

Welcome to the 20th edition of Hancock Forest Views, a newsletter prepared by Hancock Forest Management New Zealand Limited (HFM NZ) to keep our stakeholders informed of what is happening in our forests. We hope you find the newsletter interesting and welcome your feedback.

Northland Regional Council Environmental Award

Hancock Forest Management's Northern Area team was delighted to be recognised in the recent Northland Regional Council Environmental Awards held in Whangarei on 23 May.

HFM NZ was nominated in two categories and were announced the winners of the 'Environmental Action in Industry Award', an award category recognising businesses that demonstrate practices which contribute to the sustainable development of natural resources in Northland. HFM NZ's award was in recognition of our initiatives assisting with kiwi recovery in Northland.

HFM NZ also received a highly commended award in the 'Environmental Innovation' category for initiatives to protect sensitive areas through the application of tethered steep slope felling and extraction systems in our harvesting operations.

More than 90 nominations were received, with 39 finalists shortlisted for one of eight award categories on offer, as well as the ninth 'Supreme Award'.

Northland Regional Council Chairman Bill Shepherd commented that the nominees represented a truly diverse cross section of Northland and included a



HFM NZ Environmental Forester, Tony Dwane accepting the Industry in Action Award from NRC Councillor John Bain



HFM NZ Northern Area Manager Andrew Widdowson and Environmental Forester Tony Dwane accept congratulations from NRC Councillor John Bain

wide range of individuals, groups and community group leaders, iwi, farmers, forestry businesses and schools.

HFM NZ Northern Area has had a long term commitment to kiwi recovery in the North under the guidance of Environmental Forester Tony Dwane, with excellent support and collaboration with the Northland Kiwi Recovery Group, Kiwis for Kiwi, Kiwi Coast and other neighbouring kiwi recovery groups.

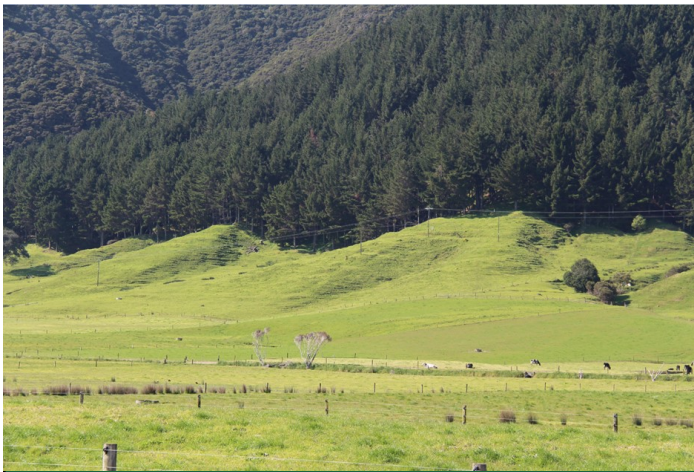
The team were understandably chuffed to be recognised with this award.



Harvesting of Tunapahore B2A

Tunapahore B2A is a small 26 hectare forest, located on the coastal foothills in the Eastern Bay of Plenty. The forest was planted by Caxton Forests in the 1980's under a 75 year lease on land owned by the Tunapahore B2A Incorporation. The tree crop was purchased by HFM NZ client Taumata Plantations Ltd along with Carter Holt Harvey's forests in 2006.

Despite its small size, it was always known that harvesting of Tunapahore B2A would be a significant challenge, due to the very high concentration of archaeological sites in the area. Being directly adjacent to the coastal strip, the area had significant occupation in the past with kainga and gardens along the flats and very visible pa site fortifications along the base of the entire forest. Adding to the challenges were the tricky topography, indigenous vegetation to be protected, neighbouring farmland and a power line across the base of the forest!



Tunapahore B2A prior to harvest, with pa site features clearly visible on each spur at the base of the forest

Understandably, planning started well ahead of harvest. HFM NZ staff worked with archaeologists John Coster and Lynda Walters, the Tunapahore B2A landowners and Heritage NZ to come up with a suitable plan to enable harvest of the forest under an Authority from Heritage NZ.

Due to the concentration of historic sites, a detailed archaeological investigation was required, to determine the exact location of the archaeological features. This involved removing topsoil from areas where earthworks were proposed to identify any below surface evidence. The initial investigation uncovered further evidence of kainga, drainage trenches and gardens, even in areas with no surface features. Based on this information the harvest plan was developed to minimise



Post harvest with minimal disturbance to archaeological features thanks to the careful earthworks and harvesting

impacts on features.

A second archaeological investigation was carried out prior to commencement of earthworks to gather archaeological evidence from areas that would be disturbed by the new earthworks. Harvesting commenced in early 2019 with Maungawaru crew 902 assigned to the block— a crew with a lot of experience working in difficult terrain in the Eastern Bay of Plenty.

Favourable weather and a significant amount of planning meant harvesting went smoothly, with minimal damage to archaeological features and native vegetation. Some areas of the crop trees could not be accessed by conventional cable logging without causing undue damage to adjacent native vegetation, so HFM NZ is currently investigating the possibility of helicopter logging of the remaining trees. After harvest the land will be handed back to the Tunapahore B2A landowners.

HFM NZ recognised the Maungawaru crew and earthworks operator from Wilson Bros Earthmoving with an Environmental Award for a job well done. All in all it was a great team effort by our Hancock staff, the landowners, archaeologists and contractors.



The team involved with Tunapahore B2A—Maungawaru Crew 902, Wilson Earthmoving receiving their Environmental Award from HFM NZ



Tokoroa Contractor Alan Sinton—50 years in Harvesting

Easter 2019 marked a significant milestone for Central region harvesting contractor Alan Sinton, celebrating 50 years working in harvesting in Kinleith Forest and surrounds. A long term Tokoroa based harvesting contractor, Alan is one of the well-known characters of forestry in the Central North Island.

Alan started work in Kinleith Forest after Easter 1969, working as a skiddy in a ground based harvesting crew contracted to NZ Forest Products (NZFP). A couple of years later he transitioned to working in a NZFP owned harvesting crew where he gained experience in most jobs associated with cable and ground based harvesting.

In 1985 Alan branched out on his own, setting up AG & G Sinton Logging with a ground based tractor crew. Alan's business has grown over the years and now has three hauler and two ground based crews based out of Tokoroa, with 60-65 people working for him. In his biggest year to date Alan recalls that Sinton crews harvested 1.3 million tonnes of wood.

Talking to Alan about his life in forestry, the key things that come out are the importance of his people, family and a strong team culture. There are many inter-generational family connections wound



Alan Sinton

throughout Alan's team. It is not unusual for sons and daughters to be working alongside their parents in a crew. Alan himself is a second generation logger and has eight of his direct family working within his business, including his daughters, nephew, son-in-law and grandchildren.

Going hand in hand with the family connections is the low staff turnover in Sinton Logging. A number of his current staff have worked alongside Alan from his very early days working for NZFP. These deep family

and community connections mean that Alan has never actually advertised for a new employee, relying on word of mouth and family connections to provide the next generation in his workforce.

If you ask Alan about highlights of his time in the forest it is the times that he shares with his team that stand out, in particular the family days that Sinton Logging run every few years.



NZFP Gang 14 in the early 1980's. Standing at the back Gary Nepe, Middle row left to right: Bill Waikato, Harry Onehi, Pedro Petero (who still works for Alan), Tony Hinz, Peter Morunga, Alby Dick, Steve Harvey. Front row seated: Paul Koteka (former All Black prop) and Alan Sinton.



Contd from previous page...

Family days are time for the wider whanau that don't often get to see where their partners or parents go to work each day, to come out into the bush and see their work environment.

HFM NZ wishes to congratulate Alan for 50 years in harvesting and the significant contribution he has made to harvesting in the Central North Island.



AG &G Sinton Logging 'Family Day' October 2018

Keep NZ Beautiful week

Keep NZ Beautiful week runs from the 9-15 September. This year HFM NZ Central Area has decided to take a more active role in the initiative, by organising a clean-up around Kinleith Forest.

Illegal dumping of rubbish in the forest is an ongoing headache, particularly around forest entrances. As part of the Keep NZ Beautiful Week, we are asking staff, contractors and recreational forest users to spend some time picking up rubbish.

A big thank you to the South Waikato District Council who are supporting the clean-up with free disposal to the landfill. We hope to have lots of great clean-up photos to share with you in our next edition!



Contact Us

Hancock Forest Management (NZ) Ltd
P O Box 13404
Unit 5, 120 Hamilton Street
Tauranga 3141

Whangarei Office phone: (09) 470 1300
Tokoroa Office phone: (07) 885 0350
Rotorua Office phone: (07) 350 0080
Tauranga Office phone: (07) 571 7900