

Nelson-Marlborough Section field day in Kenepuru Sound

During September members of the Nelson-Marlborough section attended a field day organised by the Marlborough Forest Owners Association on the property of Rick Osborne at Skiddaw in the Kenepuru Sound.

Blessed with fine spring weather, about 50 people travelled by launch from Havelock. The inclusion of family members contributed to this good attendance.

The topic of the trip was the do's and don'ts of forest management as derived from personal experience.

On arrival at the forest Rick gave a brief outline on the establishment since 1973 following its use as a Lands & Survey farming block. He also invited the group to record any positive and negative aspects they observed in the blocks during a walkabout tour.

With the exception of some amenity species planted, the forest consisted of *P. radiata* aged from 10 to 21 years.

Despite problems caused by animal damage in the establishment period of the earliest blocks, there was some excellent growth.

On a Peninsula

The major portion of the forest was situated on a peninsular with a ridge running in a north-east direction forming a distinct division. Trees in the northern aspect showed signs of persistent winds having large butt logs tapering off very quickly. The southern aspect with trees in the lee showed good form and growth. The absence of needle yellowing was very noticeable with good needle retention and a healthy dark-green canopy.

No doubt this is due to the marine environment providing ample magnesium in a salt-laden atmosphere.

The walk along the main ridge gave an excellent view of the surrounding country and showed the diversity in resource use

– farm blocks, native forest reserves and of course marine farms with mussel harvesting close at hand.

Being situated in a maritime park brings its problems with boaties making unauthorised visits and lighting barbecue fires adding to the fire risk.

Tree size in the oldest blocks at 21 years is such that logging is being considered very shortly. This will require careful planning with the log transportation using barges.

Judging Forest Management

During a picnic lunch stop on the lawn at Skiddaw homestead, Messrs Perry, Wilks and Turbitt were asked to judge the positive and negative aspects of the forest management as recorded on a recording sheet designed by Rick.

The two best entries were awarded a bottle of a popular Marlborough wine.

The day concluded with a look at some

WHEN IT COMES TO FOREST THE GENETICS, REPLANTING TRAINING AND *for the*

You could be forgiven for thinking that forestry is just another high flying, boom industry.

So, what's all the fuss about?

It's hard to imagine that trees could be the focus of so much time and attention.

After all, idly standing around for thirty years

waiting to mature, doesn't seem that difficult.

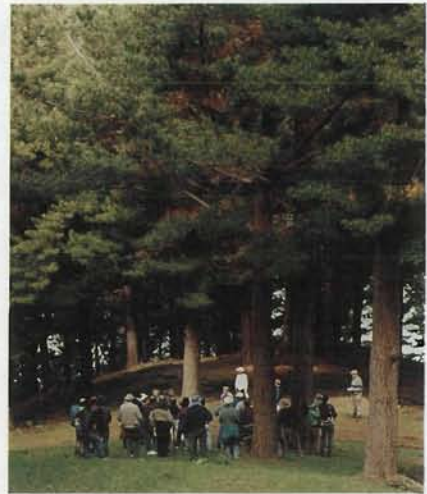
Over the years we've learnt that our business is not just about trees.

It's about research into the rapid propagation of genetically improved trees.

It's about continually reviewing our forest



Production forests, mussel farms and clean water provide a range of opportunities and challenges. Photo: D. Cooper



21-year-old *P. radiata* big enough to harvest, but the development of large branches in subsequent logs concerns the owner. Photo: D. Cooper

of the amenity plantings around the homestead. The departure by launch, similar to arrival, required some fitness and agility to climb a ladder from the beach over the bow onto the launch deck.

It was good to see local section members of the Institute learning from others' experiences.

Don Cooper

NZIF survey report available

The August issue of NZ Forestry carried Kathrine Fraser's report on the survey of NZIF membership.

Copies of the full survey report including tables of responses and appendices are available from the NZIF National Office, PO Box 19840, Christchurch at a cost of \$20 per copy.

As Kathrine noted, respondents added a wealth of qualitative comment to their replies and these comments are included in the full survey report, giving a rich extra dimension to the statistical results.

John Galbraith
Vice President

Y, SOME PEOPLE *can't see*
, RESEARCH, MARKETING,
TECHNOLOGY
trees.

management practices to ensure they're environmentally sound.

It's about the computer software we use to model forest growth to ensure we make the logs our customers want.

If all you want to see are the trees. That's fine.

At Carter Holt Harvey Forests, it's our business to see the bigger picture.

CHH
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