

NZ Country Trails

Newsletter

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Looking for something a little different - meet Josie Martin



Josie Martin, is a qualified Horticulturist and Fellow of The Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture, a painter, sculptor and ceramicist. Josie's The Giants House, located at Akaroa in Canterbury, has been awarded for its recognition as a Garden of International Significance since 2018, and National Significance since 2012. It has also been recognized as a must-see in Akaroa on Tripadvisor for many years. " Positive, colourful – it will make you smile. Seriously playful yet charming and elegant " To quote Josie, "the garden is best to visit because, the pictures can't explain it." For more information visit: nzcountrytrails.com//gardens-1/the-giants-house



Why we need to grow more trees - other than Pine



Pine trees?: You see them everywhere, Pine trees. They grow in large plantations and as seedlings that populate our roadsides, rural properties and national parks. Today Pine trees comprises well over 90% of the national forest estate and they are grown because of their characteristics. They are important in helping to combat climate change, by absorbing carbon, are adaptable, fast growing, easily managed, great for some pulp and papers and we have grown it in New Zealand for 150 years and continue to improve it through tree breeding.

Why alternative species?: But reliance on one species of tree represents a risk and every country, including New Zealand, has at least some alternative supplies of timber with better characteristics. In many respects they are superior to radiata pine, being timbers that are highly decorative and have an amenity value, strong, hard, stable, relatively free of defects, readily workable or naturally durable. We call these trees “alternative species”. It makes sense therefore, to grow more of these useful, “alternative species”, timbers here. **And, internationally, Radiata Pine is an 'outsider'.**

Currently after Pine, Douglas fir is the second most widely planted timber tree in New Zealand, but a handful of other species have been planted in significant areas. They include cypresses, eucalypts, redwoods, Japanese cedar and poplars and some native trees like kauri and totara.

Biosecurity risks: Domestically, wood from these alternative species is in demand. However, most of it is imported, valued at \$405 million in 2019, and there is now a rising pressure to protect natural forests both here and overseas. Because we have extensive radiata forests we have invested a lot in biosecurity to protect them. As a result the 'Minor' alternative species have received less attention and can suffer from a variety of pests and diseases. These are seldom fatal but can damage the trees, and reduce their growth rates or timber values.

It helps that some work for these species has already been done on genetic selection for productivity and disease resistance (we have beaten poplar rust for example) and this work is continuing. The forestry research unit, Scion, is currently evaluating the biosecurity risk associated with different species, and it is likely that the successful control of potential pests and diseases will increase as the importance of these forests to the country is better recognised.

Field days program: To assist in promoting an interest among rural land owners in growing alternative and more decorative timber species, the NZ Farm Forestry Association and Te Uru Rakau (the NZ Forest Service) are organising a series of field days where NZ Farm Forestry members will share their experiences of what grows well and where, success and failure, costs and returns. They are showcasing farm forestry in 20 locations across the country.





New Zealand Farm Forestry Association
Oranga Rākau Aotearoa

Te Uru Rākau



New Zealand Forest Service

Alternatives to Pine on your farm

Free field days

Want to grow some trees on your farm, but not pines? Come and see some great examples at free field days starting in March.

Learn about the benefits of planting alternative species.

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Hosted by the NZFFA, with support from Te Uru Rākau – NZ Forest Service, the first 3-hour field days will be held on:.

14 March	Balclutha
16 March	Greymouth
21 March	Gisborne
21 March	Whanganui
21 March	Paraparaumu
23 March	Bulls
23 March	Rangiora
23 March	Winton
24 March	Taupō
28 March	Te Puke
28 March	Masterton



Enrol on our website (<https://www.nzffa.org.nz/events/>) or scan this QR code if you want to attend a field day in your area, or learn more about them. It will take you to more information and the registration form. Everyone is welcome. Tea and coffee will be provided.



Some highlights from the files of NZ Country Trails



Farmstays/visits

Living off the grid, and learning to live self-sustainably, Sharon and Shane's story.



Farmstays/visits

The Mahaanui Farmstay, where you can enjoy a farm tour, bush walks, rest and relaxation.



Local History

The Glenbrook vintage railway where a bunch of railway enthusiasts have come together to rebuild the Branch Railway line between Glenbrook and Waiuku.



Bush walks

The Whareama coastal walk, situated on the east coast of the Nth Island between the popular beach resorts of Castlepoint and Riversdale.

For more information on any of the above go to the "Things to do" menu item on www.nzcountrytrails.com

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.

Subscribe to our newsletter:
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