

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

(Continued from page 37)

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.

The first part of the book is rather dry, as it is simply an account of the many different types of indigenous forests that exist in Hawke's Bay. The 11 chapters go into considerable detail describing the forests and even the individual trees in the distinct areas or zones of Hawke's Bay. Photographs of landscapes, forests, and specimen trees illustrate the chapters and there are several examples of "now and then" photographs and paintings showing what the forest was like in the past compared to what it is now. For example, Figure 31 shows a painting of Waipatiki Beach done in 1855 compared to a photograph taken in 1976. The surprising feature of this comparison is that virtually nothing has changed since 1855!

Having set the scene in the first 100 pages, the book gets much more interesting as Dr Grant explains some of the factors influencing the forests of Hawke's Bay. The author presents his own "climate model" in Figure 62, which he developed by "combining his erosion-period chronology with the palaeotemperatures derived from speleothems and tree cellulose". Unfortunately many readers may put the book down before they reach this section, but in many ways, this is where the book really started for me.

Having discussed the various factors that can influence forest change in Hawke's Bay, the author then goes on to analyse these factors in more detail. His

conclusions are fascinating and they refute explanations that others have presented concerning the role of Maori in shaping the landscape of the area. I won't spoil the book for others by giving away the ending, but no doubt some readers will find his conclusions controversial.

The book will be of particular interest to those interested in the history of Hawke's Bay and New Zealand, and also to those fascinated by the effects of natural processes on forest succession. It will also lay the foundation for many new studies on the natural history of Hawke's Bay, and because it is so well illustrated, will provide an excellent photo (and painting) record of the area.

WJ Dyck

Next Annual General Meeting

Next year's AGM of the Institute is to be held in Wellington. The proposed theme is indigenous forest policy, covering conservation, production and the Forest Amendment Act. Resource description aspects might also be covered.

Growth models that account for seasonal differences

Research at CSIRO Forestry and Forest Products suggest that forest growth models that take account of differences between growth seasons can have practical applications. Peter Snowdon and colleagues are developing hybrid models based on traditional empirical growth models coupled with growth indices reflecting changing conditions for growth. The best indices found to date are based on process-based models developed on the effects of water and nutrient availability on the growth of radiata pine. Typically, the error in predictions of stand growth can be reduced by 30-50%.

These hybrid models have application in predicting the effect of climate change and interpreting growth data from experimental plantings where the climate may not have been like the long-term average. Probably the biggest potential is to update earlier forest inventory measurements to make more accurate estimates at harvesting.

(Extracted from "Onwood" - research updates of CSIRO Forestry and Forest Products).

'Trees, Timber and Tranquillity'

by
Lindsay Poole



The greater part of Lindsay Poole's working life, or for that matter his whole life, has been geared to forestry one way or another — by forestry is meant the use of forests for multiple purposes, including especially protection of soil and water, and the growing of trees and the selling of wood. This life is traced in his new book, 'Trees, Timber and Tranquillity'.

His comments about the relationship between short-term changing Governments and the long life of a tree have special significance, and his story will be of considerable interest especially to professional foresters, farm foresters, tree lovers generally, and politicians!

The 144 page casebound book includes 32 pages of colour and black and white photographs — many taken by noted forestry photographer John Johns — and they have informative captions.

Copies of 'Trees, Timber and Tranquillity' are obtainable from the publisher:

C. Rex Monigatti Publishing, PO Box 3541, Wellington, and from the author at 22A Waru Street, Khandallah, Wellington.

The \$35.00 price includes GST and packaging and postage within New Zealand.

Karori Wildlife Sanctuary Trust predator-proof fence

The Karori Wildlife Sanctuary Trust was formed in 1995 to develop the 252 ha Karori Reservoir Valley in Wellington into a native wildlife sanctuary. A key to the project was construction of a 9 km predator-proof fence around the boundary of the valley. Three years' research was undertaken to come up with a suitable design, this research being supervised by Rod Hitchmough of Victoria University. The final fence design, for which a patent has been applied for, will keep out cats, possums, stoats, rats and even juvenile mice. It consists of three components; a wall of 2.2 m using 6 mm galvanised woven wire, a hat to prevent climbing animals entering and a basal skirt to prevent burrowers going under the fence.

The Trust expects to begin construction of the boundary fence in 1998. Further information on the fence is available from the trust at PO Box 28107, Wellington.