



## Welcome

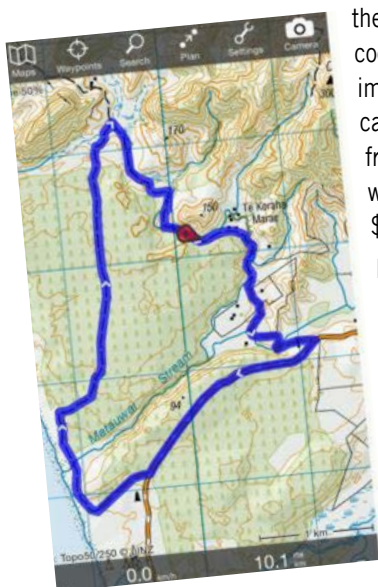
MPI wishes you all a Merry Christmas and relaxing holiday season!

**The MPI offices will be closed between 25th December – 4th January. Over the rest of the holiday period, if you need assistance and are unable to contact your Regional Adviser, please ring 0800 00 83 33 and ask to be transferred to Spatial, Forestry and Land Management.**

**A friendly reminder – if your mill has moved or has been sold you are required by law to notify MPI within 5 working days (an email or phonecall will suffice).**

## Topo GPS New Zealand

Those of you with i-phones may find this 'Topo GPS New Zealand' App handy when submitting Milling Statement applications. Not only can you mark waypoints for log/tree location, you can also take photos and add notes to go with each waypoint. Once you get back into cell phone range, you can then email the file which includes



the waypoint coordinates and images. You can download it from the Apple webstore for \$5.99.

Note that you still need to submit an application form and land title details.

## Demand for veneer-grade flitch – rimu, tawa, matai, kahikatea

Hallmark Group is one of New Zealand's leading door manufacturers. Based in Rangiora they produce high quality exotic and native timber veneered doors for the domestic market. In addition, they sell veneer leaf to Bestwood and Prime Panels, two of the country's leading veneer producers. Hallmark's timber is sourced from a range of registered sawmillers across the country.

Managing Director Ron Hickmott says their biggest problem is obtaining a consistent supply of high grade native timber for veneer manufacturing. Native timbers now make up around 5 percent of their production, with their veneer slicer operating 10 hours per week. Historically they had 3 veneer slicers operating 5 days a week. Their main lines (of native timbers) are silver beech and rimu, however, there is also a demand for other species including tawa, matai and kahikatea. While native doors are priced at the upper end of the market they are still in high demand.

If you have timber that might meet the needs of Hallmark, contact Ron on: 03 313 4754 or email [ron@hallmarkgroup.co.nz](mailto:ron@hallmarkgroup.co.nz)



Colour rimu veneer door.



Supreme Court interior with silver beech veneer leaf panelling.

## CONTACT US

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## Northland Totara Working Group Field Day

On 28 November, Tanes Tree Trust and the Northland Totara Working Group held a field day in Northland. The event brought together key stakeholders to stimulate discussion on how to develop an industry based on the sustainable management and commercial use of the farm-grown totara resource in Northland.

The field day was well attended with landowners, sawmillers, furniture manufacturers, MPI, local authorities, the Tindall Foundation and research providers all represented.

It provided an opportunity to view typical examples of regenerating totara found on farms throughout Northland and highlighted the huge diversity of the resource, its scale and its potential for management.

First stop was Paul Quinlan's property near Kaeo where he has New Zealand's smallest Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) plan covering 1.4 hectares. Silvicultural trials that have been established within the plan area demonstrate impressive growth in response to thinning.

The next stop was John McGee's property (also near Kaeo) where mature totara had been harvested under an SFM permit. Discussion at the McGee property focused on the characteristics and size of the totara resource in Northland. It was acknowledged that while a significant mature resource exists, log quality is highly variable. However, there is also a significant emergent regenerating

and immature resource that could be improved through good silvicultural management.

Finally, Chris Kennedy's sawmill in Kerikeri was visited where samples of sawn totara were on display. This triggered discussion into the characteristics of farm-grown totara; while it does not have the same natural durability as old growth heart totara, it is still durable and they share many properties.

Chris's confidence in the timber qualities has seen him replacing the existing fibrolite weatherboards of his office with farm-grown totara cladding. It is an impressive display of a practical use for farm-grown totara and demonstrates that there is great potential for an industry to be created from the resource. Thanks to Tanes Tree Trust and the Northland Totara Working Group for organising a worthwhile day.



Thinning trial on Paul Quinlan's property.



Chris Kennedy's office in Kerikeri clad with totara weatherboards.



## Notification of particular hazardous work

The Health and Safety in Employment Regulations 1995 require employers (as well as the person who controls a place of work) to provide at least 24 hours notice to WorkSafe New Zealand before commencing any hazardous work. Within the forestry sector, hazardous work includes any tree felling or logging operation undertaken for commercial purposes. Notifications assist WorkSafe NZ to plan workplace visits to promote the prevention of harm to people at or close to a place of work.

Notifications of hazardous work can be made on the WorkSafe website: [www.business.govt.nz/worksafe/notifications-forms/particular-hazardous-work](http://www.business.govt.nz/worksafe/notifications-forms/particular-hazardous-work)