



Far North Branch NZ Farm Forestry Assn. 2014 Newsletter

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Year ended 31st December 2013

Our Branch had a similar level of activity to recent years and the membership remains stable. A novelty was the visit of the late Ian Nicholas to make videos on members' farms in preparation for the Trees on Farms workshop to be held in mid- 2014.

In March we visited Dean Satchell's thriving nursery in Kerikeri where, as well as the thousands of seedlings, we saw an out-of-the-ordinary orchard and his beautifully crafted office. Then in April and May we felt it necessary once again to oppose the District Council's proposal to massively raise the rates on forested land. The result was that they took heed of the many submitters and came up with something more acceptable.

The field day in June was held in Waitangi forest. As well as production pine forest, we inspected natural wetlands, plantings of eucalyptus, kauri, cypress, blackwoods and also the sewage ponds which service Paihia.

The mid- winter dinner was at Taipa and the speaker this year was our own Wendy Sporle, who gave an excellent illustrated talk on the effort to prevent the extinction of the kiwi. The Far North Farm Forestry Award went to Li Legler. He looked totally surprised - but shouldn't have been!

The August field day was hosted by Kauri Cliffs Resort and their land restoration contractor, Shane Hyde of Eco-land. Ten hectares of clear felled pines were being converted to indigenous forestry. After 8 years good progress has been made, though it has been neither cheap nor easy.

A planned tour of the geothermal power station at Ngawha in November was cancelled due to lack of interest from members. Oh well...

The Government approved a forest grower's levy of 27 cents per tonne and we nominated Dean Satchell for the administering body. He wasn't elected but at least NZFFA president Ian Jackson made it on to the Trust Board.

Brian Simms

NEXT FIELD DAY / AGM

When: Sunday, 2nd March 10.30 start

Where: Brian & Gaye Simms, 337 Snelgar Road, off Clough Road, which is 7 Km. south of Kaitaia.

Bring: Lunch

Programme: (not necessarily in this order)

- Trip through 18 Ha. Pine woodlot, 20yrs, to consider harvesting and roading issues.
- AGM during lunch break.
- Eucalyptus trial: microcorys, globoidea, laevopinea, sphaerocarpa.
- Mexican Ash and silky oak – do these have a future?.
- Milling large saligna log into (roughly) 150 x 50 planks with “freestyle” chainsaw

The intention is to use farm vehicles for transport so there will be minimal walking.

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NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The AGM of Far North Farm Forestry Association will be held during the field day at Brian & Gaye Simms’ farm, 337 Snelgar Road, RD2, Kaitaia, on Sunday 2nd March 2014. It will take place at lunchtime and it is important that as many members as possible attend.
