TĀNE'S TREE TRUST

Native Forests for our Future
Hereherea te Wao-nui-a-Tāne

Photo: Al Guthrie, Pure Advantage

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Beyond the "Canopy" - Rethinking How We Grow Native Forests

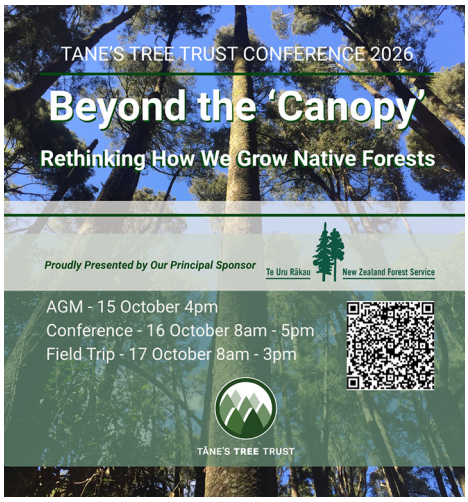
Nelson 16 - 17th October 2026

The countdown is on until we are at the Beachside Conference and Events Centre, Tāhunanui Beach, Nelson for our Beyond the 'Canopy' - Rethinking How We Grow Native Forests Conference.

Limited tickets are still available here **https://events.humanitix.com/beyond-the-canopy-rethinking-how-we-grow-native-forests.**

All details can be found here **https://www.tanestrees.org.nz/news-events/articles/beyond-the-canopy-16-17-october-2026/**

The conference would not be possible without the support of our sponsors, who we would like to acknowledge below. There is still time to join us and become a sponsor - for details email mel@tanestrees.org.nz.



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2026 Tāne's Tree Trust Annual General Meeting

Beachside Nelson Conference and Events Centre
15 October 2026, 4-5PM

When: Thursday 15 October, 4-5PM
Where: Beachside Nelson Conference and Events Centre, Tāhunanui Beach, Nelson
Join us for our AGM, the day before the **Beyond the 'Canopy' - Rethinking How We Grow Native Forests** Conference. An agenda and AGM report will be circulated prior to the meeting. There is no cost to attend our AGM, but space is limited. Please register online by 5 October here:

https://events.humanitix.com/tane-s-tree-trust-annual-general-meeting-2026

CREDIT: Sarah Goldberg

'Miro seedling' : direct seeding trials established at Zealandia under mature, exotic pine trees.

Find us online

@tanes_tree_trust

Developing a functional supply chain and building local capacity for farm-tōtara in Northland

By Paul Quinlan

Regenerating tōtara on private land in Northland presents an opportunity for a sustainable, native timber industry to be developed in the region. However, a stable industry has not self started. A lack of confidence in the continuity of supply and demand, along with perceived regulatory complexities and logistical unknowns involved with harvesting and processing costs, seem to have so far discouraged potential partners from creating a practical, values -based supply chain involving Māori landowners, local milling, and a committed timber user.

Te Uru Rākau commissioned Tane's Tree Trust to coordinate this project. A key outcome was that Innate Furniture Ltd gained confidence to promote Northland tōtara as a timber option to customers.

Figure 6 - Isaac Varney got to experience sustainable selective harvesting as part of the contractor's crew. Opportunities were taken to explain about sustainable forest management principles and practice.

Figure 12 - Forestry trainer Shane Maxwell discussing a felling plan with Josh and Te Ariki Witehira during the Te Whangae Farm harvest operation.

The project also built local capability. Josh and Te Ariki Witehira of Ngāti Hine Forestry Trust gained experience in selective harvesting, felling, milling, grading and forest inventory, with NorthTec training support. Four Permanent Sample Plots were established on the Oromahoe Trust property, creating a basis for future monitoring, silvicultural trials, field days and demonstration of sustainable tōtara management.

Overall, the project moved the Northland farm-tōtara opportunity from aspiration to an early, but functioning, supply-chain model.

The next step, if the landowners are willing to support this kaupapa and participate as partners, is to harvest again for continued supply, improve cost and recovery data, and to assess the potential to scale this in the future into a Northland tōtara industry initiative.

Several aspects of this project distinguish it from typical timber supply chains, such as:

- The buyer is the timber user (a manufacturer) who has direct and ongoing, long-term relationships with the landowners (seller), miller and processor (drying) thereby cutting out a timber merchant.
- None of the partners is reliant on tōtara for income.
- The focus is on utilising merchantable logs/timber from forest management practice that does not target the best quality trees in the forest.
- Sustainable yields from the forests should provide confidence in long-term supply, with scope to add additional properties as demand increases.

Overall, this approach reflects Māori values and influence insofar as it is relationship and values-based rather than transactional.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: Membership renewal notices are sent out annually on April 1st via email or post.
Members can access all resources at www.tanestrees.org/resources.
If you need to update your contact details , simply email us at office@tanestrees.org.nz

Seed Research of four NZ Podocarp species - Implications for ecological restoration

By Sarah Goldberg

My fascination with seeds began while working on a restoration project at the Stockton Coal Mine on the South Island. Our team needed to revegetate an area that was too unstable to plant, so we decided to try drone seeding. During the project, I started to ask questions about the seeds. It soon became clear that we were missing fundamental information about the viability, storage behaviour, and germination requirements of our native seeds. This experience inspired me to return to university to study seed biology.

For my master's thesis, I focused on four of Aotearoa New Zealand's iconic

Podocarpaceae species: ***Dacrycarpus dacrydioides*** (kahikatea), ***Podocarpus totara*** (tōtara), ***Prumnopitys taxifolia*** (mataī), and ***Pectinopitys ferruginea*** (miro). These species were once widespread in lowland forests across the country, but with extensive habitat loss and fragmentation, their natural regeneration is now constrained by limited seed dispersal and complex seed physiology.

I was inspired to focus on podocarp seeds due to the lack of natural recruitment in the Wellington region. The predator-free movement and the predator-proof fence at Zealandia Te Māra a Tāne have proven successful in supporting the return of broadleaf species, but the forest giants are still missing due to a lack of seed-producing trees. Understanding seed biology is important for reintroducing these species. Restoration largely depends on planting nursery-grown seedlings, but some species are difficult to germinate and may be left out. Direct seeding and drone dispersal could scale up restoration efforts and enable the inclusion of difficult-to-germinate species. Knowing what conditions the seeds need to survive and germinate can optimise seed-based restoration strategies.

My research examined how each species responded to short-term storage in different conditions and burial in leaf litter. The results showed differences across the four species. Kahikatea seeds were highly sensitive to drying and formed only transient soil seed banks, instead germinating readily, consistent with previous observations of this species forming a dense cover of ephemeral seedlings. Tōtara, mataī, and miro were more tolerant of short-term storage (if kept moist) and remained viable after one year in the leaf litter. These findings suggest that kahikatea requires rapid dispersal into moist microsites and regular redispersal, whereas tōtara, mataī, and miro can tolerate short-term moist storage and may establish across a broader range of microsites. Their longer persistence in the soil may also reduce the need for frequent redispersal.

I also investigated seed dormancy by assessing seed morphoanatomy, embryo growth, and seed coat permeability. All species exhibited morphological and physical dormancy to varying degrees. Dormancy polymorphism (i.e., production of seed with differing levels or types of dormancy) was observed in subsets of tōtara and mataī, with both morphological and morphophysiological dormancy present within single seed collections. These findings show how variable native seeds can be, even among closely related species.

Identifying these differences can improve seed collection, short-term storage, nursery propagation, and direct seeding techniques to help these ecologically and culturally significant species be prioritised in forest restoration programmes.

Here's the link to the full thesis, if you're keen to read more:

https://doi.org/10.26686/bbdr-k1c2

This research was conducted at the Lions Ōtari Plant Conservation Laboratory, which is currently undergoing funding and operational changes.

Investment in seed research is essential for supporting the conservation and restoration of our native plant species. I am grateful to be able to continue this important work through a PhD at the University of Canterbury, with support from the Department of Conservation and the Millennium Seed Bank Partnership-Kew.

Goldberg, Sarah (2026). Seed morphoanatomy and physiology of four New Zealand Podocarpaceae species: implications for ecological restoration. Open Access Te Herenga Waka-Victoria University of Wellington. Thesis. https://doi.org/10.26686/bbdr-k1c2

National Fieldays 2026

For the fifth year in a row, Tāne's Tree Trust gathered together with others within the industry at the Forestry Hub. MPI-TUR hosted a small celebration during Thursday night's exhibitor networking event to celebrate 5 years of the Forestry Hub. Our Tāne's Tree Trust stand enjoyed a prime central location within the marquee and proved to be a real highlight. Visitors were drawn to our displays of publications, wood samples, and engaging big-screen videos (thank you, Trustee Ian Brennan for the videos!). We were kept on our toes by enthusiastic conversations with both the general public and fellow exhibitors about farm forestry and native forest restoration.

Fieldays 2026 proved to be one of the most successful in the event's history, attracting over 132,000 visitors—a 20% increase from 2025—drawing the largest opening-day crowd in recent years and completely booking out all exhibitor sites. The Forestry Hub celebrated its largest and strongest iteration to date, hosting 26 exhibiting organisations (around double the previous year) and holding 15 events across the four days. In total, the Hub recorded 28,898 visits—representing approximately 22% of all Fieldays attendees—with Friday being the busiest day at 8,632 visitors. Structured around eight stages of the "forestry story" (spanning seeds and nurseries, establishment, harvesting, processing, wood products, and native/permanent forestry), the Hub offered popular interactive features such as seed-germination displays, PPE activities, a forestry simulator, and a logging truck.

Government and sector engagement was strong throughout the four days. Forestry Minister Todd McClay participated in a forestry Q&A panel and the Growing Native Forests Champions Awards were presented again this year, while other presentations highlighted postgraduate forestry and women in primary-sector leadership.

Forestry industry exhibitors celebrated their fifth year in a row in the Forestry Hub at the National Fieldays.

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