

# Mid North Coast Farm Foresters Inc

## NEWSLETTER

February 2003

Edition 1

Welcome to the very first edition of our Newsletter. The idea of the Newsletter is to spread Information, Education and Facilitation among Farm Foresters along the Mid North Coast.

### The Mid North Coast Farm Foresters Vision

The Mid North Coast Farm Foresters Co-op will comprise members who the landowners, resident within the Co-op's chosen geographical boundaries, who have an interest in the practice of farm forestry. An activity simply defined as the commitment of resources by farmers towards the establishment or management of forests on their land.

The Co-operative will provide a range of services to its members and may undertake commercial activities on their behalf.

Ideally a vertically integrated business structure will develop to move standing timber through extraction and drying phases to a situation where value adding can take place.

Commercial activity will be undertaken with the focus on maximising financial returns to members but with broad community benefits representing a major influence in decision making process.

Funding will be sought from Government agencies to facilitate start-up and initial operation of commercial activities with major input from members and private investors at a later stage.

A time frame for commencement of operations needs to be established with a short-medium term plan to utilise existing timber stocks whilst new plantations grow to harvestable status.

### A Message from the Chairperson

Welcome to this first edition of the Mid North Coast Farm Foresters' Newsletter. At the outset it is important that it is understood that the Mid North Coast Farm Foresters is an organisation with the interests of small landowners in mind. Our concerns will not be related to contractor-scale logging operations but to assist the viability of farms made uneconomic by the trends to BIG everything and a global scale. It is a new approach to the timber industry in this region..

In an accompanying column you will read the committee's Vision . Of necessity it is broad in scope and lacking in detail. The committee has created this vision as a set of guiding principles around which to operate. In down to earth terms it means we will work towards an objective of establishing new plantations of trees for a future timber products industry. Because of the long term nature of that objective an equally important part of the task is to improve the quality of existing standing timber on farms by proper management techniques and the extraction - now - of suitable trees for processing in the immediate future. The extraction and processing of timber in these early years will create an income stream for farm foresters so as to offset establishment and management costs of the new plantations.

One of the most important tasks of the committee's work is the creation of training opportunities to ensure farm foresters and service suppliers have the skills to create better forests and better timber. Details of some training courses appear elsewhere in this Newsletter.

As our organisation grows we will develop more skills and techniques to further improve the quality of Mid North Coast timber products - a skills base building over time to be in place when the new plantations mature.

In short we are working on short term strategies to achieve long term objectives. Small economic returns today to create a major industry tomorrow.

We would welcome your participation

Tony Jacques, Chairperson, Mid North Coast Farm Foresters Inc.





Master Tree Growers observing Eucalypt and Rainforest Plantation at  
Tewinga



Master Tree Growers observing Eucalyptus Plantation at Valery



Master Tree Growers on a field day inspecting timber and milling operations at Kempsey Solar Timbers Pty Ltd



Master Tree Growers, observing a Eucalypt and Rainforest Plantation at Tewinga



## Interested in Farm Forestry? Join the Mid North Coast Farm Foresters Inc

This is a motivated group that aims to:

- \* Provide an ongoing network for all aspects of timber production, from the seed collection through plantation/forest management to marketing the final product.
- \* Encompass all Farm Foresters, both plantation and managed natural bush, irrespective of forest size.
- \* Utilise local Timber, e.g. tree fellers, millers and resources.
- \* Provide information on all facets of Farm Forestry including seminars, demonstrations and access to the groups own library.
- \* Provide access to some common equipment.
- \* Produce regular newsletter to keep members informed.
- \* Assist in establishing new plantations.
- \* Incorporate environment enhancing practices e.g. catchment repair, into Farm Forestry.
- \* Provide members discounts on selected goods and services within the group, e.g. seedlings

Annual Membership \$20.00 per household (this equals 1 vote)

For further information contact: Tonia Welsh - 65696142 (A.H)

Shelley Bartley- 6569834

Interim Receipt:Date.....Amount.....

Received From.....Signature.....

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Please return this section with your payment to Mid North Coast Farm Foresters c/- 353 Rhones Creek Road, Macksville 2447

Name:.....

Address:.....

Phone:.....Email:.....

Please make Cheques, Money/Postal orders payable to Mid North Coast Farm Foresters Inc

## Talking Trees.

### What is "Silviculture"???

Silviculture has been described as the art and science of managing trees. It comes from the Latin "Silvan", of the woods or trees, and "culture" to manage or tend. Silviculture allows forest managers, whether they are native forest or plantations, options in the management of their trees. By varying the silvicultural system, you are able to influence the way individual trees grow to meet your management needs, whether they are fence posts, high quality sawlogs, veneer logs or conservation.

One silvicultural management regime is Thinning. There are many forms of thinning, each one with the underlying goal of concentrating the growth of a forest site onto the selected, higher quality trees capable of reaching your end product. Commonly, thinning is used in association with other silvicultural regimes to achieve a balanced outcome of new regeneration, and promotion of growth onto the better, selected trees.

Thinning is generally not designed to achieve regeneration in a forest, but to remove those trees which, through some previous event such as fire, mechanical damage, insect attack or suppression, are unable to grow into your desired timber products. By removing some trees, those remaining trees are able to benefit from the increases in growing space, light, available water and nutrients. The end result of which is better, higher quality timber products over a shorter period of time.

The best time to thin your forest or plantation is when the trees are younger and actively growing. Once the trees have achieved 'crown closure' and are actively and aggressively competing with each other, thinning and removing poorer trees will allow retained trees to again grow on, increasing in height, diameter and volume.

Each site within a forest has a maximum volume of trees that it can support. The drier, poorer sites will have a lower volume than the wetter, better quality sites. Therefore, your maximum volume of trees can be contained in a larger number of smaller trees, or a lower number of larger, more valuable trees. It is a concept very similar to carrying capacity of stock on farms.

The most important factors to consider when deciding on thinning are

1. Is my forest or plantation suited to thinning at the moment?
2. Will my trees be able to grow on and increase in value?
3. What sort of product do I want to grow in my forest?

Being able to recognise areas of forest suitable for thinning and capable of growing into selected products, is vital in a successful silvicultural thinning operation. For more information on thinning or other forest management issues, contact Tony Brown at the Department of Land and Water Conservation in Kempsey on 6562 0704.

MID NORTH COAST FARM FORESTERS INC.

NEW MEMBERSHIP

Kaye Edwards	Martin Riddell	Gwen Harden
Max Pritchard	Tonia Welsh	Bruce Roeburn
Peter Wears	Tim Ryan	Tony Jacques
Theo Maurer	Janine Davis	Rob Coneybeare
Jim Tedder	Kerry Robins	Darren Gilmour
Matilda I saksson	Peter Atkinson	Tony & Jan Lewis
David & Hilary Ellis	Geoffrey Snelgrove	Camden Haven Landcare

WELCOME AND THANK YOU

**COMING EVENTS AND COURSES**

- \*Mark Sandstrom Memorial Field Day - Contact Chris Scott for Details
- \*Aboriginal Master Tree Growers Course - Contact Tim Ryan for Details
- \*Seed Collection Field Day
- \*Plant Identification Field Day
- \*T.A.F.E. Bushland Regeneration Course - Contact T.A.F.E. for Details
- \*A.C.E. Bushland Regeneration Course- Contact Chris Scott for Details
- \*Portable Saw Mill Operators Training Course
- \*Log and Timber Graders Ticket Training Course

The next edition of Mid North Coast Farm Foresters Inc. Newsletter will be published in June. Newsletter articles in the next edition will include The Future of Hardwood Timber, Lucas Mill, Useful Links, Library Resources, Photos and more.....

Readers are encouraged to express their views and if you would like any information printed for this Newsletter or if you would like any further information from our Newsletter, please contact the Secretary by phone, fax, mail or email (See Committee Member's Page)



7. What, if any are the main Rainforest Species on your property/forest/plantation?

Please list Red Cedar-4, Black Bean-2, White Beech-3, Rosewood-2, Teak-1, Hoop Pine-2, White Cedar-2, Cudagery-1, Red Ash-2, Booyong-1, Silky Oak-2, She Oak (river)-1, Mountain Oak-1, Blackwood-1, Sandpiper Fig-1, Laurels-1, Bush Cherry-1, Euodia-1, 24 different species (not named), Corkwood-1, Figs -1

8. Would you be interested in finding out more about establishing/managing a forest or plantation for Conservation?. Yes-7 No-1 Maybe-1 or for

Land Management? Yes-7 No-0 Maybe-2 or for

Commercial Timber? Yes-9 No-0 Maybe-1

9. What do you expect to obtain from this group?

Education Yes-11 No-0 Maybe-0

Demonstrations Yes-9 No-0 Maybe-2

Data Base of Members Yes-9 No-0 Maybe-1

Contribute Equipment etc. Yes-5 No-0 Maybe-5

Commercial Return Yes-9 No-0 Maybe-1

Catchment Repair Yes-7 No-0 Maybe-1

Biodiversity Enhancement Yes-7 No-0 Maybe-3

Sustainable Production Yes-8 No-0 Maybe-0

Marketing & Resources Yes-8 No-1 Maybe-1

Bushtucker Yes-2 No-1 Maybe-5

Other (please state)

11. Would you be interested in receiving a Newsletter from the above committee?

Yes-12 No-0

12. Would you be interested in being a part of our committee?

Yes-7 No-3 or

Would you be interested in being part of a sub committee in your area?

Yes-6 No-2 Maybe -1

14. Would you like to attend our Annual General Meeting (date to be advised)?

Yes-12 No-0

15. Would you be prepared to contribute a one off-1; annual-6 (delete inapplicable) membership fee?

Yes-9 No-0

How much would you be willing to pay for this once of annual membership fee?

Twenty Five Dollar Yes-6 No-0

Fifty Dollars Yes-2 No-0

Seventy Five Dollars Yes-1 No-1

One Hundred Dollars Yes-1 No-1

Two Hundred Dollars Yes-0 No-1

Other (please specify) 1. What are the anticipated costs of setting up M.N.C.F.F. Inc?

2. Isn't it a non profit organisation?

3. How much is required, divided by the number of members?

17. Is there anything else that you would like to enquire about regarding Farm Forestry/or about proposed Co-Operative or Committee?

Yes-0 No-1

If Yes (please state).....