

# Hancock Forest Views



**Hancock  
Forest  
Management®**

*A Division of Hancock Timber Resource Group,  
A Manulife Asset Management Company*

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## Welcome to Hancock Forest Views

Welcome to our sixth edition of Hancock Forest Views, a biannual newsletter put together by HFM NZ to help keep our stakeholders informed of what is happening in our forests. This edition includes a range of topical articles from each of our forest regions. We hope you find the newsletter interesting and welcome your feedback.



## Top of the South 'Big Beach Clean Up'

During November the first Tasman Bay Big Beach Clean-up was carried out, covering around 291km of coastline under the joint organisation of the Department of Conservation, Tasman District Council and Nelson City Council.

The regional clean-up attracted strong support from the community with over 1,000 volunteers taking part in the one-day activity. HFM NZ's Southern Area team and their families took on the beach at Tapu Bay.



*HFM NZ Southern Area staff taking part in the Tasman Bay Beach clean-up (below left) and Harvesting Manager Wayne Wells supervising the extraction of one of the larger items encountered on the day (above).*

In all, over 10 tonnes of rubbish were collected from the beach clean up.

"Everyone enjoys the beach over summer and Nelson is a favourite holiday spot for many families from all around New Zealand. It's been a great initiative to enhance the quality of the local environment" said David Robinson, HFM NZ's Southern Area Manager.



## Waituhi Forest Blue Duck (Whio) Recovery Project

HFM NZ recently commenced an exciting new biodiversity project to protect a small population of Whio (Blue Duck) in Waituhi Forest.

Waituhi Forest is located around 22 kilometres east of Taumarunui and borders onto Pureora Forest Park to the north. For some time staff have been aware that Whio were present along the riparian margins of the Pungapunga Stream that runs through the block from Pureora Forest Park. In 2009 HFM NZ commissioned a contractor undertaking a whio survey on the upstream Department of Conservation (DOC) land, to continue the survey down through the forest using his trained survey dog. He confirmed sightings of three pairs of Whio and found evidence that, in all, four breeding pairs were using the stretch that he surveyed within the plantation forest.



Whio (Blue duck) , Pungapunga Stream, Waituhi Forest

Whio live in clean, fast flowing bouldery rivers and streams located within forested catchments. They establish exclusive territories and strong pair bonds, and breeding pairs will occupy the same stretch of river year after year.



Preparing to lay out stoat boxes, Waituhi Forest October 2010

Whio are indigenous to New Zealand and listed as a threatened species ('nationally vulnerable') with only an estimated 2,000 to 3,000 birds remaining, of which it is estimated that around 640 pairs are located in the North Island.

As with many of New Zealand's indigenous birds, Whio populations are under serious threat from introduced predators and in particular stoats. To help protect the population HFM NZ, with support and advice from Horizons Regional Council and DOC has commenced a trapping programme over a 2 kilometre reach of the Pungapunga Stream. The first 40 traps were laid out in October and are being serviced by neighbouring local farmer Geoff Marshall. If successful, HFM NZ plans to extend the trapping network to cover the full 5 kilometre stretch of the river within the plantation forest.

We are hopeful that a reduction of predators will enhance the breeding success of the small Whio population both within our forest and in the adjacent Pureora Forest Park.

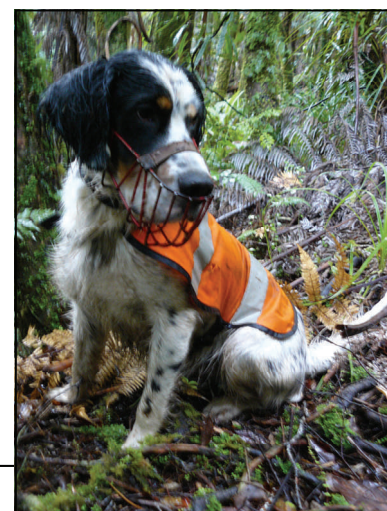
## Kiwi Survey in Northland

The HFM NZ Northern team is preparing for a full kiwi survey of our Northern forests to understand the numbers of Kiwi in each forest. The survey will provide valuable information to HFM NZ and enable management decisions to be made based on sound up to date information.

The survey will be carried out in May/June 2011 to coincide with kiwi breeding season, when the Kiwi are calling the most. A team of people will listen for Kiwi calls at night followed up by a dog survey during the day to locate further Kiwi and evaluate the health of existing kiwi.

The project is to be carried out with advice from Department of Conservation and the Northland Kiwi Forum Working Group.

Dog used in kiwi health survey.







## Horohoro block returns to Te Arawa ownership

June 2010 marked a significant milestone for HFM NZ and Te Pumautanga O Te Arawa, with the change of ownership of the Horohoro Crown Lease block to Te Pumautanga O Te Arawa. The block was purchased from the Crown by Te Pumautanga O Te Arawa as part of their treaty settlement process and will be managed by Te Arawa Group Holdings.

On the 16th of October a blessing was held on site to mark the commencement of harvesting under the new ownership. The ceremony was conducted by Eru George, representing Te Pumautanga O Te Arawa and the local hapu Ngati Kea and Ngati Tuara. Eru was assisted by Bob Young and Peri Marks. Representatives from HFM NZ and the harvesting contracting company PJ & MJ Logging also attended. HFM NZ Central Area Manager Alastair Deakin said 'we are happy to have a new landlord and look forward to developing a strong and successful relationship with Te Arawa Group holdings and the two hapu'.



HFM NZ staff and Te Arawa representatives attend a blessing to mark commencement of harvesting of the Horohoro blocks under Te Arawa ownership.

## Biocontrols—another tool in the war against weeds

*Buddleia (Buddleia davidii)* is a large woody bush with an attractive purple flower that will be familiar to those in the Central North Island as a common road side bush. Originally from China, it was initially introduced to New Zealand as an ornamental garden shrub but has now become a significant weed problem especially in the Central North Island, due to its fast growth and its ability to colonise bare ground and out-compete other vegetation including young trees.

Historically *Buddleia* has been controlled using a combination of chemical sprays and manual cutting. As part of the forest industry strategy to reduce the use of chemicals to control weeds, a new biological control for *Buddleia*, *Cleopus japonicus*, was released at a number of sites by the forest research agency Scion in late 2006. The initial release followed a strict testing regime over 12 years and approval from the Environmental Risk Management

Authority. One of the initial release sites was in HFM NZ managed Kinleith Forest near Tokoroa, where *Buddleia* is a common weed.

*Cleopus* affects *Buddleia* by damaging the leaves and staff report it is showing very promising signs in Kinleith. Significant damage to *Buddleia* plants has been recorded around the initial release site and the beetle population has increased significantly, spreading over at least 10 kilometres from the original release site.

HFM NZ staff have since been proactive in trialling *Cleopus* at establishment sites and have now transferred it from its original release site to another 20 sites within the Taumata Plantations Central estate. It has also been released in the HFM NZ managed Tasman Bay estate in Nelson, where *Buddleia* is currently a minor problem, in the hope that it will limit the spread and vigour of the weed before it becomes widespread.



*Cleopus* beetle munched on a *Buddleia* leaf (left) and affected plants (above) showing defoliation caused by the beetle.





## Kinleith Forest Community Consultation Group

As forest managers, an important part of our job is liaising and working with the many and diverse communities that live around the forests - many of whom use the forests regularly for work and recreation. To assist in this process HFM NZ has set up a number of community consultation groups. The longest running of these is the Kinleith Forest Consultative Group which HFM NZ has convened since it took over management of the Kinleith Forests in late 2006.

The group includes representation from local iwi, regional and district councils, Federated Farmers, Department of Conservation, Fish and Game, hunting clubs and a number of other recreation groups, local businesses and other special interest groups. Many of the attendees have been part of a similar group run by the previous forest manager and have been attending forest meetings for well over ten years, building up a wide understanding of forestry operations.

The group gives us an invaluable conduit into the views of the local community and a great forum

for discussing topical issues and also letting people know what is going on in the forest. HFM NZ staff are very grateful for the time people take out of their busy lives to come and meet with us.

Building on the success of the Kinleith group, 2 additional stakeholder consultation groups have been established in our Northern and Southern Areas.

*Kinleith Consultative Group meeting November 2010*



## Yogi Bear filming in Woodhill & Kinleith forests

Those of you with young children will be aware of the imminent release of the 3-D animated movie Yogi Bear. You may not be aware that significant parts of the movie were filmed in our Woodhill forest near Auckland, and at the Whakamaru camping ground on the edge of Kinleith Forest in the South Waikato.

The set in Woodhill took just over four months to build with over 3,000 specimen trees brought in to make the Jelly Stone Camp Ground look like an American park, and building of a ranger's log cabin. On completion of filming, everything was removed from the forest.



Some of the HFM NZ Northern Area harvesting contractors even got an acting part in the movie in a logging scene. HFM NZ Land Use Administrator Andrea Collings commented 'trying to get these workers back into the real work of forestry has not been easy – actors are so temperamental'!

On a more serious note, she did see it as another successful project demonstrating how alternate land use can work in with a productive forest.

*A scene from Yogi Bear filmed in Woodhill Forest*