

## The Marlborough field day takes a look at two trial sites

The first field day in our 2016 series was held in association with the Marlborough Forest Industry Association (MFIA) on February 10<sup>th</sup> 2016. The event proved to be an excellent afternoon. Some 22 people attended, including MFIA members and local farm foresters from the Marlborough Tree Growers Association.

### Site 1: Pukaka Forest (Marlborough Regional Forestry)

The visit to look at durable eucalypt trials planted in Marlborough Regional Forestry's Pukaka forest was a highlight. It included a stand of 12-year-old *E. bosistoana* (Fig 1) and a trial plot of 9-year-old *E. globoidea* (Fig 2).



Fig 1: 12-year-old *E bosistoana* stand



Fig 2: Trial plot of 9-year-old *E globoidea*

Both these trials have been well managed by Phil Woodward of Merrill and Ring, the forestry consultants looking after the Marlborough Regional Forests estate. He described that form pruning for both species had been essential to ensuring a good selection of trees for two pruning lifts.

NZDFI Project Manager Paul Millen presented analysis of the plots based on the Permanent Sample Plots within the trials, measured since 2011. Key data included:

#### ***E. bosistoana*:**

- average tree height - 14 m (growth rate of a little over 1 metre per annum).
- fastest growing tree in the plot is 19 m (growth rate of around 1.5 m per annum).

#### ***E. globoidea***

- average tree height - 12.3 m (growth rate of 1.3 m per annum)
- fastest growing tree is over 15 m (growth rate of over 1.6 m per annum).

The fastest growing trees in these older trials are demonstrating the potential for improvement of both these species through NZDFI's tree breeding programme.

## Site 2: Sagers Trial Site, Blenheim

Later in the day the group visited the NZDFI 2011 demonstration trials at the Sagers property near Blenheim.

Here there has continued to be high survival (well over 90% for most species) and good growth rates despite Blenheim having had its lowest rainfall in eight years - a total of only 381 mm, well below the long-term average of 643 mm. A full assessment of the trials is attached.

A new addition to our assessment tools is a fixed wing drone, used by Buck Forestry. An aerial photo of the site taken by the drone has had the plots overlaid and species list added (see attached).

***Thanks to the Marlborough Forest Industry Association for helping to organise this event.***

### Coming soon: NZDFI field days and seminar

- **Saturday 20th February** (1.30-4.30 pm): **Gisborne** – Gaddum/Wishart Trial Site, Te Koawa Station, near Gisborne. Durable eucalypts on typical East Coast hill country. Indoor presentations followed by an afternoon field visit.
- **Friday 26th February** (12.00-4.30 pm): **Bay of Plenty** – Tect Park Trial Site – establishment and management of a range of species on a relatively high-altitude pine cut-over site. Also eucalypt insect pests and biological control research.
- **Thursday 24th March** (10.30am-3.30pm): **North Canterbury** – establishment and growth on two dry North Canterbury sites, plus a visit to Proseed’s new state-of-the-art propagation facility, Amberley.
- **SEMINAR – TUESDAY 1ST MARCH, TAUPO**

This seminar is being held due to the high level of interest in our research and the exciting levels of survival and early growth rates in Lake Taupo Forest Trust’s new trial. The trial is the first on pumice soils and is on a pine cut-over site. The seminar comprises an afternoon field visit and evening presentations. **Registration for this event is essential.**

**More details at:** <http://nzdfi.org.nz/news-and-events/pruning-workshops-2016/>

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These seminars are part of the NZDFI’s MPI Sustainable Farming Fund project: ‘Enabling growers to maximise value from planting durable eucalypts’.

