

NZIF Newsletter 2017-03 (27 February 2017)

President's Column



Federated Farmers has adopted a policy on climate change!

If the press release announcing this development is accurate it seems NZ's farmers finally accept "The scientific consensus climate change is happening and that humanity, including agriculture, contributes." The Fed's solution to the problem is to demand "public policy which supports New Zealand's natural advantages in agricultural production." More specifically, Federated Farmers suggest "...greater investment in research to support adaptation in a changing and more volatile climate for agricultural production." They recommend research "...explore the potential for broadening the definition of carbon forests to incentivize tree planting for soil erosion, water quality, animal welfare (shelter and shade), and biodiversity."

Viewed in isolation, Federated Farmers comments seem reasonable and even logical. However they don't acknowledge, or perhaps have overlooked, is currently everybody else in NZ including the poorest in our society are paying for what the farmers are not. Maybe NZ should not have entered into international climate change commitments, but the fact remains we have, and half the cost to meeting these commitments is due to emissions from agriculture. The farmers share on NZ's ETS burden is shouldered by everybody else.

Farmers are calling for incentives for tree planting for soil erosion, water quality, animal welfare (shelter and shade), and biodiversity. One interpretation of this demand is soil erosion, declines in water quality from nitrate and other animal by-products and even animal cruelty is likely to continue unless taxpayers stump up the cost of avoiding them. It is worth remembering and reflecting plantation forests giving rise to valued biodiversity like native falcon and bat populations, reduce erosion and sedimentation, provide recreation and reduce our carbon liability, however these same plantations usually attract punitive Resource Consent conditions rather than praise and fiscal largess!

The indirect subsidies underpinning agricultural land uses in NZ include the absence of significant regulatory constraint on agricultural nitrate emissions, notwithstanding the assumption in the RMA since 1991 'the polluter should pay'. Foresters would not care so much but for the fact the tax-free capital gains in land value accruing to farming due to their environmental costs being 'externalised' (whatever happened to the polluter should pay) act to constrain afforestation. The same effect arises from the transfer of wealth to farmers from the rest of society by way of the 're-allocation' of agriculture's 50% share of GHG liabilities.

Federated Farmers climate change policy suggests agricultural emissions should continue and expand and the taxpayer should fund the cost, either via subsidies or the cost of purchasing units to offset the countries liabilities. Federated Farmers call for more research into low emissions agriculture should also be questioned .The absence of any incentive (ie inclusion in the ETS) to adopt emission reductions means it is likely research findings are likely to be left to languish due to the cost of bring them onto the farm.

NZIF has called for NZ to adopt an integrated forest policy where the positive public benefits of forestry are recognised and rewarded. Reaction from Government to date has been muted at best.

Perhaps we need to reframe the debate.

The Minister of Climate Change is apparently attracted to the need to ".....explore the potential for broadening the definition of carbon forests to incentivise tree planting for soil erosion, water quality, animal welfare (shelter and shade), and biodiversity." On this basis NZIF recommends the Government explore the potential for incentivising plantation forests because planting trees leads to less soil erosion, better water quality, improved biodiversity, enhanced recreation and greater GHG absorption than the permitted alternative uses for the same land.

Regards

James Treadwell

Institute News

Nelson/Marlborough Local Section Event

Bill Dyck (FOA Biosecurity Manager) will present:

Changes to NZ Forest Biosecurity Surveillance System: Targeting Risk to improve forest health protection and maintain a healthy log trade.

Biosecurity threats to New Zealand are rapidly increasing for a number of reasons, but primarily because of increased trade and tourism. Pests and pathogens are getting closer to New Zealand and establishing in trading partner countries and hitchhiking on trade goods and people to our border. NZ Forestry has had an active forest health surveillance system in place for more than 50 years and it has been regularly reviewed and updated. Over the last two years FOA has been working with MPI, Scion, AgResearch. SPS Biosecurity and CEBRA (Australian Centre of Excellence for Biosecurity Risk Assessment) and have developed a new Forest Biosecurity Surveillance system focused on risk and early detection to enable eradication. This means changes to how things have been done and also an even closer partnership with MPI to try to ensure forests are free of new incursions and that we can make guarantees to trading partners that we are not harbouring unwanted organisms that they might see as a threat.

Date/Time: 15 March 2017 – 4.00pm, Location: Nelson Forests – Gladstone Road, Richmond

Canterbury Local Section Event

Guest Speaker: Professor Urban Nilsson – Tree Crops for the Future (TC4F), Sweden
Topic: Forestry in Sweden

Professor Nilsson is a forest researcher from Sweden and has been active in research since the 1990's. Urban will talk about forest sector in Sweden

Date: 1st March, 6pm

Venue: School of Forestry, followed by talk in lecture theatre F1

RSVP [Terry O'Neill](#) by Monday 27th February

NZIF Conference 2017

The 2017 NZIF conference “ **The Future of the NZ Forestry Sector**” and AGM will be held at the Novotel Lakeside, Rotorua between the **3rd and the 6th September 2017**. Please add this date to your diaries now!

A host of international and domestic speakers will provide insight into the technologies, policies, and market drivers that will shape our structure, position in the landscape and the composition of our workforce. The conference field trip will take advantage of Rotorua's unique position at the heart of the industry and will offer a unique opportunity to visit processing sites, research trials and local forests. More details of the programme will be published shortly. This conference will offer something to a broad range of industry professionals, students and associated industry sectors.

If you are interested in sponsoring the NZIF Conference or would like to book a Trade Stand please contact our President, [James Treadwell](#).

From the Registrar

Registration Reviews

The following Registered Members have their five year reviews due:

- Mr D Evison of Christchurch
- Mr V Harris of Blenheim
- Mr M Morice of Napier
- Mr K Reardon of Wellington
- Mr M Shepherd of Dunedin

Any member of the Institute has the right to object to an application or review. Any objection should be made by lodging a notice with the Registrar within 20 working days of the first appearance (27 February 2017) of the notice in this Newsletter, specifying the grounds of the objection.

[Mike Marren Registrar](#)

NZIF Registration Board

Update from the NZIF Fire Committee

NZIF Forest Fire Committee on the Fire & Emergency NZ (FENZ) Bill

Since the NZIF Forest Fire Committee was approved by the Council in May 2016 tasks undertaken include:

- Formalization of the NZIF Forest Fire Committee Terms of Reference and Objectives
- NZIF submission on the FENZ Bill;
- Presentation to the Select Committee Hearing on the FENZ Bill to support the NZIF submission;
- Ongoing discussions with the Australian Institute of Foresters Forest Fire Committee Chair;
- Participation in the FENZ transition project regional meetings with the forestry sector
- Feedback on the cost of rural fire management and the need to revise the FENZ funding model
- Ten year analysis of Department of Conservation expenditure on rural fire

Parliament are on track to pass this FENZ Bill into law and the establishment of the new FENZ arrangements for integrated rural and urban fire management will take effect from the 1st July 2017. The second reading of the Bill was on 15 February and the aim is to have the third reading in March 2017. The huge impact of changes which will occur relating to the centralization of the regulatory management of fire on the forest and rural landscape has yet to be fully defined in detail. The Committee remains uneasy with elements of this reform and the impact on forest and rural landowners.

Fraser Fyfe (Strategy and Performance Lead) and Gary Lockyer (Principal Advisor, Rural) of the FENZ transition project hosted forestry sector meetings in Whangarei, Gisborne, Rotorua, Palmerston North, Balclutha and Nelson between 26 January and 3 February. The aim of these meetings was to: i) update on progress towards creation of the FENZ; ii) clarify arrangements impacting the forestry sector; iii) understand forestry sector concerns; and iv) answer questions and identify issues for action. These meetings were conducted in an open, frank and productive manner. The FENZ transition project synthesis report of questions and answers from the 6 regional meetings is available [here](#).

NZIF Forest Fire Committee members who attended the regional meetings additionally noted:

1. The workable aspects of the existing institutional arrangements with RFDs, RFOs, RFA Committees, Volunteer Services will be integrated into FENZ without major change;
2. The cultural and contextual differences between urban and rural fire will demand different institutional and operational approaches;
3. FENZ will depend heavily on negotiated partnership agreements with forest owners.
4. FENZ will prepare basic agreement of principles and priority actions as a starting point for negotiating with forest owners depending on their capacity, capability and context. DOC will have their own agreement with FENZ;
5. As FENZ will have a huge task to put agreements in place with forest owners by 1 July 2017, interim agreements may be necessary with forest owners;
6. In agreements with FENZ, forest owner equipment and fire suppression staff may be contracted to attend fires outside their forest area;
7. Forest owners, volunteers and FENZ staff will all need to meet a required standard of training and a strong focus of FENZ will be on providing the training and monitoring;
8. The estimate of savings by the new FENZ arrangements were considered optimistic. The first 5 years will allow a more realistic assessment of arrangements and costs to be evaluated;
9. Cabinet rejected the FENZ funding options from a general tax and a land tax in favor

of an increase on an insurance levy;

10. FENZ noted that a significant proportion of private forest owners didn't insure their forest plantations but invested in their own fire management capacity;

11. FENZ will provide fire management suppression for forest owners, whether insured or not, as fires may spread to other land-users;

12. FENZ emphasized the need for collaborative arrangements with forest owners, especially around risk reduction;

13. The forest sector will “own” the commercial risk and will need to make decisions on insuring their crop on that basis (they won't need firefighting cover as FENZ will pay for that); and

14. Existing NRFA standards will apply, and NRFA rates will apply for training and suppression work.

The regional forest owner meetings provided an important FENZ transition project starting point with the forestry sector but a lot more dialogue is needed to determine the detail to ensure that fire management on the forest and rural landscape is not disadvantaged in the reforms during the transition.

The Fire Service Commission recently released an independent report by Martin Jenkin on the costing of rural fire services. The Committee will review the findings in this report to ensure it reflects forest and rural fire realities and then develop a position. The Committee will report to members once this work is completed.

A copy of the Martin Jenkins Report is [available here](#)

NZIF members are encouraged to participate in the FENZ transition process to ensure that the views of forest owners, managers and communities are not only heard but the necessary institutional, operational and resourcing arrangements are put in place for managing fire on the forest and rural landscape. You may wish to monitor the following websites:

[FENZ transition project](#)

The Department of Internal Affairs, [FENZ Bill Portal](#)

NZ Parliament Website, [FENZ Bill progress tracker](#)

NZ Legislation on [FENZ Bill](#)

[In the News](#)

2017 NZ Wood Resene Timber Design Awards Gala Presentation Dinner

Thursday, 9th March 5.30pm - 11.00pm, Pullman Hotel, Cnr Princes Street & Waterloo Quadrant, Auckland CBD

Ticket prices are \$179.10 (GST + fee incl.) - This includes: Cocktail hour + 3 course plated dinner and drinks.

Tickets are on sale until Thursday 3rd March 2017. [Click here](#) for tickets.

Join architects, engineers and timber industry leaders for a fun and spectacular night to celebrate Timber Design excellence and innovation at the:

The 2017 NZ Wood Resene presentation gala dinner will reward practitioners who have surpassed the 'everyday' with their professional skill and ability to deliver excellence to their clients.

In a marketplace that makes many claims and with expectations around 'grand designs' abounding, join representatives from the New Zealand Forest and Wood Products industry in celebrating those that can truly see the wood from the trees and know how to use it!

While recently browsing the web site for Gwydyr Forestry School in North Wales I encountered photograph of John Drewitt in 1958

It carried a note that he had left the UK and went into forestry in NZ. John had been a room mate of mine in Benmore Argyll, Scotland and I felt compelled to try to make contact. Any assistance you could provide would be greatly appreciated.

[Fred Carty email](#)

The Commonwealth Forestry Association - Young Forester Award 2017

As part of the Commonwealth Forestry Association's (CFA) commitment to supporting the professional development of young foresters CFA are pleased to announce the launch of the CFA Young Forester Award 2017 in conjunction with the Faculty of Forestry at the University of British Columbia.

The CFA Young Forester Award provides a short-term work placement of three months hosted by the University of British Columbia at their Malcolm Knapp Research Forest, between September and December 2017, where the successful applicant will be able to develop their practical skills. The Award covers flights, accommodation, local travel, subsistence costs and a small bursary to cover the period of the placement.

More details on this award, including eligibility criteria, can be found [here](#). The Application Form should be completed and submitted via [email](#) by March 15th 2017.

Calling for Nominations

Eastland Wood Council – Skilled Professional of the Year

For the person/company that you know deserves the accolades and opportunity to stand up on stage and be recognised at the Eastland Wood Council Forestry Awards 2017 – May 19 Friday. [For more information](#)

FSSS Notification

Our second Forest Science Seminar for the year is on "Rapid Ohia Death – a new fungal disease of Metrosideros on Hawai'i" by J.B. Friday from University of Hawai'i,

MONDAY 06 MARCH 2017 - Rimu Room and Zoom - 12noon – 1pm

Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death is a new fungal disease that has caused extensive mortality across tens of thousands of hectares of Metrosideros forests on Hawai'i Island. Loss of these native forests threatens native species, watershed protection, and landscape and cultural values. Two new species of the pathogenic fungus Ceratocystis have been shown to be infecting Metrosideros in Hawaii. The origins of the fungi are unknown, but the more virulent one is related to the Latin American clade of Ceratocystis while the second one is related to the Asian clade. Molecular tests have been developed to allow for quick testing for the presence of the pathogen. Movement of the disease is suspected to be both by people moving infected material and by windblown insect frass produced by ambrosia beetles. Current control measures include felling of infected trees on the edges of infected areas and covering logs to prevent beetles and frass from spreading. A testing program is underway to assess the effectiveness of the control measures. Experiments are underway to discover if there are populations of Metrosideros resistant to the disease. A remote sensing program, coupled with ground efforts, allows identification of incipient outbreaks beyond the affected areas. A public outreach program seeks to dissuade local landowners and other from moving infected Metrosideros around the island.

Speaker Biography - J. B. Friday, Ph. D.
Extension Forester, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

J. B. Friday is the extension forester for the University of Hawai'i. He works with landowners, tree farmers, and professional foresters in Hawai'i and the American-affiliated Pacific Islands on management of both native forests and tree farms. His particular interests are in forest health, restoration of native forests, silviculture of Acacia koa, nurseries, agroforestry, and landowner networks. Prior to coming to Hawai'i, Dr. Friday worked in agroforestry extension in the Philippines with the US Peace Corps. Dr. Friday is originally from the northeastern US, where he earned a bachelor's degree in biology at Dartmouth College in 1982 and a master's in forestry at the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies in 1985. He did his doctoral research on agroforestry on competition between hedgerows and crops for light and nutrients and graduated from the University of Hawai'i in 1998.

ZOOM details, [just click the link to join](#)

For Sale

PRODUCTION FOREST, ATTRACTIVE LAND

Te Mata Forest, Coromandel

- 463ha land area, 280ha Radiata, majority 20 years old
- DOC boundary, plantation manuka potential
- Pruned and thinned showing excellent growth
- Permanent sample plot information available

DEADLINE PRIVATE TREATY

Friday 17 March 2017 at 4.00pm

[Jeremy Keating](#) 021 461 210

[Warwick Searle](#) 021 362 778

CBRE



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