



## Reporting on two years of the project **Our Forests Our Future**

The final copy of our OFOF report, funded by The Tindall Foundation, was presented to the Foundation in April and contains over two years of dedicated work by a team of committed Tāne's Tree Trust staff. It is very appropriate that David Bergin features on the cover. His dedication to this project across all the workstreams, and his outstanding work on tōtara have driven and underpinned the whole venture. Along with David, the other major players, Paul Quinlan, Clayton Wallwork, Jacqui Aimers and Gerard Horgan have produced a comprehensive report on Phase Two of a project that provides a basis for the future for native tree forestry in New Zealand.

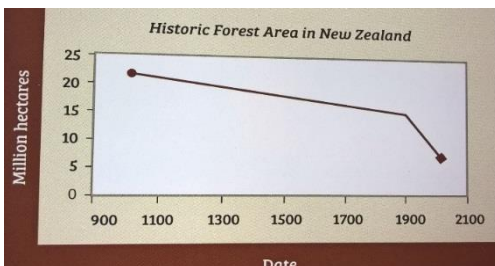
The complete report can be found on our website and we warmly invite you to see what an outstanding prescription for the future it envisages.

[http://www.tanestrees.org.nz/site/assets/files/1099/phase\\_2\\_report\\_ttt.pdf](http://www.tanestrees.org.nz/site/assets/files/1099/phase_2_report_ttt.pdf)

This newsletter summarises and highlights the major findings of the project while we await a response from The Tindall Foundation to the report and to our application for Phase Three.

The report starts by looking at the challenge of *Healing the Land* followed by the vision subtitled **Our Forests Our Future** "Transforming our working lands - the multiple benefits of native forestry".

The wish to relook at the need for advocating for native forestry is underscored by the graph and further amplified by NZ's woeful carbon balance.



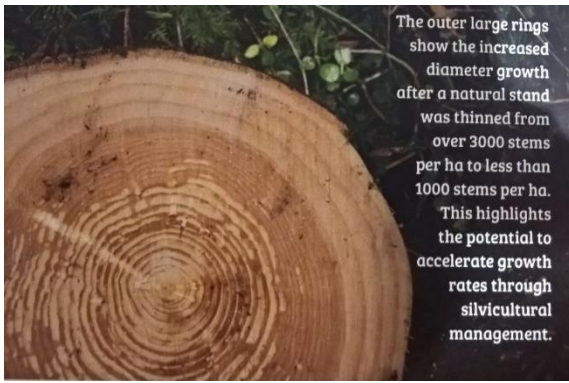
The report, which covers Phase Two of a planned three phase programme was divided into four workstreams:

1. Planning for establishment of at least six demonstration planted native forests on sites throughout New Zealand
2. Planning for sustainable management of Northland tōtara
3. Establishing a business case for indigenous forestry
4. An analysis of the non-timber values of native forests.

1. **Demonstration Planted Native Forests.** This project, led by Clayton Wallwork, was set a task to identify and start planning for at least six demonstration native forest areas. This has involved identifying as many as 15 sites and then refining the information and working along with local providers to establish viability and design parameters for each site. Nine sites were evaluated, and six sites have been confirmed where project partners have committed resources and initiated work on some of the sites. The sites are spread from Christchurch to Northland. An important aspect of this work was to establish contact with the nursery industry to discuss gearing up to supply planting stock for this and other projects.







2. **Sustainable Management of Northland Tōtara.** Led by Paul Quinlan, who concludes *"we believe that we are at the cusp of facilitating a Northland tōtara timber industry, based on sustainable management of the existing farm-tōtara resource that has regenerated on private land"*. The possibility of managing tōtara on private land has been the vision of Paul and David for many years. There is over 100,000 hectares of tōtara-rich scrub and forest on reverting farm land. The photo confirms the finding that sustainable management of the resource could bring about significant increases in productivity of this resource.

3. **The business case for management of native tree forestry.** Gerard Horgan who led this part of the project concludes *"The results indicate that investing in planting native trees for timber production alone, using current technology and generally accepted discount rates, is not an economically viable strategy"*. The report stresses that we need more than timber values and makes a strong case for a more rigorous analysis on the so-called non-timber values including heritage and landscape values. This led us into workstream four which analyses the enormous range of these values. Gerard concludes, *"With the estimate of one million hectares of marginal pastoral hill country that would benefit from afforestation, helping nature achieve a permanent native forest cover is not only more practical, but also makes more economic sense"*.

4. **Non-timber values (NTV).** Jacqui Aimers tackled this complex, and not well documented, issue. There are a myriad of non-timber values (otherwise termed ecosystem services) that forest provides. From the obvious issues of water retention, carbon sequestration and land stability, to the less well acknowledged of landscape, recreation and very importantly of honey production. The report provides a short summary of native forest non-timber values and this is only a portion of the large and well documented full paper which will be available on our website. Jacqui concludes, *"Native forests managed for NTV alone or managed under continuous cover regimes are likely to have the highest aggregated NTV. In many cases this is likely to exceed timber values"*.

## THE VIEW FROM ABOVE

I bought my first camera in 1973 when I was 13 and used to work at the local dairy stacking shelves every day after school to finance my film habit. Over the next 30+ years I owned many different SLRs, taking photos of holidays, events, handshake moments for the in-house magazine where I worked, weddings for friends etc. Often, as the only person at an event with a camera, I felt obliged to be the record keeper. Then in 2008 I broke my digital SLR and as a recently indebted farmer, couldn't afford to replace it. So I bought a cheap camcorder instead, and played around with that off and on - taking music tracks and overlaying them with images. But the image quality was always poor and the cheap consumer-level editing software was glitchy.



So when the trustees decided short videos might be a useful way of getting information out to our members and the public, I offered to give it a go. Not only could I justify upgrading my gear and getting a drone, but the subject of forests and forestry is expansive and endlessly fascinating. In addition, since joining TTT I've met some incredibly passionate, knowledgeable and generous people and I'm keen to tell some of their stories. In fact, I'm currently working on a video showcasing the incredible results of over two decades of effort on the Awahou Stream by Jaap and Sue Van Dorsser and their friends Jan and Ham Gifford. This is a drone shot of Jaap (taken March 2018) walking through some of the forest they created from scratch.

- Ian Brennan

### Subscriptions:

Membership renewal notices are enclosed with this newsletter (or being posted out if you receive your newsletter by email). All new and renewed subscriptions entitle you to a range of free publications – go to our website [www.tanestrees.org.nz](http://www.tanestrees.org.nz) to order your free copies. Non-members can purchase these publications at the bargain price of \$5 per copy.

# Two New Projects for Tāne's Tree Trust

David Bergin and Michael Bergin

Tāne's Tree Trust has two new projects funded by the Ministry for Primary Industries' Sustainable Farming Fund that will start in July of this year. The first one is evaluating options for progressively replacing the narrow exotic forest buffer that provides essential shelter for our exotic production forests on sand dunes with a more resilient native coastal dune forest sequence.

The second project aims to develop a suite of web-based calculators on productivity, carbon sequestration and economics for planting native forest which will be generated from the TTT Indigenous Plantation Database. Both projects are in collaboration with project partners including councils, Trees That Count, iwi and Maori Trusts, forest managers and local communities.

## Adaptive Management of Coastal Forestry Buffers

Sand dune exotic forests typically have a sacrificial exotic forest buffer zone providing critical salt and wind shelter to production stands landward.

This project will focus on the upper North Island as a pilot study exploring practical options to transition failing exotic buffers to resilient permanent buffers comprising indigenous coastal forest species based on an adaptive management approach. It will involve review of existing experience, field surveys and planting trials in collaboration with the forest industry, iwi, landowners, councils and communities in development of preliminary guidelines.

The indigenous buffers will assist FSC-accredited forestry companies meet their Representative Sample Areas and various biodiversity and other requirements through enhancement of biodiversity, ecosystem, amenity and natural capital values. Indigenous coastal forest buffers will provide more sustainable and effective protection to the production forests with application to other productive land uses on our coasts and in the face of expected impacts of climate change.



*A pilot study is underway evaluating a range of options for replacing the ageing exotic coastal buffers with resilient indigenous coastal forest such as this 40 year old pine buffer at Kawhia, west coast Waikato, in collaboration with the local community, Tainui Kawhia Incorporation and the Waikato Regional Council. Photo: Michael Bergin*

## The planting native forests toolkit

This project aims to provide a free comprehensive online toolkit from planning to implementation for those planting native forests to meet multiple objectives from environmental to sustainable production.

A suite of calculators on productivity, carbon sequestration and economics for planting and managing native forest will be generated from the Tāne's Tree Trust Indigenous Plantation Database. This is New Zealand's largest national database of planted natives comprising 15,000 trees and shrubs 5-100 years old and will be used to develop growth and carbon models as part of a freely available web-based interactive toolkit. This will allow businesses and landowners to calculate how much native forest they need to plant to offset carbon.

The toolkit will allow users to input site factors and explore a range of planting scenarios to meet objectives within resources. It will include case studies and a reference database with links to best-practice planting, management and monitoring guidelines.



*Tane's Tree Trust is developing a free online toolkit of guidelines and calculators for those planting and managing plantations of native trees with the long term option of sustainable harvesting of timber. Photo: Michael Bergin*

**Contact** - For more information on these projects please contact the Tāne's Tree Trust office:

<http://www.tanestrees.org.nz/get-involved/contact-us/>



# Northland Tōtara Industry Pilot update – First Harvest



The first harvest of the Northland Tōtara Industry Pilot (TIP) took place in May this year and was marked with a karakia. The operation saw sustainable forest management principles applied to the harvesting of 54 regenerated tōtara trees from a Northland farm. The 106ha property, formerly a dairy farm, has a total of nearly 50ha of indigenous forest cover.

The forest was inspected before and after the harvest by the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) to ensure legal compliance with the sustainability requirements of the Forests Act. Permanent sample plots established within the forest by the Northland Tōtara Working Group, will help record changes in the forest over time.

TIP is a practical, two-year study to determine if there is a business case for a new regional industry based on sustainable management of farmed tōtara. Shane Jones, the Minister of Forestry and of Regional Economic Development, announced funding for the study from the Provincial Growth Fund in February.

Other TIP collaboration partners are Crown research institute Scion, Te Taitokerau Maori Forestry Collective, Northland Inc and MPI. They, along with Tāne's Tree Trust, all emphasise that TIP is about so much more than just timber. The group hopes that TIP will prove how farm-tōtara can bring all the potential benefits of indigenous forestry together for regional communities: production, environmental enhancement, and social and cultural enrichment.



Regular updates about TIP will be posted in this newsletter. For more information contact Paul Quinlan: [pdq@pqla.co.nz](mailto:pdq@pqla.co.nz) of the Northland Tōtara Working Group.

## SEE THE "WILD" WEST (COAST) - AGM and FIELD TRIP

This year Tāne's Tree Trust will be holding our Annual General Meeting in the South Island. We plan to travel from Christchurch airport mid morning on Saturday stopping first at Woodside, John Wardle's famous black beech forest near Oxford to see his selection harvesting and forest management practice. Later in the day we will continue to Reefton for the night where we will have a convivial dinner and hold our AGM in one of the local pubs - once frequented by gold miners but now well used by visitors and foresters alike. Sunday morning we will visit NZ Sustainable Forest Products (Forever Beech) wood processing facility and see how they cut and market some of the important native species from their region. If time permits we will also visit a red beech forest to look at sustainable management in the Grey Valley before heading back to Christchurch. We will be taking a bus or several minivans from Christchurch, depending on numbers. The weekend will take place in early November. Further details will be emailed to members and posted on our website and Facebook page shortly.

However if you would like to be part of this excellent excursion let us know ... expressions of interest to [office@tanestrees.org.nz](mailto:office@tanestrees.org.nz)



## 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.

## Can you help?

We always welcome help and input from members who have particular skills. If you would like to help and have skills in particular areas, please send us an email –

[office@tanestrees.org.nz](mailto:office@tanestrees.org.nz)