

NZIF WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

18 AUGUST 2014

Number 2014/30

NZIF introduces

Chris Goulding
NZ Journal of Forestry Editor



Chris joined the NZFS in 1972 at the Forest Research Institute Rotorua, where he has worked since, apart from returning to Canada for a short spell. He ran the Forest Mensuration and Management Systems research field for 17 years and many NZ companies utilise the results from this group.

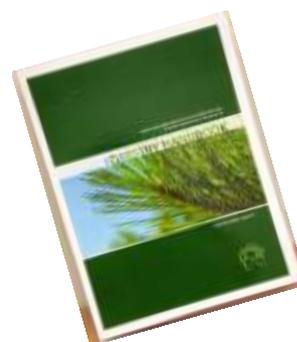
Currently he is carrying out research on Intensive Forest Systems within FFR and on large-scale forest inventory to estimate carbon in NZ forests. He contributes to work on improving indicators of forest sustainability. He carries out audits for Forest Stewardship Certification. He has recently become interested in the problems likely to be incurred with the forthcoming spike in wood availability and the opportunities offered by Forest Management Associations for both Maori and the woodlot owners.

Chris received his Doctorate in Forest Management from the University of British Columbia.

Notice from the Councillors

Have you got a copy of the NZIF Forestry Handbook and CD? This is now free to all paid up members of the institute. We simply ask you to pay postage of \$6.50 (a correction to last week). To all non-members a new price of \$99.00 (including GST) plus postage. Please note that rural deliveries incur an extra \$2.80 charge.

Email Jay to order your copy.



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PRESIDENT COMMENT

A number of members have made comment to me on the DANA conference held in Rotorua last week. I was unable to attend but from the feedback it appears a number of speakers thoughts aligned with your councils thinking and reinforced the regulatory and economic hurdles currently facing the forestry sector.

The messages delivered reinforced ideas mooted by Kit Richards at the NZIF conference 2 years ago. Rational behaviour by investors aligns with regulation, and currently regulation seems to discourage forestry and afforestation investment in favour of other land uses. How else does one explain higher agricultural land values where IRRs are 0-3% when compared to forest land values where IRRs are 5-9%.

Land used for forestry incurs costs for biodiversity protection, riparian planting and other requirements while the same land in agriculture is exempt and, in some cases, permit what most of the NZ public would consider pollution.

The argument used by some politicians to justify farmers pollution is there is nothing the farmers can do. It is interesting to consider the lack of real action by farmers to find solutions to their pollution or to control stocking numbers. It is interesting to consider whether the argument *nothing can be done* would be an acceptable response to recent H&S issues in forestry and I wonder if workplace injury and pollution are so different other than in the time scale over which they occur.

Why is forestry and agriculture treated so differently by regulators? Is it because politicians are not aware regulation is being applied on the basis of land use, rather than environmental outcomes? Or perhaps it is because they do not care about forestry? Political commentary at the DANA conference suggests some politicians are very aware of the issues. Labour MP Chris Hipkins stated NZ needs more forestry not less. Steffan Browning highlighted the Greens policy of a carbon tax to price the environmental

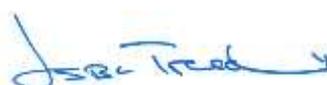
externalities of activities into the costs of goods and services. Annette Sykes of Mana received spontaneous applause for stating she was very well aware of what land uses were killing her lake and accountability would be sheeted home if she has the chance.

Commercially viable forestry and afforestation is in the interests of NZ and of all stages of the forestry and wood products supply chain. Without forests there can be no logs and without logs there can be no processing. However it is unlikely afforestation can be an attractive investment while *subsidised* farming sets the land price. What would the land price be if farmers had to pay for their methane like every other emitter? How would the economics of forestry and farming in dry catchments compare if \$400 million in irrigation "incentives" was taken out of the equation?

It is in our common interest investment in forests occurs. Therefore your council will always oppose regulation which unfairly penalises forestry investment and afforestation. If the environmental standard in New Zealand is to turn a blind eye then let's abandon all regulation on land use equally. If it is not (and I am sure we all assume it is not) then apply the RMA as it was intended and require those using natural resources to avoid, remedy or mitigate their environmental effects. Such a message may seem simplistic but it is one everyone in the sector should subscribe to. Fair and equitable treatment of forestry versus other land use is fundamental.

Until the Government treats this fundamental principle with more than lip service we must all keep demanding it very publicly.

James Treadwell *RMNZIF*



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MEMBERS VOICE

James is exalting us with the following call;

But don't stop there, lets all call for the Government to recognise what we can offer NZ. Lets all complain when we see something which penalises our industry to anothers benefit. Let us, as an industry, be heard.

The current Government is NOT interested in forestry and it is NOT interested in the environment so any attempt at dialog with it is *flogging a dead horse*. I cannot see how forestry can expand its contribution to the economy for the following reasons;

Land prices are too high because;

- Farmers are in the business of farming capital gains not cash profits. The current Government is utterly complicit with this state of affairs.
- Overseas investors use farm investments to move capital out of other jurisdictions where they can exploit the capital gains free tax environment.
- External farm costs, such as water, pollution, loss of biodiversity and emissions are paid for by the citizenry and not by farmers. These subsidies are then capitalised into land value.
- The idea continually touted by the Government that the world needs feeding and the value of food products is on the up and up. The Government never mentions that extra people will need extra houses or fresh clean water; the major product of forests.

Compliance burdens are too high because;

- Many private forests were set up under prospectus. New Financial Markets Authority rules do not differentiate between a bank, a finance company and a small forest investments that has limited transactions, are closely held and carry minimal debt if any. It is not now practicable to use prospectus to set up forest investments.
- Forestry is frequently labelled as the most dangerous industry in this country, when it is in fact only fifth after farming, maritime (including commercial fishery), aviation and recreation- all of those industries pale in comparison to the most dangerous job by all measures-sitting behind a desk. Forestry processes more volume of material than the rest of the economy put together. Nevertheless the threatening actions of politicians has put fear into forestry investors about the liabilities that they may face; in contrast farmers rarely face prosecution.

The Government wants to double primary sector exports (not including forestry) by 2025

- This can only be achieved by torturing our land, air, sea and water but the Government just says *Get used to it*. The Government actions have been to facilitate the clearance of forestry for dairy and frustrate the conversion of farmland to forestry.
- The Government has made no attempt to reform the RMA and it continues to allow Councils throughout the country to discriminate against forestry on the flimsiest pretexts.

No one in Government, except the now side-lined Nick Smith, believes in climate change and even if it does happen their view is that we can adapt.

- No matter about the high energy storms that have smashed native and plantation forests recently and whose frequency will become an increasing feature of climate change.
- The Government has screwed the ETS around so that the mainly Government owned energy companies have an excuse to charge ETS costs at the \$25 rate and pay liabilities with low price ERUs with the Government being the beneficiary of the profits.

MEMBERS VOICE continued

- The Government also receives and advantage when the oil companies charge ETS costs as it collects GST on the higher amounts.
- The Government excuse for side-lining the ETS was that it did not want to burden the population with carbon costs. Instead it brought in swingeing increases in excise tax on fuel.
- However the Government used the ETS to pay out Rio Tinto from not closing the Tiwai smelter in the middle of the Meridian sale.
- The Government is unconcerned that it lied to Post 89 forest owners with regard to the use of ERUs and this lie has resulted in considerable cost to those owners.
- Those forest owners now do not want to have anything further to do with the ETS except to exit the scheme.
- This lie has seriously undermined investor confidence in forestry and we are going to face the problem of encouraging re-investment after harvest.
- There is now a perception amongst forestry investors that for the Government to achieve any reduction in emissions levels by 2020 then it will have to restrict the harvest of Post 89 forests. The Government has further re-enforced that fairness or justice with respect to forest owners is not one of its concerns.

It is hard to see how forestry could have been treated worse than what we have received from the current regime so I am forced to the conclusion that it is time for us in the forestry sector to try and re-shuffle the deck of political cards.

Owen Springford

From the latest Institute of Foresters Australia (IFA) Newsletter

Who was Doug Brodie?

As part of the IFA 80 year celebrations, members John Dargavel and Geoff Dean are working on a compilation of over 200 biographies of foresters for release next year. As the work progresses they are finding some gaps in the records so we have offered to use the Newsletter to find members who may be able to provide missing information.

The first unanswered question is *Who was Doug Brodie?* They have uncovered a very short obituary of Doug Brodie in the ANU student magazine Forestry Log in 1970. Doug died on 14 February 1970. Although the obit talks about his student life, it says nothing about his background or where he worked subsequently.

Further to this, an obituary of Gregory James Crawford in Australian Forestry, who died in Tasmania in 1986 at the age of 26 years, mentions that he held the Doug Brodie Memorial Award.

[Geoff](#) and [John](#) would be most grateful for any information about Doug Brodie or the award given in his name.

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INVITATIONS

Seminar: The Chinese Market for Forestry Products

Venue: A9 Lecture Theatre, University of Canterbury

Date and Time: 3pm Friday 22nd August

Dr Lei Wang is an Erskine Fellow at University of Canterbury currently teaching Forest Products Marketing at the School of Forestry. Dr Wang is from University of Helsinki, where he also teaches Forest Products Marketing. In addition to his academic achievements, Dr Wang has worked in China and Finland in marketing roles for major Finnish forestry firms.

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Scion Research – Forest Science Seminar
Friday 22 August 2014, 12 – 1pm
Rimu Room, Scion, Te Papa Tipu Innovation Park, 49 Sala Street, Rotorua 3010.

International trends in harvesting productivity and safety: Is New Zealand keeping pace?
Dr Glen Murphy, Wairiki Institute of Technology

To attend in person, please enter Scion through the main reception.
For remote attendance via live streaming please contact [Karin Webb](#)

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LinkedIn

Join the discussion that continues around the topic of *Different valuation approaches for forestry land versus farm land* on the NZIF LinkedIn group.

James is also creating discussion around paying for water use and [this](#) article about the use of robotics in forestry safety

www.linkedin.com

FROM THE REGISTRAR

Application to become a Registered Member has been received from

- **Mr P Auge** of Rotorua

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 (11 August) of the notice in this Newsletter, specifying the grounds of the objection.

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Notice from the Administrators

The latest NZ Journal of Forestry Volume 59 Number 2 now online.



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Grammar note

We are continuing to omit all apostrophes for pdf design purposes in the newsletter. There are problematic bold lines that we are currently unable to adjust – if anyone has some advice, please email [Virginia](#)

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REQUEST

I am Joaquin Gomez, a forestry engineer from Spain and am currently applying for a job permit in New Zealand. My background in Spain is a five year Forestry Engineering degree.

I am applying for a work visa under the *Skilled employment* list, and the *absolute skills shortage* list. Both lists appear in the New Zealand Immigration webpage and mean that I have a good chance of receiving this work permit.

Therefore, once I receive this work permit I would like to find out how I can contact companies, institutions or people interested in hiring a forestry scientist.

I would be really grateful for any advice about my chances of gaining employment in the forestry field in NZ and how I can establish contacts with different institutions or people within this field in New Zealand.

If you would like to see my certificates and transcripts, please do not hesitate to ask.

[Joaquin Gomez](#)

REQUEST

My name is Mark Ryan, I am an Irishman raised in Luxembourg. For the past two and a half years I have been Assistant Division Coordinator at the Headquarters of the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC) in Budapest, Hungary. My expertise and experience is in wildlife conservation, with an academic and professional background in agriculture and forestry. I hold a Master of Science (MSc) in Environmental Science, Policy & Management and a Bachelor (BAgrSc) in Agri-Environmental Science. I have lived, worked and studied in 8 countries and enjoy discovering, interacting and communicating with people of different backgrounds and cultures. I am a reliable and confident individual, not afraid of hard work. I am fluent in English and French and speak Spanish, German, Italian, Hungarian and Luxembourgish. I enjoy trekking, trail-running, kayaking, hunting and wilderness experiences.

I am seeking short-term job vacancies in New Zealand in the field of nature conservation, whether as a guide, ranger, forester, project coordinator/assistant or other. I will arrive in New Zealand on 19 September 2014 on a 1-year working holiday visa. Should you be aware of any suitable vacancies or wish to receive more information, I would be most grateful if you could contact me by email.

[Mark Ryan](#)

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ADVERTISING



Harvesting Manager

Job Description

We are seeking a highly motivated individual to manage our harvesting operations in the Taranaki – Wanganui area. You must have a high level of integrity, good communication skills, ability to proactively manage and lead workplace health and safety, and enjoy challenging the norm to get our Clients the best results possible.

To go with those attributes the ideal candidate will have a minimum of five years harvesting and roading management experience, contract negotiation skills, be capable of harvest planning for cable operations, have a record of professionally dealing with forest owners and other parties through the harvest process.

If you do not possess all of the above experience and/or skills but are working towards this type of role as a career path, and have a positive and professional approach we would like to hear from you.

An attractive remuneration package including work vehicle and bonuses will be offered.

How to apply

For a copy of the Job description phone or email using contact details below. Applicants must supply a copy of their CV together with a covering letter presenting the key attributes they can bring to the position. This should be sent attached to an email headed *Harvesting Manager*.

Contact [Jeremy Waldegrave](#)

Mobile 0275060676

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CALENDAR

NZIF takes no responsibility for errors in this calendar. Please visit the website or contact the organisers to confirm times, locations, costs.

August 2014

- Fri 22 August Forest Science Seminar with Glen Murphy, *International trends in harvesting productivity and safety: Is New Zealand keeping pace?*, contact [Karin Webb](#)
- Fri 22 Seminar with Dr Lei Wang, *The Chinese Market for Forestry Products*, 3pm
Venue: A9 Lecture Theatre, University of Canterbury
- Mon 25 – Fri 29 [IUFRO Forestry Tree Breeding Conference](#) Prague

Sept 2014

- Wed 17 – Thu 18 [Wood Innovations 2014](#)

Nov 2014

- Sun 16 – Wed 19 [A place to live national conference](#), Royal Society of NZ
Sun 24 – Mon 25 New Zealand History of Science conference, [email](#)

April 2015

- Mon 13 – Wed 15 [ANZIF Conference 2015](#), 'Creating Resilient Landscapes', Novotel Forest Resort Creswick, Victoria, Australia



NEW ZEALAND INSTITUTE OF FORESTRY

Te Pūtahi Ngāherehere o Aotearoa Inc.

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