

# TE AWAHŌHONU FOREST TRUST



## *Special Newsletter*

### CYCLONE GABRIELLE

Many of you have been asking about the impact the Cyclone had on the Trust's properties.

The damage and disruption to some parts of the farms and forestry operations has been significant.

Fortunately, your Trust is in a strong position, which has meant it has been able to respond quickly and is now able to make plans to fix everything back to how it was before the cyclone.

Our thoughts go out to all whānau of Te Awahōhonu Forest Trust that were affected by the floods. We know some of you have been severely impacted.

Please contact us if you think we can assist with the recovery in any way.





# TARAWERA STATION - SH5 TE HAROTO



Truck Entrance into Woolsheds



Tarawera Station recorded 340 mls of rain on the night of the 13th of February.

Such a huge volume of rain in a short time frame meant a lot of farm infrastructure didn't cope.

Just about every culvert on the farm was blown out and most farm tracks were damaged.

We estimate there has been 70ha of pasture lost to slips.

Fortunately Ngaio Contracting had earthmoving gear at the forest and was able to start clearing tracks straight away.

The priority was initially to provide temporary access so that stock could be moved.

The permanent repairs for the farm will likely take years and early estimates of costs are already very significant.

All staff were okay during the cyclone and have been working extremely hard on the recovery on behalf of the Trust. A huge thanks must go out to Carl and his team for all their mahi over the last 6 weeks.



SH5 Underpass



# GWAVAS STATION - SH50 TIKOKINO

Gwavas recorded 120ml and came through the storm relatively unscathed when compared to other farming operations in the wider Hawkes Bay region.

Rain in the ranges caused waterways that run through Gwavas to swell rapidly.

Two of the rivers re-directed themselves which caused areas of pasture to wash away and damage to approximately 2.5km of fence lines.

The bridge on the Pease property was undermined by the water and trees and now requires repair to the approach to reinstate fill that was washed away.



Fallen Willows Blocking Stream Causing it to Redivert



Damaged Bridge onto Pease Property

# A WAHŌHONU FOREST



The Kiwi's block was hit hardest with multiple slips wiping out many stands of trees.

Approximately 65ha of 10-year-old trees were lost.

The trees, silt and old slash that slipped off the hills filled the stream that runs into the farm causing the culvert under the main highway, and the stock underpass to block. This redirected the water down the main truck access road on Tarawera, causing significant damage to the track and filling the woolshed with silt and debris.

Fortunately, the more mature trees in the main forest and Waipunga blocks were relatively unaffected, however there were some trees that fell onto roads that will need to be cleared, and there are also several major road washouts in the main block that will need repairing.

The indigenous forest suffered very little damage at all which perhaps tells us something about the benefits of land being in mature native forest.

Hunting recommenced on Easter weekend, however, is restricted to blocks 1 and 3 at this stage due to access issues with the other two blocks.

## OTHER NEWS

- The field day that was meant to be held in April 2023 has been postponed due to Cyclone Gabrielle. We hope to hold this event later in the year, however, this is dependent on how repairs at Tarawera progress in the coming months. A date will be advised later.
- The 385ha Pease property that borders Gwavas Station has been purchased by the Trust. Takeover date was 1 April 2023. This farm is an integral part of the farming operation, and it is good the Trust has been able to secure the property.
- Planting of some new commercial pine trees is set to commence this Winter. In total 180ha will be planted on some of the more marginal and steeper parts of Tarawera, Geddes and the Popplewell blocks.