

Newsletter – March 2011

At our most recent AGM held last November in Hawera our long-serving chairman Ivan Willis stepped down from the chairmanship. Ivan had spent nearly a decade in the role, performing an admirable job in leading the West Coast Lessees' committee. I would like to thank Ivan for the time and effort he has put in to the chairmanship and for offering to remain on the committee to make available his great knowledge in West Coast Lease matters.

It is my pleasure to replace Ivan as chairman of the committee. With the 2010 rent review behind us, the committee's focus now is on maintaining our membership and preparing for the next rent review in 2017.

Levies

You will have received with this newsletter the latest levy notice. Because we didn't incur any major costs at the last rent review it was decided at the last AGM to reduce the annual membership levy to just \$10 per lease. This is a comparatively nominal sum that is aimed at covering ongoing administrative costs and ensuring that our membership list is kept as up to date as possible.

New Valuer

John Larmer has resigned as our valuer after years of dedicated service to our association. On behalf of the committee and all members I would like to thank John for that dedication. It is our good fortune that he will still be available to consult if necessary and has offered to aid his replacement when needed.

The committee has begun the process of appointing a new valuer. We see this as the most important role to be concluded over the next year. We will be looking to appoint someone who has excellent valuation credentials, a knowledge of our lease structure and valuation methods and is willing to commit to a long term relationship with our association.

ETS

There has been some discussion with PKW over the last couple of months about forestry in the ETS. Despite our strong protests it seems that PKW are entitled to claim any pre-1990 carbon credits that are available on our lease land. For most of us this will have very little or no impact, but for some leaseholders this will represent a significant loss in potential funds. However, our lawyers, Welsh McCarthy have indicated that, short of getting a change in legislation, there is nothing we can do.

If you are planning on claiming pre-1990 carbon credits, on non-West Coast Lease land, you must do so before November this year or you will miss out.

As leaseholders we do have the right to claim post-1989 forest carbon credits, but... each leaseholder who wishes to claim credits on lease land must get PKW to sign an 'interested party consent form' – for which

PKW have proposed charging \$750 per signature. We have protested this and PKW have agreed to a reduction in this fee if we can gain assurance from MAF that PKW will not take on potential liability themselves by signing the form – we are working on this.

Website

To help keep our members updated and to provide information to those thinking of buying or those that have recently bought West Coast Lease land we have developed a simple website – wcl.org.nz. It is in its infancy at present, but will be progressively added to. In time we expect the website to contain a brief history of the West Coast Leases and that of the PKW, a description of the valuation process by which rents are set, links to the relevant Acts of Parliament and contact details for the committee.

If you have any suggestions that you would like to see on the website, please email me – bendickie@orcon.net.nz.

Email Addresses

We would like to add email addresses to our database of contact details to aid in communication with all members and to reduce costs. If you have an email address please send me an email – bendickie@orcon.net.nz – with your name, name of the entity which holds your lease and, if possible, your lease number.

New Secretary

Since last October we have been very pleased to have the services of Elizabeth Worsley as our secretary. She is proving invaluable in keeping our association organised and running smoothly.

Ben Dickie
Chairman
West Coast Lessees Association.

Committee

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