

INFRASTRUCTURE WOMEN IN FOCUS



WIN NZ has been established to increase the visibility of women in the infrastructure sector. Every month we profile a different woman working in a different part of the industry. If you would like to be profiled, or would like to nominate someone to be profiled, please answer the questions below and send your picture through to [Tara](#).

We'd like to introduce Arden Hermans as our next Woman of Focus. In addition to her role at Fulton Hogan, Arden also sits on the WIN Northland committee.



ARDEN HERMANS
SITE ENGINEER



1. What company or organisation do you work for and what is your role there?

I work for Fulton Hogan in Whangarei. I am currently a Trainee Engineer, working as a Site Engineer on large projects.

2. Tell us about your career background and how you got to this position/role?

After a spell overseas as a nanny after high school I entered the aviation industry as an Apprentice Aeronautical Engineer, progressing into Aviation Support and training as a pilot. Unfortunately, the aviation school I worked for closed and, not wanting to leave my local town, I took up a role with a travel agency. I loved travelling and it felt like a great fit. I continued my studies in aviation privately, funding it by working a secondary job. I qualified in 2016, and once 2017 neared I realised the travel agency job wasn't fulfilling or challenging enough. I researched what I could study and work in at the same time while staying in Whangarei. This led me back to the field I originally enjoyed doing - engineering. I met with several local civil engineering companies to understand exactly what civil engineering involved. It was a field I had never been exposed to and I loved what I heard. It seemed to be a hands-on, practical job with a good mix of outdoor and office work, and great career growth potential. I was offered several full-time jobs and I promptly started my part time studies for a Diploma in Engineering, which I will finish mid next year.

3. Tell us about a project you are currently working on and why it interests you?

Having just finished the Matakoho Northland Bridges Project in July, which was a 3.5km realignment with 2 bridges, I am now working on the SH1 Loop Road Safety Improvements project, where we are constructing a single lane roundabout and future proofing it for dual lane. I am looking after the ground improvements as the soils are very poor. We are using rotary displacement piling for this and I am also installing my first box culvert - under SH1, which comes with many interesting challenges. I will oversee the construction of the pavement as I have worked with the crew on the previous project. It will be great to strengthen my knowledge in this area. I am hoping to progress and develop the region's use of grader control with total station systems to create better quality and efficiency control.

4. What's the hardest job you've ever done and why?

I still feel like I'm brand new to this industry even though I've been in it for two years now, and I don't feel like I have had a particularly hard job yet. In saying that, any job is a challenge for me as everything is new. Dealing with the Northland soils and materials is never as it appears in the textbooks. I learn so much from the

experienced operators and engineers and doing the job on site. Another challenge I come up against daily is studying and working at the same time, especially working in contracting as the hours are never restricted to 8-hour days. Good time management is crucial for me to ensure that I stay on top of my professional workload as well as trying to gain top marks in my classes. There are days where I wish I was only doing one or the other so I could give both my full attention, which they equally deserve.

5. Can you think of one example where your "diversity" has materially affected the outcome of a work situation or project, either positively or negatively?

Having previous work experience prior to studying Civil Engineering, especially in the Aviation Industry, has given me the skill set to be able to collaborate and relate to many different people from all walks of life. It also allows me to be able to give my team different or new perspectives on situations.

Recent Achievements

WIN and Infrastructure New Zealand would like to give a special mention to Arden for being the driving force behind the recent Girls in Hi-Vis event run by WIN Northland . Arden has a passion for increasing the number of women in infrastructure and showcasing the range of careers available in the sector. This event presented an opportunity for 50 young Northland high school students to get a deep insight into the opportunities available in the infrastructure industry and the feedback was overwhelmingly positive.

Congratulations to Arden and WIN Northland on this fantastic initiative.



To learn more about opportunities for a career with Fulton Hogan click [here](#).

Or, you can connect with Arden on [LinkedIn](#).

