



Autumn 2017

NEWSLETTER

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**Forest
Management**
GROUP

Introduction

FROM THE DIRECTORS

Welcome to the Autumn edition of our newsletter.

Recently the Forest Management Group had our annual catch up in Kaiteriteri. One of the field trips was a visit to KD Logging working in Marahau Forest for Tasman Forest Management. Dale Ewers and Kevin Timpson presented to the group about their operation which consisted of a tethered felling machine and hauler running a Falcon grapple carriage. What struck me was not only the technology change that is taking place in harvesting, but more the passion that all of us share for our forest industry. It was a great time had by all and you can read more about our trip in the newsletter.

Also in this issue we look at how we cope when faced with a natural disaster; we chat to a forest owner who had a team on site when a severe quake struck. Finally, we pay tribute to a colleague and friend Alan Bockman.

It would be fair to say that the forest industry goes largely unnoticed in New Zealand but it is a huge contributor to the regional and national economy. Furthermore, as a land-use, it makes environmental and economic sense. Feel free to get in contact if you want to know more.

Glenn Moir
Director



WEEDONS RESERVE

The team at FMG like to stay close to the community and to “give back” wherever possible. Recently they offered some advice and help, for free, to the Weedons Reserve Committee.

Forest Management Limited stumped up around \$2,000 of land clearing work to help tidy up the reserve. They also took no ‘management fee’ from log revenues. Furthermore, TreEvolution (headed by James Fortune) offered reduced logging rates, with FML paying for the relocation of gear to the site.

“The guys did a great job of removing, burning and burying the stumps and clearing up the whole area”, stated Peter Holmes, Chairman of the Weedons Reserve Committee. “Although we still need a little more fill and levelling, the grounds now look so much better”.

Weedons Reserve lies west of Templeton just outside of Christchurch. Falling under the responsibility of the Selwyn District Council Weedons Reserve is the home of local cricket and recreation. It is the largest cricket club in the Selwyn district, and prior to the clearance, the club has had to play at Rolleston. “Hopefully the ground can be used for winter sport in future years”, said Mr Holmes.



The Nelson AGM



The FMG Team at Marahau Forest

Earlier this year, the Forest Management Group held their AGM in sunny Kaiteriteri in the Abel Tasman National Park. It was a chance for the entire team to regroup, focus on some wins of the previous year, and look ahead to what the future of the industry holds.

"One of the great things about organising these sorts of trips is that for some staff, it's the first time in a year since they have seen each other", said Director Glenn Moir. "We've also had some new staff join, so not only is it an opportunity to introduce them to the team, it's a chance to discuss the direction of the company and where we're heading as an industry."

Amongst other things, the Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) was a hot topic, with Dave Janett leading the charge. "One of the more important things was this idea of where we are and where do we want to go as a company", said Director Evan MacClure. "We don't just want to harvest trees. We want to do more in establishment. Managing carbon and harvesting together is about future proofing the company."

Health & Safety was a talking point as was the implementation of the new company CRM. "It's a long-term investment to ensure the sustainability of the company", said MacClure.



Harvesting operation at Marahau Forest

Apart from taking some time out to enjoy the scenery, arguably the highlight of the trip was on the third day when everyone went to see a harvesting operation based in Marahau Forest. KD Logging are jointly owned by Dale Ewers and Kevin Timpson. This crew are truly harvesting some difficult country. "It's a tethered operation", explains TFM Director Tamati Smith. "That means that there's a guy on a steep slope sitting in an excavator felling and shovelling stems. This machine is connected to an anchor excavator at the top of the hill. The operator can control both machines from inside the felling unit which leads to less people on the ground, which improves the safety and efficiency of the entire operation. Contractors from around the world are visiting Timpson/Ewers to see this new innovation in harvesting."



A tribute to Bocky

In February of this year a colleague and friend of the company, Alan Bockman, tragically passed away. He had been a long term logging contractor in Hawkes Bay, working for Pan Pac, Matariki and over the last 2 years Forest Management (NI).

Along with Beard Logging they have been a “go to” crew for the company and a real asset for us in the region. He will be sorely missed.

Bockman Logging has always been a family crew with Alan working since 1969. The legacy he created, we’re delighted to see, will continue on with the family. His son Jack Bockman, who has been with the company for over 20 years, has recently purchased some new kit for the operation to assist in the harvest of Hawkes Bay woodlots. “I hope to be doing this for a while yet”, said Jack.

Jack has rebranded the company to Red Stag Logging.



Alan with his granddaughter



Jack's new grapple excavator

CASE STUDY



Photo courtesy of <http://www.hurunui.govt.nz/>

Harvesting during an earthquake

What are you supposed to do when an earthquake strikes? When the recent earthquake struck North Canterbury in November 2016 many North Canterbury homes were damaged. Not only that, but bridges and roads were damaged.

For local Warren Armstrong, the quake left a few cracks through his house, where the fault line ran through. That did bother him, but he was concerned about how the quake would affect the harvesting operation on his property in Waiau, North Canterbury.

“It was just a small 7ha block of trees but some of it was on some pretty steep gullies”, said Armstrong. “We really didn’t want the quake to slow things down.”

Fortunately, it didn’t. Some bridges were damaged, which affected transportation, but they were repaired rather swiftly. All in all, the crew stopped work for just two days, before recommencing operations; surprising considering the epicenter was just 30km away.

It’s interesting to note that while some locals took a long time to recover, the operation continued to run smoothly. “When you face a natural disaster, your first priority is the safety and wellbeing of your crew”, said Director Glenn Moir. “But you’ve got to carry on working wherever possible. I think we are pretty good at that.” This sentiment is shared by Armstrong who was pleased with the efficiency of the crew. “They did a great job and carried on working as if nothing was wrong.”

FROM THE BACKPAGE

The new premises in Sockburn are fantastic and it's been great to see the nearby buildings being built. Sockburn is becoming quite the metropolis!

Our new Commercial Services Manager, Jana Dobosova, has been hard at work on our new CRM, ensuring there's transparency in the company with the way we communicate. As part of this process she's been tasked with ensuring the rest of the FMG team understand how the system works. At this stage, it's a long road ahead, but a very important one. Originally from Slovakia, Jana has a strong forestry and technical background. She brings a fresh perspective to the way we do things here.

In other news, Scott Henry decided to punish himself and do GodZone again. He's still smiling so we can only assume he might even be up for it again next year.

We would also like to officially welcome Matthew Deans into the company. His role as Harvest Manager means he works alongside the rest of the Canterbury Harvest team. Arguably the youngest member of the team he brings a wealth of enthusiasm to the company.

Finally, we would like to say congratulations to Rose, our Office Manager, who is a grandmother again. It'd be fair to say that she doesn't look like a grandmother. Wonder what her secret is?



Jana Dobosova



Matthew Deans



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