



## *Far North Branch NZ Farm Forestry Assn. February 2013 Newsletter*

**E mail: [beesimsy@xtra.co.nz](mailto:beesimsy@xtra.co.nz)**

### **Your Committee**

President: Brian Simms 09 4084050 RD 2 Kta  
[beesimsy@xtra.co.nz](mailto:beesimsy@xtra.co.nz)

Secretary: Li Legler 09 4074991 RD 2 Kerikeri  
[li@legler.org](mailto:li@legler.org)

Treasurer: Catherine Mackenzie 09 4095566  
RD1 Kta [cmac@kol.co.nz](mailto:cmac@kol.co.nz)

Councillor: Richard Renwick 09 4084241 RD 1 Kta  
[rrenwick@xtra.co.nz](mailto:rrenwick@xtra.co.nz)

Editor: Gaye Simms 09 4084050 RD 2 Kta  
[beesimsy@xtra.co.nz](mailto:beesimsy@xtra.co.nz)

Dean Satchell 09 4075525 [dsatch@xtra.co.nz](mailto:dsatch@xtra.co.nz)

Tony Achtzehner 09 4077776 [tony18er@xtra.co.nz](mailto:tony18er@xtra.co.nz)

Tom Wigley 09 4074660 [tom-nancy@xtra.co.nz](mailto:tom-nancy@xtra.co.nz)

Maurice Williamson 09 4059593  
[mauricejane.williamson@xtra.co.nz](mailto:mauricejane.williamson@xtra.co.nz)

Owen Lewis 09 4095581 Les Carr 09 4018976

---

---

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2012**

2012 was another year of stable membership and field days of excellent quality. We organized five events and sent out newsletters for each of these.

The February field day at the Oromahoe location of Northland Kauri Timber Ltd was an interesting and heart-warming experience for those of us who are growing the special - purpose timbers which Northland Kauri buy, process and sell.

In May we were privileged to visit a hauler harvesting operation at Juken New Zealand's forest in Digger's Valley, and we came away with a good understanding of how it all works. It is likely that many of our small woodlots will require this type of harvesting because of steep terrain.

Cypress silviculture was the theme in July at the Kerikeri forest managed by Dean Satchell and Li Legler. There are some important trials happening here and Northland cypress growers will be future beneficiaries of this work.

In August the mid- winter dinner was once again a great success, held this year at Kerikeri's Palmco Café. Luthier Laurie Williams really delivered the goods as guest speaker and Clive Thompson was a popular recipient of the Far North Farm Forestry Award.

The field day in November was at the South Hokianga property of James and Tim Rose, where they are well on the way to achieving an impressive continuous canopy forest containing mixed species.

Given the modest size of our membership and the large geographical area in which we operate, the attendance at field days is ok, I suppose. But, as I've said in the past, it is quite important that members actively participate in the Branch's activities.

Finally, I thank the committee and field day hosts and scribes for their contributions and look forward to a successful 2013.

Brian Simms

---

### **NEXT FIELD DAY / AGM**

**10:00am Saturday 23rd March 2013**

**33b Skudders Beach Rd, Kerikeri** (Kapiro Rd leads into Skudders Beach Rd)

**Turn up for a look at a local nursery and upcoming tree collection being run and created by one of our enthusiastic members! Seedlings for Eucalypt planting trials ready for this winter. Get involved.**

**Have your say in what direction the branch takes this year.**

**Catch up with fellow growers over a cup of tea.**

**Any questions contact Dean on 09-407 4991 or Li 09-407 4991**

---

## NZFFA PRESIDENT IAN JACKSON on the LEVY

### **Proposed forestry commodity levy – referendum, March 2013**

Leaders of the forest industry are proposing to introduce a plantation forest commodity levy later in 2013 or early 2014. The levy will apply to all products sourced from trees in a plantation forest. The levy would be collected at harvest; the initial proposed rate is 27 cents/tonne of all marketable forest products. The NZFFA Executive is in favour of the levy. It is confident that small forest owners' views will be heard when decisions are being made about use of levy funds.

- Why a plantation forestry levy?

Most forest industry-good work, such as research, advocacy, forest fire protection and forest biosecurity work, is currently done on behalf of all forest growers but only members of the NZFFA and NZFOA contribute towards the costs. A levy would provide a means of spreading the costs amongst all forest owners. An estimated 10,000 owners are not affiliated to either organisation.

- Who will decide how levy funds will be spent? Who will represent farm foresters?

An interim Levy Trust Board has been set up to oversee the referendum. If the levy gets the go-ahead, a new Board will be elected. Of the seven members of the Board, two will be elected by growers with less than 1000 hectares. Farm foresters therefore have a great opportunity to influence the choice of the two people who fill these positions.

- What will levy funds be spent on?

Levy money will fund programmes specified in the 'Plantation Forestry Work Plan 2013-2019'. This plan will be finalised by the interim Levy Trust Board following a successful referendum outcome. Examples of work likely to be funded in the first six years include:

- o Research to increase forest productivity and sustainability. This includes breeding and genetics, wood quality, disease resistance and control, and steep-land harvesting.
- o Promotion of timber through the NZ Wood brand; activities including promoting wood as the material of choice for the Christchurch rebuild.
- o Forest health and biosecurity.
- o Policy development, codes of practice, and advocacy on behalf of all forest growers in areas including environmental compliance, forest fire

prevention and management, health, safety and training, road transport, and forest health and biosecurity.

- When will the referendum be held, and who can vote?

The Plantation Forest Referendum will be held between March 1st and March 22nd 2013. Forest owners with over four hectares of trees at least ten years old will be eligible to vote.

- How do I vote?

Forest owners will first need to register – this will be possible on-line on the ForestVoice website [www.forestvoice.org.nz](http://www.forestvoice.org.nz) from the first week of February or by mail or fax. Voting will also be possible on-line, or by mail or fax.

- Where can I find out more?

1. Visit the ForestVoice website: [www.forestvoice.org.nz](http://www.forestvoice.org.nz) The website provides a lot of clear information on the referendum process and how the levy will operate. It also has an interactive Question and Answer facility.
2. Contact: Ian Jackson ( 03 689 5578 , [ijacko@xtra.co.nz](mailto:ijacko@xtra.co.nz)) or Hamish Levack ( 04 476 6787 ), [hlevack@xtra.co.nz](mailto:hlevack@xtra.co.nz))
3. Freephone 0800 500168 : for general information or to register and vote by post or fax.

Also, have a look at Ian Jackson's article in the November 2012 Tree Grower (p18-19) for an initial overview of the levy. There will be more information in the February 2013 Tree Grower

---

## **NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**The AGM of Far North Farm Forestry Assn. will be held during the field day at Dean Satchell's nursery, Kerikeri on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2013.**

Follow Kapiro Road through into Skudder's Beach Road and turn into the driveway of 33b, on the left hand side.

---

## WANTED:

Someone new to take over as president. After so many years in this position, and before that as secretary, I am feeling jaded and should be put out to pasture.

Brian Simms

---

## FIELD DAY REPORT

### **November 2012 Rose Brothers, Wekaweka Valley, Waimamaku**

An enjoyable day was spent in Wekaweka Valley on the property of the Rose brothers; Tim and James. With well pruned trees of a range of species and a pleasant mixed group of people, conversations ranged from trees, weeds, harvesting logistics and cubic metres, to Valley and Hokianga history.

They have planted a total of **9 hectares**, mostly 17 - 19 years ago. There is a wide range of unusual Eucalyptus species and a range of Cypress lusitanica seed and cutting varieties. Many of these trees are 30 metres high and pruned up to 8 metres plus.

They have kept excellent records of seed and cutting provenance, pruning and growth measurements and some of these are detailed in the photos.

An additional 1 ha of 25 and 27 year old pines were already planted when they bought the land, and they are now looking to be harvested in the near future.

Much of the land once had kauri that were last milled in the 1920's. It is quite prone to slips and very windy. Weeds including ginger have been grubbed out twice a year.

Pruning was carried out by them and their family, often during summer family camping trips.

Domestic goats have been successfully used to graze underneath trees. Recently a lot were randomly shot by someone and left.

#### **They are interested in naturally ground durable timber.**

Graveyard tests have been carried out in Melbourne, Sydney and tropical Innisfail. Melbourne equates to Hawkes Bay climate roughly. Our Northland climate is different to all of these locations.

Accelerated tests are possible. Farmers in NZ have used Totara fence posts and often just lifted them and turned them around to give another 20 years of life at least.

Tim and James became interested in the Australian work as a guide when it became apparent that on-farm

experience here in NZ was in some cases at variance with the NZ graveyard tests. Subsequent inquiry showed that it was assumed, but not known, which part of the tree the grave yard timber had been taken from. But some of the Australian sites have no equivalent here with tropical or arid conditions and termites. It is the low or zero termite sites with comparable climate that are of interest. The accelerated test work on younger trees is apparently happening now and some of the preliminary results are promising.

Whole eucalypts make good beams, they have 80% heartwood even when quite young trees. Pin hole borer can attack the outer softwood but not the heartwood.

#### **Their general planting pattern has been:**

Row for row aged cutting pines in pairs at 6 metre spacings within row, and Eucalypts in groups of 4 at 8 metre spacings in the alternate row planted 1yr after the pines. Eucs are thinned out to one tree per spot in future. Seedling pines in between are planted as a nurse crop. It was not so much the shelter they were seeking but the gain in form that had long been observed by planting these two genus's together.

These were all planted down slope to allow for the option of separate extraction if the market or growth rate so demanded at harvest. But it was thought that it would be probable that both would be harvested together. It is possible to have continuous cover forestry if experienced tree fellers are available to do a good job of harvests.

Pine pruning up to 7 cm size branches is fine as this = knot of 7 cm and this is acceptable for milling according to Peter the Aussie logger.

**Surface planting is often very successful** – cut the bottom of the bag out and sit firmly just into the soil. The tree roots are warmer and seem to establish fast. They have noticed this from trees left out a bit long, waiting to be planted.

It is a suggested adaption of the accidental discovery made when the occasional left- over tree that was stood up in rushes or a clump of grass and forgotten about, then grew on to become the largest of its type! This has happened with acacias, cypresses and eucalypts on the hard kauri clays.

This is nothing new as Jim Cox later showed Tim photos of the work he did on this and the very good results he had back in the 1950s.

#### **Eucalyptus species at the Rose Brothers include:**

- E. pyrocarpa
- E. teratacornis
- E. propinqua
- E. longifolia – provenance and seed source matters
- E. bosistoana – Coastal Greybox
- E. laevopinea – may be as durable as E. mulleriana
- E. microcorys - Tallowood
- E. globoidea – White Stringybark
- E. meulleriana
- E. obliqua

- E. agglomerata
- E. pilularis – Blackbutt
- E. fastigata was favoured historically, as it was very easy to mill, but not ground durable.
- E. maculata

The provenance and seed source matters with all these species. They imported CSIRO (Australia) seed lots of good growth and form from more humid sites, preferably with a winter maxima or even rainfall, and used local seed sources with a proven record. This has very largely been successful.

**Cypresses**

Proseed selections were very variable 20 years ago. Many were very branchy and often canker prone, the original Kukupa cuttings being a prime example.

This set a number of farm foresters in quest of better material, which we see in later plantings of the last 12 or 14 years

Best one is from Martin Bannister Rotoehu = 2/20. Beautiful form and fast growth, smooth trunks, no fluting. Yes nothings new, Martin had been at his work many years ahead of us.

Many other selections are canker prone, Northland is a good place to select for canker resistance, plant them on fertile ground and watch what happens!

**Cypress harvesting** – 40 years of age is best for our original poor Proseed sourced material, but definitely under 30 for much of our later material, which, at age 9 and 10 has similar dimensions to much of the 20 year old proseed sourced seedlots.

**Tim’s Top 5 ground-durable eucalypts that grow well at their place**

E. globoidea – anecdotal evidence from wet Taranaki, NZ grown ones used as power poles. On - farm use of this species has produced good results in a few places in NZ. It may be due to provenance.

- E. bosistonia
- E. longifolia

E. maculata - grows well here but can’t find any evidence as to its NZ ground durability

E. propinqua - slow compared with the above.

E. microcorys - grows very well here but I am lead to understand that it lacks the desired ground durability.

Tim notes that in the Australian graveyard tests, E. wandoo and E. molloccana are up at the top. Tim had 3 or 4 trees of each of these but on a very heavy, wet and raw clay site and they haven’t performed. The neighbouring E. propinqua group is better but up hill a bit. Tim would like to try again on a better site with these two and some others. Certainly of the top end species for ground durability E. cloeziana and sugar gum E. cladocalyx may be a better bet for growth rates on NZ experience.

A very interesting and informative day – many thanks to Tim and James.

Yvonne Steinemann

**THE LOOMING “WALL” OF WOOD**

The November 2012 issue of Tree Grower magazine has a couple of articles ( pages 13 & 27) which contain very important information for the many farm foresters who planted pine woodlots in the 1990’s. Think hard about the implications for your own forest!

\*\*

**MARKETPLACE ON NZFFA WEBSITE**

This is a wonderful resource which is easy to access. Just Google NZFFA, then click on Marketplace in the menu under Home. Here you will find adverts for timber for sale and wanted to buy. It should be ideal for marketing our specialty timbers.

\*\*

**NZFFA CONFERENCE**

The Conference this year is hosted by Lower North Branch, and runs from 20<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> of April. Your Tree Grower magazine has all the details.



**Forest road show event calendar**

The Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment is hosting forest road shows around the country to roll-out the new Approved Code of Practice for Safety and Health in Forest Operations.

This is your opportunity to attend a local show and engage with forest inspectors and Ministry representatives to gain a greater understanding of the new Code and what it means for you in the forest.

For more information about these sessions, please contact your local Forest Owner or email [info@isafety.co.nz](mailto:info@isafety.co.nz)

| Date/time          | Town/city | Venue  | Forest Owner/host                              |
|--------------------|-----------|--|--|
| 18 February 7.00am | Kaitaia   | Awanui Rugby Club State Highway 1 Awanui               | JNL PF Olsen Woodlot Northland Forest Managers |
| 19 February 6.30am | Whangarei | Northland Hockey Association Clubrooms Kensington Park | Rayonier HFM Woodlot                           |



## EARTHWORKS AND HARVESTING GUIDELINES FOR NORTHLAND

This document has been developed by the RMA Forestry Development Group and Northland Regional Council. There are two major objectives:

1. **Earthworks:** Ensure all operations are undertaken in order to maximize safety, productivity and quality whilst minimizing the generation of sediment through the management of soil disturbance and water controls.
2. **Harvesting:** Ensure all operations are undertaken in order to maximize safety, productivity and quality whilst minimizing environmental impacts and disturbances.

It is available as a booklet or CD and can be obtained from Li legler, Brian Simms or Northland Regional Council.



*E. laevopinea* 59 cm at 19 years



Coppiced *E. pilularis*



Progeny tested high density wood cypress, 9 yrs

