

# Women's insight into Army

**Fifty school students from around New Zealand took part in the first all-female New Zealand Army recruiting experience at Linton Military Camp during the school holidays.**

The all-female programme for year-12 and year-13 students has been developed to showcase the Army as an attainable career option for women and increase the representation of females in Army trades. The format offers a unique exposure to Army trades through hands-on activities, workshops and resilience and leadership exercises.

"I was surprised at how many different trades there were in the Army and that it's not all infantry," said Eryn McIntosh (16) from Freyberg High School.

"I've been looking at the Army as a career option for a while, so this has been a great experience."

There was also the opportunity to pick the brains of women who currently serve in the Army and ask frank questions young women often find hard to ask in a mixed sex environment.

"It has been great just having girls here, we can ask questions we might feel self-conscious about with having boys around," said Eryn.

Those questions included whether women get treated differently to men, what challenges women face, whether they feel empowered and what were the most, and least, common jobs for women in the Army.

Selection of any recruit, male or female, relates to the Army's operational outputs and the diverse environments it works in and all potential recruits have to meet specific standards of fitness and evaluation.

"We need a range of ethnicities and genders to engage with communities we serve in, and women offer skill sets that can be used in situations where a male soldier may not be appropriate," said Sergeant Bertha Ruha, regional recruiting officer (Wellington).

