



For more info on Marshall Profiling, check out marshallprofiling.co.nz

Marshall Profiling is a dedicated, independent cutting center specializing in CNC plate and sheet processing. The company offers a wide range of services for materials such as carbon steel, stainless steel, and aluminum, with thicknesses ranging from 0.5mm to 200mm.

Asking around his networks for work opportunities paid off for former Hillcrest High student Ruan, who is working as a machine operator at Marshall Profiling while he works towards starting an apprenticeship.



Ruan's tasks as a machine operator include:

- **Laser Cutting** – premium cutting with speed and precision in materials such as carbon, stainless or aluminium up to 20mm thick.
- **Plasma Cutting** – accurate cutting of medium to heavy plate.
- **Pressing** – accurate folding of light, medium and heavy plate. Marshall's tooling extends sheet processing capabilities into carbon, stainless and aluminium folded sheet and plate.
- **Rolling** – Marshall rolls carbon, stainless and aluminium materials in light and heavy sections.
- **Machining** – drilling, tapping, countersinking and a range of other plate machining services.
- **Oxy Fuel Cutting** – straight, clean cutting of sections 60mm to 200mm thick.

Ruan gave us the goss on how he started his career, what he enjoys about it, and some inside info...

To find out more about this sector, profiles of young people like you in the industry, and career tools and tips...

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RUAN VILJOEN
MACHINE OPERATOR



The FutureForce® Crew sat down with Ruan to chat about his role...

TOP CAREER TIP

USING FAMILY AND FRIEND CONNECTIONS TO FIND JOBS IS HELPFUL, ESPECIALLY IF YOU DON'T KNOW WHERE TO LOOK!

HOW DID YOU GET INTO THIS JOB?

I finished school in year 11 having completed my level 3, then I went straight from school to Wintec and did a NZ Certificate in Engineering (Level 3). Once I finished, I started looking around for potential jobs. One of my mum's friends suggested Marshalls and so I applied and got hired at Marshall Profiling. Using my family connections to find jobs was helpful because I didn't really know where to look for work.

WHAT INTEREST DID YOU HAVE IN THIS SORT OF WORK?

I always wanted to do something along these lines, and working with my hands has always been something I've been good at. I'm not really "book-smart" so I prefer doing hands on work and machine operating was just that.

WHAT DO YOU LOVE ABOUT BEING A MACHINE OPERATOR?

Working here you get to see what you make and see the results. We get to see our product go over to JP Marshall where they weld it together. It is cool to be able to see where our product goes and see it all come together.

WHAT ARE SOME SKILLS YOU HAVE LEARNT WHILE WORKING?

Learning how to calculate angles and to operate machinery. You also learn what tools are used where and what they are used for. Communication is something I have also learnt. Health and safety is important too, come in and put on all your proper PPE gear, ensuring your safety.

WHAT DO YOU LIKE MOST ABOUT WORKING AT MARSHALL PROFILING?

The work environment and the people here are very nice, I find everyone is always happy.

RUAN VILJOEN
MACHINE OPERATOR



TIPS & ADVICE

**WHAT WAS A CHALLENGE YOU HAD STARTING WORK?
HOW DID YOU OVERCOME THIS?**

The first time I had to use the crane and machinery on my own was stressful and I was scared I was going to make a mistake but in the end it all worked out fine. The more times I did it, it became easier and easier. It can feel like you are jumping in the deep end, but you just need to get stuck in and figure it out. I have made a few mistakes but the important part is that you learn from these mistakes so you don't make them again.

**WHAT WAS SOMETHING YOU WISH YOU KNEW BEFORE
LEAVING SCHOOL?**

I wish I knew that I would have to use maths more than I expected to. I have found it really does apply when reading angles and working with different formulas.

**IF SOMEONE WAS THINKING ABOUT BECOMING A
MACHINE OPERATOR WHAT IS SOMETHING THEY SHOULD
KNOW?**

It's probably physically harder on your body than you would think. It's important to know how to properly lift something to protect your back or your body.



**WHAT IS YOUR ADVICE FOR SOMEONE NEW TO
THE WORKFORCE?**

Find someone who has lots of experience to learn from and make sure to ask as many questions as you can. Asking questions doesn't hurt and it is always good to know more than one way to complete something. It doesn't hurt to learn from multiple people.

**WHAT QUALIFICATIONS OR SUBJECTS DO YOU
THINK ARE USEFUL?**

You don't necessarily need anything to get started as a machine operator. But if you want to do an apprenticeship, I will say it is good to take maths and science subjects in school. I also took metal work and woodwork, which are hands on subjects and gave me good skills. You should aim to get NCEA Level 2 before leaving school. I also had a pre trade that I got through Wintec while I was at school.

