



Summer 2019 - 20

NEWSLETTER

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**Forest
Management**
GROUP

Introduction

FROM THE DIRECTORS

Welcome to the Summer edition of our newsletter.

Are there any climate change deniers still out there? The Northern Hemisphere just had its warmest summer and last July was Earth's hottest since records began. The extent of the Australian bushfires at the start of summer, is the Southern Hemisphere's obvious climate change occurrence.

How is climate change affecting our Radiata prices? Supposedly, over the last few years in Europe, specifically Germany, Poland, and the Czech Republic, summers have been warmer and longer and bark beetle populations have exploded. The mortality of the natural Spruce forests has increased dramatically. Rather than let these forests die naturally, there has been a huge increase in logging to receive some cash for their logs, and to potentially remove a food source for the beetles. There has been up to 700,000 tonnes per month delivered to China in the last 6 months. Due to the increased volume of Spruce, this is having an impact on NZ Radiata price and demand. This is one of the leading factors contributing to volatility in our log prices, with increases in December then decreases in January.

One longer term action we can take is to plant more trees. One Billion Trees Fund is still available to plant exotic or native trees. Get in as early as possible as there is pressure on nurseries and planting labour.

Happy New Year everyone, keep safe out there, whatever you are doing.

Tamati Smith
Director



NZIF hosts meeting with the Prince of Wales

On Friday 22nd November, the New Zealand Institute of Forestry hosted, near Christchurch, a small round-table meeting in the presence of His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales. The opportunities and challenges facing the forestry sector in New Zealand were discussed with His Royal Highness by eleven forestry professionals; those present included the 2017, 2018 and 2019 recipients of The Prince of Wales Award for Sustainable Forestry. Among those in attendance was our Christchurch based staff member Adrian Loo.

The discussion covered the challenges presented by climate change, pest and disease incursions and the need to

strengthen the forestry sector's social license to operate. The potential contribution of forestry to the New Zealand bio-economy along with the promising and varied career opportunities offered by the forestry sector, were identified as significant opportunities.

Dr David Evison, the President of the New Zealand Institute of Forestry, said "... it was an immense privilege to participate in this discussion with His Royal Highness, and to facilitate an exchange of views with some of our outstanding forestry professionals. The participants were inspired by the importance that His Royal Highness places on sustainable forest management and its contribution to society..."



Fuelling the future

Demand for Forest Waste Product is on the Rise as Biomass Replaces Fossil Fuel Boilers.

The transition of fossil fuel boilers to biomass boilers is starting to gain traction in the public sector, as hospitals target reductions in their Co2 emissions. Carbon liabilities and industries requiring a cleaner, greener image on the national and global front, is pushing both the public and private sector to seek out sustainable energy sources.

In 2018, for the first time, the NZ Government asked all DHBs to address adaptation and

mitigation of climate change through reduction of Co2 emissions. In response to this the Burwood Hospital has recently replaced its coal-fired boilers with biomass boilers. With the success of this plant, Christchurch Central hospital and Ashburton will follow suit. Demand for wood chip and



Retired coal-fired boiler (LHS) and new biomass plant (RHS) – Burwood Hospital



green waste material is estimated at around 50-60,000 tons per year once all plants are running at capacity.

The opportunity for forest owners lies in the residues left behind after harvesting. This being

Looking inside biomass furnace – a series of ceramic rollers moves ash down a stepped system ensuring all available material is burnt, ash is used as a garden fertilizer material

wood offcuts, slash/branch material, bark and needles. Currently these are viewed as a low value product that is left on site after harvest operations due to the high recovery cost. In Canterbury, Steve Murphy Limited (SML) has been working alongside harvesting crews to capture this material with a mobile chipper,

Challenges of processing and marketing this material is keeping rock debris out of slash piles to avoid damage to the chipping machines, as well as supplying a reasonably dry product. Chipped material is measured and sold in Mega Joules of energy i.e. the drier the material the higher the value paid.



In summary, the forest industry is well positioned to supply biomass material from a sustainable wood resource. As this market emerges and continues to grow, forest owners can expect a revenue from this material while minimising their environmental risk.

SML mobile chipping operation on harvest site

plus direct carting of slash material to a central yard for processing. Additional benefits for the forest owner is having this material removed from sensitive sites, which has the potential to enter waterways and cause environmental damage.



Chip material ready for burning
– mix of chipped branches,
pine cones & needles

Kea Banding in the Baton Forest

Tasman Forest Management are very fortunate to have Kea on a number of forest blocks they manage in the Nelson region. Given that estimates range from 5,000 – 9,000 birds remaining in the entire population we tend to take it for granted that they will always be around. We have 10 – 20 birds across three of our harvesting operations in the Nelson region on any given day. We have had flocks of up to 25 Kea on jobs in the past.

In September we had a group of juvenile birds up the Baton Forest where JK Logging



Baton Forest Partners and TFM involved in the tagging



Nathan Irvine, JK Logging, holds a Kea being measured and tagged

are harvesting. The Kea Conservation Trust were contacted. They do some great work around educating people who are working and living around Kea. JK Logging, owners of the forest and TFM staff were invited to be part of a banding operation. This involved first calling the birds in and attempting to catch them. It was done very cleverly using a fishing rod type set up with a noose on the end. Two birds were successfully caught and banded. If people identify birds with a band they should advise the trust of the band number and colour so they can track their movement.

The birds were measured, weighed and blood tests taken to check for lead poisoning which has been an issue where they live around old buildings.

Everyone involved in the tagging was buzzing to get up close to these amazing birds. The Trust and the forest industry are working together in partnership to improve the outlook for these endangered birds, which is great to see.

Coast to Coast Challenge!

The clock is ticking and in just a couple of weeks' time the boys will be lining up on the start line of New Zealand's largest multisport event – The 2020 Coast to Coast!

The final stages of preparation are well underway and if you ask any multisport athlete, they will tell you the key to success is nutrition and hydration. The Tree Slayers (Matt and Scott) have taken a conventional approach to this utilising energy gels, electrolyte mixes and drinking water.



However, the Tree Huggers (Adrian and Dave) have showcased their superior brain power and discovered a solution

that encompasses both hydration and nutrition via a healthy (and delicious) dosage of plant-based carbs.....

The teams' approach in the office has mostly consisted of ongoing light-hearted banter. However, behind the scenes each respective team has been training hard to ensure they not only cross the finish line, but do so giving it 100% effort. Matt and Adrian extended their cross-team truce and attacked the Goat Pass mountain run stage together. Reflecting on this run they both agreed that this stage is a very loose use of the phrase "run". Scramble

is probably more appropriate given the amount of time spent using hands and feet! Dave and Scott have been training hard in the kayaks and are both now well accustomed to the challenges of the Waimakariri course.

A huge thank you to the sponsors who have donated towards the winner's charity in our Coast to Coast challenge!

Despite being pseudo multi-sport battlers, the teams have managed to raise over \$5,000 thanks to these generous sponsors and Forest Management Ltd's support.



| Stoneyhurst Timbers | SRS New Zealand | Steve Murphy Limited | McAlpines Roundwood | McVicar Timber Group | Mitchell Bros Sawmillers | IPL Plywood | Loburn Sawmill | SPJ Homes Ltd |

For anyone else looking to support our efforts raising money for St Johns and the Westpac Rescue Helicopter you can donate here:

<https://givealittle.co.nz/fundraiser/fml-coast2coast>

FROM THE BACKPAGE

Welcome to the team Joe!



Joe Taylor grew up in Dunedin before moving to Christchurch in 2008. A lifetime of exposure to the industry through family and friends lead him to enrol at

the University of Canterbury in 2015 and pursue a career in forestry. He joined the team at TFM Nelson as a Forester in November 2019 and is eager to gain experience in the day-to-day operations of successful forest management. He enjoys spending time with his family down in Twizel – where he can regularly be found on Lake Ohau boating, by the canals fishing, or in the surrounding hills on his dirt bike. In the later hours, when the sun begins to set, he can be regularly seen with tin in hand producing “quality” chat around the BBQ.

Briefly

- **Field days in Waimumu - Gore 12-14th February** - our guys in the Southland office have been busy with preparation for the next field days. If you are around, come and say hello.
- **FML Drones** - for aerial mapping, drones are perfect. Repeatable, accurate flight makes a drone the ideal flight platform for near-ground mapping. The combination of today's high resolution cameras and inexpensive flying devices enables mapping at levels of detail never before imagined. FML have got 4 drones now, 3 in South Island and 1 in North Island and TFM will follow soon.
- **Fire risk** increases with rising temperatures - be aware, especially in North Canterbury. Check daily updates on the link below
<https://fireweather.niwa.co.nz/>



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