



For more info on Supreme Sheet Metals, check out supremesheetmetals.co.nz

Supreme has a team of people with hundreds of years combined experience and a proud history of working in the Waikato for more and 50 years. They offer design, fabrication and installation services for all manufacturing requirements.

Learning “on the go” and listening well are key skills for Supreme Sheetmetals’ production fabricators Seb and Bjorn.

FutureForce® joined Seb, former Hillcrest High student, and Bjorn, who went to Fraser High, for a tour around the Supreme workshop and the inside info about their careers so far.

Seb and Bjorn are both three years into their New Zealand Certificate in Engineering Fabrication Level 4...



Daily tasks for a production fabricator include:

- Fabricating metal products
- Joining and welding metal pieces
- Marking cutting and bending lines
- Following fabrication procedures
- Interpreting engineering plans
- Grinding, sanding and finishing
- Completed products
- Testing products
- Quality control checks
- Improving processes
- Inspecting products and identifying defects

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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BJORN BARRIS
PRODUCTION FABRICATION APPRENTICE

SEB BERNARD
PRODUCTION FABRICATION APPRENTICE

The FutureForce® Crew sat down with Bjorn and Seb to chat about their roles...

WHAT IS A PRODUCTION FABRICATOR?

Being a production fabricator involves production of parts, through welding, and fabricating. Our end goal is working towards creating a finished fabricated product. - Seb

WHAT DOES A PRODUCTION FABRICATOR DO DAY TO DAY?

Everything that comes to us in the workshop is laser cut and pressed. From here we cut and press the material to assemble the final products. We do this by welding, sanding and buffing the materials to achieve the final product. Another task we do is all the forming for the pipe work that goes on. - Seb

WHAT SKILLS HAVE YOU LEARNT ON THE JOB?

I have learnt a whole lot about drawing, which goes along trigonometry skills learnt in school such as the Pythagorean theorem”. I have also learnt about lifting permits, health and safety permits, and working in confined spaces. - Seb

Health and safety protocol is a big thing I have learnt so far. - Bjorn

TOP CAREER TIP

“LISTENING IS A HIGHLY IMPORTANT SKILL, YOU DON'T ALWAYS KNOW WHAT YOU ARE DOING, SO IF SOMEONE IS TELLING YOU WHAT TO DO AND YOU DON'T LISTEN YOU WILL MAKE MISTAKES,” - BJORN

WHAT DO YOU LIKE MOST ABOUT WORKING AT SUPREME?

I personally like using the laser cutting machines. - Bjorn

There are so many great things about working at Supreme. It is good having the ability to do laser cutting in-house. This means not having to wait for someone external, or long wait times dealing with another supplier. This makes it easy for re cuts and one-off job work. We also have a lot of people come here to get their stuff cut. There are also good people around the place that we work alongside. - Seb

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TIPS & ADVICE

WHAT GOT YOU INTERESTED IN THIS SORT OF WORK?

My brother and dad did this sort of work, alongside taking engineering as a subject in school. I found this subject very interesting, and then progressed from there to an apprenticeship working in fabrication. - Bjorn

I was originally a mechanic then moved to working here at Supreme as a production fabricator. I started off doing work experience in the Supreme workshop, then I found myself doing a bit of 4-wheel drive fabrication work. This work then progressed into my current apprenticeship, and I haven't stopped since. - Seb

WHAT DO YOU LOVE ABOUT YOUR JOB?

For me it is the satisfaction. I do a lot of sanding, so you have to make everything nice and smooth, and that is a task which is satisfying. Getting to see the whole process through and having the nice, finished product at the end. - Bjorn

One thing I enjoy seeing is when a flat sheet of metal comes through and ends up as a finished product. We have been able to visit a customer and see the parts we made on their machines. We also went to the Fielddays and saw machines there with our parts added to them - Seb



WHAT SORT OF PERSON DO YOU NEED TO BE FOR THIS WORK?

You kind of need background as it is hard if you come into this workshop fresh. The managers expect you to know what you are doing, so this background knowledge is key. - Bjorn

It does help to have been around this environment in the past or having done a bit of welding. Other than that, just go there ready to put your head down and get stuck into work. - Seb

WHAT SORT OF PERSON DO YOU NEED TO BE FOR THIS WORK?

You need to know how to read a ruler! - Bjorn

You must be able to add and subtract two numbers. You also must know how to sweep the floors because when you are a first year you get given this type of job. This is where you just must keep on pushing and prove yourself, to then work up into more skilled work. - Seb

