

Girls in Infrastructure®

2024

Empowering young women since 2019

NORTHLAND



Premier Sponsor

Northpower

girlsiniinfrastructure.org.nz



WELCOME TO GIRLS IN INFRASTRUCTURE® 2024

We're excited for you to explore this event and discover the fascinating world of the Infrastructure industry. You'll not only learn about what this industry entails but also uncover the incredible career opportunities it offers.

We encourage you to take a leap of faith today, hop outside of your comfort zone and approach a professional woman you admire and who makes you think; 'I wonder what her job is?' Ask her about her experiences and see if you can picture yourself in her shoes one day.

Have a chat with the many different companies and education providers here today and find out how you can go from leaving school when you're ready, entering the world of careers and becoming successful in which ever pathway you choose.

There is such a diverse range of jobs available in Northland and New Zealand from engineers in civil, environmental, structural, to machinery operators, health & safety advisors, quarry operators, business managers, electricians, electrical engineers, planners, builders, sustainability managers and many, many more.

Warm regards

**Infrastructure New Zealand and our
Women's Infrastructure Network**

**Girls in
Infrastructure®**

» Schedule

TIME	SCHEDULE
9:30am	Student registration opens
10:00am	Students welcome on level 2 (please be seated)
10:10am	Event brief & health and safety talk
10:15am	Split into 4 groups
10:30am	Rotation 1 Starts Team Kōwhai - WWTP site visit Team Whero - Exhibition booths Team Kikorangi - Otaika Marina site visit Team Kākāriki - Machinery carpark
11:00am	Rotate
11:15am	Rotation 2 Starts Team Kōwhai - Otaika Marina site visit Team Whero - Machinery carpark Team Kikorangi - WWTP site visit Team Kākāriki - Exhibition booths
11:45am	Ex-student now Industry Professional Talk
11:50am	Lunch - Individually Packed for Students (Return to groups at 12.15pm)
12:25pm	Rotation 3 Starts Team Kōwhai - Exhibition booths Team Whero - Otaika Marina site visit Team Kikorangi - Machinery carpark Team Kākāriki - WWTP site visit
12:55pm	Rotate
1:10pm	Rotation 4 Starts Team Kōwhai - Machinery carpark Team Whero - WWTP site visit Team Kikorangi - Exhibition booths Team Kākāriki - Otaika Marina site visit
1:40pm	Rotation 4 stops - make way back to Semenoff Stadium
1:50pm	Team Photo (by machinery carpark)
2:00pm	Thank you and farewell
2:05pm	Return to school with your teachers

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**Alyssa Paki****Graduate Engineer, Northpower, Whangārei****High School:** McClelland Secondary College, Melbourne, Australia**Tertiary:** Diploma of Electrical Engineering at Manukau Institute of Technology

My journey into the electrical industry began at People Potential in 2019 where I completed the Northpower Trade Cadet programme and obtained my Level 2 New Zealand Certificate in Electricity Supply.

I was then given the opportunity to work as a cadet with Northpower, and whilst in their employment applied for the scholarship to attend the Manukau Institute of Technology and obtain my Diploma of Electrical Engineering. In my current role as a Graduate Engineer, I can rotate through the various engineering teams at Northpower. The flexibility to transition through the various teams means I can assist on project designs, implement, and validate these designs using specialised software programmes. This has enabled me to expand and grow my knowledge within the electrical industry.

Slogan: *If you are passionate about bringing forward innovative ideas and making a difference, come join me in contributing to our forever-growing electrical industry.*

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**Eseta Tonutonu****Glove and Line Mechanic, Northpower, Whangārei****High School:** Haapai High School, Tonga.**Tertiary:** Tonga Institute of Science and Technology

From 11 years old I told my family I wanted to be a Line Mechanic. Since then, I have focused on my dream and now I am a part of the Northpower Crew that fixes and repairs our network.

I was raised in the very humble island of Haapai in Tonga. I attended Haapai High School and then went to Tonga Institute of Science and Technology, where I studied Electrical Engineering for three years. This led to me starting my career in Tonga as a Trainee Line Mechanic.

In 2012 North power recruited 10 people from Tonga Power Ltd. I was the only female to be a part of that program and in 2022 I became the second female Glove and Barrier for Northpower, and I am now doing my dream job.

Days at work are like a weather forecast, things can change quickly, but the beauty of it all is you will always learn new things. I have come across many challenges, but with hard work, I have always found ways to fit in and those challenges have never stopped me from shining.

My boss back in Tonga told me he needed 10 Eseta's to work with me. He then went and recruited 10 females from my island and more from around Tonga which paid off.

I am encouraging all wāhine who are looking for a new career to have a go. You will enjoy it just like I do.

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**Mystee Opai****Cable Jointer, Northpower, Whāngarei**

Mystee Opai joined Northpower in 2020 through a cadetship programme with People Potential. Part of the programme was to give young people from the community exposure to different parts of the Northpower business and experience different roles across the industry.

Mystee worked across various parts of the Northpower Contracting business as part of her cadetship, including in the faults dispatch team, fault's crews, vegetation crews and the stores department.

At the end of the cadet programme, Northland Contracting offered Mystee a position as a Trainee Cable Jointer, where she was placed into an underground crew under the direct supervision of a foreperson to begin her trade training.

Mystee says, "I wanted to pursue this trade because my father had worked for Northpower as a Line Mechanic, and I wanted a trade as a Cable Jointer."

After hard work, dedication and a significant investment of time, Mystee completed her Level 4 Cable Jointing Qualification in 2023.

**Hayley McRae****Trainee Electrical Fitter, Northpower, Whāngarei**

Hayley McRae started at Northpower as a year 13, Whangarei Girls High School student doing work experience through the school gateway system. She was always interested in the electro technology field and met Northpower at the 'Girls in Infrastructure' event, which led her to reach out to Northpower for work experience near the end of 2022.

After working in the Northpower Electrical Services, Hayley secured a place in the first intake of the cadetship programme in 2023. She is now enrolled into the Electrical Trade pathway as a Trainee Electrical Fitter.

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**Ana Nopera****Driver/Operator, Fulton Hogan****High School:** Kaitaia College

Hi, my name is Ana Nopera, I am 24 years old and I'm currently working at Fulton Hogan Kaitaia. In 2017 I had completed my last year at Kaitaia college, and a family friend had given me the opportunity to become his apprentice in the trade of interior plastering. Later that year he unfortunately he passed away, so I decided to take that level of knowledge and experience to Auckland. After 2 years in the industry covid-19 hit the country causing the business to drop. I then moved back to Kaitaia in hopes to get back on my feet.

With the encouragement of my father Rolly Noble who has been an employee with Fulton Hogan for over 25 years, I then applied at FH Kaitaia. I started my journey on a stop /go paddle for my first year but my interest in the job grew and I was eager to learn more and get involved to which I achieved in getting my class two RTW license the following year with the help of Fulton Hogan. I had then been given the privilege to then operate machinery starting on a 10-ton tractor with a hoe attachment that is used for pavement repairs and also operating a 13 tonne vibe roller. Now I am on a 7 ton skid steer alongside training new employees on these machines. This is my 4th year here and I am grateful and appreciative of the opportunities I have been given, I encourage females to up skill and challenge their abilities to succeed within Fulton Hogan.

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**Lateisha Jeeves****Northland H&S Advisor, Fulton Hogan****High School:** Pompallier Catholic College

I left school quite young without a clear direction of what I wanted to do. Initially I studied hair dressing through People Potential and then went on to work in a salon in Whangārei. It wasn't long before I realised, I didn't enjoy been couped up inside all day and went on to try my hand at a few other things. It wasn't until 2017 still unsure where I was heading in life. I applied for a job at a small company in Whangārei that subcontracted to FH, amongst traffic management (holding a 'slow down paddle') and occasionally stopping traffic I also completed tasks such as labourer, sweeping, shovelling and learning how to use small engine powered tools. This was my space, the construction industry! In 2018 my journey being employed directly by FH began, I was employed in the WDC

Maintenance team where I worked my way from TC to STMS and into an Inspector role - drainage inspections and unsealed/sealed road inspections, programming faults on the network for the team to repair. Later I moved from the WDC Maintenance team to the NOC Contract where I was employed to inspect all vulnerable flooding areas and assets (guardrails, bridges & retaining walls) on the State Highway network. This included supervising subcontractors undertaking pavement repairs and repairs to our assets. I have always had a passion for the environment and the well-being and safety of my peers. In 2023, I had the opportunity to step into the Northland H&S Advisor role

in the SQTE department, working in a small tight knit team based in Whangārei doing something that has always interested me, a job that I love! In my 5 years with FH I have gained an abundance of knowledge and skills in different aspects of both the business and the industry. FH has given me the opportunity to progress through different roles and ultimately, I have discovered the career I want to pursue.

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**Estella Patu****Northland H&S Advisor, Fulton Hogan**

Hi, my name is Estella Patu, I am 22 yrs old from Whangārei, Northland. My passions are hunting, fishing and motorbike riding...really anything that involves the outdoors. I have been lucky enough to get the opportunity to work at Fulton Hogan as a Cadet. I first started my Cadetship in October 2023. The Cadetship is when you go into each department within the business for roughly two months.

I am currently in my 4th rotation. In my Cadetship there are 7 departments to go through. When I was looking at Fulton Hogan, I took into consideration the things I like. Throughout my schooling I was always interested in the trades. I really didn't know what I wanted to do so what I decided is I would choose a company that could offer a lot of opportunities and work with really experienced people in their fields. This Cadet ship has allowed me to work in each department and work alongside great people. This has given me a clearer idea of what I will want to do in my chosen career, as I see the work that gets done in each aspect of the business. What I really love is I get to travel all over Northland and have some of the best spots to work as well as have smoko with some pretty cool people. I'm still figuring out my own career path, and while I do this, I am gaining licenses and skills. I am developing working relationships with people inside the company and out. What I do know is that this company is exciting and fun and will help me make a good career decision. If you want to work in a company that will fully support you in whatever career path you choose, Fulton Hogan will back you all the way.

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**Luana Misa****Site Administrator, Winstone Aggregates, Otaika Quarry Whangarei****High School:** Waiuku College**Tertiary:** Certificate in Business First Line Management, Lvl 4 and Certificate in Mining and Quarrying, Lvl 2

Working in the quarry as a bit of an all-rounder, she is in charge of ordering, managing accounts, and scheduling operator training in addition to operating the weighbridge. Currently, Luana is working on her B-Grade Quarry Managers Certification and is an associate member of the NZ Institute of Quarrying.

**Natalya Pussell****Quarry Operator, Winstone Aggregates, Otaika Quarry, Whangarei****High School:** Tauranga**Tertiary:** Certificate in Mining and Quarrying, Lvl 2

Having completed her education in Tauranga, Natalya relocated to Whangarei. She made the decision to become a machine operator because she did not want to work in the traditional jobs that are traditional female roles such as working in retail or in front of a computer. In addition to operating the plant control room and driving the loaders that move product and load trucks and trailers, she is also responsible for driving a 45-ton dump truck.

Because of the one-of-a-kind educational opportunities that come with working in a quarry, she has been able to grow both professionally and personally as a result of her employment with Winstone Aggregates.

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**Hanna Smithies****Site Administrator, Winstone Aggregates- Flattop Quarry****High School:** Orewa College**Tertiary:** AUT: Bachelor of Medical Laboratory Science

Hanna is responsible for managing the site weighbridge/office as well as accounts payable, maintaining production/machine maintenance records, and is also a site health and safety rep. Hanna has been working at Flattop Quarry for 17yrs since her completion of university and is also signed off to operate a loader which she has done intermittently over the duration of her employment at this site.

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**Mel Sworn****Crane Operator and Heavy Transport Diesel Mechanic,
Atlas Cranes, Whangarei****High School:** Whangarei Girls High School**Tertiary:** Pre-trade Automotive at Northtec, National Certificate in Heavy Automotive Engineering, National Certificate in Crane Operations

I'm Mel, 33-year-old mum of one hard core baby girl, life is busy. Starting of as an Apprentice at Keith Andrew Trucks I completed my apprenticeship and gained my National Certificate in Heavy Automotive Engineering. After being in one trade for nearly a decade, it was time for something new, a new challenge. I'd been around heavy machinery for a while but not cranes. I thought I'd like to give that ago so I joined Atlas Cranes. 9 years later I'm still doing it and love it! I have learnt to operate most of the vehicles in our fleet and drive the trucks as well, I've taken my mechanic skills along with me, hence I also do the maintenance on our gear. Every day is a new challenge, it can be overwhelming at times, it's a serious business, you have a lot of responsibilities, no 2 jobs are the same, different jobs, sites, customers, recovery work, houses, construction it's a good variety. I really enjoy the work, it's good to engage the brain. For all hopeful, interested girls out there, have a go, it's not for everyone, it takes focus, hard work and commitment, but it's a really choice industry to be in, if it clicks with you, you won't look back.

**Dakota Stewart****Trainee Crane Operator/Dogman, Atlas Cranes, Whangarei****High School:** Pompallier College/Kamo High School, NCA level 1, 2 and 3 currently studying Dogman Ticket

My role consists of dogging the cranes on jobs, setting up cranes onsite as I'm still learning about it all. Loving it so far and I'm learning every day. I had been at one of the refinery shut downs and wanted to learn more about the cranes so I did some work experience at Atlas Cranes and this resulted into a full time trainee position..

My words of wisdom; never feel intimidated or discouraged to try this line of work or any male dominated job. Give it a go, you never know unless you try.

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**Gabriel O'Callaghan****Process Engineer, Golden Bay**

High School: Kaitaia College

Tertiary: Bachelor of Chemical and Bio-Process Engineering with Honours

I initially went to university to study to be a vet, but I didn't enjoy it as much as I thought I would. I changed degrees a couple times before landing on chemical engineering. After Uni, Fletcher Building offered me a role in the graduate program at Golden Bay working at the cement manufacturing plant. My time at Golden Bay has been interesting with no two days looking the same. I have enjoyed the variety of work and challenges the role offers me.

**Ciara O'Halloran****3rd Year Apprentice Electrician, Golden Bay**

Tertiary: Bachelor of Chemical and Bio-Process Engineering with Honours

I left school with the hope of becoming a nurse. During my 1st year, I realised this was not for me and changed to becoming an electrician. I have found this to be rewarding and a fulfilling job, with a combination of both mental and physical work. I find every day different even though I work in the same location, varying from lights to high voltage equipment. I feel that having a trade to fall back on will safeguard my future prospects and have no student debt to pay back.

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**Lynda Pepper****Business Development Manager East Auckland, RSEA Safety NZ****High School:** Rangitoto College**Tertiary:** Qualified Interior Designer 1992 and Member of NAWIC, Joined Toastmaster in 2024

Lynda is responsible for the East Tamaki – Drury Customer base in Sales and account management. Her background is Commercial Construction / Project Management of 25 years. In the Paint Industry and Brick- supply in Government Builds- Hi Profile Builder- Developers Architectural Specification - Project Management supply – Grew up on the Hibiscus Coast and went to Rangitoto College.

**Luana****Business Development Manager, RSEA Safety NZ****High School:** Auckland Girls Grammar

Responsible for the Central Auckland Territory, Luana's key responsibility is to her customers. Providing outstanding account management, promoting growth, and building long lasting relationships with her clients.

Luana grew up in Auckland and attended Auckland Girls Grammar. Working in a

number of different businesses with different roles from banking, not for profit and service industry her skillset is varied. Luana takes pride in her Samoan heritage and culture which is a driving force in her career successes.

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**Claudia Berringer****Stormwater Business Development Manager, Hynds Pipe Systems****Women's Infrastructure Network Member**

I'm Claudia Berringer, originally from Brazil and living in NZ since 2018. I have a bachelor's degree in environmental engineering and a postgraduate in project management. When I was young, I had a dream to be recognized as a good professional in the water sector, so I'm on a good path to this. I started my professional life and have worked most of my career so far as a consultant. I have worked in very complex projects, learned lots, and had the pleasure to work for the Council and Beca before joining Hynds, where I am enjoying myself immensely.

Most of my knowledge comes from my curiosity! I ask a lot of questions and am always open to learning new things. This makes sense as to why I love being in contact with people, understanding their problems and working together to determine the best solutions.

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**Aidan Bryers****Associate, Project Management, Beca**
Women's Infrastructure Network Member**High School:** Dargaville High School**Qualifications:** Bachelor of Architectural Studies, Unitec Institute of Technology, Te Reo Level 3 (Intermediate), Te Pūkenga

Aidan has 10 years experience within the Construction Industry and has demonstrated work history of: project and portfolio management, multidisciplinary

feasibility/scoping studies, business management, and development.

She is a strong, client-focused person, with excellent communication skills. Aidan handles project ambiguity well and navigates changing business objectives.

She started her construction career in Dargaville, before taking on a range of buildings in Auckland such as a prison, apartment building, and convention building.

3 years ago, Aidan returned to Northland where she then worked on the Whangarei District Council Civic Centre and many more exciting projects in the region.

Aidan is a big advocate for more women to enter the infrastructure industry and is a great example of what is possible.

My tip for other wāhine:

"Do things at your own pace. Life's not a race!"

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**Carolyn Chapman****People & Culture Operations Manager, McKay**

With more than two decades of talent acquisition expertise, Carolyn spearheads the recruitment of top talent for available positions at McKay and its subsidiary companies. In her role, she manages a team of people and culture advisors, while developing recruitment strategies, establishing talent networks, and ensuring a positive recruitment experience for all applicants.

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**Sallianne Crawford****Northtec**

I'm a Pathway Coordinator for Electrical and Carpentry/Plumbing Departments at NorthTec. I've been working in the role for four and a half years.

I love helping young people graduate from start to finish, then see the student come back with their own business and enrol their apprentices onto our course. It shows that what we are teaching works and it's enjoyable.

It's an exciting industry to be in and I love that there are more young women getting involved with a hands-on trade and graduating with a qualification. It's encouraging to watch them start paving the way for change in this trade industry. I believe it's important for all women to have the opportunity to be in the trades industry. Doesn't always mean being on the tools, being a coordinator is still a big part to help the business succeed.

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**Sharlene Nelson****Northtec**

I grew up in Auckland and in my last years of high school, we moved to a little town called Kaeo in the far north. I am a mother to a 16-year-old boy. I have over 21 years of experience in the hospitality industry.

I've been teaching at NorthTec for more than 12 years. Currently, I am a Pathway manager for the Level 4 Carpentry Apprenticeship and Level 3 Plumbing course, my main role is to support Tutors so they can focus on creating atmosphere for learning where students can grow and feel good about themselves.

I really enjoy helping students learn! I want to help each student do their best and succeed in their career. I like creating a good atmosphere for learning where students can grow and feel good about themselves.

TOUR LEADERS & OTHER VOLUNTEERS



TOUR LEADERS & VOLUNTEERS

**Arden Hermans****Senior Project Manager, Beca****Girls in Infrastructure® Founder,****Women's Infrastructure Network – Northland Chair****High School:** Pompallier Catholic College, Whangarei**Tertiary:** Bachelor of Business Management, Otago. Diploma in Civil Engineering, Northtec

I started my infrastructure career with Fulton Hogan as a site engineer on large scale projects like the Northland Bridges Projects in Taipa and Matakoho, working on the State High 1 and 15 roundabout project. Before becoming a Department Manager and working with my teams on infrastructure projects throughout the Northland region. I enjoyed the work balance between indoor office and outdoor site work, being a part of turning design drawings into structures and benefiting our communities.

I now work with Beca in the consulting side of the infrastructure industry where I get to be a part of vertical construction projects like the new Kamo High School buildings and large-scale projects such as Airports and Ports.

The infrastructure Industry is a very welcoming and supportive family, I'd make the decision to join them all over again. For any young female thinking about a career in this sector, I'd highly recommend it, there are so many great opportunities. If you love to problem solve, lead and watch your work turn into a road, structure or waterway you've found your niche.

TOUR LEADERS & VOLUNTEERS

**Stephanie Kane**

Associate - Planning, Beca Limited, Te Tai Tokerau
Women's Infrastructure Network Member

High School: Whangārei Girls' High School

Tertiary: Bachelor of Arts (Environmental Studies) from Victoria University of Wellington; Master of Planning (Dist) from University of Otago

Following a gap year in Japan after uni, Stephanie decided that she wanted to help shape places and spaces so went back for a postgrad in Planning. She has been a consultant Planner for nearly 14 years working in private practice for both public and private sector clients. Most of her mahi centres around environmental approvals and resource management processes for large infrastructure projects, including road and rail, water and waste services, electricity generation and transmission, and social infrastructure.

A proud and passionate Northlander, Stephanie moved her whānau back home to Whangārei after a decade in Auckland. She has happily found her groove at Beca helping Te Tai Tokerau grow and thrive, whilst wrangling two small boys.

**Emma Jones**

Branch Administrator, Beca
Women's Infrastructure Network Member

Emma, originally from Auckland, made the move north to Whangārei in 2018. With a career spanning diverse sectors including accounts, logistics and insurance, she spent four years as the National Operations Assistant at AWF before finding her stride at Beca. Balancing the demands of full-time work with the joys of motherhood to her two children, Emma plays a pivotal role as the Branch Administrator, ensuring the smooth functioning of the Beca Whangārei office.

Her advice for those starting their career journey - Explore different paths, embrace failure as a learning opportunity, seek advice from mentors, trust your instincts and be patient.

TOUR LEADERS & VOLUNTEERS

**Sariah McQueen****Civil Engineering Cadet, Beca****Women's Infrastructure Network Member****High School:** Cashmere High School, Christchurch**Tertiary:** Diploma in Civil Engineering, Te Pūkenga Northtec

Sariah works as a Civil Engineering Cadet in the Transport and Infrastructure team at Beca.

She grew up in Christchurch before moving North in 2020 for 18 months of full-time volunteer service among communities in the Far North and Auckland.

Settling in Whangarei in 2023, Sariah joined Beca as a cadet while studying at Te Pūkenga. She loves being able to integrate her technical training in the classroom with work experience in the office and on site.

Inspired by her experiences in Northland communities and the Christchurch earthquakes, she is excited about the opportunity to work on infrastructure projects that have a direct impact on communities - such as helping smaller towns to stay connected to vital infrastructure resources that are less accessible to them than to larger cities.

Sariah's tips for other wāhine:

Sariah is passionate about women supporting one-another to succeed and encourages young women who are considering the infrastructure industry to give it a crack. Promising that if you do, you'll be inspired as she was, by the changes you'll be a part of and impact you'll have.

TOUR LEADERS & VOLUNTEERS

**Anneliese Sabrowski****Project Manager, Stellar Projects****Women's Infrastructure Network – Northland Deputy Chair**

I went to Glenfield College in Auckland and then did a Diploma in Engineering (Civil) and a Bachelor of Engineering Technology (Civil) at Unitec. I worked for Fulton Hogan while I was at uni and continued with them once I graduated. I also did a Masters of Engineering Studies (Transportation) part time at Auckland University while I was working full time.

I worked at Fulton Hogan for 10 years doing construction and motorway maintenance. I now work for Stellar Projects as a Project Management Consultant managing construction projects on behalf of councils and Waka Kotahi which I am really enjoying.

There are a lot of ways to get to the same place. If uni, or a bachelor's degree doesn't feel like you that's ok, you can work at your own pace, in a way that works for you, and still get to where you want to go :)

TOUR LEADERS & VOLUNTEERS

**Lauren Peterson Hodge****Account Manager, Carters**

High School: He Matariki Teen Parent School & overseas education.

Hi, I am Lauren, 30-year-old mum to two boys! I started my journey in this industry in 2016 at Steel and Tube Roll forming, Whangarei, as a customer service officer. I was fresh out of university after attempting to study with a small baby. Unfortunately, life was too expensive as a teen single mum, so I decided to enter the workforce and I am glad that I did! Studying was never really my gig, but it turns out, I am a great worker and pretty clever too, despite not succeeding at university!

Today I am an account manager for Carters Building. This role is SO much fun and my last few years of hard work has seriously paid off as now I get to partner up with the "big players" in construction and deliver full projects! My clients and I build everything from full subdivisions with new houses to big commercial buildings, schools, and large housing New Zealand/ Kainga Ora developments!

The construction industry is an extremely rewarding and satisfying industry to be in, you meet people from all walks of life and learn so many valuable things. If you're thinking about joining the industry, you won't regret it! There are so many opportunities to develop a fulfilling career and thoroughly enjoy yourself the whole way with the skills YOU have to offer. Whether you enjoy engineering, building or simply achieving excellent service there is a place for you in this industry where your skills, personality and life learnings will be valued, the best thing about construction is the diversity of people, be yourself, work hard, add to your toolbox and you will go places.

P.s Construction pays pretty well too! Check out some of the salaries you can achieve on line!

TOUR LEADERS & VOLUNTEERS

WEBB
CONTRACTING**Rachelle****Operations Manager, Webb Contracting, Kerikeri****High School:** Bay Of Island College

12 years industry experience in road construction/maintenance, supervising roading and concrete crews for Broadspectrum/Ventia. Gaining a wide variety of skills and knowledge.

As Operations Manager, I support a dynamic team of earthworks, kerb and drainage specialists.

It's a smaller team from my previous vocation, but it offers specialist knowledge and amazing growth potential. New challenges are great, you just have to be willing to give it a try and remember to have fun in the process.

As a working mum with young children, I want to show others you can have a family and an amazing career all at the same time.

TOUR LEADERS & VOLUNTEERS

Northpower

**Amelia Puluka****Customer Excellence Representative Team Lead, Northpower
Women's Infrastructure Network – Northland Committee Member****Tertiary:** Bachelor Human Resources, Employment Relations &
Employment Law

I'm originally from Auckland and migrated to the sunny North with my family in 2016. Before joining Northpower, I spent several years in the corporate sector in management customer-facing roles.

In my role at Northpower I manage complaints and lead the new connections team, and I am currently in my last year of completing my degree with Massey University.

I am passionate about working in the infrastructure industry and feel honoured to be a part of a team that supports and inspires the next generation of wahine.

**Arriane Christie****Community Outreach Facilitator, Northpower, Whangārei****High School:** Kamo High School**Tertiary:** Bachelor of Commerce (Ecom), University of Canterbury

I have recently joined Northpower in the Customer Care team and while I had no background in this industry, it has been a great learning experience to see how an electricity distributor works.

There are so many intricate moving parts to the business, from customer service to GIS mapping, to lines people and project managers.

Now as the Community Outreach Facilitator I get to teach people about electrical safety, how to save money on their power bills, what they should be looking for when investing in solar or electric vehicles and be involved in outreach projects that help people in our community.

I am always learning new things thanks to the great people I work with and as a proud Northlander, I love being part of a Northland community owned company.

TOUR LEADERS & VOLUNTEERS

**Natalie Blandford****Managing Director and Senior Project Manager,
Project Apōpō Limited****Women's Infrastructure Network – Northland Committee Member****High School:** Kāpiti College**Tertiary:** Diploma Construction Management - Open Polytechnic, Project Management Professional, Project Management Institute Bachelor of Science (Environmental Science), University of Auckland Certificate Communications Intelligence, Royal Australian Navy Indonesian Linguist Level 2 - Royal Australian Navy, Diploma Hospitality Management - Central Institute of Technology

I've had a diverse career to date, including in hospitality management, military service in the Royal Australian Navy, environmental science and town planning, and construction project management. I have tribal affiliations to Ngāpuhi and Ngāi Tahu and was born in Whangarei.

I'm now the founder and director of a Construction Project Management consultancy based in Kerikeri.

Our team works on residential, commercial and infrastructure projects across Northland and we help our clients achieve broader outcomes (environmental, social, and cultural) as part of their construction project.

I'm also a director on the Northland Chamber of Commerce.

PREVIOUS ATTENDEES



Jamie

Why did you attend the Girls in Infrastructure Event?

Because of the potential opportunities it was going to have for my future.

Which year did you attend the event?

2021

What future did you think you had ahead of you – before attending the event?

I wasn't really sure what may be in store for me. I knew I wanted to get out of high school and do something productive. High school wasn't challenging me enough, I wanted to do something hands on and start earning a wage. Some of my friends were in the same boat and I watched them sit at home on the couch – I knew I didn't want to end up like them, so I hoped by attending the event I'd find out how I could avoid ending up on the couch and being bored.

What was the biggest new learning and/or inspiration from the event?

How many opportunities and options companies can provide you with. I had no idea that there was other options beside university where you can learn on the job and even with one company how many different potential pathways there are that you can try and they'll support you in this. It's something that should be better known at high school.

What job are you working in now and what motivated you to pursue this job/career?

I'm currently working in traffic management and have grown from strength to strength here. But I'm really keen to pursue a building career, so that one day I can build my own home and I'm looking at starting that next year.

What do you enjoy most about your job?

I enjoy working with a wide variety of people. There are so many different personalities and it amazes me how well we all work together. I never thought it was possible, but I have found my people.



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Why did you attend the Girls in Infrastructure Event?

I had been thinking about doing engineering as a degree when I eventually get to university, and wanted to gain more knowledge from those that were already experienced in the field.

Which year did you attend the event?

2022

What future did you think you had ahead of you – before attending the event?

My future thoughts haven't really changed, I have always wanted to go to uni and study a particular degree. But after attending this event it has shown me there are other options out there, and other degrees which I thought sounded pretty cool.

What was the biggest new learning and/or inspiration from the event?

That there is a career pathway which is a mix of architecture and engineering. This is called architectural engineering, which sounded pretty awesome. I was also able to get the lecturer who teaches it at The University of Canterbury's email address, so I was able to ask him further questions about it via email.

What did you most enjoy from the event?

I enjoyed the free merchandise we got from all the different companies, and talking to experts who worked in the engineering workplace.

Was there a specific career you wanted to learn more about by going to the event?

I was definitely interested in gaining knowledge about the engineering and architecture careers.



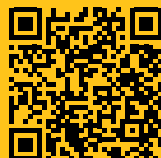
THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING TODAY!

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to reach out to any of the amazing professional women mentioned in this book – they would love to hear from you.

To find photos of this event please like the Girls in Infrastructure® Facebook page and look in the 2024 photo album.



Girls in
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