



Safety culture good for business

Masterton company Forest Enterprises manages around 35,000 hectares of sustainable forest land on behalf of its retail investors and for other forest owners.

In 2021, Forest Enterprises is on track to harvest over 1 million tonnes of logs – about 650,000 tonnes will be from Wairarapa, making it the largest harvesting business in the region.

The successful contractors are the safest

Forest Enterprises engages local contractors to carry out specialist work in the forest, including the critical task of harvesting the trees.

“The successful contractors are also the safest”, says Forest Enterprises CEO Bert Hughes. “A safety culture is good for business”.

“At work, we need to manage risky behaviours and tasks with the goal of reducing harm.

“We cannot become complacent. There is always a chance of accidents occurring even in the best managed operations, so we stay watchful for risk and hazards.”

Forest Enterprises routinely reports Loss Time Injury Frequency rates at about a third of the industry average. More mechanised harvesting and fewer chainsaws and manual tasks helps.

“Our goal is to bring in engineered solutions and perform the task with safe equipment, rather than just add things like hi-viz to old school, labour intensive practices.”

Walking the talk

Forests Enterprises has insisted its logging contractors are Safetree Contractor Certified.

Safetree is an initiative of the Forest Industry Safety Council which promotes high safety standards in forestry, upskills the sector, fosters a safety culture, and recognises contractors for consistently meeting or exceeding safety standards.

Becoming Safetree Certified is a significant undertaking for contractors and their staff. It involves training, documentation and reporting, and, importantly, demonstration of a safety-first culture in all aspects of the contractor’s business.

Safetree also provides wellness support to forestry workers.

Shout-out to certified contractors

Forest Enterprises’ Safetree Certified logging contractors operating in the Lower North Island are:

Brolly Logging, Bushline Forest Harvesting, GT Harvesting, Havard Logging, Horne Logging and SMH Logging.

Contact Forest Enterprises to learn how you can invest in sustainable forestry.
www.forestenterprises.co.nz



Forestry Plantings not taking over New Zealand

Against popular and misinformed belief, New Zealand is still in a state of deforestation.

We have less pine forests now than we did 10 years ago due to large clearing of forestry for dairy conversions. Even with the increase in plantings in the past two years, we are still not back to our forested state of 2011.

There are not more pine forests, they are just in different places. And total new plantings of pine trees for all of NZ in 2020 was only 16,000ha. Not where we need to be to reach the recommendations of the Climate Change Commission of planting 27,000ha of exotics every year.

Plantation tree crops only cover 8 per cent of New Zealand land mass and exotic grasslands 40 per cent.

The total area of new planting in 2020 is estimated to be 19,201 hectares. This is based on a separate survey of large-scale forest owners and managers, and information from Te Uru Rau for Crown Forestry and smaller-scale owners under forestry grant schemes.

The total areas of new planting by species and species groups for 2020 are provided in Table 4. Their allocations are based on the estimated percentage of total planting accounted for by each species or species group.

Afforestation and Deforestation in New Zealand, 1990–2015

Species/species group	New Planting	Replanting
Radiata pine	16,000	43,000
Douglas-fir	less than 1000	less than 1000
Other exotic softwoods	less than 1000	less than 1000
All exotic hardwoods	less than 1000	less than 1000
Total	19,000	44,000

Ref; Forest Owners Association Facts and Figures 2019/2020

Ref; Provisional Estimates of Tree Stock Sales and Forest Planting 2020.MPI

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FORESTRY IN WAIRARAPA

KTM Silviculture take Top Award

KTM Silviculture and Troy Mason took out the top accolade at the Southern North Island Forestry Awards on Friday 7 May in Palmerston North as well as the Training Company/Contractor of the Year.

Their connection with the land brings another layer of commitment to the environment, whenua and youth. They are strongly connected to the local iwi, hapū and community, with a focus to mentoring young adults, providing training programmes for sta. It is clear to see the passion behind the training and creation of employment that gives crews the skills to thrive and become leaders. This is a company that takes its responsibility of being kaitiaki of the land very seriously.

As a silviculture company they prune, thin, plant and undertake other forest establishment and development operations throughout the region. With 23 employees under his care, including an employee that left school at the age of 9, it was not until he turned 15 could Troy employ him. As Troy says, "We took him on to allow him to gain some qualifications and provide him the support and recognition to reward. It does not take much to show value to your employees."



Troy Mason KTM Silviculture, Supreme Winner of Forestry Training Awards

Troy has been involved with forest establishment and development since the early 1990s and started his contracting company to increase employment options for locals, and speciŷcally younger adults who have not had mentoring opportunities in the past.

SNIWC Training Awards Success

This year the Southern North Island Wood Council Training Awards were held in Palmerston North to a sell-out crowd of over 400. This is the fourth year for the awards and our largest yet, with the nominations for the 12 categories also the most ever received by our judges. This shows the amazing support our sector shows for celebrating talented people in our workforce. The crowd arrived early to the event, some travelling for many hours to attend, and bringing family members with them. It was humbling for our board to see such excitement at the naming of the nominees and then the crowning of the winners. It is considered an achievement in itself to receive a nomination for one of these awards in our sector and we look forward to praising all 63 of these along with the winners in the coming weeks. Congratulations to you all! Clarke Gayford entertained the crowd as MC for our event which also included spot prizes of cash, a live band, three-course dinner and an excuse to catch up with mates. How do we top such a great event next year? Well, that remains to be seen, but we



KTM Silviculture Team enjoy a night out of the bush

will always ŷnd new ways to applaud our industry heroes and provide a good night-out for our workplaces where we can honour those who achieve in forestry.

Erica Kinder, CEO, SNI Wood Council

NZ's unique position in the markets benefits industry

by **MARCUS MUSSON**
Forest360 Director

Throw the compass away captain, we're now oŷcially in uncharted territory. While most in the game were expecting ° at to slightly increased export prices for May, there was more than a few double-takes when prices were released by export companies at around \$10/JAS above April levels. This puts A grade in the \$160s/JAS which is the highest since the extremely short price spike of '93. This is not because of low shipping costs or foreign exchange rates, it's purely a supply and demand imbalance situation caused by strong demand in China and poor supply from other regions. NZ had a record supply month in March with over two million cubic metres exported to China and April/May are looking similar. Nothing has changed with the Australia/China situation as logs are still banned from being imported into China from our trans-Tasman friends and, in fact, there appears to be a deepening rift as all sorts of accusations are getting thrown around from both sides. European log exports are stymied by container freight cost increases and lack of available containers so it's very unlikely we'll see any significant supply increases from there. The European lumber exports to China (which complete with logs) are also significantly down as supply is diverted to the US to cope with the housing boom created by US Govt stimulus packages.

China is entering its hot season which generally sees demand reduce by 15-20%, however as NZ enters winter, we too see supply levels reduce therefore the overall balance is likely (ŷngers crossed) to be maintained. Current inventory in China continues to recede with most commentators putting levels at 3.8Mm3 and demand at 80Km3 per day. Congestion throughout the supply chain remains an issue, primarily due to a lack of labour. This was demonstrated on a recent visit to a major port where, due to lack of sta, a log vessel was getting loaded 50% of the normal load rate. This °ows through with inability to scale and unload trucks and trains in a timely manner (as the same people that load vessels unload trucks and trains) resulting in longer wait times, less uplift in the forest and ultimately lower productivity. While we are seeing less reliance on labour with increased mechanisation and the advent of robotics for log scaling (each export log must be measured), skilled people will always be required and are an important piece of the puzzle. All in all, labour issues aside, we're having a dream run. Returns to forest owners have never been consistently better, low interest rates are helping contractors expand and upgrade their machinery and carbon prices keep creeping up. Who knows what the rest of 2021 will bring, we have demonstrated our resilience as an industry and it's important to bank your wins as we know too well that Murphy is always waiting around the corner.

May Statistics
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Log Prices (\$/tonne)

↑

Export A
\$165
+\$12

↑

Pruned
\$205
+\$12

↑

Sawlog
\$135
+\$10

China Log Inventory	Carbon (\$/Unit)
3.8M	\$37.30
-0.5M	+0.35

Export Log Market Volatility Indicator

Price Reduction

→

Price Increase

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