



# Autumn 2020

# NEWSLETTER

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**Forest  
Management**  
GROUP

# Introduction

## FROM THE DIRECTORS

### Welcome to the Autumn edition of our newsletter.

We live in interesting times. The Covid-19 virus has upended the world as we know it for the next few years.

China is the largest market for NZ logs, when they locked down first in the world this affected the forestry industry hard before our own lockdown. They have now restarted and business is returning with low ocean freight and a reduced exchange rate – as such prices are at high levels, but everyone is nervous as to how long this will be sustained. Hopefully the market settles and we get to a steady normal – time will tell but it's great to have people back at work and bringing in export dollars. Local processors seem to have steady orders at present and demand is good. It is important in these times that we continue to support our local industries.

Preparation for planting is flat out, having lost 5 weeks for site preparation. Seedlings are looking good in nurseries and planting crews are keen to get working.

And of course, getting people back to work safely has been a priority. The industry as a whole has worked hard to produce protocols around dealing with Covid-19 risks, but also starting work after 5 weeks layoff has high risks.

Hard times like this can be scary and tough, but the world has been through it before and we will survive. Most importantly take care of yourselves, families and friends – kia kaha.

David Janett  
*Director*



# Forestry and Wood Processing Workforce

The Government has joined forces with the forestry and wood-processing sector to help attract a diverse workforce of more than 5000 additional people in a post-COVID-19 world.

The inaugural meeting of the Forestry and Wood Processing Workforce Council was held on 1<sup>st</sup> May. The council will implement the Workforce Action Plan that was presented to Forestry Minister Shane Jones in January. The action plan aims to support the development of a skilled, safe and diverse workforce.

The Forestry and Wood Processing Workforce Council will oversee the action plan. But all parts of the industry need to be involved in making the plan happen:

- Nurseries
- Planting and tree maintenance
- Harvesters
- Sawmillers

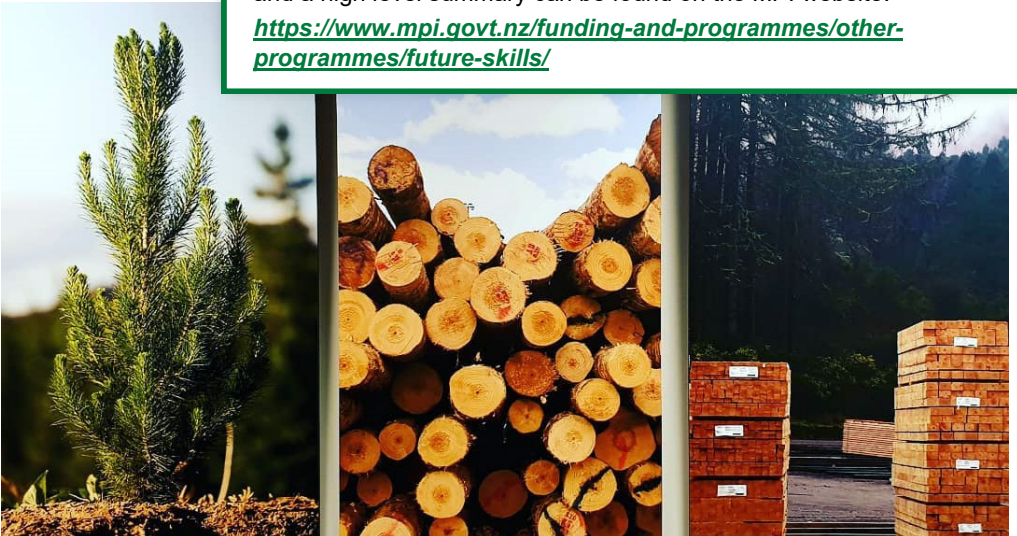
- Wood treatment operators

Our Christchurch based staff member Adrian Loo; a founding member of the Future Foresters says:

"I am honoured to be a part of this united group that encompasses all parts of the forestry sector and is working together to take the lead on developing the sector's workforce. Future Foresters were actively involved in developing the Forestry and Wood Processing Workforce Action Plan and we are looking forward to continuing our involvement through the Forestry and Wood Processing Workforce Council. The inclusion of the Future Foresters on the Council ensures the next generation of foresters are actively involved in developing a skilled, safe and diverse workforce now, and into the future."

The Forestry and Wood Processing Workforce Action Plan 2020-2024 and a high level summary can be found on the MPI website:

<https://www.mpi.govt.nz/funding-and-programmes/other-programmes/future-skills/>



# Behind the Scenes: Southern Field Days Waimumu, Gore 12-14 Feb 2020

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FML had good success with attendance at the 2016 and 2018 Southern Field Days, so the decision to be at the 2020 edition was a given. An examination of purpose and value for FML lead us to identify the opportunity for client connection, new business and brand awareness in private woodlot ownership. It began in August 2018 with a site booking.

The Southland office kept an agenda item on their monthly meeting, making sure resources such as items for a promotional giveaway pack were ordered, a tree growers information book was reviewed and updated, materials for presenting the site were arranged and a marquee was booked. With lead times identified, uniforms were purchased and embroidered, FML branded giveaway diameter tapes sourced and a Gore based landscaping contractor engaged to get the site laid out to plan.

Next up was to make sure we had the right mix of folk on hand to be able to advise on a whole range of forestry activities. From planting preparation through to harvesting

and marketing, 1BT grants, ETS, forestry investing, environmental and health and safety compliance. A draft roster was drawn and the directors were invited to help with some of the tricky strategic questions.

One of the highlights of the Southern Field Days is the rugby fixture played across the road at the Fred Booth park. Following the success of the 2018 Highlanders/Crusaders game, 2020 would see the Nadroga Fiji team go head to head with our very own Invitational Southland 15 in a grassroots match befitting of the venue. Tickets were reserved for staff and customers and fingers crossed for good weather.

January/February 2020 it was time to pull everything together. Between them Debbie and Iain got tussocks for the landscaping, physical examples of each of the log grades and the dusted off cubic metre block of wood all set up in the days leading up to showtime. The marquee filled up with a large screen video display of all related forestry activities. John Fodie sent a feller/processor and



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forwarder from his mechanical production thinning operation and a couple of Macrocarpa logs from Pankhurst Sawmilling helped finish the picture. Simon got a literal hospital pass from setting up when he fell down a bank the weekend before and broke a couple of ribs. His contribution was to set in place the seedlings to finish off the landscaping. A team effort nonetheless.

Wednesday the 12<sup>th</sup> February was the best day of the three. A steady stream of traffic kept us busy for the whole day. The drone/Stihl chainsaw promotion was popular and the entry box filled quickly. The wide variety of aspects to the site invited attention, there was something for everyone. Having directors in support helped some of our visitors develop their picture of forestry and the increasing importance of the role it will play in the future of New Zealand's farming and broader economy.

By late afternoon on Thursday we could see the weather was going to play nice with the rugby. The Nadroga Stallions took the upper hand in the first half, getting out to a 14 point lead early on. Southland closed the gap to 2 points down at half time and played a better game in the second half. In the closing stages Southland scored twice and finished the victors. The game punched above its weight and had a feel of the real deal about it, sitting on the grass under an open sky with farmland all around while parents and children from a

local primary school sold Jimmy's Pies as a fundraiser.

We had good traffic through on Friday the 14<sup>th</sup> Friday afternoon slowed and then slowed some more and by 4pm most of the sites around us were closed down and packing up. We followed the lead and started on our own break-down.

Post event analysis confirmed a high level of enquiry for establishment, 1BT grant scheme and ETS advice. Harvest interest was steady for the medium term, quiet for the immediate future, tempered by the mid-2019 fall in log prices, and short lived recovery cut off as Covid-19 began to make its economic effects known in February.

The drone/Stihl chainsaw promotion was drawn under police supervision. Noel Vallely chose the chainsaw and we will deliver it to him as soon as circumstances permit.

So all up, a successful 2020 Southern Field Days for Forest Management and looking forward to 2022.



# Coast to Coast Challenge!

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## The boys did it (Yes – Even the Tree Huggers!)

The 2020 Coast to Coast is done and dusted. Two days of jam-packed adventure racing that pushed both teams outside of their comfort zone.

## First and foremost, CONGRATULATIONS to the Tree Slayers on taking the victory!

Their incredible efforts also placed them 2<sup>nd</sup> overall in the team category.

Day 1 started out with a hiss and a bang. The bang being Scott's bike tyre and the hiss being the distant sound of laughter as the Tree Huggers took the lead. Coming into the transition first the Tree Huggers celebrated their early victory, and both agreed they had this race in the bag...

It was only 5 kilometres into the mountain run when Adrian realised that Matt meant business. While jogging along (prematurely celebrating the Tree Huggers impending victory) Adrian felt a slap on his bum and caught a glimpse of Matt as he flew past. The Tree Slayers were in the lead!



Both boys finished the 33km run with respectable times, but Matt's limit pushing effort had cemented the Tree Slayers with a solid lead.

During his run Matt chased down and passed the legendary Richie McCaw... From this we can conclude that Matt is either good enough to be an All Black or Richie wouldn't quite make the cut for Darfield RFC.



Day 2 was the monster day in the Kayaks for Scott and Dave. The Waimakariri proved to be a challenging course with reports of stray boats and floating competitors being the regular. Both Scott and Dave laid down hot times and looked on form on the water!

A slick final transition occurred, and Matt and Adrian embarked on the final road ride into town. Just over 2 hours later the boys were looking pretty chuffed crossing the finish line and casting their eyes upon the beers and burgers on offer!



It was all grins across the finish line for both teams.

Despite being in a battle of bragging rights both teams worked together all weekend to make sure the challenge was a success for all. Without doubt the boys would not have been successful without the help of the support crews. A massive thank you to Corban, Sasha and James for their mammoth efforts over the two days!

A huge thank you to the sponsors who have donated towards our winners the **Tree Slayers** and their charity the Westpac Rescue Helicopter! Overall, we successfully raised over \$5,000 thanks to these generous sponsors and Forest Management Ltd's support.

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# FROM THE BACKPAGE

## Welcome and good bye



We had quite the send-off for Jennie Kimber on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March. Jennie was with us for 14.5 years in the Christchurch office. She was an incredibly valuable member of the team. We wish her all the best on her well-deserved retirement. She will be sorely missed by the whole team.

## Changes in Blenheim office

Recently Kay Chapman resigned from the TFM Blenheim office. Kay had been the Office Administrator in Blenheim and the Renwick office for nearly 14 years. Kay's quiet and very efficient professionalism will be missed.

Karen Mackenzie has been employed to take over that role. She managed to enjoy 3 weeks of getting her head around PSLog prior to lockdown. Karen had a previous career with Statistics NZ and is originally from Marlborough, she is kept busy with 2 young children.



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