



Media release – 17 July 2013

## **Drilling programme moves to Reefton**

Tai Poutini Polytechnic's popular drilling programme has moved its practical base to Reefton giving students the opportunity for more "hands on" learning time.

Previously the polytechnic ran its site-based training in Greymouth using a contractor's drilling rig. However TPP was keen to purchase its own drilling rig and equipment so has recently relocated to its Soldiers Road farm in Reefton for practical training.

TPP Drilling programme leader Michele Cox says the new location is already proving to be popular with students.

"Students now get more hands on training in a "real life" situation learning off-sider skills. It means they learn practical skills on a working rig which is great for their transition to the work place," she says.

The level three Certificate in Drilling - Non-Hydrocarbon (Driller's Assistant) programme is designed to prepare students to work in the industry as an off-sider. Students are transported from Greymouth to Reefton daily and the 24 week programme includes ten weeks work experience.

"There are still lots of opportunities for drillers in New Zealand and overseas and we have no trouble finding work experience for the students. Our graduates are working in many different fields including the mining, farming and construction industries," says Ms Cox.

The next drilling programme starts on the West Coast on 10 February 2014. Contact Tai Poutini Polytechnic free phone 0800 800 411, text 027 467 5574, e-mail [info@tpp.ac.nz](mailto:info@tpp.ac.nz) or visit [www.tpp.ac.nz](http://www.tpp.ac.nz)

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Photo : Tai Poutini Polytechnic Drilling student Dirk Hermsen from Te Awamutu learning the art of breaking out rods at the TPP Reefton farm, watched by fellow students