

NZIF WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

1 DECEMBER 2014

Number 2014/45

PRESIDENT'S COMMENT

It was interesting to note on Stuff, [28 November](#) a heading saying "US mega dairies a threat". As a headline it made me think *here we go again*: throwing all our energy behind one product without really considering the consequences.

Why is it that New Zealand primary industry jumps on the bandwagon of the next best thing (granted dairy is a pretty big next big thing)? Think Kiwifruit, Deer, Grapes, even Forestry. Too often we just go ahead without thinking what the land can actually manage. In places forestry have been planted on land which would be better suit to some other land use; we need to accept this as true. We should also be warning our cousins in dairying the same will hold true for them. Dairying on infertile, stony, dry land simply does not make sense. When anyone is making a land use decision they need to make an effort to understand the land, soils, catchment, and water availability. Sadly this rarely occurs.

All primary industries need to consider their competition. Fonterra does this well, Forestry does this poorly. As an industry are we clear where our future markets will be, or even what they will demand? I would suggest we are not. Further I would suggest we are putting very little thought into this; the question, is who should be undertaking this forward thinking? The answer is very unclear. The NZ Forest Policy Project will try to look into the future, but it is not the task of this project to set strategy for future markets.

The interesting thing about the Stuff article is one paragraph which said "The total capital invested in shed, cows and technology in US mega dairy farms was NZ\$20kilograms/milk solids (kg/MS), significantly less than New Zealand's figure of NZ\$50 kgMS". Here I was thinking New Zealand was the most efficient dairy producer in the world. Sometimes our blinkers stop us from see the wood for the trees. I was wondering if as an industry we are failing in this area as well. When was the last time we had a really good look at the competition and their cost structures? Why is it much of the funds, which used to invest heavily in the New Zealand forestry sector, are looking elsewhere? Is it just because land is cheaper, or is it because other countries are more efficient than we are?

It is time as an industry we took a step back and re-examined our reason for being. When we plant a tree is it the best use of that piece of land? Hopefully the answer is yes, but if it is yes, are we managing that tree in the best and most efficient way we possibly can? If we answer yes again, how do we know? Unless we are always aware of the competition we will never know what we do not know. It is time as an industry we examined the competition.

Who should do this?

James Treadwell *RMNZIF*



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Member's Voice

I could not believe the latest television ad that came out from the NZ Transport Agency showing a Logging crew drinking alcohol on the work site. This was the first I had seen it on TV1 at 7.10 on 25 Nov. I sent a letter of complaint stating that Forestry Sites were DRUG & ALCOHOL free sites and conduct such as that shown could lead to a dismissal or at least a final written warning. I also pointed out that with forestry accidents making headlines the last thing the industry needs is their advertisement showing that not only it is ok to bring alcohol on to a forestry site, but also to consume it.

I wonder how other industries would react if they were portrayed in a similar manner. How do you think a television commercial would go down if it showed a group of miners drinking outside a coalmine tunnel? Would the West Coast community stand by and say that that was okay?! Or a group of mechanics in an aircraft hangar doing the same thing: What would Air New Zealand do?

The industry Health and Safety representative should take this up with Worksafe so they can take the issue to NZTA: government department to government department. (NB You cannot complain to the Broadcasting Standards Authority about a television advertisement

For our industry we need to show our displeasure to the NZTA as to how it undermines the good work over many years to have our sites drug and alcohol free. I believe our industry should stand up and put on record that any alcohol on a forest site has been seen as serious misconduct for the last 10 to 15 years.

Mike Banks

Member News

Long-standing NZIF member Ian Armitage of Wellington is the proud recipient of a 2014 Dominion Post Wellingtonian of the Year award. The awards, otherwise known as the Wellys, recognise contributions by Wellingtonians in several categories of business and public life. Ian is the winner of the environment category, recognised for his leadership of the Rimutaka Forest Park Trust in establishing and rebuilding a brown kiwi population in the park. Ian is a committed and passionate forester still working at the age of 74, and an active participant in the Southern North Island Section. He shares the love of the outdoors with his wife Gwyneth and is driven by a desire to do something positive to keep our natural environment attractive, ecologically sound and enjoyable for all. The Institute values recognition of its members and congratulates Ian on this achievement.

John Schrider

Local News

NZIF Southern North Island Local Section Notice of Meeting

Speaker: MPI Representatives

Topic: Proposed National Environmental Standards (NES) for Plantation Forestry

When: Wednesday 3 December, 5.30 pm

Where: MPI office, 25 The Terrace (across the road from St Andrew's Church)

RSVP: [Jay Matthes](#)

If you were unable to attend the MPI workshop in Bulls that looked at the impending NES and its potential impact on forest growers, MPI have kindly agreed to hold a further presentation in Wellington this week.

This is an opportunity for small forest growers and managers, to gain an oversight on the proposed rules with practical examples of how the rules would be applied.

This is a joint meeting in conjunction with the NZ Farm Forestry Association.

Please note that reception will be unattended from 5pm, but if people wait in the lobby area they will be let in.

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Local News

NZIF Central North Island Local Section Christmas Function + (super quick) AGM

Date: Thursday 18 December, 5.30pm
Venue: Waiariki Institute of Technology, School of Forestry
Speaker: Andrew Clarke (CHH Wood Supply Manager)
Sausage Sizzle, Refreshments & Networking

Andrew has recently finished his MBA; he will be discussing his thesis topic: characterising the small grower resource.

Please RSVP for catering purposes to [Jess](#)

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](#), 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.

Notice from the Administrators

Dates

The final newsletter for this year will be number 47, 15 December 2014.

The first newsletter for 2015 will be 3 February; if you have any announcements and events prior to that date please make sure you send details through before 5pm Friday 12 December for inclusion in the last 2014 newsletter.

Notice from the Administrators

Member's Voice

As we come to the closing issues of the NZIF newsletter for the year, we look forward to hearing from NZIF members - your thoughts and roundups on current affairs in the forestry industry for 2014. 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](#)

Outstanding membership fees

We continue to have over \$13,000 in outstanding membership fees. Invoices were sent out in April and we are coming to the closing weeks of 2014. Prompt payment would be appreciated: start the New Year with no outstanding owings!

ANZIF CONFERENCE



[ANZIF Conference](#)

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

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

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: Tues 2 - Wednesday 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

Announcements for 2015

Scion Workshop

Date: Tues 10 February 2015, 9am - 5pm

Topic: Linking the economics of forest ecosystem services with practice and decision making

Entry fee: \$50, register [here](#)

13th Annual FOA/MPI Forest Biosecurity Workshop

Date: Tues 24 - Wed 25 February 2015, 3.30pm

Forest Health Surveillance, event details [here](#)

Announcement

My name is Maurice Westrate and I am a 22 year old studying forestry at the University of Applied Science, Hogeschool van Hall Larenstein, Holland. This institution is associated with the Wageningen University.

As part of my studies I am required to spend time in another country in an internship capacity for a period ranging from 18 to 22 weeks. I am willing to take on any activity within the wide range available within the NZ forest industry, and am not concerned whether I get a placement in the North or South Island. While I am coming to NZ in a volunteer capacity, a small consideration to assist with offsetting associated costs would be appreciated. If you do have something, I would be able to arrive from mid-February 2015.

If your organisation has the ability to assist me, and you would like to discuss further, please contact me via [email](#)

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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.

December 2014

- Tues 2 - Wed 3 Scion Swiss Needle Cast Workshop, Rimu Room, Scion, contact [Lynn Bulman](#)
Wed 3 SNI Section Meeting, Proposed National Environmental Standards (NES) for
Plantation Forestry, 5.30pm, MPI Offices, 25 The Terrace, Wellington, email [Jay](#)
Wed 3 Canterbury Branch Meeting, 6pm, featuring Owen Springford, Elms Hotel, 456
Papanui Road, Papanui, email [Terry O'Neill](#)
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
Thurs 18 CNI Christmas function + AGM, 5.30pm, Waiariki School of Forestry, Speaker
Andrew Clarke, email [Jess](#)

February 2015

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

April 2015

- Mon 13 - Wed 15 [ANZIF Conference 2015](#), *Beyond tenure: managing forests across the landscape*,
Novotel Forest Resort Creswick, Victoria, Australia

September 2015

- Mon 7 - Fri 11 XIV [World Forestry Congress](#), Durban, South Africa

November 2015

- Mon 23 - Tues 24 New Zealand History of Science conference, email [Rebecca Priestley](#)



NEW ZEALAND INSTITUTE OF FORESTRY

Te Pūhahi Ngāherehere o Aotearoa Inc.

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