



Newsletter No 6 November 2004

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EDITORIAL

This editorial has been written by Murray McAlonan, a member of our management committee and recently retired from his job as Assistant Director General, Group Manager, Forest Management at MAF. Prior to that he worked for NZ Forest Products and Carter Holt Harvey for 30 years where he became Regional Forest Manager, Kinleith Region.

Two Fridays ago I drove back to the Coromandel peninsular from a meeting in Hamilton of the Tane's Tree Trust Management Committee. As I drove through the Waikato and on into the Thames Valley I couldn't help admiring, as I always do this wonderful farmland with its gently rolling, folding landscape and meandering streams. I started thinking how complementary and enhancing would be a mosaic of indigenous trees and other indigenous vegetation scattered through this rich pastoral countryside and following the winding pathways of the streams and rivers, shading the water and protecting it physically from erosion and chemical run off.

I crossed the Waihou at Kopu just ahead of the traffic build-up for Labour Weekend. To travel to the Eastern side of the peninsular and up to Kuaotunu there is choice: I can go the Kopu-Hikuai route through the massive valleys with the big scenery, then through Tairua and on to Whitianga; I can drive up the coast road through remnant Pohutukawa forest to Tapu and then through the hills to Coroglen on the gravel road where, as I pass the Tapu school, I note that the Pohutukawa tree planted in the school grounds to commemorate the launch of "Project Crimson" is thriving; I can press on past Tapu, through further remnant Pohutukawa forest, to the outskirts of Coromandel township and over the recently sealed road to Te Rerenga; or, when the mood takes me, I can turn off a short distance before Coromandel township on to another gravel road that winds its way over the range to come out close to Whitianga on the main road from Tairua – the famous "309".

Whichever route I choose to take I will see and drive through both indigenous and planted pine forest. There seems to be a balance of sorts and, given my work history, it's a balance I am not uncomfortable with. But it is in the indigenous forest sections of these routes I will see Tane's triumph – Kauri! Clearly not as prolific as in the past but enough still in these hills for one to notice some modestly large spreading heads in the distance; or the conical crowns of thrusting adolescents; or the unique ripple barked, grey boles near the road. There are easy places to stop and admire the likes of "Twin Kauri" and "Square Kauri". To admire other specimens will often require a little more effort – walking.

There is a group based in Kuaotunu that is determined that we see more Kauri in our landscapes. The "Kauri 2000 Trust" was formed to celebrate the New Millennium by planting Kauri seedlings as part of its vision to restore Kauri forest in the Coromandel peninsular. With good reason a single species based vision, but a vision very consistent and compatible with the vision of Tane's Tree Trust. I should get to know these people.

"Project Crimson", now focussed on Rata as well as Pohutukawa, is a trust established as a New Zealand sesquicentenary project with a vision to save Pohutukawa. Another very worthwhile vision compatible with that of Tane's Tree Trust. I am, and will remain, a supporter of Tane's Tree

Trust because its objectives have balance and practical vision for a mix of values including future sustainable harvest.

On this trip I chose Kopu-Hikuai because I needed to stop in Whitianga on the way home, and I enjoyed again the indigenous and the exotic forest landscapes as well as the agricultural and horticultural landscapes. A very large part of my forestry career was in plantation forestry and the associated industry. I regard the industry (as I do the agricultural sector) a vital contributor to New Zealand's economic wellbeing and a significant contributor to environmental, social and (for some) recreational values. Some have said that I have Radiata in my veins.

Working in more recent years in MAF with the Indigenous Forestry Unit gave me a lot of satisfaction. The concept of responsible and sustainable ecologically based management of indigenous species sits very comfortably. Managing existing natural forest which is not in the conservation estate and planting indigenous species for ecological, landscape and recreation values and for a long term sustainable supply of our beautiful indigenous timbers has a logic that cannot be denied. While the plantation based industry will inevitably supply the majority of our wood product needs, the special character and beauty of our native timbers means they will always be in demand.

During the course of Labour Weekend I walked with a small group of people through an indigenous forest area. Two of the group are farmers, each in different parts of the "Waikato". One of them, John, has farms on rolling land very similar to that I drove through going back to the Coromandel. For some time now he has been fencing off streams and planting indigenous species alongside the streams. His attitude is that the dairy industry will have to adopt these practices or, ultimately, not be "allowed" to continue to use the land. He sees the need, as do Fonterra and MAF. My thoughts of Friday afternoon came back – the balance between pasture and trees. Opportunity for Tane's Tree Trust to promote and educate? The other, Barry has an interest in the forest we were walking in. He wanted us to see a grove of Kauri and he also pointed out the more mature head of an older Kauri up the valley from our vantage point. He also has an interest in an adjacent pine forest area but in his balance Kauri is King. David Bergin and Greg Stewart essentially acknowledge this in the latest Forest Research New Zealand Indigenous Tree Bulletin titled "KAURI" where they state that "Kauri has long been regarded as the Lord of the Forest, inspiring the respect of all New Zealanders". Another opportunity for Tane's Tree Trust – involvement with this bulletin and its high educative value. I hope you enjoy reading it as much as I have.

In the very immediate future my balance will include setting a couple of traps for the possums that have their eyes on the now swelling buds of local Pohutukawa.

Murray McAlonan

TRUST ACTIVITIES (June to November 2004)

Website:

Mike Dodd has now got the website operating very effectively. He has set up the discussion site where members can post messages, queries etc. So far this is not being used. You are urged to have a look at the site and submit comments and queries for discussion. Because members of the network group are dispersed over the whole country, this is one way that we can keep in contact and learn from each other. Copies of past newsletters are posted as soon as the next one comes out and details of workshops to be run with the support of the Sustainable Farming Fund will be posed as soon as they are confirmed. **Keep checking www.tanestrees.org.nz**

Donations:

During the 2003/04 year donations were received from the following network members: -

C Barnard	R Bieleski	N & B J A Bryant	L Burdett
P Carr	T Cumberland & C Pountney		A Edgar
T & M Fraser	H Gordon	B McClure	H McCormack
A McPherson	J & B Mortimer	H Phibbs	J Purey-Cust

C Quin
D White

N Reid
A Williams

K Skoropada

K Weytmans

Renewal of Subscriptions:

Subscription notices for the 2004/05 year were sent out in May with the last newsletter. There are still a few members who have not renewed. If you are one of these there will be reminder slip enclosed with this newsletter and you will not have received your copy of "Kauri" (see review below). Subscription renewal will secure your copy. However this will be the last communication you receive from the Trust should you not renew before the end of the financial year (31 March 05)

Funding:

We are happy to report considerable success with our applications to the Sustainable Farming Fund (see Newsletter 5). They are prepared to fund three of the four applications and, as they have expressed some interest in the fourth one, we will try again for that in the next round. Our successful bids are currently being amalgamated into one project for ease of administration. They will cover the running of 18 workshops over the next three years, the searching of archives and the creation of a database which will contain records of early indigenous research done by the Forest Service and others and the preparation and publication of a manual on Continuous Cover Forestry. For all of this work the Sustainable Farming Fund is providing \$150 000 over the next three years. For our part we have to provide some \$51 500 from a range of sources plus \$73 750 of "In kind" contributions.

The Trust has employed Kirsten Crawford, of Coastline Consultants Ltd, to help locate possible funding partners. She has already produced a very useful document listing all possible funders for the type of work we wish to undertake. Several applications have now been made and more are in the pipeline. Already we have received a donation of stamped envelopes from Community Post sufficient to do one mailout to our network group.

Sustainable Farming Fund: ###could we put their logo here -copy attached###

Our earlier project "*Opportunities for Native Trees on Farms*" is well underway and Mike Dodd is now busy planning the last stages, which includes the production of database and a Trust publication on the subject which will be launched at workshops in Northland and Waikato in late 2005 / early 2006

Work has just begun on the new projects, outlined above. A successful workshop has already been held at Kaukapakapa in conjunction with Lower North Farm Forestry. Another of these is planned for Hawkes Bay and there will be three in the Lower South Island next May and during the three years we hope to cover the whole of New Zealand. If you are interested in having a workshop in your area please get in touch with Ian Barton.

The project for which we will apply again in the next round is "*Interactive information database system for establishment and management of native timber plantations*" This is a system to record all native tree plantings on the database system run by Forest Research. In preparation for this we are already asking those who are involved with planting natives to make contact with the Trust. David Bergin, who will run this project, is keen to build up a preliminary list of what is available around the country.

Membership:

Membership continues to increase and has now reached 151, of which 17 are corporate members. A handsome certificate, designed by Teresa McConchie, has been presented to all of our corporate members. Unfortunately our membership numbers have only

increased minutely over the last six months. It is hoped that the new round of workshops will help change this but if existing members know of others who might be interested in joining please encourage them to do so. The Trust brochure is available to anyone who would like copies to distribute.

Trustees:

The Trustees remain the same as last year (see brochure for details). However from 2005 one third of the Trustees will have to resign each year, although they are eligible for re-appointment. Those to stand down next year are Warwick Silvester, Mark Dean and Peter Berg. The process for appointing new Trustees will be outlined in the next newsletter (May 2005).

Strategic Plan:

The Strategic Plan for April 2004 to March 2007 was presented to the A.G.M and accepted by that meeting. It is not intended to publish this but any network member who wishes may request a paper or electronic copy from the Trust. Over the three year period the Trust has set 19 key performance targets to achieve. At October 2004 16% have already been achieved and a further 21% are underway.

KYOTO AND THE FUTURE FORESTS PROGRAMME

Last May the Minister, Pete Hodgson, announced the opportunity for landowners to gain financially from internationally tradeable carbon credits by re-establishing permanent forests. As a further incentive, owners will be able to harvest timber from their forests, but only after 35 years and on a continuous canopy basis.

We have been told that the Indigenous Forests Unit of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry will administer the programme and that further information on the project will be announced when they have formulated their policy. Despite the fact that the Trust has offered to assist in the process, there have been no further announcements to date.

A.G.M JUNE 26 2004

The A.G.M was held at the Naturally Native nursery with 23 members in attendance. Following the meeting we were shown around the nursery and then visited Maurice and Pam Sutton's kauri plantation at Te Puna and Te Puna Quarry Park.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT April 2003 to March 2004-06-19

Trustees:

I would like to thank my fellow Trustees and the three other members of the Management Committee for their efforts over the past year. We are all busy people and at times have struggled to meet deadlines –most of the time we have succeeded.

The list of Trustees and Management Committee has not changed since June 2003. (See list in Chairman's Report attached to minutes of that meeting)

Membership:

Membership of the Trust network has increased from 95 at March 2003 to 127 at March this year. While most are individual or family members there are 15 corporate members including 6 Regional and District Councils. All corporate members were given a certificate of membership during the year.

Trust Deed:

After protracted efforts the Trust has finally been granted charitable status by the Inland Revenue Department. Unfortunately we have had to pay income tax for the period prior to receiving charitable status.

Brochure:

During the year a publicity brochure was designed and printed and has now been circulated widely. It has been helpful in recruiting new members. Feedback and comment on the brochure from network members

would be appreciated prior to the printing of a new edition that will probably be needed sometime during the coming year.

Strategic Plan:

Last October we held a special meeting to review our strategy and discuss future funding options. With the latter we were considerably helped by Daphne Bell of Trust Waikato. The management committee has endeavoured to review the plan at least quarterly and an updated plan to cover the three years to March 2007 was endorsed by the committee at its May meeting. Of the 29 performance targets in the plan up to March this year we completed 11, had a further 10 underway, 7 stalled and 1 not started.

Website:

After being stalled over the last year due to lack of time, the website is now up and running. Thanks to Warwick Silvester for all of the initial work. We are very grateful that Mike Dodd has agreed to be the webmaster and moderator.

Newsletter:

Publication of the newsletter continues to be twice yearly and more or less on time. I would like to thank all those who have contributed material and assistance, especially Greg Steward and Forest Research who take care of the layout and printing. I would like to see more contributions from network members. Anything that you can write up about your activities can be of help to others –so please give it some thought.

Sustainable Farming Fund:

Last year we were successful in obtaining a grant for Mike Dodd to run a programme entitled “Opportunities for Native Trees on Farms”. We applied for four more grants at the end of 2003 and were greatly encouraged to get all four through to the second round. A fair bit of effort was then required to prepare the further information required by MAF and get submissions in by early May.

Other Funding:

Mike Dodd was successful in getting a grant of \$2000 from Trust Power for his “Trees on Farms” project, for which we are most grateful, but other sources have been hard to locate. At a meeting earlier this year we decided to engage Kirsten Crawford to work on funding.

Publications:

During the year we were pleased to see the first of Forest Research’s new indigenous publications. This was David Bergin’s work on totara and copies were sent to all financial members of the Network. Greg Steward and myself also prepared what we hope is the first of many bulletins to be put out by the Trust. This will appear in the covers that we have designed to be used on all publications.

Workshops:

Last year, two workshops on RMA and taxation issues were held in Hamilton and Wellington. They were quite successful and produced a large amount of material. Unfortunately pressure of work is holding up the publication of the proceedings and the recommendations to government which will follow.

The unaudited Financial Performance and Balance Sheet for 2003 / 04 are attached to this newsletter.

TIMBER TREES OF THE FUTURE

PURIRI (*Vitex lucens*)

-by Ian Barton

HISTORY

Puriri was widely used by Maori in pre-European times. The wood made weapons and implements and the leaves a decoction used for bathing sprains, backache and ulcers or drunk for sore throats. One of the chemical constituents of the leaves is the methyl ester of p-hydroxybenzoic acid, which has been patented as a germicide. A member of the same genus as puriri, *Vitex agnus-castus*, was used medicinally by both the Greeks and Romans.

Puriri timber has not been widely used by Europeans because the species is usually found as scattered often poorly formed trees not suitable for milling. Its relative scarcity may be due to it normally growing best on high quality, often volcanic soils. These would

have been among the first areas cleared for farming by both Maori and European. European uses are however quite variable ranging from structural timbers such as piles, sleepers and bridges to decorative furniture and wood-turning. It is reputedly the best fence post timber in New Zealand

DISTRIBUTION

Vitex is a wide spread tropical and subtropical genus, mainly occurring from India, through the East Indies to New Zealand. The Family, Verbenaceae, contains other important economic species including teak (*Tectona grandis*). Puriri is a coastal and lowland tree, found from the far north to about latitude 39° 30' –Opunaki on the west coast and Mahia Peninsula on the east. It is common on volcanic and similar soils and more scattered elsewhere. Puriri is the only member of the genus *Vitex* in New Zealand.

TREE SIZE and GROWTH

Allan states that puriri grows to a height of 20 metres and a diameter of 1.5 metres. However some of the largest trees are much larger with several growing to diameters over 2 metres and one in New Plymouth reaching a height of 29 metres. The largest recorded timber volume is found in another New Plymouth tree, which has a clean trunk height of 11 metres. Its volume is about 9 m³. Data on the growth of planted puriri is available from several sites. Height growth on good sites ranges from 0.5 to 1.0 metres and is initially quite rapid, reaching 15 metres in about 30 years. Thereafter the rate slows –taking another 30 years to reach 20 metres. Diameter growth is more consistent, averaging close to 1 cm M.A.I, which means that a tree is capable of reaching 50 cm d.b.h in 50 years. Its form responds well to growing beneath a tall nurse crop and with good management it is anticipated that harvestable trees could be grown in as little as 40 years.

TIMBER

Surprisingly the strength and durability characteristics of puriri have never been fully determined. The timber density at 15% moisture content averages 1105 kg/ m³ (range 993 – 1217 m³). This makes it the densest New Zealand timber except for Southern Rata (1140 m³). It is also very durable; posts are still sound after 20 to 30 years. It is reported to be difficult to work because of its interlaced fibres.

INSECT DAMAGE

Puriri's greatest problem is that it is very prone to attack by the puriri moth (*Aenetus virescens*) which drills a "7" shaped tunnel, about 140 mm long and 18 mm diameter into the trunk. They appear to attack the trees up to about 30 cm d.b.h and severely damaged trees are unusable except for low grade structural work. The puriri moth also damages a wide range of other native and exotic species although beech and puriri appear to be the only native timber species attacked. As the puriri moth is not present in the South Island it may be possible to grow puriri on suitable sites there. Geoff Wightman of Kaikohe stated, at a Northland workshop in November 2002, that there may be several types of puriri, one of which appears to be resistant to puriri moth.

POTENTIAL

It has several characteristics which render it a very useful species. It is durable, dense and strong; thus having potential as a structural and below ground timber. It is an attractive wood with considerable potential for furniture and decorative purposes. Although frost tender as a seedling it is one of the faster growing indigenous hardwoods. The drawback to its use is that which has inhibited its potential until now – attack by puriri moth.

RESEARCH REQUIREMENTS

The species needs a great deal more research. Fortunately Greg Steward of Forest Research is undertaking some work although more funding is needed to increase this

activity. Of greatest importance, and requiring immediate attention, is to test the opinion that states some strains of puriri may be resistant to puriri moth or have other values. Analysis of the timber to determine its strength and durability characteristics is also needed.

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NOTICES

WORKSHOP

There will be a one day Sustainable Farming Fund workshop in Napier on Wednesday 1 December 2004.

Venue: War Memorial Conference Centre. Marine Parade

Start: 8.50 am. Finish 5 pm

There will be a series of presentations on various native species and allied topics and a field trip to the Holt Reserve at Waikoau in the afternoon.

Booking: Contact Gretta Carney at 06 8395 829 or e.mail gretta@paradise.net.nz

NB Members of Tane's Tree Trust in the East Coast area should also receive a personal invitation to attend.

FUTURE WORKSHOPS

Our funding from the Sustainable Farming Fund will allow us to run about 18 workshops around New Zealand over the next three years. Planning has begun for three, in Southland, South and Central Canterbury –probably in May 2005. If you are interested in having a workshop in your area please contact the Chairman.

Ian Barton 09 2924 825 or e.mail ibtrees@ihug.co.nz

ARCHIVES

With other S.F.F funding it is intended to search for indigenous forest trial data around New Zealand. If you know of the whereabouts of any information which could be of interest please contact Ian Barton as above.

PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE

The following are available from Ian Barton

Back numbers of Newsletters 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5	\$1.00 ea
Proceedings of the launch of Tane's Tree Trust (first copy free)	\$6.00
Trees, Timber and Tranquillity Lindsay Poole's autobiographical book	\$20.00
Tane's Tree Trust brochures (free copies to pass to others)	No charge
Totara: Establishment, growth and Management by David Bergin (first copy free to members)	\$10.00
Kauri: Ecology, establishment, growth and management by David Bergin and Greg Steward (first copy free to members)	\$15.00
Indigenous Forestry: Sustainable Management. MoF & NZFFA (212p)	\$25.00
Performance and tree health of a six year old planted kauri stand in the Bay of Plenty by Greg Steward & Ian Barton (first copy free to members)	
Tane Tree Trust Bulletin No. 1	\$3.00

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Website www.tanestrees.org.nz

Printed by Forest Research

Editor: Ian Barton
105 Cowan Road
Hunua
R D 3, PAPA KURA
ibtrees@ihug.co.nz

Private Bag 3020
ROTORUA

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