



RETRIEVAL AND PROMULGATION OF INDIGENOUS FORESTRY RESEARCH INFORMATION (THE ARCHIVES PROJECT)

NEWSLETTER NO. 1

INTRODUCTION

Some time ago it was decided that it would be a good idea to have a small, informal newsletter which would enable those involved in this project to keep up with what is going on. This week I spent a day in Christchurch with our newest recruit, Danielle Whitham who is going to search the Christchurch repositories over the next few months. This visit reminded me about the idea of a newsletter, so here is the first. In it are outlined the project and who is involved. Future issues will contain details of where each researcher is with their part of the project and a little about what they have found.

This project was initiated in order to collect in one place a comprehensive database of past research work with indigenous timber trees. While mainly concerned with the establishment and management of planted indigenous species it is also intended that work involving natural forests, which might be applicable to planted forests, is recorded. A great deal of past research has been published and this is fairly well recorded in a series of bibliographies; for example the annotated bibliography by Tony Beveridge on work at Whirinaki. What we do not have is rapid and easy access to a wide range of departmental (mainly NZ Forest Service) and private files on work that may never have been published or was in process when the person concerned retired or was transferred.

PROJECT OUTLINE AND TIME LINE

With the demise of the Forest Service in 1987 many departmental files were archived. Anecdotal evidence also indicates that other files were destroyed while forest officers kept some. The only material known to be intact is that held by Forest Research and Landcare Research; School of Forestry, Canterbury and possibly the Department of Conservation. This does not include Forest Service Conservancy and Head Office files, which should be in Archives New Zealand.

Because there is no comprehensive record of where files and data on indigenous forestry research are held, those currently involved in research may be duplicating previous work or may have to spend a disproportionate amount of time searching for details of earlier work.

The project will identify the location of existing information and will endeavour to have material currently in private hands deposited in safe archives. An annotated index of all material will be produced and made available to potential users. This will also identify any work capable of publication with minimal extra work and begin the process of getting this material published.

To do the work the Trust was granted funds from the Sustainable Farming Fund and began work in July 2004 with the database, developed by Mike Cochrane of Landcare Research, becoming

operational early in 2005. The target is to have all searches complete by the end of June 2006 and entered into the database by 30 December 2006. The database will then be made available to all who may wish to access it. This may be through the Trust's website but may also be available on CD at various repositories around New Zealand. In addition it is hoped to produce a list any material discovered which could, with minimal work, be published -perhaps by Tane's Tree Trust as reports.

ARCHIVES (SOURCES) BEING ACCESSED

Initially the intention was to focus on Forest Research (Scion) in Rotorua and Archives New Zealand depositories in Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch; with additional searches at the Macmillan Brown Library, Auckland Institute & Museum, Alexander Turnbull Library, Universities and Matakoho Kauri Museum. Advertising widely for people who may know where other material might be is now underway.

As more work has been done, and more people spoken to, other possible sources have come to light; eg, School of Forestry, the list of theses at all Universities, Scion (Canterbury).

PEOPLE INVOLVED (so far)

Ian Barton	Chairman, Tane's Tree Trust	- Project Manager
Peter Berg	Dep Chair, Tane's Tree Trust	-Matakoho Museum
Tony Beveridge	Retired Forest Researcher	-Scion and Archives New Zealand, Auckland
Drs Andrew and Mary McEwan	Forestry Consultants	-Archives New Zealand, Wellington
Danielle Whitham	Graduate Forestry Student	-Archives New Zealand, Christchurch, Macmillan Brown Library,
Jeremy Cauchi	Group Manager, Access Services	-Archives New Zealand, Wellington
Michael Cochrane	Landcare Research, Christchurch	-Development of database
Ann McSweeney and Sue Foster	Scion, Rotorua.	-Data entry and assistance with Scion records

ADVERTISING FOR INFORMATION

The following advertisement is currently being run in journals and newsletters published by the organizations listed below: -

SEEKING INFORMATION ON INDIGENOUS FORESTRY RESEARCH DATA

Tane's Tree Trust has been granted funding from the Sustainable Farming Fund to create a database which will hold references to all research involving the growing of indigenous species. The Trust will be searching archival records held by Archives New Zealand, Forest Research, the Macmillan Brown Library and other institutions which may hold data.

We have anecdotal evidence which suggests that, at the dissolution of the Forest Service, many staff saved material which would otherwise have been lost and may still hold this. Alternatively, retired officers may still hold material that they were working on.

The Trust would like to hear from anyone who holds indigenous research data, or knows of others who do. We are interested in recording this information and discussing its future care and storage.

Please contact Ian Barton at <ibtrees@wc.net.nz>; telephone 09 239 2049 or write to P O Box 1169, PUKEKOHE 1800

Journal of the Ecological Society
New Zealand Forest Bulletin
The NZ Tree Grower
Journal of Forestry
Journal of Forestry Science
Indigena
Growing Today
RM Update
New Zealand Woman's Weekly
New Zealand Journal of Botany

If anyone has suggestions about where else we might advertise please let me know.

TYPE OF INFORMATION SOUGHT

PROPOSED SEARCH AREAS FOR FORESTRY ARCHIVES PROJECT.

INCLUDE ANY REFERENCES ABOUT INDIGENOUS TREES IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS.

	NOTES
Establishment of native trees	Includes site preparation, planting, releasing, fertilizing etc
Site selection	Determination of best sites for different species and minimum sites they will tolerate
Regeneration	Includes induction of regeneration and management of existing regeneration
Silviculture and management of young stands	Up to approximately 150 years old. Both natural and planted stands
Growth	Growth rates of different species, especially planted stands but include natural regeneration where appropriate
Forest ecology	Where applicable to the management of planted or natural stands
Harvesting second growth or planted forest	Selection management of exotics could be relevant.
Injurious agents	Details of attack by insect, fungi or animal -especially with reference to planted stands
Climate data relevant to native trees	Would mainly relate to planted trees but data from natural stands could also be useful
Soil data relevant to native trees.	Would mainly relate to planted trees but data from natural stands could also be useful
Seed collection and storage	
Nursery practice	Methods of raising plants including from seed, cuttings, tissue culture: open rooted, containers
Genetics	Any preliminary genetic/ provenance work that has been undertaken.
Plant physiology	Studies on NZ natives

REFERENCES TO THE FOLLOWING TO BE INCLUDED IF APPEAR TO BE RELEVANT

1	Harvesting	For example selection (Continuous Cover) harvesting would be important but clear felling would not. Harvesting younger stands or smaller trees would be more important than mature trees.
2	Silviculture of mature (large) trees	Much of the early work by Forest Service was confined to mature stands. Unless trial results can be applied to immature stands it is probably not relevant.
3	Timber attributes and quality	With the exception of a few natives (eg puriri) we have quite good wood data on natives. It would be important to record any references which deal with second growth, planted or immature timber
4	History	Purely historical data would probably be worth noting. Material which contains some historical data should only be recorded if it deals with planting natives or managing immature stands. For example IB's current study on Rudolph Hohneck and his methods of kauri management would be very useful.
5	Personalities	Papers of Forest Service and other people who have undertaken indigenous research. Their own data or data about them may yield useful information.
6	General forest ecology	That might have some peripheral application to the management of forest trees