

Internet Timber Trades

A new Internet trading service for timber has been established by Christchurch-based timber family, the McVicars. The service has been set-up in conjunction with Christchurch firm Aoraki Corporation using Jade software technology.

Brothers John and Rodney McVicar have a forestry and sawmilling background and they are working closely with the New Zealand Timber Industry Federation and the Australian Forest Products Association.

Called Lignus Exchange, the New Zealand group has had applications for membership from companies in the US, Australia, Japan, China, Indonesia, Malaysia and Korea. New Zealand members are reported to include Placemakers, Mitre 10, Fletcher Challenge Forests, Woodlink and McAlpines. Carter Holt Harvey was also said to be registering.

Prices Spur Forest Investors

Higher log prices have helped spur renewed interest in forestry partnership investments. Log prices have risen about 10 per cent in the past few months, but they are estimated to be still about 40 per cent behind the highs of 1993-94.

Nevertheless, advisers are reported to be underlining the fact that forestry investment is a 25-30 year affairs, with undeniable uncertainty as to the outcome. Greenplan Forestry Ltd issued its 50th forest partnership in September and the King Country firm is now responsible for nearly \$40 million worth of forest investments, the Sunday Star Times reported. Since 1992 Greenplan has planted 5,000 hectares of uneconomic farmland in Radiata pine and plans to continue planting 1,000 hectares a year for 30 years.

Motorola in new releases

Motorola has released a mobile radio it says will provide significant advantages for New Zealand mobile fleet operators. The new GM 338 and GM 339 Professional Series of mobile radios, to be released in stages, means Motorola offers a single, new technology platform that is designed to exceed all demands, now and for

the future. With the capacity to operate in both trunking and conventional modes, all models in the GM range offer a number of clear advantages.

Both have programmable channel spacing, allowing users to migrate seamlessly should new spectrum architecture and allocations be introduced.

Indicative MAF Log Prices

The following log prices are reported by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry for the September Quarter 2000.

MAF notes: Returns to small growers may be lower than those recorded here owing to scale and buyers' margins. These log prices are historical and indicative only, and may not correspond to actual prices paid, or grades used, in market transactions. The prices are subject to changes when further data becomes available. The sources for this information are Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry industry contacts.

SEPTEMBER QUARTER As at: 25 October, 2000

Generic Log Type & Pricing Point	September 2000 Quarter	September 2000 12-Quarter Median
EXPORT (NZ\$ per JAS m³ f.o.b.)		
Pruned	190-229	211
Unpruned A Grade	109-142	117
Unpruned J Grade	94-117	89
Unpruned K Grade	72-105	85
Pulp	60-68	54
DOMESTIC (NZ\$ per tonne delivered at mill)		
P1	155-190	166
P2	111-170	136
S1	95-109	99
S2	80-107	88
L1 and L2	60-92	71
S3 and L3	56-86	64
Pulp	32-45	37

2000 Indicative New Zealand Radiata Pine Log Prices by Quarter

Generic Log Type & Pricing Point	March 2000 Quarter	Jun 2000 Quarter	Sept 2000 Quarter	Dec 2000 Quarter
EXPORT (NZ\$ per JAS m³ f.o.b.)				
Pruned	176-218	190-219	190-229	
Unpruned A Grade	98-121	106-130	109-142	
Unpruned J Grade	92-104	94-106	94-117	
Unpruned K Grade	84-102	84-106	72-105	
Pulp	58-63	62-65	60-68	
DOMESTIC (NZ\$ per tonne delivered at mill)				
P1	147-175	150-175	155-190	
P2	102-150	107-150	111-170	
S1	105-114	95-119	95-109	
S2	85-96	80-107	80-107	
L1 and L2	53-83	54-85	60-92	
S3 and L3	58-78	56-71	56-86	
Pulp	32-47	32-44	32-45	