



Durable eucalypt forestry field day **Thursday 24th March 2016, 10.00am – 3.00 pm**

**Hosts: Robb Macbeth, Milong, 507 Leamington Rd, Cheviot and
Proseed NZ Ltd, 177 Amberley Beach Road.**

The New Zealand Dryland Forests Initiative (NZDFI) is a commercially-oriented research and development project. It aims to develop genetically improved planting stock and management systems for ground-durable eucalypt species suited to New Zealand's dryland regions including coastal North Canterbury. Work includes highly innovative research into heartwood development and timber durability.

The NZDFI is working with farm foresters to develop best-practice pruning and thinning regimes so that growers can produce a range of products including posts and poles.

The morning field visit is to view eucalypt trials planted in 2014 by Robb Macbeth at two different sites near Cheviot: (i) a steep north facing hill at Robb's Milong property on Leamington Road, and (ii) a flat site on the western side of Phoebe Road, near Spotswood.

These trials are part of an extensive series established by NZDFI throughout NZ's east coast to evaluate the potential adaptability, productivity and management of durable eucalypts in NZ drylands. Establishment of these trials was supported by MPI's Sustainable Farming Fund (SFF).

- 10.00am** Convene at Milong, 507 Leamington Rd, Cheviot. Paul Millen, NZDFI Project Manager will lead a walk around trials and provide an update on the NZDFI's research programme, discuss establishment on very dry sites, and form pruning. Timely pruning is required for successful management of these trees. **LAKWOOD PRODUCTS LTD** **SUPPLIERS OF PRO-PRUNER** is one of the field day sponsors and supplies pruning equipment , to be demonstrated on the day. Travel to Phoebe Plains site.
- 11.30am** Walk down road berm alongside trial. Discuss the potential for eucalypts on North Canterbury dairy farms to be planted for nutrient capture, to provide carbon offsets, and to produce vineyard posts. Travel to Cheviot.
- 12.30pm** BYO Lunch at St Anne's Lagoon. Travel to Amberley.
- 2.00pm** Arrive at Proseed NZ Ltd, 177 Amberley Beach Road. Shaf van Ballekom, Proseed's CEO will give an introduction to the new University of Canterbury-led three-year SFF research project that Proseed is part of. The project includes durable eucalypt propagation research. We will then tour Proseed's new plant propagation facility and inspect new durable eucalypt grafted stocks. Question and answer session.
- 3.00pm** Field day ends.

Please bring your own refreshments, in a knapsack, and wear boots suitable for steep terrain. Bring raincoat if wet weather.

RSVP to Laurie Bennett l.c.bennett.xtra.co.nz

For more information about NZDFI check out their website: www.nzdfi.org.nz

SUPPORTERS:

