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(* means new material in this section and new items are marked with a moss green heading)



PRESIDENT'S COMMENT

Andrew McEwen FNZIF
 President, NZ Institute of Forestry
president@nzif.org.nz

President on Nine to Noon

On Tuesday this week I took up an invitation to talk (live) to Kathryn Ryan (Radio NZ National Programme *Nine to Noon*) about the import of rail sleepers from Peru. You can hear the segment (about 12 minutes) at <http://www.radionz.co.nz/national/programmes/ninetonoon> finding the programmes for Tuesday 2 October and clicking on the item (at 9:39 am).

Some members will recall that we wrote to Ministers about KiwiRail's import of hardwood sleepers from Peru in 2008 suggesting there could be NZ grown timber that would be suitable. A couple of years later an Olsen's newsletter mentioned NZ radiata logs being sawn into sleepers in China and exported to Africa – talk about “sleeper miles”!

The issue this year was 7,000 of 100,000 sleepers imported from Peru and put into use were rotting. It was reported that the decayed sleepers had been implicated in two derailments. We wrote to Ministers and this week learnt that *Schizophyllum commune* has been isolated on sleepers in storage and in use. This is apparently a very



common white rot fungus, found around the world, including NZ. But eight other species of fungus have been isolated on imported sleepers in storage – two are new to NZ (including *Trametes elegans*) and work is continuing to identify the others that are potentially new to this country.

While I understand the difficulty of identifying a non-fruiting fungus in a container load of railway sleepers, this does highlight the dangers of importing timber from other countries. The fact that sleepers decayed to the point of needing replacement within a few years of import is a real concern. If the fungus involved was new to NZ and found some of the species on which we depend (*radiata* for commercial purposes, native species to support our clean green image) rather tasty, we could have a big problem on our hands.

When we made inquiries in 2008, we were advised that KiwiRail was not in a position to doubt the legally-logged, sustainably-managed certification documents supplied to it by its Australian-based agent. This illustrates two issues. One is that certification is not a panacea for all the controls beloved by some advocates for such schemes. Secondly, I couldn't help speculating on the situation under the Australian illegal logging legislation likely to be enacted this year. If export of rotting timber was against the laws of Peru (where the sleepers originated), and the Australian agent had imported them to Australia instead of NZ, then the agent could be liable for prosecution under the Australian legislation and could finish up with a jail term.

An alternative to KiwiRail's approach of looking offshore is the Marlborough Lines Company's association with the Dryland Forests Initiative in Marlborough. The company has 50 ha of trees that they are planning to start harvesting for cross-arms on power poles 20 years. They have about 50,000 hardwood cross-arms and estimate there are millions in use in NZ.

Are there any forest growers who are prepared to put some eggs into specialty species, to cooperate with other growers and commit to producing the necessary quantity and quality of material for cross-arms and sleepers or some other use? Apart from a potentially profitable supply contract, it might help reduce the ever-present biosecurity risk to our forests posed by imports. Unfortunately I expect the lure of the one-off sale on next week's export spot market would be too much for some and require less commitment.

Is NZIF a lobbyist?

Today we will submit a short submission to the Government Administration Select Committee of Parliament on the Lobbying Disclosure Bill. We believe that the definition of what is a lobbyist in the Bill is unclear and may or may not include NZIF and those who make submissions and representatives on behalf of the Institute. If the Bill passes and NZIF is determined to be a lobbyist, it would need to be registered with the Auditor-General and to file quarterly returns on any lobbying activity (or alternatively to desist from activities that require such compliance).

Need for care in Newsletter contributions

I apologise for an item last week where one member suggested another was ignorant. We try to eliminate personal attacks of this nature, but occasionally they slip through and I regret it happened in this case (the fault was mine as I vetted last week's issue before it was distributed). The slip was subsequently drawn to my attention by another member who was concerned at the language.

I ask that members continue to use the Newsletter to challenge ideas, debate issues, pass information etc, but to please concentrate on debating the issues, not attacking those who express them.

Our policy has always been to allow members a lot of freedom to express ideas as a way of encouraging healthy debate – a sign of a strong professional body. Over the eight years I have been involved with the Newsletter I have edited a few items to remove dubious wording, I have refused to print a smaller number, and have wished that I had refused an even smaller number. Let's see if we can maintain that record.

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MEMBER'S FORUM

(Please keep Guest Comment and Member's Forum contributions to around 300 words. Send contributions as an email attachment (Word document) to newsletter@nzif.org.nz.)

Further comment on sunset industries/permanent forests

John Groome Hon MNZIF, Canterbury

I feel that some response is needed to Wink Sutton's comments in last week's Newsletter. I am able to write from my actual memory, which though fading, is still very clear on most forest history facts.

Fortunately from 1929-1938, I lived in Kaingaroa village and revelled in the experience of hanging over the front gate to talk to hundreds of 'relief' workers who missed their kids. They were not there because of anyone's perceived market for the trees they planted, but to get them off the streets of Auckland. I remember very clearly what happened at Kaingaroa in the 1920s and 1930s.

Sure, McIntosh Ellis had earlier persuaded government and the public that we would need plantations to replace our dwindling indigenous resources. But this set off the bond-selling companies (£200 promised for a £25 investment!) of the 1920s, but not Kaingaroa.

We lived in a house with bars on the windows because they were originally built to house the warders of the men who refused to fight a war in 1914-19. Apart from some trial plots by the Lands and Survey Dept, these men planted the first larger areas (mainly near Whaka and Waiotapu). This resulted in concentration on quick-growing radiata, not larch and other conifers like redwood when the plains became available. There was by then plenty of seed and a productive nursery at Whaka.

During the State's boom planting years of 1929-31, two trucks based at Kaingaroa took off each morning and headed for Rotorua. They then went to 60/8 (the 8th planting camp on Run 60) via Taupo, and spent the afternoon dropping bare-rooted bundles of trees at the many other planting camps down the Rangitaiki River through the growing Kaingaroa Forest.

Why was the land available? We could not keep a cow or any other grazing animals, before research at Reporoa, and near Lichfield, identified the lack of cobalt throughout the pumice country as the cause. The farmers did not want such land so, by default, it was luckily used to establish a forest resource and employ men. The same can be said for the unattractive farming sites of Balmoral, Eyrewell and Golden Downs.

What is wrong, anyway, in accepting the benefits of the large resource established, whatever the cause. We have nurtured it through attacks from fire, insects and fungi. There have also been some valuable industries created. Some like newsprint may fade but, like the sun, others will surely rise.

The erudite commentator

Denis Hocking MNZIF, Bulls

I happened to hear the NZIF President on *Nine to Noon* on Tuesday as I drove to Marton to collect seed. Generally I was very much in agreement, but I think it is worth noting that some of us small-time tree huggers have actually grown, very successfully, quite a number of sleeper and cross-arm species. In my case *E. microcorys* and *E. muelleriana* (plus other stringybarks) are thriving here, with *E. pilularis*, *E. bosistoana*, *E. cladocalyx* and *E. longifolia* doing well on certain sites. In fact, they are much easier to grow than I ever imagined. Interestingly, the old railways department put in a number of eucalypt trials around the country around the 1920s (plus or minus a decade or two). I think you will find there is still one near Athenree; certainly the trees were still there 15 years ago.

I was also drawn to the sleeper story and wrote a column for *Countrywide*. What I found interesting was that both



KiwiRail and the lines people commented on problems with declining radiata wood quality as I noted. I think wood quality problems might be a much bigger drag on our current forest industry than most people are prepared to admit.

CCA-treated timber

Peter Brown MNZIF, Rotorua

In a section in last week's Newsletter regarding the forthcoming field day in Hawke's Bay, I noted with disappointment that the organisers seem to have bought into the populist idea that CCA-treated timber is bad. I understand that if you are an insect bent on boring into this wood or a fungus bent on rotting it, it is indeed bad. But the suggestion that naturally durable timber is somehow good has always been a mystery to me.

I regularly ask people who make or imply such a position, "What are the chemicals in the naturally durable timber that stop the wood from rotting and stop the insects from eating it?"

The initial reaction of most people is to say that there are no chemicals in this wood. After having got them past that mind-block so that they realise there must be something in the wood that makes the insects unable to eat it and the fungi unable to rot it, they then tend to make a claim that whatever the chemical is (or more the likely chemicals are), it is a natural substance so it must be okay.

My response is always to point out that asbestos is also natural. In fact the arsenic contained in the CCA is also natural and I would not be surprised if the copper compound was too!

The question that then has to be asked of course is would you rather use CCA-treated durable timber where you know the chemicals that are making it durable, or would you rather have naturally durable timber where you have absolutely no idea what the chemicals are that are making it durable. This is particularly the case when it is well known that the sawdust from some naturally durable timber is intensely toxic to humans and in some cases carcinogenic.

I think it is the responsibility of all people in the forest industry, and particularly those in the Institute of Forestry, not to follow the populist uninformed public line that CCA-treated timber is bad and that we should instead be using naturally durable timber. I am sure you all actually think about such things before you write or say them, particularly in a public forum like this field day will be.

So I trust that the people running the Hawke's Bay field day will now make a point of emphasising these facts to the assembled field day participants and encouraging the use of CCA-treated timber.

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NZIF BUSINESS

From the Registrar

Registration application

An application to become a Registered Member has been received from:

- Mr Chris Goulding of Rotorua.

Any member of the Institute has the right to object to an application. Any objection should be made by lodging a notice with the Registrar within 20 working days of the first appearance (14 September 2012) of the notice in this Newsletter, specifying the grounds of the objection.



From the NZIF Administrator

Jim Taggart has let me know that 30 copies of his book *Toward A Culture of Wood Architecture* have departed the shores on Canada. The ETA to NZ is about six weeks from 7 September. Once the books have arrived in the country I will be posting them with the invoice to those who have put an order. The cost will be \$NZ45.00 plus postage. If you have any queries please contact me at admin@nzif.org.nz. Regards, *Jay Matthes*, Administrator

2013 Conference – mark your diaries

The 2013 NZIF AGM and Conference is scheduled to be held in New Plymouth from Sunday 30 June to Wednesday 3 July 2013. Make a decision to attend and block out the dates in your diary now.

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Foundation Establishment Appeal

The Foundation Establishment Appeal's immediate target is \$200,000 if annual income is to be able to deliver the level of awards made this year. To make a donation (eligible for tax credits) contact foundation@nzif.org.nz.

WE NEED MORE MONEY TO MAKE THIS FOUNDATION SUCCESSFUL – please donate or provide ideas for ways we can raise the amount we need.

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SUBMISSIONS

Murray Parrish (murray.parrish@chh.com) is Submissions Coordinator. NZIF Members or local sections considering making submissions (even on what appear to be local issues) should advise him of their plans. Council can assist with the cost of making submissions (contact Murray for details).

Pre-1990 offsetting consultation document

A consultation document on proposed amendments to the Climate Change (Forestry Sector) Regulations covering pre-1990 forest offsetting is available on the MPI website at www.mpi.govt.nz/news-resources/consultations. The principal purpose of these amendments is to provide for the technical requirements of implementing pre-1990 forest land offsetting. Also included are other minor technical amendments.

The key policy components of pre-1990 forest land offsetting are contained in the Climate Change Response (Emissions Trading and Other Matters) Amendment Bill that is currently in the Select Committee process. In particular the Bill contains the criteria, requirements and conditions for offsetting and defines new terms such as carbon equivalency and usual rotation period. The Bill is available at this link: <http://www.legislation.co.nz/bill/government/2012/0052/latest/DLM4676517.html>

The proposed new regulations define usual rotation periods for forest types, and set out the methodology for determining the size of an offsetting forest that would be needed to offset the emissions from an area of deforested pre-1990 forest land. They also provide for a new offsetting land status notice to be registered on land titles.

The proposals will be open for submissions until **19 October 2012**.



Proposed New Zealand Environmental Profiling Plan

BRANZ has been undertaking important research into the development and use of environmental profiles. These provide a market-driven basis for declaring the environmental performance of NZ construction products. This research can also be incorporated into a quantitative whole-building whole-of-life assessment, delivering a robust evaluation of the environmental performance of buildings across their life cycle.

The work has resulted in a proposed New Zealand Environmental Profiling Plan. BRANZ has produced an executive summary ([here](#)) and a full version ([here](#)). Other reports, arising from the research, are also available on the BRANZ Environmental Profiling web page ([here](#)).

BRANZ would like your comments and feedback on this important issue by **7 November 2012**. Contact Murray Parrish if you would like to contribute to an NZIF submission.

Sustainable Carrying Capacity of New Zealand

The Royal Society of NZ has produced a draft of Sustainable Carrying Capacity of NZ information piece and is interested in comments on it. The intended audience is the broad policy community, so the paper is aimed to mostly cover NZ-specific questions. Comments are needed by **15 October 2012**. The draft is not to be made public. Members interested in contributing should contact Andrew McEwen (president@nzif.org.nz).

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LOCAL SECTIONS

CNI SECTION

Topic: Making Hauler Operations More Cost Effective

Speakers: Rien Visser and Spencer Hill

Date: Wednesday 17 October, 5:00 pm drinks, 5:30-6:45 pm speakers

A perspective on recent international hauler system developments, and recent NZ research on rigging configurations and carriages.

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PACIFIC FORESTRY SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP

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PEOPLE NEWS

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ADVERTISEMENTS



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JOB VACANCY WEBSITES

Science jobs	fusionz.rsnz.org/
MAF	careers.haines.co.nz/MAF/Pages/Vacancies.aspx
NZ conservation jobs	www.conjobs.co.nz/index.php
Department of Conservation	www.doc.govt.nz/about-doc/jobs-at-doc/current-vacancies
Australian Government	jobsearch.gov.au/Login/Login.aspx?WHCode=0
Australia Department of Agriculture Fisheries & Forestry	www.daff.gov.au/about/jobs

UK student seeks work placement

My name is Daniel Santino Scrocca and I am currently attending a Level 3 national diploma course in Arboriculture & Forestry at Otley College in suffolk, England. I am seeking information on how to find a work placement in NZ and would like to know how to progress into a career in forestry in your country. *Daniel Scrocca* (daniel.scrocca@hotmail.com)

Graduate seeks work

I am a recent PhD graduate with experience in chemistry, biophysics, chemical and biological engineering. I am enthusiastic, self-motivated and dependable. I enjoy conducting research and I am looking for a challenging and fulfilling working environment in which I can develop my research skills and gain new expertise. I will be moving to Christchurch in January 2013. For my detailed curriculum vitae or more information please email: mugekasanmascheff@gmail.com. Regards, *Muge Kasanmaschef*

Internship sought

I am currently based in the UK but I will be travelling to NZ in late October of this year under a working holiday visa where I intend to combine both work and travel. I am also hoping to make greater use of my time in NZ by carrying out an internship relating to my area of study. I recently graduated with an MSc in Carbon Management from the University of Glasgow in Scotland and intend to pursue a career in this sector. I have previously carried out an internship with the forestry Commission in the UK and have worked for a waste management company, also based within the UK. Further details of my education and experience are in my CV (please email for this). I am looking for an internship and would be entirely flexible as regards to its timing. I also realise a paid internship may not be possible and would be more than happy to carry out an unpaid one if necessary. Please contact me if you have an internship for me. Regards, *Tom Bradley* (tombradley82@hotmail.com)

FAO vacancies

Please find below a link to FAO Professional Vacancy Announcement: 'Forest Resources Officer' P3: http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/VA/pdf/IRC2117_e.pdf. For any changes in contact information or focal points please send an email with relevant information to: <mailto:FAO-Vacancies@fao.org>.



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PUBLICATIONS / MEDIA / NOTICES

BANZ WEBINAR SESSIONS 2012-13

Title: Miscanthus – Multi Use Energy Crop

Date: 2:00 pm on 11 October 2012

Fee: No registration fee for BANZ members (others \$60)

Miscanthus is a short rotation plant that can be used as a fuel for heat plant or as a future feedstock for transport biofuel production. An advantage of Miscanthus is that it is non-invasive and within three years can be producing an annual revenue stream for landowners. It is an ideal energy crop for small-scale landowners as it is harvested like grass. Because it is harvested when it is dry it can be stored in bundles until required and so there are no storage facilities required. It is used in the northern hemisphere in large and increasing quantities and is just starting to take off in NZ.

Peter Brown of Miscanthus New Zealand Limited (MNZ) will talk about what Miscanthus is capable of, what it can be used for, and how the Miscanthus industry is developing in NZ. His virtual tour of the use of Miscanthus in this country will include:

- Background about what Miscanthus is and how it grows
- Where and how it can be grown – the requirements for success
- How MNZ is multiplying the plant for commercial sale
- Commercial end uses, both established and in development
- Current research – both in-house and by research institutions
- The economics of Miscanthus production and use
- Future possibilities.

Peter has over 44 years' experience in forestry planting, harvesting and utilisation. He has been involved in development and use of a variety of natural resources throughout NZ, Australia, Asia and the Pacific including Chile and China. MNZ has been in operation only two years, but already has plants established at 10 sites throughout the country. Peter is a Fellow of the NZIF and has served twice on the Council of this Institute. MNZ is able to provide Miscanthus plants, establishment and management expertise, utilisation advice, plus research and development competency to interested industry participants. The company is active in international Miscanthus markets.

Please contact admin@bioenergy.org.nz to book a place at this event. Bookings are essential in order to be able to access the presentation via Webinar.

MPI NEWS: THAILAND ICPR UPDATE

To exporters of forest products to Thailand: The ICPR relating to forest products for Thailand has been updated. Changes include: class categories renamed in line with those used in ePhyto; hyperlinks to quarantine pest list added; "Free of soil" added to class categories of regulated products; other minor content and format changes. The ICPR is available at: <http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/exports/forests/standards/thailand.htm>.



5th ANNUAL INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE IN CANBERRA

‘Stepping Up the Value Chain’: ForestWorks and First Super Conference

ForestWorks and First Super have announced a remarkable final line-up for the 5th Annual Industry Development Conference for the forest, wood, paper and timber products industry. It will take place in Canberra on 30 and 31 October 2012. Göran Roos, who was recently rated by a leading business journal as one of the world’s 13 most influential thinkers for the 21st century, will present the opening address by video focusing on ‘The Future for Australian Wood’.

The impressive line-up of influential speakers also includes: Joseph F Bachman (Director of Portfolio Management and Partner of Global Forest Partners); Dr Harley Dale (Chief Economist of the Housing Industry Association); Jim Henneberry (CEO of Australian Paper); and Brett Himbury (CEO of Industry Funds Management – IFM). The full line-up of speakers and registration details are available at this website: forestworks.com.au/conference2012

ForestWorks CEO Michael Hartman said the annual conference had built up a considerable reputation in a short span of time. He also said the current state of manufacturing in Australia made the conference even more significant. “Times are certainly tough in our industry right now and that’s what makes this conference so vital. We understand that it is not viable for businesses to continue on with a ‘business as usual’ approach. Now is a time when it is necessary to be innovative, and a huge part of innovation is stimulating and cultivating collaboration. There are undoubtedly real challenges facing forest, wood, paper and timber industry, and in fact all manufacturing in Australia, but there are real opportunities too.”

Mr Hartman noted the extensive line-up of speakers would be bound to generate debate, discussion and ideas. “We have thought-leaders from Australia and around the world addressing the major issues facing our industry: the impact of illegal logging, the debate about free trade versus fair trade, the need to stimulate residential housing construction, and other approaches to increasing the use of timber.”

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CALENDAR

The events in this calendar have come from a range of sources and no responsibility can be taken for errors. Contact the organisers to check times, locations, costs etc. New events are marked in moss green.

October 2012

Tue 9	NZ Wood Timber Design Awards, http://www.nzwood.co.nz/timber-design-awards-2012/
Wed 10 – Thur 11	Wood Innovations 2012, Melbourne, Australia, www.woodinnovationsevents.com
Thur 11	BANZ webinar seminar on Miscanthus, admin@bioenergy.org.nz
Tue 16 – Wed 17	Wood Innovations 2012, Rotorua, www.woodinnovationsevents.com - NZIF members receive a special 10% discount off the advertised conference registration rates

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Number 2012/39

5 OCTOBER 2012



New Zealand Institute of Forestry
- Te Pirihini Ngāherehere o Aotearoa Incorporated -

Wed 17	CNI Section Meeting, DavidHerries@interpine.co.nz
Fri 19 – Sun 21	Ex-New Zealand Forest Service workers – Westland get together, keenanr@kinect.co.nz
Tue 3 – Wed 31	5 th Annual Industry Development Conference, Canberra, forestworks.com.au/conference2012
November 2012	
Mon 12 – Fri 16	8 th IUFRO Conference on International Conference on Uneven-Aged Silviculture
Sun 25	NZ Ecological Society Annual Conference, http://www.nzes.org.nz/events/conference-2012
Wed 28 – Thur 29	ForestTECH 2012 – Improving Wood Transport & Logistics, Melbourne, Australia, www.foresttechevents.com
Thur 29 – Fri 30	Symposium honouring John Buchanan, hewitson@knoxcollege.ac.nz
December 2012	
Tue 4 – Wed 5	ForestTECH 2012 – Improving Wood Transport & Logistics, Melbourne, Rotorua www.foresttechevents.com
May 2013	
Thur 16 – Tue 21	Third International Congress on Planted Forests, http://www.efiatlantic.efi.int/portal/events/2013_icpf
June-July 2013	
Sun 30 – Wed 3	NZIF AGM and Conference, New Plymouth

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