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E-news Number 37 for project teams and all those interested in Sustainable Farming in New Zealand

He mihi nui ki a koutou

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The MAF Merger - Changes for SFF

2011 was a year of change for MAF. The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and the Ministry of Fisheries officially merged on 1 July 2011. You can read about the merger [here](#).

As a result of the merger, MAF has been restructured. The Sustainable Farming Fund now sits within the 'Resource Management and Programmes Branch', led by Deputy Director General, Scott Gallacher. This branch administers and implements a range of policy and funding programmes and also supports the implementation of the Emissions Trading Scheme, fisheries management and the Aquaculture Unit. The new structure will streamline operations across all of MAF's funding programmes. The SFF staff will continue to ensure strong links into the Fund's previous home, the Policy Branch.

SFF will now be administered under the Growth and Innovation Group. This Group includes the Hill Country Erosion Fund, Climate Change Technology Transfer Programme, SLMACC Research Portfolio, Aquaculture Planning Fund (yet to be formed), Vet Bonding Scheme, and the Afforestation Grants Scheme. The newly appointed Manager of the Growth and Innovation Group is Stuart Day, who is currently Acting Manager Economic and Industry Development. Stuart will take up his new role early next year and we will introduce him in more detail in our next newsletter.

Our new Director is Kathy Mansell who has been with MAF since April 2010. She has previously held other roles within the public sector including working to implement the new Immigration Act and on a range of social housing programmes at both national and regional level. Her experience includes managing large scale construction and maintenance

contracts; managing cross sector programmes that involved central and local government, business, community and iwi; leading operational teams responsible for significant rental portfolios; and a range of business development roles. We look forward to Kathy meeting with some of you in the new year.

The SFF team would like to farewell and thank Fund Manager Denis Packer for his huge contribution to the SFF over the past three-and-a-half years. Denis has built up strong systems to support the Fund's operations and many of you will have met or spoken with him on a range of occasions over the years. We hope you will join us in thanking Denis – he will be missed!

SFF Now Open to Aquaculture Projects

The merger between MAF and the Ministry of Fisheries means that SFF now interacts with a wider range of New Zealand's farmers and growers. As a result, we are now accepting funding applications from the aquaculture sector (for both marine and land-based activities).

We are pleased to advise that several aquaculture applications from the first application round have already been approved to progress to SFF's Phase 2 application round in early 2012. We look forward to working more closely with the various industry groups in the new year.

Under \$25k Applications Due Soon

We have now completed Phase 1 of our Funding Round and successful applicants in the over \$25,000 category have been shortlisted to Phase 2.

However, there is still the opportunity to submit an application for a smaller grant (\$25,000 or under) by 13 February 2012. These grants are ideal for local projects, scoping studies or smaller sector groups.

Reporting Reminder

A reminder that our next reporting is due on Wednesday 14 March

Merry Christmas!

And that's us for the year. Please let us know if you have an idea for a story or an item you would like to contribute for future editions of SFF E-news. We would love to hear from you.

Also please let us know if you don't wish to receive any further editions of E-news, or if there is someone who should be added to our distribution list.

We wish you a great Christmas and a very happy New Year!

Kia rongo korero ano matou i a koutou

Denis, Claire, Helen, Janine, Louise, Mairéad and Amanda



New Zealand Government



Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
Te Manatū Ahuwhenua, Ngāherehere

