

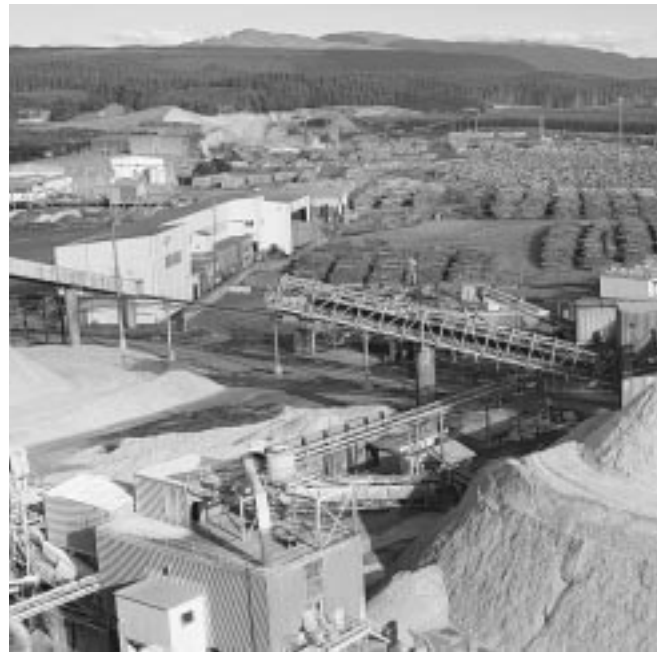
# Govt. Backs Processing Strategy

A genuine dialogue is developing between Government and the forest industry. Deputy Prime Minister Jim Anderton's Wood Processing Strategy Steering Group (see also *In My View*, page 2) spearheads an attempt to forge closer links. He chaired the group's inaugural meeting with eight sector people.

Mr Anderton described the wood industry as "one of the ripest opportunities for New Zealand's economic development", adding that better wood processing held the potential to unlock vast opportunities from our forestry resources.

"The Government is committed to working in partnership with the forest industry to remove the obstacles to further wood processing in New Zealand.

Every raw log shipped overseas is an economic failure. We have to turn them into



More added value wanted.

processed products, including paper and finished wood products such as pre-built houses, furniture and manufacturing componentry." "We're very enthusiastic about the initiatives," says FOA president Peter Berg. "In particular, we applaud the fact

that the steering group includes a number of New Zealand's more significant forest owners. The emphasis is on wood-processing and development of the supporting infrastructure. That can only be good news for the whole industry!"

New Zealand Forestry Bulletin is published by the New Zealand Forest Owners Association, 85 The Terrace, PO Box 1208, Wellington Telephone 0-4-473 4769 Fax 0-4-499 8893 Email [robmcl@nzfoa.org.nz](mailto:robmcl@nzfoa.org.nz) Internet [www.nzfoa.nzforestry.co.nz](http://www.nzfoa.nzforestry.co.nz)

Views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect those of the New Zealand Forest Owners Association.

Articles may be reproduced provided permission is obtained from the editor.

Contributions are welcomed and these should be addressed to: The Editor, New Zealand Forestry Bulletin, PO Box 37440, Parnell, Auckland Telephone 0-9-377 2370 Fax 0-9-377 2365 Email [nzfoa@nzforestry.co.nz](mailto:nzfoa@nzforestry.co.nz)



## Training

# Apprenticeships Take Off



Last July, the Government introduced the Modern Apprenticeship Programme (MAP) and selected Forest Industries Training as one of the co-ordinators of the pilot scheme. While the initial contract was for 60 forestry sector apprentices, by the end of 2000 there were 107, and marketing manager David Carruthers expects another 180 apprentices by the end of June.

The programme allows people between 16 and 21 to gain a Level 3 National Certificate over a period of three years. It represents a substantial commitment from both parties and is designed to attract motivated people. CEO John Blakey says the word "apprenticeship" has a lot of mana attached to it. "That means the programme functions as a recruitment tool as well."



# In My View

Late in January we saw a positive outcome from Deputy Prime Minister Anderton's undertaking at last year's Forestry Industry Conference to facilitate a co-operative government-industry partnership. The massive increase in harvested wood, and agreement on adding the greatest (profitable) value in New Zealand before export, has focused the minds of government and the industry on factors which could limit that potential.

The Wood Processing Strategy Steering Group, chaired by Mr Anderton, consists of senior industry, local body and Maori representatives. It has agreed on an initial programme to achieve the maximum benefits of the increased wood harvest. The meeting identified the lack of an adequate roading infrastructure, particularly in 'new' forest areas, as probably the most serious handicap, followed by the need for adequate numbers of well-trained people, and removal of unnecessary Resource Management Act compliance costs.

The group agreed to meet in two months to review these issues. It will also examine other key issues, such as escalating import tariffs, non-tariff barriers, inconsistent and inappropriate building codes in many countries, and inadequacies in New Zealand's biosecurity defences.

While the first meeting was successful, there will now need to be a strong focus on setting and achieving measurable milestones if the

exercise is not to become another 'talkfest'.

The signs are positive. The Government has committed itself to a strong regional development strategy in which forestry will play a key role, and industry leaders are only too well aware of the obstacles that need to be addressed.

## Getting The People

Success in attracting and retaining an adequate supply of good labour involves very complex social as well as employment-related issues. We will not solve the problem simply by referring to poor promotion of the industry, hard and dangerous work, the use of alcohol and drugs, and uncaring contractor employers. These are all contributory causes – but to make inroads into the recruitment requirements of the industry and poor retention rate, particularly in the forestry sector, all those involved need to sit down together and carefully analyse the reasons for the current position and formulate innovative solutions.

The task will not be easy, but a start needs to be made.

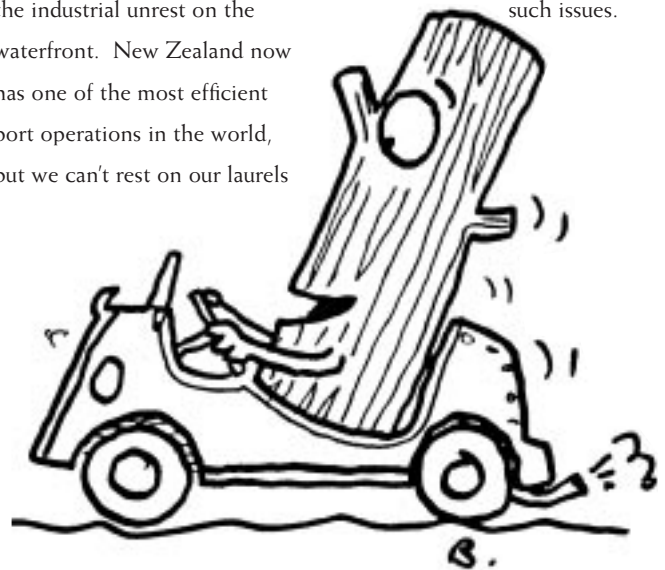
Similarly with the Resource Management Act: the industry has complained for years about the frustrating delays and costs in obtaining resource consents. We simply will not attract the investment required unless the current barriers and delays, resulting from the poor and inefficient administration of the Act, are effectively addressed.

## Industrial Unrest

Of immediate concern must be the industrial unrest on the waterfront. New Zealand now has one of the most efficient port operations in the world, but we can't rest on our laurels

if we are to compete successfully overseas. Any moves to reduce costs such as through the adoption of more efficient port loading systems must not be frustrated by inter-union fights, and that is essentially what the Watersider Workers Union/Mainland Stevedoring Union dispute is all about.

It would be a shame if the Government's regional development strategy and the maximisation of the benefits from the increased wood supply were undermined by such issues.



## Driving new co-operation strategies

# Pest On The Prowl

**Eighteen months after its discovery in New Zealand, the painted apple moth has still not been eradicated.**

**T**he latest reports on the painted apple moth are "extremely worrying", says FOA chief executive Rob McLagan. Over just four days in January alone, 150 male moths were trapped in the Glendene area of west Auckland. The good news is that during the same period, no other life stages (eggs, caterpillars, pupae or the flightless female moths) were detected in Glendene or the other infested region, Auckland's Mount Wellington. During the last eight months, just one pupa and one male moth have been found in the

Mt Wellington area.

However, there is still painted moth material in Auckland, more than 18 months after the first moth was discovered. The most recent development is the discovery of a late instar caterpillar in Titirangi, five kilometres away from Glendene/Kelston. Traps with caged female moths will be placed in the area to investigate whether this find was a one-off occurrence.

Although radiata pine is not the first choice of the Australian intruder, the painted apple moth does feed on young radiata and, if present in



large numbers, could affect their growth.

Dr Ruth Frampton, MAF director of forest biosecurity, says that in accordance with the agreed strategy, work on obtaining a pheromone-based attractant for use in a trapping programme remains a top priority. In the meantime, live

female moth trapping is used.

The FOA has now formally asked MAF to undertake an independent review of the way in which the painted apple moth eradication programme has been conducted. MAF has now agreed to bring forward such a review.

## More Bucks To Tighten Borders

**Government has earmarked an additional NZ\$2.75 million for biosecurity and vows to develop a comprehensive biosecurity strategy by December 2002.**

The FOA is pleased that the Government has approved a NZ\$2.75 million package of initiatives to improve biosecurity.

The money will be used to:

- Conduct a comprehensive import risk analysis on sea containers and investigate new methods of detecting contamination of these containers;
- Investigate new methods of enhancing plant pest risk management;
- Undertake a strategy, covering scoliid wasps, Argentine ants, wood-boring insects and nominated diseases of native wildlife;

- Implement a biosecurity awareness programme, targeted at travellers, importers, primary industries and the general public.

FOA president Peter Berg says the initiative is of vital importance to our forests. "The Government has indicated it will be consulting with the relevant sectors and the FOA expects to be closely involved in that process," he said.



**FOA president Peter Berg:**  
"The initiative is of vital importance."

# Union Protects Its Monopoly

"I have fielded calls from investors and customers around the world, asking what on earth is happening," says Carter Holt Harvey chief executive officer, Chris Liddell, about the South Island waterfront dispute which has raged since late last year.

Carter Holt Harvey has been subjected to picketing, heavy criticism, trespass, and the threat of international union

boycotts since the start of the dispute. Workers from its stevedoring company, Mainland, have faced intimidation, slashing of tyres and confrontations with protesters.

"This is not actually a dispute about casualisation or local jobs for local people," says Liddell. "Mainland also employs permanent staff, has recruited local staff and is offering to employ more. It is about a union trying to resist new economy change and protect a monopoly."

The Association has twice

written to the Minister of Labour expressing concern at an interunion demarcation

dispute which could frustrate the introduction of an improved ship loading system.



Carter Holt Harvey chief executive officer, Chris Liddell

## Biosecurity

# Championing Forest Health

The New Zealand Forest Health Research Collaborative (NZFHRC) turns five this year. Established with FOA funding, the collaborative provides solutions to forest health problems through cost-effective research and technology transfer.

Projects for the 2000/2001 year include the economic impact of the Monterey pine aphid (Crop and Food Research); biological control of blackberry (Forest Research) and testing cypress canker resistance: initial screening methodology. (Forest Research).

The NZFHRC consists of research and service providers, FOA members and DoC/MAF members. For more information visit [www.fhrc.org.nz](http://www.fhrc.org.nz)

## Fire Prevention

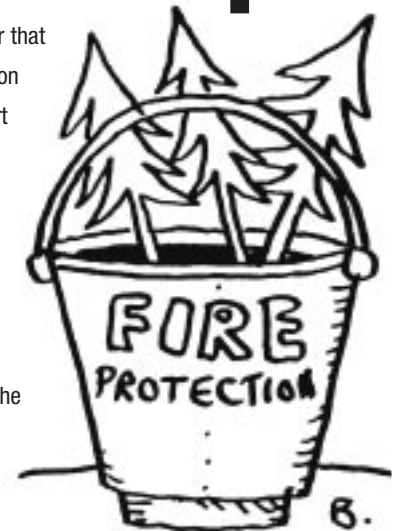
# Wildfires Under The Microscope

The FOA Fire Committee works closely with the National Rural Fire Authority (NRFA). As part of that collaboration, the Association commissioned the Canterbury School of Forestry to research the forestry component of the Wildfire Threat Analysis. The project has been successfully completed and now forms part of the overall analysis.

But while wildfires present a perennial danger, the 2000/2001 fire season has been – with the exception of disastrous Marlborough fires – relatively quiet so far, says fire committee chairman Charlie Schell.

"But all the signs point towards forests rapidly drying out. If the weather doesn't change, we could be in a serious position later this summer."

'Bernie' – the cartoon character that carries the fire prevention message on television – has been playing his part again in an all-new commercial this season. Response to the TV advertisement and the supporting material sent out has been excellent, says Schell. "Recipient companies were very pleased with what they received, especially with the new poster."



# Sparks Flying Over Electricity Bill

The proposed Electricity Industry Bill has serious implications for forest owners and other landowners.

**M**urray Parrish, member of the FOA Forest Resource and Environment Committee, says the Bill could result in landowners being liable for maintaining electricity transmission routes, with no apparent capacity to recover the costs. The process could also result in loss of property rights. "In its present form, the Bill forces landowners into subsidising the cost of electricity distribution."

An FOA submission proposes significant changes to the Bill.

Meanwhile, a legal opinion prepared for the FOA, Federated Farmers and the Federation of Maori Authorities got only a brief reply from the Minister of Forestry and Energy, Pete Hodgson. He said that, irrespective of ownership, the special nature of utilities means the costs of maintaining these lines should fall on the landowner. The FOA believes that means forest and landowners are subsidising power companies.

## FOA Briefs

# Overseas Visitors

**I**n recent years, gypsy moth egg masses have been found in shipments of used Japanese cars. As more and more of these vehicles are imported into New Zealand there must be a corresponding increase in a major biosecurity breach.

MAF initiated a review of its import health standard for cars, vans and utility vehicles from any country, to see whether it needed to be amended. The document received 22 submissions. From those, MAF concluded that

there was no additional evidence to suggest more stringent measures were needed.

MAF now provides optional inspection of used vehicles pre-shipment or in New Zealand and has raised inspection standards.

The FOA believes all inspections should be undertaken in the country of origin and will be making a detailed response.

# Elmia Wood Forestry Fair

**I**nternational forestry trade fair, Elmia Wood 2001, will be held from June 6-9 in Jonkoping, Sweden. Located in 150 ha of private forest, the fair is to display and demonstrate the latest forestry techniques and machinery, as

well as infrastructure services. For more information, please contact Kevin Jamieson, PO Box 1070, Wellington, phone (04) 478 1165, fax (04) 237 5135 or visit the [www.wood.elmia.se](http://www.wood.elmia.se) website.

# Getting On Top

**T**he FOA's ladder pruning trial has been a winner. OSH has decided that 'top of the ladder' pruning is acceptable, provided that the pruner is appropriately trained

and the ladder has a modified (bigger) platform, and is chained to the tree at a lower level. Formal OSH approval for the new criteria is still awaited.

# GMO Submission

**T**he forest industry has welcomed the Royal Commission on Genetic Modification as an opportunity to debate the scientific and ethical issues of biotechnology openly,

says Murray Parrish, member of the FOA Forest Resource and Environment Committee. In a joint submission to the commission, the FOA, FIC, Carter Holt Harvey and Fletcher

Challenge Forests stated that the industry was interested in commercial applications of the technology, and the potential it held for biocontrol of pests. The industry made clear that it must remain customer-focused. "If there's a strong market reaction

against GMOs, the industry will take those feelings into account," says Parrish.

For more information on the Royal Commission on Genetic Modification visit [www.gmcommission.govt.nz](http://www.gmcommission.govt.nz)

# Climate Change Over Summer

The FOA plays an active role in climate change discussions at a national and international level.

Following the breakdown of the Climate Change negotiations at the Hague last November, all countries are now assessing where the negotiations should go from here. A climate change meeting has been scheduled for June or July.

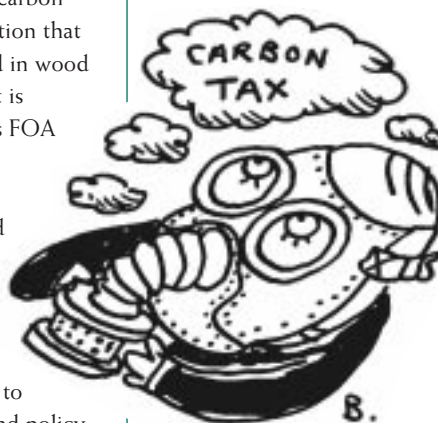
There is general consensus that an agreement will eventually be signed. But the New Zealand forest industry remains keen to ensure that the terms of any agreement do not seriously distort the market for forest products or undermine the international competitiveness of the industry.

The delay is being used by the forest industry to

research the role of forests in reducing carbon in the atmosphere. The industry remains concerned about the potential liability faced by pre-1990 forests and the failure of the existing protocol to recognise the role of forests in acting as long-term carbon sinks. The presumption that all the carbon stored in wood is released at harvest is patently wrong, says FOA chief executive Rob McLagan. For this reason, the FOA and FIC are strongly supporting an international meeting held in February in Rotorua to examine technical and policy

issues surrounding embodied carbon in wood.

The industry will continue to be closely involved – both domestically and internationally – in the consultation process.



## Hot Issues

The latest report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) strengthens the case for action against human-induced greenhouse gas emissions, says Forestry Minister Pete Hodgson.

The report reinforces earlier findings of the role human greenhouse gas emissions play in heating up the globe. Its findings are consistent, says Mr Hodgson, with our domestic situation. New Zealand has warmed by about 0.6°C since the 1860s. Predictions for future temperature rises range from 1.5 to 6°C, depending on assumptions about future greenhouse gas emissions.

## Safety

# High-viz Clothing Standards For Forestry

The New Zealand/Australian standard for high-visibility garments is being adapted to suit requirements in the forest industry. Since the introduction of 'high-viz' clothing, accidents relating to visibility have dropped off dramatically, says Peter Clark, Chairman of the FOA Education, Training & Safety Committee. "We are confident that these garments are both necessary and working for the industry."

Standards have been developed for the colours, dimensions of the colour blocks, and their location (primarily upper torso). Once OSH has approved the draft, the standard will be published. A label will indicate that clothes comply with the standard; companies or contractors who use different garments will violate health and safety regulations.



Peter Clark says high-viz works.

**Action, Lights, Bonzai!**

NHK Television of Japan – with a domestic audience of 20 million – recently sent a team to New Zealand to report on economic reforms of the last 15 years. FOA president Peter Berg was closely involved with the Auckland leg of the programme and ensured the crew obtained accurate information on our forestry industry.

"They had a strong interest in sustainability and innovation," says Berg. "And wanted to know all about the way we grew radiata pine, certification and the chain-of-custody process."

Marlborough Express



**Camera crew gets pine perspective.**

**Two Can Go**

4-wheel ATVs are handy, particularly during the establishment phase of a forest. But because of the potential danger of these motorbikes, OSH suggests their drivers should not carry passengers. The FOA disagrees. The key to safety is driver training and following basic safety precautions. "We are very keen to see our member companies have those persons

driving ATVs get the appropriate unit standards," says Clark. Forest Industries Training can advise on where training can be obtained.

**More Plantation Wood**

The UN Food and Agriculture Organisation believes global demand for timber will continue to outstrip supplies of wood from the world's plantation forests. In a recently released report co-written by New Zealander, Christopher Brown of MAF, overall demand for wood is expected to increase 25% to 1.9 billion cubic metres by 2010. To meet that, it is anticipated that plantation wood will represent a third of total supply (presently about 25%) by 2010.

**APHIS Worried**

The US Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is considering additional action to reduce the risk of transporting exotic pests in imported 'unmanufactured' wooden packaging materials. APHIS says foreign plant pests like the Asian long horned beetle have been linked to the importation of solid wood packaging (mainly from China) and it issued a draft pest risk assessment for which public comment closed in February.

**Ross Wants Quiet Life**

The Director-General of MAF, Bruce Ross, retires in April to pursue 'a less intensive pace and more leisure'. Professor Ross headed MAF for five

years and said his term had been 'stimulating and eventful' but had been more focused on structural change than he would have chosen.

**Instant Fines At Border**

From this July, passengers arriving in New Zealand who fail to declare quarantine items will be liable for an instant fine of NZ\$200. The fine will apply to those caught with undeclared plant or animal products that threaten New Zealand's environment or economy. At present, some 2000 passengers a month fail to declare items of potential risk. Penalties of up to NZ\$100,000 can be imposed



in more serious cases, such as wildlife and plant smuggling.

**Sea Of Logs Off Japan**

A new threat to shipping is emerging off the coast of Japan – floating logs. According to the Japan Coast Guard, some 4500 logs were adrift offshore from Aomori in January – virtually all believed to have come loose from Russian log boats caught in heavy seas. The coast guard has demanded that Russian, Korean and Chinese exporters ensure there is no further 'disintegration' of deck cargo. A number of ships travelling in the Sea of Japan have already been badly damaged by floating logs.

**PEFC Now Tops In Certification**

New information on the area of FSC certified forest land suggests that its rate of expansion may be slowing. Standing at just over 19 million hectares, FSC certification averaged about 6 million ha a year in 1998 and 1999, but the rate was expected to have been halved in 2000. The trend reflects European forest owners' increased focus on the alternative Pan European Forest Certification (PEFC) scheme which has certified some 27 million ha since 1998. FSC's major growth in Europe came from wide support from Sweden and the UK.

# New Guidelines

**F**orest Industries Training has launched a new set of 14 Best Practice Guidelines for forestry operations which have already been described as world class. They support the OSH-approved code of practice for forestry operations by

providing 'how-to' information on forestry work. The guidelines are also useful reference for people involved in training for forestry unit standards. Copies cost around \$20 each and inquiries should be directed to Forest Industries Training, phone 07 348 7250.



# 0800 Revamp

**A**ll log transport owners are expected to have an 0800 sign fitted to their units. Doug Robertson welcomes the development: "This is another step towards improving the safety of our roads. The standardisation also makes it easier for the public to comment."



The new numbers are:

0800LOGTRUCK      0800BULKTRUCK

The first number will feature on log trucks, while the second is reserved for chip liners and log/chip trucks.

The LTSC will provide transport operators with an ID number for their vehicle(s). Operators will receive a copy of all calls from the public and will be given the opportunity to respond to those calls.

# Mapping Log Truck Accidents

**T**he FOA has commissioned the Log Transport Safety Council (LTSC) to take over the log truck accident reporting scheme from Liro. With its strong connections to truck operators, the LTSC is in an excellent position to cover accidents comprehensively, says FOA Transport Committee chairman Doug Robertson. Details – including location, casualties and truck configuration – are recorded on a nation-wide database.

Careful monitoring of accidents, says Robertson, makes it possible to detect emerging patterns – and then

take the appropriate safety measures. It also allows the FOA to provide hard information to bodies such as the LTSA.

FOA president Peter Berg says that when you compare the number of logging truck accidents in the 1999-2000 year to the year ending June 1997, there have been around 50% fewer. "That's a great start – but operators need to be especially careful during the summer months to ensure the road toll doesn't creep up again."

