



Tāne's Tree Trust

NATIVE FORESTS FOR OUR FUTURE

Hereherea te Wao-nui-a-Tāne

NEWSLETTER

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INTRODUCING ANDREW & MARY MCEWEN, OUR NEW PATRONS

We are excited to announce that Andrew & Mary McEwen have accepted the role of patrons for Tāne's Tree Trust. Below is some background about them both and certainly shows why we feel they are a great fit.

Mary McEwen is a retired professional ecologist. She graduated with a B.Sc. from Victoria University of Wellington in 1967, majoring in zoology and botany. She was offered a Senior Scholarship but declined that to accompany her forester husband to Scotland and other parts of New Zealand. Later, while working in the indigenous forest management research field at the Forest Research Institute in Rotorua, she completed a D.Phil. in botany at the University of Waikato in 1984. Her thesis was *Some Aspects of the Seed Development & Seedling Growth of Rimu*.

From 1982 she worked for DSIR's Biological Resources Centre and the Department of Conservation in Wellington, followed by a period as an ecological consultant. From her time as a professional ecologist she has published four books, including a biography of her father, scientist and conservationist Charles Fleming, other publications; include editor of the *Ecological Regions and Districts of New Zealand* (3rd edition, 1987), *The Food of the New Zealand Pigeon* (Journal of Ecology, 1978), *Seed Production in Podocarp Trees* (Forest and Bird, 1983) *Cone and Seed Phenology in Several New Zealand Conifer Tree Species* (Tuatara, 1988).

Andrew McEwen has been a professional forester for the last 60 years. Although retired, he continues to be involved on a voluntary basis with professional forestry, particularly through the NZ Institute of Forestry (NZIF). He was a Trustee of Tāne's Tree Trust between 2007 and 2012.

Andrew has a B.Sc. (Victoria University of Wellington, 1966), a B.For.Sc. (University of Aberdeen (1968) and a Ph.D. (University of Canterbury, 1976).

He was elected a Fellow of NZIF in 2008, received the NZIF Kirk Horn award in 2014, the Commonwealth Forestry Association Regional Award of Excellence for the South East Asia and Pacific Region in 2015 and was appointed Officer of the NZ Order of Merit (ONZM) for services to NZ forestry in the 2016 New Year Honours.




Andrew was employed by the New Zealand Forest Service from 1962 until 1987, with positions in general forestry, research and information technology. Towards the end of that time, he became involved at the start of the process that led to corporatisation and then privatisation of the former State forests.

He continued in that activity, employed by NZ Forestry Corporation until the end of 1999. This included involvement in several treaty settlements involving forests, including managing the implementation of the forestry section of the Ngai Tahu settlement. For the following 16 years he was a self-employed forestry consultant still working on aspects of the State forest sales and treaty settlements.

Having joined NZIF in 1967, Andrew has been a registered member since 2000. He served on the NZIF Council for 11 years, with 4 years as Vice President and 6 years as President. He has been a member of the NZIF Registration Board since 2016 and chaired the NZIF Foundation, a registered charity that offers scholarships and awards from 2011-2021.

Andrew & Mary live at Waikanae on the Kapiti Coast. They have a daughter, son and four grandchildren. They maintain membership of the NZ Ecological Society, the Royal Society of NZ, the Wellington Botanical Society and the Ornithological Society of NZ.

DISCLAIMER: Reasonable care has been taken to ensure that all statements in this newsletter represent the best information available. However, the contents of this publication are not intended to be a substitute for specific specialist advice on any matter and should not be relied on for that purpose. Tāne's Tree Trust shall not be liable on any ground for any loss, damage, or liability incurred as a direct or indirect result of any reliance by any person upon information contained or opinions expressed in this work.

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TTT'S SUBMISSION FOR THE FIRST EMISSIONS REDUCTION PLAN

Written by Jacqui Aimers, Trustee

Our previous newsletter in October 2021 included an article on the Climate Change Commission and their advice to Government: <https://bit.ly/3upb53y>.

To recap, the Climate Change Commission's advice - *Ināia tonu nei: a low emissions future for Aotearoa* - was publicly released on 31/05/21 - <https://bit.ly/3uwCLn4>. It provided advice to Government on ambitious but achievable paths to rapidly reduce emissions.

Expansion and protection of native forests to create enduring carbon sinks

Tāne's Tree Trust strongly supports the Commission's advice for native forests to be a vital part of New Zealand's integrated response to the climate change crisis - for carbon sequestration and climate change adaptation. This will simultaneously help address the biodiversity and freshwater crises, and provide important cultural and socioeconomic benefits.

The Commission recommended establishment of nearly 300,000 hectares of new native forests before 2035. This is a considerable challenge. Adequate governance and investment will be needed to support scaling up of capacity and expertise.

Response from Government

In response to the Climate Change Commission's advice, Government released a consultation document on transitioning to a low-emissions and climate-resilient future: <https://bit.ly/3GnxYqo>.

Consultation closed on 24 November 2021.

A summary of submissions will support Cabinet decisions on the final emission reduction plan. This is expected to be published by late May 2022, coinciding with the Budget, so that new policies will be backed by funding announcements.

Tāne's Tree Trust made a submission, which is available on our website: <https://bit.ly/3GZEWmA>

While we agreed with most of the discussion document, we expressed concern over the promulgation of the myth around slow carbon sequestration in native species, which has come out of misplaced reliance on the limited data in the MPI Look-up tables for native species. Also, we believe that the reported costs for establishment of native forests are on the high side and do not include cost-effective mechanisms for landscape-scale establishment of native forest.

Carbon sequestration and establishment costs

Unfortunately, the Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) Look-up tables are often quoted by people wanting to dismiss the potential carbon sequestration by native trees and undermine the call for planting more native forest. And there is anecdotal evidence that this is discouraging landowners from planting native trees.



Tāne's Tree Trust is campaigning for inclusion of planted native forest in the ETS Look-up tables. The Look-up table for natives is currently solely based on naturally regenerating kanuka/manuka shrubland on marginal land, i.e., it significantly under-estimates carbon sequestration in planted and sustainably-managed native forest.

Tāne's Tree Trust has the most comprehensive national database for planted native forests. Current work includes collecting more data, allowing for development of regional and species-based growth and carbon modelling, and improving access to our data. An ETS Look-up table is also needed for assisted or managed regenerating forest, which includes pest control, supplementary planting, etc.

The upshot is that the data demonstrates that well-managed planted native forests are better at sequestering carbon than commonly considered. Although native species initially remove carbon at slower rates than radiata-pine, there are several native species that will start to sequester carbon at comparable rates once they are established, and will continue to sequester carbon for hundreds of years.

Tāne's Tree Trust recently released a research paper on carbon sequestration in native species: <https://bit.ly/3J6q6LO>.

This research paper has been used for lobbying, and the relevant Government departments are starting to listen.

In our submission, we also outlined cost-effective methods (working with Nature) for landscape-scale establishment of native forest. And we addressed issues with nursery industry capacity, plant quality standards, and supply chain logistics. We are currently working to reduce establishment costs and barriers to native forestation, and promote nature-based indigenous forestry where it is an appropriate land use. And we are advocating for development of incentives schemes to establish native forest, based on the wider values provided by native forests.

Incentive schemes for native forestation

In its submission, Tāne's Tree Trust gratefully acknowledged plans to incentivise native forestation on marginal, erodible hill country - but we also stated that restoration of lowland and coastal native forest should also be a priority.

Much of New Zealand's remaining native forest is restricted to upland regions, with lowland podocarp-hardwood forest, wetland-forest complexes, and natural coastal ecosystems now scarce in most regions, and largely confined to private land. The greatest carbon sequestration in our native species is in our lowland and midland areas. And there is a recognised need to increase indigenous biodiversity and ameliorate water quality issues in intensively developed urban and agricultural land.

We requested that Government not limit incentives for planting to marginal hill country, or underestimate the appetite of landowners throughout New Zealand to plant or manage natural regeneration of native forest on other land classes. This includes dairy farmers and horticulturalists. A comprehensive package of ETS and non-ETS incentives is required to increase native forest cover and ensure ongoing good management practices.

Permanent carbon forests

In our submission, we strongly supported the recommendations by the Climate Change Commission to increase the amount of permanent native forest as a long-term carbon sink. We expressed concern about large-scale planting of permanent radiata-pine carbon forests, based around the proposition that these will transition to native forest with minimal intervention. Particularly, we are concerned that this practice is being inappropriately exploited for short-term commercial gain by parties who do not have a long-term vested interest in ensuring a legacy of permanent forest cover.



This Waikato kahikatea stand illustrates that excellent growth and carbon sequestration in native forest is possible where there is good forest management.

Radiata pine is not a long-lived tree species and adequate regeneration of other species is required for permanent carbon forestry. However, there has been very limited research into management practices to facilitate such a transition, which urgently needs to be addressed.

We promote the planting of permanent native forests, or forests managed under continuous cover forestry (CCF) regimes, as opposed to clear-fell harvest regimes – as high-forest values are retained, including carbon sequestration rates.

The Trust (along with allied stakeholder groups) recommended that the permanent forest category in the NZ ETS be primarily limited to native forests.

Check out all the publications online at www.tanestrees.org.nz/resources/publications/

THINNING TŌTARA FORESTS

Written by Paul Quinlan, Trustee

Thinning is the latest topic covered in our free web-based manual: *A Practical Guide to Managing Tōtara on Private Land*. It includes revised thinning schedules based on the latest data and thinking.

Read the full chapter here: <https://bit.ly/3nUoEEe> or on the Publications section of the TTT website.

Topics such as planting, pruning, thinning, sustainable harvesting and management, will be comprehensively covered, and each chapter posted in the publications section of the TTT website as they are completed. Instructional videos are planned to complement the written content – so keep checking for new content.

The pruning chapter and video has been getting great feedback. Check out the video - *Form-pruning tōtara for timber production on private land* <https://vimeo.com/580207222>

Harvest is the next topic coming up. The contact for this project is Paul Quinlan: pdg@pgla.co.nz



OUR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING GOES ONLINE

Written by Amy Spitzer, Administration Manager Tāne's Tree Trust

In November, we held our 20th Annual General Meeting. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, we held this AGM online via Zoom and had around 36 attendees including Trustees, representatives from a number of our key partners and members. Thank you to everyone who was able to attend, despite the change to online.

The 2021 Annual Report is available on [our website](#) along with previous years reports. This report captures the hard work of the Trust made possible with the ongoing support and funding from so many organisations.

We hope you will enjoy this reading, and we hope that it will help you to appreciate why we are so focused on ensuring that native forests remain an important part of future New Zealand – Aotearoa. If you have any questions, please get in touch with us via email office@tanestrees.org.nz.

SUMMER INTERNSHIP

Written by Maya Halford, 2021/22 Intern

A huge thank you to Tāne's Tree Trust, especially Jacqui and Mike, for the support in hosting me as an intern this summer! I have been fortunate to gain plenty of valuable skills and learn heaps about the many benefits of natives during my time here.

My knowledge of indigenous forestry and native trees has exponentially increased in the past couple of months! Many of the ideas I have acquired will be very useful to take back and apply to my studies going forward. Not only this, but I am also extremely grateful for the diverse range of people I have been introduced to during my time here. Nothing beats hearing people's journeys firsthand and using that to build your own.

I am very optimistic about the growing future for indigenous landscapes in NZ and look forward to being a part of it.



Maya with Jaap van Dorsser at the native forest restoration site at Awahou Stream, Rotorua.

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. If required, we can send a receipt of donation for you to submit to IRD with your tax return.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: Membership renewal notices are sent annually on April 1st via email or post. Members can access all resources at www.tanestrees.org.nz/resources. If you need to update your contact details, simply email us office@tanestrees.org.nz.