



## Tāne's Tree Trust trustees acknowledged with awards at the National Fieldays

Two of our trustees, Paul Quinlan and Ian Brennan, were winners in MPI's inaugural Growing Native Forests Champions Awards, announced at Fieldays in June. The awards were presented by Forestry Minister, Todd McClay.

Paul and Katherina Quinlan won the Lifestyle Block Owner category - pioneers of sustainable tōtara timber management.

Ian Brennan and Trisha Wren won the Trees on Farms category - integrating natives for ecosystem health and income through continuous cover forestry.

Congratulations also to the other category winners:

- Kapenga M Trust - blending mātauranga Māori and science to grow native forests and create jobs
- Tasman Pine Forests - restoring native forests, controlling wilding pines, and protecting native species
- Wai Kōkopu - retiring erodible land and improving estuary health while supporting profitable farming

Paul wishes to thank Te Uru Rākau for being so supportive over the decades, with what has been a 30-year native forestry journey. He says, "It all started by observing and listening to the land, working with it, doing what it wanted, just trying to do what is best for it really. And this has been extremely satisfying. It has deepened our connection to the land, the place, the community and we have met many other wonderful people too." He also specifically acknowledges the many others doing similar – establishing and managing native forests - because even small areas and efforts add up to have significant cumulative effect.

### **Growing Native Forest Champions Award for Lifestyle Block Category**

After more than 20 years of committed native forest management, Paul and Katharina's lifestyle block provides an inspirational example of active silviculture, sustainable harvests and use of the tōtara timber from the property. It started in 1999 when the Quinlans prepared a Sustainable



*Forestry Minister, Todd McClay, with the 2025 winners. Photo: TUR*

Forest Management (SFM) Plan (under provision of the Forests Act), to the naturally regenerating tōtara forest on the property. This became the first registered SFM Plan in Northland, and a workshop/field day there with David Bergin and Helen Moodie led on to the formation of the Northland Tōtara Working Group (NTWG).

Although only 15ha in total, including 8.4ha of tōtara in a registered SFM Plan, management of this lifestyle block has always been kept relevant to larger rural properties in the region. It has been used as a venue for field days, workshops, silvicultural trials and demonstration of SFM management, but also with planted natives for biodiversity. Their daughters, Jess and Nina, started a neighbourhood pest trapping programme which, to date, has tallied over 4,300 pests on Trap.nz (See *Wild Kiwi Girls*: <https://www.trap.nz/project/980523/info>) with a noticeable enhancement of regeneration and bird numbers.

This property has been the venue and material for videos on pruning and silviculture, news coverage, articles, and

many images and experiences contributing to the 2021 book: *A Practical Guide to Managing Tōtara on Private Land*. These are all available free to access and download via the NTWG resources and publications section of the Tāne's Tree Trust website: <https://www.tanestrees.org.nz/about-us/northland-totara-working-group-ntwg/ntwg-publications-resources/> and the Tāne's Tree Trust's YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/@TanesTrees> It has also highlighted regulatory and practical issues.

The most recent harvest in 2024 continued this role of using this lifestyle property to promote native forestry/ farm forestry as a sustainable rural land use option, and to champion the Northland Tōtara opportunity.

A selection of video links all filmed on the property:

- *Video: Pruning tōtara for timber.* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WnOpHMwzQ20>
- *Video: Free-style silviculture:* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SLZcefHxk58>
- *Short video clip of part of the 2024 harvest:* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0jly3pa7Yis>
- *Video on ring barking tōtara (mostly filmed on the property):* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uklNo4NreeI>

A publication with many images from the property (and experiences gained):

- *A Practical Guide to Managing Tōtara on Private Land.* [https://www.tanestrees.org.nz/site/assets/files/1069/complete\\_totara\\_manual\\_final\\_92dpi.pdf](https://www.tanestrees.org.nz/site/assets/files/1069/complete_totara_manual_final_92dpi.pdf)



*Tōtara timber has been utilised for building projects on the property.*

*The Sustainable Forest Management Plan allows the harvesting of tōtara.*

## **Trees on Farms category - integrating natives for ecosystem health and income through continuous cover forestry**

Cassie's Farm is an 85ha dry stock farm in the hills overlooking Waikato Basin. We bought this property in 2005 and began planting natives in 2007.

To date, we've planted approximately 95,000 native trees and shrubs to create 38 hectares of managed forest. Work is ongoing.

In 2009, when we discovered Tāne's Tree Trust and the concept of Continuous Cover Forestry, we decided to create a showcase for CCF integrated into a farming landscape. Since then, we've systematically converted most of our steep land into native forestry.

Waikato Regional Council have consistently supported our yearly plantings and even changed the wording of their standard covenant to show their support for CCF. Our entire planted forest area is therefore legally protected in perpetuity - BUT - the altered covenant allows for best practice selective harvest from 2071.

We've planted every year since 2007, with funding since 2016 from WRC, Waikato River Authority, Trees That Count and 1BT. Our aim is to keep in pasture only those areas where it is safe to drive a vehicle. Anything steeper is destined for reforestation and management as CCF.

We construct tracks through each area before planting, to make maintenance easy. This track network will eventually facilitate small scale harvest with minimum disruption to the forest. Meanwhile, it provides safe vehicle access for groups attending field days here.

Tāne's Tree Trust, WRC, NZFFA, TUR, NZ Landcare Trust, Trees That Count, Trees for Survival, Pūniu River Care, Ngāti Haua Mahi Trust have held field days here - some regularly.

Simon Upton PCE visited and we appear on P65 of this report:

[https://pce.parliament.nz/media/5v0oorhb/alt-f-reset\\_examining-the-drivers-of-forestry-in-new-zealand\\_web.pdf](https://pce.parliament.nz/media/5v0oorhb/alt-f-reset_examining-the-drivers-of-forestry-in-new-zealand_web.pdf)



*Cassie's Farm—jerseys and plantings 2025.*

# National Fieldays

For the fourth year in a row Tāne's Tree Trust (TTT) attended the June National Agricultural Fieldays at Mystery Creek as part of the MPI-TUR Forestry Hub. Our stand within the Forestry Hub displayed our publications, a beautiful farm-grown tōtara window frame supplied by Paul Quinlan and a new selection of native tree wood samples which proved to be popular with the public to pick up and compare the colour and weight of the different native tree species.

Sam Keenan, Deputy Director-General Te Uru Rākau – New Zealand Forest Service and Todd McClay, Minister of Forestry, visited the Forestry Hub on Thursday to present the inaugural Growing Native Forests Champions Awards, aimed to celebrate people who are growing native forests, help others learn about the importance of native forests in New Zealand and inspire more people to grow native forests. As you have already read, two of TTT's trustees, Ian Brennan and Paul Quinlan, won two out of the five categories.



*Mel Ruffell (TTT CEO) discusses with a member of the public native forestry and all that TTT has to offer landowners and forest managers in New Zealand at the TTT stand within the MPI-TUR Forestry Hub at Mystery Creek, Waikato.*

## AGM and Ian Barton Symposium

We are holding our AGM and symposium in October and would love to see you there. We are developing a very interesting programme, as detailed below. Please get in touch with the office if you have any questions. It's going to be a marvellous two days!

**Tāne's Tree Trust**  
NATIVE FORESTS FOR OUR FUTURE  
Hereherea te Wao-nui-a-Tāne

# AGM & Ian Barton Symposium

**Friday 17 &  
Saturday 18  
October 2025**

\$30 pp (includes morning tea and lunch on Saturday)  
RSVP and payment due by Friday 10 October

## Programme

**Friday 17 October - 3pm**

**Tāne's Tree Trust Annual General Meeting**  
Franklin Club, 7 East Street, Pukekohe

**Saturday 18 October - 9am**

**Ian Barton Symposium**  
Mangatangi Hall, 1517 Kaiaua Rd, Mangatangi

TTT is sponsoring a memorial symposium to honour the contributions of our founding chairman, Ian Barton, and to share memories of his wide influence on native forests.

Come for morning tea at 9am followed by our speakers, including son Stuart Barton, Chairman Peter Berg and Ian Bissett from Amakiwi, among others, who will recount their memories of Ian's varied contributions.

After lunch we will visit Ian's kauri growth trials just down the road. Bruce Burns, who was entrusted with Ian's field notes, will show us the kauri trial, and we will learn more generally the contributions Ian made to Hunua catchment management.

There will be plenty of time for discussion and time to reminisce on Ian's life and contributions.

**RSVP and payment due by Friday 10 October**

Email [office@tanestrees.org.nz](mailto:office@tanestrees.org.nz) with your name and contact details. Please make payment (\$30 per person) to: 03 1355 0729129 00 Add your name and 'IB Symposium' in the details.

## Trustee highlight - Michael Orchard



*Team ceremonial planting of the first tōtara at the "new" Papanui Bush.*

My intense passion for native trees began in my younger years on the family rural property at Harewood in Christchurch. This was fostered by my mother on enjoyable trips to Banks Peninsula and family visits to the West Coast. We established a native section there in our 'Forest and Bird Society' days, watching this grow. Importantly it contained my 53 year old planted kahikatea, amongst others, lending growing experience and becoming benchmarks for the future. As Christchurch Branch Youth Study Group Leader, my long weekends with learned colleagues were often spent in NZ's great outdoors.

At the end of my science degree, getting a permanent job became a focus, but I realised further study was required even in those days. With leadership skills and zoology knowledge gained, an unbelievable opportunity then arose

with the DSIR and NZ Antarctic Society to spend a month at Cape Royds, near Scott Base, as one of the first Antarctic caretakers, undertaking inventory work at Shackleton's historic hut and working with the Adelie penguin colony. Back home again, a brand new School Of Forestry at the University of Canterbury was just opening that year, and so I became a first year pupil there some 53 years ago. A publication at the time said there would be plenty of jobs in forestry and so it proved when I joined the NZ Forest Service.

I became a career forester pursuing a lifetime of advocating for, growing, and managing native and exotic trees and forests. With my forestry science degree complete, I began gaining the practical knowledge under the tutelage of experienced district rangers and staff in the forests.

First I went to Kaingaroa Forest in the Central North Island, the largest man-made planted forest in the Southern Hemisphere, with new bird species for me too, like long tailed cuckoos and whiteheads, fostering my interest in ornithology. Then to the East Coast, Gisborne District as silvicultural forester of the rapidly increasing exotic forest resource of the eroding hill farming country, excessively cleared of its protective native forest cover by huge man-made fires at the turn of last century. This was followed by a customary overseas experience trip to North and South America.

On my return, I spent five years as District Forester at Whirinaki Forest, including replanting of native podocarp seedlings in selection logged sites and writing the overall management plan. Work as an indigenous forester with the NZFS on the West Coast continued this practice, within the role of wider indigenous forest management. The latter included protecting significant natural regeneration areas from clearing, administering a small indigenous nursery and trial work replanting mined sites.

Later I worked for six years in similar roles with the Department of Conservation, while my wife Janet was Technical Support Officer for the West Coast Conservation Board. In 1993 I started my own advisory firm, The Tree Centre, and we purchased a small forestry and conservation block to put these skills to further practice. A more recent highlight was being appointed for a three-year term as Grey District Council Significant Natural Area, Landowner Liaison Manager, resulting in many native forest areas being purchased, and others protected and fenced, with the reward of over 30 being listed in the recent TTPP Draft Regional Plan.

Recent native forest planting work has been as co-initiator of the New Papanui Bush (Bridgestone Reserve) together with former teacher Denis McMurtrie. This is in its eighth year, and in the main is very successful. Current native forest projects include surveys of the success (or otherwise) of young, recently planted native forests, establishment of permanent sample plots, and practical participation in planting in a number of West Coast and Canterbury study sites. Recently I had the honour of receiving an NZ Farm Forestry Association Distinguished Service Award.

Outside each day on the West Coast I have the pleasure of seeing Mt Cook and Mt Tasman to the south and wake to the noisy song of tui in the large self-planted pohutukawa and puriri, growing well outside their range. The latter I believe is the most wonderful tree in the world, flowering and fruiting for a whole 11 months of the year.

**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 you a receipt of donation for you to submit to IRD with your tax return.

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