

Welcome to Issue 39 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.**

Employee cost calculator tool

The Employee Cost Calculator has been designed to help small to medium businesses make confident hiring decisions, and is part of a package of tools being developed by Business.govt.nz.

Using data from government agencies and Trade Me Jobs, the calculator tailors employment costs to your industry and the type of role you think your business might need. It allows you to quickly estimate the fixed and discretionary costs when you take someone on.

You can find out what you're going to be paying straight away, and get a breakdown of the compulsory costs like ACC levies, KiwiSaver contributions and Fringe Benefit Tax. The tool also shows you the cost of employing someone in the first year, and a monthly ballpark for your budget.

Try the employee cost calculator at www.business.govt.nz/employeecostcalculator.

Source: www.acc.govt.nz/news, 3 Dec 2014

WISE Women Forum: 30 April 2015

Orakei Bay, Auckland

Conferenz is pleased to offer **FICA members** / recipients of this email a **10%** discount off the conference price (both super saver and early-bird rates). To claim your discount, please use on-line booking code: **MW4WOC** or mention this email if registering by phone (09) 912 3616.

Super Saver rates close 5pm, 27 February 2015.

For more information, visit <http://www.conferenz.co.nz/conferences/wise-women-2015>

Ministry for Women name change

On 1 December 2014, Minister for Women Louise Upston announced a name change for the Ministry of Women's Affairs, which will represent the Ministry's work in a more modern way.

"In October the Prime Minister announced new names for several portfolios and following on from this, I am pleased to announce that from today the Ministry of Women's Affairs will officially be the Ministry for Women.

"For 30 years we have had a dedicated Ministry that has made great progress in increasing opportunities for women in employment and leadership, as well as introducing policies to increase women's safety.

"It is an honour for me as Minister to be involved with the next stages of progress, and to achieve benefits for not only women, but for their families and the future of New Zealand.

"Women should have every opportunity made available to them to realise their potential. I am looking forward to working with the Ministry to increase the opportunities for women to be leaders, as well as encouraging economic independence for women of all ages. We will also continue to work to increase women's safety.

"The Ministry will begin to use the new name immediately and take the required steps to implement the formal name change processes in the most cost-effective manner.

"This change also aligns with the Ministry's office move this week, representing a new beginning for the Ministry," Ms Upston says.

Source: <http://mwa.govt.nz/news/ministry-women>, 1 Dec 2014

Wellington factory set to pump out prefab houses

New Zealand's first factory turning out finished houses has opened in Wellington, aiming to produce up to 500 places annually.

Sean Murrie, Matrix Homes chief executive and director, said Finance Minister Bill English yesterday opened the 8000sq m Trentham factory in the former General Motors assembly plant.

"People are building components of houses, then assembling them on the site. But the whole thing here is we're turning fully finished houses with code compliance certificates," Murrie said.

Grant Florence, chief executive of Certified Builders said more people were looking at prefabricated houses to address the housing shortage.

"This is not new. Prefabrication of houses has been around a long, long time," Florence said.

"I have concerns about whether the market is big enough to sustain these sorts of operations," he said.

"They have to overcome some consumer negatives around the prefab concept because people relate it to cheap and they relate it to prefabs at schools."

In December it was announced that Auckland's first house-building factory was being planned for Pokeno and could produce components for two-and-a-half houses a day.

Mike Greer, founder and chief of house building business Mike Greer Homes, said then that he and a joint venture partner planned to develop a \$16 million high-volume residential panels factory at Pokeno because he thought that was the best place to supply Auckland, Tauranga and Hamilton.

The factory could eventually make components for 1250 houses a year, Greer said.

"You stick timber in one end and out pops a house," Greer said.

His business has formed Concision, a joint venture with construction business Spanbuild, to develop the new \$14 million Rolleston factory south of Christchurch in the iZone industrial park where Weinmann specialist German machinery is installed for the production line house panel manufacturer.

Matrix houses come in an M1 module with a single bedroom and a larger M2 two-bedroom module and have a simple mono-pitch roof with a big square wall at one end. Both modules exist as standalone homes, or can be combined in a host of different configurations.

"Both modules can fit on a truck or book a ticket on the Cook Strait Ferry," the business said.

Module costs

- \$89,000: 51sq m, one bedroom.
- \$99,000: 70sq m, two bedrooms.
- \$195,000: 140sq m, 4 bedroom, 2 bathrooms.
- Transport costs: \$10,000 in Wellington, \$20,000 in Auckland.
- Piles are included in Wellington transport costs but not in Auckland. Pile costs for Auckland are an extra \$3000.

Source: NZ Herald, 5 Feb 2015

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.