



2024 SKILLED PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR

KEVIN PALMER

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KEVIN PALMER WINS SKILLED PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR AWARD FOR EXCEPTIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO FORESTRY SECTOR

AC Palmer & Sons' very own Kevin Palmer has been recognized as the Skilled Professional of the Year for his outstanding dedication to excellence, commitment to safety, and proactive approach to environmental practices within the forestry sector.

Kevin's long-standing partnership with Taylors Contracting Co. Ltd. highlights his exceptional contribution to the industry, a testament to his hard work and expertise. Reflecting on his journey in the sector, Kevin shared, "I inherited my passion for forestry from my father, who laid the foundation for our family business. It's been a privilege to work alongside Taylors Contracting for over 20 years, especially with Mike Fahey, the manager whom I greatly admire for his hard work and dedication."

Kevin's close-knit family ties are evident in the business, with his brother Brian

and himself taking over the family business from their father. Today, Kevin's son Bobby (Gareth) has also joined the family business, marking the continuation of a legacy built on dedication and hard work. The success of AC Palmer & Sons can be attributed to their diverse business model, which includes operating three gravel trucks full time with Taylors Contracting, along with trucks carrying fertilizers and containers. The vast roading network plays a vital role in the region, showcasing the importance of their services in building and maintaining infrastructure.

When asked about his motivation, Kevin expressed, "I love the work, it's my passion. Whether driving, fixing, or washing the trucks, I am fully invested in the business. It's not just a job for me; it's a hobby that I enjoy every day."

Recognizing the significance of frontline workers in the sector, Kevin highlighted the importance of events like the Top of the South Forestry Awards. He emphasized the forestry industry's unique challenges and the dedication required to excel in challenging terrains and variable commensurable of those on the ground.



Kevin's reputation as a safety-conscious operator and consummate professional has set him apart in the industry, earning him recognition and respect from his peers. His commitment

to upholding the highest standards in health, safety, and environmental practices continues to drive him towards excellence, making him a trusted partner in the forestry sector and beyond.



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SCHOLARSHIP NEW INITIATIVE TO TOTS REGION

The forestry industry in New Zealand continues to offer a range of exciting career opportunities for those interested in working with nature and sustainable resources. With the recent announcement of the TOTS Forestry Scholarship for 2024, the industry is once again demonstrating its commitment to supporting and developing future talent.

The scholarship, funded by the regional forestry awards, offers a generous cash grant of \$3000 to a student or employee within the forestry and/or timber manufacturing/processing industries who is looking to enhance their skills, knowledge, and value to their employer.

The recipient of the scholarship is expected to pursue a career in specific industry activities within forestry and/or timber manufacturing/processing.

This year, six applications were received for the scholarship, and after careful consideration, Zodus Epiha was selected as the deserving recipient.

Zodus has demonstrated a passion and enthusiasm for working in the forestry industry, and we are confident that this scholarship will support his progression from the NZ Certificate in Forestry Harvesting Operations (Level 3) to a fulfilling career within the industry.

In addition to the scholarship, each applicant has received a prize package



from Nelspecs, a company that provides communications products and solutions for the industry. We would like to extend our thanks to Nelspecs for their support and contribution to the scholarship programme.

Over the next 12 months, we will be working closely with Zodus to follow his journey and provide support as he navigates his way into the

forestry industry.

We are committed to helping him succeed and believe that this scholarship will help him achieve his goals and aspirations within the industry.

For those interested in pursuing a career in forestry in New Zealand, there are a wide range of opportunities available, including roles in harvesting operations, timber processing, forest man-

agement, conservation, and more. The industry offers rewarding and fulfilling careers for those who are passionate about working with nature and promoting sustainability.

We congratulate Zodus Epiha on being awarded the TOTS Forestry Scholarship for 2024 and wish him the best of luck in his future endeavours within the forestry industry.



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TOTS SKILLED PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR

KEVIN PALMER
TAYLORS CONTRACTING CO LTD

This award recognises an individual for leading in their field of expertise, demonstrating excellence in professional skills, attitude & attributes recognised by their peers and employers and of genuine good character.



Tim Cuff Photography

Tasman District Council congratulates Anna Baty from M&R Forestland Management for winning the Outstanding Environmental Management Award.

“Anna is passionate about her work. Her can-do attitude enables her to coach and inspire people on the ground to achieve outcomes driving positive change within her company and contractors.”



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DOUG MCLEOD INDUCTED INTO HALL OF FAME

Doug McLeod has been honoured with induction into the Hall of Fame for his remarkable impact on forestry in the Top of the South Region and beyond, solidifying his status as a true pioneer in the forestry industry.

Starting as a labourer in Ngamu Forest, Doug's dedication and passion for the industry have been evident at every stage of his esteemed career. As a Golden Downs Woodsmen in 1982, Doug's exceptional technical skills and commitment to sup-

porting and training his colleagues set him apart as a standout leader in the field. His compassion, willingness to advocate for others, and unique training style garnered Doug respect and admiration from all who had the privilege of working along-

side him. In the role of a trainer for Carter Holt Harvey in the Kinleith region, Doug's reputation for excellence and emphasis on safety distinguished him as a leader in the industry. His innovative training approach, requiring individuals to earn their units through hard work and dedication, resonated with contractors and trainees, showcasing Doug's genuine care for people and determination to enhance safety practices.

During challenging times, such as the windthrow events in 2004 and 2008, Doug's leadership and forward-thinking solutions proved indispensable. Through his advocacy for improved safety measures in felling and logging practices, Doug significantly contributed to the industry's progress and helped mitigate the risk of serious injuries. Doug's involvement in pioneering initiatives like the development of winch assist technology further cements his legacy as a game-changer in the industry. As a Bush Inspector, Doug continued to drive safety advancements and promote best practices among crews, leaving a lasting impact on the sector. His unwa-



Hall of Fame was sponsored by Borlase Transport.

ving dedication, exceptional leadership, and sincere commitment to the industry and its workforce make Doug McLeod a deserving recipient of the Hall of Fame award. Congratulations for this well-deserved recognition of their outstanding contributions and lasting influence on the forestry industry.

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 Darren Swan
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 Faron Hollan
 Glen Holmwood
 Graeme Tuck
 Hamish Vallance
 Harley Hokianga
 Jacob Ching
 Jacqui Cress
 Jacque Boer
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 Jayd Cosmatos
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 Kevin Palmer
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 Leanne Cook
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 Liam Neal
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 Mel McCuish
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Skilled Professional of the Year 2024
(sponsored by Top of the South Forestry Awards): **Kevin Palmer** – (AC Palmer & Sons) Taylors Contracting Co. Ltd.

Crew of the Year Award – trophy
(sponsored by TDX):
BSW10 Crew – Nigel Bryant Logging Ltd.
Runner-up: Kelly Logging – K1 830

Outstanding Environmental Management – trophy (sponsored by Tasman District Council):
Anna Baty – M&R Forestland Management.

Outstanding Health and Safety Management Award – trophy (sponsored by DC Equipment):
MJ Fraser Logging Ltd.

Outstanding Regional Service Performance – trophy (sponsored by AB Equipment Tigercat):
DC Equipment

Good Deed Award – (sponsored by Port Nelson): **Jordon Sime**, MJ Fraser Logging Ltd

TOTS Forestry Hall of Fame: (sponsored by Borlase Transport): **Doug McLeod** – Worksafe

Hero of the Industry (sponsored by UDC):
Mike Fahey – Taylors Contracting Co. Ltd.

Forestry & Establishment Excellence – certificate
(sponsored by Tasman Pine Forests Ltd):
Harley Hokianga – Tasman Forest Services Ltd.

Harvesting Excellence – certificate
(sponsored by PF Olsen): **Jamie Allen** – Moutere Management Ltd.

Log Processor Excellence – certificate
(sponsored by CrediFlex): **Russell Parkes** – Nigel Bryant Logging Ltd.

Truck Driver Excellence – certificate
(sponsored by NPD):
Chris Dyer – Borlase Transport Ltd and **Kevin Palmer** – (AC Palmer & Sons) Taylors Contracting Co. Ltd.

Distribution Excellence – certificate (Pacific Forest Products): **Bryce Borlase** – OneFortyOne

NZ Apprentice of the Year – certificate
(sponsored by Taylors Contracting Co Ltd):
Liam Neal – K E Green Logging Ltd

Roading Excellence – certificate
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John Brunsdon – Taylors Contracting Co. Ltd.

Trainee of the Year – certificate
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Sean Gill – Tasman Forest Services Ltd.

Training Company/Contractor of the Year – certificate (sponsored by OneFortyOne):
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Tree Faller Excellence (mechanised) – certificate (sponsored by Tasman Heavy Diesel): **Matthew Johnson** – Kelly Logging.

Breaker Out Excellence – certificate
(sponsored by Tasman Forest Services Ltd):
Jimmy Simpson – Nigel Bryant Logging Ltd.

Woman in Forestry – certificate
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Wood Processing & Manufacturing Excellence – certificate (sponsored by Stuart Drummond Transport Ltd): **Elliott Papps** – OneFortyOne.

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