

Greetings from the Chair

In addition to log export and domestic prices being in the doldrums our industry remains very busy dealing with continuing changes to environmental and carbon legislation and public perception relating to these.

Recently I attended the annual NZ Institute of Forestry conference in Napier where 280 foresters listened to a wide range of presentations on the effects of Cyclone Gabrielle on East coast forests and the windthrow event in the Lake Taupo area and how the recovery was managed to strengthen the forests, infrastructure and affected communities.

As the conference progressed the significant rainfall event unfolded in the Nelson/ Marlborough region with wide spread flooding particularly in the Motueka valley area. There is no silver bullet to preventing such events happening, what we can do as foresters is get alongside our neighbours and communities to ensure appropriate assistance and good communication is provided where required.

One of the learnings from cyclone Gabrielle was that effective communication with stakeholders must start long before any storm damaging event. Promoting the environmental benefits of both native and plantation forests and best practice forest management is something we can all do to improve stakeholder and the public's knowledge of our industry.

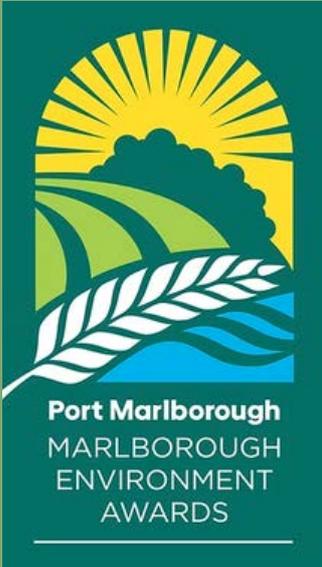
Best Regards,
Steve
Chair, TOTSWC



Wood Councils are the voice and face of the forest industry locally. Our aim is to advance the opportunities of the forest and wood processing industries in the Top of the South by ensuring our industry is vibrant, valued and respected

TOTSWC NEWS

2025 Port Marlborough Environment Awards – Forestry Category Winner: TOTSWC with Te Hoiere Project



We're proud to share that the Top of the South Wood Council was named the Forestry Category Winner at the 2025 Port Marlborough Environment Awards for its entry showcasing work under Te Hoiere Project.

The judges commended TOTSWC for its leadership in fostering environmental improvements within production forestry landscapes. The entry highlighted a suite of on-the-ground initiatives supporting water quality, biodiversity, and long-term land resilience in the Te Hoiere catchment.

The judges praised the project's strong partnerships with landowners and alignment with the broader Te Hoiere Restoration vision, calling it "an outstanding example of industry-driven environmental leadership that delivers results."

A huge thank you to all the forestry partners, contractors, community members, judges and the wider Te Hoiere Project for contributing to this work – this award is a reflection of many people's collective efforts.

Finally, congratulations to all the entrants in the Awards, especially our fellow forestry category contenders – BEL Forestry and MacKenzie Management Ltd, and Tasman Pine Forests Ltd- it is heartening to see the sound environmental initiatives going on across the region and the shared commitment to telling some positive forestry stories.

Check out all of the entries and the entry videos at: <https://www.mea-nz.com/>



Top of the South
WOOD COUNCIL

TOTSWC NEWS



Top of the South Wood Council Forestry Awards 2026

Following the departure of Public Impressions, who successfully delivered the Top of the South Forestry Awards over the past few years, TOTSWC is pleased to announce it has now taken over the management of this important industry event.

We've appointed Julia Brown as our new event coordinator and are currently working to bring all aspects of the Awards under the TOTSWC banner, including the transition of the Forestry Awards website. We're well supported by key people who have been involved with the Awards since their inception and aim to deliver another fantastic night of industry celebration in 2026.

We'll keep members updated on key dates and milestones as planning progresses. For any queries or questions relating to the Awards, please contact Julia directly at: forestryawards@totswoodcouncil.org.nz



The Growing Native Forests Champions awards:

- celebrate people who are growing native forests
- help others learn about the importance of native forests in New Zealand
- inspire more people to grow native forests.

While we're on the topic of Awards - Congratulations to the winners of the National Growing Native Forests Champion Awards: Tasman Pine Forests Ltd for their work restoring native forests, controlling wilding pines, and protecting native species

OUR FORESTS, OUR FUTURE

TOTSWC NEWS

Update: Future of Toi Ohomai Forestry Courses



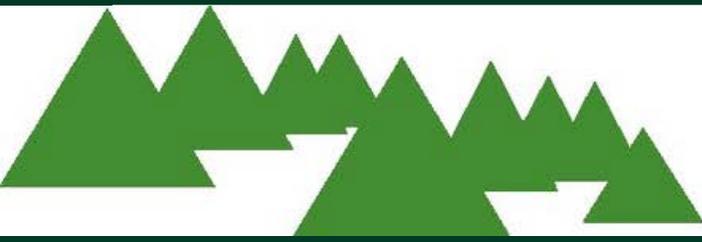
Toi Ohomai Institute of Technology has announced the cancellation of most forestry courses, including the NZ Diploma in Forest Management (Level 6) and Wood Manufacturing courses, from 2026 onward due to low enrolment numbers. This follows the loss of locally offered Level 2 NZ Certificate in Forest Industry Foundation Skills and Level 3 NZ Certificate in Forest Harvesting Operations courses at the end of 2024, leaving an industry training gap in TOTS.

A forest industry working group has been set up to help guide the future direction of the Diploma in Forest Management program. This will ensure we help find a new provider to run these programs.

The NZ Diploma in Forest Management has a rich history, originating from the NZ Forest Service. A former qualification, the NZ Forest Ranger Certificate, was delivered at the Forest Training Centre (FTC), which was then located on the Forest Research Institute (FRI) campus—now Scion, a Crown Research Institute.

Following the dissolution of the NZ Forest Service in 1987, the NZ Certificate in Forestry (NZCF) was transferred to Waiariki Polytechnic from the Ministry of Forestry (MOF). Over time, it evolved into the National Diploma in Forest Management and later the NZ Diploma in Forest Management (Level 6), a two-year, full-time qualification. In response to the need for a new provider, the NZ Forest Owners Association (NZFOA) and an industry working group have been actively exploring options for the qualification's future.

We are seeking industry feedback on improvements and changes to the program. For more information or if you have any questions please contact James Broadley on (+64) 7 346 8979 or James.Broadley@toiohomai.ac.nz.



TOTSWC NEWS

FORESTRY RESIDUES INDUSTRY MEETING

TONNES TO GIGAJOULES



With opportunities to realise potential from woody residues growing, TOTSWC, with support from MDC's Innovate Marlborough, recently hosted a presentation by David Robinson and an open, cross-industry discussion on woody residues and wood fibre opportunities. TOTSWC continues to support work in this space with the TOTSWC/CIT Wood Chip Project nearing completion.

At the last TOTSWC Executive Committee Meeting, Simon Smith representing the Marlborough Roads Joint Venture Team (MRJV - MRJV is the group of Waka Kotahi NZTA, Marlborough District Council, HEB Construction and Fulton Hogan who are responsible for the maintenance of all of Marlborough's roading network), gave a presentation to the Committee proposing a collaborative working structure between MRJV and TOTSWC with the aim of improved relations and roading upkeep.



“The result envisaged would be that road maintenance dollars can be better spent on roads where we know there will not be significant heavy vehicle traffic either during, or immediately after we have undertaken a large maintenance programme, therefore extending the life of the works we undertake and not requiring extra capital spend for re-work.

Similarly, we can programme the road to be moderately tidied up prior to the influx of trucks to help reduce the wear from the harvest activity but hopefully give a better running surface for that period as well. There would also be the added safety benefit for all to prevent road working crews and machinery not being on the same (often narrow) roads when a large volume of log transport vehicles are also present, as well as there being a reduction in likelihood for delays to the transport of logs from the re-scheduling of planned large scale road works.”

TOTSWC is working through this proposal and will share news as we progress.

TOTSWC NEWS

Public consultation is open on proposed amendments to the National Environmental Standards for Commercial Forestry (NES-CF).

Key proposed changes include:



- Clarifying regulation 6(1)(a) to tighten the conditions under which a council can impose rules that are more stringent than national direction.
- Repealing regulation 6(4A), which currently gives councils broad discretion to override the NES-CF for afforestation without justification.
- Strengthening slash management by requiring a Slash Mobilisation Risk Assessment as part of all harvest management plans, and considering refining requirements to remove all slash above a certain size from forest cutovers.
- Tidying up the NES-CF with minor amendments to remove duplication and improve clarity for foresters and councils alike.

TOTSWC is currently preparing a submission, to ensure the sector's voice is represented, and we strongly encourage all members to consider making individual submissions as well. This is an important opportunity to provide feedback on how the proposed changes could impact operations on the ground.

Consultation is open via the Ministry for the Environment's website and runs until **27 July 2025**. For more information and to have your say use the below link:

<https://consult.environment.govt.nz/resource-management/infrastructure-development-primary-sector-nd/consultation/>



Did you know that Sage Partners offers a commission to TOTSWC on forest cover insurance policies? Just let them, or your forestry consultant, know that you heard about Sage Partners from TOTSWC and they'll pay us a yearly commission



We'd like to acknowledge and thank Ben Doherty for his significant and long-standing contribution to the TOTSWC Executive. Ben has recently left his role with TUR/NZ Forest Service to pursue a new opportunity in the private forestry biosecurity sector. We wish him all the best in this next chapter.



OUR FORESTS, OUR FUTURE

TOTSWC in the Community: Future of Work Day

TOTSWC hosted an engaging stand at Blenheim's Future of Work Day, which attracted around 2,000 students and whānau at the Marlborough Events Centre. We showcased career pathways within forestry, demonstrated interactive tools and technologies used in the industry, and spoke with students about roles in sustainable land management and ecosystem restoration. This event offered a fantastic opportunity to inspire rangatahi about forestry as a future career and highlight its vital role in local communities. Many thanks to Donna Short, C3, and Susan Chalmers from Te Uru Rākau for their original ideas, preparation and enthusiasm on the day. A great event to get behind and support, and positive exposure for the industry and future foresters.



PARTNER NEWS

Wood Council and Te Uru Rākau - New Zealand Forest Service Partnership



As a member of the NZ Wood Council Group, TOTSWC was grateful to receive support, in the form of funding, from Te Uru Rākau - New Zealand Forest Service

As noted by TUR:

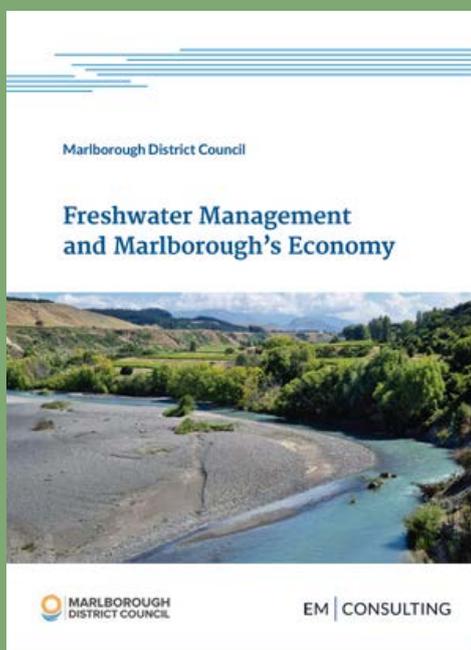
“This is part of our commitment to support and promote the vital role that forestry and wood councils play in our communities and the wider environment.

This funding reflects our belief in the importance of forestry and its potential to contribute to local economies, environmental stewardship, and community well-being. We encourage each wood council to utilise this funding in alignment with your specific strategies and aspirations...We are particularly interested in initiatives that not only promote your councils but also demonstrate how forestry can contribute to both environmental goals and local economies.

We are excited to see the innovative ways in which you will leverage these funds to strengthen your council and fulfil your vision for the future of forestry in New Zealand. We believe that by working together, we can create a positive impact that resonates within our communities and beyond.”

TOTSWC utilised the funding to take on additional responsibilities, improve our online presence, and amplify the voice of forestry across the Top of the South at community events and in the media. It further supported TOTSWC’s work with the other Wood Councils around the country, raising our profile nationally as well as locally.

Thank you, TUR - your support is appreciated.



TOTSWC contributed to MDC’s report ***Freshwater Management and Marlborough’s Economy***, providing insights into the forestry sector’s relationship with freshwater values. The report, commissioned by MDC, explores the connection between freshwater resources and the region’s key economic sectors. Its purpose is to inform policy by identifying how changes in freshwater management could impact Marlborough’s economy. TOTSWC’s proactive involvement reflects the industry’s commitment to building strong relationships with regulatory bodies and underscores the importance of maintaining water quality for both environmental health and long-term economic resilience.

Supporting Forestry Futures - MBC and Nayland College Forestry Course Update

TOTSWC continues to work closely with Marlborough Boys' College to support its forestry course, which has 26 students enrolled this year. We're also actively assisting Nayland College as they develop a similar NCEA-accredited forestry programme for students in the Nelson region.

In addition, planning is well underway, with Discovery Forestry, for a Forestry Big Day Out Field Trip— an exciting event designed to give students from both MBC and Nayland an up-close look at the wide range of careers and opportunities within the forestry industry through on the ground exposure. MGC hasn't been missed either, with TOTSWC continuing engagement programs and assisting students with forestry related projects and research.



Adverse Weather Events 2021/2022 Roading Update – Kenepuru & Surrounding Routes

There are two key developments underway regarding roading in the Marlborough region.

Firstly, in response to community feedback about logging trucks using Port Underwood Road and Queen Charlotte Drive (between Linkwater and Havelock), MDC has engaged Stantec to undertake a safety review of both routes. This review is expected to be presented to Council in a workshop in July, with any decisions on next steps – including public release – to be determined. There is strong interest from residents, particularly in the Port Underwood and Karaka Point areas, to see the findings.

Secondly, the question of what types of vehicles will be permitted to use the Kenepuru Road post-repairs remains open. Final access decisions will be made following completion of the works and a formal road safety audit.

We'll continue to keep members informed as these issues progress.





**Te Hoiere
Project**

HAERE, KAKEA
TE ARA POKA HOU

Te Hoiere Forestry Projects Updates

Te Hoiere Project recently held a Celebration Day reflecting on work achieved across the catchment to date and setting the stage for future developments. Forestry, and Te Hoiere Forestry Projects were well represented on the day. Below is an image from one of the posters produced for the event, this poster focusing on the Sediment Monitoring Project. Three of Te Hoiere Forestry Projects - the Sediment, Ungulate Management and Riparian Revegetation - are set to continue for another year, providing longer term data which will help with insights and practical guidance for the industry.

Te Hoiere Project
HAERE, KAKEA
TE ARA POKA HOU

**Top of the South
WOOD
COUNCIL**

FORESTRY IN FOCUS

Sediment monitoring

Who?
Top of the South Wood Council, Te Hoiere Project, forest owners Marberry Estate Ltd, forest managers M&R Forestland Management Ltd with Anna Batty leading this project, NIWA, Sediment Monitoring Expert Murray Hicks who is helping with the study and Jeremy Patterson-Green, Green Forest Management, who assisted with the initial identification of the study site.

Where?
A monitoring site was established in a small perennial tributary that drains a 40-hectare, first-rotation pine forest subcatchment in Te Hoiere. The site is designed to monitor and quantify suspended sediment loads before, during, and after forestry earthworks and harvest activities. This will provide robust, site-specific data to complement broader water quality monitoring taking place throughout the catchment.

Why?
The sediment study offers a unique opportunity to contribute meaningful data to the wider restoration effort, to engage transparently with the community, and to demonstrate the forestry sector's commitment to improvement. The data gathered will also have broader value, contributing to other regional studies – such as the One Forty One Donald Creek paired catchment project in Nelson – and supporting best practice development across the industry.

What next?
TOTWC is keen to continue the study while the trees in the catchment are harvested so this data can be compared to the baseline study. This will be dependent on funding.

**OUR MISSION: TOTSWC WILL INFLUENCE A SUSTAINABLE, RESILIENT
AND ROBUST FUTURE FOR FORESTRY IN THE TOP OF THE SOUTH**

Upcoming Events



Notice of Meeting

Top of the South Wood Council
(TOTSWC) Incorporated
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Monday, 28 July, 2025,

Commencing at 3.30pm – PF Olsen
Offices, Blenheim

The Agenda will proceed on the following lines:

1. Members Present
2. Apologies
3. Minutes of the previous meeting
4. Chair's Report
5. Treasurer's Report
6. Election of President
7. Election of Executive Officers
8. Subscription Fees for 2024 -2025
9. General Business
10. Meeting Closure

Members are asked to register no later than
Monday the 21st of July.

Please confirm your attendance to the
Executive Officer at
eo@totswoodcouncil.org.nz



Reminder: TOTSWC is always on the hunt for good news stories, and we'd love to see more of them shared to let our community and officials know about all the great work happening across the industry. While we appreciate that not everyone likes to be front and centre, this is really important to help dispel some of the negative storylines that continue to circulate about the forestry sector. Sharing positive stories helps highlight the industry's commitment to sustainability, innovation, and community engagement, while showcasing the real progress being made across environmental, social, and economic fronts. Please let us know if you have anything to share.

totswoodcouncil.org.nz

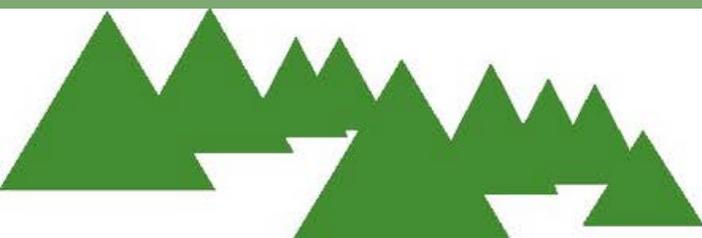
Facebook/Instagram: Top of the South Wood Council

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