

# Book Reviews

**Growing Eucalypt Trees for Milling on New Zealand Farms. Neil Barr. 1996. New Zealand Farm Forestry Association, Wellington. 140 p. ISBN 0 473 04076. \$35.00**

This is a book written by a farm forester for farm foresters. Reading it, one could imagine that Neil was there talking about his beloved eucalypts and making an occasional aside or comment. Throughout he has kept the language simple and clear with the objective of providing practical and not highly technical advice on the selection and management of eucalypts for milling.

The history of the genus in New Zealand, and of those people and organisations who have worked with eucalypts, is given in a valuable summary. Species which, from a milling perspective, have stood the test of time and can be considered for growing in New Zealand are pre-

sented in his 'First Eleven'. Potentially useful species are listed in an appendix. Tree descriptions only give a general indication of the tree form and are not suitable for identification; indeed he advises consulting a specialist for this. The notes on the distribution of these species in New Zealand is uneven, reflecting his Northland origins. He does, however, use his farm forestry contacts to cover the rest of the country.

One strength of this book is the repeated emphasis on the need to propagate only from known seedlines of high quality, including trunk form and timber quality. A listing of potential seed sources is given. Seedling production methods used by him are covered briefly but concisely. Neil states that his objective in the chapter on silviculture is "putting forward many options" with an ultimate aim for a final crop of less than 80 stems/ha. Aspects which have not been covered well include the importance of seedling quality, the necessity of good site preparation, and subsequent weed control. Perhaps these were considered to be self-evident.

The chapter on eucalypts and the environment considers a range of potential uses of timber eucalypts, including erosion control, landscaping and shelter. Non-timber species are not considered.

Valuable pointers for the selection of quality milling logs are given but some of these are lost in the general text. The importance of the correct identification of the species is re-emphasised in this chapter. Differing means of sawing logs on the farm are presented without much comment.

If the success of a book depends on its accessibility to its audience then Neil has succeeded. He has provided a simple guide to the selection and management of eucalypts. He has also given a carefully considered listing of references for those who want a deeper knowledge of the

genus.

Copies of the book are available from M.E.F. Smith, Neil Barr Farm Forestry Foundation, 120 Pahiatua Track, RD1, Palmerston North.

**John S. Sheppard**

**Hawke's Bay — Forests of Yesterday. Patrick J. Grant. 1997. P. J. Grant, 54 Greenwood Road, Havelock North. 273 p. \$69.50.**

This book captures a lifetime of work and passion. I have never met Patrick Grant, but having read this book I feel like I now know him, or at least a part of him.

"Hawke's Bay — Forests of Yesterday" was written and published by the author, who lives in Havelock North. Dr Grant is a Research Associate of Landcare Research and holds botany and earth science degrees. His career spanned the New Zealand Forest Service, the Forest Research Institute, and the Napier Hydrological Survey, where he was scientist in charge for almost 20 years. Patrick Grant's background, his immense knowledge, and also his biases (what he refers to as "hypotheses"), show through very strongly throughout the 273 pages of this book. The book is very well illustrated with over 100 photographs, paintings and diagrams, many of the photographs being from the author's own collection.

According to the Table of Contents, the book is arranged in five parts (1) Forests of Yesterday, (2) Factors Influencing Forest Change, (3) Interpreting Forest Change, (4) Forests of Today, and (5) Summary and Conclusions. However, I found that I read it as two sections. The first section covers the forests of yesterday and the second provides an explanation of what influenced the forests of the past and present.

## Issues and Options for Managing the Impacts of Deer on Native Forests and other Ecosystems

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ing on its estates, and identification of its primary role as setting targets for forest condition, biotic diversity and deer density. Certainly DOC could consider more efficient systems of providing permission to hunt on the DOC estate, but management by hunter organisations is not the only way. Seasonal licensing, for example, would seem a much more manageable system than the present practice.

The document goes on to discuss: management of deer on private land, scientific information, priority setting; effectiveness of the various hunter groups and agents and the views of interest groups. Under each topic various questions are asked and the reader is petitioned to provide feedback on them — 30 or so in all.

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The **Issues and Options Paper** is more properly termed an **issues paper**. The options are not sufficiently well developed; it is rather a grab bag of ideas and statements about which the reader's opinions are sought. It is repetitive and does not easily flow from one major topic to the next. I suspect that, as a result, the public responses to this paper are likely to follow a similar pattern.

**Alan Griffiths**

## NZIF Website

The NZIF now has a cyber-face, thanks to the efforts of one of our members, David South at Auburn University in the US. The NZIF website can be found at two locations:

<http://www.forestry.auburn.edu/people/faculty/biology/south/nz/nzone.html>  
<http://www.canterbury.ac.nz/fore/nzif/home.html>

Comments are welcome and should be directed to Paul Smale (paul.smale@rayonier.com). Paul is on the NZIF Council and looks after publicity for the Institute.