

Visit highlights Pureora work's value

Ian Barton



Indigenous forest has been nursed by introduced species.



The group discusses totara growth under the eucalypt shelter.

In February this year, Tony Beveridge led a group of people back to some of the indigenous trials he had established at Pureora between the mid 1950's and 1980. The visit was organized by Rob McGowan of the Continuing Education Department, University of Waikato, and was a follow up on the very successful conference on planting native trees, held at the University last October.

The first stop was on Pikiariki Road where we viewed an early attempt at regenerating a cleared site; *Eucalyptus delegatensis* as a nurse, planted in 1958 with totara interplanted the following year. Lack of long term maintenance, especially nurse crop removal at the appropriate time, resulted in totara suppression. However survival is reasonable, with heights up to 12 metres and 20 cm diameters. Poison thinning the *E. delegatensis* now would resurrect this trial.

A later trial used an *E. delegatensis* (planted in 1978) nurse for mixed podocarps planted in 1980. Survival is good and the nurse crop

should now be removed. Rimu, totara and kahikatea are all growing well and have reached heights of 6 metres and diameters of 15 cm.

Next day we rose before dawn to visit the Waipapa ecological area and listen to the Kokako dawn chorus. We were rewarded by hearing, and seeing, the one remaining bird in this area. Somewhat disappointing, particularly for those who remembered the deafening chorus of former times. Later we heard from DoC staff about the unremitting shoestring war they wage on predators. One could not help wondering if the bird population would be more plentiful if this forest were being sustainably managed for timber, along with a proper pest control programme?

We then visited some of the more recent timber harvesting sites from where different percentages of rimu had been removed. Some open areas had been group planted with kahikatea following harvest. Where light levels were sufficient, survival and growth looked good, trees reaching 5 metres in 25 years. The forest, especially where 30% of the

timber volume had been removed, now appears very healthy -with mortality of the remaining mature trees very low. While understorey regrowth is vigorous, not much regeneration was seen, indicating the need to underplant following logging.

The final stop was to view the famous Pouakani totara (at 3.6 metres D.B.H and 39 metres tall it is the largest in the country). Photographs taken reveal little change in the appearance of this tree since it was photographed about 25 years ago. A big difference however is the regrowth surrounding the tree. Since the shot reproduced in Burstall & Sale's "Great trees of New Zealand" was taken, the surrounding acre or so of land, almost bare then, has regenerated into a cover of tall shrubs and subdominant bush.

The weekend highlighted the value of work by Tony Beveridge and others over the years, and the urgency to find funds to re-start the research. The data that such blocks could provide is of real value, as interest in the potential of indigenous species for forestry continues to grow.

Institute Conference a Success

The recent AGM and Conference of the New Zealand Institute of Forestry proved to be very successful and well attended.

The conference focused on "Assessment and Management of Forest Investment Risk" and attracted 160 attendees.

Papers from the conference will be published in coming editions of *New Zealand Journal of Forestry*.

The new NZIF Council is as follows:

Peter Berg (President)
Chris Perley (Secretary)
Howard Moore (Treasurer)
Don Hammond
Andy Dick
David Rhodes
Mike McLarin
Nora Devoe
Euan Mason
Hugh Bigsby

New council members are Chris Perley and Euan Mason.

Risk Assessment of Gypsy Moth Entry

The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry has released a report for consultation, which assesses the probability of gypsy moth entering New Zealand via a used vehicle from Japan. The document assesses the likelihood of gypsy moth egg masses entering New Zealand via used vehicles and hatching, leading to the establishment of the insect in New Zealand. Consultation on this report will determine whether the current import health standard for importing used cars from Japan needs to be revised.

While the review focuses only on the used car pathway, the assessment concludes that there are alternative pathways for gypsy moths to enter New Zealand such as on vessels and shipping containers. Following consultation, a decision will be made as to whether changes are required to the current import health standard. Submissions close on 30 April 2000.

The document can be found via the MAF website at www.maf.govt.nz

Richard John James Perham

11 November 1929 - 7 March 2000

A 55 year career devoted to linking forest growing and processing.

As well as being one of the best known leaders in the timber and chip industry over the past half century, Dick also contributed in a very effective manner to the expansion and improved management of the resource itself. His contribution to the former was well recognised at his funeral in Lower Hutt on March 13 and in the *Forest Industries* magazine. Among many achievements he was responsible for splicing Sawmillers and Timber Merchants into one organization - The Timber Industry Federation. He was elected their first Life Member.

Not so well known are his unceasing attempts to crack the problems associated with the processing of the beech species. This included the management of plants at Stillwater, Reefton and elsewhere. Always conscious of the opposition to 100 per cent chipping of the forests, he led attempts to segregate parts of the trees into a form acceptable for both timber and veneer production.

He was also responsible for the largest successful company project to replant cutover natural forest land in Westland, at Aratika on the eastern side of Lake Brunner. Without his skills in diverting finance from company dividends to planting and intensive silviculture, this difficult task would never have succeeded.

Forestry Rights, now a fertile field for learned treatises, opened the door for the creation of hundreds of new forest ownerships, both large and small. Dick Perham's influence on the development of joint ventures, which then helped in the enactment of the empowering FRRA legislation has never been adequately recognised. Under his innovative leadership, Odlins Tree Farms Ltd provided the investment finance and paid most of the consulting and legal fees to set up the first joint ventures on farmland. These were located in Otago and Hawkes Bay, and involved

overcoming strong opposition. Local bodies fought the introduction of an instrument that would ease land use change and avoided many of the requirements associated with leasing. The District Land Registrars objected to the minimal recording requirements. Half the surveyors in the country opposed the use of aerial photographs for locating the forest lots within the properties and the removal of the need to define R.O.W.'s.

The simple yet effective Forestry Rights Registration Act of 1983 was passed through the select committee stages only because Odlins had already tackled these problems and reached agreement for a number of joint ventures in practice. Even then, the text of the Act was not simple enough for some M.P.'s.

One committee Member declared that he had no idea what *Profit a Prendre* meant. He had asked the shadow Minister of Forests and Koro had said, "Well, it's not Maori, but if Dick Perham is putting money into it there must be a profit somewhere so it must be good!"

Dick's earliest recollections of forestry life revolved around the old cottage at the Waipoua Forest where his father, F.J., was officer in charge in the 1920s. After being exposed to no less than four Conservancies, in all of which his father was the boss, it is little wonder that he later became so skilled at combining conservation of the forest with its profitable utilisation. After serving the State, Fletchers, Tasman and Odlins, he completed a most productive career as a world-wide consultant to one of Japan's largest corporations. A measure of his ability to transcend cultural differences was shown by ITOCHU when the company made a public tribute to their indebtedness and two of their most senior staff traveled to Lower Hutt from Tokyo to pay their last respects.

Dick joined the Institute of Forestry in the fifties and became an active Full and Life Member. He will be missed as much by his friends in forestry as he will in the timber business.

-John Groome