



13th - 19th November 2017



**RED HOT special**  
**\$5.99**  
kg

Fresh NZ Pork Leg Roast  
(Excludes Free Range)



**RED HOT special**  
**\$2.99**  
kg

Hothouse Tomatoes Loose/Truss

*Christmas starts here*



**\$5.49**  
ea

Alpine Butter 500g



**\$7.50**  
ea

Moccona Coffee Refill 75-100g



**2 for \$5.00**

Coke/Sprite/Fanta/Lift/L&P 2.25L



**\$3.00**  
ea

Cadbury Chocolate Block 155-220g



**\$29.99**  
pk

Export Gold/Tui/DB Draught/Speight's Gold Medal Ale/Summit  
24 x 330ml Bottles



**\$9.79**  
ea

Lindauer 750ml  
(Excludes Special Reserve)



Marlborough Research Centre chief executive Gerald Hope among eucalyptus trees being grown at Condors Bend. The trees can be harvested at this stage for durable vineyard posts.

## Home-grown hardwood posts work well in local vineyards

By Bill McElhinney

Durable hardwood posts in Marlborough vineyards don't have to be chemically treated, last longer, and break less easily.

A report just released highlights the promising performance of the first hardwood posts used in Marlborough vineyards.

Some 1400 posts were bought by six Wairau Valley vineyards between 2006 and 2009, with vineyard owners keen to try an alternative to copper-chrome-arsenic – treated pine posts.

Now, more than a decade after the posts were installed, vineyard owners have given feedback on the posts after they were assessed for decay and general performance.

“Our survey confirms that vineyard owners are generally impressed by the posts, thanks partly to their natural durability and acceptance under organic and sustainable wine-growing standards,” New Zealand Dryland Forests Initiative manager and report co-author Paul Millen says.

“The levels of breakage are far lower – more than 10 times lower – than for treated pine posts,” Paul says.

“Also, most posts are living up to the promise of being highly durable, with minimal decay after 11 years of use.

“Mechanised harvesting and pruning operations in vineyards mean hundreds of thousands of the brittle, chemically-treated posts break and need to be replaced every year,” Paul says.

“While some are recycled, broken posts are hazardous waste, with Marlborough District

Council's landfill the only local safe option for disposal.

“There are a huge number of broken posts stockpiled in vineyards, and a pyrolysis plant is currently being proposed at the landfill site to turn the posts into charcoal.”

This issue was first highlighted in 2003, and led to Marlborough-based Vineyard Timbers Ltd exploring the potential to produce a home-grown, naturally durable hardwood post as an alternative to treated pine.

This included testing various eucalypt species by sawing and selling posts from NZ grown trees and by planting trials in collaboration with Marlborough District Council and private landowners.

The Marlborough Research Centre liked the concept. Research Centre chief executive Gerald Hope hosted meetings and workshops that brought together key wine industry people, farm foresters and researchers from University of Canterbury's School of Forestry.

“My personal preference for vineyard trellising has always been to use locally sourced durable hardwood. It is a natural, renewable product that supports growing quality grapes for our premium wines,” Gerald says.

“The incoming Government has signalled strong support for the creation of new forests and for regional development. We hope to get the opportunity to talk to the new Minister of Forestry as soon as possible, and will lobby hard for the inclusion of naturally durable hardwood forests as part of any new planting initiative.”



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