



Top of the South
**WOOD
COUNCIL**

Chair's Update December, 2025

The 2025 year has brought some significant challenges to the TOTS forest industry with mid-year floods across the region followed by a significant windthrow event in the Tasman district.

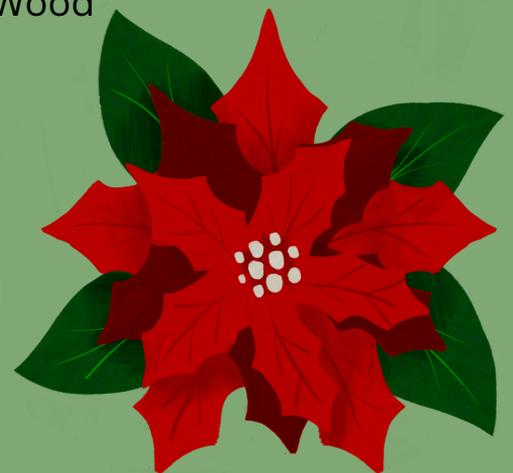
This coupled with closure of the CHH sawmill in the region and declining log export prices, has certainly made it a year to put behind us. It was very encouraging to see how very little harvesting slash was mobilised in the storm events and the positive response of forest owners in assisting neighbours and the wider community with the aftermath clean up. Our TOTSWC continues to gather recognition momentum with government MP's, local authorities and community groups and is working well with other Wood Councils around the country in sharing information and addressing issues in common.

Our Important focus areas for the 2026 year ahead are:

- Strategic Plan implementation, we have members assigned to each area of the plan to ensure progress.
- Promoting the council to new members.
- Keep up positive communication that forests are good for land, economy and communities.
- Continue to develop close working relationships with local councils, government agencies, NZFOA and other Wood Councils
- 2026 TOTSWC Forestry Awards evening
- Te Hoiere Forestry Projects.
- Generating more funding for the council.

I would like to thank Angela for her hard work & everyone else on the committee for their support and contribution. All the best for the holiday break, I trust it is a relaxing time with family and friends.

Steve



TOTSWC NEWS



New Zealand
**Association of
Resource Management**

TOTSWC Executive Officer, Angela MacKenzie was invited to present at the NZARM Conference held in Marlborough in November. This was a rare opportunity to get in front of a large and diverse group of resource management professionals from across New Zealand and present a more balanced perspective on forestry in NZ. Below is the Abstract from her talk:

Forestry Pasts, Forestry Futures: Sustainable Land Management and Climate Change – Challenges and Opportunities in the Anthropocene

In Aotearoa New Zealand forestry has long played a pivotal role in shaping landscapes, economies, and rural communities. As we face the accelerating impacts of climate change, the sector must now navigate increasing expectations for environmental performance, land use integration, and carbon accountability; largely in a context of historically low literacy around commercial forest management, processes and practices. This presentation explores the historical context of forestry in Te Tau Ihu and looks ahead to the challenges and opportunities that lie within sustainable land management frameworks. It highlights how forestry can contribute meaningfully to climate resilience and circular bioeconomy pathways, while also acknowledging the tensions around land use change, community expectations, and regulatory complexity.

TOTSWC farewells Tim Hinton from the Executive Committee as he leaves the top of the south. Tim's contribution has been greatly appreciated over the past couple of years. We wish him all the best.

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



Top of the South
WOOD COUNCIL



**Te Hoiere
Project**

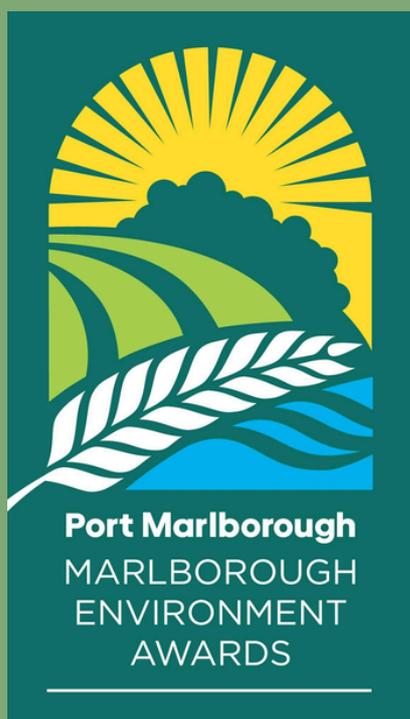
HAERE, KAKEA
TE ARA POKA HOU

Te Hoiere Forestry Projects

On the 4th of December, 2025, Te Hoiere/Top of the South Wood Council forestry group hosted a field day as part of the 2024/25 Port Marlborough – Marlborough Environment Awards field day series. The field day featured the Top of the South Wood Council’s Te Hoiere Projects as the Port Marlborough - Marlborough Environment Awards, Forestry Award winner. Attendees had the opportunity to explore site visits, hear practical insights into forestry and environmental practice, connect with experts in the field and sample some pest ungulate sausages over lunch.



Read more about Te Hoiere Project and our forestry projects here:
<https://www.tehoiere.org.nz/about/catchment-actions/forestry>



Also in 2025, another of the original Te Hoiere Forestry Projects was completed. **The Land Transition** study is designed to help forest owners assess where alternative land uses may deliver stronger environmental and economic outcomes. The work provides practical guidance for landowners considering transition options, including available funding and support pathways.

Check out the final report here:

[Te Hoiere Forestry Transition Report](#)

OUR FORESTS, OUR FUTURE

Upcoming Events



Top of the South **WOOD COUNCIL** **FORESTRY AWARDS**

Save the Date

TOTSWC Forestry
Awards: 31 July, 2026,
Trafalger Centre
Nelson

Submissions - lots of them!

2026 looks set to be another busy year with multiple legislative changes proposed, including new Planning and Natural Environment Bills. These two Bills are intended to replace the Resource Management Act (RMA), reshaping how activities that impact our industry – forestry establishment, land use change, harvesting, infrastructure and environmental management - are planned and regulated in future. **Public submissions on the Government's proposed Planning Bill and Natural Environment Bill are open until Friday 13 February.** This reform is highly relevant to forestry in the Top of the South and while the intent of the Bills is to enhance property rights, much of the detail regarding on the ground application is yet unknown. TOTSWC is working alongside NZFOA to prepare a submission focused on forestry considerations and will share any information that can assist our members to make their own submission.



totswoodcouncil.org.nz

Facebook/Instagram: Top of the South Wood Council

CONTACT US:

eo@totswoodcouncil.org.nz

info@totswoodcouncil.org.nz

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