



FUELLED

NEWSLETTER

MAY 2022

WHERE HAVE THE PHYSICAL WORKERS GONE?

It appears that for many industry sectors that require people to carry out physical work it has become a challenge to find employees. It was not that long ago that most kiwis grew up in rural communities and were happy to get stuck in to the physical tasks that were required on the farm to ensure that the family had an income. But over time with the move to the towns and cities less people were growing up in a world where they got their hands dirty. Education has focused on going to university or a tertiary learning institution where the emphasis has rarely been placed on those roles that see you sweat. The increasing use of technology has seen many New Zealanders looking for a job where the physical demands are not part of the psyche. However, right now it appears that what we need are people who want to be a part of the primary industry roles where physical work is a must.

Planting one billion pine trees by 2028 will not happen unless people are prepared to carry out this physically demanding work. Horticulture, agriculture, and forestry supported by transportation are vital to the New Zealand economy with the demand for our primary products being at an all time high. Naturally, people look to immigration to fill the void but just like the New Zealanders the next generation of these workers are unlikely to do what their parents have done. They will follow the same pattern. A mindset change is needed that goes back to physical work prowess and capability being seen as highly valued. We need to give these roles the same mana as other professions by really respecting those who do these physical jobs, just like every other job to be done to support our economy.



Barry Petch (left) 25 years of driving for McFall Fuel with Alan Smedley 17 years. Both have enjoyed the physical work and valued their training.

TRANSMISSION GULLY PART OF A WIDER NETWORK

From the air Transmission Gully looks so impressive and despite all of the criticism it is yet another step forward in improving our roading network. The new Peka Peka to Otaki highway will open in the coming months and then the question is what will be next. For those in the transport industry as many of the new roads open it often mean saving time, improved safety, and better locations to meet the needs of the Land Transport Amendment Act 2005 and in particular the Land Transport Rule: Work Time & Logbooks 2007.

Manawatu Area Sales Manager Steve Wellwood said after taking a trip on the new road, "I was absolutely amazed with what had been done to create it but focused on watching my speed and driving carefully." While Wellington Area Sales Manager Ben Aoina said, "having been on the road several times, it is just so good. I would like to be able to go all the way to Auckland on this type of highway. The benefit that this new road brings for many of us is that it offers a more direct route for people like me to reach some of our customers outside of Wellington."

PLANNING FOR 'MOVING DAY' UNDERWAY



Traditionally 'Moving Day' is June 1 but the shift from one farm to another takes more than one day. Dairy farming families, share milkers, contract milkers, and employees are all involved in not only moving location but could also be moving the herd, farm equipment, plus often setting children up in new schools and adapting to a completely new region in some cases. As one old timer said, "I used to worry about paddocks for the cows to rest at along the way overnight from those farmers who generously agreed. But now my daughter is worrying about the internet services because that keeps the children happy and of course so much information about

farming reaches them this way. I guess this year will be made more complicated by Covid-19 but who knows? Also now, the expectation is that if stock are moved along roads a permit is required from NZTA and a traffic management plan needs to be submitted. It is much more complex than it used to be."

Often referred to as Gypsy Day what is certain thousands of farmers will pack up and move to their next farm. Some of the stock will be transported and some will be driven up roads to meet the start of the new season. Recent discussions about the impact of such significant movements on rural community schools and the families themselves have been questioned but many believe June 1 is a reality. The progression is a good thing and it does help people to grow within the industry.



What's Happening @ McFall Fuel

THE PRESSURE OF THREE SHORT WEEKS

McFall Fuel has always been prepared for the delivery demands that come with short weeks, however, 2022 delivered a unique challenge. With the two Easter weeks and then ANZAC day all in succession, combined with staff having time off for school holidays, plus the usual sick leave, ACC, and lets not forget COVID the pressure was really on. Contact with customers was essential and all hands were to the pump as they say. "We were indeed fortunate to have staff who were previously in our driving team so willingly step in and fill the gaps, along with a driver coming up from Taranaki to support the Team up here," said Planning Team Lead Holly Mitchell. "The Planning Team do everything they possibly can to meet daily, weekly, and monthly demands in short weeks and most sincerely appreciate those customers who work with them around deliveries because they have a clear understanding of what is going on. The key is excellent communication whether it be through the Area Sales Manager who looks after the customer or the Planner who is looking at the delivery runs going forward."



McFall Fuel encourages customers to keep in touch around any changes that occur within their businesses to ensure that all the information possible such as seasonal spikes or location shifts help keep the deliveries as seamless as possible. "From time to time human error occurs but we do try and meet all customers needs as best we can," said Holly.

REMAINING UPBEAT & POSITIVE

Over the past two years the ongoing disruptions and the pressures have been very much part of our lives. However, how we approach what has occurred needs to be considered carefully and cleverly. For some business leaders it has been a very strong reminder that the time for the 'she'll be right mate' attitude has come to an end in one sense but not in another. Clearly we cannot just hope things will be right we have to have plans for staff working at home and dealing with the impact of Covid. On the other hand we need to tangibly help people to understand that things will come right. Helping



people to remain upbeat and positive not only requires you to be more observant but

also takes time and energy. Our emotional wellbeing relies on feeling safe and secure plus having someone who cares about us. For many businesses that sense of care and belonging for staff has become the key to ongoing success. Having a Wellness Plan for employees that looks at both physical and mental health will help people in their quest to remain on top of the ongoing disruptions and pressures.

OPERATE FOR LONGER WITH TITAN CARGO UHPD SAE 15-W40

Fuchs have launched Titan Cargo UHPD SAE 15W-40 with its superior performance capabilities over API C14, CI-4, and CI-4+ lubricants. The new product is suitable for both mixed transport fleets, earthmoving/construction operators and is suitable for DPF and after treatment systems. Capable of extended service intervals up to 500 hours or 30,000 kilometres (if supported by a oil monitoring programme) helps operators keep machinery in the transport, earthmoving/construction and agricultural equipment operating longer. This Titan Cargo is compatible with all gaskets and seals; has excellent oxidation stability; and outstanding shear ability. Another benefit is its protection of exhaust gas treatment systems due to very low sulphated ash content. With its excellent wear protection under high load conditions it also protects against soot-related viscosity increase. There is no flushing required because it is miscible with all oil and synthetic oil based engine oils. With a significant number of *Specifications, Approvals, and Recommendations* McFall Fuel is hoping to see this exciting new Cargo in June.



McFALL LOYALTY

The Complete Package

