

## Climate change book offers facts in the whirlpool of policy

In the fast-moving world of the political debate surrounding global warming, it is often difficult to pin down the basic arguments. A new book from Forest Research attempts this difficult task.

Authored by J. Piers Maclaren, "Trees in the Greenhouse" draws on the past 12 years of investigations by FR into the effect of trees as a tool for reducing atmospheric carbon levels.

The book has been produced in response to the high level of public interest in the effect of trees as a tool for reducing atmospheric carbon levels. As the flyer says, this book covers some of the scientific issues underlying the so-called "greenhouse effect" but concentrates on the roles performed by trees.

Trees in the Greenhouse, Forest Research Bulletin, No. 219, Author: J. Piers Maclaren  
 Publisher: Forest Research, Price: NZ\$90.00 (GST incl.) for electronic version; for hard copy at \$5.00 p&p Contact: Publications, Forest Research, Tel: 64-7-343 5899; Fax:64-7-343 5379  
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## New forestry statistics available

New Zealand Forestry Statistics 2000, has just been released by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. Fifth in a series of statistical publications, it contains the latest data currently available and is a key source for the time-series data on the elements underpinning the growth of the forestry sector in New Zealand.

Available on hard copy from MAF Policy Information Group or MAF Information Bureau in Wellington or from MAF regional offices. Also available on the Internet from: [www.maf.govt.nz/](http://www.maf.govt.nz/)

## Forest sinks explained

Published by MAF Policy, this booklet has been devised as an important step to help the forest sector's involvement in the development of New Zealand's domestic climate change policy for forest sinks. Described as an "information document", it explains forest sinks and presents a discussion on how a system to manage New Zealand's forest sinks under the Kyoto Protocol might operate.

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## letters

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20 March 2001).

2. A typical NZ house uses 21 cubic metres of framing timber. (Approx. 4.2 tonnes carbon).  
 (Ian Page, BRANZ, pers. comm. 20 March 2001)

Combining the above, we get the increase in framing timber of 83,765 tonnes carbon per year, in dwellings. If the figure is arbitrarily doubled to include non-framing timber (e.g. wallboard and furniture) in dwellings, and doubled again to include non-dwellings, this amounts to about 0.3 Mt carbon sink per year.

Compared to the 1990 figures of 5.9 Mt/year from expanding forests, and CO<sub>2</sub> fossil-fuel emissions of 6.9 Mt/year, the direct role of HWP can be seen in perspective.

Moreover, it could be very difficult to quantify this sink with any degree of precision, because there are no regular inventories of buildings in New Zealand, let alone those that detail their wooden content.

**Piers Maclaren**

### Canterbury windthrow information

Sir,

I am a fourth-year forestry student at the University of Canterbury and a student member of the New Zealand Institute of Forestry. It is my

hope that some players in the Canterbury forestry scene can help me with a request for information.

Currently I am undertaking an undergraduate dissertation on the effects of last October's windstorm on Canterbury plantation forests.

The first part of the dissertation will be an anecdotal overview of wind damage for the Canterbury region, together with an outline of weather conditions prevailing on and around October 12.

The second part will be a more in-depth analysis of a data set I have for a particular area, looking for relationships between stand parameters and the extent of wind damage.

My problem is with the first part: I have run out of people to ask about their impression of the effects of the storm.

I have had some useful and helpful contacts, but I have reached the end of their suggestions for others to contact without feeling that I have a good coverage of the topic.

So, anyone with time and information (estimates are fine) to spare is more than welcome to contact me at any of the following:

Email - [yjw12@student.canterbury.ac.nz](mailto:yjw12@student.canterbury.ac.nz),  
 post - 69 Yaldhurst Rd, Christchurch,  
 phone - (03) 341 5697.

**Yannina Whiteley**