

National Newsletter May 2026

Sent: May 11, 2026, 12:16 PM

New Executive

The Council of the Association elected the following new members to the Executive. Dougal Morrison was elected President.

Dougal stood for the position of President of NZFFA, with a vision to strengthen partnerships across the sector and grow membership. He is a retired farmer, and an active forester who manages the Streamside Planting Programme for Porirua City Council. He has a diverse background in agriculture, forestry, and environmental sustainability. He has been a member of the NZFFA for over 40 years and is an active participant in both the Wellington and Wairarapa branches. He has served on the NZFFA National Executive for three years.

Philip Alloway, Dave Forsyth and George Shallcrass were elected as new members of the Executive.

Philip is currently Branch Chair and Treasurer of the Nelson Branch of NZFFA, and Treasurer of the Marlborough Branch.

He has owned plantation forestry with his wife Carol for 33 years, with largely a hands-off management approach. They both worked overseas to fund the forest land purchase. He has formerly owned and operated a nationwide industrial scale service business. He and Carol are currently developing a small amenity tree block in Linkwater.

Dave has been a member of the NZFFA for the last 30 years. He has been a co-opted member of the Executive and is the Current Treasurer. He is the current President of the Waikato Branch and is Convenor of the National Conference being held in the Waikato.

Dave has formerly owned and operated a high input dairy farm milking up to 1100 dairy cows, with integrated farm forestry including plantings of redwoods, totara and cypress.

George operates a forest harvesting and sawmill business at Linkwater in Marlborough. He has been a member of NZFFA for over 30 years and is currently Chair of the Marlborough Branch of NZFFA. He is a former Chair of the Top of The South Wood Council. He received the Joll Hosking award for "Distinguished Service" to NZFFA in 2025.

National Executive

Office Holder	Details	Year voted in
President:	Dougal Morrison president@nzffa.org.nz	April 2026
Vice President:	Vaughan Kearns ruapehusawmill@xtra.co.nz	At large member - April 2026
National Executive:	Tim Forde seeforde@xtra.co.nz	North Island Member - April 2024
National Executive:	Gary Fleming garyfleming@xtra.co.nz	South Island Member - April 2024
National Executive:	Graham West westlanduse@gmail.com	North Island member - April 2026
National Executive:	Kees Weytmans kees.weytmans@gmail.com	At large Member - April 2025
National Executive:	George Shallcrass georgeandrose@outlook.co.nz	South Island Member - April 2026
Immediate Past President:	Vaughan Kearns ruapehusawmill@xtra.co.nz	At large Member - April 2026
Secretary:	Philip Alloway palloway@gmail.com	At large member - April 2026
Treasurer:	Dave Forsythe treasurer@nzffa.org.nz	North Island Member - April 2026

NZFFA Awards and Life Membership.

The NZFFA Awards for 2025 were awarded at the 2026 Waikato Conference.

North Island Farm Forester of the Year.

Ian and Lynette Dewes

Ian and Lynette have been members of NZFFA for approx 37 years. Ian and Lynette are members of the Wairarapa branch, Ian being on the committee for 10 years and incumbent chairman for 5 years.

The Dewes' started their journey in farm forestry in the early 1990's in Rotorua, Taupo area and profits from their ventures enabled them to purchase Mt Mabel Station a 1050 hectare property in south Wairarapa in 2016. Mt Mabel station is a very hard property to farm and along with regenerating Manuka and Ta Whine, pest and deer invasion it is a huge challenge to farm and develop.

The operation depicts true farm forest situation with careful siting of species for the optimum growing of varieties chosen. The farm has diverse planting including Pinus Radiata, Eucalyptus, Redwood, Douglas Fir, Macrocarpa, Totara and Manuka.

The farm also runs a owner operated portable saw mill venture and a local Manuka Honey business.



South Island Farm Forester of the Year

Paul and Ash Millen

Marlborough based professionals Paul and Ash Millen were the winners of the 2026 South Island Farm Forester of the year.

They're long-term members of the Marlborough Branch who started practicing farm forestry back in 1984 when they purchased a weedy hillside alongside Queen Charlotte Drive in the Marlborough Sounds. For the first fifteen years they were extremely busy men controlling weeds & pests, planting a forest, landscaping, thinning, and pruning. While they planted a wide range of species, they focused on eucalypts and cypresses, species they knew had good wood properties.

Once they had a forest established and growing, they turned their minds as to how to make money from it. With that in mind they purchased a small sawmill and learnt the art of sawmilling. Using trees that they'd harvested, they started milling a wide range of wood products and are still doing so today. While they both work on the milling operation, Ash tends to focus on the sawmill and Paul on marketing what they produce.

Their farm forest enterprise won the Marlborough Environmental Award (2005). They're active members of the local Branch doing all the usual stuff such as being committee members, organising field days and Paul did a stint as Branch Chairman. Paul also established the NZ Dryland Forest Initiative in 2008.

This objective of this initiative was to develop a NZ hardwood forest industry by planting genetically improved eucalypt forests. It has been hugely successful and is often used as a template for new projects – it was the Supreme winner in 2015 Marlborough Environmental Awards. Both men have been recognised by their peers with Ash as President Marlborough Wood Workers Guild and Paul awarded NZ Forester of the Year in 2021 by NZIF.

Ash & Paul practice what they preach with the result being their business is a testament to years of commitment to developing a sustainable ecosystem (one that allows themselves, the land, and the forest to thrive).





Michael Hay Memorial Young Forester of the Year

Daniel and Sherice Hodgson

Daniel and Sherice from the Waikato branch, who by combining the knowledge learnt and passed down from Daniles parents along with modern sustainable farming and forestry practices our winners see themselves not only as producer but as 'Stewards' of the land, committed to balancing environmental responsibility with economic viability to ensure the property remains stronger and richer for the generations to come.

Farm strategy in recent years has been to plant trees on the less fertile land and focus on farming the more productive land with the belief of planting the right tree in the right place for the right purposes. Daniel aims to protect the soils and waterways to enhance biodiversity and create a resilience for the future.

the property also has its own small nursery growing native Kanuka, Honey Locust seedlings eco sourced from mature trees on the property. they also have a poplar nursery which supports the annual property planting each year.



Landcare Trust Award for Innovation in Sustainable Forestry

Bill and Sue Garland - Presented to John Simmons of behalf.

Nominated by Waikato Branch, Bill and Sue Garland, Rahiri Farm are the 2026 NZ Landcare Trust Award winners. Farming on the slopes of Maunatautari Sanctuary Mountain since 1968. They have devoted their lives to growing their farming business and preserving, conserving the land and ecology around the farm is supports. The farm has some 370 hectares of pasture, 20 hectares of mixed species plantings, five QE11 national Trust Covenants, 8 hectares of native restoration planting and an 8km pest proof boundary with Maungatautari, 30 hectares of the farm is inside the fence under the QE11 covenant, there are 45 wetland projects across the farm.

Bill is a past regional and national chairperson of the Ballance Farm Environmental Awards and his community involvement in Whatawhata hill country research station along with the hosting of many schools and business groups to share their values and knowledge of farming trees, biodiversity and ecology.



To view video [watch here](#)



Joll Hosking Awards x 2

Eric Cairns below and Julian Bateson unfortunately couldnt be at the awards presentation.



NZFFA Branch Trophy for Excellence

Presented to Stan Braaksma on behalf of the Poplar Advisory Group



Life Membership

National life membership has been granted to 3 members in 2026

Eric Cairns

Eric Cairns has been a long time supporter of the Association on a number of fronts. He has been a tireless supporter of Farm Forestry Timbers Society, now known as Specialty Timbers

New Zealand. He has been a member of the Wellington Branch Committee for decades and was instrumental in the set up and running of special Interest group Oaks New Zealand. Eric's plant knowledge in enormous and advocacy for small forest growers has been outstanding.

Dudley Franklin

Dudley Franklin has been an active contributor to the NZFFA for more than 40 years. While age has slowly caught up him, he was an energetic member of the North Canterbury Branch and always contributed at national conference days. Dudley was a close friend of Neil Barr and together they spent hours and days talking about and discussing farm forestry and how to get more trees planted on farms. Dudley is a prodigious reader, with a vast knowledge of forestry and forest science and a unique ability to simplify complex information which he's always happy to share with those who know him. Dudley was an early advocate for both the cypresses and eucalypts which carried over into action groups when they were formed.

Eric Appleton

Eric Appleton barely needs an introduction. Eric has done more for the planting of trees and forests than any living New Zealander, including Shane Jones. Eric's contributions span decades . His professional advice and assistance to the Association has come through his support of the Cypress Development Group, in its research into the Grand fir (Abies Grandis) and he has been a committee member of the Poplar Advisory Group since its inception. Eric has been an avid attendee of almost all of the combined action group weekends where his sharing of knowledge has been outstanding and appreciated.

Branch and Special Interest Group life membership has been granted to one member in 2026

Russell Coker of the Sequoia Action Group

Russell has had a long and varied career in forestry, both in New Zealand and abroad. Russell was engaged by The New Zealand Redwood Company from its beginning as a consultant and later as Operations Manager and has amassed a lot of knowledge on all aspects of growing redwood in NZ. Russell has an extraordinary work ethic and is motivated by doing his part well and not by what he will earn out of it. He enjoys working with others and is easy to get along with.

Fortunately for the NZFFA and the Sequoia Group in particular, Russell has given many years of service and is showing no sign of slowing down. He is respected and liked by those he works with.

2026 Waikato Conference

Waikato branch would like to express their thanks to all the people who attended the recent conference in Cambridge - we enjoyed planning and hosting it and we hope you all enjoyed your time in the Waikato. We really appreciate your support, and thank you for all being so good-humoured - and for keeping to time!

We wish all the best to the organisers of the next conference, in South Otago.

A huge thank you to all the sponsors.

Platinum Sponsor

Te Uru Rakau



<https://www.mpi.govt.nz/forestry/about-te-uru-rakau-new-zealand-forest-service>

Gold Sponsor

RUAPEHU SAWMILLS



<https://ruapehusawmill.com/>

Tane's Tree Trust



<https://www.tanestrees.org.nz/about-us/>

PF Olsen



<https://nz.pfolsen.com/>

Forest 360



<https://forest360.nz/>

Waikato Regional Council



<https://www.waikatoregion.govt.nz/>

Paulownia NZ



<https://paulownianz.co.nz/>

Neil Barr Farm Forestry Foundation



<https://www.nzffa.org.nz/members/neil-barr/>

Silver Sponsor

Bioeconomy Science Institute - Maiangi Taiao



**Bioeconomy
Science Institute™**
Maiangi Taiao

<https://www.bioeconomyscience.co.nz/>

Southern Cypresses



<https://www.cypress.co.nz/>

Halter



<https://www.halterhq.com/en-nz>

Forme Forestry Consultants



<https://www.forme.co.nz/>

Bronze Sponsor

Appletons Nursery



<https://www.appletons.co.nz/>

Waikato Tractors Ltd



<https://www.waikatotractors.co.nz/>

Te Akatea Trust