

Women in trades

A showcase of
women who chose
an extraordinary
career path



skills.



SAIN

KINGDOM



Who said that trades are just for boys?

Every day, Kiwi women across the country pick up their tools to go about their plumbing, electrical, and roofing jobs. They're out there breaking stereotypes and showing the world that if the boys can do it, so can the girls.

Each of the women within these pages has a story to tell about how they started their journey in the trades. There's a great mix of backgrounds, but they all share one thing in common – they know they made the right career choice.

And if they can do it, so can you.

Contents

04 Melissa Sworn



06 Courtney Brown
08 Ellen Kibblewhite
10 Haley Gallagher
12 Jasmine Gregg-Schofield
14 Lisa-Marie Ireland
16 Vittoria Colonna



18 Jade Winter
20 Nicky Scott-Smith



22 Liz Watson



24 Sinead Solomon
26 Meresiana Uliviti



A career change to greater heights





Cranes Melissa Sworn

At 26 years old, Melissa Sworn knew she wanted a new challenge. Something to lift her career to new levels.

“I had no prior experience as a crane operator but I still applied for a job anyway. I’m a fully qualified heavy road transport diesel mechanic, so heavy machinery is nothing new to me,” she explains.

“I’ve been at Atlas full time for more than a year and during this time I’ve become a fully qualified crane operator.”

Atlas Cranes Operations Manager Jimmy Lowther says that as the first female crane operator on their books, Melissa will go a long way in the industry.

“Part of being a crane operator is the ability to take direction, and work well with your team. Mel is able to do this and also uses her previous trade industry to maintain the machinery; it’s awesome,” he says.

Melissa acknowledges that changing industry does require dedication.

“Every day there is something new to learn and just when I think I have something figured out – along comes something new I need to get across,” she says.

“In saying that, I love the challenge. No two work sites are the same and



it means every day I’m coming up against something new. It definitely keeps me on my toes.”

So what makes a good crane operator?

Melissa says that the job is a good fit for those who can multi-task and can work well with others.

“You’re definitely part of a team. When you operate a crane it needs to be in smooth fluid motions, your team helps you with these,” she explains.

“You need to be able to watch and listen, especially to the experienced people on site. At the end of the day, they really just want you and your work mates to be safe.”

Melissa adds that the diversity of the job is a big plus.

“When your workplaces range from beaches to forests, from heavy vehicle recovery work to buildings, it’s really rewarding.

“Although I am part of a team in a small company, I get to meet a wide variety of people working across a range of industries, thanks to the jobs we do.”

In her future Melissa sees bigger cranes, continued learning opportunities, and greater heights.

Melissa urges all hopeful crane operators out there to have a go, but make sure it’s what they really want to do.

“It takes focus and commitment. If you want to get into cranes, it’s one awesome industry to be in, but you do need to really want to do it if you want to reach your potential.”



“Every day there is something new to learn and just when I think I have something figured out – along comes something new.”

Melissa Sworn

How Courtney sparked her own future





“Saying or thinking you can’t do something is the only thing stopping you from doing it.”

Courtney Brown

Electrical Courtney Brown

As she sat in classes in the final year of her business degree, Courtney Brown knew she wasn’t where she wanted to be.

She definitely didn’t see a future being stuck in an office staring at a computer all day. So, in a leap of faith, she decided to change fields entirely.

“At 22 years old, I knew I didn’t want to mould away in a corner office pushing paper. I want to feel like I am actually accomplishing something, seeing a tangible result from a day’s work,” she says.

After finding work experience with Auckland-based company CKG Electrical, it didn’t take her long to realise that going into an electrical apprenticeship was what she really wanted to do.

“I feel blessed actually. I can use my business degree to help Craig (CKG Electrical owner/operator) with the admin side of his business, while at the same time I’m getting to spend every day taking on new and exciting challenges,” she says.

“I get to work on really cool sites, doing things like installing cutting-edge electrical technology.”

Courtney says her dad was a “massive influence”, as he had worked at North Power and enjoyed his work. She credits him

for encouraging her “to be a self-sufficient woman in a typically male-dominated industry”.

She also adds that “not [accumulating] any more debt from learning” was important to her.

“Uni did enough of that for me, so being able to get into an apprenticeship, helped by Craig and The Skills Organisation, was a great solution.

CKG Electrical owner Craig Kilby says the industry is changing with new technology, but Courtney is a great listener and picks up things really fast.

“She has a great attitude and will always ask questions to make sure we get the job done properly. I’m lucky to have her on board,” he says

“There won’t be a shortage of work as the industry grows, and having keen young workers is a benefit to not only the industry but NZ Inc. as a whole.”

Courtney says mindset is the biggest factor to success.

“Saying or thinking you can’t do something is the only thing stopping you from doing it.



“After starting my apprenticeship, I started doing things I could never do before, like fix the lighting in my bathroom and build a rabbit hutch with my knowledge of power tools.

“I aim to keep practicing and exceeding my own expectations. I love learning and I think one day I’d love to either be business partners with Craig or create a special niche market electrical company. It’s great to have so many options,” she says.

One thing is clear and bright for sure, and that is Courtney’s future as she continues on her path to become a qualified electrician.

Heading towards a career peak





“Work experience is such a great way to find out what you enjoy.”

Ellen Kibblewhite

Electrical Ellen Kibblewhite

While her friends were out shopping for new shoes, Ellen Kibblewhite was shopping for her ideal trade apprenticeship.

“I’m a hands-on, practical person. When it came to getting serious about my career, I knew straight away I wanted an apprenticeship, but wasn’t sure which one was right for me,” she says.

“Dad’s a mechanic by trade and a strong supporter of the apprenticeship pathway. He took me around to a bunch of different types of workshops.

Doing an electrical apprenticeship was a “natural choice”, Ellen says, as she “didn’t want to come home greasy every day or break [her] back lifting heavy materials”.

Taking engineering-type classes at school, like building and technology, also helped Ellen with her decision.

“I think if I had the opportunity at school to do a Gateway programme, like The Skills Organisation offers, I would have jumped at the opportunity,” Ellen says.

“Work experience is such a great way to find out what you enjoy.”

After completing her apprenticeship in 2014, Ellen is now a qualified electrician and goes out in her van to industrial sites across the lower

North Island. She says she enjoys the extra responsibility that comes with becoming qualified.

“Previously, I would head out with a qualified work mate and follow their direction, but now I rely completely on my own abilities and knowledge. It’s so rewarding!” she explains.

“At the beginning, I’d walk away wondering if I’d fixed it completely, but it gets easier with experience.”

Ellen is well on her way to a successful career, but her goals don’t stop there. She’s ready to keep elevating her experience – literally.

“I just started working for Ruapehu Alpine Lifts as a seasonal Electrician on Mount Ruapehu and will be here until October when the ski season ends,” she says.

“I’m so excited to have this opportunity. It goes to show that having goals and actively working towards them can make your aspirations a reality.”



Passing skills onto the Next Generation





Electrical Hayley Gallagher

Hayley Gallagher left school at 16 years old and knew uni and a desk job just wasn't the path for her.

"It's important to have a vision of what you want to achieve. It gives you direction and purpose," she says.

Looking at Hayley's story so far, it's safe to say she has a strong sense of purpose. Her passion for sports gave her the skills and confidence to start her electrotechnology apprenticeship, which she completed in 2009.

In 2011, she took part in a global competition called 'First Light Project', run by the US Department of Energy. She assisted the New Zealand team with the electrical works to build a completely solar-powered house, resulting in an impressive third-place finish.

A year later, she and her husband Leon opened their business, Next Generation Electrical, providing quality servicing of all residential electrical needs in the Bay of Plenty region.

"Owning and operating my own business is taking my career to a whole new level. It's not necessarily about working harder, it's about working smarter," she says.

"I love being able to work with my husband. We both have numerous years of experience in the industry and complement each other well, which makes for a great team."

Hayley is already working on her next challenges – training up the business's new apprentice through The Skills Organisation to ensure sustainable growth for Next Generation.

"It's all about the big picture. Having an apprentice gives us the opportunity to give back to the industry by training up new skilled and qualified people," she explains.

But life isn't all work and no play for Hayley.

"I am fortunate our work is flexible. I'm training for a half Iron Man right now, so being able to schedule days the way I want to, get work done and still balance life outside of work is fantastic," says Hayley.

Along with opportunities to enter the industry, Hayley has some great advice to pass onto would-be apprentices.

"Do your homework, pass your

studies, and work hard. But don't forget to switch off sometimes and give yourself a break," she says.

"There's so much opportunity out there for you if you commit and put in the work. It's harder than I ever imagined, but I wouldn't change it for anything."



"Owning and operating my own business is taking my career to a whole new level."

Hayley Gallagher

Ambitious electrician finds her place in the world



Electrical
Ltd



“Becoming qualified this year will be a massive accomplishment and my highest qualification yet”

Jasmine Gregg-Schofield

Electrical Jasmine Gregg-Schofield

Having grown up close to her Ngati Raukawa roots, Jasmine (Jazz) Gregg-Schofield knows well the importance of her whanau.

It is no surprise that she credits them for driving her to go above and beyond in her electrical career.

“My mum raised seven of us and we were all home schooled. At the same time, she also trained to become a paramedic and volunteer firefighter,” she explains.

“She’s an incredibly strong and smart woman, and my best friend. She has some big footsteps I want to follow in.”

Jazz was always destined for a hands-on career and initially wanted to be a pilot, before taking on her first career as a flight attendant.

“I was surrounded by a community that predominantly chose trade careers, so it was a natural pathway for me. I ended up becoming a flight attendant, which is nothing like piloting a plane,” she laughs.

She therefore spent time travelling overseas to pursue new career options, which included completing a pre-apprenticeship and taking a role installing alarms and emergency lighting.

After returning to New Zealand, she



went into an electrical apprenticeship with Trydan Electrical in Palmerston North.

“Becoming qualified this year will be a massive accomplishment and my highest qualification yet,” she says.

“I’m so grateful I have a supportive boss and mentor who encouraged me into the apprenticeship. I wish I had started out with a trade in the beginning.”

Jazz enjoys the variety and challenges she experiences day-to-day, working on a variety of sites from small residential to large commercial ones.

“You work with a lot of different people so it’s important to develop the skill of listening and ensuring that you are also heard,” she explains.

“My company has put their faith in me and The Skills Organisation account manager, Terri Waerea, has been completely on the ball in helping me. I’m driven to excel.”

She adds that the hard work pays off “when you step back and see what you’ve done each day or at the end of the project”.

“It literally lights me up. Pun intended,” she laughs.

Having progressed from her early days of tinkering, Jazz is now taking big strides to a successful career, and has big goals in sight.

“I’ll work on getting experience under my belt. After that I want to work on alternative energy sources like windmills and then eventually work on building my own house.”

Lisa fires up a passion for the trades





“I enjoy my apprenticeship as we earn money while learning a trade.”

Lisa-Marie Ireland

Electrical Lisa-Marie Ireland

As a successful electrical apprentice who also volunteers as a firefighter, Lisa-Marie Ireland is out to show the world that there’s definitely a place for women in the trades.

Lisa returned from her OE and found work with a local electrical company, Cotter & Stevens. After initially starting on trial, they were so impressed with her that they offered her an apprenticeship – and she hasn’t looked back since.

“I enjoy my apprenticeship as we earn money while learning a trade,” Lisa explains.

“Uni students seem to pay a lot of money and not earn any while they learn. I love learning new things and have become a lot more practical in all areas.”

Speaking from her experience, Lisa is adamant that women have got what it takes to succeed in a career in the trades.

“The trade world seems to be looked at as ‘a man’s world’, but I believe women offer valuable qualities such as attention to detail, whereas men might be more physical,” she says.

“It all evens out. I often get told it’s good to have a woman on site – after all, we seem to be a lot tidier than the boys!”

She also acknowledges the role The

Skills Organisation plays in helping both men and women with their apprenticeships.

“The advisers have been helpful throughout my apprenticeship with any questions I have with my studies; they are always happy to help wherever possible,” Lisa says.

When she isn’t busy gaining practical skills and knowledge through her apprenticeship, Lisa also volunteers as a firefighter to give back to the Martinborough community, where she has lived her entire life.

“I’m always looking for a challenge and certainly found my fair share when joining the fire brigade. We are challenged every time the siren and pagers go off and never know what we are turning up to,” Lisa says.

“I really enjoy helping people and especially my community. My boss pays me to go on fire calls during work hours, which shows just how close our community is – we are all willing to help out in some way.”

Lisa’s immediate goals are to pass her theory exam and registration to become fully qualified by the end of the year. Moving forward, she is keen

to see where her electrical career will take her – which will no doubt involve inspiring other women around New Zealand to emulate her journey in the trades.



A shining light for women in trades





Electrical Vittoria Colonna

Advocate for females in trades. University graduate. Mum. Hardworking and passionate electrician at Saint Electrical.

Vittoria (Tori) Colonna is no newbie when it comes to wearing multiple hats and challenging norms head on – and certainly isn't afraid to get her hands dirty on the tools.

"I really want to empower women to take risks outside the 'status quo'. If you want to raise a family and work in a trade, you can," Tori says.

"There's so much flexibility, and women bring a great set of skills to any working environment. You see men as nurses or stay-at-home dads, so why should it be different for women in trades? It's really about having a can-do attitude and staying true to what you want."

With aims to start a mentorship programme for women in trades, Tori is not only on the right track to build up trades as a viable career option for young Kiwi females, but is also a strong voice for women in trades.

"I decided to come on board as an ambassador for The Skills Organisation to prove that having a trade is a smart choice," she says.

"Even with a Bachelor of Environmental Management under my belt, I back getting a trade 100%.

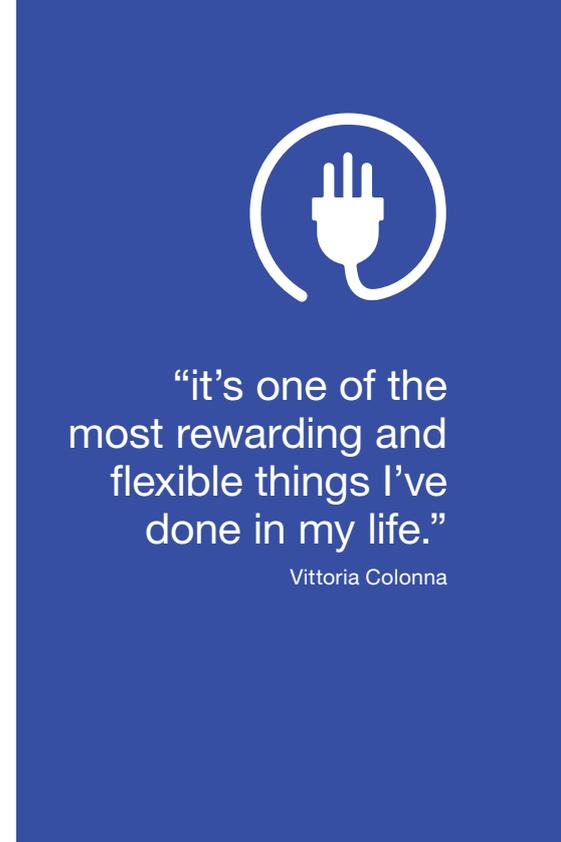


If you're still trying to determine what you want do, it's an excellent life experience and a good paying option until you figure it out."

Speaking at various events around New Zealand, Tori hopes to educate young Kiwis about the real career opportunities out there that don't involve racking up a student loan.

"I first started my apprenticeship straight out of school, but my path changed and I went into hospitality and started a degree. Years later, I came back to my trade and realised that it's not easy for anyone," she says.

"But it's one of the most rewarding and flexible things I've done in my life. Plus, you'll never be short



"it's one of the most rewarding and flexible things I've done in my life."

Vittoria Colonna

of work, with the rising housing shortage and other industry factors. I wouldn't change it for anything."

Tori says people often only see the 'working on the tools' side of the job, but there's much more to it.

"Eventually I plan to work my way into the project management and leadership aspects of the job, which will be a nice balance between being on site and working in the office with a strategic mind-set," she explains.

"There is so much more to a trade than you can imagine. There are so many other opportunities once you become registered that don't involve being on the tools. Your growth and career potential are unlimited."



**A hands-on
approach to
choosing a
career**



Plumbing & Gasfitting Jade Winter

Jade Winter always knew she wanted a hands-on career. With the help of the Gateway schools programme and her supportive parents, deciding on such a career was no problem.

Jade Winter always knew she wanted a hands-on career. With the help of the Gateway schools programme and her supportive parents, deciding on such a career was no problem.

“My parents were a huge influence – dad was a mechanic and I loved helping him out, using the tools and machinery to create and fix things,” she says.

Doing a pre-trade course in mechanics through The Skills Organisation’s Gateway programme helped her realise she wanted something practical – just not in mechanics. She eventually took up a plumbing and gasfitting apprenticeship with a Palmerston North company, Manawatu Plumbing & Maintenance Ltd.

“While I was at school, Gateway helped me figure out mechanics wasn’t for me. It was a great experience – and I didn’t waste any of my time in a job I didn’t like,” she says.

“I wanted to go into an apprenticeship. I wasn’t sure which, so I did some labouring in the meantime. I’m drawn to the problem solving and practical side of life, so

I followed this passion when looking for work.”

A natural in her chosen career, Jade has already received recognition for her work, being awarded the Rising Star at the Fielding Business Awards.

“Receiving the award has been a huge highlight. I enjoy my job and I’m grateful to have had the opportunity to continue learning and match my abilities with good-paying work,” she says.

In addition, she was the only plumber to be nominated at the 2016 Got a Trade Future Business Leaders Forum and Awards, where she was identified as a future leader in New Zealand’s trades and services.

Jade uses her personal experiences to enhance the work she does. A skilled rugby player, Jade has been to the national championships in both seven-a-side and fifteen-a-side rugby teams while doing her apprenticeship.

“I’d even go as far as saying my rugby is crucial to the work I do on site. You need to be able to work in a team environment and be able to communicate with different

personalities. That’s a big part of customer care,” she explains.

Jade says she is pleased that she pursued a career she was interested in.

“As a female, I don’t think women should be put off just because this is a predominantly male industry. Women have a lot to offer, and will bring a new perspective to the work,” she says.

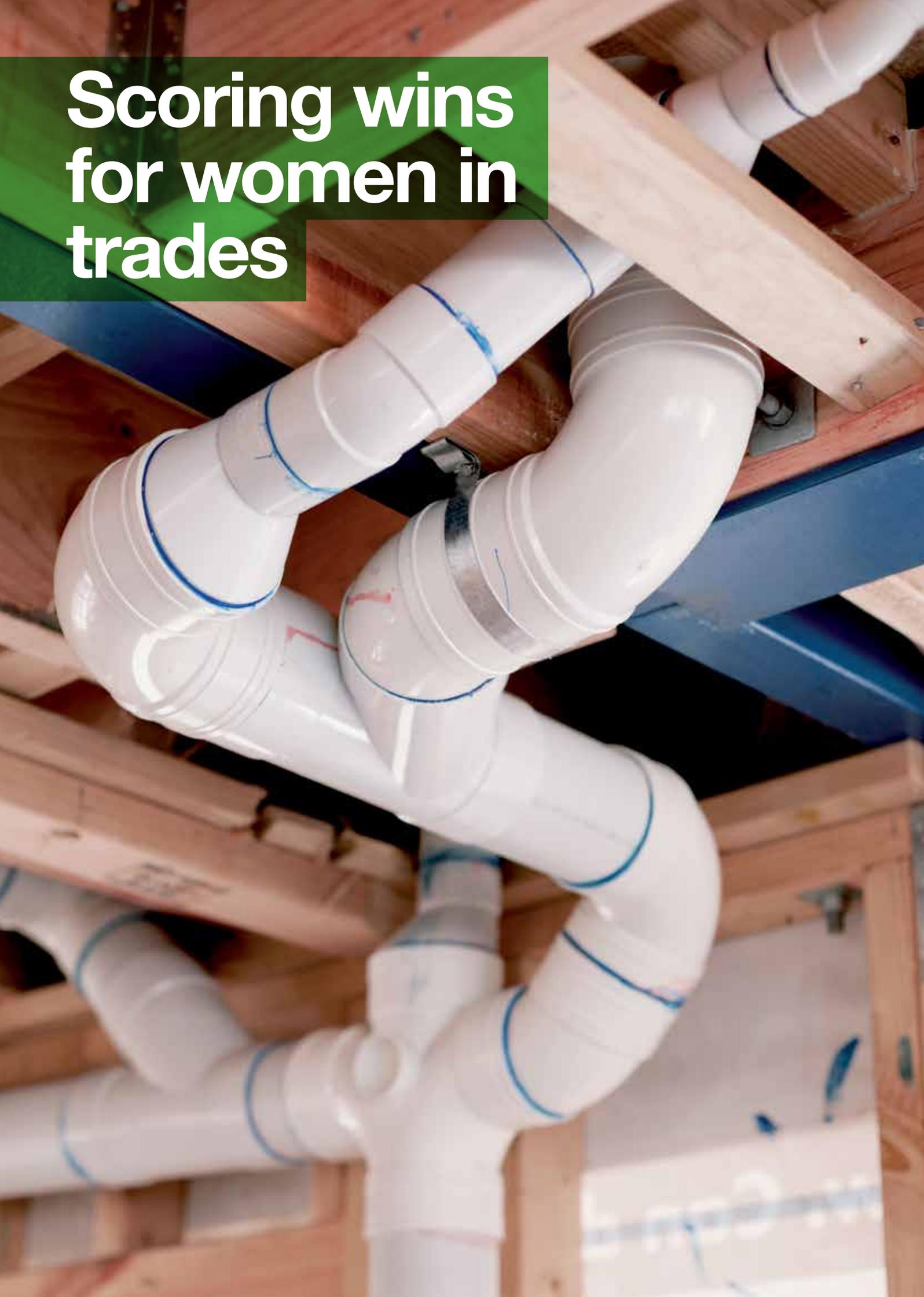
“I’m glad I followed my gut – after all, work isn’t hard if you love what you do.”



“As a female, I don’t think women should be put off just because this is a predominantly male industry”

Jade Winter

Scoring wins for women in trades





“Don’t be scared to try something out of the norm.”

Nicky Scott-Smith

Plumbing & Gasfitting Nicky Scott-Smith

Former New Zealand Senior Women’s football star, Nicola (Nicky) Smith-Scott, knows all about kicking for big goals.

Halfway through her plumbing and gasfitting apprenticeship with Laser Plumbing, Nicky says that after 10 years of travelling the world and playing professional football, it was time to use her practical skills in a new career.

“I’ve always followed in the footsteps of my three older brothers. Anything they did, I knew I could do. So I spoke to some of my family in trades and approached my current employer,” she says.

“I ended up just jumping straight into the deep end, and luckily I’m a good swimmer!”

Nicky says having a trade is more than just a job.

“I think it’s important that people see how important trades are for New Zealand. We play a big part in the livelihood of everyday kiwis, especially with plumbing and gasfitting,” Nicky explains.

“There’s a real technical problem-solving aspect to the job that not many people picture when they think ‘plumber’, and that’s my favourite part. Every house you drive past is set up differently.”

Aspiring towards big career goals and approaching them with the right attitude is something Nicky is passionate about.

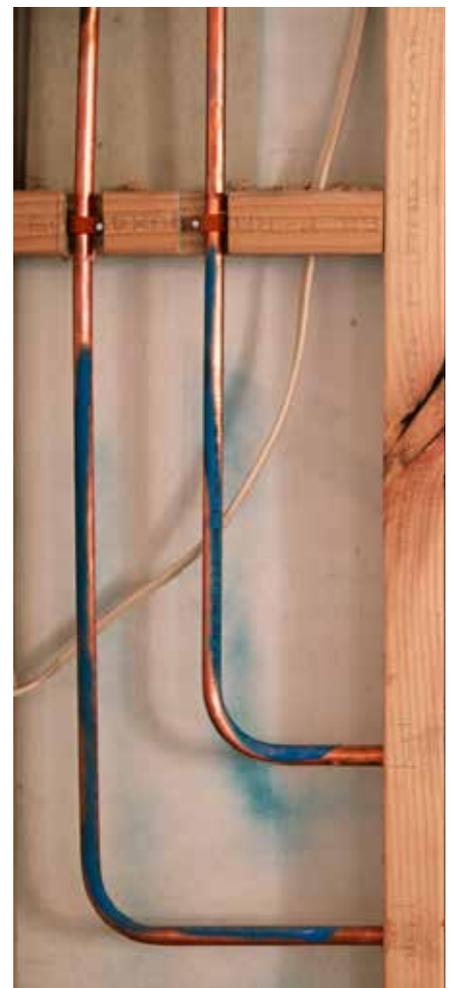
“I love how in this job there is always a new challenge. It can be tough, but there’s never been a moment where I thought I couldn’t do it,” she says.

“And in the end, it’s so rewarding to see the impact we have on people, and seeing your completed work at the end of the day.”

Nicky looks forward to becoming qualified and hopes to be a role model for females in trades.

“There aren’t many females in trades, but if I can do it with all my life commitments, so can anyone else,” she says.

“Don’t be scared to try something out of the norm.”



Conquering fears on the way to the top





“At the end of the day though, it comes down to just getting up and getting stuck into doing the job well.”

Liz Watson

Roofing Liz Watson

As manager of Stone Roofing, multitasking is a necessity of life for 29-year-old Elizabeth (Liz) Watson.

“I love being busy. Even though Dan (partner and owner) and I run a business together, I wanted to challenge myself even more, so I took on a roofing apprenticeship through The Skills Organisation,” she says.

“I decided to become qualified because Dan and I really want to bid on bigger jobs, move out of sub-contracting, and grow our direct business. We really love working for ourselves.”

Partner Dan is fully qualified, and Liz is almost through her apprenticeship through The Skills Organisation.

“Our account manager Martin Finney is really supportive and helped Dan throughout his apprenticeship, so it was the reason I went with The Skills Organisation.”

Running a family-owned business means life is a lot more flexible, giving Liz freedom to structure her days.

“Technically, I only work 30 hours a week, but they’re long days. I have a lot to fit in and one of the things I’m firm on is taking time for myself,” Liz explains.



Netball is a passion of hers, for example – she plays competitively in the Regional Sports Netball (RSN) Premier League, and says it is “good to have an outlet that is just for me”.

“At the end of the day though, it comes down to just getting up and getting stuck into doing the job well. We have two employees working with us who we will put through apprenticeships because it encourages them to take charge of their own futures.”

Liz says the most important thing she’s learned from running a business is time management and being committed to the business, her employees, and clients. Good

communication is also key for Liz and her team – “it keeps us all on the same page”.

“The job hasn’t been without its challenges. Although I’m in roofing, I was initially so scared of heights that my work mates coined me ‘the crab lady’ when I scuttled across the scaffolding holding onto the roof and safety barriers. It’s better now – not easier, but better,” she recalls.

“It’s certainly been a journey. I started in civil construction holding lolly pop signs, and now I’m a business manager, roofing apprentice, wife, and mother. I’m looking forward to seeing what the future holds.”

Apprenticeships helping to grow networks





“I think if you change your thinking, you can do anything you put your mind to.”

Sinead Solomon

Telecommunications Sinead Solomon

Just 16 years old at the time and hailing from small town Kaikohe, Sinead Solomon (Ngapuhi) jumped into her telecommunications career without any expectations.

Her goal at the start was to soak up as much knowledge as fast as possible, asking lots of questions and learning from other apprentices and her mentors.

“When I applied for my apprenticeship, I was still completing my NCEA level two accreditation and only really thinking about finishing my level three to get into a uni,” she says.

“When I saw the Vodafone advert in our school newsletter, the opportunity to make a big move, make a big change, and have a job with perks like a new phone and good salary won me over.”

Now 19 and fully qualified, Sinead is tossing up her career options with the company.

She works with Vodafone’s network structure, monitoring cell site performance in cities across New Zealand and ensuring the company’s assets are maintained properly. According to Sinead, an apprenticeship is a great way to enter the workforce.

“The apprenticeship was really stimulating. Everyone is supportive



and helpful with your work and giving career advice,” Sinead says.

“My team members were awesome. I even share a flat with one of my teammates from the first year of apprenticeship and we’re good friends.”

Sinead acknowledges that moving to a big city can seem daunting. Thankfully, she had the support and encouragement of her dad back home, who is proud that she has come so far and is doing something great with her life.

“My two brothers didn’t go to uni or get an apprenticeship, so despite my dad originally wanting me to get a uni

degree, he’s really proud of what I’ve accomplished and has encouraged me every step of the way in my career,” she says.

Sinead advises anyone thinking about pursuing a similar apprenticeship to absorb as much as possible and take notes.

“A lot my friends think they can’t do what I’ve done and I disagree with them. I think if you change your thinking, you can do anything you put your mind to,” she says.

“There is just so much to learn. But the most important thing is to believe in yourself.”



How a future leader engineers her success



“Receiving the award was a confidence boost and I am more pumped than ever to further upskill myself.”

Meresiana Uluiviti

Telecommunications Meresiana Uluiviti

From a shy girl to being identified as a future leader in her industry – Meresiana Uluiviti’s career journey proves that hard work and determination come with its rewards.

The Vodafone design engineering apprentice won the General Future Leader category at the recent Future Business Leaders Forum and Awards. The awards, which are part of the annual Got a Trade Week campaign, recognise standout trainees and apprentices in New Zealand’s trades and services.

Humble by nature, Meresiana admits she was “so surprised” upon learning that she had won the award.

“I was so happy and couldn’t stop smiling. I met so many talented and inspiring future leaders at the Forum that I didn’t expect to be one of the four to walk away with an award that night,” she says.

“Overall I’m very grateful and humbled to receive it.”

Meresiana is currently taking part in the Vodafone apprenticeship programme. This provides her with valuable experience in several areas of the business, such as Networks, IT, and Technology Enterprise. At the same time, she is working towards the National Certificate in Telecommunications (Level 3).

The programme also gives her the opportunity to work on a number of major projects and pick up a breadth of skills. Meresiana says the on-job learning aspect of apprenticeships is a large reason they are so effective.

“Most of the skills I pick up are simply from on-the-job training. There is a fair balance between theory and hands-on learning,” she says.

“Gaining lots of skills, being involved in projects, and establishing great working relationships with my teams and managers allowed me to be the best I can be. I felt confident approaching senior engineers and managers and they were confident in my work.”

Even with her hands full with work, Meresiana finds the time to help her colleagues with their personal and professional development. She is involved with the Pasifika Platform at Vodafone, for example, where she helps Pasifika employees explore other opportunities within the company.

She has also represented The Skills Organisation at a school career expo, sharing her experience as a female apprentice in a male-dominated environment.

Meresiana is very clear on what the General Future Leader award means to her.

“It’s time to embrace more of this ‘Future Business Leader’ that people see in me,” she says.

“At times, self-doubt gets the best of me. Receiving the award was a confidence boost and I am more pumped than ever

to further upskill myself. I sat back at my seat thinking to myself, ‘This is just the beginning!’”

Meresiana is also very clear on where she wants to be heading, both in the short and long term. After completing her National Certificate, she plans to do an Engineering degree. Eventually, she aspires to be a Programme Manager or Solution Specialist.

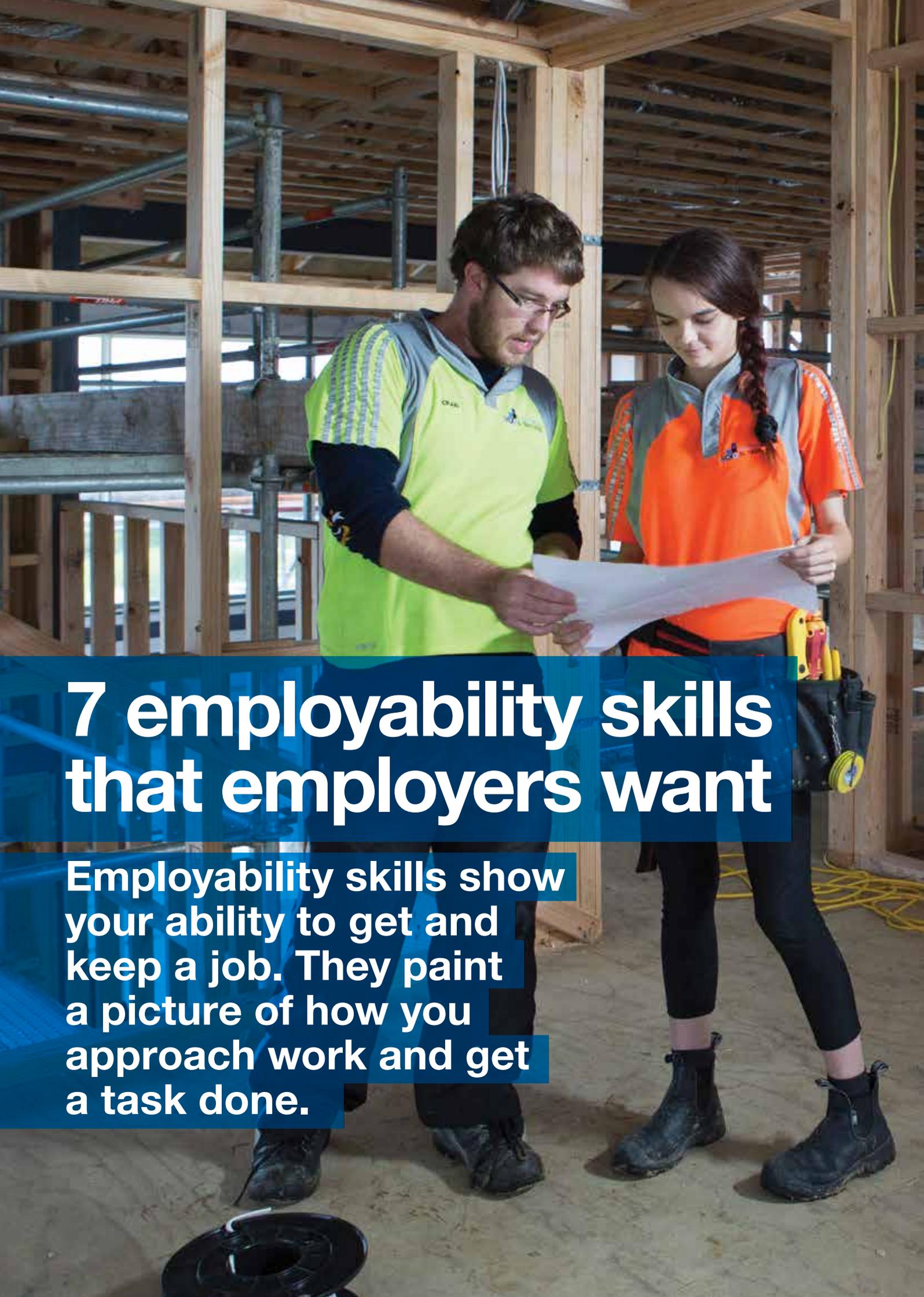
So what is Meresiana’s key to success? According to her, attitude trumps technical knowledge or skills.

“I know I’m not the most knowledgeable in my area, but what sets me aside from others is my working attitude. I put in the hard labour. My mentor asked to mentor me because she saw potential and wanted to work with me – that indicated that if I kept up this attitude, I could go far,” she says.

“Those principles have been my guideline leading up to being recognised as a Future Business Leader.”

Meresiana adds that while a good work attitude is essential, it’s also important to take “every opportunity that comes your way”.

“And as important as having a great work attitude, make sure you enjoy what you’re doing,” she concludes.



7 employability skills that employers want

Employability skills show your ability to get and keep a job. They paint a picture of how you approach work and get a task done.



Positive Attitude

You:

- Have a positive self-image and “can do” attitude.
- Are optimistic, honest, and show respect.
- Make a choice to be happy, friendly, and enthusiastic.
- Are motivated to work hard.

Communication

You:

- Understand how words and actions affect others.
- Ask questions when unsure or unclear.
- Understand how employees, employers, and customers communicate.
- Can speak, listen, and share ideas appropriately.

Team work

You:

- Work well with others to complete tasks and meet goals.
- Contribute to developing new ideas or approaches.
- Work well with others of different cultures, genders, or beliefs.
- Recognise the authority of supervisors and managers and can follow directions

Self-management

You:

- Are self-aware and can reflect on your own actions.
- Show commitment and responsibility.
- Are dependable, follow instructions, and complete assigned tasks.
- Are responsible for your own health, and follow health and safety guidelines in the workplace.
- Arrive at work on time, with appropriate food, clothing, and equipment.

Willingness to learn

You:

- Are willing to learn new tasks, skills, and information.
- Are curious and enthusiastic about the job and industry.
- Are interested in doing work more efficiently and creatively.
- Accept advice or feedback and learn from mistakes.

Thinking Skills (Problem solving and decision-making)

You:

- Identify and assess options before making a decision.
- Recognise problems and use initiative to find solutions.
- Think about consequences before you act.

Resilience

You:

- Adapt and are flexible with new and changing situations.
- Handle challenges and setbacks and don't give up.
- Recognise and accept your mistakes, and learn from them.



Job Prospects

So now that you know more about women working in trades, what are your career opportunities?

Below is more information about the five careers the women in this booklet chose. There are hundreds of more careers in trades to choose from - visit skills.org.nz to find out more.



Crane Operator

Pay range

\$18 - \$35 per hour

Job Prospects

Normal – demand is average for this trade

Length of training

Less than 2 years



Roofer

Pay range

\$14 - \$40 per hour

Job Prospects

Good – there is a high demand for this trade

Length of training

Varied



Electrician

Pay range

\$42,000 - \$70,000 per year

Job Prospects

Good – there is a high demand for this trade

Length of training

3-4 years



Telecommunications Technician

Pay range

\$39,000 - \$70,000 per year

Job Prospects

Good – there is a high demand for this trade

Length of training

4 years



Plumber, Gasfitter, & Drainlayer

Pay range

\$52,000 - \$79,000 per year

Job Prospects

Good – there is a high demand for these trades

Length of training

2-4 years

All information sourced from careers.govt.nz

skills.

The Skills Organisation
0508 SKILLS (0508 754 557)
skills.org.nz