

NZIF Journal of Forestry



The rate of deaths and serious injuries in forestry is unacceptable. The November 2014 issue of the New Zealand Journal of Forestry has a harvesting theme, sharing the view that safety and productivity will only be achieved through increased mechanisation, *No worker on the slope, no hand on the chainsaw*. Four articles explore current improvements to New Zealand harvesting techniques, while a fifth provides an overview of the changes to research funding and organisation arising from the Forest Growing Levy and the impact on the FFR Steep Land Harvesting research programme. Productivity must continually improve if New Zealand is to remain competitive with other forest-products exporting countries. In addition to the harvesting papers, there are papers on planted Kauri forestry, the accuracy of tree volume equations and the performance of Douglas fir sawing trials.

Journal available online [here](#)

Christmas Reading

Ash is a retired forester/mountain man and a Canberra graduate. He worked initially in North Canterbury forests but was always inclined to high-country forestry and under the guidance of Jack Holloway set up a North Island branch of the old Forest and Range Experimental Station, based in Napier. Ash completed many surveys of the North Island ranges and established a field base on the Makahu Saddle in the Kaweka Range. I was his principal botanist and hunter in a 1959/60 survey of the Tutaekuri catchment, where we established vegetation plots, described soil profiles and recorded erosion features.

Ash was also one of the many foresters and students on the National Forest Survey of 1945-55. Many prominent Foresters and science students cut their teeth on this comprehensive forest survey and it produced many stories and incidents from the work in difficult circumstances of thick bush and rugged terrain.

Ash has recently written a book of short stories which he called "Bush Yarns". There are 28 great stories, many about NFS mates and others about well-known foresters, and characters from the past. Email [Ashley Cunningham](mailto:Ashley.Cunningham) for more information.

An excellent read! - Dave Field

National Office

New Zealand Institute of Forestry
PO Box 10513
Level 9
93 The Terrace
Wellington 6143
NEW ZEALAND

Phone +64 4 974 8421
Fax +64 4 473 9330
Email admin@nzif.org.nz

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PRESIDENT'S COMMENT

I was introduced to a new acronym this week. NDCs are *Nationally Determined Contributions* to global efforts on climate change. All countries involved in climate change negotiations have agreed to announce their individual NDCs sometime early next year, as a prelude to a new climate change agreement in Paris, late 2015.

It is not clear what advice officials and Ministers will seek in determining New Zealand NDCs but the NZ Herald Business section 21 November would seem a good place to start.

[Page 6](#) states “dairy land sells strongly despite product woes” and “the median price for dairy land has risen 32.4 per cent in a year”. The article unhelpfully does not explore the reasons for this apparent paradox, leaving me to speculate there is some invisible hand countering New Zealand’s general commitment to be a country which is market-led and 100% pure.

Brian Fallow ([page 9](#)) provides some insight in his column titled *NZ ducking the climate question*. In it he discusses at length New Zealand’s current Kyoto commitments in the context of official advice to Minister for Climate Change, Tim Groser. “The current settings... neither incentivise behaviour change nor prepare us for a transition to rising future carbon prices.” The context for the article is the Government having to make big decisions next year regarding the cost and effectiveness of climate policy over the next 15 years, in essence our NDC commitments.

Mr Fallow’s article makes no direct reference to the article on land price but does state “A key decision policy-makers face is whether to continue to exempt from the ETS the agricultural gases, methane and nitrous oxide...” He could have (but did not) made reference to Government ‘investment’ in irrigation, Government ‘support’ of increasing dairy at times of climate-change exacerbated floods and droughts, and the different regulation by Regional Councils of agricultural pollution of waterways.

What Mr Fallow usefully says is something NZIF has been saying for a considerable period “Exempting [agricultural environmental effects] constitutes a subsidy at the expense of either

taxpayers or energy consumers. It is capitalised into farm land prices...”

NZIF has repeatedly highlighted the perverse implications for forestry from the scenario described by Mr Fallow. Forestry and farming are in general terms competitors for land. A prudent investor will utilise their land asset to generate the optimum return as they see it. In most cases the optimum return is measured financially and over time. Forestry remains comprehensively regulated when measured against the expectations placed on the same land utilised for agriculture.

Forestry has faced decades of discouragement in the form of retrospective and selective constraint on changes in land use where the land was in forests in 1990. Regulation aimed at improving NZ’s woeful record on surface water quality has been devolved to community consultative groups where farming water has been seen as a goal of water management. The last budget introduced unfavourable changes to the forestry carbon ‘market’. Mr Fallow and forestry investors are acutely aware Kyoto forests flip from being a net sink of carbon to a net source in the mid-2020s, potentially adding to NZ’s underlying growth in GHG emissions. Intentionally or otherwise, Government’s version of a market approach to climate change will cause forestry investors to ponder the wisdom of replanting, far less than the expectations of the architects of the ETS who expected afforestation to occur.

It is only logical foresters look with envy at the legislative certainty enjoyed by those investing in agriculture.

Maybe the benefits to New Zealand from a thriving agricultural sector justify Government interest and support? What is hard to justify is the cross subsidy from one sector to another which arguably exacerbates the underlying problem of unsustainable management of NZ’s environment. The Government’s stated goal is to transition NZ to a low-emissions economy required of all nations voicing concern about climate change. The NDCs adopted by New Zealand next year will be telling. Continuing the current ETS and water management approach is reasonably predicted to give rise to a DNA (*Did Not Achieve*)!

James Treadwell *RMNZIF*

FPP News

The Forest Policy Project is at an important stage. The management team is broadening the Project's scope, support and coverage. Representatives from a wide variety of forest sector organisations are being enlisted. Some would say 'inveigled'!

1. The Governance Group, an overarching body of forest sector leaders, knowledgeable people and luminaries, are being selected and appointed. They will meet together in December. The principal purpose of this group is to provide vision, guidance, support and status to the Project. The Group's backing for it will give prestige and credibility to the policy evolved.

The Governance Group has an important formal role. At the conclusion of the Project it is to approve the content of the final policy document before its adoption by the forest sector.

2. The five Working Parties (WP) being set up are seeing support and contributions. In coordination the WPs will assume responsibility for developing policy. They are to ponder every aspect of the forest sector for policies needed.

Remember - FPP covers all forests - conservation, production, development even urban - and all users and all processes.

To start, leaders of WPs are being appointed. Then there will be a general call to all - to offer fore-sight and inspiration for the Working Parties - by making contact with respective Leaders.

Already, people supporting the FPP concept have been putting their hands up offering help. The latest is retired Forestry Research Institute scientist and NZIF member Nigel Williams. He has agreed to prepare a Communications Plan for the Project, to be discussed with the management team next week.

It is fascinating that two aspects of our effort with FPP are proving timely:

- From the G-20 in Brisbane, this past week, the climate change developments were interesting. Most world leaders indicating need for a strong focus on

climate change. While New Zealand politicians present could only be described as 'indifferent' (as was Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott), this country is being subtly pushed to address carbon emissions like it never has before. Foresters know that is where trees will help, but someone has to get them into the ground first and for sure, market forces will not.

- Then, the New Zealand Emissions Trading Scheme is scheduled for review next year. It is quite likely that the evolving Forestry Policy Project will have profound effect on that too.

As I say - fascinating timing!

Garth Cumberland
FPP Management Team.

Notice

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations - Vacancy announcement in the FAO Forestry Department

FAO is looking for highly-qualified candidates to lead its Forest Products Team and help shape the Organization's strategic directions regarding the work on forest industries and products.

The job title is Senior Forestry Officer and is based in Rome, Italy.

The vacancy announcement is available at the FAO employment [page](#) and the job description is available [here](#)

Eduardo Rojas-Briales
Assistant Director-General
Forestry Department

Member's Voice

Recent forestry journals have featured the poor safety record of forest harvesting operations, describing solutions based on broader-based worker training, innovative mechanisation and more formal health and safety procedures.

None of the articles refer to the status of the New Zealand logging industry as contributing to the problem, or its capability in responding to these increased liabilities.

New Zealand logging industry has always had to respond to fluctuations in production, out of its control, and, as the export of unprocessed logs becomes more dominant, it has been exposed to abrupt supply and demand fluctuations. There have also been a number of large fluctuations in production as forest companies liquidated forest to change land use, or reduced production to allow harvest age to increase. Seldom has the logging industry's security and stability been influential in the decision-making of forest owners and managers on such occasions.

No article focussed on the nature of the industry. In particular, as topography becomes steeper and more variable, the control they have over stands allocated to them, and adequate terrain allocations to enable future planning.

In some countries the logging sector is more dominant in sales negotiations than in New Zealand: purchasing stumpage from forest owners and selling logs to manufacturers. This may or may not be a relevant possible restructuring in this country, but in comparing the safety record of harvesting operations in other counties it would surely have been of interest to investigate the significance of this difference.

If throwing money at the safety problem is the solution, the broader forestry sector certainly should not be standing back and expecting the logging industry to solve it. Yet NZ FOA and FFA have excluded harvesting research from their levy-funded research programme, and the current funding is likely to run out in 2016. The implication being, forest owners are not really accepting any responsibility, or liability, to address the fundamental problems of an industry upon which they depend.

David Elliott

Member's Voice

CARRY ON with the good work! We forest growers have been hard done by our **Government of the day!**

Interesting that the Waikato Times had a **BIG FRONT PAGE** article (being the second in recent times) regarding farming. One article complained about how hard it is for FARMERS to employ good staff. **WELCOME TO THE BUSINESS WORLD** farmers, what is new there. My wife said, "If they paid the right \$ and treated people more fairly, then maybe people would show more interest in the farming industry".

Then today another **BIG** article. The government should reintroduce the farm cadet scheme GEE!! Oh to be a **FARMER**. Will the government listen YEP they will, **bet ya!**

I had MPI talk to me about revamping the EUR online interface as it is out of date and cumbersome to use. I informed them it was quite easy to use, if you are on it on a regularly bases and know the process required. I told them to leave it alone - if it ain't broke don't fix it! I then asked them if they could place the same of amount of energy in reversing the terrible decision they made on the night of the Budget regarding removal of post89 growers rights to use ERUs to meet their emissions liabilities via deregistration from the ETS, when the industry emitters can continue to use these foreign units.

We are up against it. Charge on JAMES.

Paul Carruthers

NZIF WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

24 NOVEMBER 2014

Number 2014/44

Local News

NZIF Nelson/Marlborough Section

Notice of Meeting

Speaker: Kent Gibbons - Gibbons Holdings Ltd

Date: Thursday 27 November, 4pm

Venue: Meet outside TDC Offices, 189 Queen Street, Richmond

Contact: [Angus Malcolm](mailto:Angus.Malcolm@nzif.org.nz), 021 544625, please RSVP for catering purposes.

Kent will speak on trends in timber use in commercial buildings, available materials, and application in the Nelson region. We will visit the Queen St development including The Warehouse and the two storey office building currently under construction. The building has structural CLT panels and LVL components.

Non-members welcome. No door charge.

Local News

NZIF Canterbury Branch

Notice of Meeting

Speaker: Owen Springford, Registered Member of NZIF, Forestry Consultant

Topic: *Fish and Chips*, dinner included - smorgasbord of BBQ delicacies served with salads, followed by dessert.

When: Wednesday 3 December, 6pm

Where: Elms Hotel, 456 Papanui Road, Papanui

Cost: \$30 per person (pay for your own drinks)

Contact: [Terry O'Neill](mailto:Terry.O'Neill@nzif.org.nz), RSVP by Monday 1st December please

Owen is well-known for his outspoken views on certain issues, but you may not have heard his comparison of the forestry and fishing industries. Bound to be provocative and laced with humour, come and enjoy this quixotic talk after a good repast and in even better company.

Member's Voice

We look forward to hearing from NZIF members each week about current affairs in the forestry industry. Any member can submit up to 300 words and entries received on Friday before 5pm will be included in the newsletter the following Monday. Please send your thoughts to [Jay](mailto:Jay@nzif.org.nz)

Local News

NZIF Hawke's Bay Section

Notice of Meeting

Speaker: Gordon Williams, Environment & Sustainability Manager, Landcorp

Topic: Landcorp - sustainable land management and farm forestry

When: Tuesday 25 November, 7.30 pm

Where: The Salt and Pepper Club, (previously the Quayside Conference Room), West Quay, Ahuriri, Napier

Contact: [Barry Keating](mailto:Barry.Keating@nzif.org.nz), 06 844 7250

Gordon has worked for over 40 years with the then Lands and Survey Department and now Landcorp. For the last 11 years he has overseen the forestry portfolio for Landcorp. He will speak on the important role that forestry plays in Landcorp operations and on their focus on farming sustainability.

Non-members welcome. No door charge. Hope to see you there.

ANZIF CONFERENCE

Beyond tenure: managing forests across the landscape

[ANZIF Conference](http://www.anzif.org.au)

Wed 13 - Fri 15 April 2015

Novotel Forest Resort Creswick, Victoria, Australia

Pre-conference workshops confirmed

Monday 13 April 2015

- Workshop 1: Forest genomics: a practical guide to its application in future forests
- Workshop 2: Radar remote sensing: hands-on training for forest management
- Workshop 3: Maximising the potential of Australia's forests - collaborating and innovating to realise the opportunity
- Workshop 4: Australian bushfire fuel classification
- Workshop 5: Sampling of forest carbon stock

Announcement

Forest Science Seminar

Value Chain Research: Let's start peeling the onion

Date: Monday 1 December 2014

Time: 12noon to 1pm

Venue: Scion Rimu Room, Rotorua and Scopia
Webinar

Our salaries rely on how well the forestry industry conducts its business. Fundamentally, the forestry business is all about growing stuff, moving the stuff and transforming it into more expensive stuff. Value chains (and in fact the entire business environment) are fundamentally grounded in complex opportunistic and evolutionary processes.

This will be an introductory talk by Carel Bezuidenhout, our recently appointed Science Leader for the Value Chain Optimisation team.

Carel is a complex systems analyst with practical hands-on experience in agri-industrial supply chain research. Before joining SCION, Carel was a research fellow and associated professor in engineering at the University of KwaZulu-Natal in South Africa.

After this seminar, the FSSS will go on a well-deserved summer break and start back in February 2015.

To RSVP, sign up for access via live streaming or for more information, contact [Katrin Webb](#)

Announcement

Scion's Growing Confidence in Forestry's Future (GCFF) Research Programme

The GCFF programme has been developed to increase the profitability of commercial forestry investments, and is funded by MBIE and the Forest Growers Levy Trust.

Product Quality Improvement Cluster meeting

Date: Tuesday 25 November

Venue: Scion, Rotorua

Contact: [John Moore](#)

Website: scionforestryfuture.wordpress.com

Announcement

National Environmental Standard (NES) for Plantation Forestry.

MPI will be running four workshops for small forest growers to provide an outline and seek feedback on the work that has been done to develop proposed rules that seek to deliver greater national consistency.

Venue: Bulls Town Hall, Bulls

Date: Wednesday 26 November

Venue: Hawkswood, North Canterbury

Date: Thursday 27 November

Venue: Tangiteroria Hall, Northland

Date: Saturday 29 November

The workshops will run from 10.30am-2pm. This includes a 1.5 hour overview of the project and the likely impact on small forest growers followed by lunch and a field visit to demonstrate the practical application of the rules.

For more information and to RSVP, email [Stuart Miller](#) or telephone 04 894 0902

Announcement

Scion Swiss Needle Cast Workshop

This workshop will discuss what is known about Swiss needle cast and how we can still grow more and better Douglas-fir in New Zealand despite the presence of this disease.

Date: 2-3 December

Venue: Rimu Room, Scion, Rotorua

Contact: [Lynn Bulman](#)

Website: www.scionresearch.com

LinkedIn

Currently on LinkedIn there are posts regarding the [Crown Forestry Rental Trust](#) and [Bay of Plenty Forestry Strategy](#)

Join the discussion via the NZIF LinkedIn group!
nz.linkedin.com

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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.

November 2014

- Tues 25 Hawkes Bay Section Meeting, 7.30pm, featuring Gordon Williams, The Salt and Pepper Club, Napier, email [Barry Keating](mailto:Barry.Keating@nzif.org.nz)
- Tues 25 Scion *Growing Confidence in Forestry's Future* Innovation Cluster meeting, Rotorua, contact [John Moore](mailto:John.Moore@nzif.org.nz)
- Wed 26 MPI workshops on management of Plantation Forestry, Bulls Town Hall, Bulls, 10.30am- 2pm, email [Stuart Miller](mailto:Stuart.Miller@nzif.org.nz)
- Thurs 27 Nelson/Marlborough Section Meeting, 4pm, featuring Kent Gibbons, TDC Offices, 189 Queen Street, Richmond, email [Angus Malcolm](mailto:Angus.Malcolm@nzif.org.nz)
- Thurs 27 MPI workshops on management of Plantation Forestry, Hawkswood, North Canterbury, 10.30am- 2pm, email [Stuart Miller](mailto:Stuart.Miller@nzif.org.nz)
- Fri 28 ANZIF Conference abstract submissions due
- Sat 29 MPI workshops on management of Plantation Forestry, Tangiteroria Hall, Northland, 10.30am- 2pm, email [Stuart Miller](mailto:Stuart.Miller@nzif.org.nz)

December 2014

- Mon 1 FSS seminar, *Value Chain Research: Let's start peeling the onion*, 12noon to 1pm, Scion Rimu Room, Rotorua and Scopia Webinar, email [Katrin Webb](mailto:Katrin.Webb@nzif.org.nz)
- Tues 2 Scion Swiss Needle Cast Workshop, Rimu Room, Scion, contact [Lynn Bulman](mailto:Lynn.Bulman@nzif.org.nz)
- Wed 3 Canterbury Branch Meeting, 6pm, featuring Owen Springford, Elms Hotel, 456 Papanui Road, Papanui, email [Terry O'Neill](mailto:Terry.O'Neill@nzif.org.nz)
- Thurs 11 NZ Forest Service Christmas Drinks, from midday, Trax Bar, Wellington Railway Station
- Mon 15 Abstracts due for XIV World Forestry Congress, Durban, South Africa

February 2015

- Tues 10 Scion Workshop: Linking the economics of forest ecosystem services with practice and decision making, 9am-5pm, \$50, Register [here](http://www.nzif.org.nz)
- Tues 24-Wed 25 13th Annual FOA/MPI Forest Biosecurity Workshop, Forest Health Surveillance, 3.30pm, event details [here](http://www.nzif.org.nz)

April 2015

- Mon 13 - Wed 15 [ANZIF Conference 2015](http://www.nzif.org.nz), *Beyond tenure: managing forests across the landscape*, Novotel Forest Resort Creswick, Victoria, Australia

September 2015

- Mon 7 - Fri 11 XIV [World Forestry Congress](http://www.nzif.org.nz), Durban, South Africa

November 2015

- Mon 23 - Tues 24 New Zealand History of Science conference, email [Rebecca Priestley](mailto:Rebecca.Priestley@nzif.org.nz)



NZIF CONTACTS

President	James Treadwell	President@nzif.org.nz
Vice President and Membership	Kent Chalmers	Vice-President@nzif.org.nz
Treasurer and Journal	David Evison	Treasurer@nzif.org.nz
Registrar	Mike Marren	Registrar@nzif.org.nz
Administrator and Advertising	Jay Matthes	admin@nzif.org.nz
Assistant Administrator	Virginia Kennard	adminnzif@nzif.org.nz
Newsletter Coordinator		admin@nzif.org.nz
NZIF Foundation		foundation@nzif.org.nz