

NZ Country Trails

Newsletter



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Opportunities with trees

What is this? The NZ Farm Forestry Assn (NZFFA), supported by Te Uru Rakau - NZ Forest Service - is providing a programme of Free Workshops for land owners interested in learning about the opportunities in growing trees for timber, for protecting their land and for storing carbon.

Participants will learn about the benefits of planting different species and how they help fight climate change, provide shade and shelter, reduce erosion and improve water quality.

NZFFA member benefits: Members of the NZFFA benefit from a growing library of information on all aspects of farm forestry. General information is available to all visitors but some detailed and membership-specific information is reserved for members only.

The NZFFA's goal is to promote the wise use of trees for profit, amenity, sustainability, and the environment for the benefit of both its members and NZ at large.

NZFFA membership is for those with small forestry blocks – farmers, foresters, investors, growers, managers. It provides a network of tree growers each practicing sustainable land management in rural New Zealand. [Join NZFFA](#) and start networking!



Multiple-use forestry: erosion control, amenity, shelter and riparian plantings



Field days



Timber production



Land erosion control plantings



**A forest carbon sequestration cycle:
growing, felling, replanting**



Field days



A forest walk

Free Workshops Opportunities with Trees

If you're interested in trees, come and hear about the opportunities in growing trees for timber, for protecting your land and for storing carbon.

Learn about the benefits of planting different species and how they help fight climate change, provide shade and shelter, reduce erosion and improve water quality.

Free 3-hour workshops are being held in 18 locations across the country.

8 to 12 May	Canterbury, West Coast, Blenheim and Nelson
22 to 25 May	Otago and Southland
29 May to 1 June	Manawatu, Taranaki, Hawkes Bay and Gisborne
6 to 12 June	Waikato, Northland and Horowhenua.

The workshops are being presented by the New Zealand Farm Forestry Association with support from Te Uru Rākau – New Zealand Forest Service.

If you would like to come to one of these free workshops, or want to know more about them, please go to the NZFFA events page <https://www.nzffa.org.nz/events/>, and scroll down to "Opportunities with Trees Workshops". There you will find a link to the registration form.

Everyone is welcome.

The Workshop Programme:

Free 3-hour workshops are being held in 18 locations across the country generally, from 3pm to 6pm. For more detailed information, [Register here](#) » Everyone is welcome.

Location and dates - South Island 2023

Timaru: Monday 8 May
 Amberley: Tuesday 9 May
 Greymouth: Wednesday 10 May
 Richmond: Thursday 11 May
 Renwick: Friday 12 May
 Invercargill: Monday 22 May
 Balclutha: Tuesday 23 May
 Oamaru: Wednesday 24 May
 Dunedin: Thursday 25 May

Location and dates - North Island 2023

Stratford: Monday 29 May
 Bulls: Tuesday 30 May
 Havelock North: Wednesday 31 May
 Gisborne: Thursday 1 June
 Huntly: Tuesday 6 June
 Teawamutu: Wednesday 7 June
 Whangarei: Thursday 8 June
 Kerikeri: Friday 9 June
 Levin: Monday 12 June

A NZ Country Trails lister of special relevance to this newsletter

Mahaanui Farmstay - living with the environment

Cyclone damage: In a very personal way, Sally Officer and Simon Bennett know the value of protecting the environment having suffered, as a result of flood damage caused by two cyclones, multiple slips, washed out bridges and broken fence lines to their 600ha Tiniroto Mahaaanui Farmstay property south west of Gisborne. They also know the importance of being self-sustainable, to live off the land and kayak across a swollen river for supplies when a bridge is damaged.

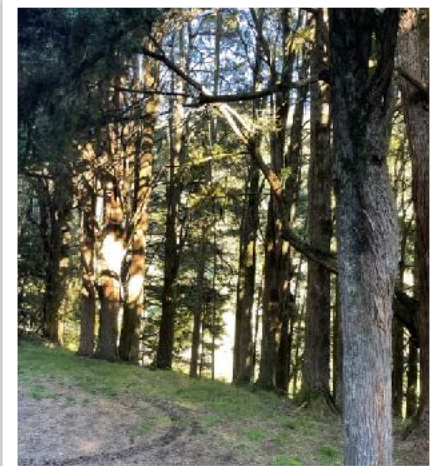
A “Green approach” In their farming of Hereford/Angus cattle and Romney/Romdale sheep Sally and Simon have always adopted a “green approach” to fertiliser application and animal health policies. They replaced nutrients and trace elements in lime applications to promote really healthy soil and grass rather than high dose nitrogen, long before it became popular, and like to breed really resilient sheep and cattle that don’t require frequent animal health remedies to remain healthy and productive.

Planting trees: They have fenced off their entire Hangaroa river boundary through a biodiversity scheme to protect the beautiful native trees growing along the edges and promote clean uncontaminated water free from stock interference. And, in the last two years they have planted about 13 hectares of Manuka and Totara to retire a couple of steep paddocks. They also grow their own totara seedlings that are cultivated in pots until they are robust enough to plant out and this year they will plant some different, bird attracting high canopy trees in some of the gaps and have plans for next winter to extend their native plantings. Sally and Simon employ people to try and control their feral goats and hares as they decimate the young trees.

Tourism: Mahaanui Farmstay has three farmstay arrangements that Sally says, keep them busy welcoming guests from all over NZ and from around the world who have an interest in learning about their lifestyle and farming practices, cycling through their district or just being there to enjoy the river, pet animals and farm hill country scenery. Sally says they love to educate guests on how they grow their animals and who are encouraged to join in some of their activities or to join one of Simon’s interactive farm tours. Guests have also been known to help in planting trees. Sally says conservation is very high on their list of priorities, to identify areas of land that should be retired, planted with the right native trees to prevent erosion and encourage birdlife.

Stories to tell: Sally has a keen interest in the history of her region and in the growing and managing of native trees, “they love our climate and grow well here”, says Sally. Simon used to breed horses for show-jumping, was a keen hunter but now prefers the more leisurely pursuit of sea fishing. Both Sally and Simon have many stories to tell, including how to survive two cyclones, and they would welcome you to visit them on their beautiful Tiniroto property.

For more information



Highlights from our last newsletter:

Karetu farmstay and gardens - Hurunui

Whether it's feeding pet sheep and meeting Daisy and Midget the kune pigs or relaxing and enjoying the peace and tranquillity of the countryside. It really is a unique country experience.



Island Hills Station - bush walks - Hurunui

Your experience is in the hands of Shaun Monk who has walked through a lifetime of back country adventures all over New Zealand from multi-day solo hikes to back pack hunting adventures.



Beverley Forrester, woollen yarn, fabrics - Leithfield, Nth Canterbury

In her "Wool Barn". Beverley welcomes visitors to visit her there and to share her stories about the history of the early settlement of Nth Canterbury, sample her woollen yarns and designer clothing over a cup of tea and biscuit.



Levack Forestry - Kapiti Coast

Hamish is a past president of the NZ Farm forestry Association, and helps the Ministry of Primary Industries to run courses on basic forestry for farmers interested in offsetting their greenhouse gas emissions by planting trees.



What to look out for in our Newsletter's next edition

In our next newsletter we will feature more NZ Country Trails listers of special interest, who have a story to tell to those who travel through New Zealand's countryside.



NZ Country Trails

NZ Country Trails is a website on which rural property owners, interested in connecting to the tourism market, can list their activities and feature in regular newsletters to the travelling public.

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