

Hawke's Bay Farm Forester

Hawke's Bay Farm Forester of the Year 2021 Field Day



Pan Pac Hawke's Bay Farm Forester of the Year, Mark Warren invites you to a field day at Waipari Station 10.00am Thursday 27 May.

There wouldn't be too many folk in farm forestry circles who haven't come across Mark Warren. Farmer, forester, author, 4-wheel drive instructor and something of a raconteur.

Waipari (1300ha) has been in Mark's family for over 140 years. It was originally settled by his great grandfather, Bishop Samuel Williams as part of the then 8,900ha Mangakuri Stn block.

When Mark took over management in 1984, the property was desperately in need of R&M and development. It had 25 paddocks – none of them stockproof, it hadn't received fertilizer for 3 years and was averaging just 56% lambing from an 8000 head ewe flock

Since then, Mark has transferred what was essentially a relic, from the golden age of wool, into a modern breeding and finishing operation.

Key to development has been a focus on

improving Waipari's 'better country' for breeding and finishing while integrating forestry on steeper and erosion prone areas.

Mark points out that it is no coincidence that country carrying less than 4su/ha is the same country that is difficult and dangerous to farm. It's not economic to risk livestock, or put fertilizer on, therefore it has made sense to slice it up for forestry.

Waipari now has some 255ha under commercial forestry; ranging from six-year-old second rotation trees, to a 28-year-old block due for harvest this year. Since 2010, a large proportion of farm income has come from forestry. Mark aims to harvest 30ha every three years, this being the optimum for Waipari's location and harvesting requirements.

Mark promotes planting the 'right tree in the right place' as a means to stay on the land and stay farming. Forestry (timber and carbon) has provided income stream from which to develop Waipari's better country. It has also provided the cashflow to stay in business during drought years and a devastating storm event in 2011.

Income from forestry also provides for suc-

cession opportunities, allowing iconic hill country stations like Waipari to remain an intergenerational pastoral enterprise.

Join us for what is sure to be an informative and entertaining day

Where & When:

796 Clareinch Road, Omakere. Field day registration from 9.30am

Who:

Our host, Mark Warren is looking forward to showing us around Waipari. There will be invited speakers from Pan Pac, the Hawke's Bay Regional Council, Morice & Associates and more.

Topics covered will include:

- Land use optimisation
- Capitalising on carbon
- Log market projections
- Harvesting and economies of scale
- Right tree, right place

Getting there:

From Elsthorpe Village, head east on Karakau Road for 10.8km. Turn right onto Mangakuri Road. After 10.5km Mangakuri Road becomes Clareinch Road. Continue for a further 550m.



Transport:

The majority of the farm tour can be completed in a regular 'off-road' 4WD vehicle. Car pooling will be required.

After lunch attendees with quads, ATV's, bikes and 'fully equip' off-road vehicles will have the option of taking an alternate route to our third stop. **Helmets must be worn, no passengers on quad bikes.**

All other vehicles will back-track and take an easier route via Clareinch Road

What to bring

Bring suitable clothing including sturdy footwear, sunscreen and hat, a picnic lunch, snacks, plenty to drink and a couple of dollars for a raffle.

To finish the day, Atkin's Ranch will be providing a BBQ with refreshments courtesy of Craigs Investment Partners and the Hawke's Bay A&P Society.