

SEASON'S GREETINGS

Many of us will be away from the office over the Christmas period. If you need to get hold of a Programmes Adviser urgently during this time please ring the MPI call centre on **0800 00 83 33** and they'll be able to direct you to the right person. We wish you all a safe and enjoyable holiday break.

PUBLIC WORKS TIMBER

Under a Milling Statement, trees can be approved to be milled for a "public work" as defined in the Public Works Act 1981. This may include trees originating from maintenance on roadsides, railways, defence works, reserves, and irrigation on Crown land. These trees must be approved by MPI prior to milling. The official landowner must apply for approval and an inspection will probably be required.

RESOURCES FOR FORESTRY INFORMATION

MPI's Sustainable Farming Fund helped fund a project run by the Farm Forestry Association called "Trees on Farms – making better use of information resources." This project aimed to provide farmers and land managers with better access to existing good quality information about establishing and managing trees.

A very good database of resources has been developed covering a range of forestry topics (both indigenous and exotic species). We recommend taking a look at it on the Farm Forestry website: <http://www.nzffa.org.nz/farm-forestry-model/resource-centre/>

2013 INAUGURAL KAURI DIEBACK SYMPOSIUM

Over 200 people joined scientists and experts at the inaugural kauri dieback symposium on Saturday 30 November.

It was a full day with thirteen speakers each sharing their unique angle on the disease issue. Session one speakers gave an introduction to the issue, with the following three sessions covering:

- » What's happening now?
- » Where to from here? and;
- » Spreading the word.

Having representatives from the scientific community, tangata whenua, community groups and the general public made for interesting and informative discussions both in the lecture theatre and informally during the breaks, and although we can often perceive insurmountable odds against this disease, a feeling of positivity and momentum was created during the event. The following day approximately 20 people joined experts on a field trip to Albany Scenic Reserve, one of Auckland's worst



Sick and dead kauri infected with PTA.

hit kauri dieback sites. Feedback from both days has been very positive, with participants and speakers already looking forward with anticipation to next year's event. Roll on Symposium 2014!

The abstracts provided by the speakers can be found at: <http://www.kauridieback.co.nz/media/38169/kauri%20symposium%202013%20-%20abstracts.pdf>

CONTACT US

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Totara

Podocarpus totara (True totara)

Geographic distribution

Totara occurs throughout the country from Mangonui and Kaitaia in the north to Stewart Island in the south. It is drought tolerant and conversely does not do well in poorly drained soils. Most significantly, it is moderately resistant to browsing and therefore has established itself in the presence of grazing on marginal farm land, particularly in Northland.

Timber properties

Heart totara has an attractive pinkish brown appearance; it is fine grained, dimensionally stable and very durable even when in contact with the ground. It is moderately light with a density of 480kg/m³. Sapwood is light brown in appearance is also fine grained and dimensionally stable though not considered as stable as heart totara. It is moderately durable and has similar density that of the heartwood. Both sapwood and heartwood are considered easy to work due to the fine grain.

Uses

Totara is considered by Māori to be their most important timber species due to it being easy to carve and split and its durability. Its best known use was for the construction of war canoes.

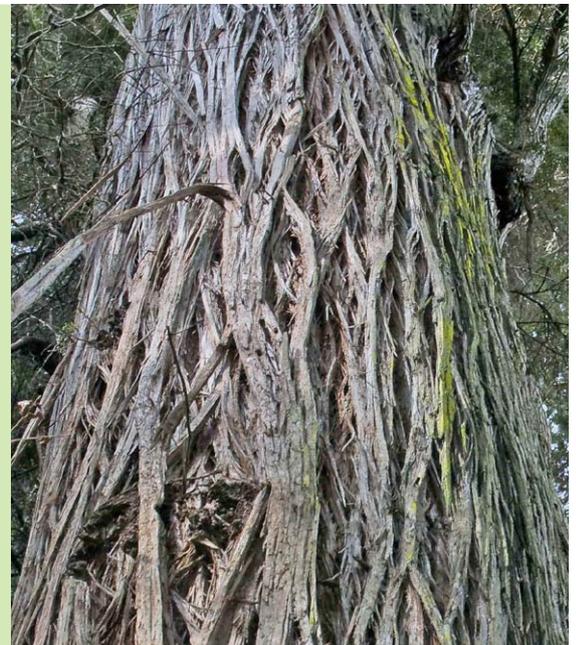
Early European settlers also held totara in the high regard, its durability making it ideal for fencing and exterior cladding on their houses. Both heart totara and sap totara are still seen as an excellent furniture-making timber. Due to its durability heart totara can be used in landscaping and exterior furniture. Sapwood can also be used for exterior applications providing it is not in contact with the ground.

Podocarpus cunninghamii (Halls totara, mountain totara, thin barked totara)

Hall's totara is a smaller, high-altitude version of true totara. It grows to about 20 metres in height and is most easily distinguished by its thin, scaly bark compared with the thick and deeply furrowed bark of true totara. Its leaves are also a little larger than those of true totara and have a distinct vein running down the centre. Timber properties and uses of halls totara are similar to that of true totara.

Two other totara species also exist: needle-leaved totara (*Podocarpus acutifolius*), and snow totara (*Podocarpus nivalis*). However, neither of these species grow to a stature that can produce millable timber.

Information sourced from Clifton, 1994 and Wardle, 2002.

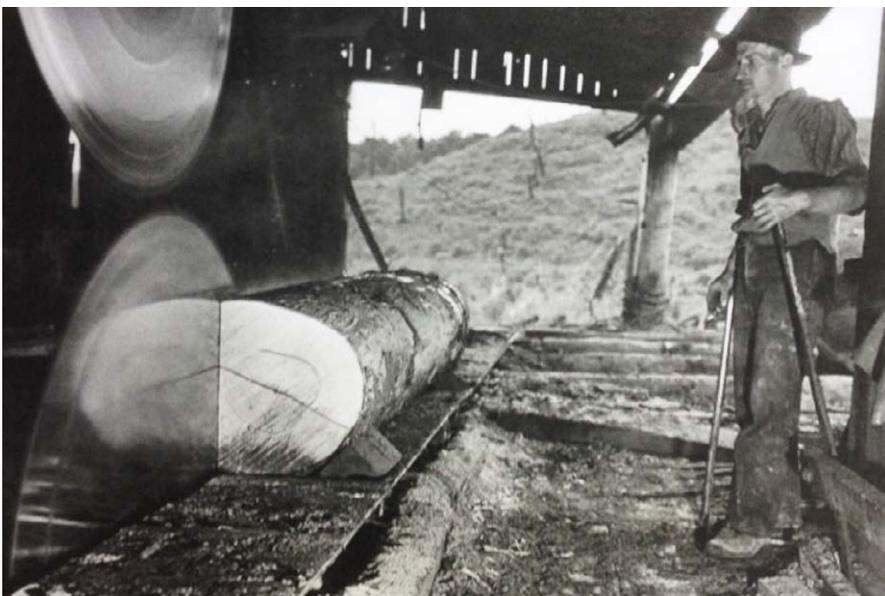


True totara bark.



Totara kitchen fit-out. Photo provided by Paul Quinlan.

IN DAYS GONE BY Image sourced from Southland Museum Library.



CORONER TO EXAMINE FORESTRY WORKERS DEATHS

A coroner will hold a series of inquests into forestry workers' deaths aiming to identify issues in the industry. The move follows similar clusters of inquests into cycling and quad bike deaths. It comes as unions and the industry push ahead with an independent review of safety in the forestry industry.

In August this year, the death of a worker harvesting native logs highlights that indigenous harvesting should be in accordance with the Approved Code of Practice for Safety and Health in Forestry Operations <http://www.business.govt.nz/worksafe/information-guidance/all-guidance-items/acop-forest-operations/forest-operations.pdf>

All people working in forestry operations should have access to this and be familiar with the contents.