



ARE WE READY FOR THE CARBON REVOLUTION?

Relative to some of our counterparts, New Zealand appears to be taking climate change very seriously. Government recently tabled its intentions (as NZ's Climate Change Solutions), which suggest some far reaching implications for agriculture and resource management. All NZARMers should be aware of these developments, because in the long run it will probably be the resource managers who get shouldered with the responsibility of making a fair part of it happen. Murray Harris has summarised some of the more important developments for forestry and agriculture.

The following information is provided to highlight recent policy (late September 07) concerning new incentives and rules on climate change which have positive impacts on farm land, but in the short term, particularly farm forestry.

Government's new policy follows a recent series of nationwide meetings where at long last some common sense prevailed after some controversial policies were suggested earlier in the year. Earlier suggestions had many farmers and foresters very frustrated at the potential outcomes on their business and economic livelihoods.

What is a carbon credit?

A carbon credit equals one tonne of carbon dioxide. To put this into a meaningful context, slow growing scrubland sequesters about 2-7 tonnes CO₂ /ha /yr, while fast growing radiata/Eucalyptus will lock up about 25-35 tonnes CO₂ /ha /yr (1 cubic metre of stem wood is equivalent to approx 1.5 tonnes carbon dioxide for all carbon pools).

Climate Change and Government incentives

The government has released a comprehensive statement on climate change which sets targets for reducing NZ greenhouse gas emissions. Some of the implications are far reaching, and we recommend all NZARMers familiarise themselves with the summary PR material. This can be obtained from www.climatechange.govt.nz

Emissions trading scheme and forestry (ETS)

As trees grow they absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and store it in their trunks, branches, leaves and roots. In turn, when harvested that carbon is released back into the atmosphere. Over time the biomass that is left decays and also release carbon back into the atmosphere. From 2008 to 2012 forests planted after 1990 are expected to absorb more carbon dioxide than they release, helping NZ meet its obligations under the Kyoto Protocol.

What activities will the proposed emissions trading scheme (ETS) cover for forestry? The rules will be different depending when the forest was first established. For example, under the Protocol, "Kyoto forests" (post 1989 forests):

- Were established on land that was not forest-land as at 31 Dec 1989
- Generate forest sink credits for growth from 1st January 2008
- Create liabilities when carbon stocks decrease, such as at harvest or if forest was burnt down

Under the Protocol, "Non Kyoto forests" (pre 1990 forests):

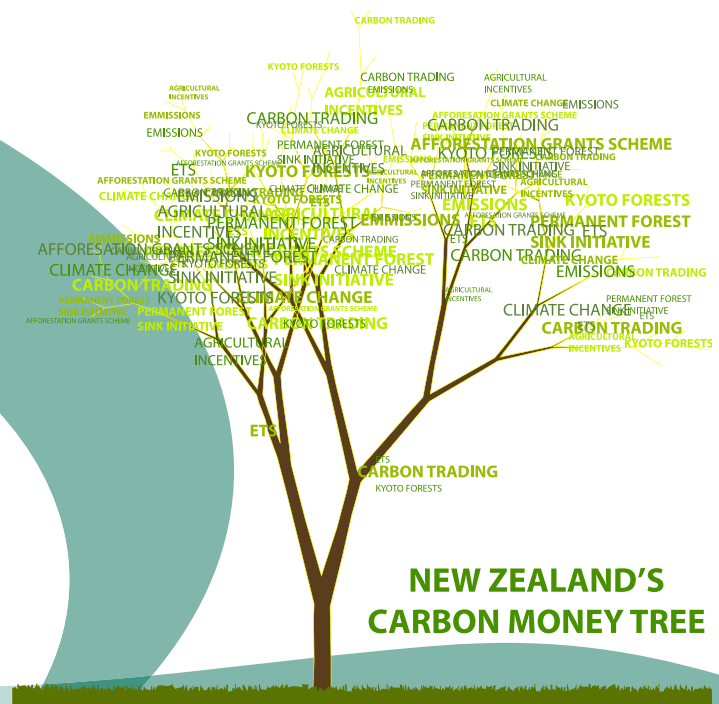
- Are areas that were forested as at 31st December 1989
- Do not generate forest sink credits for NZ
- Do not generate liabilities if the forest is harvested and re-established
- Generate liabilities if the land is "deforested"-where the trees are removed and a new land use is introduced

Note the Government has decided *in principle* to give the owners of eligible post-1989 forest land the choice to enter the ETS [Eds note: Quite a few of the policy statements contain the general phrase 'we will do this *in principle*']. Pre 1990 forest owners will not face any emission obligations if they harvest the trees, as long as the land is replanted or left to generate into forest.

Government exemptions for Pre-1990 forests include:

- Forest where the landowner had total holdings of less than 50ha on 1st Sept 2007 (forest owners in this situation will need to apply for an exemption)
- Areas of deforestation of less than 2 ha

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NEW ZEALAND'S CARBON MONEY TREE

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NZARM

The New Zealand Association of Resource Management (NZARM) is an incorporated society that provides support and focus for people who share a professional interest in the sustainable management of New Zealand's natural resources.

NZARM's purpose is to champion the resource management cause, to promote professionalism, and to maintain a strong community spirit of meeting, sharing, and generally having a good time. Members receive benefit through an annual conference, regional workshops, a Broadsheet newsletter three times each year, and the opportunity to become a recognised professional and accredited practitioner of resource management.

Further information, including membership registration details, can be obtained from the NZARM website (www.nzarm.org.nz) or by contacting the secretary:

The Secretary
C/- NZARM
Private Box 5280
PALMERSTON NORTH.

BROADSHEET

BROADSHEET is the newsletter of the New Zealand Association of Resource Management. It is now published three times per year.

The Editor welcomes correspondence, reviews of recent publications, interim reports of current research or resource management issues, news items, other articles, and lighter items about members activities and career movements. An invitation to make submissions to Broadsheet is sent out 2 – 4 weeks prior to the publication date. However, SUBMISSIONS CAN BE MADE TO THE EDITOR AT ANY TIME. Generally submissions are sent to NZARM regional coordinators or directly to the Editor. Copy sent by E-mail is preferred, although typed copy is also acceptable. Items can be sent to:

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Editor's note

Whatever your views are on climate change, it can't be ignored as another new fangled idea that the Government invented to a) spend money, b) make life hard for farmers, c) justify the existence of its army of bureaucrats, d) impress the Europeans, or e) all of the above. It's here to stay, so NZARMers had better get on board or be left behind.

Firstly, a big thanks to Tabitha Manderson for organising this year's NZARM Conference. Having an insider's perspective really opened my eyes to the amount of work that goes into making these things successful.

And I'm not just singing praise for the sake of it. We've had a lot of favourable and enthusiastic feedback. My favourite came from a loud 'notable', in a room full of other 'notables', who somewhat out of the blue boomed "That was the best damn conference I've ever been to!". Praise indeed given the amount of conferences this guy has to attend, and a little more standing and acknowledgement gained by NZARM as an organisation.

Anyhow, there are photos from the conference on the opposite page, and a little more sprinkled throughout this edition (especially about the Tourney on page 10). For interest, the venue for next year's conference has been suggested as the Nelson-Marlborough-Tasman area.

Secondly, if you haven't noticed, it is Christmas again. Just though it was worth saying, so now I can claim this as a Christmas edition of Broadsheet.

Right. Thirdly. Carbon. The building block of life, but inertly boring as far as substances go. Climate change and the Government is changing all of that, and a lot of investment and effort is now being directed at coming up with 'solutions' to the carbon (and carbon equivalents) problem. From a research perspective there's a new big pot of money, and science organisations are unashamedly falling over themselves to get their fingers sticky (an unfortunate side effect of competitive funding).

Murray Harris has provided us with a summary of the Government's initiatives around carbon and climate change (albeit from a staunch forestry perspective). The question that remains, is what will it mean to resource management in NZ? More specifically, what will it mean to the resource managers out there everyday dealing with the resource users?

I'm hardly qualified to answer that question, so I'll leave it for you, the reader, to ponder as you browse your way through this edition of Broadsheet.

Andrew Manderson

One carbon credit = one tonne of carbon dioxide
Scrub sequesters 2-7 tonnes CO₂/ha/yr
Radiata-Eucalyptus sequesters 25-35 tonnes CO₂/ha/yr...



From Policy to Practice Conference 2007

The 2007 annual NZARM Conference was recently held in Palmerston North. It was a very successful and enjoyable event, and phooney to those who didn't turn up. See page 10 for more.



Conference venue. Somehow Marian Hobbs crept into this photo



The white ghost (or 'my poor camera skills'). Peter Hawes at the Conference dinner.



All these eager people just waiting to hear from Malcolm. First field trip stop, Foxton. Photo: M Tuohy



Malcolm Todd with a couple of dodgy characters in the background. Photo: M Tuohy



Second field trip stop (wetlands & dune management) followed by a leisurely walk along the beach. Photo: C Phillips



Drinks, Tourney prize giving, followed by a hearty dinner at the Foxton Hall



Kevin Rooke at the famous Coulter's Gully, top of Ridge Road



Short stop to have a look at some of the most erosion prone farmland in the Pohangina Valley



Lunch at the Totara Park Reserve (now a regional park). Not even locked gates would keep us out



Final stop - a lot of people standing between a cliff and the road



Garth Eyles sporting a causal "where's my farm bike" number



Ross Ambercrombie telling people to come to his regional meeting or else

Are we ready for the carbon revolution?

Continued from front page...

Government is proposing to bring the forestry sector into the ETS on 1st January 2008 because of the importance of forestry to NZ ability to meet its international obligations for greenhouse emissions.

Furthermore, the Government proposes to give free emissions units to owners of pre-1990 forest land. From 2008 to 2012, Government proposes to cover 21 million tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions from deforestation of exotic pre-1990 forests.

Note: *Indigenous forests situation.* Consideration will be given whether or not to include indigenous forests in the ETS (with a level of free allocation).

For more information on the ETS refer to the web site above and go to "Emissions trading and forestry" fact sheet no 5 September 2007.

Permanent Forest Sink Initiative (PFSI)

This initiative promotes the establishment of new permanent forests on previously unforested land (ie must not have contained forest on 31st December 1989). The PFSI gives land-owners the opportunity to generate income through "carbon farming". Refer to www.maf.govt.nz/forestry/pfsi or contact can be made to the Indigenous Forestry Unit MAF, Christchurch (03) 943 3700 or alternatively the Rotorua office at (07) 921 3400

Note 2: Under the Kyoto Protocol that the following definition of forestry is used: "a minimum area of land of 1.0ha with tree crown cover of more than 30% with trees with the potential to reach a minimum height of 5 metres at maturity in situ". Also the forest must be greater than 30m wide (so this will exclude most shelterbelts and some riparian forest areas).

Afforestation Grant Scheme (AGS)

Proposed to be launched in Dec 2007. Under this scheme foresters can receive a government grant for the establishment of new forests on previously unforested land. Participants will own the new forest and earn income from the timber, while the crown will retain the sink credits and take responsibility for meeting all harvesting and deforestation liabilities. The AGS will appeal more to owners of small forest. A capped fund will be available for five years.

Government also proposes that AGS grants be available for the afforestation of Kyoto-compliant land in two categories:

- Category 1- exotic forests
- Category 2- planted indigenous forests & assisted indigenous reversion

At this stage these grants will be available through a competitive tendering process with closing dates on the 30th June and 31st December each year. Successful applicants will enter into a contract for ten years. Main conditions at this stage are:

- The grant plus interest will be repayable if the grant land is deforested during the term, or if encouraged natural reversion is unsuccessful for reasons beyond the control of the grantee
- The grantee (ie grant recipient) will be obliged to transfer the contract to the transferee if the grantee transfers the grant forest, whether by sale or other means
- The administering agency will have rights to enter the land for measurement purposes

Agriculture in a NZ Emissions Trading Scheme

The agricultural sector is the largest single source of greenhouse gas emissions in NZ, making up approx 49% of our total emissions. Government has decided *in principle* to bring all agricultural gases into the emissions trading scheme on 1st Jan 2013 and not to produce any other price based measures in the meantime.

Further, Government proposes that agricultural sector participants in the scheme be required to begin monitoring their emissions before 2013. More research tools are required in the agriculture sector to calculate methane and there are potential impacts on land prices and farm economics. Monitoring initiatives include:

- Upgrading the Overseer farm nutrient management model to bring about better estimation of emissions
- Improving the Catchment Land Use for Environment Sustainability (CLUES) system. This models effect of different land use scenarios on stream water quality and local communities
- Strengthening the MAF Farm monitoring Programme to provide better information on emissions and mitigation from more farms
- Helping the sectors and businesses voluntarily monitor their emissions

The government has identified three possible options for giving out free emission unit by giving them to individual farmers, companies and processors dealing with farm produce, and farming industry organisations that would manage emission units on behalf of farmers.

Government expects to see changes in the amount of land used for ag relative to other uses such as forestry and the intensity of operations. In particular it expects changes in:

- Farming efficiency gains
- More tree planting and soil conservation to reduce erosion risk
- More efficient use of nitrogen fertilisers
- Increased use of nitrification inhibitors
- More effective management of animal excrement

A Technology Transfer programme will be established to provide land managers with sufficient information and choice of products to encourage them to:

- Reduce total greenhouse emissions and improve efficiency of resources
- Adapt to a changing climate
- Take advantage of business opportunities relating to climate change

The programme will focus on:

- Demonstration of new technologies and practices for all sectors (in particular working through the Sustainable Future farming Fund (SF3))
- Education and capacity building
- Preparing material on climate change
- Coordinating activities within and among MAF and other agencies.

Refer to the climate change web site for "Emissions trading and agriculture" fact sheet no 9 Sept 2007 for more details.



Murray Harris
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Dunedin

The next magic bullet is a black one

There's a new magic bullet that, according to some, is going to go a long way towards solving agriculture's environmental problems. Government is backing it, and plans to fund two special professorships to lead research and development.

How about a simple soil amendment with the ability to double or triple plant yields while at the same time reducing the need for fertiliser? More than this, what if also increased water holding capacity, reduced nitrate leaching and nitrous oxide emissions, and panaceas of panaceas, had the capacity to permanently lock up vast quantities of carbon from CO₂? Oh, and you'd get a type of biofuel as a by-product of manufacture.

Apparently this miracle substance actually exists. Further, it is not some ultra processed high tech material recently discovered by NASA, and nor is it some chemical produced in the lab. Rather, it's something from the pre-Columbian South Americans.

In parts of South America, particularly in the Amazon, there are soils modified by humans into what some regard as super soils. Dubbed Terra Preta (Amazonian Dark Earths), these soils have elevated carbon contents to depth, and a type of soil carbon that doesn't breakdown after hundreds of years (resists microbial decomposition), and as some have found, promotes bioactivity, nutrient retention, nutrient availability, and a few other things besides, all of which combine to produce more robust plant production. Surrounding unmodified soils pale in comparison.

So how were these soils modified to



Just add to soil - double production, reduce leaching, reduce nitrous oxide emissions, and lock up vast quantities of carbon-dioxide permanently

make them so special? While there are several theories on how the modifications were introduced, most agree that the modifying agent came in the form of a carbon rich substance that the South Americans could make. In modern terminology it goes by a variety of names. If you're into business then you might call it Agrichar. An unimaginative and well funded scientist might call it Black Carbon. Other scientists use the more funding-attractive name of Biochar. But at the end of the day this magical 'solve all our problems' substance is more simply known as charcoal (albeit a specific type of charcoal).

As you can imagine, there is a lot of excitement and enthusiasm about Biochar. A substance that promises to increase agricultural productivity while at the same time making a dramatic dent in reducing environmental impacts. Miracle stuff indeed.

There are, however, one or two problems in the way. Namely, how to manufacture the stuff economically, how to get appreciable quantities into our soils, and how to achieve those same Terra Preta qualities in a relatively short space of time in our climate. Early research suggests some of these are formidable challenges.

However, given that biochar offers so much potential, the NZ Government has proposed to invest in getting a NZ biochar research initiative up and running. The plan is to establish two professorships to develop programmes firstly in biochar manufacture, and secondly in biochar-related soil science.

So biochar is something to keep an eye on. The promise is certainly there, and it will be interesting to see what impact it might have on NZ agriculture if it can be made to work.

Andrew Manderson, AgResearch

CONFERENCE

NZARM holds an annual conference to promote new learning, information sharing, networking, and a sense of community in the field of resource management. Venues alternate between the North and South Islands, and one of NZ's 16 regional authorities will usually host the conference itself. November is most favoured as the time to hold the conference.

Next year's conference has yet to be organised, although the host region(s) have tentatively been proposed as the sunny top of the South Island.

Keep an eye on www.nzarm.org.nz for more details.

MEMBERSHIP

NZARM welcomes new members, particularly if you have an interest in sustainable resource management. Prospective members can apply anytime, by obtaining a registration form from the website (www.nzarm.org.nz) or from the NZARM secretary. Candidates are nominated by two existing members (contact the secretary if this would be a constraint).

Annual subscription is a discounted \$50 if paid before the 31st March. Late payments incur the full subscription cost, which is an extra \$20 (late payments extend administration requirements and end up costing the Association money). All membership enquires to:

The Secretary
C/- NZARM
Private Box 5280
PALMERSTON NORTH.

As a member of a registered association, members must inform the secretary in writing when they cancel or let their membership lapse. Otherwise the member will continue to be billed for the annual subscription.

PROFESSIONAL ACCREDITATION

The system that NZARM uses for professional accreditation is currently being reviewed.

MEETINGS

Regional meetings are key elements of NZARM's mission and service to its members. These meetings are usually designed around a particular regional issue and tend to involve members and interested people from both within, and from adjacent regions.

NZARM supports such events by providing financial support via seed money. Applications can be made to the National Regional Coordinator at any time. Visit the NZARM website for more information (www.nzarm.org.nz), or contact the NZARM secretary.

www.nzarm.org.nz

EVENTS

Carbon and Nutrient Management in Agriculture. 21st annual workshop of the Fertilizer & Lime Research Centre. 13-14th February 2008, Massey University, Palmerston North. <http://firc.massey.ac.nz>

Soil Science Society 2008 conference SOIL – THE LIVING SKIN OF PLANET EARTH, 1-5 Dec 2008, Massey University (joint conference with Australian SSS). <http://conferences.massey.ac.nz>

Contact the editor if you have an event you want added

President's comment

NZARM President, Simon Stokes, comments on the future professionalism of resource management and a few other things besides.

Hi all

I can imagine everyone is working hard presently to ensure the year ends well and some relaxation time can be had over Xmas. I hope all members are intending to 'put the feet up' and take a well earned rest following another productive year (of course those of us with kids will understand that the words rest and kids don't fit in the same sentence). Back in September NZARM ran a very successful conference with a focus on 'policy to practice', with several presentations being published. I say it was successful because I had a lot of feedback which was very positive. There was a great mix of members attending and I was really pleased to see 'new faces' presenting. Fancy Hawke's Bay cleaning up the top prize in the 'tourney', although not too many groups would have had a collective age of >150! A special thanks to our sponsors – Horizons, MfE, AgResearch, and to the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry for their involvement also.

It's been an interesting 6 months for me personally as I have moved to a new part of New Zealand to be involved in resource management work i.e. Bay of Plenty, leaving behind my comfortable role in Hawke's Bay. What's interesting though, is that, sure the landscapes different, there's a huge amount of indigenous and exotic forest cover, and plenty of lakes, but some things stay the same.

Firstly, New Zealand is a small place, a well worn cliché I know, but in the resource management fraternity most people know most people. At a recent Meat and Wool monitor farm field day near Tauranga, I was quite surprised at how many people I knew. Those 'connections' are such an enabling part of our work, for many many reasons. To have a well known industry is about communication. Networking with the public, fellow members, businesses, science agencies, Maori, local/central government, is an important and essential part of our professional fabric to ensure we move environmental management and to some degree an environmental philosophy, into the future. Good communicators are highly skilled

and invaluable assets to any organisation, for it is those people that can build the necessary relationships (at any level). We are going to need these people over the next 20 years more than ever before, and perhaps we should not be so enamoured with quantifying everything they do, down to the last \$.



Simon showing off his VSA skills to a captive audience, with Malcolm Todd overseeing progress. Some farm near Foxton. Photo by Chris Phillips.

Secondly, no matter how complex the discussion and mechanisms for land management may seem, with the concepts of change and new ideas never far behind, the underlying principle is still the same and simple. Give people the knowledge that underpins land management – physical resource knowledge, and advise them on solutions to manage that resource economically (should read profitably), and environmentally. Any other type of approach just won't cut the mustard in the long term. Empower the farmer to make the decisions.

And finally, remember that there are many reasons to plant trees, they are a growing concern.

Merry Xmas
Simon

Another use for marginal land?

Retiring marginal land from production is distasteful to many farmers. All that effort put into clearing and developing the land down the tube. John Douglas has come across an alternative use for marginal land, and one with the potential for very lucrative returns.

Today I visited the soon to be owners of approx 1500 hectares of cutover exotic forest in the Waio-tahi Catchment (East Cape). I have been dealing with the landowners since last year, providing them with an overview of Environment Bay of Plenty expectations from a sustainable land tenure view-point. I also had pointed out shortcomings of the soils, geology, topography and extreme climatic factors of this area. I was also able to provide a history of past land use and reasons for afforestation on the property. They were left with this information to digest while considering future land use options.



Aerial survey of Waio-tahi before manuka seeding

Today when I visited the property I was told that a medium term lease is pending to plant 95% of the former exotic plantation with manuka and the property is to be used for beekeeping. The method of planting the manuka will be seeding by air over desiccated slash. The idea is very good from a long term sustainable land use viewpoint and really good news when you look at such land types. It is very low impact and will help us achieve many other off site benefits.

The deal is at its final stages and the investors (les-sees) are keen to undertake seeding as soon as the deal is signed. The owner said they are 95% of the way there with a few legal details to iron out.

I told them Environment Bay of Plenty supports the proposal and will assist where possible. The assistance will include but not be limited to pest plant control advice and soil and water conservation advice as the area will be vulnerable to extreme

weather events. The owner carries out his own pest animal control. I also said Environment Bay of Plenty would be interested in being kept informed of progress with the proposed seeding and success thereof. They have agreed to this.

The investors and the owners are looking to receive as much benefit from carbon credits as possible. The details of what they will be eligible for is still being investigated by both parties although they seem to know what they want. What they actually get will be interesting.

All in all very innovative and if successful another tool to help promote sustainable land use.

John Douglas
*Senior Land Management Officer
Environment Bay of Plenty*

Comment: There are other enterprises to the East Cape where Maori incorporations are setting up for honey production on manuka covered land, producing high value, high UMF (unique manuka factor) honey for the overseas markets. I recall a Country Calendar programme on this a couple of months ago with Harry Satchell of Te Whanau a Te Ehotu Iwi Authority setting up such an enterprise. They also had a training programme for budding apiarists, unique branding etc.. Together with carbon credits this has to be an exciting initiative for using and protecting marginal land.

John Whale.



An extensive area of land in the Waio-tahi Catchment (Opotiki) for exclusive honey production

Forestry Code of Practice workshop

The Environmental Code of Practice for Forestry has been revamped. Judith Earl-Goulet reports on a combined Otago and Canterbury NZARM workshop recently held on the new Code.

A beautiful summer day in Geraldine saw the gathering of 23 people for the joint Canterbury and Otago regional NZARM Event. The theme was the revamped Environmental Code of Practice for Forestry. NZARM member Peter Weir, who chairs the NZ Forest Owners Association Environment Committee, provided a stimulating and passionate presentation on the development and implementation of the code of practice and Blakely Pacific kindly hosted a field visit to their Geraldine Forest operations. A new field guide has been developed to accompany the Code of Practice, deliberately designed and sized to be in the forest supervisor's ute and in the contractor's digger or dozer cab as opposed to the office – the authors realised that it is the contractors and operators that make the choices in how activities are undertaken on the ground – they make the decisions that make the difference regarding environmental outcome.



An example of the nonchalance phenomenon associated with field days

road building and harvesting becoming a permitted activity. There aren't any other crops that have got so many consent conditions when planting and harvesting. Peter Weir noted that Fish & Game Council have welcomed the revamped Code with its binding rules, and looks forward to similar proactive moves by other primary sector groups.



Peter Weir, Chair of the NZ Forest Owners Association Environment Committee

The Environmental Code of Practice is voluntary, but strength is given when contractor activities are required to comply with rules therein. The move towards setting key standards and modes of operation is being undertaken closely with MfE and MAF as part of a transition to see plantation forestry recognized as a sustainable land use, and where possible



Nicely manicured and ready for planting

I am sure many of you would find the codes of practice worth a look and you can find out more information from the NZFOA website or give Peter Weir an e-mail (peter.weir@ernslaw.co.nz). Peter indicated that other members of NZFOA's Environment Committee are willing to host field days to explain the workings of the new COP for NZARM in other regions. I would like to thank Peter for his presentation and sharing of knowledge and perspective, as well as thank Barry Wells and Derek Burrows from Blakely Pacific for their efforts in guiding us around their operations and sharing their experiences in the forestry industry.

The other important aspect of the day was to consider future regional events and an impressive list of topics and themes were identified. This list is currently being circulated around the Otago and Canterbury members for comment. And include such topics as dairy conversions, intensification and nutrient management, high country issues including the impact of tenure review etc, environmental farm plans, biodiversity

in working landscapes and someone even suggested we lifted the lid on 'the black box of planning'. If you are interested in receiving the full list of topics then please feel free to contact Judith (judith.earl-goulet@ecan.govt.nz).

Judith Earl-Goulet

New members

New NZARM members include Amy Taylor (junior), Andrew Patrick, Glyn Francis, Amanda Coop, Verity Blair, Naomi Fergusson, Warwick Hesketh. New members who provided a background include:

Reece Hill – has PhD in Soil Science from Lincoln.

Has worked in the Land Resource area for more than 10 years. Topics of interest and experience include soil survey, soil stratigraphy and geomorphology; also State of the Environment monitoring and reporting for soil quality and soil erosion. Worked for Environment Waikato for 8 years, in the role of Programme Manager.

Matthew Taylor – soil scientist providing expertise on the management of soil resources in the Waikato. Worked for Landcare Research for 25 years. Over 70 publications in soil science and the use of soil. Specialty Areas: Metal contaminants of fertilizers, soil quality, and land use issues, treatment devices for managing urban stormwater.

Monica Xu – Masters degree "Farm/Horticulture Systems & Management" from Massey University, currently working as Rural Compliance Officer for Auckland Regional Council. The job deals with rural natural resource management issues in the Auckland region, including fertilizer use, rural waste discharge and rural land management.

Nick Giera – has a professional interest and involvement in Resource Management as a researcher and consultant to government departments and agribusinesses with an interest in sustainable land management. Has a Bachelors degree in Agricultural Commerce and Masters degree in Agricultural commerce from Lincoln University. Agribusiness consultancy experience also includes sustainable land manager in NZ, Australia, Asia and the Pacific.

Brenda Rosser – has MSc in Quaternary Science and BSc in Earth Science from Massey University. MSc thesis involved investigating the fluvial geomorphol-

ogy and sedimentology of the Waipaoa River, near Gisborne. Worked for 4 years at Wellington Regional Council as a field hydrologist, and recently returned from California where worked as a fluvial geomorphologist for 5 years. Has been at Landcare Research for just over a year, as researcher soils and landscape team. Main research interest include all aspects of sediment transport in river systems, but especially the impacts of gravel mining and other activities on fish habitat, and channel morphology. Currently involved in a SLURI Them 3 project investigating pasture productivity and soil recover on landslide scares in the Wairarapa, and a sediment tracing pilot study on the Waitetuna River at Raglan. Also has an interest in bank erosion and its contribution to catchment sediment budgets.

Kieran Anderson – graduated from Massey University with BAplSc majoring in Natural Resource Management. Since graduating has been employed with Horizons Regional Council and currently based in Taihape working on soil conservation and sustainable land use.

Emma O'Neill – has Bachelor of Environmental Management, has worked at Hawkes Bay Regional Council since 2004, initially as a consents office implementing the Regional Plan and RMA by making recommendations on water take consent applications. From 2006 has been employed in the environmental policy planning section, developing new policy and advising on current policy plans.

Stephen Cave – has Bachelor of Parks, Recreation and Tourism Management, ecology major from Lincoln University. Employed by Hawkes Bay Regional Council, previous position as a Biosecurity Officer – Animal Health Board Vector Control and co-managed the AHB programme in Hawkes Bay. Currently an Advisor Land Management.

Welcome aboard all new members.

The Tourney!

At this year's conference NZARMerS took part in The Tourney. All in all it was a very successful dimension to the conference, both in terms of participation and good natured competition. Tabitha Manderson reports back on her experience of the Tourney.

For some reason, I'm not sure exactly when the thought popped into my head, I thought it would be 'fun' to have a conference Tourney. Some of you may be pleased to know that in fact I did scale back some of the ideas – the pole ramming competition, identify the animal poo, tossing the gumboot – and instead went with the quiz format in three parts.

The first section of the quiz would see people answering questions, the second stage was beer/wine tasting and finally a picture quiz. Main prizes included clothing from Swazi, with a few other spot prizes thrown in for good measure.

I was pleased (make that relieved!!) that a good number of people signed up into teams to join in the fun. Even a good number of people who didn't actively participate stuck around to have a giggle at the questions. In all 18 teams of 3 decided to give it a go. As self appointed Quiz Master, I advised teams in case of not knowing the answer I gave bonus points for making me laugh – I think some teams saw this as their best hope.

So part one, 13 question flashed up on a power point, never have I seen such concentration at an NZARM conference. Some examples of answers given below:

Q 1. What do these acronyms stand for? WPRC

Answers included – Wanganui Pirates Rugby Club, Waikato Provincial Rugby Club, Woman Pastoral Recreational Committee and Why People Resign Consistently (wonder if it'll will catch on with HR people??)

Q 3. What was the score in the 2003 Rugby World cup Semi-final Abs vs Australia

For some reason this question touched a nerve.....with "who cares! We lost" being a common response.

Q 4. What is the CPLA?

Answers included – Cross-dressing Police of Los Angeles (obviously spent some time there), Couple Plonkers Lost As (people not to get in a car with) and Council Players Lacking Ability

Q 13. Name 2 Matters of National Importance (Part 6 RMA)

It was obvious which teams quickly looked up in the "Handbook of Environmental Law" that was part of the conference pack.....but even those that had an inkling, fresh water & soil erosion, were given some points. As I pointed out to one team, in my next hearing report while I'm fairly sure I could recognize topless barmaids, I'm not entirely sure I could provide for them – unless it was a warm top. To give their answer in full "trout, topless barmaids (that's 3)"

Next stage, beer and wine tasting at the happy hour and looking back now I think it helped a few people get happy. Three samples of beer, white wine and red wine were provided (sorry for the beer getting warm, wasn't the intention, but I am British after all) with the idea being each member of the team would attempt to identify a selection each. For those that didn't like the fine vintages – surely you didn't expect them all to be \$30 bottles from the Mission?? The minimum spent



Best caption award. Three teams came up with "I did not have sexual relations with that woman"

on a bottle was about \$9.

Towards the end of the tastings, some of the writing did start to become a little difficult to decipher.....

Though some feelings came through loud and clear – White Wine B – described by one person as “Char-donay – strained through a well-used sock”. However, there may be a red wine convert out there – Red Wine A “um, I’m not really sure, I don’t drink much wine, merlot maybe”, Red Wine B “this one is quite nice, cab sav”, Red Wine C “A shiraz?? It’s nice. I think I might drink more red wine”

Finally the picture quiz saw competitors having to name native plants, weeds, erosion types and control structures and a politician. Special points were awarded for the Caption Competition (see photo), again some extra effort went into these answers which included “Dumb and Dumber”, “The wind had changed and Helen’s face was stuck forever”, “Don’t breathe that uranium on me you b*stard!”. However, maybe great minds think alike because 3 teams put down “I did not have sexual relations with that woman”

TOP TEAM:

The East Coast Critters
(Peter Manson, Trevor
Freeman, Neil Faulknor).

Photo: Mike Tuohy.



The Winners

1st Place – East Coast Critters – Peter Manson, Neil Faulknor, Trevor Freeman

2nd Place – Dubbers – Ross ‘the racer’ Abercrombie, Tane ‘mahuta’Desmond, Therese Balver ‘world famous in Patararu

3rd Place – THC Abusers - Mike Short, Kevin Cash, DS

4th Place – Golden Oldies - Grant Cooper, Dave Harrison, Kevin Rooke

Special Prizes

White Wine, most points, MAF team

Red Wine, Most points, Ross ‘the racer’ Abercrombie

Beer, most points, Peter Manson

Best hand writing (most legible!) – The President and his Southern Lass’s

Best Caption – “Dumb & Dumbstruck” – Gone Fishing - N Ngapo, John Whale, Simon Park

Wash mouth out – Horn Dogs - Kieran Anderson, Ryan Standen, Big Malcolm Todd

Regional roundup

SOUTHLAND

Land Sustainability staff at Environment Southland are currently involved in implementing a living streams project in the Sandstone catchment which is to be followed by a similar sized project in the Spurhead catchment.

The council is providing incentive monies for the fencing and planting of waterways in this catchment (Sandstone). This catchment has a area of approximately 3000ha and is located in the Riversdale district north west of Gore.

The catchment was chosen due to a deterioration in water quality identified by the current Environment Southland monitoring programme. As the project is a first in Southland it was decided to focus on a small area, where gains could potentially be made in a relatively short period of time.

The Sandstone stream is spring feed and around 30 Km in length with much of the stream currently un-fenced. The catchment is predominately sheep farming although significant areas of the catchment are in the process of being converted to dairy. This change in land use will now dominate the catchment as the main agricultural use.

The project has so far had very good uptake from farmers in the area. It is hoped that by the completion of the project the majority of the Sandstone stream and its tributaries will have good riparian protection.

Depending on the success of this project and the following Spurhead project, the model is to be applied to other larger catchments across Southland. If significant changes in water quality can be made future projects of this type will have both the political and community support to continue in other areas of Southland.

Jim Risk

MANAWATU-WANGANUI

The team in Manawatu is up to pretty much the same stuff; writing huge numbers of Whole Farm Plans. We are glad that the NZARM conference is over. I hope everybody enjoyed it. Full credit to Tabitha and Andrew Manderson who put in huge hours and dedication behind the scenes to make it happen.

For the first time in decades, the guys have been camping out doing LRI maps on big blocks of land. We are writ-

ing farm plans for three of the Ati-Hau properties, totalling 10,200 ha. When not doing that, **Amanda Coop** is writing plans in the Waimiha catchment, north of Taumarunui. After three decades of dedication **Kevin Rooke** has left his beloved Turakina farmers and has taken on new area in the northern Tararua district (behind Dannevirke). **Ryan Standen** is moving into the gap left by Kevin, and is doing farm plans around Wanganui and Palmerston North. **Dave Harrison** has now been with Horizons for 10 years and got a nice pen, much to the chagrin of those of us who have been here for slightly longer and didn't get one. We have taken on two Sustainable Land Use Initiative students. **Hamish Mulcock** has come in on a one year contract to help write with farm plans, and **Amy Taylor** will help me with monitoring farm plans over the Massey holidays.

Malcolm Todd

BAY OF PLENTY

Robyn Skelton is settling into her new role as Land Resources Manager (Western) at Environment Bay of Plenty having shifted from the NZ Landcare Trust this month into one of the three new roles sitting under the new Group Manager Land. Currently she is getting a handle on the various areas of responsibility in the Western Bay and on the staff in her team (pest plant, pest animal and land management). Exciting time with opportunities for growth and re-focus. Welcome to Environment Bay of Plenty Robyn.

Since last report, **Norm Ngapo** has been busy working with **Andy Woolhouse** advising landowners in the Upper Waikato River catchments on Forest to Farming Conversions for Environment Waikato. Currently this activity is on slow down mode due to two main reasons; the Government policy on the proposed levy for conversion operations, and the lack of contractors to carry out the conversion works. **Andy and Norm** fronted up to a TV interview for the Farming Today programme to talk about the Forest to Farming Conversion Advisory Service offered by EW. The programme was shown in the Waikato region. Interesting experience; no make up (thank goodness), and one take only (no room for mistakes). Andy handled it pretty well, Norm looked a bit stage struck!! Not much else to report, except the fishing is expected to hot up soon. Norm and **John Whale** have talked up the fishing in the Eastern Bay of Plenty so much that **Simon Stokes** has decided to emigrate to the Bay and

check out the accuracy of their reports. More to come on the next report.

John Whale is setting up his own consultancy in the BOP. After 15 years at Environment Bay of Plenty dealing with consultants he has seen the light and is setting up to do project and research work, policy development etc.. Still has some transitional work for the old firm to finish off before (and probably after) Christmas so it is all action. John's boat 'Harpoon' has been converted into a mobile office and John is anticipating many day-long meetings with lots of yelling, fishy deals, pirate raiding and other shenanigans!! Roll on summer!!!

El Presidente **Simon Stokes** seems to be settled into the hub of NZARM with a lot of members in this part of the world. Simon is renting a very nice hacienda at Ohope and been spoilt by the location so much he will have considerable difficulty leaving it!! Life is a beeeach! He has also been eating out a lot and the local eateries; 'Ngapo's beach side café' and 'Whale Inn' are the best so far he reckons. Simon says that "She's a beautiful place the Bay of Plenty and the landscape ranges for serene to bubbling with life, with a little mountainous brooding thrown in. The role at Environment Bay of Plenty of managing the eastern area and some regional issues is certainly going to be challenging, but so far it has been made all the more enjoyable due to the my colleagues willingness to 'help the new guy'. It never ceases to amaze me that everywhere you go in NZ, people who work in land management love their work and are passionate about it and its no different here." We can report that Simon is fitting right in and is already on the crew lists for summer fishing trips!!

John Whale

HAWKES BAY

Staff changes have been the talk of the town in recent months. With the migration of **Simon Stokes** to greener pastures, imminent retirements and others also possibly heading to gloomier climates (do we have too much sun?), there are some opportunities arising for good keen land management staff – you know where to find us. Now for the news; **Joe Devonport** who keeps the Regional Landcare Grant Scheme running smoothly, attended the Waikato field day on forest clearing for dairying, while on the other hand he is busy establishing new areas of alternative species forest – notably *C. lusitanica*, in the Tangoio Soil Conservation reserve.

After a very busy, condensed pole planting season **Neil Faulknor** took time out to fly the new CEO (**Andrew Newman**) around the southern part of the region. Neil was recently invited to a local (Argyle) School where students are running a school farm. He was able to help with a riparian protection project. So, there we have the future land managers learning the right skills early! While the drought conditions of autumn dramatically affected the level of conservation plantings in the region generally, **Peter Manson** had as busy a season as any with numerous new hill country properties taking part this year. With very little rain before and after winter, trees and pasture may find it tough going this summer. **Steve Cave** has found a niche in the rapidly growing dairy farming sector. He has been working with managers to expand riparian areas and general good land management practice. The council owned PekaPeka wetland is also a main focus of his. **Warwick Hesketh** spent considerable time on the Local A and P show display as well as normal grant scheme projects – including coastal dunes. **Garth Eyles** has been deeply involved in the Bayly Trust Environment Court hearing relating to the appeal by DOC against the application to clear Kanuka regrowth. He has been pleased to be part of the winning team! Carbon Credits/Trading have recently become a big issue which may impact on regional level activities relating to hill country land use in particular. As chairman of the Willow and Poplar Research Collective he has also been helping to look for a new home for the willow gene pool.

Ode to **Simon Stokes** – Who has moved from Hawkes Bay to a managers role in Whakatane:

Tour a farm, shoot a pig, plant a pole

Speak at field days and dig a hole

Some say his farm plan

Is the best in the land

But he'll be office-bound now, bless his soul

Peter Manson

TARANAKI

All is well for now with dairy farmers in the province as they extract the white gold during a spot of typical Taranaki sunshine – without all that wind like some other places. However, we face a challenge over the next few years to get some of that income back into environmental mitigation. Carbon farming is on the agenda and a series of seminars are being organised to inform landowners and the public of the opportunities that the government's policies on climate change bring. The first one will be held in Northern Taranaki at the end of November and will feature presentations from the manager of the PFSI, TRC and Kyoto Forests NZ. Our proposed biodiversity strategy has

been written and the Land Management team has been closely involved with its development and implementation. Some of the work will involve coordinating expertise and resources within the Council to achieve improved biodiversity outcomes for Key Native Ecosystems in the region.

Don Shearman is focusing on ways to enlighten farmers on the need to implement riparian planting as meeting the 2015 Regional Action Plan target will be very challenging. Several case studies are being written for the local newspaper to highlight what local farmers are doing and to inspire the rest. Discussions are also underway with key regional representatives of the dairy industry to progress the implementation of riparian planting. Don will also be heading out undercover soon, to shear a few sheep for some of the dairy farmers that still have them, and to keep an ear to the ground.

Jason Loveridge has returned to work refreshed after 5 months of yodelling in Switzerland. It is interesting to note that an "Eco" Hotel in a neighbouring village is using the food miles and carbon footprint argument to support local produce. It took all the New Zealand and Australian wines and products off their menu. Apparently, they also reduce water and soap usage by not changing the sheets everyday; they put your used napkin in a cubbyhole for the next day and charge like a wounded bull for using the carpark if you drive to stay there. The hotel is in the more expensive range too. Jason is now busy preparing farm plans, servicing the needs of planholders and catching up on the latest carbon developments.

Darren Scown has been busy arranging over 60 field-mapping appointments per month after convincing dairy farmers why they need to have riparian plans. Over 63% of dairy farms now have riparian plans but Council still has to commission them because farmers tend to wait for us to ring. The focus will change over the next few years from planning to implementation.

Kevin Cash is busy developing Council's new poplar nursery and has planted 11500 cuttings this spring. Until our first harvest, we will be vulnerable to the market for our pole supply over the next 2-3 years. He is also busy preparing the building site to put the foundations of his new house down. Kevin camped out recently when mapping a large farm out the back of yonder and managed to bowl a couple of fallow bucks one evening.

Dex Knowles is working on his summer works programme for the lower Waitara and Waitotara Rivers after a recent 2 week visit to Aussie. More importantly, while in Aussie, he went whale, dolphin and bird watching and studied coastal processes at Coff's Harbour – and not necessarily in that order either!

Rob Phillips is now well settled into the

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Taranaki lifestyle but is having a mid-life crisis as he plans to take up surfing again this summer to recapture his lost youth. Although he does whisper "go the Naki" now and then, he has been caught supporting the Crusaders and thinks Robbie Deans should be the next Allblack coach!

NZARM member **Russell How** reports on a couple of items of interest from his company's (Nutri-Link) point of view: There has been hands on involvement of two of their consultants in two of the forest to dairy conversions in the central North Island. The guys have been passing on interesting info on results and achievements in this area, which will no doubt continue as progress is made. Nutrient budgeting is definitely showing that the majority of dairy farmers are making better decisions with regard to effluent disposal and so better use of this resource. The amount of solid fertiliser required is also proving to be of a lesser requirement than a lot had thought. From comments heard around the traps the processing and use of nutrient budgeting has a lot of room for improvement but never the less is heading in the right direction. Russell attended a recent think tank meeting at Ruakura arranged by AGDMART to discuss sustainable farming through improvement in biological systems and growing topsoil to increase carbon levels in our soils. There were some very interesting ideas and comments made during the day and he is looking forward to further initiatives in this area next year. With the in coming of some more settled weather, Russell is very much looking forward to some fishing time and the evenings with the barbie going and a few ales to contend with. I daresay he is not on his own.

Best wishes for the forthcoming festive season and beyond into 2008.

Don Shearman

CANTERBURY

Canterbury is great as always and the regional event provided the opportunity to meet face-to-face and find out what everyone was up to. The discussion about what topics, issues and themes we had during the regional event was both frightening (given the diversity in issues we want more information on) but at the same time it is encouraging to see people willing to share knowledge and skills and continue to move forward. I think we might have got at least 3 new members from our event – well they have told me they will join but I expect they are waiting for the next 'year'. Thank you to all the members who attended the event.

Judith Earl-Goulet & Julia Laming

GISBORNE

Gisborne District Council staff are pushed to the wire as we head to Christmas. This is a short term blip, (hopefully). We are into a very busy earthworks constructions season and some very large geotechnical issues are being faced up to and reviewed in relation to our District Council Functions and land subdivisions. These are pushing into more and more marginal hill country with Coastal or Rural views mainly on the fringes of Gisborne City.

To try and address this issue at the coal face a Forum on earthworks construction standards and methodologies Basically aimed at 'getting the job right' was run in October immediately before the current earthworks construction season. Major speakers were senior staff at Tonkin & Taylor limited who deal with a very large number of EQC failed sites, Geotechnics Material testing lab, and Senior Soil Conservation staff at GDC. The Forum was very well attended with 35 out of 40 invited local professionals, consultants, surveyors, contractors, planners, Council roading engineers, and Council soil conservation staff all fronting up. Very positive well received and needed. External professional comment was that it was extremely worth while and worth doing again. Power point presentation are available if other NZARM members would like to run something similar.

Regional Functions are also very busy, with GDC's rule requiring tree planting SHC regional rule (Land overlay 3A) about to go into pre-hearing meeting phases with submitters.

Quite a bit has been learnt from the Bayleys 'Scrub clearing' Environment court case in Wairoa/ Hawkes Bay. Debate is on going, but it is likely to have impacts on how the next round of Scrub clearing applications are assessed here in Gisborne.

On top of this Gisborne Soil conservation team and Conservation Division has had a major change in staff, with some internal transfers within Council and one person being recruited into Maf IFU. Two new replacement Soil Conservators have been recruited to start in Early January. As well one new field officer position is pending appointment. Full update of new staff next Broad sheet. Senior Soil Conservator **Peter Fantham** will be moving on in a years time. Now two years into a three year notice to his employer of 30 years. Ex Soil Conservator and long time NZARM member **Don Miller** calls in from time to time. He is back from Vietnam, home in NZ between Wellington and Gisborne for a few months, keeping an eye on his house that is rented and is then off to Vanuatu for more VSA work. **Mike Marden** is beavering away as the

sole charge at Gisborne Land Care Research office we see him on and off as he borrows our photos. **Terry Crippen** who has almost been employed by GDC over a 4 year period doing LUC farm scale mapping for target land for the SIC project is here for probably his stint of work. He is almost the most long term serving member of the soil conservation team and fits in seamlessly whenever he is here. Recommended to any Regional Council out there.

That's it,

Peter Fantham

OTAGO

Hi from the hot sunny south!

We've got updates from **Rachel Ozanne, Tom Heller, Barrie Wills and Nicola McGrouther** this time round. Would also like to say that **Tom Heller, Nicola McGrouther and Parnell Trost** enjoyed a great NZARM regional meet in Geraldine organized by **Judith Earl – Goulet**. Many thanks Judith for the interesting day and some great food.

Rachel Ozanne put together a huge Otago State of the Environment Report in the middle of the year, finishing only a few days before popping out a bonnie baby boy Roland, on Tuesday 26 June. Rachel is now back at work part time, producing State of Environment report cards.

Nicola McGrouther is busy working on a peri-urban catchment programme around Cromwell, in Central Otago and looking forward to lots of lunches in the vineyards! The programme aims to work with lifestyle block owners, vineyard owners, orchardists and farmers on promoting best practice in the area, and dealing with cross boundary issues like spray drift, rabbits and pest control, and water quality etc. Over 60% of the people living in Cromwell have been there less than 4 years which is an amazing turnover of people and means that a lot of new information is needed by people moving into the area. Nicola is also involved in helping a stakeholder group set up to help manage the Waipori- Waihola wetlands.

Tom Heller has been very busy with municipal wastewater projects, identifying environmental solutions to solving wastewater discharge problems in either surface water or groundwater environments. Two major consenting projects in Canterbury have been recently undertaken for Synlait Dairy and Mayfield - Hinds irrigation.

Synlait dairy work has involved the integration of wastewater discharge with irrigation potential for pasture production

to solve both discharge requirements and pasture soil moisture requirements. One interesting facet of the work is that the dairy plant process produces an increased volume of discharge to that of the incoming water supplied.

Irrigation storage modelling and feasibility work has been undertaken for the Mayfield - Hinds Irrigation Company. The irrigation scheme would benefit greatly from both storage and storage-irrigation management, to a point where the returns are far in excess of the value of the stored water alone.

On another note, Tom very much enjoyed the Canterbury-Otago regional NZARM meet at Geraldine. It was good to see some old faces and quite a few new ones.

Barrie Wills has been busy and gives us a great update including a trip overseas...

Hi all from the great Central in the South.

Good to see NZARM is still ticking over and I enjoy reading the Broadsheets. Muzz has been hassling me to put some words on paper, so here goes.

First message is that the SFF Poplar and Willow work we were involved with on John Prebble's (Dunback) and Sharpins (Tuapeka) properties has now wound up. Malcom Deverson and Muzz organised a final presentation at Balclutha, followed by a visit to the Sharpins dairy unit to see how the Kinnyanagi willow was faring as cow-tucker. We are considering an extension to this project.

Other SFF work I am involved with includes a project in Marlborough investi-

*gating protection and development of dry, exposed sunny aspects around Seddon, working with the Starborough Flaxbourne Soil Conservation Group and Doug Avery in particular. We did some extensive planting of saltbush and tagasaste on pretty steep, tunnel gullied sites and man, have those salties grown (See photo). They have been grazed a couple of times already (established 2004/2005) and the first lesson we learned was that *Atriplex nummularia* (de Koch) was pretty well unpalatable, whereas *A. halimus* (Wills Special !!) kept its reputation gained at sites like the Haka and Earnscleugh, and was gobbled up by the sheep. Wheatgrass, burnet and dorycnium are slowly getting established after oversowing.*

I am also working on the Hawkweed problem with Landcare Researchers Claire Newell and Lindsay Smith, along with the Hieracium Control Trust (John Aspinall). Biocontrol is proving difficult but there is some success with the gall midge, now established at a number of sites in the Sth Is. A different option I am investigating is the application of 'Compost Tea' to hawkweed. Most hawkweed sward soils are highly fungal in nature and the idea is to swing this back in favour of bacterial populations, thereby releasing nutrients that other plants can hopefully utilise. Early signs are positive, with hawkweed ground cover being reduced by up to 10% one season after CT application. How it goes in the longer term we'll have to wait and see.

Other jobs keeping me busy include consultancies for various mining and energy Resource Consent applications, environmental compliance work for local horticultural

units, and a landscape photography book (Central Otago - From the Inside) due out in early 2008. So yes, there is life after AgResearch.

Last year my wife and I travelled to Europe, mainly for play (the excuse was an Irish wedding - who could resist??). We took in Scotland by camper van, clambering around the Cairngorms in typical kiwi attire whilst most the poms looked like upper crust Japanese skiers with their fancy walking sticks & gear - hell, we were only a few clicks from the car park. Saw plenty of wind farms in the distance - but mostly a dozen or so towers so no problems there. Distilleries weren't bad either.

Then we ducked down to the Canary Islands for a week - amazing place, intriguing botany especially up on the high volcanic plateau. Very Spanish, crazy drivers and bananas to you too. Nude swimming beach wasn't bad either. Finally off to (Northern) Ireland and the wedding. Landed in Londonderry and drove to Ramelton (of All Black fame - Dave Gallaher's birthplace) which is just over the border, so pull out the Euro's. Wedding was great - very hospitable people and they really enjoy a few social beers - it took three days to put it behind us.

Like NZ, they are going through an explosion of urban and rural development which they are struggling with as many subdivisions are on a par with ours in terms of size, so land is getting gobbled up quickly and many seem rather haphazard in their location. Cabbage trees everywhere, so a kiwi feels right at home. The happy couple flew to Greece for some R&R and we took over their home in Kilkeel, a little fishing town on the east coast, for the duration. Spent time climbing/walking in the Mourne Mts, did the Billy Connolly thing on the Carrick-a-rede rope bridge and Giants Causeway, ducked down to Dublin and over to the west coast. Tractors everywhere carting fresh mown hay - certainly slows you up on the little side roads. Oh and watch the cops over there sneaky sods with lasers. Anyway, a great trip, over too soon and back to real life in Alex again long may it last.

That's all from Otago, till next time

Nicola McGrouther



Some extensive planting of saltbush and tagasaste on pretty steep, tunnel gullied sites

BROADSHEET is available electronically in full colour.

Download from www.nzarm.org.nz

Letters

Only one letter to the Editor from the irrepressible Lee Whiley. Parts have been edited to ensure NZARM doesn't end up in court.

NZARM CONFERENCE 2007 – From the Outside Looking In

After a decade out of the profession I still got a lot of enjoyment and satisfaction taking in this year's conference. It is great to see the enthusiasm and drive going in there both from old friends and colleagues and a whole new crop of new talent.

I found the whole nutrient budgeting thing a brand new challenge to place beside all the other resource management issues we have been grappling with over the years. Adding this component to the already comprehensive catchment management approach must spice up an already challenging field. Pretty scary though to think that reductions in nutrient leaching now may

take 40 years to come through! I thought the scientist fella [Keith Betteridge] looking at various outputs from a number of farming systems and their economic effects was on the right track. Very impressed with the Environment Waikato representative [Gabriele Kaufler] fronting up to farmers with reduction alternatives. Go girl you have obviously gained a lot of respect from them to have gone as far as you have. Keep up the great work!

Very impressed with Greg Carlyon's team's One Plan approach to catchment management. Having survived Greg's Mizone Challenge length of the country multisport event I have faith in his energy drive and organizational skills to pull this one off. Go for it man!

Keep up the great work out there dudes. I reckon our environment is in good hands.

Cheers,
Lee Wha Lee
Chinese Embassy
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Lee Whiley is an ex association president and broadsheet editor who followed his love of property and sport out of the profession and now manages his property investments and his shop Planet Cycles in Auckland, when not white baiting in Hokitika. Lee still has a deep interest in resource management and in his spare time stalks the profession to make sure it is still in good hands!

More conference photos



Where's the Green Rig?



There it is!



But it's coming the wrong way!



He won't make that turn...



unless...

... he drives all over the garden



And a sigh of relief



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Next issue...

Broadsheet is now published three times each year (April, August, December).

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