

Newsletter for September 2004

View From The Treetops

I hope everyone is beavering away with their planting, which should be nearly finished by now. I have been looking after planting quite a bit of Douglas fir, as well as cypress and redwood this season. This makes a change from the pines and brings its own challenges. The Douglas fir I have put in this year reminds me how the industry can lose its way at times. When Douglas fir was planted 100 years ago in places like Hanmer, Golden Downs and Tapanui it was at high stockings which over a long time period with multiple thinning produced very high yields of fine timber. I was involved with logging some Douglas fir some years ago in Mangatu where the forest owner had tried to speed up the rotation with heavy early thinning and an early clearfall at age 35. Well the stuff was rubbish and we basically gave it away. From this the bean counters deduced that the Douglas fir was worthless. In fact the management was worthless and this is often the case. This year I have planted Douglas fir at high stockings and I know if we control the weeds and thin carefully we will have a beautiful resource of slowly maturing high value timber. My point is that you can learn from the past, forestry doesn't need to be all about change and cutting edge practises.

We need to balance the introduction of exciting and useful new technology with the proven success of past forests. There is now an excellent tool available that can measure internal stiffness in logs and standing trees. Stiffness is directly related to lumber end uses and thus lumber value. Having this tool means we can focus our efforts on upgrading market opportunities (price to us laymen!) in forests by better knowledge of the individual trees properties. This is a breakthrough that may eventually see the demise of log grading as we know it, as visual defects play a lesser

part in the log value than measurable but invisible internal properties. Foresters have known this stiffness and value correlation for years, but it has been overlooked in the race to produce high volumes of logs very quickly which we know now has been the wrong thing to do. Now more than ever the successful forest grower needs to be thinking about the potential end user of his lumber as he tends the forest, not only when it is sold. My last point is for goodness sake vote in the local body elections. There are some good councillors who have been supporting our industry and we should acknowledge this. I believe it is a civic duty to participate in our democracy, imagine the alternative!
Now get out and get that planting finished!

Bert Hughes

In This Issue

Page 2

- Zindia log exports. First full ship load of logs from Marlborough to India.
- Sonic Testing of Logs

Page 3

- MFIA AGM and Field Trip

Page 4

- Ammunition for Forest Owners
- Building a New World with Wood
- Carbon Storage and Emissions
- Wood can Help Slow Climate Change

Page 5

- Keeping Informed – Offcuts weekly email newsletter
- Stories from NZFOA Bulletin:
 - Forests Save Most Slopes
 - Timber in Design
 - Douglas Fir Solution

Page 6

- Log Production Data from MAF
- Forestry Land Wanted – ad

Zindia Log Exports

The first shipment to India has been completed successfully and we believe that it has provided a small bright spot in the general pall of gloom that hangs over our industry.

The POS Auckland, a brand new ship, arrived in Picton on July 17th for it's cargo of 24000 jcs cubic metres, it sailed on the 21st arriving in Kandla, India, on August 19th. It was the first single port full ship loading from Picton. It pushed storage at the wharf to it's limits, there being other shipments by Rayonier and Weyerhaeuser at around the same time, it showed up some areas that can be improved for the future, but it proved that the facility we have in Picton is up there with the best.

Logs came from all corners of the district and it is probably true to say that the shipment had logs from every forest being harvested in Marlborough.

Our Indian sawmiller customers like the concept that they are dealing directly with forest growers in Marlborough & Nelson, and a group of them visited here in the week before the ship arrived. Port Marlborough generously hosted a reception for them with all of the log suppliers in the district represented there.

The challenge now for Zindia is to maintain supply to these customers and achieve a price for growers that is anything higher than totally disastrous. Other New Zealand exporters who are large, but I will not name them, have, either deliberately, or through incompetence, crashed the selling prices in India. Shipping prices, pushed by China demand and rocketing oil costs, have also made the export equation very difficult for our next shipment. However, we believe in the future of this market, and will persevere until the madness subsides. We have the wood, they want it, and we have already a very strong relationship between us. Sometimes the good things take time!

- Rick Osborne

Sonic Testing Of Logs

Forest Management Ltd (FML) and Tasman Forest Management Ltd (TFM) have bought a sonic testing tool in order to test the stiffness qualities of our log resource. This will benefit our sawmill customers who will be able to use the information to make decisions on their log purchase requirements. It will also be of benefit to those forest owners whose logs meet the stiffness specifications of the end users. Logs outside of these specs will probably create other problems for owners but this is a marketing issue that needs to be faced. I expect lower stiffness logs will be exported.

TFM will have this tool available for consulting work in forests and sawmill yards should anyone be interested. Our present clients forests will be tested as part of our marketing processes in any case. Please contact Bert Hughes or Tamati Smith if you have any queries.

TFM and FML have arranged a seminar at the Forestry School, Canterbury University for people interested in the tools and their application. Places are strictly limited so please contact Bert Hughes for information. There will be a small charge to cover Dr John Walkers time. The date is tentatively set as the 17th September. The implications of testing log quality before sawing will have a large impact on forest and log marketing decisions. TFM will keep the MFIA committee updated as we learn more.

- Bert Hughes

TFM

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Ammunition for Forest Owners

When talking to politicians, councillors, people complaining about logging traffic, or friends planning to build, you may like to use the following information to promote forestry.

This comes from the very informative Forestry Insights website at www.insights.co.nz/climate.aspx

Building a New World With Wood

One of the most effective ways to reduce carbon emissions is to choose wood products ahead of other building and furniture materials. Using a cubic metre of wood instead of other construction materials such as concrete, blocks or bricks will result in an average saving of 0.8 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions. This is chiefly because these non-wood materials require so much more energy in their extraction and manufacture.

The methodology now used to calculate the environmental impact of alternative materials is called Life Cycle Assessment (LCA). LCA tracks a product system through all stages of its life cycle right through to end of use, disposal and/or recycling.

The most comprehensive source of information regarding different materials was developed in Finland (RTS 1998-2001). The calculations assumed given densities of materials, that the materials were produced from virgin material, that emissions from use were calculated over a maximum lifetime of material and that a common end use was chosen.

The carbon dioxide emissions savings by using timber instead of the other materials is calculated as follows:

Saving in carbon dioxide emission per cubic metre (in kgs)

Timber for standard concrete	792
Timber for heavy concrete	1,013
Timber for light concrete block	725
Timber for red brick	922

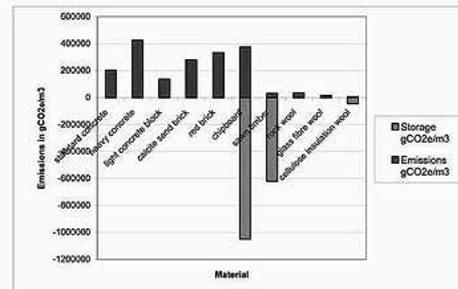
Source: RTS (1998-2001)

Carbon Storage & Emissions

Graph 1. (below) shows the emissions from building materials per cubic metre, the amount of carbon dioxide that is stored

or 'locked up' in wood based products. As you will quickly see, chipboard and sawn timber store by far the greatest amounts.

Graph 1: Emissions from building materials in gCO₂e per m³ of material



Source: RTS (1998-2001)

The graph shows from left to right, standard concrete, heavy concrete, light concrete block, calcite sand brick, red brick, chipboard, sawn timber, mineral wool insulation, fibreglass insulation, and cellulose fibre insulation. The graph shows the CO₂ emissions from manufacture and only the chipboard, timber and cellulose insulation store more carbon than they emit. Ed

The differences in carbon dioxide emissions between wood and non-wood construction materials are substantial. It is obvious that were it possible to achieve significant levels of conversion to the use of wood-based materials on a global basis; then not only would the amount of emissions be substantially reduced but the increased demand for timber would require the planting of more and more forests – thereby creating millions of hectares of carbon sinks.

Wood Can Help Slow Climate Change

Material substitution of wood products can help to slow climate change as the amount of carbon fixed in wood increases in line with the wider use of wood products. But it is also important that the wood is sourced from sustainably managed forest resources if the benefit is to be long term.

A recent European Union report concludes that the substitution of wood-based products in preference to fossil fuel based products will bring a three-fold benefit:

- Carbon emissions are decreased in the production process
- Recycling rates are high
- Wood products' carbon sink increases in the longer term, so more and more carbon is removed from the atmosphere

Keeping Informed

The Forest Industry Engineering Assn (FIEA) have a weekly newsletter. You can sign up for a free service at www.fiea.org.nz/offcuts.html The following headings relate to stories from last Friday's version including the little teaser at the bottom.

Radiata gains ground in China

- **Australian CCA decision clarification.**
- **Huaguang forests are sold, sawmill planned.**
- **Raw logs leaving B.C. may soon face an export tax.**
- **NZ log exports to Korea decline.**
- **Port Nelson processes record number of containers.**

.....and finally, one to test your coordination; left brain/right brain.

This is weird:

While sitting at your desk, lift your right foot completely off the floor and make clockwise circles.

Now, while doing this, draw the number "6" in the air with your right hand. Your foot will change direction and there's nothing you can do about it.

Stories from the NZFOA Bulletin

Read more at: www.nzfoa.nz/forestry.co.nz

Forests Save Most Slopes

Forestry proved its worth in protecting steep slopes during the February storms, according to data from Landcare Research. However, in some areas where the wind and rain was most intense, nothing was left standing.

Landcare mapped close to 50,000 landslides in the storm-hit area, from Raetihi down to Kapiti Island, and monitored the sediment swept down the Manawatu River.

Their analysis showed that very little of the sediment came from native or plantation forest. This confirms previous findings that a canopy of trees reduces slips by up to 90 per cent on steep land.

Timber in Design

The 'wood is good' story is being actively communicated to architects, engineers and others who influence the choice of construction materials.

"A whole raft of information" about timber design and timber products was presented at a series of workshops, hosted by the Timber Design Society, and held in Auckland, Christchurch and most recently, Wellington. The programme included case studies where timber had been used to solve difficult construction problems.

"We highlighted wood's durability and strength and its flexibility to meet difficult requirements. We showed that the appropriately designed timber product, in multilevel buildings, can be as durable as steel or concrete, and as cost effective," said Lawrie Halkett of the Pine Manufacturers Association (PMA).

For the past two years, the PMA has run evening seminars demonstrating glue-laminated products to architects and designers.

"There's a lot of interest in wood, not just for its aesthetic qualities, but also because timber is a renewable resource. Well-managed forests produce timber on a sustained continuous basis, with minimal adverse effects on soil and water values," he said.

Other initiatives are the Origin Timber Design Awards, four prizes of \$10,000 for practising architects and engineers. Carter Holt Harvey is funding a student design competition, and there are moves to have a chair in timber design at engineering schools.

Douglas Fir Solution

South Island mayors have endorsed the use of untreated Douglas-fir as a preferred framing timber.

This follows presentations by a group of Douglas-fir growers and millers who want the Building Industry Authority to revisit NZ Standard 3602 which requires the treatment of all external framing timber, unless a local body determines otherwise.

"Untreated Douglas-fir (NZ Oregon) has been used for decades in the framing of traditional-style houses without a problem. It is the framing timber of choice in most of the South Island, because it's chemical-free, with superior engineering properties." says Peter Weir of Ernslaw One.

The group has developed new, low risk, assessment criteria to enable local bodies to

approve Douglas-fir for use under the Building Code's 'Alternative Solution'. Seven South Island local bodies have already adopted the criteria.

More:

www.nzfoa.nzforestry.co.nz/alternativesolutions.asp

ROUNDWOOD REMOVALS: Nelson/Marlborough January – March 04 Results

The table below compares the March 03 quarter with the March 04 quarter.

	Nelson (m ³)	Marlborough (m ³)	Total (m ³)
March quarter 2003	357,500	144,900	502,400
March quarter 2004	340,400	160,700	501,100
Difference	-5%	+11%	0

Source: Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry Regional Survey, 2003-04

The data below is based on the last four quarters data.

Year Ending 31 March 2004

	Nelson (m ³)	Marlborough (m ³)	Total (m ³)	%
Export Sawlogs	453,900	386,300	840,200	38
Domestic Sawlogs	752,500	162,700	915,200	42
Total Sawlogs	1,206,400	549,000	1,755,400	80
Export Chiplogs, posts, poles	55,900	18,000	73,900	4
Domestic Chiplogs, posts, poles	286,400	67,300	353,700	16
Total Chiplogs, posts, poles	342,300	85,300	427,600	20
Total	1,548,700	634,300	2,183,000	100

Source: Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry Regional Survey, 2004

Chas Perry
Senior Policy Analyst
NELSON



I am currently working with clients who have extensive South Island forestry interests and wish to acquire forestry in the Marlborough region.

Wanted To Purchase

- Bare land suitable for planting
- Mature trees close to harvest
- Nelson/Marlborough region with minimum 40 inch rainfall



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