

## The Taratahi Project

(Continued)

For more information about the Taratahi Totara & Riparian management Project, please contact the Project Coordinator:

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## Jolendale Park Highlighted on Television One 'Good Sorts' slot

On Sunday 15 February 2015, on Television One 'good sorts' slot, the Manning families 55 year commitment to the creation of Jolendale Park was highlighted. We understand that this initiative was taken by the Otago Regional Council who recently presented Jolyon and Enny Manning with a rather unique lifetime environmental award. It has been a long journey: occupational therapy, a contribution to the neighbourhood, and a source of much personal satisfaction. We hope some members were able to watch this and congratulate Jolyon and Enny on their amazing gift.

Please check out Jolendale Park's website [www.jolendale.com](http://www.jolendale.com) for more information on the amazing work undertaken.



Jolyon Manning. Photo by John Johns

## NEWSWORTHY:

### The Northland Totara opportunity – A 70 million dollar industry?

The Ministry for Primary Industries has just published the *Tai Tokerau Northland Growth Study – opportunities report, February 2015*. Potential for the development of an indigenous wood products industry, based on the management and use of totara timber stands is included on pages 50-51 of the report. This can be viewed on the website of the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment ([www.mbie.govt.nz](http://www.mbie.govt.nz)) Or check out the link below:

<http://www.med.govt.nz/sectors-industries/regions-cities/research/regional-growth-studies/tai-tokerau-northland-regional-growth-study-opportunities-report>

## DONATIONS and BEQUESTS

**Donations:** A note from the treasurer:

All members should be aware that all donations, but not subscriptions, are eligible for a 33.33% tax rebate on your income tax. We will be able to send you a certificate of donation for you to submit to IRD with your tax return.

Please remember us in your bequests.

**SUBSCRIPTIONS:** Please contact Mel in the office, [office@tanestrees.org.nz](mailto:office@tanestrees.org.nz) if you are unsure if your membership is up to date. Outstanding memberships will have invoices sent this week. Any memberships unpaid for the 2014/15 year will be removed from our database.



# Tāne's Tree Trust Newsletter

Native trees for the Future

February 2015

Newsletter No. 35 ISSN No 1176-1245

## Northland Totara Field Day

By Mark Hollis, Ministry for Primary Industries

On 28 November Tāne's Tree Trust and the Northland Totara Working Group held a field day to bring key stakeholders together and stimulate discussion on how to develop an industry based on the sustainable management and commercial use of the farm grown totara resource.



Figure 1. David Bergin explaining a thinning trial on Paul Quinlan's property

The field day was well attended and included land-owners, trust members, representatives from MPI, local authorities, research providers Scion, Northland Inc. and the Tindall Foundation.

The field day gave an opportunity to view typical examples of regenerating totara found on farms throughout Northland.

Highlighted was the huge diversity of the resource, its scale and its potential for management.

First stop was Paul Quinlan's property near Kaeo.

Paul has a registered Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) plan for an area that is typical of regenerating scrub found on many farms in the region. Silvicultural trials demonstrate impressive increases in growth rate in response to thinning, and pruning has improved tree form for potential timber recovery.

Next stop was John McGee's property, also near Kaeo, where mature farm-totara had already been harvested and sold under a SFM permit.



Discussion at the McGee property focussed on the characteristics and size of the totara resource in Northland. It was acknowledged that while a significant mature resource exists, log quality is highly variable. However, there is also a significant emergent, immature resource that with good silvicultural management could become more consistent.

After lunch Chris Kennedy's sawmill in Kerikeri was visited where samples of sawn totara were on display. This triggered discussion into the characteristics unique to farm grown totara. It was acknowledged that while farm grown (second-growth) totara does not have the same natural durability as old-growth heart totara, it appears to have some durability and has many of the same timber characteristics.

The day concluded with a visit to Chris's office where he is in the process of replacing the existing fibrolite weatherboards with farm-grown totara cladding sourced from a SFM permit north of Whangarei. The joinery and front door area also made from the farm-totara. It was an impressive practical demonstration of a potential market for regenerating totara.

Overall the day clearly demonstrated exciting potential for a regional totara industry to be created.



Figure 2. Chris Kennedy's office in Kerikeri cladded with totara weatherboards & totara joinery.

Photos: Courtesy of Mark Hollis

## Early notice of AGM and Field trip, August 2015

The next Tane's Tree Trust AGM and field trip will be held at the property of Jaap and Sue van Dorsser in Ngongotaha, near Rotorua. Jaap and Sue along with others in the local community have spent over 3 decades transforming one of the major streams of Lake Rotorua, the Awahou, from weeds to natives. This has involved large scale clearing of stream sides, terraces and wetlands dominated by dense blackberry including willow, pines and other exotics and planting a diverse range of native wetland, shrub and tree species. Substantial areas of shrubland now thrive along the stream including examples of inter-planted key native conifer timber species – totara, rimu, matai, miro and kahikatea.

Jaap and Sue will also provide insights into the importance of using high quality native trees and shrubs in planting programmes, and in particular, the advantages of using open ground or bare root planting stock. They will also stress the importance of thorough site preparation and the need for timely and regular weed control after planting, all essential ingredients to successful establishment of natives.

**Date: 22nd August 2015.**

More information will be provided in the next TTT newsletter.

Contact the TTT office for further information, [office@tanestrees.org.nz](mailto:office@tanestrees.org.nz) or 0279007853.

■ **RIGHT: Restoration of Awahou Stream, one of the major waterways of Lake Rotorua. Site preparation has involved clearance of dense exotics including blackberry, willows and pines (above) before planting a diverse range of native shrubs and trees (below).**



## Totara and Dairy-farming:

# The Taratahi Totara & Riparian Management Project

by David Mules

*This project is located on Ian and Helen Hilford's dairy farm in the Mangakahia Valley near Titoki. The dairy operation is managed by Taratahi Agricultural Training Centre as a training dairy farm for young people, many of whom will become Northland's dairy farmers of the future.*

*The upper gully catchments of this farm contain some wetlands and small streams, and are dominated by naturally regenerating totara.*

*Tāne's Tree Trust (and specifically the Northland Totara Working Group) is coordinating this project, in conjunction with the landholders and Taratahi, and with funding support from Reconnecting Northland (<http://reconnectingnorthland.org.nz/>).*

It will involve the fencing off of 5.9ha of an upper catchment and augmenting the existing regenerating vegetation with additional native plantings – all with an eye towards ecological, economic, social and cultural benefits.

The biodiversity gains resulting from increased native vegetation cover and water quality improvement will be monitored by the project.

The silvicultural management of the totara – including pruning, thinning, planting, and measuring, all integrated within the working landscape of a pastoral farm setting – will help demonstrate the potential for a sustainable native timber resource on this and many other farms throughout the Northland region, creating an industry which will ultimately enhance farm profitability as well as native biodiversity values.

It is anticipated that the project will provide the Taratahi students, as well as visiting landowners and farm managers, with insights and skills into land management practices that complement their dairy industry training.

A water-quality monitoring programme for biological stream health has commenced and the first fencing and planting is scheduled for this autumn/winter. Also totara management and biodiversity trial sites will be set up and complemented by the preparation of a Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) Plan. When approved by the Ministry for Primary Industries, the SFM Plan will secure the right to sustainable timber harvests in the future.

This project is about options to integrate native forests into working farms for multiple benefits, including riparian management and timber production. It commenced in October 2014 and will run to December 2017. ►



Existing naturally regenerated totara in the gully catchment of this farm will be fenced for environmental and ecological improvements, but that will not preclude sustainable timber production.

Photo: Michael Bergin