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## Guest Editorial

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### **Special Supplement:**

#### **Fifth Meeting of the IUFRO Working Party S07-02-09, Phytophthora Diseases in Forests and Natural Ecosystems**

**7 – 12 March 2010, Auckland and Rotorua, New Zealand**

This special supplement of the *New Zealand Journal of Forestry Science* contains papers that were submitted following presentation at the fifth meeting of the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO) working party S07-02-09, Phytophthora Diseases in Forests and Natural Ecosystems. The meeting was held in Auckland and Rotorua, New Zealand, from 7 – 12 March 2010, and was attended by over 90 delegates from 14 countries. Prior to the formal scientific presentations in Rotorua, a field trip was conducted in the Waitakere Ranges west of Auckland to examine the pathogen *Phytophthora* taxon *Agathis* and its adverse effect on kauri (*Agathis australis* (D. Don) Lindl.), which is an iconic New Zealand native tree. This pathogen is having a serious impact on kauri by causing dieback in affected specimens. The field trip provided delegates with the opportunity to examine this disease first hand. A highlight of the conference was a moderated discussion at the end of the meeting, during which delegates offered suggestions to the New Zealand researchers and regulators who are tackling this disease problem.

The scientific content of the meeting was outstanding with a total of 66 presentations and 38 posters given during the conference. A number of these have been developed into full papers and captured in this proceedings document, which is being published as a special supplement of the *New Zealand Journal of Forestry Science*. As with all papers published in this international peer-reviewed journal, each paper in this supplement has been through a rigorous refereeing process. The papers in this supplement capture all aspects of research on *Phytophthora* from molecular genetics through to management. A book of abstracts was distributed during the conference; therefore, it was decided not to publish separate abstracts in this special supplement of the Journal. Abstracts by authors who consented to web access of their material can be found at <http://www.scionresearch.com/conference-abstracts>.

The impacts of *Phytophthora* in forests and natural ecosystems appear to be on the rise; perhaps assisted by increased trade, travel and tourism associated with globalisation. The potential for range expansion facilitated by globalisation is a real risk to both pristine ecosystems and managed forests. The papers presented in this special supplement of the *New Zealand Journal of Forestry Science* highlight the risk associated with *Phytophthora*. This is a very active IUFRO working party and it is planned that the next meeting will be held somewhere in Europe in 2012.

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