



N.Z. Timberlands Ltd – a new forestry SOE

New Zealand Forestry Corporation Limited ceased to operate on November 30, 1990. This situation arose as a consequence of the asset sale decisions that had been made and the allocation of certain other forests in the Bay of Plenty and on the West Coast to new SOE organisations.

The Government decided that the balance of the unsold forests will continue to be managed by New Zealand Timberlands Limited pending their sale or other allocation decisions.

Principal Roles

New Zealand Timberlands Limited will have three principal roles:

- to continue the sale of State forest assets;
- to manage the on-going operations of the unsold forest units including log sales to domestic and export markets; and
- to manage those residual functions relating to the sale of forests to new owners.

Unsold Forests

There are about 40 unsold plantation forests, totalling some 125,000 hectares, located between Northland and Southland. Management contracts have been put in place by New Zealand Timberlands Limited with independent contractors to manage forestry operations.

The continued operation of unsold forest units is the responsibility of the new company's General Manager, Operations, Mr P. Berg, and the sale of the remaining forest units is the responsibility of the General Manager, Asset Sales, Dr A. McEwen. Responsible for the management of log export operations is Export Marketing Manager Mr R. Cooper. Financial Controller for the new entity will be Mr D. Adams and an Asset Manager, Mr P. Gormack, will be managing property sales and supporting forest sales and operations.

Mr K M Ford is Managing Director.

Significant quantities of wood have been exported from the forests under this management and the activity will continue at no lesser level than was formerly the case. In fact, it is the intention of New Zealand Timberlands Limited to lift production to the extent that the gradually increasing age of the forests permit. The unsold forests and other responsibilities are shown in the table.

District	Forests	Contact	Address
Northland	Waitangi Glenbervie Pouto Mount Camel Waipoua	Messrs A Russell & R. Young	Kerikeri Rd Kerikeri Ph: (09) 406-7115 Fax: (09) 407-7112
King Country	Waiuku Pureora Tawarau Erua Taurewa Pirongia Mangaokewa Te Wera	Mr J. Malcolm	Atirua Rd Turangi Ph: (074) 86-757 Fax: (074) 67-020
Wanganui	Lismore Hill Waitarere Manakau	Timberlands	24 St Hill St Wanganui Ph: (06) 345-4593 Fax: (06) 345-5246
East Coast	Ruatoria Mangatu Tokomaru	Mr H. Saunders	63 Carnarvon St Gisborne Ph: (06) 867-9179 Fax: (06) 867-9468
Nelson	Motueka Queen Charlotte	Mr J. De Boer	Tapawera Ph: (054) 34-099 Fax: (054) 34-111
Aorangi	Geraldine Herbert Naseby Waimate Silverpeaks	Messrs N. Clemett & T. Henderson	57 Theodosia St Timaru Ph: (03) 684-8450 Fax: (03) 684-3241
Southland	Glen Dhu Owaka Longwood Slopedown Blackmount Rowallan Hokonui West Dome Castledowns Taringatura Bare Hill Strathallan Edendale Nursery	Mr D. Guild	Pine Plan 66 Don St Invercargill Ph: (03) 214-4301 Fax: (03) 214-4266

Focus on resource management issues

A new magazine called Terra Nova, which focuses on resource management issues, was launched by the Bridgeport Group (Phone (04) 856-683) and published by Brooker and Friend Ltd on

December 5. The intention is to publish 11 times a year except in January, with each issue containing a minimum of 48 pages printed on quality paper and including full colour sections. (One year's subscription costs \$96.75 (incl. gst).)

Terra Nova's editorial policy is complementary to the objective of the Institute of Forestry, so we wish the venture every success.

Its objectives are:

- (1) To establish a forum to stimulate discussion and raise public awareness on options ahead for resource management in New Zealand.
- (2) To investigate, critically scrutinise and express informed views on current resource issues.

- (3) To present information and debate about differing approaches to new environmental challenges and priorities.
- (4) To focus on issues of sustainability and the reconciliation of conservation and development.
- (5) To ensure that Maori and Pakeha perspectives are brought to bear on resource issues and also, where relevant, the perspectives of other cultural groupings within the New Zealand community.

- (6) To distil and interpret technical and scientific research and information so that this can be more readily applied to project and policy development.
- (7) To become a journal of record by gazetting key resource management decisions by central government, regional, and local authorities, and planning, judicial, and statutory bodies.

Judging by the content of the first issue, Terra Nova will do well.

History of Forestry

by Michael Roche

Peter McKelvey

New Zealand Forestry Corporation Limited in association with GP Books. A 1990 Official Project. 466 pages. ISBN 0-477-00004-5.

The 1980s have been a period of revolutionary change for New Zealand forestry. The New Zealand Forest Service, the State forest manager and forest authority for almost 70 years, was disestablished, its role split three ways between a commercial corporation, a conservation department and a ministry with advisory, regulatory, consultancy and research functions. The private forestry sector, in response to new deregulatory policies, regrouped with bewildering complexity and the two biggest conglomerates have become involved internationally on an impressive scale. The careers of many of those working in the forestry sector have changed; for some the change has been invigorating, for others disappointing. One of the reactions from people on whom the changes impacted most, the employees of the old Forest Service, was to want recorded the contributions the Service had made to New Zealand forestry before the details are forgotten. This book is in part a response to that wish, in part also a general realisation that New Zealand forestry in 1990 warrants an up-to-date history. The choice of historian was a good one. Michael Roche brings, as an historical geographer, the necessary professional objectivity. Moreover he has shown, in his other writings on New Zealand forestry history, that he has a good understanding of the subject.

The approach has been scholarly, the research comprehensive and the treatment fair. The book is a *tour de force*, a wide-ranging definitive account. The author has separated well the tangle of relevant economic, political and envi-

ronmental threads so that the presentation is clear. In particular, he has written about the forestry sector in a broad national context, for example showing how the general policies of past governments in such things as unemployment relief, housing subsidies, price control of timber and wartime regulations influenced forestry affairs.

Many themes are followed, too numerous for all of them to be commented on here. However the most obvious is the way the forestry industry, which started with the British Navy trading axes for kauri spars at the end of the eighteenth century, has burgeoned to its current scale and complexity. The story about this is all there, including features like the early, fierce inter-regional competition between sawmillers which often led to mill closures and waste of resources; the machinations on both sides of the Tasman of the Kauri Timber Company; the organisation of sawmillers for their own protection first into regional associations and then into a national federation; and the development in parallel of the two pulp and paper giants at Kinleith and Kawerau.

Any good story is concerned with individual people and there are accounts here of the key figures. Among the State principals are the first professional forester, the objective and perceptive Campbell-Walker, and the initial triumvirate of the new Forest Service: Ellis the innovator and leader, Hansson the technocrat and Phillips Turner the bureaucrat. There is Entrican too, the dynamic and confrontational director of forestry who had to make the hard decision to persist with his 'Murupara Scheme' in the face of the threat to the Kaingaroa stands from the *Sirex* wood wasp. There is an account of the contribution made by

McGavock, the director who preceded Entrican and whose profile has long been shadowy. Among the equally dynamic and influential figures in the private sector are the mercurial Holdship of the Kauri Timber Company; William Butler and Alwyn Carter, both Presidents of the Dominion Sawmillers Federation who had the welfare of their industry at heart; and Douglas Wylie and Henry Landon Smith who launched the bond scheme. There is due acknowledgement of the achievements of David Henry, the father of NZ Forest Products Ltd, whose personality matched that of Alex Entrican so that both made less progress as a result. There is justifiable mention too of the expansionist role played by Reginald Smythe, Henry's successor. The two men who stand out among the politicians are Vogel, who developed a genuine if late interest in forestry, and the statesman-like Francis Dillon Bell, the founder of the Forest Service.

Concern about future timber supplies is a recurring theme, present even last century. It stimulated the National Forest Inventory of 1923 and its more accurate successor, the National Forest Survey of 1955. More attention could have been paid here to the detailed final results which emanated from the latter, results which were markedly different from the interim results mentioned in the text, which in fact were provided reluctantly by the Survey.

The resources of the indigenous forest estate were initially the dominant term in the national timber supply/demand equation, but one which diminished in significance with time. However they were of paramount importance when Ellis burst upon the scene in 1920 and he was soon wrestling with the major

BOOK REVIEW