

Planting Tour 2021

Info & FAQ's



- ★ Travel, live and work throughout Australia!
- ★ Further your Tree Planting and Forestry skills by gaining experience in a new environment
- ★ Excellent earning potential and sign off for rural work
- ★ Opportunities for advancement, upskilling and personal development

Check us out on Facebook @ https://www.facebook.com/PlantingAustralia/
Please like and share

Intro to Pacific Reforestation

Who we are

Pacific Reforestation is owned and run by Andrew Lewis, and Talei Wright (and our sidekick Bodhi) - a Canadian/Aussie family with a passion for Tree Planting. We moved to Australia in 2015, got our hands in the Aussie soil, and before long starting our own venture to bring our dream to fruition.

We've enjoyed successful seasons ever since. We've had great crews, and have created a 'Pacific Family' that we're proud of. Each year we are growing in size and picking up more contracts around the country. We are always on the hunt for amazing and driven people to join us!

"We love that we get to provide a space for people from around the world to come together, work, travel, and experience the Great Australian Outdoors. Tree planting provided us with unforgettable memories and experiences and we hope our planters will enjoy the same" - Directors, Andrew Lewis and Talei Wright.



Our Mission

We deliver quality, high volume silviculture services to the Forestry sector across Australia.

We excel in exceptional client relations and building professional and skilled work teams to complete projects safely and efficiently. Through open communication, innovation, adaptability and workplace culture, we exceed the expectations of our clients and staff.

Coming to Australia

COVID-19 Updates

We've been lucky enough to survive the COVID lockdowns and regulations while still powering through with our work. Of course, we've made some changes to our operations, and living situations to adjust, and have tons of extra hygiene protocols in place.

So, yes our 2021 Tour should be going ahead as planned.

The biggest issue we have is international travel to Australia. There is currently a complete lockdown on international travel to Australia, unless you are an Australian Citizen, Resident or immediate family member (as per October 2020). Please check the latest updates here.

For internationals looking to apply to plant with us for the 2021 Season, please check to see if you're eligible to travel to Australia at this time. If you are, or if the borders open to your country, please get in touch!

Visas

All workers in Australia must be on a suitable Working Visa or an Australian or New Zealand citizen. We cannot employ people 'under the table'.

Please visit the <u>Australian Immigration</u> website and decide which visa is most suitable for you. Most people coming to plant for a season or two will get a 'Working Holiday Visa' (Subclass 417).

This will allow you work rights for 1 year, with the option of applying for a second year and then a third year. The cost of the visa is about AUD \$485*, and it is relatively hassle free and easy to apply.

*Please check the Immigration website for up to date info and costs.

Flights

It's up to you to find flights that suit your travel plans. The closest major airport to our office is Brisbane (BNE). If you are already in Asia or Australia, the Gold Coast (OOL) is a good option too.

Setting up Aussie life

There are a few simple things you will need to do to set yourself up to work in Australia. We will request this info as soon as you start working, and you will not be paid until it's completed.

- Australian Address you will need one to set up most of the following. Use a friend's address if you have one or you can ask us for our business address.
- ➤ Tax File Number for tax purposes. You can apply online <u>TFN.</u>
- ➤ Bank Account Most banks will set up an account just by walking into their branch. They will then send your card out to your nominated address. Big banks Commonwealth Bank, Westpac, ANZ. I recommend ING (an online bank) for low fees and you can use this card internationally, fee free.
- > Superannuation Account this is your account that employers will pay a compulsory retirement contribution into. You can claim to withdraw this money when you leave Australia. We use and recommend Host Plus
- ➤ More info about collecting your Super at the end of your stay in Australia. <u>Departing Australia Super Payment Info</u>

The Work

Timeframes and Weather

Our season goes from **Summer till Winter or approx Dec - August**. The planting dates will vary significantly depending on the weather, and we always wait until there is adequate moisture levels before commencing.

The early part of our season is our **Summer Plant** (Dec - April) and is based in QLD. Temperatures range from 20 to 40 degrees celsius, with rain and high humidity.

The later part of our season is our **Winter Plant** (May - August) and is based in NSW and VIC. Temperatures range from -5 to 20 degrees celsius, with rain.

We would expect all planters who want a spot on our crew for Summer to be ready to go and within easy travel distance by **January 5th** (this date may vary, however if you're hired we will let you know directly). Please make sure you have enough money to live if there is a slight delay in the start date.

We understand that people may not be able to do the entire season, however we ask that planters give a **minimum 3 month commitment** of work with us.

Locations of work

Our work locations include:

Fraser Coast region - approx 3 hours north of Brisbane Sunshine Coast region - approx 1 hour north of Brisbane Coffs Coast - approx 6 hours south of Brisbane Snowy Mountains - approx 2 hours west of Canberra Green Triangle - approx 3 hours west of Melbourne

We can stay in one location for anywhere from 2 weeks to 6 months.

The Planting

If you are totally new to tree planting, you will have a lot to learn in the initial weeks. Come with an open mind and willingness to learn. Expect to work really really hard.

BBC included Canadian Forestry Tree Planting in its 'World's Toughest Jobs' series and you can watch it here.

The land and soil consistency varies between locations, however it is usually fast paced - high production. We use either tree planting spades or pottiputki depending on the project.

We have Training and Quality days at the beginning of the season to make sure everyone's got the technique right, and we follow up continuously with coaching and tips. Our company has a great reputation for quality planting, and we plan to keep it that way.

We work a rotating schedule with one day off every 3-4 days. This is to manage worker fatigue and minimize injury. This gives plenty of time for rest, social activities, and adventures.

Prices

Pay is based on a Piecework Agreement. You will be paid per tree that you plant. These tallies will be counted each day and you are paid accordingly.

Prices vary depending on the spec we are planting. Prices per stem range from 7c to 20c. Pays are on a fortnightly basis.

Once planters are in their stride, most make between \$200-\$300/day easily, with the more motivated making \$300-\$450+/day.

*** A note on earnings - Please don't expect to be making this rate as soon as you start. This is a job that requires a steep learning curve. Expect to find it VERY DIFFICULT for the first few days/shifts, and plant low numbers. From our experience it takes rookie planters 2-3 weeks to get into their stride, and experience Canadian planters 2-3 shifts to adjust.

What you'll need

You will need to be prepared for all weather conditions. If you are successful in your application, you will be sent a 'What to Bring' list.

We provide our planters with all the tools to do the job, you just need to provide your own PPE. White card is not required. Transport is not necessary as long as you are living in staff accommodation. All transport from the accommodations to and from the worksite is provided.

The Lifestyle

Living with the crew

We operate as a crew of 15-25 people who travel between locations together, staying in different types of accommodations. Pacific Reforestation will find and secure accommodations for the crew, and provide all transport to and from the work site.

Accommodations range from holiday houses, cabins, farm houses, or trailer parks. They are fully furnished and very comfortable. Planters generally live with 4-10 people and are charged a nightly rate.

In order to keep the houses in good condition, we have strict guidelines about staying in the work houses. This is in regards to cleanliness, tidiness, respecting quiet times and people, space and property. If the guidelines are not met, employees will be asked to leave and find their own accommodation.

Food is the responsibility of each planter individually. We will ensure there is sufficient cooking and food storage space, and you will shop and cook yourselves.

Social activities are often planned and are encouraged for staff to enjoy their days off. People are usually keen for exploring local towns, beach trips, hikes or climbing trips, surfing, pub nights, board game/movie nights, arts and crafts days, and themed parties.

If you prefer to find your own place, feel free to do so - we can send you some helpful links.

Our Crews: what we're looking for

Roles & Responsibilities

For Upcoming seasons, we will be hiring for a number of roles:

Planters - We take care of the logistics, you show up and pound each day. Put in 100% effort to get the trees in at a high quality. Potential to earn big \$\$\$.

Paid piece rate.

Production/quality bonuses may apply

Tree Runner - Assist with operational logistics - driving, loading and watering trees, quad and 4x4 operations to deliver trees to planters

Paid day rate.

Production/quality bonuses may apply

Quality Checker - Ensure planters are trained and following quality specs - daily quality checks and plots. Recording QC data, reporting to clients. Overall responsibility for quality assessments. Assist Team Leader or plant when required.

Paid day rate.

Production/quality bonuses may apply

Team Leader - Manage on-site operations and crew. Work with Project Manager to plan and execute projects. Manage and motivate the crew to hit production targets and keep quality high. Liaise with client Foresters, and give them weekly feedback. Keep accurate records of planter tallies, stock control and reporting to management.

Paid day rate

Project bonuses may apply

Future Opportunities

If you enjoy your time in Australia and working with Pacific Reforestation, we have ongoing opportunities to offer.

Stay for your full year visa - You can plant with us from December till August (maybe later depending on the season).

Apply for your second year WH visa - all the hours you work with us, go towards your 88 days of rural work, which allow you to get a second visa. Stay with us for another planting season!

Sponsorship - if we are a really good fit and you'd like to stay on a few more years, we can look into a corporate sponsorship option.

Advancement - if you prove you are keen to learn, and move up within our company, there is a lot of room for training and advancement. We are a young and dynamic company looking to expand greatly in the next few years. We will be looking for Team Leaders, Tree Runners, Supervisors to help expand into new areas.

Thanks for reading!

If you have read through this Info Pack and still have questions, please direct them to talei@pacificreforestation.com.au

If you would like to apply, continue with the rest of the Application Form!