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## PRESIDENT'S COMMENT

Andrew McEwen FNZIF  
President, NZ Institute of Forestry  
[president@nzif.org.nz](mailto:president@nzif.org.nz)

### Nominations for 2012/14 NZIF Council

It's been good to see that a few more nominations for the Council and Board have come in over the last week, but more are still needed if we are going to fill all the positions and to have a well contested election. Nominations close on Monday 13 February so you have only ten days to get your nominations lodged – please make sure you do.

### Compulsory levy proposal

Some members will be aware of the proposal by NZ Forest Owners Association to ask the Minister of Primary Industries for an Order (i.e. Regulation) under the Commodity Levies Act for a compulsory levy to be paid on all



harvested logs from plantation forests that are either exported in log form or processed in NZ. This includes all species and all production that leaves the forest in log or chip form.

The proposal is that the levy will collect funds from all forest owners (more specifically all those who are harvesting their forests) for the “common good” activities currently funded by voluntary levies raised from members of FOA. This would overcome the current situation where non-members can get benefits from the activities without contributing anything to the cost.

The process to get approval for a compulsory levy (which is effectively a government approved tax collected and used by a sector organisation rather than the government) is quite complex. It requires the promoter of the levy to take steps to contact all those who may be required to pay the levy and to hold a referendum in which all the potential levy payers are given an opportunity to participate. The referendum must pass two hurdles:

- There must be a “yes” vote from more than half of those who participate in the referendum;
- During the 12 months prior to the referendum, the total quantity of production (i.e. the quantity of harvested logs and chips) produced by those who vote “yes” was more than the quantity produced by those who vote “no”.

There are a lot of requirements associated with the proposal for a levy, gaining the Minister’s approval and implementing and administering a levy once approved. Further referenda must be held every six years to keep the levy going.

Compulsory levies are common in agriculture and stem from the days of producer boards and single desk marketing (for those whose memory goes back that far). But even in agriculture they can fail, and some of you will recall that in 2009 a referendum to renew the compulsory wool levy failed to get approval. Apparently the referendum met the more than 50% of production hurdle, but failed to get over the more than 50% of voters hurdle. The result was a dismantling of around \$11 million worth of common good activity relating to wool and a number of layoffs of scientists and others who were involved.

Details of the FOA proposal can be found on the FOA website ([www.nzfoa.org.nz](http://www.nzfoa.org.nz)). A series of presentations have been scheduled over the next two weeks, starting with Wellington on Tuesday evening (7 February) (details in this Newsletter and on the FOA website). The referendum is due to start on Monday 22 February, immediately after the last presentation.

I have been approached by some members asking what action NZIF is taken with respect to the proposal. In the short time since we received advice of the proposal and the timetable for its implementation, the Council has not been able to form a consensus view of what we could usefully do. However, for those members who may be looking for some further information, you might like to refer to an article *Why no compulsory levy?* which I wrote the *NZ Tree Grower* in August 2007 (pp.31-32) after I was personally closely involved in with previous proposal for a compulsory forestry levy. I have also made some notes on the current proposal that outline some of my personal concerns and some questions I would like answered. I would be happy to share the notes with members who contact me at [am.mcewen@xtra.co.nz](mailto:am.mcewen@xtra.co.nz). This material in no way represents an NZIF point of view.

This is a very important step for the forestry sector as it will set the scene for funding common good activity in the NZ forestry sector for some time to come. It is important that the proposal gets a good hearing and that those likely to be affected make sure that they make themselves familiar with it and with the consequences if the proposal does or does not proceed. I would urge as many of you as possible to try to attend one of the workshops.

One aspect that is concerning the Council is the speed at which the proposal appears to be going. If there are any serious issues that come up during the presentations that will affect the referendum, then they need to be addressed – but no time has been allowed for this. If matters that arise in the presentations are not addressed, then there is a greater risk that the referendum will fail – and that could be a real set-back for common good



funding in the forestry sector.

The NZIF Council would like to hear of any concerns that NZIF members may have over the proposal and would particularly like to receive suggestions from on what action, if any, NZIF should undertake.

## EU recognises importance of balanced and stable approach to forestry

NZIF members may be interested in steps being taken by EU Ministers to develop a legally binding agreement on forests in Europe. The objective is aimed at guaranteeing a balanced and stable continuity of all economic, environmental, cultural and social forest functions in Europe. It is expected to address the following:

- a. To ensure sustainable forest management in Europe and the long-term provision of a broad range of goods and forest ecosystem services;
- b. To maintain and enhance forest resources in Europe, their health, vitality and resilience, and their adaptation to climate change;
- c. To increase the resilience of forests to natural hazards and to protect forest against human-induced threats;
- d. To enhance the contributions of forests to the mitigation of climate change;
- e. To maintain and enhance the protective and productive potential of European forests;
- f. To halt the loss of forest biodiversity in Europe and combat desertification;
- g. To create and maintain enabling conditions for European forests to contribute to a green economy, employment and the development of rural and urban areas;
- h. To maintain and enhance the cultural and social functions of forests in Europe;
- i. To reduce, with the aim of eliminating, illegal logging and associated trade in timber and timber products;
- j. To improve the forest knowledge base through research, education, information sharing and communication;
- k. To enhance participation and cooperation on forests at local, national, regional and global levels.

More information is available at [www.foresteurope.org/eng/What we work for/Legally Binding Agreement](http://www.foresteurope.org/eng/What_we_work_for/Legally_Binding_Agreement).

Is this something that we would like to see in New Zealand?

## 35 members still have to pay their subscriptions

Yes, we still have 35 members who have not paid their 2011/12 subscription – an obligation of membership that was due on 30 April last year – 10 months ago. They have all received invoices and statements (several times) and have also had pleas for payment from the administrator and the President.

When we finally get through to some, they tell us that they haven't paid because they no longer want to be a member. Fine, but our rules require a member to notify the Institute that they want to resign. The rules also say that a member who resigns is liable for any fees outstanding up to the time of resignation. Another provision in the rules is that Council cannot strike off a member until they are two years in arrears – so that can't happen until at least May this year.

These rules are no different from those of other professional associations – and they probably have the same problems getting members to observe them.

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## MEMBER'S FORUM

(Please keep Guest Comment and Member's Forum contributions to around 300 words. Send contributions as an email attachment (Word document) to [newsletter@nzif.org.nz](mailto:newsletter@nzif.org.nz).

### A gloomy Friday

*John Groome, NZIF Honorary Member*

I wonder how many of your older readers noted the unfortunate juxtaposition of three disparate items in the last issue of your very informative Newsletter? Taken together they could easily represent “a gloomy Friday”.

First, and probably the most important, was Rob Miller's expose of the changes resulting from the merger (or takeover) of MAF by Fisheries. Apart from the loss of a very able and experienced forester, such as Rob, to an advisor capacity the list of new managers demands close examination by us all. No doubt these gentlemen warrant their appointment, but who in forestry circles can recognise the names? Does this mean that what has been an important land use in this country will have no experienced voice at the top policy-making levels? Will the School of Forestry need to train professionals or generalists?

Next, we read that some regional councils are mooting the policy of set-backs by forest owners of 25 m. This being based on misguided unscientific evidence that trees are bad for adjoining grass! Apart from the loss of use of the land, who will deal with weeds which will inevitably grow on this ungrazed strip – the adjoining farmer? Will the forest owner be compensated for their lost ground etc, etc?

Finally, the laudable proposal of an obligatory levy of 20 c. /cub.m. on the forest industry. This, it is claimed, will fund activities, formerly paid by the government – research, fire protection, disease and pest control. It is claimed that this will be paid by all forest owners, not just the members of FOA, who have done it for years. Fair enough, but will it be paid by the processing industry as part of the cost of logs, or just deducted from stumpage paid to the forest owner?

Forestry needs a voice to face all the above problems. As far as I can see, we only have the *Tree Grower* and your Newsletter to vent our fears. Kia kaha in the years ahead.

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## NZIF 2012 Conference

► Engineering Value Growing & Harvesting Forests for Novel Wood Structures



### GOLD SPONSOR



### 2012 NZIF AGM and Conference

The theme for the 2012 NZIF Conference is: *Engineering Value – Growing and Harvesting Forests for Novel Wood Structures.*

**Date: Sunday 1 July to Wednesday 4 July.** A CPD workshop and the NZIF AGM will take place on the Sunday. The conference on the Monday and Tuesday and a field trip on Wednesday.

**Venue:** University of Canterbury, Ilam Campus, Christchurch.

### GOLD SPONSOR



### Conference website now available

The 2012 Conference website is now up and running with information being loaded as it comes to hand [www.nzifconference.co.nz](http://www.nzifconference.co.nz). Check it out for initial details of the venue and programme – also details of sponsorships.

### GOLD SPONSOR & EXHIBITOR



### Online and postal registrations now being accepted for 2012 NZIF Conference

Registrations are now being accepted for the 2012 NZIF Conference, being held in Christchurch from Sunday 1 July to Wednesday 4 July.

If you haven't already done so, have a look at the programme on the conference website, [www.nzifconference.co.nz](http://www.nzifconference.co.nz). Then continue to the registration page (link on the right-hand side of the home page) and make the commitment to support NZIF and Christchurch.

### AWARDS DINNER



### Sponsorship opportunities for 2012 NZIF Conference now available

### SILVER SPONSOR



Sponsorship opportunities for the NZIF Annual Conference to be held in Christchurch from 1 to 4 July 2012 are now available. This event will have something for everyone. If you are interested in being a sponsor then get more details from the conference website or contact James



**SILVER SPONSOR**



Treadwell at [secretary@nzif.org.nz](mailto:secretary@nzif.org.nz). Many thanks to those listed in the side panel who have already become sponsors.

**Special thanks and welcome this week to the new silver sponsor, Forme Consulting Group, and to two new conference proceedings advertisers, Proseed and Forest Enterprises. Your support for this conference and for the NZIF is greatly appreciated.**

**SILVER SPONSOR**



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**Conference Organising Committee**

<b>Chair:</b>	Phil Taylor
<b>Treasurer:</b>	David Evison
<b>Speakers and Programme:</b>	Euan Mason and Chris Fowler
<b>Field Trip:</b>	Darren Mann
<b>Catering &amp; Entertainment:</b>	Dennys Guild
<b>Sponsorship:</b>	James Treadwell



**BREAKFAST SESSION  
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E: [carlene@eventmergers.co.nz](mailto:carlene@eventmergers.co.nz)  
W: [www.nzifconference.co.nz](http://www.nzifconference.co.nz)

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## NZIF BUSINESS

### Call for nominations for NZIF Council and Registration Board

A call for nominations for the next NZIF Council and for two forthcoming vacancies for the NZIF Registration Board has been emailed or posted (to those without email) to NZIF Members. The notice and nomination forms are also available on the NZIF website (under <About NZIF><2012 NZIF elections>).

#### Nominations for Council

Nominations are called for the positions of President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and six Councillors to make up the NZIF Council to serve from the earlier of 1 June 2012 or the 2012 NZIF AGM until the earlier of 31 May 2014 or the 2014 NZIF AGM.

Those nominated must be Honorary Members or Retired Members or Registered Members or Members or Associate Members of the Institute, but Retired Associate and Associate Members may only be nominated for the position of Councillor and only if they have been a member of the Institute for at least five years at the time of nomination (see Article 47). Only one Retired Associate or Associate Member can be elected as a Councillor. The procedure if more than one is in the six highest polling nominees is set out in Article 59.

#### Nominations for Registration Board

The terms of Registration Board members Mr Don Hammond and Mr Peter Gorman terminate on the earlier of 1 June 2012 or the 2012 NZIF AGM.

Nominations are therefore called for the following vacancies:

1. One Retired Registered or Registered Member of the Institute. In the event of more than one nomination, a postal vote will be held in which only Registered Members will be eligible to participate;
2. One Retired (but not Retired Associate) Member or Registered Member or Member of the Institute. In the event of more than one nomination, a postal vote will be held in which all members except Student Members will be eligible to participate.

The four-year term of those elected to fill the vacancies will begin on the earlier of 1 June 2012 or the 2012 NZIF AGM and will end on the earlier of 31 May 2016 or the 2016 NZIF AGM.

Registration Board members receive attendance fees and reimbursement of expenses.

#### General information about nominations

Each nomination must be made by no fewer than two NZIF members who may be any category of member except Student Member.

Nominations must be in the hands of the NZIF Secretary no later than **5:00 pm on Monday 13 February 2012** by sending to one of the following contacts:

#### Postal:

New Zealand Institute of Forestry  
PO Box 10-513  
The Terrace  
WELLINGTON 6143



**Email:** [admin@nzif.org.nz](mailto:admin@nzif.org.nz)

Emailed nominations do not need signatures, but the nominee and nominators will be contacted to confirm their agreement.

In the event that an election is needed for any position, candidate information will be sought from each nominee. It is expected that ballot papers will be distributed no later than Thursday 1 March 2012 and that the ballot will close no later than Friday 30 March 2012.

The NZIF Articles of Association can be found on the NZIF website ([www.nzif.org.nz](http://www.nzif.org.nz), click on <about NZIF> <Constitution>).

## Too many members still have to pay their subscriptions

**At latest count, there are still 35 members who have not yet paid their 2011/12 membership subscription that was due for payment no later than 30 April last year – yes they are 10 months overdue. They include 11 Associates, three Graduates, four Retired and 17 Members.** You have all had invoices, statement (both posted and emailed, messages from the administrator and President, so it's not as if you can claim you haven't been told. You have also missed out on the latest issues of the *NZ Journal of Forestry*.

If you are not sure if you have paid or not, rather than ringing Jay (the NZIF Administrator), the easiest way to check is to log-in to your member dashboard through the NZIF website and click on "account" in the left-hand side menu (although I suspect some of you may need to ask Jay to reset your password first). If you think you have paid, go back into your own records and tell Jay ([admin@nzif.org.nz](mailto:admin@nzif.org.nz)) exactly when and how you paid.

And remember that the 2012/13 invoices will be out soon, so if you don't want a two-year bill, better pay now.

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## SUBMISSIONS

Murray Parrish ([murray.parrish@chh.com](mailto:murray.parrish@chh.com)) is Submissions Coordinator. NZIF Members or local sections considering making submissions (even on what appear to be local issues) should advise him of their plans. Council can assist with the cost of making submissions (contact Murray for details).

## ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTING

A summary of submissions received in response to the consultation on "Measuring Up: Environmental Reporting – A Discussion Document" is available at <http://www.mfe.govt.nz/environmental-reporting/about/>. The NZIF submission on this topic, made in October last year, is available on the NZIF website.

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## LOCAL SECTIONS

Local section contacts can be found on the NZIF website ([www.nzif.org.nz](http://www.nzif.org.nz)).

### CANTERBURY SECTION

You are invited to the next local NZIF meeting:

**When:** Wednesday 29 February at 6:00 pm – drinks and nibbles followed by a short AGM, then a talk by Simon Rapley (NZ Redwood Co)

**Topic:** ‘Redwood in New Zealand’

**Where:** Lecture Theatre F3, School of Forestry, University of Canterbury

**RSVP:** Please confirm your attendance to Mark Bloomberg (Secretary/Treasurer) by email by Monday 27 February ([mark.bloomberg@canterbury.ac.nz](mailto:mark.bloomberg@canterbury.ac.nz)).

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## PACIFIC FORESTRY SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP

### Fijian wildlife book for sale



NatureFiji-MareqetiViti has available for sale a book by Dick Watling called *Mai Veikau, Tales of Fijian Wildlife*. The book originally published in 1986 contains 14 short stories recounting local folklore and providing substantiating scientific background to these traditional myths. It is beautifully illustrated in watercolours and pencil art of the Fijian wildlife described within. Most of the stories are based on articles written for the “Weekly Look at Nature” column, which appeared in the *Sunday Times* between March 1984 and 1985. If you are interested in purchasing some copies the prices are:

Retail: \$15 per copy

Wholesale: \$10 for five or more copies.

For international and local orders please visit our website on the link provided under ‘additional downloads’ (bottom of article):

<http://www.naturefiji.org/newsstory.php?id=149>

Kelera, Conservation Officer/Membership Secretary, NatureFiji-MareqetiViti (Ph: 3100 598; Fax: 3100 582, Email: [kmacedru@naturefiji.org](mailto:kmacedru@naturefiji.org)).

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## STUDENT’S SECTION

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## PEOPLE NEWS

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## ADVERTISEMENTS

The NZIF has no view on the service or product sought or advertised. Follow up any item directly with the advertiser, not with NZIF. A charge may be imposed, depending on the nature of the advertisement. If you respond to an advertiser, tell them that you saw it in the *NZIF Newsletter*.

## JOB VACANCY WEBSITES

Science jobs	<a href="http://fusionz.rsnz.org/">fusionz.rsnz.org/</a>
MAF	<a href="http://careers.haines.co.nz/MAF/Pages/Vacancies.aspx">careers.haines.co.nz/MAF/Pages/Vacancies.aspx</a>
NZ conservation jobs	<a href="http://www.conjobs.co.nz/index.php">www.conjobs.co.nz/index.php</a>
Department of Conservation	<a href="http://www.doc.govt.nz/about-doc/jobs-at-doc/current-vacancies/">www.doc.govt.nz/about-doc/jobs-at-doc/current-vacancies/</a>
Australian Government	<a href="http://jobsearch.gov.au/Login/Login.aspx?WHCode=0">jobsearch.gov.au/Login/Login.aspx?WHCode=0</a>
Australia Department of Agriculture Fisheries & Forestry	<a href="http://www.daff.gov.au/about/jobs">www.daff.gov.au/about/jobs</a>
FAO projects and professional vacancies	<a href="http://www.fao.org/employment/project-vacancies/en/">www.fao.org/employment/project-vacancies/en/</a> <a href="http://www.fao.org/employment/empl-professionalvacancies/en/">www.fao.org/employment/empl-professionalvacancies/en/</a>

## SCOTTISH FORESTRY STUDENT SEEKS WORK

My name is Samuel Riley and I am studying at the Scottish School of Forestry UK for a BSc Sustainable Forest Management with Forest Conservation. I am looking for a work placement for September 2012 to June 2013. It is my hope to eventually live in New Zealand. Can you assist in my search? Please email [paulchrissam@gmail.com](mailto:paulchrissam@gmail.com).



## CIFOR DIRECTOR GENERAL

The Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) advances human wellbeing, environmental conservation and equity by conducting research to inform policies and practices that affect forests in developing countries. We are one of 15 centers within the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research and the Lead Center of the CGIAR Research Program on Forests, Trees and Agroforestry. Our headquarters are in Bogor, Indonesia, and we have offices in Asia, Africa and South America.

We are looking for a Director General who shares our passion for enhancing the role of forests in human wellbeing and environmental conservation, and our commitment to professionalism, innovation, impact, and collaboration. The Director General is the Chief Executive Officer of the Center and is responsible to the Board of Trustees for the overall scientific leadership, operations and management of CIFOR.

To learn more about CIFOR and this opportunity, please go to the CIFOR website at <http://www.cifor.org>. Interested applicants are invited to submit their curriculum vitae and a letter of interest, including contact information for three referees to: [CIFOR-ExecutiveSearch@cgiar.org](mailto:CIFOR-ExecutiveSearch@cgiar.org). Closing date: the application deadline is **29 February 2012**. CIFOR is an equal opportunity employer. Staff diversity contributes to excellence.

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## PUBLICATIONS / MEDIA / NOTICES

### INVITATION TO FOREST OWNERS ASSOCIATION PROPOSED COMMODITY LEVY REGIONAL WORKSHOPS

The Forest Owners Association (FOA) is currently looking at a compulsory commodity levy under the Commodities Levy Act. This would involve forest owners voting on whether the industry should compulsorily fund the FOA.

The current FOA membership fee and targeted levy structure brings in income from FOA members. There are thousands of small forest owners in New Zealand. Therefore on an area basis almost one-third of forest owners do not contribute to the Association, and on a number of owners basis only a small percentage contribute. A voluntary levy is inequitable as it allows non-paying growers to benefit from the contributions of others. It is not possible to restrict the flow of industry benefits arising from FOA activities to FOA members. The results of FOA input to communication, policy development and research for example are nearly always available across the industry and cannot be restricted to FOA members. Projects undertaken by FOA benefit the industry generally. A compulsory levy on log production is equitable, as eventually the majority of forests are harvested, and the levy will be imposed at the time of greatest cash input for the forest grower.

The proposed commodity levy will be on all harvested logs from plantation forests that are either exported in log form or processed in NZ. This includes all species and all production that leaves the forest in log or chip form. A referendum to obtain approval for the commodity levy from potential payers will commence on 22 February 2012.

The levy will be administered by New Zealand Forest Owners Association Incorporated with the funds used to address issues affecting plantation forest owners. The reasons for moving to a commodity levy, and how levy payers can have their views listened to and incorporated into Association activities, will be presented at regional workshops.

We want your feedback and views. This is an opportunity that you can't afford to miss! Come along and be informed, and then tell us what you think.

Schedule for workshops:

City	Date	Time	Venue
Wellington	Thursday 7 Feb	6.00 – 7.00pm	Turnbull House, Bowen Street, Wellington
Balclutha	Wednesday 8 Feb	6.00 – 7.00pm	Rosebank Lodge Motor Hotel, 265 Rosebank, Balclutha
Christchurch	Thursday 9 Feb	6.00 – 7.00pm	ChCh Netball Centre, 455 Hagley Ave, Christchurch
Nelson	Friday 10 Feb	6.00 – 7.00pm	Tahuna Conference Centre, Tahunanui, Nelson
Napier	Monday 13 Feb	6.00 – 7.00pm	Napier War Memorial Hall, Marine Parade, Napier
Rotorua	Tuesday 14 Feb	6.00 – 7.00pm	Rimu Room, Scion, 49 Sala St, Rotorua
Gisborne	Wednesday 15 Feb	6.00 – 7.00pm	Juken NZ Boardroom, 74 MacDonald Rd, Matawhero, Gisborne
Auckland	Thursday 16 Feb	6.00 – 7.00pm	Rayonier NZ Boardroom, 32-34 Mahuhu Cres,



Whangarei      Friday 17 Feb      6.00 – 7.00pm      Auckland  
NZRC Lounge, Toll Stadium, Okara Dr,  
Whangarei

Please RSVP to Diane Davidson ([Diane.davidson@nzfoa.org.nz](mailto:Diane.davidson@nzfoa.org.nz)) by 3 February if you are able to attend. Full details of background, reasons for and other supporting information is available on the FOA website at [www.nzfoa.org.nz](http://www.nzfoa.org.nz)

### AMINZ SEMINARS

Interested NZIF Members have been invited to register and attend two workshops being run by the Arbitrators and Mediators Institute.

#### **Rural Disputes Seminar 16-18 March 2012, Wellington**

This intensive seminar will help develop in-depth tools to assist anyone with a rural dispute resolution practice or anyone wanting to more fully understand how to deal with disputes in the rural context. It will review and update a broad range of practical and technical material. The programme includes sessions on dispute resolution in relation to:

- Farm ownership structures
- Resource management
- Employment
- Technical issues
- Maori land issues
- Environmental issues
- Valuation and lease disputes
- Land tenure.

Presenters include: Ian Blackman, Ranald Gordon, Brett Gould, David Hosking, John Larmer, David Patten and Roger Pitchforth. For more information and to register: [www.aminz.org.nz/Event?Action=View&Event\\_id=337](http://www.aminz.org.nz/Event?Action=View&Event_id=337). Kindly sponsored by Fonterra and DairyNZ and supported by Federated Farmers.

#### **Conducting Safe Investigations 12 March 2012, Wellington 27 April 2012, Christchurch 1 May 2012, Auckland**

Investigations are often necessary in the workplace, but getting a good result is challenging. Those investigating and those in a management position need to well understand how to conduct a safe investigation. You can expect to extend your skills, build your confidence, and fine-tune your investigation process. You will learn best practice on how to avoid pitfalls of investigation and the minefield that lies between you and the solution. You will learn how to turn the trauma of an investigation into a healing process for the parties and the wider organisation.

This practical one day seminar will include short lectures, interactive workshops and practice exercises. Written materials to assist you to conduct a safe investigation will be supplied. Post-seminar mentoring is also available on request.

#### **Topics covered include:**

- The fundamentals of a safe investigation



- Relevant legislation and case law
- Preparing for and scoping an investigation
- Convening the investigation
- The role of the investigator
- Investigation process
- Writing the report
- Solving difficult scenarios
- Whistle-blowing
- Using internal or external investigators
- Post-investigation support.

Presenters: Chris Rowe and David Patten.

The workshops are strictly limited to a maximum number of participants in order for you to receive small group coaching and feedback.

For more information and to register see: [www.aminz.org.nz/Event?Action=View&Event\\_id=341](http://www.aminz.org.nz/Event?Action=View&Event_id=341).

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### MAF ADVICE TO MINISTER

If you are interested in the MAF Briefing Paper to the Minister of Primary Industries it can be found at: [www.maf.govt.nz/Default.aspx?TabId=126&id=1262](http://www.maf.govt.nz/Default.aspx?TabId=126&id=1262).

You can find briefings from other Departments and Ministries through [www.beehive.govt.nz/feature/briefings-incoming-ministers-bims](http://www.beehive.govt.nz/feature/briefings-incoming-ministers-bims).

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### NZFOA WORKSHOP: INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS FOR BIOSECURITY PROBLEMS – DOES GE HAVE A ROLE?

The NZFOA is holding the 10<sup>th</sup> annual Forest Biosecurity workshop in Rotorua on 28-29 February 2012. This year the focus is on the potential role of genetic engineering in providing solutions to biosecurity problems.

Biosecurity issues are increasing worldwide in all primary production sectors. Forestry is no exception as trade and travel increase and pests and diseases hitchhike to new destinations, establish in new environments, and often evolve into bigger threats. Breeding is the conventional tried and true method for combating plant diseases, but for conifer trees in particular it is very slow, and also cannot provide complete resistance. The main research goal of the NZ forest industry is to increase productivity while decreasing the incidence of foliar diseases, goals that are perfectly compatible. In light of rapidly evolving and spreading pathogens, innovative solutions are being sought that will provide robust and enduring benefits. This workshop will explore the option of GE and will discuss technical, social and environmental issues.

There is an outstanding line-up of speakers presenting at the workshop and it will kick off with an update by Dave Tanner, GM PSA Innovation for Zespri, on what has happened with the kiwifruit PSA incursion 12 months on. The role of GE in providing potential solutions will be covered from a variety of angles including technical, environmental, social and market perspectives.

For more information and registration contact the NZFOA Forest Biosecurity Manager – Bill Dyck ([BillDyck@xtra.co.nz](mailto:BillDyck@xtra.co.nz)). The workshop is by invitation only and forest industry and MAF reps will have priority for the limited spaces available.



## RSNZ LECTURES

### *Unquenchable: America's Water Crisis and What to Do About It*

#### **Wellington:**

Wednesday 8 February at 6:00 pm, Victoria University, Rutherford House Lecture Theatre 1, Pipitea Campus

#### **Christchurch:**

Thursday 9 February 6.00pm, University of Canterbury (venue to be notified)

A lecture by Professor Robert Glennon, University of Arizona. Professor Glennon discusses the tragedy – and irony – of water in America. From the Vegas Strip to faux snow in Atlanta, from supersized bathrooms to mega-farms, from billion dollar water deals to big time politics and personalities, his acclaimed book *Unquenchable: America's Water Crisis and What To Do About It* has revealed the heady extravagances and everyday waste that are sucking the nation dry. America must make hard choices – and his answer is a provocative market-based system that values water as a commodity and a fundamental human right. His answers have a global context and resonate with the issues being faced here in NZ. There is no cost to attend, and bookings are not required. For further information contact: [brent.clothier@plantandfood.co.nz](mailto:brent.clothier@plantandfood.co.nz)

## 2012 BIOCHAR WORKSHOP: FROM SCIENCE TO STAKEHOLDERS

This is to be held on 9-10 February 2012 at Massey University, Palmerston North. See Biochar website: [www.biochar.co.nz](http://www.biochar.co.nz). Topics include: production technology; biochar economics; characterisation of biochars; biochar-soil-plant interactions; application case studies; and life cycle assessment. Contact: [L.M.Lowe@Massey.ac.nz](mailto:L.M.Lowe@Massey.ac.nz).

## CFA YOUNG FORESTER AWARD

The Commonwealth Forestry Association (CFA) is pleased to announce the launch of the Young Forester Award 2012. The award is designed to support the professional development of foresters below 35 years of age through the provision of a short-term work placement in a country other than their own and consists of a designated placement combined with a bursary of between £1000 and £1500 to cover a stay of between three- and six-months (depending on the placement selected) with established and renowned forestry organisations in order to meet their professional interest. The hosts might be major timber companies, research organisations or NGOs but they all share the desire to support the development of the next generation of foresters.

Applications for the Young Forester Award are invited from students and young professionals below the age of 35 years on 30 June 2012 who are nationals of Commonwealth countries. Please note that as part of the CFA's continuing support to Small Island Developing States (SIDS), for the 2012 Young Forester Award we particularly encourage applications from foresters from SIDS within the Commonwealth. In addition we encourage applications from women, those with disabilities, and nationals of developing countries. See [www.cfa-international.org/youth/yfa.php](http://www.cfa-international.org/youth/yfa.php) for more information.

## LANDCARE TRUST CONFERENCE

The 'Landcare In Action' conference is being held on 29 February to 1 March 2012. This year's conference will take place in the pleasant surroundings of the Gallagher Academy of Performing Arts on the University of Waikato Campus in Hamilton. While the venue has excellent facilities and a delightful atmosphere, space is limited. Therefore the conference management team has put a strict cap on delegate numbers. To avoid disappointment we suggest you register now using our simple online registration system. This can be found by



following the link from the conference page: [www.landcare.org.nz/conference](http://www.landcare.org.nz/conference).

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## CALENDAR

The events in this calendar have come from a range of sources and no responsibility can be taken for errors. Contact the organisers to check times, locations, costs etc. New events are marked in moss green.

### February 2012

- |                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| Tue 7 – Fri 17             | FOA commodity levy regional workshops (nationwide), <a href="mailto:Diane.davidson@nzfoa.org.nz">Diane.davidson@nzfoa.org.nz</a>                      |
| Wed 8                      | RSNZ lecture: America's water crisis, Wellington, 6:00 pm, <a href="mailto:brent.clothier@plantandfood.co.nz">brent.clothier@plantandfood.co.nz</a>   |
| Thurs 9                    | RSNZ lecture: America's water crisis, Christchurch, 6:00 pm, <a href="mailto:brent.clothier@plantandfood.co.nz">brent.clothier@plantandfood.co.nz</a> |
| Thur 9 – Fri 10            | Biochar Workshop, Massey University, Palmerston North, <a href="http://www.biochar.co.nz">www.biochar.co.nz</a>                                       |
| Fri 10                     | NZIF Council Meeting, Wellington  |
| Mon 13                     | Nominations close for NZIF Council and Registration Board vacancies   |
| Wed 15                     | Trees on farms workshop, Central Hawke's Bay, <a href="mailto:i.nicholas@clear.net.nz">i.nicholas@clear.net.nz</a>                                    |
| Wed 29 Feb                 | Canterbury section meeting, <a href="mailto:mark.bloomberg@canterbury.ac.nz">mark.bloomberg@canterbury.ac.nz</a>                                      |
| Wed 29 Feb –<br>Thur 1 Mar | Landcare Trust Conference, Hamilton, <a href="http://www.landcare.org.nz/conference">www.landcare.org.nz/conference</a>                               |

### March 2012

- |                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| Frid 16 – Sun<br>18 Mar | Rural Disputes Seminar, <a href="http://www.aminz.org.nz/Event?Action=View&amp;Event_id=337">www.aminz.org.nz/Event?Action=View&amp;Event_id=337</a>   |
| Mon 12 Mar              | Conducting Safe Investigations Seminar, Wellington, <a href="http://www.aminz.org.nz/Event?Action=View&amp;Event_id=341">www.aminz.org.nz/Event?Action=View&amp;Event_id=341</a>                 |
| Wed 7 – Wed<br>28       | 2012 Leonard Cockayne Memorial Lecture Tour, <a href="http://www.royalsociety.org.nz/programmes/awards/cockayne-lecture/">http://www.royalsociety.org.nz/programmes/awards/cockayne-lecture/</a> |
| Wed 21                  | ForestWood Conference, Wellington, <a href="http://www.forestwood.org.nz">www.forestwood.org.nz</a>  |
| Sat 31                  | Charles Fleming Fund Call for Applications close, <a href="http://www.royalsociety.org.nz/programmes/funds/fleming/">http://www.royalsociety.org.nz/programmes/funds/fleming/</a>                |

### April 2012

- |        |  |
|--------|--|
| Fri 27 | Conducting Safe Investigations Seminar, Christchurch, <a href="http://www.aminz.org.nz/Event?Action=View&amp;Event_id=341">www.aminz.org.nz/Event?Action=View&amp;Event_id=341</a> |
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### May 2012

- |       |  |
|-------|--|
| Tue 1 | Conducting Safe Investigations Seminar, Auckland, <a href="http://www.aminz.org.nz/Event?Action=View&amp;Event_id=341">www.aminz.org.nz/Event?Action=View&amp;Event_id=341</a> |
|-------|--|

### July 2012

- |               |   |
|---------------|---|
| Sun 1         | NZIF AGM, Christchurch  |
| Sun 1 – Wed 4 | NZIF Conference, Christchurch, <a href="http://www.nzifconference.co.nz">www.nzifconference.co.nz</a> |



Sun 1 – Wed 4 NZIF Conference, Christchurch, [www.nzifconference.co.nz](http://www.nzifconference.co.nz)

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## NZIF CONTACTS

<b>President:</b>	Andrew McEwen	<a href="mailto:President@nzif.org.nz">President@nzif.org.nz</a>
<b>Secretary:</b>	James Treadwell	<a href="mailto:Secretary@nzif.org.nz">Secretary@nzif.org.nz</a>
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Chayne Zinsli	<a href="mailto:Treasurer@nzif.org.nz">Treasurer@nzif.org.nz</a>
<b>Registrar:</b>	Mike Marren	<a href="mailto:Registrar@nzif.org.nz">Registrar@nzif.org.nz</a>
<b>Administrator:</b>	Jay Matthes	<a href="mailto:Admin@nzif.org.nz">Admin@nzif.org.nz</a>
<b>Journal Editor:</b>	Piers Maclaren	<a href="mailto:Editor@nzif.org.nz">Editor@nzif.org.nz</a>
<b>Newsletter Coordinator:</b>	Helen McDonald	<a href="mailto:Newsletter@nzif.org.nz">Newsletter@nzif.org.nz</a>
<b>Newsletter Advertisements:</b>	Julianne Orr	<a href="mailto:Julianne.orr@batesonpublishing.co.nz">Julianne.orr@batesonpublishing.co.nz</a>

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