



## *Gordon Stephenson*

Our patron has died.

Gordon Stephenson 1924-2015

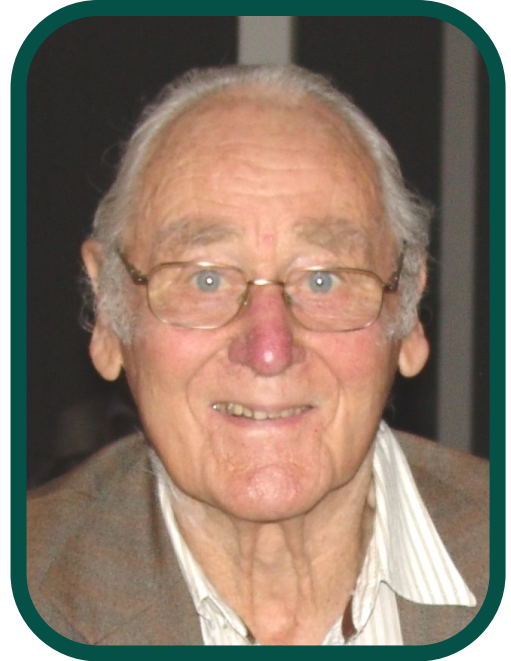
Gordon was part of Tāne's Tree Trust since the very beginning. He was part of the committee that initiated and ran the "Native Trees for the Future" conference in 1999 and has been our patron for the last twelve years. He maintained a very positive interest in the trust activities and was an inspiration to us all in many ways.

Gordon's contribution to environmental management in New Zealand is without peer. Ever since he and his wife Celia arrived here from Britain and took up farming at Waotu they have advocated for conservation within wise land management. This led directly to the formation of the Queen Elizabeth II National Trust Act in 1977, which now has thousands of members and has covenants over hundreds of thousands of hectares. Gordon's extraordinary leadership and negotiating skills led him into leadership roles in such diverse areas as Federated Farmers, Forest and Bird, Waikato Conservation Board, Maungatautari Ecological Island trust, South Island High Country Review Committee and many others. He initiated the Balance Farm Environment Awards in which environmental management becomes a major factor in pastoral farming.

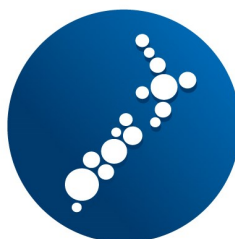
Gordon has received a number of awards. He, jointly with Celia, were awarded the Loder Cup in 1992. He was made Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit in 1998 and awarded an Honorary Doctorate in 2013 and was a Distinguished Life Member of Forest and Bird.

Through all this Gordon retained a humble down to earth practical persona that allowed him to communicate at all levels and above all to effectively mediate and connect with differing points of view. Gordon along with Celia transformed the way in which natural spaces have been valued on private land and his influence on conservation issues has been profound. We have been extremely fortunate to have had him as a guiding light within Tāne's Tree Trust. His example has been inspirational and his values live on in the many organisations that he touched.

Warwick Silvester



**THANK YOU  
TO OUR  
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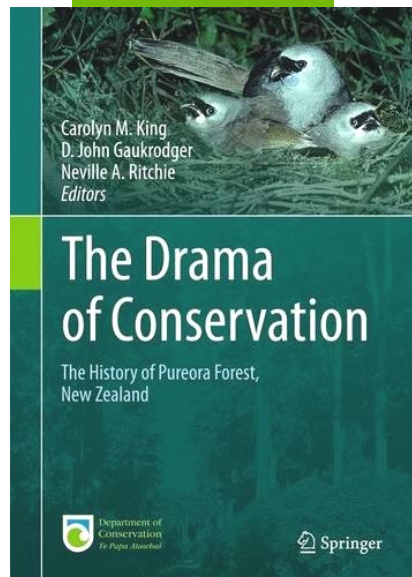


**Lottery Grants Board**



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# The Drama of Conservation, The History of Pureora Forest, New Zealand



A milestone in the history of nature publishing in New Zealand occurred in December with the launch of Kim King's book *The drama of conservation. The history of Pureora Forest, New Zealand* co-edited by John Gaukrodger and Neville Ritchie. The project began when Kim, an Associate-Professor of Biological Sciences at the University of Waikato, obtained lottery funding to compile the oral and written archive collated by the late Owen Wilkes on the history of Pureora, a unique place which occupies a pivotal place in the history of nature conservation in New Zealand. The nationwide battle of the 1970s over the future of our dwindling native forests came to a head with the tree-sitting confrontation with loggers at Pureora early in 1978, the government responding by cancelling the long-term contract with the local sawmill and creating a Forest Park with a strong conservation focus.

The lavishly illustrated and remarkably comprehensive 400-page book covers every scientific, environmental and social aspect of the park: the rich geological and biological heritage, the history of Maori and European exploration, changing patterns of forest management, life in the village, the effects of introduced pests on flora and fauna, and the new focus on recreation as exemplified by the recently opened Timber Trail cycleway.

In many ways, the story of Pureora Forest is the story of native forests and milling communities all over the country, of a colourful and now vanished era in this country's history. But Pureora, itself unique in so many ways, is unique because its story has been eloquently told in one succinct volume. It is a book to dip into time and again, fresh insights and discoveries awaiting the reader on every page.

If you wish to purchase this book, please see the flyer attached or:

1. By Electronic payment to TTT Tāne's Tree Trust Acc. 03-1355-0729129-03.  
Be sure to include your name and the word Pureora.  
At the same time email a message to Neville Ritchie [nritchie@doc.govt.nz](mailto:nritchie@doc.govt.nz) with your name and mailing address stating you have paid electronically. When payment is confirmed a copy will be mailed to you.
2. By cheque or cash, make cheques out to Tāne's Tree Trust and post to:  
**Nev Ritchie, Dept of Conservation, Private Bag 3072, Hamilton.**  
Be sure to include your mailing address.

The cost is \$59.95 + \$10.00 P&P.

## OUR FORESTS, OUR FUTURE PROJECT

As many of our members are well aware we have been working for some time on getting better evidence and demonstrations of the ability of native tree species to survive and grow well in planted stands. We have also looked at partnering with other groups and interests to bring this about and our work in Northland with the Northland Totara Working Group (NTWG) has been of particular interest in this respect as pure stands of regenerating totara of various ages has the ability to provide a head start in terms of investigating silvicultural management of a native tree species. Similar work has been underway for many years with beech in the South Island ... the work of John Wardle in Canterbury being particularly notable. Most recently, working with our partners and guided by the Tindall Foundation we have been able to develop a project which has a number of important key elements described in much greater detail in this Newsletter.

Towards the end of last year we were able to take the full project to The Tindall Foundation and in company with our partners request funding support. The very good news is that the support was forthcoming and significant work in each of the streams has commenced with funding of each of the work streams coming to Tāne's Tree Trust and being distributed to our partners as milestones are successfully achieved. This project has a life of a little over two years and a Governance Committee has been established for the project including an independent member who is very experienced with the Tindall Foundation's funding process. We are exceedingly grateful for the Tindall Foundation's foresight, understanding of and support for the project.

*Peter Berg, TTT Chairman.*

# OUR FORESTS, OUR FUTURE PROJECT

Tāne's Tree Trust's new project, 'Our Forests, Our Future' project aims to demonstrate the potential, both financially and operationally, of establishing and managing native forest for multiple purposes.

**We have 4 workstreams undertaking this work.**

## Work-stream 1 – Planted forests

This work-stream is the backbone to the "Our Forests Our Future" project. The aim is to design, trial, demonstrate, and promote the establishment of economically viable native forest plantations as a sustainable supply of high value specialty timber (eg. furniture, joinery...) into the future.

This work-stream proposes the establishment of a minimum of four forests (between 10 and 30ha), spread between both the North Island and the South Island. Demonstrating at scale cost-effective and viable methods for the establishment and management of native forestry for production and environmental purposes will provide landowners and the wider community with greater confidence to undertake further involvement in scaled-up long-term native forestry. This increased level of native planting activity will drive down costs of seedlings, drive up efficiencies and result in both economic and biodiversity gains including for those planting native trees specifically for conservation purposes. This increased scale of native tree planting will have a positive impact on the economic, cultural and environmental well-being of New Zealand.

### Objectives for this work-stream

The overall aim of this work-stream is to demonstrate large-scale establishment and management of two native production forests, establishing and using best practice. The objectives to achieve this are:

1. *Sites* – confirm and secure planting sites including agreements with landowners and collaborators;
2. *Implementation* – undertake planning and commence implementation of two planted demonstration native forests;
3. *Nursery* – provision of low-cost nursery-raised seedlings of native trees and shrubs;
4. *Research* – determine potential research opportunities for establishment and management of native forest;



Kanuka in a nursery ready to plant this year



Potential Canterbury planting site

Clayton Wallwork is managing this work-stream, [clayton@greenco.co.nz](mailto:clayton@greenco.co.nz)

## Work-stream 2 – Building on the Northland Totara Work



Is there potential for a regional industry based on the management of regenerating totara on farms in Northland?

Paul Quinlan is managing this totara work-stream.

Contact him for more information:

[pdq@pqla.co.nz](mailto:pdq@pqla.co.nz) or ph: (09) 405-0052

While a main focus of the Our Forests Our Future is on *planted* indigenous forests, one work-stream aims to support, and build on, the work of the Northland Totara Working Group and Tāne's Tree Trust, in developing the opportunities around managing regenerating totara in Northland.

Specifically, this will involve two main tasks. One, is developing a data base of interested landowners with totara resource and also other stakeholders such as, millers, wood processors, timber merchants, and manufacturers etc. This is expected to become an essential network to facilitate the collective management, research and marketing needs/interests of a future totara industry in the region.

Another part of the work plan is to extend the silvicultural trials across a range of totara forest types, to be more representative of the regional totara resource on private land. This will help refine management prescriptions and create a useful network of on-farm demonstration sites.

These actions are intended to complement other work by Scion and MPI, as part of a wider collaborative initiative to progress and develop the Northland totara opportunity.

## Work-stream 3 – Commercial Business Case

A business case is a formal analysis intended to convince decision makers to rationally approve a particular course of action. In this project the business case work-stream is intended to provide the foundation on which future significant longer-term investment in native forest establishment and utilisation will be based. Part of the work is therefore concerned, at least initially, with reasons why people want to plant natives - and in identifying the issues, challenges and problems that anyone proposing to plant native forests may wish to 'solve'. In turn this will help identify how native forests actually work to meet the various identified needs and lead on to the work helping identify the circumstances in which different values apply and help establish a defensible range to these benefits.

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## Work-stream 3 – Commercial Business Case cont.

The work should also help with identifying which of the various benefits claimed to arise from growing native species apply in different situations. For example, a high 'recreational' value may be perfectly justifiable for an open access forest established close to a signification centre of population. However, claiming or depending on such a benefit to justify establishing an indigenous forest may be a much less realistic proposition for a forest established in a remote location or for which access is highly restricted.

The material on values then has to be combined with realistic estimates of the costs associated with planting/establishing native forests of different scales. As well realistic estimates of the costs of their ongoing management need to be included and then the various strands need to be pulled together to identify the situations and circumstances in which there is realistic likelihood of a net benefit to be had from establishing native forests.

A Business Case is much more than a simple analysis of the 'economics' of wood production' – a fact recognised by \$70,000 being budgeted for the Business Case work over the next three years. This is a three-year project and the goal, and budget, for the first period of the project is a lot more modest. Initially the focus is to be very much on identifying key contacts and from discussions with these drafting a matrix of the key drivers for people currently making decisions about establishing new native forests. There is also going to be some work reviewing existing 'calculators' – small computer based analyses where the user is required to input his/her basic proposed project data in a systematic way and the calculator then combines and uses this material along with a growth model, market data etc., to calculate the profitability of the proposed investment - to assess the possible relevancy of existing calculators to this project. One of the critical elements in this assessment, in the light of the work on identifying key drivers for those considering planting natives, is what other than wood productions is included in these calculators and/or the potential to modify an existing 'calculator' to make it more applicable to this project.

As part of this work I would be interested in hearing from any Tāne's Tree Trust member who has already established an area of native trees and learning of the factors that were important to them in making the decision to plant. I would also be interested in hearing from anyone who had used a calculator as part of their decision making process and of what they found good (or not so good) with this process. Anyone willing to share their experience as part of this project can contact me through Tāne's Tree Trust or directly at [No.1horgan@gmail.com](mailto:No.1horgan@gmail.com).

Gerard Horgan

## Work-stream 4 – Non-timber Values

The forest environment offers a wide range of values or benefits unrelated to timber production such as: the habitat created for other species; improved air and water quality; businesses that use space in the forest; employment; supporting local tikanga and iwi initiatives; as well as space for educational and recreational facilities like walking and biking tracks.

The non-timber values work stream of the project aims to identify and maximise the range of benefits the forest environment can offer by integrating these values into each stage of the project, from site selection, through spatial planning, planting and ongoing management.

In the first stages of the project we will be working with key stakeholders in each region to identify existing non-timber values and opportunities to integrate additional values at the possible sites.

**Key outcomes of the non-timber values work stream are to:**

- Maximise the non-commercial potential of each site and integrate these activities with other primary objectives at each site;
- Involve the wider community at each project site;
- Provide appropriate protection of significant ecosystems and landscapes;
- Raise the awareness of sustainable use and management of planted native tree species.

Kirsten Crawford is managing this work-stream, [kirsten@coastline.co.nz](mailto:kirsten@coastline.co.nz)

Image from a primary school group identifying the things that are important to them about a forest.  
Credit: Coastline Consultants



## 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.