

block and its plans for the property in the future.

- Vendor company or trust - if a company or trust is selling the block to a purchaser, the purchaser should be satisfied that the persons representing the vendor, and the vendor itself, are authorised to sell the property. If the vendor is a company and is selling assets worth more than half the value of the assets of the company, the purchaser should ask the vendor to provide evidence that the necessary special shareholders' resolution approving the sale has been passed.
- Neighbouring properties - the purchaser

should consider the activities carried out on neighbouring properties, and the likelihood of neighbours objecting to the purchaser carrying out forestry operations on the block. In the likely event that a resource consent will be required for harvesting, neighbours' may have the ability to object to the resource consent, which may limit the block owner's ability to successfully harvest the block.

The value of a due diligence investigation of a forestry block should not be underestimated. It is an important element to confirm the appropriateness of the purchase.

Indigenous forest research body goes forward

Ten months ago a steering committee was formed with the aim of setting up an organization to obtain funding for further research into indigenous forest planting and sustainable management, the dissemination of that information to land owners and the removal of impediments to growing native trees for timber.

The Steering Committee, which represents a wide range of interests, is made up of the following people:

Ian Barton (Chair, Forestry Consultant, Kauri Researcher; Peter Berg, Institute of Forestry and Forest Owners Assn; David Bergin (alt Greg Steward), Indigenous Research Scientist at Forest Research; Bill Brownell, Director, Ecoquest Education Foundation; Bruce Burns, Scientist, Landcare; Mark Dean, Naturally Native New Zealand Plants Ltd; Mike Dodd, Scientist, AgResearch; John Kneebone, Farmer; Maggie Lawton, Regional Manager for Landcare Research; Roger MacGibbon (Sec, Natural Logic Ltd; Neil Olsen (alt Tony Oliver), Manager, Recreation, Auckland Regional Parks; and Murray McAlonan, Ministry of Forestry.

The vision statement and objectives of the Trust are:

"To see the majority of New Zealand landowners successfully planting and sustainably managing indigenous trees for productive, aesthetic and biodiversity purposes and to ensure the future availability of native timber."

The group intends to meet this vision by:

1. promoting indigenous forestry by advancing the state of knowledge of indigenous forest establishment and tree growth
2. improving the establishment techniques for indigenous trees and optimising their growth.
3. expanding our knowledge of the uses of indigenous plants and the number of species which

can be managed.

4. reducing the cost of indigenous tree establishment to affordable levels.
5. resolving those legal and political obstacles currently serving as disincentives to indigenous tree planting and management.
6. Disseminating information about sustainable indigenous forest management as widely as possible.

The Steering Committee has successfully applied to the Sustainable Farming Fund for a grant to upgrade existing trial areas to be used for demonstration purposes and compile practical bulletins on native tree growing. We will also begin work on a planted indigenous forestry strategy.

A scientific sub committee has begun to determine a programme of work. The species worked on initially will probably be kauri, totara and puriri. Emphasis will be on establishment problems such as soil amelioration by ripping and fertilizing, irrigation, the use of nurse crops and the conversion of poor exotic stands to natives using the shelterwood system. Riparian areas are sites which offer major growing advantages for native timber trees and will be the focus of early trials. It is anticipated that, once established, plantations will be managed as natural stands using the continuous cover system.

The organization will be launched at an all day workshop and field trip, on Saturday 8th September, at Waharau Regional Park on the Firth of Thames. Interested members of the Institute of Forestry are welcome to attend but, as space is limited, registrations will be accepted on a first in first served basis.

For further information contact Ian Barton, telephone 09 2924 825 or email ibtrees@ihug.co.nz.

Ian Barton