

THE 2017/18 HBFG YEAR IN OUTLINE

A general meeting of the Hawkes Bay Forestry Group (HBFG) on 4 September 2015 called for a formal organisational arrangement to better the business environment for forest growing and processing in the region. This seeded incorporation on 22 Sep 15: we have been operational for nearly three years.

This report outlines the work undertaken by the Group since the last AGM on 16 June 2017.

SIGNIFICANT CORPORATE DEVELOPMENTS

Two events have shaped our corporate landscape:

Firstly, Brett Gilmore and committee member James Powrie left us in January. Both contributed fully to our early development and this was acknowledged in our annual social event (a classic forestry affair with home brew and wild harvest).



Brett was Chair until Jan 18



Matt stepped into the Chair role

Mathew Croft stepped up to the Chair role. With escalating commitments, Steve Bell preferred to remain in a support role

Appointing committee members is a key requirement of the AGM set for 25 July 18.



Steve remains Vice Chair

Secondly, Ernslaw One Ltd elected not to renew HBFG membership on account that they are part of the Southern North Island and Eastland wood councils and as they have a small holding in HB.

The Group therefore now comprises the following 11 members:

Companies with > 10,000 ha forest responsibility in the region	Pan Pac Ltd	Forest Management NZ Ltd
	Matariki Forests Ltd	Juken NZ Ltd
Companies with 5 - 10,000 ha forest responsibility in the region	NZ Forest Managers Ltd	
Companies with < 5,000 ha forest responsibility in the region	Grandy Lake Forest Ltd	IFS Growth Ltd
	PF Olsen Ltd	Forest Enterprises Ltd
	Hawkes Bay Regional Council	Forest Management Ltd

WORK SUPPORTING PRIORITIES SET BY THE 2016/17 AGM

1. Toward dialogue, understanding and collaboration with councils and communities

HBFG has become the preferred contact point with local government in Hawkes Bay (HB), and we have undertaken a good deal of work with the concerned councils.



Softening attitudes to forestry a perennial concern

Work with the Hawkes Bay Regional Council (HBRC)

- The National Environmental Standards for Plantation Forestry (NES-PF) came into effect on 1 May 18. This brought relatively severe change in that unlike most other places, forestry in HB has enjoyed 'permitted activity' status. NES-PF brings consenting and it sets best practice standards. HBFG participated in a working group led by council which helped interpret the new regulation and sought to make the change a positive one. We helped arrange and then participated in, two workshops convened by MPI.
- TANK (acronym for the 4 main river systems feeding the Heretaunga Plains) is redefining policy making in HB. It is a 6-year collaboration of all parties associated with water use, both urban and rural, toward a new plan for the aquifer. While forestry is not a significant player in terms of water use, we are on the landscape and should keep contact with this process if only to ensure we are prepared for the next plan change which will be for the Mohaka Catchment. The CEO attended 11 day-long meetings during the reporting period. TANK is set to reach its verdict in August.

Work with the Hastings District Council (HDC)

- Engagement with HDC was limited to working with their Engineer to better understand where best to target monies for road upgrades. Many of the bridges in the District are not fit for harvesting. Otherwise, HBFG routinely distributes advice from HDC on road infrastructure restrictions in the District

Work with the Wairoa District Council (WDC) and Communities

- After a few false starts we (Pan Pac, FMNZ, Rayonier, Grandy Lakes, CEO) secured an open meeting with the WD executive (Mayor, CEO, CFO, Engineer and Policy Strategist). A range of issues and concerns were discussed, and all up, we thought the interaction useful and appreciated by the Wairoa officials. We agreed to meet annually.
- Our engagement with WDC took a less convivial turn in January when we were obliged to prepare (and later speak to) formal submissions on, initially 'Proposed Changes to the Revenue and Funding Policy', and, then a few months later on the 'Long Term Plan 2018-28'. Both documents have a sinister undercurrent in that they will double forestry rates in the district while other land holders, including owners of forest plantations less than 100ha, will pay less rates than presently. This is a live issue with many angles and considerable consequence: HBFG is at the centre of these developments.

2. Toward encouraging more people to work in forestry

- Our main engagement was a full-on presentation at the Career Expo held at the Pettigrew Arena, Taradale. FMNZ put this together with impressive results. Two display cubicles were furnished with a harvesting simulator, a drone, a rolling video, display boards and other theme items including a fine set of



Lively forestry display at the 2018 Careers Expo

- antlers. Was good to have Toi-Ohomai in our team. The key outcome here is a register of 47 people (mostly students) seeking further contact regarding forestry careers. The Ministry of Education has agreed to assist arrange a field day for this group.
- The CEO has established contact with event managers within the A&P Society and is awaiting a framework proposal for an 'Awards Evening' to be presented to AGM. If agreed, this would bring us into line with other wood councils all of whom have or are about to stage an awards programme.
- FMNZ made several visits to Napier Boys High School which culminated in 8 boys having a full day forest visit with the Rayonier team
- Futureintech school presentations were made to four high schools
- Pan Pac completed "Share the Road" programmes with Te Pohue (30 kids) and Puketapu (300 kids) schools

3. Toward improving forestry's environmental performance

- The main activity here was toward a smooth and constructive introduction of the NES-PF. This was approached through a close liaison with the HBRC consenting and compliance team. Several MPI led workshops were supported and a field trip arranged to a 'red zone' within Rayonier's Mohaka estate. Council compliance and land managers also visited Pan Pac's Crohane and Esk forests
- The CEO participated in a field day at the Hapua forest (organised by FFA) to strengthen understanding of the interplay between NES-PF and the Tukituki Plan change 6, the latter of which brings a requirement for 'farm plans'
- A two-day workshop with Work Safe NZ helped improve understanding and application of the guidelines for harvesting trees near powerlines. The interaction informed a revision of the Guidelines resulted in a more constructive relationship with those implementing them. It included field visits to Pan Pac and FMNZ forests.



Interaction with WorkSafe NZ on regulation of tree harvesting around powerlines

4. Toward letting people know about forestry's contribution to the Region

- In November the CEO and Graham Douglas attended a presentation in Wairoa by Ministers Shane Jones and Stuart Nash. Forestry in regional development was a central theme
- The above event connected us to the consultation process behind the Kahutia Accord (an Iwi initiative which aims to plant 100,000 ha with support through the 'Billion tree' and regional development initiatives).
- The CEO briefed the main party candidates in the lead up to the election
- The CEO's views on the so called 'wall of wood', the '1 billion tree initiative' and the 'rail link between Wairoa and Napier', were used to inform an article in the Wairoa Star and a video stream on the HB Today website.



Harvesting site visit to win hearts and minds of 30 kids from Te Pohue

OTHER WORK UNDERTAKEN IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS

- HBFGB has become something of a communication hub. The CEO now streams articles, news and notifications to forest managers in the region. The Forest Owners Association and the Institute of Foresters are frequent instigators – including for instance biosecurity news. Reports and developments by other wood councils take the same track.
- Two FISC presentations on health and safety were supported both of which were arranged on the back of group meetings.
- Support was provided to a trial of the new organisational arrangement created by the Fire & Emergency legislation.
- As a good will gesture, HBFGB (Rayonier) delivered firewood to the Healthy Homes initiative

FINANCIAL REPORT

Provided separately

This report was prepared for the 2017/18 AGM

By Keith Dolman
CEO
On 22 July 2018

