

PETER & DIANE ARTHUR, TAIHAPE RD, HASTINGS

Peter and Diane's Woodlot near Hastings brings in welcome financial return.

Peter and Diane Arthur had the foresight to get harvest-ready early and reap the benefits of a strong log market. This is what they have to say about the harvesting project.

"About 4 years ago I contacted Bob Pocknall at the Napier office of PF Olsen Ltd to discuss the logging of 12 hectares of 25 year old pines.

"The trees were planted in a gully which started off gently but got progressively steeper and steeper and was no use for grazing. The aim was to be **harvest-ready** when the price was right.

"We were in no hurry to log the trees. Bob Pocknall, with Rob Coulson and Mike Hodgson from the Masterton office came and inspected the trees to get an idea of their quality and the layout of the site and for two years gave us the price we would get if we milled them.



Bob Pocknall

"In February this year (2013) Bob Pocknall said the price was the best it had been for sometime and we fortunately agreed to go ahead and start logging the trees, now about 28-29 years old. I say fortunately because not only was the price much better than it had been, but we were also in for a drought which meant fully loaded trucks were able to trundle across what were normally swamps.

"PF Olsen employed Jaden Heron, of Hawke's Bay Forestry Contractors Ltd to do the logging, and Burling Transport Ltd to cart the logs to Napier wharf, for shipment to China. Some pulp logs were sent to Panpac Ltd. Roadworks were carried out by A and M Excavating Ltd who had to put in one major culvert and just under a kilometre of new tracking. Due to the drought minimal shingle was required.

"Rob Coulson, along with Jaden and A&M Contracting sorted out the roading, and once logging had started, Rob visited on a weekly basis to make sure the log maker was getting the maximum number of logs into the most profitable grades. Mike Hodgson sent us a monthly harvesting report and **transferred large sums of money** to our bank account. Everything went smoothly with no accidents or mishaps and only a bit of down time due to machinery breakdowns.



"It was very good to have PF Olsen supervise the job.

Bob Pocknall will be organising the replanting of the block which will not be done till the winter of 2014. There is slash to be burnt next autumn and there will be weeds to be sprayed before replanting begins."

Peter & Diane Arthur
Hastings