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Polytechnic graduates snap-up jobs with Coast builders

TPP construction graduates are highly rated by West Coast builders, who says it's always better to hire someone with good training and solid skills.

Rick King, Tai Poutini Polytechnic Carpentry Tutor, says the institute works closely with local builders so graduates have plenty of opportunities to start an apprenticeship on the Coast.

"Our students are trained in every aspect of a house build – including foundations and roofing – so they're ready for work on the West Coast.

"Once again in 2019, our students will be building a three-bedroom house on campus. This means they truly get a feel for the real job, learn how to use all sorts of hand and power tools, and know their way around a work site.

"The programme also includes three weeks' work experience which is always a great opportunity for students to get to know local builders and make a good impression. Local builders are telling us they are pretty busy right now, so the training is a great way to get ready for a job in an interesting, diverse industry."

TPP is supported by many local builders who are keen to employ skilled graduates.

Linda Caldana, President of the West Coast Master Builders' Association, says it's always better to hire a graduate than someone who hasn't learned the basics.

"TPP graduates come prepared with good skills and a solid understanding of health and safety which is really important on any building site. After a year's training at the polytech, the graduates have had time to decide that this really is the industry for them. When we're taking on an apprentice, we know that we can rely on a polytech graduate to have a level of maturity and common sense.

"Graduates know one end of a hammer from another and it makes the transition to an apprenticeship easier for them and easier for us," she says.

John Griffin has employed many polytechnic graduates over the years and says it's always good to take on people who have a sound understanding of what it means to work on a building site.

"They still have a lot to learn, but we can trust the polytechnic to prepare graduates to get started on day one. They have a good grasp of the fundamentals, particularly their use of hand tools, and know how to handle themselves on-site. That saves us time and means we can get them working.

"When times are busy, we're always looking for good, keen people to take on as apprentices. We work alongside the polytechnic to offer work experience as part of the building and construction training, and that's always a good way to find people when we're looking to hire."

Space is still available on the 2019 Tai Poutini Polytechnic Construction programme. Anyone interested in pursuing a career in construction should contact Tai Poutini Polytechnic – info@tpp.ac.nz or phone 0800 877 4636 (0800 TPP INFO).

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