

Situations Vacant



Network Vegetation Coordinator

Marlborough Lines is a progressive electricity distribution business providing high quality electricity distribution services to the Marlborough region.

We have a vacancy for a Vegetation Coordinator to inspect our network to identify trees that are, or potentially are, damaging the network or interrupting power supply.

Primary duties for this position include:

- Patrolling and inspecting specified areas of the Marlborough Lines network and identifying vegetation that is in close proximity to power lines.
- Consulting with property owners.
- Coordinating vegetation control work with arborists.

We are looking for someone with excellent customer service/communication skills that will enable them to successfully negotiate with landowners both written and verbally. Having arboriculture/horticultural experience, including tree identification would be an advantage. Some knowledge of the electricity industry is preferable, but not essential as training on the requirements for maintenance of trees around power lines will be provided.

A very good level of physical fitness is required as some work is located in remote rough terrain. For a full job description and to apply for this role

please visit our website www.marlboroughlines.co.nz/careers
Or for a recruitment pack email: recruitment@mll.co.nz
Ph. (03) 577 7007

Applications close Tuesday 22 October 2019

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Katie, Alysha (11), Jordan (9) and Hemon Dey have made the upcoming election a learning point for the whole family.

SUPPLIED

Allowing youth to have their say

JOANNA SANTA BARBARA

Our teens and children have recently raised their voices loudly on the outstanding political issue of our time in the world-wide Student Strike for Climate.

It seems that on a population basis, participation in Aotearoa was the highest in the world – a fact to be quite proud of.

And many of them would like more than an opportunity to wave a placard and chant in the street a few times a year; they'd like to vote from age 16.

There are strong arguments in favour of this position, especially after the Students' Strike, where young people showed astonishing capacity to organise, to master the facts and to behave well, even as an excited crowd.

With no formal way for their voice to be heard, disillusionment and apathy are risks.

"It could make the difference between whether we survive or whether we don't."

Alysha Dey

In Scotland, when the vote was granted to 16 and 17 year-olds, the parliamentary vote was unanimous, supported by all five parties.

It was described by the Scottish Secretary-General as a 'truly outstanding success'.

Seventy-five per cent of 16-17 year-olds voted in the next election, against 54 per cent of 18-24 year-olds.

Teens this age engage in conversations with their elders and their teachers, and can learn about good citizenship by doing it.

The arguments against include immaturity at this age, and susceptibility to the influence of others.

A Motueka family exemplifies the possibilities for preparing children to be thoughtful citizens of a democratic society.

Katie and Hemon Dey home-school their children, Alysha, 11 and Jordan, 9.

Katie wanted to assess information on candidates in preparation for voting, and is in the habit of involving the children in anything that can contribute to their learning.

The family discussed election and voting. They all watched a video of each candidate



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GETTY

in their area giving brief reasons to secure their vote.

Then the family discussed the candidates. Jordan judged them on criteria of whether they spoke about climate change, and whether they had previous experience on council.

Alysha applied the climate criterion, but also valued candidates higher if they were young and female.

Alysha organised a mock election for mayor, using a piggy bank as a ballot box.

Katie remarked that the family discussion made her a better informed voter, as she had spent more time considering her vote.

Hemon said that the family reached agreement on their preferences, so the parents felt they were representing the children in their vote.

Did the children think they should be able to vote at 16 rather than 18?

Jordan thought 18 would be better, because an older teen would make better decisions.

Alysha fervently believed that 16 year-olds should be able to vote.

She is very concerned about action on climate change.

"It could make the difference between whether we survive or whether we don't."

Both parents felt that the voting age should be lowered to 16.

Hemon noted that many young people have the intelligent grasp of climate issues exemplified by Greta Thunberg.

Their knowledge of the issues may even influence their parents.

Joanna Santa Barbara is a retired physician living in Motueka. She is a member of Zero Carbon Nelson Tasman and Our Climate Declaration.