

## Council update

### Australian Controls on Illegally Logged wood products

Australia has adopted legislation aimed at ensuring illegally logged wood products are not imported to their country, reflecting similar measures in place in Europe and America. New Zealand has been consulted throughout the legislative process, which has included consideration of submissions by NZIF on both the Bill and the regulations.

The NZ Government (and NZIF) are fully supportive of measures aimed at curbing the trade in illegally harvested wood products. A number of practical considerations have been raised and debated from the outset, including the actions an importer or an exporter can take to demonstrate the legality of the supplied materials. Whilst we are not aware of any illegal New Zealand products, demonstration can be problematic due to the private ownership of most of NZ's forests.

The solution to the issue of proof of legality is likely a multi-pronged approach. Australian regulations suggest certifications such as FSC and PEFC are one means. Government-generated country statements and Australian assessments of countries as low risk are other options, which in combination should minimise the cost and risk of delay to NZ exporters.

NZIF has promulgated to MPI the use of Registered Foresters to provide limited 'legality' assurances. Thanks to the many members who responded positively to the proposal and with useful suggestions for improvements.

## Council Update continued

The President has met with MPI to progress their consideration of the NZIF "Registered Forester" option. MPI officials indicated qualified support for the proposal and have proposed:

- (i) consideration of further information supplied by NZIF on NZIF's registration process;
- (ii) MPI officials to seek endorsement of their recommendation by MPI Directors by 30 Sep;
- (iii) Seek the agreement of the Minister to the Director's recommendation by mid-October.

We are assured of MPI's understanding of the urgency of this and other means of compliance with Australia's import laws by 1 November 2014 when they come into effect.

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## NZIF Forest Policy Project (FPP)

### A self-help National Forest Policy

The first planning meeting of the FPP was held last week in Auckland which debated the initial guidelines for the Project. Reports and further information are to follow in the next few weeks.

The Government has said it believes that New Zealand does not need a Forest Policy, preferring market-led Forest Working Party decisions. This is widely considered to be incorrect and forestry's important economic, social and environmental benefits cannot be realised if not guided by a robust Forest Policy. Foresters within NZIF are working to coordinate a crowd-sourced self-help National Forest Policy to appropriately guide long-term development.

### NZIF Forest Policy Project Working Party

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## PRESIDENT'S COMMENT

"If you don't know where you are going, any road will take you there." - *Lewis Carroll, Alice in Wonderland*

After three months as President I am wondering if I fell down Alice's rabbit hole. I suspect nothing is what it seems and 'words mean what the speaker wants them to mean but may not be what the listener hears!'

An example is what the Green Building Council wants the public to believe. NZIF recently made submissions on the Auckland Plan, opposing the proposed regulatory requirement for Green Building Council 'star ratings'. Why, you ask; after all wood is good, it's a sustainable, renewable, recyclable material, it is biodegradable, does not need large amounts of fertiliser to grow, it is produced using one of the most efficient solar converters of all, while soaking up greenhouse gas pollutants and putting out oxygen, it requires only rain water and residues are a bioenergy store. Surely therefore the only logical decision for someone building 'green' would be to use wood unless there was a mechanical reason why some other material made more sense?

Apparently not. The Green Building Council allocates stars based on a broad range of criteria. It is possible to get a star for recycled content in steel, double glazing, bike parks and for growing plants on the roof of a building. It is even possible to get a star for wood; but only if it is FSC certified. What it does not allow for is comparisons to be made between the environmental benefits of these stars. It is apparently not possible to conclude wood is better than steel or steel better than wood.

In the absence of any understanding of environmental priorities, any environmental attribute must be as good as another. Steel is recyclable and urban green roofs have aesthetic appeal. Therefore they are equivalent to carbon fixing wood. The question is, do we really believe this? The proponents of the Green Building Council have at least had the humility to say prioritising environmental outcomes is not something they have a mandate to do. So why have a star system at all?

What is the Solution? ... Keep It Simple, Stupid!

Wood is good and the cradle-to-grave environmental story of the forestry sector is even better. We don't need to be humble about these environmental attributes. Climate change is highlighted by no less an authority than the Secretary General of the UN, as "the defining issue of our age." The need to rapidly shift the economy to a low carbon economy is mainstream, evidenced by the billions being invested in a low carbon future and away from the fossil fuel economy.

Here the Office of the Minister for Climate Change Issues justifies climate related legislation on the basis of ensuring "clear long term price signals that encourage a smooth transition to a low carbon economy." Fair enough: wood products are internationally recognised as long term stores of carbon. Wood is a good insulator, it has formed the core of NZ's construction effort for decades and even in landfill acts as a form of carbon capture and storage. So surely NZ should be on the wood road?

Building in wood is as good a path to a green building as any other, including the Green Buildings Council's star rating. Judged against "the defining issue of our age", wood is not however just good, it is a core component of the low carbon economy of the future. Despite this, environmental benefits of forestry are generally recognised only negatively.

Conversions from forestry are regulated to prevent nitrate pollution, rather than regulating the actual activities causing nitrate pollution. Those industries producing greenhouse gas intensive building materials (which compete with wood for market share) enjoy "emissions intensive trade exposed" subsidies; funded in part by the cost of land use change controls on forestry.

Those claiming to rate green buildings like to lead New Zealand in a new star studded direction, then again, the path may be full of White Rabbits.

James Treadwell *RMNZIF*



## MEMBER'S VOICE

John Purey-Cust's 15 Sep statement in relation to the condition of ex-NZ Forest Service forests in the Southland/Otago region, "*The tended forests are gone, the industry has all but collapsed and what remains cannot get enough quality logs because the heir to the Forest Service does no pruning or thinning, neither has it introduced any new technology*", contains misinformation that as regional manager for a significant portion of these forests I must respond to.

Pruning of selected P.radiata areas has been undertaken in the forests up to 2010 at which time the location of harvest and economic viability dictated that this silvicultural treatment be put on hold until it could be economically justified.

A breeding program has been initiated that involves the establishment of long internode bi nodal trees on selected sites. There has also been considerable work undertaken to ensure radiata pine is established only on sites that are favourable to the species; Douglas fir and a radiata/attenuata hybrid are being established as alternative species on harder sites. All species are thinned to ensure optimal site utilisation and tree quality.

Considerable improvements have been made in effective weed control at enabling lower planting stockings, good survival and uniform growth, factors that were always difficult to achieve in Southland during the Forest Service management era.

John's direct association between the quality of logs available today and the management practices of the current owner of the ex-Forest Service estate in Southland is incorrect. The major determinant of the quality of logs available today still remains the establishment and the silvicultural decisions made by the Forest Service.

Management practices have changed in the years since 1992. Investment in management systems particularly in the area of matching species, genetics and stocktype to site has minimized risk and delivered significant improvements in crop growth. A combination of

## MEMBER'S VOICE

these systems and improvements in operational practice have seen measurable improvement in Radiata MAIs.

Other technologies such as LiDAR and remote sensing are enabling a greater level of monitoring of both the crop and land, and the use of this data is delivering both operational and environmental improvements. Improvements in harvesting practice and technologies have delivered better environmental and safety outcomes. All ground based harvest areas in our Southland forests are mechanically felled, thus removing people from one of the most hazardous tasks in the industry.

We also communicate regularly with our stakeholders and are members of the Southern Wood Council which seeks as one of its objectives to promote forestry in the region. The tended forests are not gone. To assert otherwise denigrates the management strategy and operational efforts of many professional staff over the last 22 years to manage a diverse estate to effectively create and deliver a range of products for future markets.

Steve Chandler  
[abridged]

## Announcement

### Scion October Forest Science Seminar

"Sow now, reap critical mass later: planting trees for bioenergy in Central West, New South Wales, Australia" with Sandra Velarde, Forest Science's latest Economist recruitment.

Date: Wednesday 8 October 2014, 12-1pm  
Venue: Scion, Rimu Room and Scopia Webinar, 49 Sala Street, Rotorua

Contact [Katrin Webb](#) to register for in-person attendance or for information on how to access the live stream.

Full seminar document [here](#).

# NZIF WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

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## Council News

### Auckland Unitary Plan-Notice of Pre-hearing meeting and hearing for topic 006 RPS Natural Resources

The process being followed for the development of the Auckland Plan acts to preclude participation by all those groups, such as NZIF, able to offer informed and expert commentary who are without a direct financial interest to justify the cost of participation. NZIF made submissions on the draft, drawing attention to the potentially chilling effect of the proposed plan on GM-related research and innovation in the biologically-based forestry sector. NZIF highlighted potential problems where the comprehensive and expert assessment of GM proposals already required under the HSNO Act is second-guessed by Auckland Council as at best a duplication and therefore inappropriate. It would be a concern if the costs including time of participation in plan development under the Auckland Plan served to limit informed debate. It would be of equal or greater concern if a limited local process in Auckland generated an outcome that was adopted as some form of precedent by other regions where the forestry sector was a more significant part of the local economy.

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## LinkedIn

To join in the discussions happening now, or to post something of interest to you with respect to the Forestry industry in New Zealand and around the world, join the NZIF group on LinkedIn. Participation in this group is only open to members of the NZIF and we are up to 125 members!

[nz.linkedin.com](http://nz.linkedin.com)

## Local Section News

NZIF Otago-Southland branch invites you to the Otago-Southland Forest Products Industry Meeting

Date: Thursday 23 October 2014  
Venue: Rosebank Lodge, Balclutha  
Time: 5.30pm Drinks, 6.30pm Dinner, 7.15pm After-Dinner Presentation

The Southern Wood Council (SWC), in conjunction with the local branch of the NZ Institute of Forestry and the Mid & South Otago Branches of the NZ Farm Forestry Association, present 'Innovations to Improve Log Marshalling Efficiencies'

For more information, email [Caroline Rickerby](mailto:Caroline.Rickerby@nzif.co.nz)  
To register, email Caroline or fax 03 470 1906 page two of the attached [flyer](#) complete with names, details of your attendance and payment method. Registrations need to be received before noon Wednesday 22 October 2014.

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## Notice from the Administrators

We still have a number of Conference badges in the office for sale. They are solid Rimu lapel badges with Paua inlay and are \$11 each including postage. Please email [Jay](mailto:Jay@nzif.co.nz) to order - they would make a great gift.



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We have over \$20,000 in outstanding membership fees. This includes over 40 students, almost 50 ordinary members, 2 registered members, 5 retired members and over 20 graduate/associate members still to pay. Prompt payment would be appreciated

## Local Section News

**Auckland Section NZIF** invites you to their Marketing Seminar, being hosted by Rayonier Matariki Forests.

The last year has been a roller coaster ride for New Zealand's log exporters with prices reaching all-time highs in March before falling by 25%. Historically high inventory levels, competition from Pacific North West logs and lumber, a high NZ dollar, fluctuating demand and consumption, the Chinese economy and credit tightening are all having an impact on the market but what is the outlook?

Recently returned from Korea and China, Chris Rayes, Marketing Director for Rayonier Matariki Forests, will present his views on the log export market and to take us through developments over the past 12 months.

Date: Thursday 9 October 2014, 5.30pm  
 Venue: Rayonier Matariki Forests, Level 5, 32-34 Mahuhu Crescent, Auckland.  
 Please RSVP to [Philip Elworthy](#) by Monday 6 October.

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## For Sale

Cutting Right 11 ha, Belmont Wellington  
 LT and SD Evans (The Proprietors) are offering for sale the cutting rights to their 11.2ha forest located on Belmont Road, Porirua City.

More information can be found [here](#).

## Local Section News

### NZIF Canterbury Branch Report back

Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> September saw Gordon Williams, business manager for Landcorp Farming Ltd, talk to us on 'the role of trees and forests on the properties of New Zealand's largest farmer'. This was a real eye-opener for most of us, and I thank Nick Ledgard for inviting Gordon to speak. The company vision is "to become the premier supplier of meat, milk and fibre in niche markets globally". Judging by the following statistics, I would say they are already well on their way to achieving this vision:

	Dairy	Sheep	Deer	Beef
No. of animals	77,000	579,000	105,000	82,000
No. of breeding cows/ewes/hinds	60,000	404,000	57,000	38,000
Tonnes	18,000 milk solids	8,800 sheep meat	2,200 venison	6,000 beef
Tonnes	2,200 beef	2,700 wool	7 velvet	

This livestock is farmed on 376,614 ha of farmland including 10 dairy complexes (made up of 42 farms), 18 individual dairy farms and 81 livestock farms. The environment has become a key focus for Landcorp. Currently there are 5416 ha under QEII covenant in 154 areas, 2,600 ha under DOC covenant in 64 areas, 8,186 ha production forest, and 8,000 ha of riparian and shelter plantings. A total of 24,200 ha (15%) of the Landcorp farms are under protection or forestry.

Gordon has calculated that they would need 13,000 ha under trees if they were required to become carbon neutral for their farming activities. They have planted over 4,000 ha in the last 6 years without dropping a stock unit of farm production. Forestry is making a significant contribution to the profits of the company, and Gordon was full of praise for the professional management of the estate by PF Olsen Ltd. In conjunction with Scion, they have some interesting species trial on 3 sites, including species such as Totara, red beech and Radiata attenuata.

A new initiative has commenced to restore Manuka to impoverished sites.

Dennys Guild  
 [abridged]

## Forest Growing Research Conference

Registrations are open for the Inaugural [Forest Growing Research Conference](#)

### More Income, Less Risk

All forest growers have two things in common: a wish to increase their forest income and to reduce the risks to their forests.

Find out what our forest scientists are doing to achieve an increase in their forest income and a reduction in risks to their forests.

Learn about their research programmes, the results to date and the expected benefits for you as a forest grower.

Date: 29 October - 31 October 2014

Venue: Rydges Hotel, Rotorua

Registrations close 22 October 2014

For more information email [Veronica Bennett](#) or telephone on 07 9211883

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## Seeking employment opportunities

Osadolor Samson of Lagos, Nigeria, is seeking employment opportunities in the Forestry industry in New Zealand.

His CV can be found [here](#).

To contact Osadolor:

Telephone: (234)8088118545  
(234)8183840193.

Email: [Soooct24@gmail.com](mailto:Soooct24@gmail.com)

## Membership Survey

The NZIF council is asking members to complete our membership survey. Like all our predecessor councils one of our main goals is growing membership so we can all enjoy the benefits of a growing and vibrant institute. That we are now sitting at record membership numbers tells the Council we are doing a lot of good things.

All organisations have to be asking whether they are providing the best service and products that they can. As members and demographics change, what people valued ten years ago may be different today. Please take the time to complete the survey to assist the council in our attempts to help us support you as forestry professionals and continue to grow your institute.

The survey should have reached your inbox last week. If you did not receive it, please email [Jay](#)

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## CALENDAR

NZIF takes no responsibility for errors in this calendar. Please visit the website or contact the organisers to confirm times, locations, costs.

### Oct 2014

- Wed 8 Scion October Forest Science Seminar, with Sandra Velarde, 12noon-1pm, Scion, Rimu Room, Rotorua, contact [Katrin Webb](#)
- Thurs 9 ASIF Marketing seminar, with Chris Rayes, 5.30pm, Rayonier Matariki Forests, Level 5, 32-34 Mahuhu Crescent, Auckland, RSVP to [Philip Elworthy](#)
- Wed 15 – Fri 17 Appita [Fibre Value Chain Conference & Expo](#), Distinction Hotel, Rotorua, for more information [email](#)
- Wed 22 NZIAHS Annual General Meeting, 3pm, Stewart 1, Lincoln University, Canterbury
- Wed 22 NZIAHS Canterbury Forum, 9am-3pm, Stewart 1, Lincoln University, Canterbury, *Enduring Agricultural Solutions For Improving Water Quality*
- Wed 29 – Fri 31 Inaugural [Forest Growing Research Conference](#), Rydges Hotel, Rotorua, email [Veronica Bennett](#) or telephone on 07 921 1883

### Nov 2014

- Sun 16 – Wed 19 [A place to live national conference](#), Royal Society of NZ, Wanganui War Memorial Centre
- Wed 19 – Thurs 20 [ForestTech 2014](#), Distinction Hotel Rotorua, full programme [here](#)
- Sun 24 – Mon 25 New Zealand History of Science conference, email [Rebecca Priestley](#)

### April 2015

- Mon 13 – Wed 15 [ANZIF Conference 2015](#), 'Creating Resilient Landscapes', Novotel Forest Resort Creswick, Victoria, Australia



NEW ZEALAND INSTITUTE OF FORESTRY

Te Pūtahi Ngāherehere o Aotearoa Inc.

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