



TTT at NZ Timber Museum

In April Tāne's Tree Trust held its Management Committee meeting at the New Zealand Timber Museum in Putaruru.

This museum started life in 1972 as the result of the efforts of a small, passionate and dedicated group, the Timber Museum Society, who were committed to the task of recording, celebrating and preserving the history of the NZ timber industry, but particularly that of the South Waikato District. Appropriately, for an organisation with these aims, the museum is on the site of one of the early plantation-pine (Tuck & Watkins, 1944) sawmills.

For 35 years, with support from the District Council and local industry the Society developed and managed the museum. In 2007, the Timber Museum of New Zealand Trust took over from the Society.



The New Zealand Timber Museum in Putaruru, sited on one of the early plantation-pine sawmills. Photo: courtesy of NZ Timber Museum

This Trust is working on the expansion and upgrading of the museum to tell the stories, not only of the rise of the plantation forest industry in New Zealand as supplies of native timbers reduced, but also to tell the stories of the primeval native rain forest prior to colonisation and the harvest and milling of much of that forest.



Coffee table inlaid with the widest range of native timbers, a beautiful example of craftsmanship.

Several historic buildings, which now house displays or have supporting functions, have been moved to the museum site. Among these are TTT's (that's the Taupo Totara Timber Company, not Tāne's Tree Trust) Putaruru Mill order office (built in 1907); the Conference Lounge, which was originally the top story of the Putaruru Hotel (1895); St Michael's Church from Arapuni (1926), now in regular demand for its customary roll; and the Putaruru's Yandle family homestead (1907). The museum site also has a representative grove of young native forest and Tāne's Tree Trust is currently in discussions about possible further plantings on the museum site.

The museum's photograph and document archive is extensive and includes thousands of images donated by NZ Forest

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Products Ltd and Carter Holt Harvey Forests. The resource is currently being catalogued and digitised for easier access.

The museum is a unique look back at New Zealand history and, being located 2km south of Putaruru on State Highway 1, is easy to find. Costs are \$12.50 for adults, \$7 for children and \$10 seniors.

Family concessions are available, as are guided tours (on request). The museum is open from 10am to 4pm, Tuesday to Saturday and offers an opportunity to see and touch the history of New Zealand's timber industry in an attractive rural surrounding. For anyone thinking of visiting next time you're in the area, check its website at www.nztimbermuseum.co.nz

- by Gerard Horgan



Some of the Tāne's Tree Trust management team, from left, Warwick Silvester (Treasurer), Mel Ruffell (Executive Officer), Ian Brennan, Gerard Horgan, David Bergin, Peter Berg (Chair) and Jacqui Aimers. Photo: Tony Jaques

An update on our video work ...

Trustee Ian Brennan has, with drone and camera, produced some stunning videos of native trees in action. Just click or type in the vimeo links to see his work.

Jaap and Sue van Dorsser have spent a quarter century creating nine hectares of vibrant native bush, where an understory of farm rubbish used to lie beneath a canopy of blackberry along the Awahou Stream:

<https://vimeo.com/275610535>



Continuous cover Forestry (CCF) in action

This video was included in our application last year for funding from the Tindall Foundation. It was a first attempt on video to present a flavour of what it is our trust does:

<https://vimeo.com/257850942>

Using footage from a 2018 totara harvest in Northland and our AGM and field trip to the West Coast in November, this video shows some of the ways CCF differs from mainstream forestry in NZ:

<https://vimeo.com/322524452>

Also see Ian Barton's book on CCF. Check on our website.



Queen's Commonwealth Canopy Programme

The Queen's Commonwealth Canopy (QCC) programme, focused on lifting forest protection activity in Commonwealth countries, was announced by her Majesty the Queen at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Malta in late 2015. Subsequently, at an event in Buckingham Palace in 2016, the QCC was formally launched with the first group of participating countries receiving scrolls from her Majesty acknowledging their participation.

At that function the Commonwealth Forestry Association was acknowledged as one of the three founding partners of QCC, participating by linking foresters, scientists, students and policy-makers throughout the Commonwealth to seek ways to improve forest management. Peter Berg, who is the Chair of the NZ branch of CFA and Chair of Tāne's Tree Trust, participated from NZ.

While New Zealand was one of the seven or eight countries involved at the outset, it is notable that almost all of the 53 Commonwealth Countries now have projects underway or about to start. Even more notable is that almost all of the Pacific Island countries, including some of the very smallest and most remote such as Kiribati, are now part of the Queen's Commonwealth Canopy.

Towards the end of 2018 the Duke and Duchess of Sussex (their Royal Highnesses Harry and Meagan), during their first joint visit to the Pacific, unveiled six dedications to The Queen's Commonwealth Canopy and welcomed commitment to the initiative by its latest member, Kiribati.

In New Zealand participation was based upon expanding an existing, highly regarded programme to protect and permanently preserve natural ecosystems run by the Queen Elizabeth II Trust. This Trust works with private landowners to identify and protect suitable natural areas and has operated very successfully for many years. As part of its commitment to the QCC the Government provided support to QEII for the protection of additional significant natural areas on privately owned land within three years.

QEII for its part committed to deliver 40 QCC covenants of an average size of 30ha and a minimum size of 4ha (1200ha in total) and that 100% of QCC covenants would meet one or more of the four national priorities for biodiversity protection on private land. In practice and working in partnership with land owners around the country, QEII has been able to approve 44 QCC forest covenants that will be protecting forever 2,830ha of closed canopy indigenous forest land (235% of the commitment by land area). The average size of these

QCC forest covenants is 64ha and the largest is a continuous forest of 613ha. All 44 QCC covenants satisfy at least one, and in many cases more than one, of the four national priorities for protection of biodiversity on private land.

The protection of the 40th of these areas coincided closely with the visit by the Sussex' and in acknowledgement of the event they agreed to commemorate it by unveiling a plaque and also planting some native trees at the site.



Their Royal Highnesses Prince Harry and Meagan unveil the plaque noting this QCC achievement in NZ (and Meagan wasn't sporting much of a "bump" at that stage). Photos courtesy of QEII.

It is fitting that CFA is one of the founding partners of the QCC, as both are great ways to unite the whole Commonwealth family and save one of the world's most important natural habitats – forests. By creating a pan-Commonwealth network of forest conservation projects, the QCC also marks Her Majesty The Queen's service to the Commonwealth while conserving indigenous forests for future generations. In this respect the work of Tāne's Tree Trust is also relevant.

-by Peter Berg



Prince Harry and Meagan, with some assistance from local school children, planted native trees to also commemorate the occasion. In a subsequent gumboot throwing competition with the same children, Meagan's last throw exceeded Harry's best and won the day for the girls.

Indigenous Forestry Reference Database

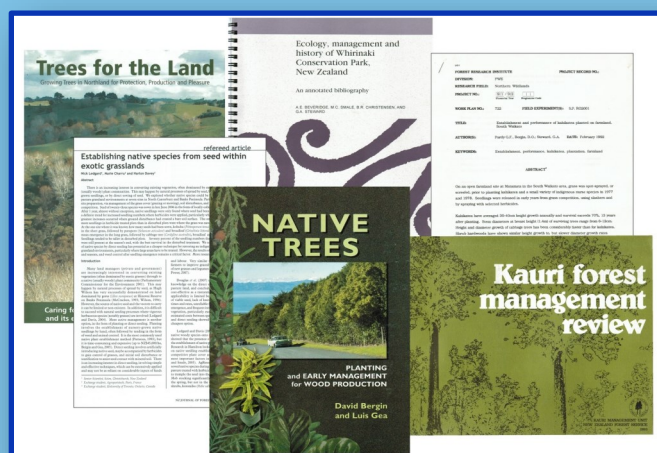
An ongoing project partially funded by Tāne's Tree Trust (TTT) is the development of the Indigenous Planted Forestry Reference Database. Tāne's Tree Trust is keen to create a Native Plantation Forestry Reference Database to help researchers and enthusiasts search for published and unpublished information, both online and hard copy. The aim of this resource is to provide users with an easy storage, search and retrieval system of literature, both published and unpublished, relevant to the establishment and management of indigenous forest ecosystems for multiple purposes.

The database includes references from many sources including local and central government agencies, industry groups and private collections, articles, books, newspaper articles, academic papers, trade journal articles, file notes, growth and carbon models and datasets, online information sources, and any other material relevant to the establishment and management of indigenous forests in New Zealand. This will be a 'living' database which will be updated as further and new references are found or produced. It will include literature covering both planted and natural regeneration of our indigenous forest and associated ecosystems such as shrublands. The reference database will eventually be available on the TTT website with free access.

We have gained permission from the Coastal Restoration Trust of New Zealand to use their Coastal Reference Database as a model for the TTT reference database. This includes the use of their back-end coding developed by Robin Sallis of Cerulean Design and Development, who has also designed the TTT website. The aim is to have a fully interactive reference database with search function capability by keyword including author, year, title and subject.

A major undertaking is to provide direct online links or preferably PDFs of abstracts and full texts for all references that are open-source and are not subject to copyright or other restricted publication issues. Where the

full text is not available online, every endeavour will be made to indicate where the reference is held and to provide contact information for those seeking such references.



The Planted Forestry Reference Database will complement other TTT databases available or under development as listed in the Resource Centre/ Databases page of the TTT website (<https://www.tanestrees.org.nz/resource-centre/databases/>).

These include the Indigenous Forestry Archive Database that focuses on historical documents from the New Zealand Forest Service and Forest Research Institute, and the Indigenous Forestry Plantation Database that is under development as part of the Tāne's Tree Trust Plantation Toolkit.

We are now on the search for references to add to the Tāne's Tree Trust Indigenous Forestry Reference Database with a focus on planted and naturally regenerating native forests. If you have any references or know of potential sources of relevant documents and other material, please get in touch or send links or email copies to TTT for inclusion in the reference database.

Contact for this project is TTT office:
office@tanestrees.org.nz

- by Michael Bergin

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