

NZIF WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

28 JULY 2014

Number 2014/27

NZIF introduces...

SIMON RAPLEY

I grew up on a farm adjacent to a pine forest and always thought a forest would be great place to work. I was right.

In spite of having survived a couple of restructures and a redundancy, I have thoroughly enjoyed working in this industry. I have had some very interesting jobs doing things I can see the point of and want to get started on each Monday morning. I have also met many interesting and motivated people who share an interest in trees, wood and the outdoors.

The industry has some challenges ahead and I am of the opinion that one of the greatest is improving our perception by the public. It shouldn't be hard as the forests of NZ offer many economic, social and environmental advantages, we just need to do better at getting the message across. We need continued public support for our industry. With public support comes political support and we are a bit short on that at the moment. We have opportunities to provide safe and well paid jobs, a steady flow of logs to (firstly) New Zealand processors. We need to make a reasonable effort to hide our cutovers from public view where possible. We need to allow responsible use of our forests for recreation and to look after the water, soil, and indigenous plants and animals in them.



If we are good at our jobs, we will earn credibility and have more influence on the political and legal environment that we operate in. We need to be in the news for the right reasons: having the best safety performance of any forest industry in the world, for providing secure and well-paid employment and supporting our communities.

National Office

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

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

Disclaimer

This Newsletter is produced for NZIF Members. The contents (in whole or in part) should not be reproduced elsewhere nor the Newsletter distributed to others without permission from NZIF. Copies of the Newsletter are on the NZIF website (www.nzif.org.nz) in the **member's only section**. **Disclaimers: While every care is taken in preparing this Newsletter neither the NZIF nor those producing it can be held liable for any loss, damage or misrepresentation caused by the use of material contained in the Newsletter. The views expressed in this Newsletter do not necessarily represent those of the NZIF.**

NZIF WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

28 JULY 2014

Number 2014/27

PRESIDENT'S COMMENT

[Dr Gareth Morgan](#) is the latest in a long line of **people critical of New Zealand's management of water quality**. Maybe he will be more successful at promoting a change to the **'cows good, more cows better' mind-set**, though the disregard shown by our politicians to successive reports over many years, **from sources as reputable as NZ's Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment**, Make it difficult to be hopeful.

The Listener attributes Dr Morgan's efforts as a strand in his campaign to encourage New Zealanders to think of the environment as an asset of immense economic value. Few should argue with such a sentiment so why is it so hard to convince our regulators? Why is it the Associate Minister responsible for forestry cannot see the damage **wrought by 'permitted' agricultural practice**, or the **subsidies given to agriculture at the rest of NZ's expense** and how these are an impediment to the changes and innovation needed to clean up New Zealand's **waterways and environment**.

The regulators current solution seem to be to penalise those causing the least damage, as highlighted by the Central and Regional Governments solution to Lake Taupo's non-point source agricultural pollution. Land judged as giving rise to the greatest amounts of nitrate pollution of ground water were rewarded with the right to continue. Land (read forestry) which had little or no effect on the lake quality had constraints placed on land use change which resulted in a loss of millions of dollars in capital value. Tax payers were then asked to fund \$80m of remedial works, riparian plantings and fencing on farmland; logic suggests this should have been the responsibility of the polluter.

The Emissions Trading Scheme highlights the indirect subsidies imposed by regulation. Greenhouse emissions costs on forestry is illogical as it is internationally accepted trees planted for harvest are essentially neutral with respect to atmospheric GHG concentrations. Imposing a GHG obligation on forestry while exempting agriculture as **"there is nothing farmers can do" is perverse at so many levels**. Farmers have zero current motivation to limit emissions. **The fact 'existing' farmers are protected from competing with 'new' farms** serves to de-risk the investment in intensification, and

is collusive and monopolistic. The ETS imposes an artificial cost on growing wood (a long term store of GHG, therefore a good thing), making the use of wood, versus GHG-intensive alternatives like steel, less attractive to builders. This is done in the name of innovative policy aimed at shifting NZ away from its dependence on fossil fuel!

The Electricity Act subsidisation of rural power supply was to be phased out over a 10 year period ending in 2013, but it continues. All other power uses are indirectly subsidising the delivery of power along many kilometres of rural branch lines which, on any simple cost/benefit calculation, would be discontinued in favour of on-farm generators fully costed to the farm. Where those lines pass through forests the costs of reduction of plantable area has had to be written off by the forest owner, with the owner still paying costs associated with rates, weed control etc.

Recent proposals for a differential rate on log trucks rather than all heavy transport is another example of **'picking favourites' policy development**. It seems obvious Waikato District Council should come to realise a tonne of wood weighs the same as a tonne of milk and a tonne of stock, but will they? Hopefully they and the Regional Council will come to understand the 60,000 ha of new forests required in the Waipa Catchment to address the desperate water quality issues in the lower Waikato is unlikely to occur with policies highlighted above.

The logic being followed by many of NZ's environmental regulators escapes me. The RMA is clear, those managing natural resources are required to avoid, remedy or mitigate the effects on the environment. The fact the act isn't applied suggest the problem is not with the words of the act, but with the politics. It is time forestry people complained about these subsidies to non-forest land owners. It's time we stood up and promoted to anyone who will listen the great benefits forestry brings to NZ environmentally, socially economically and without the need for subsidies. I look forward to hearing you shout!

(For his full statement, [click here](#))

James Treadwell RMNZIF (abridged)

NZIF WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

28 JULY 2014

Number 2014/27

LOCAL SECTIONS

JOINT NZIF/APPITA TECHNICAL MEETING

Date: Thursday 14th August 2014

Venue: Copthorne Hotel, Fenton Street, Rotorua

Programme

- 6.00pm Registration and Cash Bar – House Bar
- 6.30pm Buffet Dinner- Hotel Restaurant
- 7.30pm **"Forest Growers Levy - A Progress Report"**

Paul Nicholls, President NZ Forest Owners Association Executive Council

The Forest Growers Levy was introduced on 1st January 2014 after a referendum was held in March 2013 and Ministerial Approval gained in November 2013. The levy was supported by over 86% of the voters as a way to provide greater certainty for activities that benefited the whole forest growing sector. These activities primarily focus on forest growing research and forest bio-security and health issues, but also cover health & safety, environmental regulation, transport and fire impacts on forest growing. The implementation of the levy has not been straightforward but after 7 months appears on-track.

- 8.00pm **"Very Skinny Trees? Or What?"**
Peter Brown, Miscanthus New Zealand Limited
Miscanthus x giganteus – not really a tree species, but not a horticultural crop either. This presentation will cover: what it is; what it is used for and what it can be used for; how it complements forestry; and why it is being and should be grown more in New Zealand.
- 8.30pm **"Growing Confidence in Forestry's Future"**
Peter Clinton, Forest Science, Scion

Cost: Members \$45, Non-members \$55

(Payment options: cash; cheques paid to "Appita NZ Section"; credit cards (Visa, Mastercard & Amex. NB: Amex payments incur a 3% surcharge); direct credit to Appita NZ Section Acct, National Bank 06 0413 0178800 00; pre-arranged invoice)

Organisers: [Kim McGrouther](#), Scion; [Jonathan Dash](#), Scion

Please register no later than Monday 11th August 2014 by contacting [Karen Clark](#), phone 07 3502252
Appita, PO Box 6042, Whakarewarewa, Rotorua 3043

(People who register for technical meetings, but fail to attend on the night will be charged. Please advise Karen Clark before the day of the meeting if you can no longer attend)

MEMBER MOVEMENTS

I will be moving on from my current role in MPI on 11 August. I am leaving regional role in Rotorua to take up the role of Manager – Economic Information and Analysis, in our Sector Policy group in Wellington.

Stuart Anderson

.....

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Standards and Accreditation Bill

The Standards and Accreditation Bill was introduced to Parliament on Tuesday. This is the Bill that gives effect to decisions made by Cabinet in October 2013 following the standards and conformance infrastructure review. The Minister issued a press release on the introduction of the Bill and the Bill is now available [here](#) on the legislation website, with more information available on the Standards New Zealand [website](#)

Michelle Wessing, Standards NZ

.....

Scion Research – Forest Science Seminar

Lindsay Bulman, Science Leader of Forest Protection, will speak on the History of Forest Health

Thursday 7 August 12 – 1pm

For more information, please contact [Katrin Webb](#), Scion Research

.....

LinkedIn

James has posted on LinkedIn with respect to Gareth Morgan's latest statements regarding water quality. Log in and join the discussion!

www.linkedin.com

NZIF WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

28 JULY 2014

Number 2014/27

MEMBER NEWS

Canterbury Local Section meeting 24th July 2014, Report

"Why our Emissions Trading Scheme is failing and how we could fix it"

(For a full report, click [here](#))

This evening was attended by over 50 members including guests from the Royal Society and the Farm Forestry Association and involved presentations from:

Ollie Belton, Carbon Forest Services Ltd - Observations of a Dysfunctional ETS. Ollie challenged the focus of an ETS as a Carbon reduction mechanism, in particular the role of Forestry in that process. He clearly illustrated the risk and carbon liability profile for NZ participants in the ETS. He also explained the compliance complications with a focus on Post 89 registrations, and highlighted the wide ranging irregularities in Emissions Returns.

Anders Crofoot, Federated Farmers Board member – The role of Agriculture in an ETS. Anders is the Fed Farmers rep on Forestry and Climate change committee and owns the iconic Castle Point Station which includes 200 hectares of forestry. He drew on his experience as a land owner and farmer to create a link between the land and the ETS. He expressed concerns about the destruction of confidence as a consequence of Government actions and discussed regulating and incentivising versus encouraging change.

Prof Euan Mason, School Of Forestry – Why our ETS is failing and how we could fix it. Euan opened with an almost alarming destruction of the myth of a clean and green NZ. He was able to show that NZ fell well short on Carbon reduction performance compared to most other countries, suggesting we had reached third world status in that regard. He was able to show very clearly how forestry might play a role in helping to reverse suite of ETS policy which currently creates a right to pollute.

Concluding observation: that it is arguable whether commercial plantation forestry should have an ETS presence more than any other land based industry.

COUNCIL NEWS

MFE/Minister submission re Green Building Council

The Minister for the Environment in a submission on the proposed Auckland plan is opposed to mandatory Greenstar rating being included as a regulatory requirement. The Minister expresses her concern that mandatory requirements other than compliance with the established building code is illogical, confusing and potentially costly.

NZIF and others in the forest and wood industry made submissions on the Auckland Plan which also opposed mandatory GBC requirements. Our concerns were similar to those raised by the Minister but also covered concern that the NZ Green Building Councils '**rating**' of particular products as '**green**' **building materials** was arbitrary and inconsistent. **We are concerned GBC 'ratings'** are made without direct attribution to particular environmental outcomes. We highlighted the comparatively poor rating of wood as a building material by GBC as arguably inconsistent with Auckland Councils climate change policy objectives and a 40% reduction in regional GHG emissions.

Auckland Councils proposed use of regulation to mandate GBC rating tools mirrors a similar proposal by Christchurch Council a few years ago. NZIF members are encouraged to watch for, inform council and submit on such proposals as and when they arise.

We are not opposed to 'green' building. In fact we contend building using wood-based products from well managed forests is an easy way for homeowners and developers to make a positive environmental contribution. It is therefore unnecessary and costly for regulators to impose a requirement for '3rd party' verification of the environmental choices made by homeowners, rather a better and more cost effective outcome would be to encourage the use of locally produced forest products.

MEMBER NEWS

Emissions Trading Scheme

New Zealand farmers would be paid to pollute if they participated in the country's emissions trading scheme under current policy settings, University of Canterbury forestry expert Professor Euan Mason says.

If farmers had joined the scheme, they would have received about NZ\$120 million to pollute each year, he says. This rather strange outcome is a direct consequence of Government policy that allows unrestricted imports of carbon credits, including hot air credits from former Soviet countries. Farmers do not participate in the scheme right now, but it was proposed that they would have been liable for only 10 percent of their greenhouse gas emissions, which are currently around 35 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent a year.

They would have been gifted New Zealand units, which are our domestic carbon credits, for the remaining 90 percent so that they could submit credits to account for all their greenhouse gas pollution each year. This practice of gifting is known as grandfathering and it is happening for all emission intensive and trade-exposed enterprises apart from farming right now.

New Zealand emissions trading scheme is failing but could be fixed. However, the scheme allows imported credits to be submitted to account for pollution instead of New Zealand units. The vast majority of imported credits are hot air emission reduction unit credits imported from former Soviet countries.

These credits represent no change in people's behaviour in response to climate change and they are so numerous that they are currently worth 11 cents each in New Zealand. New Zealand units on the other hand are worth NZ\$4. So polluters are effectively paid to pollute in our emissions trading scheme. They are grandfathered credits worth NZ\$4 and can submit instead credits worth 11 cents.

If farmers had been in the scheme, we would have paid them the equivalent of 90 percent of their emissions multiplied by the difference between the price of grandfathered New Zealand units and imported emission reduction units. Between 2010 and 2012 we grandfathered credits to other trade exposed industries such as the Tiwai Point smelter enough credits to effectively pay them more than NZ\$36million to pollute at today's credit prices.

Professor Mason says that by changing a few key policy settings the emissions trading scheme could be made to work really well. These include stopping imports of hot air credits, ceasing grandfathering, requiring New Zealand unit surrenders each year only for target greenhouse gas reductions, and treating all productive sectors equally. He says New Zealand has so far failed to respond adequately to climate change and its emissions are among the fastest rising in the world.

ADVERTISING

Eucalypt Forest Management

Company/Location: Southwood Export Ltd Southland

Job Description

We are seeking a suitably experienced and motivated person to join our forestry team based in Invercargill, Southland managing a Eucalypt forest resource. The work includes a wide mix of tasks ranging from forest and operational planning through to the supervision of forest establishment operations, forest certification/compliance, GIS management/mapping and numerous other associated duties.

This position should be of interest to persons with a Forestry Diploma or Forestry Degree with experience in forest establishment and management.

Experience with Roding construction and/or Harvesting supervision would be an advantage.

We will also consider applications from motivated persons with initiative and proven operational experience in forest establishment who can also show an acceptable level of computer ability.

A significant portion of the work base is in the field work and in assessing applicants particular importance will be based on that aspect of the position.

Southland offers a lot of opportunities in outdoor/sporting activities and should be an added attraction to applicants with those interests.

Applications should be addressed to
Forest Planning/Establishment Position,
P O Box 7010,
Invercargill 9844

Contact [Graeme Manley](#)

Applications close **4pm 1st August 2014.**

ADVERTISING



Conference

The New Zealand Forestry & Forest Products Sector
Rotorua, New Zealand | 11 & 12 August 2014 Novotel Lakeside Hotel

DANA Conference to debate the New Zealand domestic forest industry sector, and its wider role in the Pacific Rim as an import market and an export supplier.
Sixteen New Zealand and twelve international speakers complete the line up.

A premiere event covering an industry which employs 26,000 people and generates 10% of New Zealand's merchandise trade.

Topics Include:

- Timberland investment
- Logs
 - Especially log exports
- Woodchips
- Sawmilling
- Remanufacturing
- Wood panels
- Pulp
- Paper
- Wood pellets
- Carbon
- NZ industry place in the Pacific Rim
- Future wood demand in China
- NZ Party Forest Policies
- And much more

For more info go to:
<http://www.pfcc.com.au/danarotorua2014/>

DANA
KNOWLEDGE. GROWTH. RETURN.
International Forest Industry Advisors

The New Zealand Forestry and Forest Products Sector: Its situation in 2014 and trends going forward.

The program can be seen [here](#)

Discounts are available for multiple delegates from one organisation, and for NZIF members. To see all details of the program, speakers, venue, registration, sponsorship and newsletters, please click [here](#) for details.

Contact conference organiser [Pamela Richards](#) in Melbourne to discuss any aspects of this conference.

NZIF WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

28 JULY 2014

Number 2014/27

CALENDAR

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

August 2014

- Thurs 7 Scion Research Forest Science Seminar, History of Forest Health with Lindsay Bulman, 12-1pm, contact [Katrin Webb](#)
- Thurs 7 – Fri 8 [DANA Melbourne conference](#), email [Pamela Richards](#)
- Mon 11 – Tues 12 [DANA Rotorua conference](#), Novotel Lakeside Hotel, email [Pamela Richards](#)
- Thurs 14 Joint NZIF/APPITA Technical Meeting, Copthorne Hotel, Rotorua, email [Karen Clark](#)
- Mon 25 – Fri 29 [IUFRO Forestry Tree Breeding Conference](#) Prague

Sept 2014

- Wed 17 – Thu 18 [Wood Innovations 2014](#)

Nov 2014

- Sun 16 – Wed 19 [A place to live national conference](#), Royal Society of NZ
- Sun 24 – Mon 25 New Zealand History of Science conference, [email](#)

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.

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