



A Message From The Chairman Of The TFS Trust

During July my family and I visited South America after attending the Rotary World Convention in Salt Lake City. Visiting many of the main tourist highlights on that continent was exciting, but the chance to explore some of the world's great forests was an experience not to be missed.

The first major forest area we visited was a remote rain forest in Venezuela, virtually untouched by human habitation. Next we experienced 'cloud forest' in the high altitudes of Peru, in the Machu Picchu region, over 10,000 feet above sea level.

The highlight however was the Amazon. We visited the Manaus area; about 1600 km from the sea, but only 40 metres above sea level. In many respects the river is more like a slow flowing lake which naturally rises and falls about 15 metres every year. We were there about 1 metre after high water, so some of our jungle walks were actually done in a canoe and we saw many trees growing up out of the water – and I thought some of the palm species we saw hated wet feet.

It was all very inspiring to see these famous forests, to meet the local people in these remote villages who rely completely on the river and the forest for their livelihood, and to realise the impact they have on our everyday life so many thousands of kilometres away.

Regards

Don Bowater - Chairman of the TFS Trust



Don Bowater Chairman of TFS Trust in the Machu Picchu 'cloud forest' in South America.

Avondale Intermediate And Smith And Nephew Join Forces

Avondale Intermediate received their TFS Plant Growing Unit, sponsored by Soroptimist International, in 1996. The Soroptimists continued to fund seedlings and supplies for the unit until earlier this year, a ten year commitment which has been greatly appreciated by both the school pupils and staff, and Trees for Survival.

When a new Supporting Organisation had to be found, at the suggestion of the Sustainable Business Network, TFS approached Smith and Nephew.

"Our company are focused on sustainability and also supporting our local community, the TFS unit at Avondale Intermediate achieves both these objectives, and some." says Human Resources Manager Jack Weir.

The approach is a totally new one for TFS whereby the company car drivers of Smith and Nephew fund seedlings and supplies for the Intermediate's unit. "The annual amount of our contribution is just under \$600 and goes some way towards off-setting our forecasted carbon usage. With a fleet of 24 cars around New Zealand this represents around \$25 per staff member and the proposal was quickly accepted." says Jack.

The TFS unit at Avondale Intermediate is part of a school-wide focus on the environment – the school is also an Enviro school, operating composting and recycling initiatives. Gaye Mannion, TFS teacher at Avondale Intermediate, works with Year 7 and 8 'term about' ensuring that all pupils at the school get the opportunity to be involved in the TFS programme and to have some hands-on exposure to the growing unit.



Jack Weir, Smith and Nephew, and Gaye Mannion, TFS teacher at Avondale Intermediate.

Weather Forecasts, Don't They Drive You Nuts!

6.30 am and my alarm goes off. I'm not alert enough to tune into the weather forecast on the radio until the report is at the Chatham's so I head to the computer and log-on to Fencepost.com for the forecast I find most reliable and useful. 20% chance of rain it tells me, with the possibility of 2-3mm.

Today the Auckland Girls Grammar (AGGS) planting day, at Hunua with Judy and Ray Costello, is scheduled. After a conversation with landowner Ray and Sherryn Dammers from AGGS, we decide to go ahead.



Planting by Auckland Girls Grammar at the Costello's property in Hunua

I arrive at the site at around 9 am, it rains on the way which makes me think, "great that predicted 2-3 mm of rain has now fallen". Ray and Judy's neighbour Jenny Jennings has arrived to help. It rains, - again. Ray and I get started on moving the plants to the site which is inaccessible by vehicle because of its gradient and the wet ground. Ray has rigged up a very large tarpaulin against the fence for shelter, if we need it.

The girls arrive and have morning tea in the barn (tea, coffee, milo and scones). It rains again, heavily, and our start is delayed while a roll of plastic bags are converted into raincoats by cutting head and arm holes out for some of the girls. Eventually the rain slows to a drizzle and without a murmur of complaint we walk over the road to the planting site.

We have planted on Judy and Ray's property on many previous occasions. This time, we are planting beside a site we had planted 2 years previously, which had had a great deal of interference from that cute little pest the Pukeko. Pukekos have an annoying habit of pulling plants out on a new planting site, so it's important for landowners to check sites daily to replant trees before they die.

Editor's note: Sue started her involvement with TFS as a volunteer field officer in 1999. She now works for the Auckland Regional Council (ARC) assessing and monitoring TFS planting sites, co-ordinating landowners, schools and supporting organisations for planting days, and providing hands-on support to the 58 Auckland schools. Thanks Sue, we couldn't do it without you!

“It rains again, heavily, and our start is delayed while a roll of plastic bags are converted into raincoats by cutting head and arm holes out for some of the girls.”

Where Pukekos are a problem I suggest to the students to “do the Pukeko test”. When they have planted their plant, give it a tug and see if it will pull out of the ground. Smaller plants are most susceptible to Pukekos, so we always try to make sure that the plants are over 30cm high.

A great effort is put in by all the girls, there is singing and laughter (and a bit of slipping down the steep parts of the slope) as manuka, coprosma, hebe, mahoe, and lemonwood replace the gorse and grass which previously occupied this site.

We are ten minutes from our intended finish time when a call from Judy tells us there is a huge shower on the way and we had better move. Weary dirty bodies move as quickly they can down the slope and over the road and our welcome hot drinks and soup are in hand when it rains, AGAIN!

Article by Sue Crawshay



Sue Crawshay on site with some keen planters

New Zealand's Million Tree Campaign



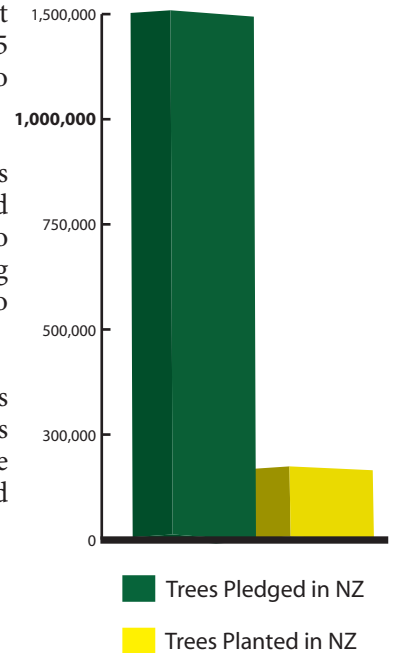
Natasha Buchanan of Wairakei School does her bit for the Billion Tree Campaign.

Photo: Anna Campbell, Taupo Times

Congratulations and thanks to all those who pledged to plant trees in support of the Billion Tree campaign. With over 1.5 million trees pledged our NZ campaign is well on the way to achieving our planting target.

The focus of all our readers who have pledged their plantings should now be on getting their plants 'into the ground'. David English, Co-ordinator of the campaign says "It will be great to announce in the next TFS Newsletter that our target of planting one million trees in New Zealand in 2007 has been reached. So come on New Zealand - lets make it happen!"

"Wairakei School in Taupo is just one example of how schools and their communities have got behind the project. Mauways Nursery (Hunterville) gifted the school 32 plants to enable the children to play their part in beautifying their school and contributing to our campaign".



Pledge and plant your trees today on www.tfsnz.org.nz/billiontrees.cfm

Mark Dean - Trustee of Trees for Survival

Mark grew up in Hamilton and studied at Waikato University and Hamilton Teachers College before starting a career as a teacher. Mark taught for nine years - spending three of these years as outdoor education specialist at Tauranga Intermediate. "Taking children into the outdoors and the bush led to a lifelong interest and passion for our native flora," says Mark.

In 1977 Mark, with his wife Esme and four children, moved to a small lifestyle property at Oropi, 12km south of Tauranga. Soon after, they started a small native plant nursery that became Naturally Native New Zealand Plants Ltd. Today Naturally Native still specialises in NZ native plants and is one of the countries larger nurseries, employing over 60 staff and operating at five different locations including Tauranga, Auckland and Whakatane.

Mark first became involved in TFS in the late 1990's when he was asked to run plant growing workshops for TFS volunteers and teachers. "My catch phrase was and still is - lets make Aotearoa look like Aotearoa and not like a mini England.



Mark Dean Trustee of Trees for Survival and founder of Naturally Native New Zealand Plants Ltd

“ Taking children into the outdoors and the bush led to a lifelong interest and passion for our native flora. ”

TFS fitted with my passion for native plants, restoring our environment and educating children and I became more interested. Later I was approached to become a Trustee and since then have been fortunate enough to be involved with the establishment of TFS in the Tauranga area," Mark says.

Mark is currently a director of Naturally Native and works part time in the nursery. For the rest of his time he works at Natural Environments, a native plant advisory and restoration consultancy he founded with his son three years ago.

Mark is involved in several environmental organisations. He is a Trustee in Tane Tree Trust and the NZ Dune Restoration Trust and is Chair of the Otanewainuku Kiwi Trust which is working hard to preserve the environment for Kiwi in the Bay of Plenty.

Planning Ahead

September

- Rally your school community and Supporting Organisation to help with pricking out the last of the new seedlings. Getting these done early makes a big difference to their growth rate over spring and summer.
- If you haven't already pledged your plantings make sure you do this for the Billion Tree Campaign on www.tfsnz.org.nz/billiontrees.cfm. Remember Trees for Survival has undertaken to plant one million trees in New Zealand in 2007.
- More "I'm planting for the Planet" stickers are available. Email your request to btcnz@tfsnz.org.nz
- Certificates are available to acknowledge your schools contribution to the Billion Tree Campaign. Commemoration plaques are also available for your 'Billion Tree planting site' by contacting btcnz@tfsnz.org.nz
- Send in your entry for the Holyoake Award NOW to: TFS Holyoake Award, PO Box 51684, Pakuranga, Manukau 2140 or email to info@tfsnz.org.nz

October

- Pot-on faster growing plants and remind your school community to keep collecting milk cartons.
- Keep up with weeding and fertilise with slow release fertiliser or worm tea if necessary.
- Remove the tips of fast growing species like hebe, coprosma and mahoe.
- Trim back manuka and kanuka to approximately 30-40cm (do not prune cabbage tree, flax or kowhai).
- Winners of the Holyoake Award announced October 12th.
- This is your last chance to confirm your plantings for the Billion Tree Campaign – make sure your plantings count towards NZ's Million Trees as well as for the world-wide campaign to plant one billion trees in 2007.

November

- Keep up to date with the potting-on of larger seedlings. Make sure that you have enough potting mix on hand to get all larger plants potted-on before the holidays.
- As the temperature increases, shade curtains should be kept pulled to reduce water evaporation from both sun and wind.
- Water early in the morning so that plants can be checked during school hours to ensure they are getting enough water and that the irrigation system and nozzles are working.
- Don't rely on your irrigation timer. Check your plants regularly.
- Depending on how exposed your unit is, you should be watering for roughly 15 minutes every two days.

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Max Bruce Environmental Award Winner

Max Bruce, a Presbyterian minister in Waiuku, joined the Waiuku Rotary Club in 1981, and was an enthusiastic member until his untimely death in 1990.

Max had been brought up in the Canterbury countryside, and his love of the outdoors, and the native forests, stayed with him. Within the Rotary Club he encouraged environmental activism and awareness, with the Club going on to sponsor the Awhitu School TFS Plant Growing Unit in 1995.

“TFS has given me the opportunity to be a part of some great planting projects in the Waiuku and Awhitu area.”

In 1991, at the instigation of Audrey Bruce, the first annual Max Bruce Environmental Award was presented. I was honoured to be the recipient this year, at the Waiuku Rotary Club's awards' dinner in June.

Trees for Survival has given me the opportunity to be a part of some great planting projects in the Waiuku and Awhitu area. The increased environmental awareness means that the hardest part of the job is often finding enough schools, and planting teams, to go around!

Editors note: Anna is an invaluable member of the TFS team, employed by ARC as a Planting Day Co-ordinator and as field support for the local schools.

Congratulations Anna.

Our local schools are now doing seed gathering expeditions to the Awhitu Regional Park in the autumn. Apart from being a good excuse to visit this lovely park, our Ranger, John Allen, gives each group a lecture, tailored perfectly to their ages, on the formation and distribution of the seeds.

We follow-up with seed setting sessions. Germination is patchy and slow, being outdoors in the TFS units, but all the successes are treasured, and grown on alongside the TFS seedlings. I feel that this part of the programme has helped link the children into the process, and made them really look at the trees and plants around them, and feel a real connection to the whole business of growing and planting "their" trees.

Article by Anna McNaughton



Anna McNaughton winner of the 2007 Max Bruce Environmental Award

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