

NZIF WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

8 SEPTEMBER 2014

Number 2014/33

NZIF introduces

PATRICK MILNE
Councillor



I have 43 years' experience in the New Zealand forest industry and have been a member of the NZIF for much of that time. Today, I am self employed as a Registered Forest Consultant specialising in both small scale forestry and species other than radiata pine. I am a past president of the New Zealand Farm Forestry Association and am still a member of its executive council.

In addition, I am the small forest grower representative on the Forest Levy Trust Research Committee. This is my first term on the NZIF Council and I am hoping that I can contribute both usefully and effectively to it. My current roles with the Council include Conveyor Membership and Valuations Standards.

ELECTION 2014

To find out each political party's policies on Forestry, please click [here](#)

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From the Registrar

The Registration Board, following its recent meeting, advises the following:

New Registered Member

Mr P Auge of Rotorua has had his application approved.

Five yearly reviews

The following reviews have been successfully completed

Mr K Ellem of Christchurch

Mr C Fisher of Rotorua

Mr D Guild of Christchurch

Mr B Manley of Christchurch

Mr D Minehan of Invercargill

Mr S Orme of Masterton

Mr J Treadwell of Auckland

Mr T Vos of Rotorua.

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From the Administrators



We have some lapel pins still for sale. They are \$11 including postage, please email your order and delivery address to [Jay](#)

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PRESIDENT'S COMMENT

Those who do not learn from history are doomed to repeat it.

1984, New Zealand begins the economically painful process of putting New Zealand's economy on a sound financial footing. Years of unjustified and unaffordable subsidies and regulation are stripped away. Agricultural subsidies such as Supplementary Minimum Pricing and Marginal Lands Board grants are removed. Farmers are forced to take a realistic view of what should be produced and consequentially, a realistic view of the value of the land used to produce it.

New Zealand's commercial forestry and wood processing sector is similarly shaken up. Forests are only planted and managed where the investor thinks a genuine return can be obtained.

Since 1984 New Zealand has enjoyed a period of sustained economic growth, due in no small part to the realism and adjustments made after 1984. The primary driver for this economic growth has been agriculture.

Becoming apparent however, is New Zealand's agricultural growth is due in part to a disregard of the true environmental costs. Recent attention has shifted to impacts on New Zealand's waterways. The risks to our natural waterways from agriculture has long been known, but has come into stark relief as a result of the intensification of NZ's dairy industry. What has pollution from agriculture got to do with forestry? A great deal. Forester and farmer are in competition for land. The land use generating the greatest return to the land owner sets capital value of the land.

Foresters are required to avoid, remedy or mitigate their effects under the RMA. Farmers seem not to. Therefore the returns to farming (in profit or capital gain) are greater and they can afford to pay more for land.

Foresters are increasingly facing controls on land use change in order to protect and provide environmental benefits. This is the outcome of the Government/Waikato Regional Council 'solution' to water quality risks in Taupo and

Rotorua. The property rights of forest owners to change from forestry to farming was effectively removed, while the farming neighbour was paid to constrain their agricultural intensification. The very people who caused the issue got paid whilst those who did no wrong (and in fact help mitigate the problem) lost their rights.

Apparently being a polluter pays. National announced last week a plan to buy the stream side land of the environmental laggards who will not take action to avoid, mitigate or remedy the effects of their activities. If purchase of riparian land at market rates is in the public's interest surely it should apply to forestry land as well.

NZIF is calling for all NZ business to pay for their own environmental costs, whether they be manufacturing, agriculture, farming or forestry. Every business should take heed of the RMA and avoid, remedy or mitigate their own pollution.

James Treadwell *RMNZIF*



Media update

James was interviewed on Radio New Zealand's Rural News last week. Click [here](#) to listen.

MEMBER'S VOICE

It is great that at least some political parties are beginning to take note of the importance of forestry, but as President Treadwell notes in today's Newsletter (1 Sept 2014) there is still the possibility that its importance will be ignored. As perhaps the only social science PhD forestry graduate of the UC School of Forestry I can understand the public and politician's misperceptions, when the Institute keeps projecting the narrow view that forestry is about the "industry". The now out-dated Handbook is largely focused on this too. This view hardly seems relevant to me as a natural resource management and conservation adviser working for the past 25 years in the developing world.

Whilst it is true that the export returns from forestry are impressive, the Institute needs to promote a wider view, as outlined in the NZIF's Policy on Forestry. The environment is central, but so are people. Jack Westoby (1913-1988) possibly the most influential spokesman and critic of forestry in the late 20th Century, said that forestry is for people. Alf Leslie's obituary to him (NZ Forestry, Aug 1989) says it all: "Jack persuaded foresters to substitute an attitude aimed at forest management for social and economic development...We should be grateful that we have his work and works to guide us to recovery from the self-inflicted wounds of obsession with the technical problems of timber production management rather than the social purpose of forestry". This is still true today.

Forestry is a dynamic discipline, not only about forests but also about trees, about environmental protection and natural resource management. Above all it should have a social concern and a human face. This is even more crucial today, in the face of climate change and the participatory management of forests, trees and ecosystems. A national policy is sorely needed but this should be part of an integrated national conservation and development strategy. There are many benefits, not just from "production forestry" but also from non-timber forest products and services (such as tourism).

MEMBER'S VOICE continued

We should be quantifying these and promoting the concept and practice of "payment for environmental services," as forests and trees play a crucial role in water and soil conservation, urban environments, recreation and aesthetics, and cultural heritage, etc. It is hypocritical to oblige developing countries to have a national vision and conservation and development strategy to qualify international assistance, yet we ourselves have nothing.

Dr Andrew Tilling

Local Section News

NZIF Canterbury Branch invites you **to the next** local NZIF meeting.

Date: Thursday 25 September, 6pm
Venue: School of Forestry, Ilam, Christchurch,
Drinks and nibbles in foyer 6-7pm, Forestry,
followed by talk in lecture theatre F3
Guest speaker: Gordon Williams
Cost: \$15 per person, students free
Topic: The role of trees and forests on the
properties of Landcorp Farming Ltd - NZ's largest
farmer

Gordon Williams is a Business Manager for Landcorp Farming Ltd. Amongst other things, he looks after their non-pastoral land uses, such as forestry - makes decisions as to what land goes into trees. Gordon will address Landcorp's criteria for forest suitability as a land use, need for shelter, CO2 emission offsetting (carbon neutrality) etc. Landcorp Farming Ltd is NZ's largest farming company, and are leaders in trying to implement sustainable farming strategies.

MEMBER'S VOICE

Following release of the President's media release on National's \$100 million election promise relating to riparian strips, I was copied in to some email communications amongst the Land & Water Forum. One of them referred to the problems of the Taupo Basin which leads me to reference my speech to the 2010 NZIF Conference, in which I referred to Bob Jackson's 1967 editorial in the New Zealand Journal of Forestry on government announcements regarding proposals put forward by the Taupo County Council called "Lake Taupo, an investment for the nation".

Bob cited evidence from some of Rotorua's lakes:

"The significant fact here is that their drainage basins have all only recently been developed for farming. The consequent process of pollution has been so rapid that the eutrophic transition has occurred in little more than a decade.

"Herein lies the crux of the Lake Taupo problem too. Certainly it contains a much greater volume of water than any of the foregoing lakes, but the areas of land available for development within its drainage basin are also correspondingly greater. Even the risks of contamination attending much-accelerated urban development around the lake-shores are negligible by comparison, because sewage is concentrated and channelled, and the effluent can be utilized. No such means of **control exist for farmed land...**

"If land-development there must be in the **Taupo basin...let it be towards forms of resource management that do not involve practices so detrimental to the primary objectives in preserving Lake Taupo.** Among these forms of management forestry stands pre-eminent in retarding normal trends towards eutrophication. There need be no pollution whatsoever from this form of land-use. On this point alone, the local and national authorities must regard forestry very favourably for any further development."

But while it might be satisfying to be able to say "we told you so", we really have to ask why, if this evidence was available nearly 50 years ago

MEMBER'S VOICE continued

and before large scale farm development (much of it funded by the Crown) actually took place in the Taupo Basin, has it taken so long to recognise the problem and to do something about it. And why is it that the land owners who kept their land in forest all this time, are the ones whose property rights have been the most affected by the regulations, while those who caused the problem are rewarded with credits if they reduce leaching.

New Zealand taxpayers and ratepayers have since put over \$80 million into Lake Taupo and more into the Rotorua Lakes.

The \$100 million is thus another subsidy to those who have practiced poor land management – they are to be rewarded by having their land purchased – and it may even increase the value of their remaining land. We also see irrigation schemes being subsidised by taxpayers and ratepayers apparently because they would not be economic without subsidy. The East Coast "forestry" project is not designed to benefit forestry, it is designed to put trees back on land that should never have been deforested and have been causing downstream infrastructure damage and sediment problems ever since the original forest cover was removed so grass could be grown. It is a "try and fix inappropriate land use" project.

The government announcement of \$22.5 million for afforestation grants is also directed at improving poor land use (incidentally it is not a new initiative, it is just a restart of a scheme that was recently stopped). It is only available to land not in forest (so probably farm land) and priority is given to soil conservation and flood risk management, improving water quality and improving biodiversity (particularly use of indigenous species). It is not aimed at commercial forestry, but is very much a subsidy for non-forest land owners to practice better land use.

Andrew McEwen
[abridged]

Full document available [here](#)

A New Zealand Forest Policy

You are cordially invited to a NZIF workshop to launch a process of forming a forestry-wide initiative to 'help ourselves' to a robust NZ Forest Policy.

The Government has stated New Zealand does not need a forest policy, preferring forestry development to be "market-led". But as members know, the so called free market policies are not working for forestry. The important economic, social, and environmental benefits derived from forests are not being optimised and arguably never will reach full potential in the absence of a scientifically sound policy covering all aspects of forestry including conservation forests, social and production forestry to guide and determine decisions and responses. Both the current and previous NZIF Councils have been vocal advocates for promoting the development of a national forest policy and now is the chance for you to be involved.

The NZIF, through the Auckland Section (ASIF) has responded to the challenge by initiating a process of cultivating a common vision and goals for New Zealand's forests. The first stage is a workshop, open to all NZIF members to discuss and refine the broad concept from whoa to go.

This is your opportunity to be involved in drafting the policy development framework and to have input into formulating a policy that will shape your industry for many decades to come. Diary the date now and register your attendance to ensure working papers are received prior to the workshop.

This workshop is generously hosted and supported by CBRE.

Date: 3.00pm Monday 22 September 2014.

Venue: CBRE, Zurich House, Level 14, 21 Queen St, Auckland.

RSVP: For catering purposes please RSVP to [Philip Elworthy](#) by Monday 15 September.

Press Release

4 September 2014

Taxpayer Awards the Polluter

The National party announced it will spend \$200 million of taxpayers and ratepayers money to buy stream side land on dirty dairy farms. The New Zealand Institute of Forestry has consistently demanded the Government stop paying the polluters to pollute however they continue to do so.

President of the NZ Institute of Forestry, James Treadwell said "We have achieved the utmost perversity if this policy comes into place. This National government has allocated taxpayer funds through the irrigation accelerated fund to promote irrigation schemes to intensify dairying. Then in a ridiculous attempt to ameliorate the damage caused by uncontrolled dairy intensification, now propose to use taxpayer and ratepayer funds to buy back stream margins to reduce the totally predictable pollution."

Foresters voluntarily agreed to set back from rivers to ensure protection of water and aquatic environments many years ago. There has been no taxpayer funding to help with this. Forestry's long run baseline nitrogen emissions are close to natural levels, sediment levels are well below pastoral levels, bacterial contamination is at natural levels and streams within forests harbour much native biodiversity.

Mr Treadwell stated "subsidies paid to farming by ignoring their pollution along with this \$200 million far exceeds the value paid to farmers of old in the form of Supplementary Minimum Prices and Marginal Land's Board grants."

Mr Treadwell called this policy "A National Party disgrace"

Full document [here](#)

Announcement

Ministry of Primary Industries
Plant Exports phytosanitary certification review

New Zealand exporters have built an excellent reputation because of the quality of their products and the robust government systems overseeing their operations. In order to maintain this reputation, it is important to keep pace with the changing export landscape. As part of this the Ministry for Primary Industries is working on a review of New Zealand's system for ensuring all exports of plant products meet the requirements of importing countries by being free of plant pests and diseases of concern to them. This Plant exports phytosanitary certification system enables access for NZ plant exports to world markets and it is critical to our ability to export plants and plant products.

It is important to note that while the review will not mean significant changes to the system, it will be streamlined, making it easier to understand and providing a higher level of clarity and certainty to all parties regarding what is expected of them. The increased clarity will mean that organisations that MPI approves to carry out phytosanitary inspections (MAOs) will need to review their documentation to ensure they are up to date.

Full document [here](#)
If you have any questions, please email [MPI](#)

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Applications open

Do you have something to say to the forestry profession in Australia and New Zealand about forest management, fire management or landscape level decision making? Would you like to make a contribution to discussions about the role of forests and foresters in international development, catchment management or innovation and certification in forest products and supply chains? Do you have any great ideas for urban forestry, forest restoration, land care, or conservation of forest biodiversity?

If so, now is your chance to submit an abstract for a paper to present to the [ANZIF Conference 2015](#). The conference theme is 'Beyond tenure: managing forests across the landscape'. For more information on Abstract submission, click [here](#)

News Item

WPMA – it's official!

The merger of WPA PMA into the WPMA was celebrated at the official launch on Thursday evening 4 September in Wellington and was kindly hosted by Deloitte. An impressive gathering with representatives from all aspects of the industry, associated industries and also members of government departments, speeches were made by CEO Jon Tanner, Japanese Ambassador Nogawa and Brian Stanley, the Chair, who referred to the excellent work done on the 'Roadmap' that has been developed to help guide the future goals of the association.

View the speeches [here](#)
Learn more about the merger [here](#)

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Seeking employment opportunities

My name is Robert Marr and I am currently a senior studying Forest Resources at the University of Idaho in the United States. The purpose of this message is to express my interest at finding temporary employment in New Zealand upon my graduation in December 2014. I have a strong background in American forestry through my studies at a university and technical college.

Thank you for any help you can provide.

Robert K. Marr
University of Idaho College of Natural Resources

Click [here](#) to read his full resume
Contact Robert [here](#)

ADVERTISING

Forest of Tane



West Tawa Land Limited on behalf of itself and its associated entity, Forest of Tane Partnership (together called the “Proprietor”) is considering options for selling its plantation forest which is located on the western hills overlooking the Wellington suburb of Tawa, and approximately 30km from the Port of Wellington. West Tawa Land Limited is also considering selling its freehold land on which the forest is situated.

The Proprietor now wishes to seek expressions of interest to assess possible market favour towards these options. The estate consists of several titles of freehold land with a total land area of approximately 36.8ha of which approximately 20.2 ha is stocked with radiata pine. The forest consists of 1984 and 1987 plantings and has been managed under an intensive tending regime and is now approaching harvest age. Total available volume for harvest is 12,000m³ that can be harvested in one tranch. The Proprietor is prepared to consider options for sale including

1. Lump sum bid to secure the entire Forest of Tane Forest Estate including land, plantation forest, and other related assets;
2. Bid to secure plantation forest cutting rights only;
3. Proposals from suitably qualified companies interested to secure a contract with the Proprietor to execute a managed sale of the crop on behalf of the Proprietor.

Forme Consulting Group Ltd will assist the Proprietor by providing technical information and coordination of the process, whereas sales decisions and transactions will be managed by the Proprietor at its sole discretion.

All questions pertaining to the forest, information and sale process are to be forwarded directly to [John Schrider](#) at Forme Consulting Group Ltd, 04 232 7155 ext. 5.

Expressions of interest are required to be delivered to the Forme Consulting Group Ltd offices before 5pm, 31 October 2014

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

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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.

Sept 2014

Wed 17 – Thu 18 [Wood Innovation 2014](#), Distinction Hotel, Rotorua, for more information email [Brent Apthorp](#) at Forest Industry Engineering Association
Mon 22 A New Zealand Forest Policy workshop, 3pm, CBRE, Zurich House, Level 14, 21 Queen St, Auckland, please RSVP to [Philip Elworthy](#)

Oct 2014

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*

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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