

Press Release: DANA Wellington Conference – 22 May 2015



Planning for the second DANA **New Zealand Forestry and Forest Products Sector: Its situation in 2015 and trends going forward Conference** in Wellington on August 11 & 12, has just about been finalised.

DANA Director, Dennis Neilson, says that more than 20 of the total 23 speaker and panel presenters have been confirmed.

The Conference covers the current status of various sectors of the New Zealand forest industry, with presentations enhanced by several overseas speakers who will discuss international timberland investment and wood market trends.

Timberland investment issues will be covered by well-known American consultant and valuation expert, Bret Vicary of Maine, USA based Sewell, who will provide details of Sewell's recent survey of international timberland investors. This identifies which countries, and some regions within countries, which are more (or less) favoured by international investors. Bret, who is very familiar with New Zealand forests and forest owners, will identify the main factors which attract international investors to New Zealand, or which detract from New Zealand as an investment destination.

Paul Nicholls, Chief Executive of Rayonier New Zealand and the President of the New Zealand Forest Owners Association, will present on the first morning, on: "The New Zealand Forest Plantation Sector". Paul, originally from Australia, has had a wealth of experience on plantation management in both Australia and New Zealand and has been the chief of Rayonier's operations in New Zealand for some years. Rayonier manages the third largest forest estate in New Zealand. He has also guided the New Zealand Forest Owners Association through a very challenging period from being funded by voluntary levies, to a compulsory levy system --- no mean feat.

Several other speakers will present at this two day Conference and DANA will provide information on these and their topics in later editions.

The programme, speakers, venue, dinner arrangements, sponsorship packages and registration tabs are available on the website <http://dananz2015.com/>

The Conference Dinner will be held Parliament Buildings Wellington and all early delegates have confirmed that they and their partners will all be attending this dinner. Available seats may fill up so delegates should register shortly.

The Conference itself is being held at the Te Papa Conference Centre on the site of New Zealand's Te Papa National Museum. During the Conference, an amazing exhibition on Galipoli will be featured, which has been produced by New Zealand's world famous *Sir Richard Taylor*, Director of the Weta Workshop. Sir Richard has won Five Oscars and four BAFTAs awards for his work on Peter Jackson's and other films.