



Far North Branch NZ Farm Forestry Assn. August 2013 Newsletter

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FIELD DAY SATURDAY 31 AUGUST, 10 AM

Kauri Cliff's & Eco-land Ltd invite the farm forestry community to visit our work in progress!

Originally a 10ha pine plantation that now, after clear felling of pines, has been returned to indigenous forestry. The project is well underway and is in its 8th year. 50,000 native colonisation and canopy trees have been planted. The soil is mainly volcanic and it is interesting to see growth rates of many different native species.

The Plan is to meet everyone at the designated meeting place on the roadside where there is parking and take a gentle 800m walk to the block. At this point we can follow the 1.5km access track through the block, observing and discussing what is occurring. Fitness for walking on uneven ground would apply to this section. The property is situated on Hikurua road, which is 4km up Matauri Bay Rd from SH 10. It's the first real road on the right and you will not miss the parking area.

GREEN BY DESIGN

The Lorax helper

Land & Forest Restoration

Riparian, Revegetation, Forestry

- Design Earthworks
- Planting Pest Control

www.ecoland.co.nz or Shane 021 326563

Eco-land Ltd

Sustainable design specialist

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## **THE PRESIDENT WRITES**

### **Mid Winter Dinner**

I'm not quite sure how many years we've been holding this event, but I would guess at least fifteen. This year it was at Taipa and I thought it went off very well. Our secretary, Li Legler received the Far North Farm Forestry Award, and deservedly so, as he has made a big contribution in so many ways to the advancement of farm forestry knowledge, and at the same time manages the large family forest near Kerikeri. Well done Li!

Wendy Sporle gave a well-received talk on the work being done to stabilise, and hopefully increase, our kiwi populations. While the situation in the Far North is better than in most parts of NZ, there is no room for complacency, and Wendy outlined what farmers and foresters can do to help. Controlling dogs, and monitoring kiwi presence before harvest and providing them with escape routes during harvest are both very beneficial to the birds. Many thanks, Wendy.

### **Safety and Health**

The Government has recently issued its *Approved Code of Practice for Safety and Health in Forest Operations*. It is a concise, easy to read mine of important information and I strongly recommend all forest owners obtain a copy, especially if a harvesting operation is contemplated in the next few years. Mine came from the NZFFA conference in Orewa and I'm sure that contacting the NZFFA head office is a good way of getting a copy (04 472 0432, [nzffa@clear.net.nz](mailto:nzffa@clear.net.nz) ). Also useful to have is Northland Regional Council's *Forestry Earthworks & Harvesting Guidelines for Northland*, obtainable from NRC.

### **A Journalist's Take on Trees**

There is an article by Jim Robbins in the Guardian Weekly newspaper (12<sup>th</sup> July, 2013) which outlines problems the world's forests face, as well as some of the many benefits they provide. A few excerpts: "we've treated the world's trees poorly for centuries, without regard for ecological principles. We've fragmented forests into tiny slivers, and selected out the best genetics again and again, with no regard to the fitness of those that remain." "as the leaves from trees decompose, humic acid leaches into the ocean and helps fertilize plankton, critical food for many other forms of sea life. Japanese fishermen began an award-winning campaign called Forests Are the Lovers of the Sea, and planted trees along the coasts and rivers that rejuvenated fish and oyster stocks" "Hundreds of different kinds of chemicals are emitted by trees and forests, many beneficial. Taxane from the Pacific yew tree is a powerful anti- cancer drug. Many other tree compounds are proven to be antibacterial, anti-fungal, anti-viral and even to prevent cancer." "The question is what to plant to withstand the challenges of a changing world. In the UK, a group called Future Trees Trust is breeding more resilient trees. And a shade-tree farmer from the US named David Milarch, a co-founder of the Archangel Ancient Tree Archive, is making copies of some of the world's oldest and largest trees, from California redwoods to the oaks of Ireland – with proven survivor genetics – to be part of a future forest mix. "These are the supertrees" he says, "and they have stood the test of time." "When is the best time to plant a tree?" Twenty years ago. "The second best time?" Today.

- Brian Simms