
WOOD CONTRACTING



TOP OF THE SOUTH FORESTRY AWARDS NOMINATION – ROSS BEATTIE - PROCESSING

Reason for nomination :

Ross joined Wood Contracting quite a few years ago - probably 6 or 7 years ago. Ross has spent most of his life in forestry having started out in the early days going to Woodsman School.

This gave Ross a good sound dedicated training for the forestry industry. He often refers back to the quality of this dedicated training and how it set him up for many good years in the bush.

Ross over the years has climbed the ladder within crews that he has been involved with, taking on the extra responsibilities for the likes of Mike Fraser and running one of his ground base crews. This shows Ross's desire to continue to improve himself and if not doing formal training, he is happy to step out and learn on the job in terms of managing staff, working with the forest owner, training inexperienced crew and other responsibilities that come with being in charge.

Of late – at Woods, Ross has been more focused on successfully filling the role of Waratah Operator. Ross was one of the first in the region to every operate a Waratah, with basically having one turn up on site in one of his earlier crews, and put in the hot seat day one, and told he is in charge of this new beast.

Ross often talks about the changes that have happened to Waratah processing heads over the years, as they have fine tuned the workings of them. The most recent enhancement has been the automatic paint marking function.

With all of these wee modifications and tweaks, along with the extra demands from the forest owner, Ross is happy to take these changes in his stride. He has a knack of taking a level head approach, working with and pondering it, then later in the day Ross will give a run down on how this new mod is working, what the real benefit is or isn't, what the real issues are or aren't etc. He is such a seasoned Waratah operator that he has time to think over any hot topics and give us a well thought out run down later in the day.

From a Processing point of view, you would struggle to find anyone better at this area of work. This is where the rubber meets the road in terms of production and quality for our crews performance.

Ross has the ability to not only manage the Waratah machine as an extension to his own body, but when it comes to picking the logs, identifying the potential cuts from the log, and spotting the defects – Ross would be top of the class.

His experience allows him to spot sap stain, identify sweep in and out of spec, malformed stems, spike knots and sizes in and out of spec etc.

The other half of the processing equation is the down stream effect in the processing line. Ross is a firm believer in that we are all responsible for ensuring our actions or in actions do not have a negative effect on the next person in the



processing line. This is a sign of a seasoned, mature, expert Processor and team player. When it comes to having a positive impact on the rest of the crew and their job satisfaction – this then speaks volumes.

Due to Ross's skill and ability on the Waratah , the WoodI crew, is able to consistently meet targets for both production and quality. His audits reports are consistently close to , if not 100% pass – PDF example attached.

Due to Ross's positive can do attitude, this rubs off onto the rest of the crew making a positive impact. He is also a key member of the senior crew who often chip in to help coach and train the less experienced members.

We would like you to consider Ross for the Processor of the Year Award.

Personal Overview :

I have been in the bush pretty much most of my life. Attending Woodsman school and spending time up north in my early days.

I also spent time in the forests and forestry camps in Canterbury.

Over the years I have seen many changes, but the principles of logging remain the same.

There is generally the same focus, but obviously in the last recent years there has been a greater emphasis on Health and Safety, and most recently Environmental matters.

This is a positive step for the industry to increase its focus in these areas, if we are to remain sustainable, and learn from our past to improve our future industry.

In terms of my current day to day role, I travel over from Motueka each day in a work ute that has a couple of other crew. I am a reliable team member at Woods and turn up day in day out – sometimes when I possibly shouldn't and should be at home resting up.

I do enjoy the Processing side and the challenges it presents. We are currently working in the "burn" – from the February fires. This has been interesting as we have had spec changes to accommodate the burnt wood.

We have had to monitor how much burn goes into grades, monitor bug infestations, monitor sap stain – just to name the more common challenges.

Working in with the forest owner to get maximum value out of a bad situation is satisfying. They often come and let us know how we are going and how they are pleased with our efforts.

Its generally a team effort at the end of the day, with everyone chipping in to do their part to ensure a quality product is made.

I like to do a decent days work, and take pride in my work.

I would like to put my name forward for the Wood Processing award.

Thanks Ross



Industry Endorsements :

Date 6th May 2019

ROSS BEATTIE – WARATAH HARVESTER OPERATOR

I have been completing value recover and log audits with Ross Beattie for approx. 10 years for Hancock Forest management and Tasman Pine Forests.

Ross is a natural operator, who can process logs very quickly, efficiently and still maintain excellent value recovery, and log presentation for the forest owner.

He has the ability to embrace new ideas and new technologies involving the latest optimising software.

Ross always has his harvester calibrated very accurately to eliminate value loss, and understands log specs for each grade thoroughly.

Ross always scored very highly with the in-depth harvester auditing we undertook in Nelson, which was by far more advanced than any other forest companies at the time. In fact most of the bigger players have now engaged us to do the same auditing around the country for them. Over the last 5 years his minimum score was 97%, which few operators can maintain that standard consistently, and scored 100% several times also.

Ross has a great attitude and I always found him very helpful during harvester auditing, he is a professional operator with very high standards, very experienced with over 30,000 hours on a harvester.

He is an asset to Wood Contracting, as there are never any issues with value recovery or rejects.

I have no hesitating in recommending Ross Beattie for a nomination in “Wood Processing Excellence Award” for the Top of the South.

Yours sincerely

Brett Charlett

Owner MVR – Mechanised Value Recovery Auditor



Industry Endorsements :

Tasman Pine Forest Supervisor – Dale Smith

08/05/19

Dear Top of the South Forestry Awards Judges

Endorsement for : Nomination for “Wood Processor of the Year Award”

I have pleasure in endorsing Ross Beattie for ‘Wood Processor of the Year’ at the Top of the South Forestry Awards.

As a Harvesting Supervisor contracting to Tasman Pine Forest Ltd. and having worked with and known Ross for over 20 years I am honored to endorse him for the above award .

Ross always carefully follows the company plan constantly delivers a quality product that others should envy.

His exceptional skills and knowledge of his craft have also been invaluable while processing burned areas of our forest recently, where only the best can succeed.

Yours Sincerely

Dale Smith

D.Smith Contracting Ltd.



Employee Letter :

Dear Prue,

Re: Wood Processor of the Year Nomination – Ross Beattie

Please accept the above nomination on behalf of our crew.

Ross has been with Wood Contracting now for over 7 years as our key Waratah operator.

He has demonstrated consistent high quality and highly productive work output day in and day out, no matter what the piece size and state of the stems.

Ross is very good at taking the time to educate our new members of the crew. He is not afraid to stop work, and make a point of calling a mini meeting on the skid with crew members to discuss an issue that isn't working well or if a crew member needs some educating due to a particular circumstance.

His work is of an extremely high standard often scoring 100% in his Waratah audits.

He is a very valuable team member of our crew with many years of experience. Not only is he critical in allowing us to produce a high quality product – he is also one of our cool calm level headed, senior crew members.

Yours sincerely,

Simon Rayward

Managing Director
Wood Contracting

ROL

- National Certificate in Landing Operations – Level 3
- National Certificate in Log Loading – Level 4
- National Certificate in Log Making – Level 4
- National Certificate in Ground Base Extraction – Level 4
- National Certificate in Harvesting – Level 3



Photos

