

# Sands of time feature of Professor McKelvey's latest work

*Peter McKelvey - Sand Forests - A historical Perspective of the stabilisation and afforestation of coastal sands in New Zealand. Published in 1999 by Canterbury University Press, Christchurch, New Zealand. ISBN 0-908812-44-2 Soft cover; 168pp; \$40*

This is the latest scholarly work by Emeritus Professor of Forestry, Peter McKelvey. It follows the style of his earlier book on Mountain Forests in giving the reader a detailed background of why these forests are important conservation measures, and then looking from a historical viewpoint at how, in this case, they were created and managed. It is, like his earlier book, an authoritative book on the subject, for much of the source material is scattered or came first-hand from those involved. As a scholarly work it is well referenced there being over four pages of references, but this is neatly done so the references do not intrude on the readability of the text. The text is well illustrated with both black and white and colour photographs, many of them being of a historical nature.

The book follows a logical sequence of first tracing the early sand dune stabilisation efforts in Europe, the awareness of the growing problem in New Zealand and linking these together by showing how the European methods were adopted and modified for the new conditions. Peter McKelvey then traces the early tentative attempts at stabilisation by the Land and Survey and The Public Works Department and other organisations, and follows this with a description of the larger scale efforts of the New Zealand Forest Service. The transfer of the State Forest assets to private enterprise is also detailed. At the time of the demise of the Forest Service in 1987 there were 46 000 ha in management for wood production of which about 10 000 were on Maori Leased land. In addition there were areas of purely protection areas of stabilised sand and extensive use of the forests were being made for recreation.

A large part of the book (75 pages) is devoted to a detailed description of the various forests and the effort that went into each to stabilise the sand and produce productive crops. Silvicultural practices, tree nutrition and the impact of the decline in lupin due to disease are covered in depth. However, the search for alternatives to lupins is only touched on and the status of current alternatives is barely mentioned. But the book has a useful chapter devoted to the use of native species that can be used in sand stabilisation.

A strength of the book is that it lists the key people involved in these forests and the contributions they made. There is also a scattering of stories about some of the individuals or events and this makes for enjoyable reading.

Overall I found the book easy to read and very well illustrated. It is very timely that this book has been published before details are lost of what was achieved and why certain practices were chosen. I am sure that it will continue to be an authoritative reference for a long time just as Matthew's 1905 book "Tree-culture in New Zealand" is today for plantation practices at that time. I

am also sure that those who were involved in this effort to stabilise our sand dunes will be delighted with the book.

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## Book List

The following is a list of books newly available or becoming available.

**Forestry, People and Places: Selected Writing from Five Decades.** By Dennis Richardson.

*Business Media Services Ltd*

The Motueka-based Professor Richardson has collected his many and varied writings in this special collection. The work includes essays, papers and addresses prepared during a career extending from the early days of modern forestry practice (guess who was one of the first to use the chainsaw?) to the jungle tribes of Irian Jaya, the islands of the Pacific, and the highways and by-ways of European forestry. Professor Richardson's special interest in forestry in China is highlighted among the works, while trends in forest research receive a broadside. All works written in Professor Richardson's usual insightful and readable style.

Available: Summer 2000.

Business Media Services Ltd, PO Box 6215, Whakarewarewa, Rotorua, New Zealand; Tel: (07) 349 4107; Fax: (07) 349 4157; email: bms@wave.co.nz

**The Asia-Pacific Forestry Sector Outlook Study Report**

The report is a ground-breaking piece of work, both in terms of its scope and its practical value.

The Asia-Pacific Forestry Sector Outlook Study Report presents a detailed analysis of past trends and the future prospects for the development of the forestry sector in the region. The study includes sections on: forest resources; markets for wood and non-wood forest products; services from the forest; people and forests; and policies and institutions. In contrast to previous outlook studies, it also contains an analysis of some of the future constraints and policy options available to forestry policymakers in the region.

The publication can be downloaded from the FAO Outlook Studies webpage at: [www.fao.org](http://www.fao.org) where nearly 50 working papers on individual countries and thematic studies, can also be downloaded. Should you wish to receive printed copies of the publication, please let me know. The Business of Sustainable Forestry - Strategies for an Industry in Transition By Michael B. Jenkins and Emily T. Smith; John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation

Publisher: Island Press

A series of 21 case studies of industry leaders carried out by the Sustainable Forestry Working Group is integrated and analysed. The motivation of the pioneering firms studied are as varied as their characteristics, yet each has made significant progress. The authors argue that the operations that have been most successful are those that have integrated sustainable forestry principles and practices into their overall corporate strategy. Publisher claims it to be the first book to present a composite snapshot of the business of sustainable forestry and the lessons learned by early adopters in form and language accessible to the general business reader.

Price: US\$35.00

Available: Island Press

[www.islandpress.org/](http://www.islandpress.org/)