



Harvest insider: Peter Martin

Viterra South East group

Operator

I gained a harvest casual position with Viterra at Keith for the 2018/2019 season, having previously worked with Graincorp for ten seasons in New South Wales and Victoria.

During my first harvest, I operated drive over stackers, and worked at the sheds and silos. I had previous experience with most of the equipment but some variations in control systems meant that I had to draw on the knowledge of colleagues and the support I received was welcomed.

I was fortunate to gain ongoing work after harvest. My duties involve most aspects of grain handling including road and rail receivals and outloading, maintenance and cleaning of grain storage facilities, forklift and stacker operations and a host of other tasks.

My role during harvest

For the 2019/20 harvest I was the silo operator at our Tintinara site and, together with a great colleague, we managed to reduce the turnaround time for our growers/carriers considerably resulting in some very pleasing feedback at the end of harvest.

Effective interaction with carriers and growers can be very rewarding and by looking after them and each other, we can get the job done safely and enjoy it.

The best part of harvest for me is when operations are running smoothly and growers get a quick turnaround, particularly when their window of opportunity to deliver is impacted by weather/fire bans etc.

Harvest is our 'Grand Final' so we need to commit to ensure we give our growers the best opportunity to deliver their crops and see Viterra as their preferred point of delivery. Safety still needs to remain the number one priority however, because like a grand final, nobody wants to miss out due to injury.

My advice to new employees

We were all 'new employees' once, consider the potential opportunities in a business of this scale if you perform well, safely and show interest in what is happening around you. Ask questions of those designated as your trainers/mentors particularly in regards to the safety of yourselves and your colleagues.

It will probably be hot. It will most certainly be dusty. It may even be itchy but the cheapest talcum powder will fix that.

Try to be involved during team meetings. Something you bring to the conversation may make a profound difference to safety, productivity, job satisfaction, customer satisfaction and more.