

Hancock Forest Views

Hancock Forest Management (NZ) Ltd Stakeholder Newsletter

June 2017

Welcome to the sixteenth edition of Hancock Forest Views, a newsletter prepared by Hancock Forest Management New Zealand Limited (HFM) to keep our stakeholders informed of what is happening in our forests. We hope you find the newsletter interesting and welcome your feedback.

Whatoro Kiwi Recovery Project Update

In 2013 HFM commenced a North Island brown kiwi recovery project in Whatoro Forest, north of Dargaville, in conjunction with our neighbours. The project is being run as a Community Pest Control Area with initial support from Northland Regional Council to set up the project.

The project involves intensive predator trapping over an area of 1,500 hectares, of which 1,250 hectares is on Taumata Plantations Ltd land managed by HFM and the remainder neighbouring farmland. Over the four year period our trappers have removed a total 90 stoats, 96 weasels and 8 feral cats; the main predators of kiwi controlled by trapping.



DOC 200 trap used in Whatoro Forest to trap kiwi predators

Annual Kiwi listening indicates the population is being maintained, which is heartening. It is hoped that with increasing chick survival we will start seeing a corresponding increase in population in the coming years.

In April 2017 the Whatoro project formed a partnership with Kiwi Coast to enable greater coordination and sharing of information and resources among Landcare groups that undertake



North Island Brown Kiwi population now holding their own in Whatoro Forest due to ongoing predator control.

kiwi predator control in the mid-western and central areas of Northland.

The Kiwi Coast is a collaborative initiative that links over 80 community led kiwi recovery projects including involvement of local community groups, iwi and hapu, forest management companies and government agencies in the shared vision of increasing kiwi numbers in Northland.

Over recent years there have been a number of new kiwi recovery groups formed that are gradually plugging the gaps to ultimately provide a large area of linked safe habitat for kiwi.

Kiwi Coast trap catch data confirms that in the same four year time period a total of 7,864 mustelids and feral cats were removed from the wider Kiwi Coast network of 125,217ha.

These ongoing efforts are critical to protecting kiwi in the wild in Northland.



Whatoro Forest trapper Shaun Gifford



Forestry Contractor Profile—KDL

Central Area contractor Leisha Andrew certainly doesn't fit the mould of a typical forestry contractor. For a start she is a woman working in a generally male dominated industry. Perhaps more unusual is her background in dress designing - not your typical pathway into the world of forestry.

On leaving high school in Tokoroa, Leisha undertook a Diploma in Fashion and Pattern Drafting and then embarked on a career in the fashion industry, initially making ball gowns and wedding dresses followed by working as a manager for an embroidery company. A stint working at the Kinleith weighbridge was her only exposure to the forest industry.



Leisha at work in her clothing business

Arrival of a second child sparked her to set up her business 'Alterations and Designer Garments' in Tokoroa, making a wide range of clothing for niche markets such as clothing for fuller figured people, a camouflage polar fleece range, custom embroidering and specialist forestry clothing and accessories.

The path into forestry started when she set up KDL in 2007 as a

farm weed spraying business. In 2009 she approached Central Area Forestry Manager Ron Reid about the possibility of weed spraying work in Hancock managed operations, to keep the crew working over winter months. There was no spraying work available, but HFM was short of a planting crew and Ron invited Leisha to join a tree planting refresher training day with HFM staff so that she could see what was

involved. Leisha impressed Ron with her attitude and he decided it was worth giving her a go. KDL was initially taken on just for the planting season until the farm weed spraying picked up but, following planting, one thing led to another and KDL are still working in our operations eight years later.

In the initial years KDL was on a steep learning curve but Ron confirms Leisha's willingness to listen and learn and her determination to succeed, along with mentoring from HFM forester Ed Bright are key factors that got the crew through.



Leisha's largest customer to date in her 'over-size shirt range' -dressing the Pine Man in Tokoroa!



The KDL tree planting crew from back left to right Arenau Tuapou, Riki Grant, Tuaine Tuaine, Kelvin Nathan, Quinton Flavell, Richard Anglem, Taylor Hansen, Tuaine Taramai. Front left to right, Sam Poihipi, Aaron Thompson, Taine Karepe, Chris Tipa-Collier and Hohepa Yates.



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A challenge in the early days was finding and retaining the right crew manager was solved in a typically proactive "Leisha fashion". First, she recruited Arenau Tuapou and then convinced her partner,



Hohepa Yates, that he should leave his job at the Kinleith Ply-wood Mill and come work in the business. This two-tiered management has worked exceptionally well with their complimen-

tary skills and the ability to maintain crew leadership when one is away.

KDL now operates two forestry crews, which merge together in winter into one large 14 person crew for the planting season. To manage the challenge of the seasonal nature of forestry work, KDL undertakes planting, thinning, manual weed spraying and regen control for HFM client Taumata Plantations Ltd to provide year round work.

From a somewhat unconventional start in forestry KDL has become one of our success stories; a great safety record, consistently high quality and productivity results and an impressive run of 100% clear results in the HFM random drug and alcohol testing programme. From talking with those involved, a key part of KDL's success is put down to Leisha's determination and the complimentary leadership skills of Hohepa and Arenau.

HFM accredited to PEFC

In our last Hancock Forest Views newsletter we included an article about HFM commencing the process to seek certification to NZ standard NZS/AS 4708 endorsed by the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC).

Forest management certification has been in place in NZ for many years with around 67% of the plantation forest estate now certified to FSC®. However, until recently, the option of PEFC (a second global forest certification system) was not available in NZ. PEFC currently certifies about 300 million hectares of forest in 34 countries throughout Asia, Central and South America, North America, Europe and Oceania.

The new NZ Forestry standard is an adaption of the existing Australian Forestry Standard and achieved endorsement by PEFC in late 2015. Endorsement of the NZ standard opened the way for forestry companies in NZ to become certified to PEFC for the first time.

HFM made the decision to seek certification to PEFC in particular due to a request from one of our key customers which requires PEFC for market access. The process to become certified has involved a series of

three audits, reviewing our systems, inspecting our forestry operations and talking with our contractors and stakeholders. HFM has recently had confirmation of the audit outcomes and HFM will soon become one of the first forest management companies to achieve PEFC certification in New Zealand.

It is HFM's intention to maintain dual certification under both PEFC and FSC to meet the needs of our various customers.

You can find out more about PEFC at its website www.pefc.org.





Bruce Nairn winner of the Board Health Safety Environmental Award

Periodically the boards of HFM's forest owning clients, Taumata Plantations Ltd and Tiaki Plantations Company, recognise individuals or teams demonstrating excellence in Health and Safety and Environmental performance, through the Board of Directors HSE Awards.

In March of this year the Board Award was made to a very worthy recipient, Bruce Nairn. Bruce, who is based in Tokoroa, has had a long involvement in the forest industry, in particular in log transport.

Although he officially retired a few years ago Bruce has maintained an interest in the forestry industry and remains the secretary of the Log Transport Safety Council. He is also very active in the local community serving as a JP and involved with various groups, including the Tokoroa Axemen's Association and Tokoroa Community Hospice Trust.

In recent years Bruce has taken the lead for the forest industry 'Share the Road Programme' in the Central North Island. The programme, which is delivered to rural schools in forestry areas, was developed in HFM's Northland operations with the aim of improving log truck safety on rural roads. The programme helps educate children on how to share the road safely with heavy vehicles and involves both a class room session and a visit from a loaded logging truck to allow the kids to interact with the driver and get up close with the truck.

The programme had been run

successfully in rural Northland since 2008 and in 2013 the decision was made to replicate the programme in the Central North Island, with support from ACC and a number of forestry companies.

Bruce was engaged to lead and deliver the programme and liaises with schools and log transport companies to arrange the logistics and support, delivering the module and arranging sponsored prizes for the school children.

Under Bruce's management the programme has gone from strength to strength, and has now been delivered over 50 times taking in over 4,700 children. HFM continues to get wonderful feedback from the schools involved about the value of the programme and what a highlight it has been for the kids involved. The Board of Directors Award was well deserved recognition of Bruce's contribution to safety in our industry over many years.



Bruce Nairn (left) and his wife Christine, receive the Board HSE Award from Hancock Timber Resources Group President Brent Keefer

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