

## THE REAL CLIMATE BATTLE BEGINS

**THE PENNANT ON NEW ZEALAND'S BATTLETANK IN THE WAR AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE MAY BE TATTERED, BUT THE TANK ITSELF IS IN REMARKABLY GOOD SHAPE.**

"Give it a lube, take off the hand-brake and let the driver know the direction of the front-line and the NZ Emissions Trading Scheme could be a very efficient machine," says FOA chief executive David Rhodes, who was a member of the NZ delegation to the Paris climate change talks.

To stretch the analogy a little further, supplies of the juice needed to fuel the tank are also potentially in plentiful supply: trees. New Zealand has tens of thousands of hectares that, if the carbon price was right, could be planted in the forests that would enable New Zealand to make a credible contribution to the battle.

Rhodes says New Zealand has little choice. To continue to be seen as a responsible world citizen, it must play its part in addressing climate change. And planting more trees is one of the most cost-effective ways of doing this, as the ETS public discussion document acknowledges. Already, our growing forests are removing more than 15% of the emissions produced elsewhere in the economy.

Forestry was the only reason New Zealand met its target in the first commitment period, but relying on already planted trees won't work from now on. We need new plantations while we transition the rest of the economy.

Each hectare of NZ plantation forest stores about 25 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> a year. One new hectare of radiata pine stores about 112 tonnes of carbon in perpetuity if replanted – more if you include the carbon stored in harvested wood.

"The Paris accord is legally loose at present. But morally it is tight ... basically the world is committed to a common cause, combating climate change," says Rhodes.

"Forestry has been confirmed as an important part of that. And former climate change minister Tim Groser helped ensure there was recognition of all forests not just those in developing countries."

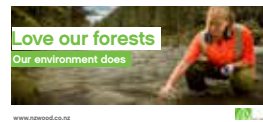
Rules on emissions and removals arising from land-use weren't in the Paris accord, but may eventually be based on the rules painstakingly negotiated under the Kyoto Protocol.

"In the meantime, countries are free to account and report using the methodologies that suit them. This leaves New Zealand free to use the systems it has already adopted until future guidance is developed," Rhodes says.

"While this sounds like a bit of a free-for-all, countries are required to provide information that promotes environmental integrity, transparency, comparability and so on. This ethical requirement for

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countries to take real action may well prove to be a more powerful incentive than the legalese of Kyoto.

"For now, each country will assess its 'fair contribution' in the light of its national circumstances. While behind the scenes, rules will be developed that will underpin the agreement, including approaches for international carbon trading."

Rhodes says the NZETS will work only if there is an adequate price incentive for emitters to reduce emissions and to encourage carbon sequestration in new forests. That incentive evaporated when the government gave emitters a 1 for 2 subsidy in 2009 to mitigate the impact of the global financial crisis. The carbon price plummeted.

At present the government is reviewing the NZETS to see what changes are needed. Submissions on priority issues, including a proposal to remove the 1 for 2 subsidy, close on 19 February.

"This subsidy should be removed and not simply provided through another mechanism, particularly given there is other assistance for industries who are trade-exposed," he says.

"Agricultural emissions have deemed to be out of scope for the review. Given that they comprise about half our emissions this is not credible. It effectively means that the taxpayer or other parts of the economy have to carry the can for farming, as well as taking responsibility for their own emissions.

*continued page 2*



Post-Paris there is nowhere to hide



## SPREADING OUR POSITIVE MESSAGE

**IN THIS EDITION OF THE FORESTRY BULLETIN WE COVER SOME MEDIA ACTIVITIES FUNDED BY FOREST GROWERS.**

This complements other positive profiling of the industry by wood processors and manufacturers, particularly the annual Timber Design Awards, which are going from strength to strength (*see [www.nzwood.co.nz](http://www.nzwood.co.nz)*).

One could ask, why bother? Surely planted forests and the products that flow from them are generally appreciated as being a positive for New Zealanders, especially with the current focus on global warming. Do we really need to devote resources to spelling this out?

Well, ongoing experience and specifically designed surveys, tell us we do. Those of us who are directly involved are aware of what forestry does for the economy, regional employment, the environment and so on. But many others, from politicians to plumbers, do not.

Even some basic facts, such as the amount of land (just 6%) in planted forest compared with native forest (24%) and farming (43%), or the size of the industry (New Zealand's third largest export earner), are not widely appreciated.

Tens of thousands of Kiwis are employed in forestry and support services, typically outside the cities. Investors in the sector – including the NZ Superannuation Fund – are likely to be an order of magnitude more. And economic activity is increasing; in the last five years the volume of timber coming out of our forests has increased by 50%.

It is important that our core business of growing trees for timber and fibre is economically prosperous and has a future. But of real interest to many Kiwis are some of the 'free' goodies that come from sustainably managed plantation forests.

Apart from carbon, these ecosystem services don't have a price put on them, but they provide an endless cycle of environmental and community benefits.

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"Exposing agriculture to the full cost of its emissions would not do anyone any favours, but asking it to make a low level contribution or reduction is both reasonable and achievable."

The FOA submission to the current NZETS review was being drafted as this issue of the Bulletin went to press. But Rhodes says

For the environment there is erosion reduction, cleaner waterways, reduced carbon emissions and the control of nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorus. Scion has attempted the difficult task of putting a value on these services. For erosion control alone they estimate a value of \$121 per hectare, which means about \$200 million nationally.

Planted forests also give us increased biodiversity.

Am I suggesting that the biodiversity under a radiata plantation is higher than native forests? No, I'm not and it isn't, but planted forests aren't displacing native forests –



they are usually planted on former farmland.

Twenty four years ago, the forest industry signed an accord with environmental and recreational groups which recognised the valuable role of well-managed planted forests. It was agreed that good management included avoiding replacing native forest with planted forests. Indeed planted forests are the reason we, unlike other countries, can afford not to harvest from our native forests.

Trees planted on land unsuited to pastoral farming do improve biodiversity. It is a

it will be consistent with what the FOA told the government's independent review panel in 2011 ... views that were largely endorsed by the panel in its 2012 report.

"New Zealand has the equipment to battle climate change, but it is now up to those in charge to commit to the fight. If we fail to do so, it will inevitably come to world

myth that radiata plantations are a mono-culture. It is another myth that they somehow poison the soil.

Over 100 endangered species and 200 native plants are associated with pine forests. The forest floor supports a rich invertebrate community including 370 mostly indigenous beetles. The streams have aquatic larvae in numbers no different to native forest and much higher than pasture. Again, it is not well-known outside the industry, for example, that kiwi and the NZ falcon do particularly well in planted forests.

We also need to remember how well we humans also thrive in planted forests.

Recreational benefits seem only to be limited by the imagination and include fishing, hunting, photography, horse-riding, walking, motocross, paint-balling, flying foxes and high-wire courses, four wheel driving, swimming, painting, mountain biking and bird watching.

If more of these environmental and social values had been taken into account it is pretty certain we would not have had the levels of deforestation seen in the last 10 years.

None of this means forestry does not have areas to improve upon and that should be a continual goal. But it is reassuring to know that over half the plantation forest in New Zealand is certified to an international standard (The Forest Stewardship Council) by independent auditors who look at both social and environmental factors.

New Zealand has a proud agricultural heritage that is appropriately recognised but we do have another land use out there that we can be proud of.

Forestry may not receive a financial reward for many of the contributions it makes, but we can at least ensure the story is well known.

attention.

"Under the Paris accord all countries are required to make new commitments at 5 yearly intervals and each of these has to be an improvement on the one before. Clearly we have to get serious about getting our emissions down".

# SHARING THE LOVE

WE LOVE OUR FORESTS AND NZ WOOD WANTS OTHERS TO APPRECIATE THEM TOO.



[www.nzwood.co.nz](http://www.nzwood.co.nz)



[www.nzwood.co.nz](http://www.nzwood.co.nz)



Two of the three eye-catching NZ Wood billboards. The third theme is the economy

December saw the start of the first phase of a campaign to engage the hearts and minds of New Zealanders about our forests.

Funded by the Forest Growers Levy Trust, the campaign has been developed by the joint Forest Owners (FOA) and Farm Forestry (FFA) promotions committee, chaired by the FOA's Paul Nicholls.

"Its aim is to promote and profile the forest growing industry in a positive light and educate the general public and politicians about the huge value the industry brings to New Zealand and New Zealanders," he says.

Liane Donovan of Donovan PR is managing the campaign on behalf of FOA. "We've used real people to tell the story in three themes: the value to the economy, the environmental benefits and the

recreational opportunities," she explains.

During New Zealand's busy travel season, through to the end of March, the messages are being carried on external and internal digital billboards at Wellington Airport and billboards in members' forests around the country, she says. These are being supported by magazine advertisements in Air New Zealand's *Kia Ora* magazine, *NZ Logger* and the *Sunday Star-Times*.

An independent research project was undertaken to help the team understand public perceptions of the forest industry and to guide planning of an ongoing marketing programme. Information about the campaign has been sent out to all FOA and FFA members.

More? [nzwood.co.nz](http://nzwood.co.nz)



## RISKS NEED TO BE MANAGED

The FOA met with internal affairs minister Peter Dunne in October to give him feedback on the Fire Service review.

Since this meeting, the government has decided to create a single fire services organisation. This will involve merging 52 rural fire authorities, the National



Internal affairs minister Peter Dunne

Rural Fire Authority and the NZ Fire Service (which are both part of the New Zealand Fire Service Commission). Regional committees will ensure the interests of the regions are taken into account.

These changes had been signalled before FOA fire committee chair Grant Dodson and technical manager Glen Mackie met with the minister. National rural fire officer Kevin O'Connor also attended.

"We told him the FOA was broadly supportive of the proposed changes, providing the risks in implementation were managed well. These risks are very real and this was acknowledged by the minister," says Dodson.

Among the 18 key points put to Dunne were the need for the Rural Fire Service and Department of Conservation to continue as partners in the new service; for key personnel to be retained and for the forest industry to be engaged and onside with the changes.

FOA's concerns around costs and the proposed insurance levy were also voiced, along with industry's need for regional engagement committees with 'real power' covering rural/urban areas.

A cabinet decision has yet to be announced, but the minister indicated the general intent is to widen the insurance levy base to result in a modest contribution across a wider range of insurances. He also confirmed that sections 45 and 46 of the Forest and Rural Fire Act – which targets forestry for levies – will be removed. "This will be more equitable for forestry and is a big win for the industry," says Dodson.

# LAW NEEDS TO CATCH UP

## FOREST GROWERS SAY KINKS IN THE LAWS COVERING THE RELEASE OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS (GMOs) NEED TO BE IRONED OUT.

FOA technical manager Glen Mackie says a recent High Court decision has made some commonly accepted plant breeding techniques illegal.

In another decision, in the Environmental Court, regional councils have been given the power to control or ban the release of GMOs in their regions. This means that if a superior forest tree was developed using GM technology, it would need the approval of the EPA and each of the councils where the tree might be planted.

“While GM orchard tree species including virus-resistant papaya are widely grown in the United States and elsewhere, no GM forest trees have been released for commercial use, with the exception of insect-resistant poplars in China,” says Mackie.

“But it’s inevitable that GMOs offering big benefits to the NZ forest industry will one day become available.

“When that happens, the decision whether or not to release them needs to be made by people who can analyse complex scientific data. Clearly, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is best equipped to do this. But first, we need to have a definition of a GMO that is workable and in line with those used by our trading partners.”

### Defining a GMO

The release of GMOs is regulated by the EPA under the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms (Organisms Not Genetically Modified) Regulations 1998. The EPA has never allowed transgenic animals or plants to be released into the environment.

The regulations deem that some sophisticated plant breeding treatments do not fit the definition of genetic modification. This has allowed a wide range of crops – including grapes, fruit trees and grasses – to be developed and grown in New Zealand without needing approval under the Act as GMOs.

In 2014 a High Court judgment identified drafting errors in the regulations and ruled that a list of plant breeding techniques that are deemed not to be GM must be read as “exhaustive”. This means that some

techniques, not named in the regulations but in use before 1998, now require approval from the EPA.

As this was never intended by parliament, the EPA is now proposing to amend the regulations so that all organisms created using breeding technologies in use before 29 July 1998 are not treated as GMOs. Organisms resulting from treatments developed after this date would continue to be regulated as GMOs.

Without this change, the many organisms that have been propagated and bred by tissue culture, artificial insemination, clonal propagation and other in-vitro treatments would have to be regulated as GMOs.

The FOA agrees that this anomaly needs to be corrected, but says the proposed changes don’t go far enough. In a submission to the EPA it argues that the considerable scientific progress and innovation made since 1998 needs to be taken into account.

“Regulation based upon whether a technology was introduced more or less than 18 years ago, rather than the risk associated with the technology, is illogical,” says Mackie.

“Australia and the USA, two of our major trading partners, define a GE organism as one created by gene editing technologies that involve the introduction of genetic material from an unrelated species. Such as introducing a jellyfish gene into a food crop.

“That definition needs to be adopted by New Zealand. Our failure to do so is already stifling innovation and in the long-term will make our exports less competitive with countries that have embraced genetic engineering such as Brazil, China and the United States.

“The NZ forest industry has immediate use for herbicide-resistant plants, sterile plants, lignin-modified plants and disease-resistant plants.

Development of these plants is being delayed by the current legislation for no logical reason.”



**GM orchard trees like papaya are grown widely around the world.**

One day they may be joined by GM plantation forest trees

### The release decision

Mackie says the FOA and the Farm Forestry Association have decided to support Federated Farmers in an appeal to the Court of Appeal about a provision in Northland’s draft Regional Policy Statement that will allow the council to regulate GMOs in their region. This follows an earlier unsuccessful appeal by Federated Farmers to the Environmental Court.

“Because of the significance of the case, the Northland Regional Council is now supported by several activist groups who have engaged senior council (Royden Somerville QC) to argue their case. For their part, Federated Farmers has engaged David Goddard QC,” he says.

“Forest owners are on the same page as Federated Farmers on this issue. We know the cost and frustration of having different forest harvest rules in each region. Having a similar patchwork with respect to GMOs, along with challenges in the Environment Court, is one of our worst bureaucratic nightmares.

“We have no problem with the regulation of GMOs by the EPA. But their decision should apply nation-wide, for legal as well as practical reasons.”

# DIFFERENT THINKING NEEDED

**GETTING PEOPLE AT ALL LEVELS TO THINK DIFFERENTLY ABOUT HOW TO CREATE SAFE OUTCOMES WHEN WORKING IN A DYNAMIC ENVIRONMENT IS A KEY OBJECTIVE OF THE NEW FOREST INDUSTRY SAFETY COUNCIL (FISC).**

“Our overall aim is zero fatalities and zero harm. It’s an ambitious target, but we owe it to those who work in our forests and to improve the reputation of the industry,” says national safety director Fiona Ewing.

She says the council is successfully pulling together a work programme to address the findings of the Independent Forestry Safety Review. Among these are initiatives that were already underway before she took the helm of FISC four months ago.

These include Safetree, which will be an important communication platform for the council; and IRIS, the incident database which was set up and operated for many years by the Forest Owners Association.

“There are lots of examples of existing good practice and FISC will evaluate and share these and other initiatives more broadly across the sector,” Ms Ewing says.

“It is an exciting prospect. FISC is the first example of a body representing employers, government and workers to be given a mandate

to lead health and safety across an entire industry.”

Most FISC initiatives will be developed by the operational advisory group (OAG) and fine-tuned by technical advisory groups (TAGs), made up of people from across the industry with relevant expertise. The TAGs cover legislative reform, competency, performance management, leadership and communications.



**Fiona Ewing, National Safety Director, Forest Industry Safety Council**

Effective communications will be crucial to the success of FISC.

“Feedback on Safetree initiatives so far have been positive, from both contractors and crew members, through to forest owners, ACC and Worksafe NZ. These initiatives include stories

and messages from workplace ‘heroes’ communicated on Safetree, via YouTube and other social media; channels that are widely used in the crew environment,” says Ms Ewing.

“Of course some prefer more traditional forms of communication. The important thing is that we engage with everyone from workers to forest owners in ways that work for them.”

More? Contact Fiona Ewing, Tel 027 502 8065. Email: [fiona.ewing@fisc.org.nz](mailto:fiona.ewing@fisc.org.nz)

# NEW REGIME KICKING IN

New guidelines to help everyone prepare for the Health & Safety at Work Act 2015, which goes live on 4 April, are making their way through the official pipeline.

FOA technical manager Glen Mackie says they are intended to provide practical advice for people conducting a business or undertaking (PCBU). Public submissions on the draft guidelines closed in November.

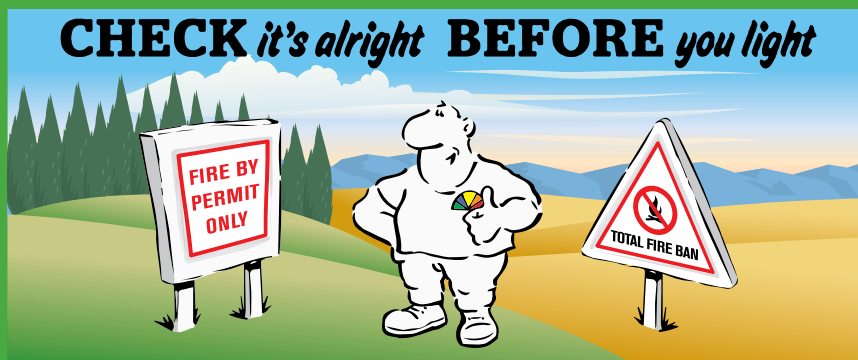
He says the draft guidelines are not the final word. They will be further amended following the release of regulations covering worker engagement, participation and representation under the Act.

WorkSafe says bringing employers and workers together to find solutions, will improve health and safety at work, and can have positive effects for businesses.

“This has been the experience of the forest industry and was one of the main lessons to come out of the Independent Forest Safety Review. The regulations will aim to promote open communication and a culture in which health and safety is integrated into everyone’s roles,” says Mackie.

He advises directors, employers and managers to keep a close watch on the progress of the regulations. Everyone needs to be confident that they understand their legal obligations as PCBUs from the start of April.

## BERNIE IS AT IT AGAIN



If in doubt, check it out - [nrfa.org.nz](http://nrfa.org.nz)

Bernie, the cartoon frontman for the New Zealand Rural Fire Authority’s rural fire prevention campaign, has

been out and about since mid-January reminding people to ‘Check it’s alright BEFORE you light’.

He’s on billboards in key regions and state highways that get more holiday traffic and also on radio, online and in social media. Mobile ads also target applications on farmers’ and tourists’ smartphones, geo-targeting rural districts, holiday spots and outdoor recreation areas.

Farmers, rural folk, local and international tourists are the targets for the annual campaign, but the message will also get through to the broader public.

The Forest Growers Levy Trust contributes towards the cost of the campaign.



## COMMODITY LEVY

# REACHING SMALLER GROWERS

## SMALL AND MEDIUM-SCALE FOREST GROWERS HAVE BEEN FINDING OUT ABOUT RESEARCH AND OTHER ACTIVITIES FUNDED BY THE FOREST GROWERS COMMODITY LEVY.

Late last year over 210 attended roadshows organised by the New Zealand Farm Forestry Association (FFA), in Whangarei, New Plymouth, Christchurch and Dunedin to publicise the levy and the work it funds.

From meeting feedback it is clear that some growers are not aware of the levy, says roadshow organiser and NZFFA national manager Glenn Tims. Some growers said their forest manager had explained the levy really well and itemised the levy deduction on their statement.

“However, this was not always the case and it can be quite a shock for a forest grower to find that the levy was still to be deducted from their cheque.”

He says the levy deduction per tonne of logs needed to be explained to clients ahead of time.

Each meeting followed a similar pattern – with afternoon presentations, followed by a networking function. There were five or six speakers at each, three covering what the levy is, the research projects it funds, recent health and safety changes, and why growers should join the NZFFA.

Speakers varied from venue to venue according to their availability. Among them, Ian Jackson, a small forest grower representative on the Forest Growers Levy Trust board; Forest Industry Safety Council national safety director Fiona Ewing; Nick Ledgard talking about the right species in the right place; and others from the Ministry for Primary Industries, Scion and Worksafe.

The New Plymouth meeting was combined with the Wood Processors

and Manufacturers Association (WPMA) which provided an interesting mix and good synergy, says Tims.

“The WPMA speakers spoke more on the processing side of things. This was an opportunity for growers to hear what happens to their trees after they’re harvested and for processors to hear about their future timber supply.

Topics of discussion have ranged from the marketing of speciality timbers to Scion’s fire protection work, through to the selection of tree species for specific regions and current MPI projects.

Tims is delighted with the response from small-scale forest growers, both members and non-members of the FFA. More roadshows are being planned so all growers nationwide have an opportunity to learn about the levy and the work it funds.

## BIOSECURITY

# GIA WORK BEGINS

## THE GOVERNMENT INDUSTRY AGREEMENT (GIA) FOR THE FOREST INDUSTRY WAS SIGNED AT THE START OF NOVEMBER AND WORK HAS ALREADY STARTED ON THE NUTS AND BOLTS.

The new agreement sets out the framework to define where costs will fall in the event of an outbreak of a serious forest pest or disease.

The FOA, in partnership with the Farm Forestry Association (FFA), is representing all plantation forestry interests in the exercise. The first meeting between forestry sector representatives and MPI officials has sketched the content of the operational

agreement (OA), including the vexed issue of how responses to exotic pest and disease outbreaks will be funded.

FOA forest biosecurity manager Bill Dyck, who is leading the work, says the meeting was positive. “Both parties are keen to move it forward,” he says.

Both readiness and response have been included in the GIA on the basis that early detection and preparedness have a huge bearing on whether an exotic pest or disease can be cost-effectively controlled, explains Dyck.

Identified for possible inclusion in the OA are: surveillance for early detection, joint response exercises, pesticide toolbox review, response plans to generic disease and pine pitch canker, to generic insect incursions, including nun moth, and multi-sector plant nursery surveillance.

Nun moth, *Lymantria monacha*, is a major threat to forests in Europe, where periodic outbreaks result in the defoliation and death of spruce and pine trees. Trials in the United States have shown that it would feed

and breed successfully in NZ radiata forests.

“Our Forest Health Surveillance (FHS) system is more than 50 years old, although it has undergone several revisions. Under the GIA, this is being updated and renamed the Forest Biosecurity Surveillance System. Its focus will continue to be on the detection of new incursions before they can establish. It is being developed jointly with MPI and its high-risk site surveillance systems. This will strengthen both systems.”

Joint decision-making features in the new agreement. The funding formula will also take into account the industry’s big investment in FHS and the many benefits of forests and trees. In 2015, forest owners spent more than \$1 million on FHS and even more on biosecurity research.

“Because plantation forestry, urban trees and the conservation estate face common threats there is a significant public good to be taken into account when determining the funding formula,” Dyck says.

The next step is a meeting to discuss and negotiate cost-sharing involving FOA chief executive David Rhodes and Dave Cormack, head of the Forest Biosecurity Committee. All GIA detail is planned to be completed by 1 July 2016.



**The dreaded nun moth**  
If we find it here, the GIA will determine who picks up the tab for eradication

## ENVIRONMENT

# PUTTING A VALUE ON OUR FORESTS

## THE CONTRIBUTIONS THAT FORESTS MAKE TO THE NZ ECONOMY EXTEND WELL BEYOND THEIR ABILITY TO PRODUCE TIMBER.

The value of 65 plant species has been analysed by NZ Institute of Economic Research (NZIER) in a draft report *How valuable is that plant species?* It puts a value of \$4.454 billion on radiata pine alone.

But in a detailed submission to the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI), FOA analyst Brigid Jenkins says this understates the true value of the four most common commercially planted tree species – radiata pine, Douglas-fir, eucalypts and cypresses.

This is because the draft did not assess the areas where trees add economic value outside the production and processing environment. This includes farm shelter belts, tourism and adventure opportunities, erosion mitigation and ornamental trees in the urban environment.



Shelter is just one of the many economic benefits provided by trees

For example, she points out that shelter belts (most commonly planted with plantation species) can reduce wind speed between 30 and 80 per cent. Benefits include decreased soil moisture loss, shade and wind protection for livestock, as well as increases in pasture growth, crop yields

and livestock productivity.

The final report, which is now being drafted, will help MPI prioritise biosecurity resources across the system and aid Government Industry Agreement discussions [see story on opposite page].

In addition, the draft identified some key knowledge gaps which would be of benefit to pursue, Jenkins considers.

“Although it may be difficult to calculate, the value of plantation forests lies not only in the harvest and export of the trees. By only focusing on productive value, the potential cost to New Zealand of a biosecurity response on any one of these tree species/genera is unable to be fully estimated.”

To read the NZIER draft: [bit.ly/PlantValue](http://bit.ly/PlantValue)  
To read the FOA submission: [bit.ly/FOA\\_NZIER](http://bit.ly/FOA_NZIER)

## HELP IDENTIFY OUR TREASURES

### LOOKING FOR A NEW PROJECT? HOW ABOUT HELPING RECORD THE RICH LIFE OF OUR FORESTS AS YOU WORK?



A new Biodiversity in Plantations (BiP) web portal, which can be accessed through tablets and smartphones, is helping standardise reporting of the bird, animal, insect and plant species seen in our plantation forests.

Scion scientist Steve Pawson and his colleagues have found over 100 threatened species of bird, animals and plants thriving in plantation forests. This led to Pawson developing the BiP project within NatureWatch NZ. Backed by FOA, this allows people to record sightings of any species from their forests into a forestry database.

“For those working in forestry, the portal is a hands-on standardised way to develop a national picture of biodiversity in plantations,” he explains.

Entries can be made directly into the web portal, or offline using tablets/smartphones via the free iNaturalist app for iPhone/ android and uploaded when you get back to the office by wifi.

The easy-to-use system involves a drop down menu for quick entry, if you know what the bird, animal or plant is. If you're not sure, more drop-down menus help with identification and will provide the proper biological name. If you still don't know what you've seen, you can upload a good quality photograph and experts will help,



Native falcon (karearea) chicks. Making a home in plantation forests

says Pawson.

“Overall, the system works well,” he says, adding that when you're used to it, entries should take about 30 seconds. “Maybe people out in the forests will see things that experts have missed.”

An annual industry update is planned so that users can see what has been identified and where, says Pawson.

“By recording what we see, we can help build public understanding of the environmental benefits of our industry.”

The establishment of the project (and the bulk upload facility of NatureWatchNZ) was made possible by the FOA with additional funding from the Terrestrial and Freshwater Biodiversity Freshwater System (TFBIS) programme. TFBIS is funded by the government to help achieve the goals of the New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy and is administered through the Department of Conservation.

To become involved, you need to be an FOA member. Contact Brigid Jenkins for your login [brigid.jenkins@nzfoa.org.nz](mailto:brigid.jenkins@nzfoa.org.nz)

## IN THE NEWS

### STEVE WILTON RE-ELECTED



Steve Wilton has been re-elected to the Forest Growers Levy Trust Board as a representative of growers of small plantation forests. He was challenged by Guy Farman who, like Mr Wilton, is based in the

Wairarapa. This was the first board election since a commodity levy was applied to harvested plantation logs in January 2014. Three existing board members stood for re-election. The two large forest candidates were declared re-elected as they were the only candidates in their category.

Mr Wilton now rejoins Ian Jackson on the trust as a representative of owners of forests of between 4 and 1000 hectares. The representatives of owners of forests larger than 1000 hectares are David Balfour, Bill McCallum, Paul Nicholls and Phil Taylor. The Trust chair, currently Geoff Thompson, is an independent, appointed by the elected board members.

For more information about the activities of the Trust and the official report on the election, visit [www.fglt.org.nz](http://www.fglt.org.nz)

### VOLUNTEERS VITAL

All forest growers benefit from the voluntary work and financial contributions made by members of the Forest Owners and Farm Forestry Associations.

“The \$7.62 million that the forest growers levy is this year budgeted to generate sounds like a very large sum of money. But in the context of forestry being the country’s third largest export industry, every dollar and more is needed,” says FOA chief executive David Rhodes.

“That’s where the voluntary contributions of members play such an important role. These may be invisible to forest owners who chose not to participate in an industry association, but we couldn’t operate without them”

The big ticket items in the Forest Growers Levy Trust (FGLT) work programme in 2016 are research, \$4.48m; programme management, \$1.07m; forest biosecurity/surveillance \$1m; marketing/promotion, \$0.79m; and health/safety/FISC \$0.58m. For more information, visit [www.fglt.org.nz](http://www.fglt.org.nz)

## FORESTWOOD CALLING

ForestWood 2016, the fourth pan-industry conference, is being held on 16 March at the SkyCity Convention Centre, Auckland.

The conference, which is renowned for the quality of its speakers and presentations, attracts a large turn-out of senior executives and professionals from all parts of the industry. Speakers will include:

Ben Gunneberg, CEO, PEFC International; Gary Hartley, GS1 New Zealand; Jon Manhire, managing director, AgriBusiness Group; Fiona Ewing, national safety director, Forest Industry Safety Council; Annelies McClure, Manager, Overseas Investment Office; Dr Elspeth MacRae, general manager manufacturing and bioproducts, Scion; Doug McKalip, senior advisor to the US secretary of agriculture; Brian Stanley, chairman of the Wood Council of New Zealand; and Russell Taylor, president, International WOOD MARKETS Group Inc.

The MC will be James Buwalda and the after-dinner speaker, Te Radar.

Joint hosts are the Forest Owners Association (FOA), the Wood Processors and Manufacturers Association (WPMA) and the Forest Industry Contractors Association (FICA). It is also supported by Woodco and the NZ Farm Forestry Association (FFA).

For more information and to register: [www.forestwood.org.nz](http://www.forestwood.org.nz)

## GREAT EARTHWORKS, ERNSLAW!



### Impressing Waikato Regional Council

Three forestry sites were recognised in the 2015 Waikato Regional Council earthworks awards, with one of them taking out the premier award ahead of industrial giants like Fletcher Construction and Transfield Services.

Council chair Paula Southgate says the council each year gives awards for the best earthworks sites in its region. “We not only recognise those companies that strive to achieve great results on larger projects. We’re also highlighting those companies that are consistently striving to achieve great outcomes generally.”

Last year, to recognise improved awareness of erosion control and soil stabilisation in forestry, it introduced awards specifically for the sector. Forest sector award winners were Hancock Forest Management, Ernslaw One and Wood Marketing Services.

The top award across all sectors went to Ernslaw One “for contributing a large amount of labour and resource over the past five years into research and development of fertiliser and grass seed blends, and work methods, to stabilise and maintain ground cover on nutrient-limited soils in the Whangapoua Forest.”