

Hawke's Bay Farm Forester

**Field Day - Husqvarna North Island Farm Forester of the Year
Rangitoto Station 10.00am Thursday 30 November**



There's not a lot that Porangahau farmer James Hunter hasn't achieved in his farming career. So when he agreed to have a crack at the Husqvarna North Island Farm Forester of the year, we figured he had a pretty good shot!

Entrants are judged on personal effort in tree planting and results, service to the community, depth and breadth of knowledge, as well as service to the NZ Farm Forestry Association. Not surprisingly, James pretty much achieved a perfect score in each category. He joins the ranks of seven other Hawke's Bay regional winners who have gone on to win the North Island award.

The themes for this field day will be 'climate resilience', 'the protection and enhancement of indigenous bush and wetland areas' and 'addressing water quality issues in the Porangahau Catchment'.

Rangitoto has been in the Hunter family since 1854, and when James returned home to farm in 1989, he continued a lega-

cy of erosion control planting initiated by his grandfather. James also began to explore other sustainable land management and farm forestry initiatives. This included front-footing water quality issues at a time when his contemporaries were saying "you won't have to deal with that, you're on hills"

Rangitoto is a long narrow block, stretching inland from the coast at Blackhead. Approximately one third of the farm faces the coast, with the remainder draining into the headwaters of the Huatokitoki Stream - a major tributary of the Porangahau River.

A highlight of the property is a network of restored wetlands; 9ha and growing. These are incorporated into a plan to intercept and treat 95% of water draining from the farm. Another is the approximately 10,000 space-planted poplar and willow trees which have effectively 'storm-proofed' the property - Remarkable given that 50 years ago, Rangitoto had a history of severe erosion, requiring substantial remediation works.

Aside from the obvious erosion control and aesthetic benefits, many of these trees are generating a return through the Permanent Forest Sink Initiative (PFSI) and Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS).

At 660ha, it's not unrealistic to imagine how just a few properties can make a significant contribution toward improving water quality in the lower Porangahau River.

For repeat visitors like me, this field day is an opportunity to see how James's planting, restoration and other on-farm projects have progressed. If you've never been to Rangitoto before, you are in for a treat!

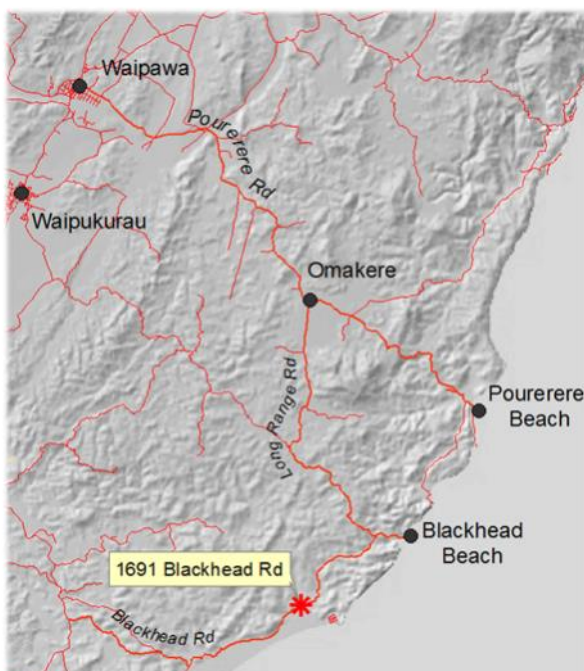
Who will be there:

Field day speakers will include specialists in indigenous biodiversity, water quality and of course tree growing and management. Together they will cover the topical issues of building resilience on farm, addressing soil and nutrient loss, habitat restoration and carbon sequestration.

What to bring:

A 4WD vehicle, if possible (We will need to carpool in 4WDs for the farm tour), suitable clothing, sunscreen, a picnic lunch, plenty to drink and a couple of dollars for a raffle. A BBQ will be catered for at the end of the field day, but you may wish to bring your own snacks and refreshments.

How to get there:



1691 Blackhead Rd. From Waipawa, head east on to Tamamu Rd, continuing on to Purerere Rd for 21km. Turn right onto Long Range Rd and continue for 9.3km. Staying on Long Range Rd, turn left and continue for a further 9km. Turn right on to Blackhead Rd and continue for 7.4km. Look out for the Farm Forestry banner.