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Foreman's fine over forestry death cut by \$20,000

By Rebecca Malcolm

A forestry foreman who felled a tree that killed his mate has had his \$35,000 fine quashed, and replaced with a fine of \$15,000.

Major Nelson went to the High Court in February to appeal his sentence, after earlier pleading guilty to a charge under the Health and Safety in Employment Act that, being an employee, he failed to take all practicable steps to prevent an action of his at work, namely felling a tree, from causing harm to 23-year-old Robert Ruri-Epapara.

Mr Ruri-Epapara was hit by a tree felled by Nelson in the Waione Forest, near Lake Rotoiti, on March 26, 2013.

Nelson was fined \$35,000 and ordered to pay reparation of \$15,000.

He was also a director and 40 per cent shareholder in Complete Logging, which was fined \$60,000 and ordered to pay reparation of \$75,000.

In her decision Justice Patricia Courtney found the fine was "disproportionate to the offending and [was] manifestly excessive".

She said it was an "unusual combination of factors" where Nelson was fined, as well as being a shareholder in the company which was fined.

"...In the circumstance of this case, it would have been right to take the effect of the fine on the company into account when assessing whether the overall penalty was proportionate to the offending and to Mr Nelson personally."

She said it was not possible to consider Mr Nelson's personal financial circumstances without recognising the effect of the fine paid by the company.

She said a fine of \$35,000 would take "a very long time to pay" and at \$100 a week could take 15 years.

She considered a fine that could be repaid over a period of five years would reflect fairly the seriousness and believed \$15,000 was a more appropriate figure.

During the appeal lawyer Hamish Evans argued that Nelson's \$35,000 fine, in particular, be reduced to something in the region of \$10,000.

Mr Evans said it was unusual for a company, as well as an employee, to be fined in such cases.

Rotorua Crown solicitor Amanda Gordon said it was important that the fine was large enough to do what it was designed to do.

Source: NZ Herald, Wednesday Mar 11, 2015

Beware of scam alerts

There are currently two email scams targeting Inland Revenue customers (as outlined below). If you receive one of these emails please report them to phishing@ird.govt.nz

1. Phishing scam mimics website

Inland Revenue is aware of a phishing attack mimicking their website whereby customers receive an email saying that they are eligible for a tax refund. The phishing link redirects the customers to a fake page with multiple redirects to fake banking links.

Do not use these links and report any suspicious emails to Inland Revenue.

2. Scam with a Property disclosure return (IR4T)

Another email scam is asking New Zealand taxpayers to complete a Property disclosure return (IR4T). If you receive this email, please ignore it and delete it. Don't complete the IR4T or send it to the fax number or email address advised in the email.

Source: www.ird.govt.nz

**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.**