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(* means new material in this section and new items are marked with a moss green heading)



PRESIDENT'S COMMENT

Andrew McEwen FNZIF
President, NZ Institute of Forestry
president@nzif.org.nz

Building failures, forestry and professional obligations

The inquiry into the collapse of the CTV building in Christchurch is raising issues worth considering from forestry and professional points of view.

The designer of the building is reported admitting that the project was beyond his level of competence (apparently it was the first high-rise building he had designed), and this was followed by his employer saying that it was within the designer's competence.

In general, there seems to have been a breakdown in the sequence between someone wanting to have a building constructed and what is eventually delivered to that person. In the chain are architects, specifiers, design engineers, local authority officials, suppliers, builders and others. The impression I get is that many people are pointing fingers in many directions and making some disturbing statements (one I heard was a suggestion that the builders were not working off the plans that were approved).

There seems to have been a similar breakdown in the case of the collapse of the floor at the Canterbury University Events Centre on 13th July when 900 students were dancing on it. The media reported on 27th July that an independent investigation commissioned by the university has blamed “human error” for the failure. The media report went on to say that a construction firm managed and coordinated the project but said it did not design or build it. Another company said it had some involvement with a subcontractor but wouldn’t say who the subcontractor was. The architects who designed the centre said they were only responsible for the concept of the centre and for overseeing the project.

So questions remain as to who actually specified the building, and did they include the possibility of 900 students dancing on the floor (presumably a common event in a student building), and who did the engineering design to support that specification? Was there any chain of responsibility running from the beginning to end of the project to ensure that the specification was suitable for the projected use, the engineering design matched the specifications and the finished product was as designed?

The CTV building was designed about 25 years ago in the mid-1980s. It collapsed under the strain of two massive earthquakes. Even though the enquiry is still continuing, we could be forgiven for thinking anyone involved with a building in Christchurch since those earthquakes would be very aware of the need for adequate specifications and engineering design. They should also have been aware that the people of Christchurch did not need more failures.

Those responsible for the student building have let down the expectations of a lot of people.

Having set out the background, what about those professional and forestry issues?

The forestry one is pretty simple. How many members of the public will have said the student centre “should have been built in concrete or steel”? There are strong parallels with leaky homes – design faults that allowed moisture to get into places it should not have been and, when there, it could not get out. Because there was untreated wood in those places, the moisture rotted the wood and so untreated wood is the culprit. What a bonanza for the steel-framing advocates – and I have heard the steel industry is already investigating what advantages it can get out of the collapse of the floor of the student building – no doubt the concrete boys are also.

We need to be quite clear, it is not wood that failed in the student building. If it had been steel or concrete of matching specifications it is also likely to have failed when subjected to a load it apparently was not designed for. The failure in the CTV building is not because concrete was used. In both cases it is a failure of the specification and design process.

We may also see timber blamed for the derailments of trains following news this week that hardwood railway sleepers imported from Peru are rotting after only a few years in service. The NZIF wrote to the Minister in charge of KiwiRail in November 2008 expressing concern about the import of sleepers from Peru. We included reference to a research report that estimated a 35-year in-service life for treated radiata sleepers – so again it is not the failure of timber that is the problem. It is the use of timber that does not meet the specifications that should have been used.

Now to the professional issues. The Code of Ethics of the Institute of Professional Engineers (IPENZ) includes the following:

Members shall recognise the need to protect life and to safeguard people, and in their engineering activities shall act to address this need.

A Member must—

- (a) not misrepresent his or her competence; and
- (b) undertake engineering activities only within his or her competence; and
- (c) not knowingly permit engineers whose work he or she is responsible for to breach paragraph (a) or paragraph (b).

I am not sure that the same requirements were in the code when the CTV building was being specified, designed and built, but the IPENZ Code of Ethics is binding on members and those who breach them can be disciplined.

The NZIF Code of Ethics contains the statement:

A member should not undertake any work for which the member is not qualified or where the member is in any doubt or ought to be in any doubt as to the adequacy of the member's professional competency and/or experience to undertake the work unless such work is completed under the supervision of a person of adequate competence.

As with the IPENZ Code, the NZIF Code of Ethics is binding on all members and those who breach them can be disciplined.

Continuing Professional Development

Last week Wink Sutton questioned the requirements relating to continuing professional development. It is necessary to correct some parts of the item. The NZIF website records that CPD is:

1. Systematic (i.e. planned with regard to the individual's job, employer's business strategy, client needs and career);
2. Includes both maintenance of existing knowledge and skills and the development of new ones;
3. One of the responsibilities of being a professional;
4. Bound by the principles of adult learning and quality management including the setting of learning objectives and evaluating results, applying outcomes in practice;
5. Can include learning that occurs on-the-job through research projects etc;
6. Broader than just technical skills – includes interpersonal skills, business management and other areas that contribute to professional effectiveness.

The following are the minimum requirements for CPD for a Registered Member (check the NZIF website for a fuller description):

- A minimum of 10 hours of CPD in any year while the member is registered;
- A minimum of 100 hours in each five-year period after the member is first registered (to coincide with the five-year reviews of registration);
- The minimum requirement shall include at least 50 hours of Type 1 CPD (i.e. formal seminars and conferences, including NZIF AGM, conferences and local section events, tertiary papers, short courses) and must include attendance at a minimum of one NZIF conference and AGM during the five-year period;
- The balance can be made up of 50% of the time spent on activities such as: in-house training courses run by employers, authorship of technical articles for publication provided that this involves the assimilation of new learning, structured private study and research on a specific topic or problem e.g. learning a new computer programme or new analytical tool, with specific objectives being set, various information sources being explored and documented, and results, conclusions and recommendations being written up; original presentations or teaching of a job-related nature plus preparation up to three times the length of the actual presentation; preparation of forestry standards, technical guidelines and professional submissions; serving on NZIF boards, committees, tribunals and other professional roles.

The NZIF Code of Ethics (and Registered Members reaffirm adherence to these each year) states:

As part of maintaining the standards of professional competency ... every Registered Member shall, unless exempted by Council, participate in an ongoing annual programme of Continuing Professional Development in accordance with guidelines published to members from time-to-time by the Institute.

The purpose of the Registration Scheme as set out in the NZIF Rules is:

To provide a means for individual members to be recognised by their peers and others for attaining and maintaining:

- Appropriate qualifications and understanding of the principles of forestry processes;
- Continuing development of professional skills, abilities and knowledge;
- High standards of professional conduct.

The Board is required to administer the registration scheme. This requires ensuring completion of CPD. As set out above, CPD is much broader than attendance at workshops specifically aimed at an individual specialisation. Attending one NZIF conference every five years should not be onerous and nor should attendance at local section events, serving on local section committees and some of the other activities that qualify for CPD.

Professional standards

If some members think I am showing a fairly uncompromising attitude to professional standards in the two items above, you are right. But there is a reason for this. Those of you who have attended the recent NZIF workshops and followed items in the Newsletter will know that we are working towards applying for an exemption for NZIF Registered Members under the Real Estate Agents Act. If we are successful with the application it will mean that quite a few Registered Members will be able to continue activities that they have traditionally carried out for their clients and employers without having to become licensed Real Estate Agents.

But before an exemption can be granted, the Minister has to be satisfied that there are sufficient processes in place to ensure competent and ethical conduct on the part of those who will benefit from the exemption. Part of our application is concerned with describing our registration scheme and particularly the fact that it involves peer review, qualifications, experience, adherence to a Code of Ethics (which includes not operating outside your competence), CPD and a complaints and disciplinary process for those who breach the Code of Ethics or NZIF Rules.

If the Institute wants to take the step of applying for an exemption, which would give our registration scheme statutory backing for the first time, the Council and the Board must take an uncompromising attitude to observance of the Rules and Code of Ethics, particularly on the part of Registered Members. The alternative is that a significant proportion of our Registered Members will need to become licensed Real Estate Agents or advise their clients to engage a licensed Real Estate Agent to undertake work our members (including quite a few unregistered members) are currently doing. If that happened, we might as well scrap our registration scheme.

Trees win award

Great to hear John Dawson and Rob Lucas's book *New Zealand's Native Trees* won the New Zealand Post Book of the Year as well as the illustrated non-fiction award. The judges said "From the detailed and authoritative research, accessible and comprehensive writing, detailed yet expansive photography, near flawless editing, design and layout, this is a quality book from start to finish." If you haven't already had a look at a copy, it is well worth the effort.

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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.)

Reponse to Wink Sutton – necessity of CPD requirements for consultants

Bert Hughes RMNZIF, Wairarapa

I write with tongue firmly in cheek in opposition to Wink Sutton's expressed view that you can have so much knowledge that you have no further need of learning. With the greatest respect to our Fellows, I must suggest that those who are at such an exalted level within their specialised fields that they cannot learn any more are precisely those who need CPD the most. Those wise ones should consider learning from the humanities, classics, literature (even horror of horrors, management) or other fields of human endeavour. As you specialise in learning increasingly more about less and less, then you risk shrinking within yourself to become a walnut of ossified technical knowledge with no knowledge of the potential of new and beautiful things. I suggest those minds that are so constipated with technical knowledge look to other fields for inspiration and not within themselves for justification.

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NZIF BUSINESS

2013 Conference – mark your diaries

The 2013 NZIF AGM and Conference is scheduled to be held in New Plymouth from Sunday 30 June to Wednesday 3 July 2013. Make a decision to attend and block out the dates in your diary now.

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Foundation Establishment Appeal

The Foundation Establishment Appeal has so far raised over \$102,000, with pledges of a several thousand dollars more. The immediate target is at least \$200,000 if annual income is to be able to deliver the level of awards made this year.

To make a donation (eligible for tax credits) contact foundation@nzif.org.nz.

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SUBMISSIONS

Murray Parrish (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).

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LOCAL SECTIONS

CNI SECTION

Joint NZIF/APPITA Technical Meeting and FFR Science Awards

Date: Tuesday 14 August 2012
Venue: Kingsgate Hotel, Fenton Street, Rotorua

The programme is as follows:

- 6:30 pm Registration and cash bar
- 7:30 pm Smorgasbord dinner
- 8:30 pm “NZ’s Forest Products Industry – First Steps Toward a High Value Future”, Jon Ryder, CE, CHH Pulp, Paper & Packaging
- 9:00 pm “Implementing the BOP Forest & Wood Processing Strategy – Current Developments”, John Galbraith, Forest Industry Consultant
- 9:20 pm FFR Science Awards to Industry and Research Recipients, Russell Dale, CEO, Future Forest Research presented by the Hon Nathan Guy, Associate Minister of Primary Industries
- 9:40 pm “Stability of the ETS for the Forest Industry” and “Review of Commitment to the Woodco Strategy”, the Hon Nathan Guy
- 10:10 pm Conclusion of evening.

The cost is members: \$35 and non-members: \$45. The following payment options are available: cash; cheques paid to “Appita NZ Section”; credit cards (Visa, Mastercard and Amex but note that Amex payments incur a 3% surcharge; direct credit to APPITA NZ Section Account, National Bank 060413 0178800 00; pre-arranged invoice).

The organisers are David Herries, Interpine Forestry Ltd; david.herries@interpine.co.nz; and Dexter Morgan, Morgan Consulting Ltd; morgand@xtra.co.nz. Please register no later than Friday 10 August 2012 by contacting Karen Clark, Appita, appita.nz@xtra.co.nz. People who register for technical meetings, but fail to attend on the night will be charged. Please advise Karen before the day of the meeting if you can no longer attend.

Local member assistance needed

We’d like to have any names of people who would like to help with our local section. Karina Bohle has retired as local secretary, and this space is available immediately. I would also be willing to move aside for some new enthusiasm to push regular meetings along. The management of the local section has been significantly simplified by the national body recently with the focus of the chairman and secretary positions concentrating only on arranging local member events, with all administration tasks now managed by the national office.

Event suggestions

Increase your professional development by suggesting topics and speakers for workshops in our local region. We welcome all feedback.

David Herries, CNI Local Section Chair, 021 435 623, Office (07) 345 7573 ext 721.

OTAGO-SOUTHLAND SECTION

Otago-Southland Forest Products Industry Meeting

Date: Wednesday 29 August 2012

Venue: Rosebank Lodge, Balclutha

When: 5:30 pm – drinks and/or pre-dinner presentation, 6:30 pm – dinner, 7:15 pm – after-dinner presentation

The **Southern Wood Council (SWC)**, in conjunction with the local branch of the **NZIF** and the **mid-Otago Branch of the NZ Farm Forestry Association** has planned an evening's networking – along with good food and some excellent company. It is designed for all those involved in or associated with forestry in the lower South Island and it runs in Balclutha on the evening of Wednesday 29 August.



Pre-dinner meeting: At 5:30 pm Simon Trotter, a student from the University of Canterbury, will present his results from a just completed Forest Monitoring Survey of Corporate and Small Growers in Otago-Southland. He will report on the relative costs of forest management for corporate and small growers in the region and from this work the profitability from modelling of forestry for small growers. Early arrivals can either join others in the bar for pre-dinner drinks or grab a drink and head through to this meeting.

After-dinner presentation: Recently nine New Zealanders made a trip to Austria to check out the very latest developments in forest engineering and steep slope harvesting. The group attended a European forest engineering conference attended by foresters from some 37 countries. A highlight of the trip was a field day with 50 live in-forest demonstrations of cable technologies, ground-based harvesting and chipping equipment. The group of Kiwi's also visited a number of harvesting operations in southern Austria and a large sawmill complex. Amongst the group was Guy Bonner, Forest Production Manager from City Forests. He will give a run-down through a slide show of what they saw – related to the industry anyway – on their trip and lessons learned for local forestry companies and harvesting operations.

So what do you need to do? Email: kerry.apthorp@innovatek.co.nz. Note: registrations need to be received *before* Monday 27 August. The cost for the evening is \$40 plus gst = \$46 per person.

WESTLAND SECTION

Justin Morgenroth will be representing the School of Forestry at the University of Canterbury regional evening in Greymouth next week. The regional evenings are intended to allow prospective students and their parents an opportunity to learn a bit more about the forestry science or forest engineering programmes.

It would be great to see the sons/daughters/nephews/nieces of members at the event if they're interested in studying forestry science at UC. The event will be hosted at the Kingsgate Hotel in Greymouth from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm on **Wednesday 8 August**.

Contact Justin at justin.morgenroth@canterbury.ac.nz or phone (03) 364 2128 if you need more information.

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PACIFIC FORESTRY SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP



New SPC research project

Thursday 2 August 2012, Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), Suva –A new four-year research project aims to develop the technologies, processes and expertise to produce high quality veneer and veneer products from senile coconut trees.

SPC's Land Resources Division (LRD) has teamed up with the University of Tasmania's Centre for Sustainable Architecture with Wood (CSAW) and the Australian Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation (DEEDI) to look into the development of high quality veneer and other products from coconut wood.

The forestry departments of Fiji, Samoa and Solomon Islands and several industrial companies in the region are also collaborating in the project, which is funded by the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR).

Speaking at the inception meeting held in Suva, Fiji, the acting Director of LRD, Inoke Ratukalou, said that coconut plays an important role in the socio-cultural and economic life of the Pacific Islanders. "It is one of the most important crops in the Pacific Islands, contributing to food and nutritional security, and the socio-economic well-being of our people.

"Coconut trees also play an important role in the Pacific Islands' climate change adaptation strategies and therefore SPC will continue to support the development of this crop," he added.

This project, he explained, is a follow-up of an earlier ACIAR-funded project on *Improving value and marketability of coconut wood*, which aimed at the production of flooring from solid coconut wood for the high quality hardwood flooring market overseas.

"While that project was able to identify the technology and process required to develop an excellent flooring product, a major issue was the low recovery of the required high density materials, which has implications throughout the supply chain."

Ratukalou said that it was with the flooring project in mind that the idea of investigating the use of senile coconut palms for veneer was born. "We are grateful to our partners in Australia for further developing this idea into a full project proposal, and to ACIAR for agreeing to fund it."

The four-year project will receive total funding of AUD1.3 million and is envisaged to assist in coconut rehabilitation work. Finding uses for senile coconut stems has been problematic. It is hoped that this income-generating veneer project will encourage communities to replant their old coconut plantations and enhance livelihoods in the Pacific region.

Workshop on Carbon Rights and REDD+

Who owns the carbon in the forests? This was the question discussed by participants from various government departments, resource owner representatives, NGOs and the forest industry in a workshop on 'Carbon Rights and REDD+' held on Wednesday 1 August 2012 at the Holiday Inn, Suva. The workshop was organised by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) and the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) in

collaboration with the Fiji Forestry Department and IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature).

Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) is an emerging international mechanism which provides financial incentives to developing countries for conserving or sustainably managing their forests. Fiji is well-advanced in REDD+, having adopted the Fiji REDD-plus Policy in February 2011, and being well on the way to developing its detailed National REDD+ Strategy. The purpose of the workshop on "forest carbon rights and REDD+" was to contribute to this process, by identifying the legal and policy options for clarifying who owns the carbon in the forests.

With its strong customary land tenureship and control of natural resources, ownership of carbon rights is an important issue for Fiji. The owner of the carbon rights will enjoy both benefits and risks: the benefit of the revenues that protecting the forest can generate, but also the risks in the event that the forest resource is lost.

This national-level workshop is part of a larger regional study by SPC/GIZ on forest carbon rights and REDD+ in Melanesia, through which the Melanesian countries will be able to share their ideas and views on how carbon rights should be regulated.

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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 the 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. To advertise in the Newsletter contact the NZIF Administrator, admin@nzif.org.nz, ph (04) 974 8421.



Harvesting/Roading Supervisor

- Full time permanent
- Variety and responsibility

Blakely Pacific Limited is a New Zealand forestry company and is the subsidiary of Port Blakely Tree Farms in Seattle, USA. Sustainable forest management, integrity, honesty and being a good corporate citizen are four of the springboard values of Blakely Pacific.

Blakely Pacific is seeking a Harvesting/Roading Supervisor who will be responsible for assisting the

Operations Manager (Harvesting) in coordinating and controlling the company's harvest and roading activities. The role will be based from our Timaru office, and our harvesting operations are currently located between Mid Canterbury and North Otago.

The key responsibilities of the Harvesting/Roading Supervisor will include:

- Supervise harvesting operations in conjunction with the Operations Manager (Harvesting) including:
 - Monitoring compliance with health and safety requirements
 - Monitoring compliance with environmental requirements
 - Communication and monitoring of crew cutting plans
 - Discussing and practically solving operational issues as they arise
- Oversee road construction and organise road maintenance in conjunction with Operations Manager (Harvesting). Assist in the development of harvesting plans and roading plans and ensure resources are in place to execute those plans effectively.
- Assist with budget forecasting and monitoring.
- Manage and monitor contractor performance.
- Ensure quality control processes in place and followed.
- Prepare all harvested units for planting operations.
- Identifying opportunities for growth through third party harvest opportunities.
- Any specific project work relating to harvesting and roading, as directed.

To be successful in this role, you will have previous experience in harvesting/roading situations, and preferably will have been involved in planning and managing them. You will be confident working unsupervised and acting with initiative. Good numeracy and computer skills are essential as are good time management and communication skills. You will be proficient using Microsoft Office software, mainly word and excel and also have ability to work and manage Forest Information systems and basic level competency with GIS technology. Coupled with these technical skills, you will be energetic, able to meet deadlines, self-motivated and enjoy working with external and internal clients.

If this sounds like you, please forward your application letter and CV to:

Claudine Lemon
clemon@blakely-pacific.co.nz
Blakely Pacific Ltd
PO Box 13-980, Christchurch 8140

Applications will close on Friday 17th August 2012.

Applicants for this position should have NZ residency or a valid NZ work permit.

Blakely Pacific Ltd is a drug and alcohol free work place and the successful candidate will be required to pass a drug and alcohol test before commencing.

JOB VACANCY WEBSITES

Science jobs	fusionz.rsnz.org/
MAF	careers.haines.co.nz/MAF/Pages/Vacancies.aspx
NZ conservation jobs	www.conjobs.co.nz/index.php
Department of Conservation	www.doc.govt.nz/about-doc/jobs-at-doc/current-vacancies/
Australian Government	jobsearch.gov.au/Login/Login.aspx?WHCode=0

Australia Department of Agriculture Fisheries & Forestry www.daff.gov.au/about/jobs

FAO Forestry vacancies

Chief Technical Advisor (Integrated Land Use Assessment)
Forestry Officer (REDD+)

More details at <http://www.fao.org/employment/current-vacancies/project/en/>

Lincoln graduate seeks work

I am an ex-student of the Lincoln University who graduated with a Post Graduate Diploma in Applied Science (Seed Science and Technology) in 2006 and a Bachelor of Science Degree in Forest Management in 2004 from the Papua New Guinea University of Technology. I am seeking employment within the field of seed science and technology, Department of Forestry in the field of nursery and plantation establishment and Department of Environment and Conservation in the field of in-situ and ex-situ conservation of tree plant species. I would also be interested in working in the general forestry, environment and conservation areas. Thanks. *Alex Agiwa* (aagiwa@bul.pngfa.gov.pg)

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PUBLICATIONS / MEDIA / NOTICES

JIM TAGGART BOOK ON WOOD ARCHITECTURE STILL AVAILABLE

If you want to order a copy of Jim Taggart's book *Toward A Culture of Wood Architecture* you have until 5 pm on Monday 13th August (\$NZ45.00 plus postage (postage within NZ, not Canada to NZ)). Jim, a Canadian architect, was a keynote speaker at the NZIF Conference.

If you would like to place an order please contact Jay Matthes (admin@nzif.org.nz, phone 04 974 8421) as soon as possible. If you know of others who may be interested in a copy please pass on this message with a request that they place an order by this date as well.

Jim Taggart teaches history and theory in the architectural science degree programme at the British Columbia Institute of Technology and is the editor of *Sustainable Architecture and Building* magazine. He has also delivered more than 80 professional development seminars on behalf of the Canadian Wood Council in North America.

FOCUS ON WOOD INNOVATION

What is Wood Innovations 2012? It is a new technology event designed with a wide cross-section of forestry and wood products companies. Some of the most innovative products out in the marketplace at the moment as well as major tech providers and R&D specialists from Australia, NZ, the UK, Germany, Finland, Austria, the US and Canada will be involved in this technology series in mid-October.

Why Wood Innovations 2012? Innovation – the process of generating and developing new processes or products. For forest products companies, we've been successful in developing and fine-tuning manufacturing processes. Innovation is still strong. New equipment, tools and systems have been adopted by local companies to improve their productivity and operating efficiencies. In most instances, rather than a breakthrough, it's been

a step change.

Increasingly local companies are recognising that to remain competitive they need to “think outside the square”. To stay in the game, there is an urgent need to evaluate new product innovations that can be adopted. They need to diversify their current manufacturing, their product mix and markets.

What should I do? Be prepared to be wowed by what is being developed for solid wood and panel products in Wood Innovations 2012.

Check out the full and updated programmes now at www.woodinnovationsevents.com.

AVAILABLE FREE TO A GOOD HOME – 36 YEARS OF CJFR

I have a print collection of the *Canadian Journal of Forest Research* spanning the period 1974 (Vol. 4) to 2009 (Vol. 39) inclusive. I reluctantly cancelled my personal subscription in 2010, as the cost and postage had become prohibitive, and because as a Canadian citizen I have free online access to the journal. The collection is available **free** to any institution or person who wishes to take the whole thing – shipping is at your cost! Except for my personal notations, all volumes are in excellent condition. When I checked today, the collection was complete, save for two issues from 2002 that will likely turn up in my office. They are heavy – must be something over 50 kg – and span about 3.5 m of bookshelf space.

While preference will be given to educational and other institutions where the journal can be shared by more than a single person, all proposals will be considered at this point as we hope to find a good home sooner rather than later. *Dr Tim Mullin*, BioSylve Forest Science NZ Limited, 45 Korokoro Road, Lower Hutt 5012. Ph (04) 589 7676 or email tim.mullin@biosylve.com.

IPCC CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION ASSESSMENT – EXPERT REVIEW OF FIRST-ORDER DRAFT

The first-order draft of the Working Group III volume of the IPCC’s Fifth Assessment Report is undergoing global expert review from 20 July to 14 September 2012.

The Working Group III report contains 16 chapters related to mitigation of climate change. These chapters fall under the following four broad headings:

- Introduction
- Framing Issues
- Pathways for Mitigating Climate Change
- Assessment of Policies, Institutions and Finance.

Interested experts are invited to submit review comments on this first-order draft. This will assist the author teams to identify and correct any errors and to make sure that the report is comprehensive and balanced in its treatment of available published scientific information and uncertainties.

Interested experts are invited to register at: www.ipcc-wg3.de/ar5review/registration/. Once registered, they will be sent details on how to access the draft and submit review comments.

Please note that the assessment is still in draft form and has not been accepted or approved by the Panel. The WGIII First Order Draft is provided for the sole purpose of review; thus reviewers must preserve confidentiality of the chapters at all times and should not distribute them. The chapter authors will produce a revised draft following the review period, taking into account the full range of comments they receive. This Second Order Draft will then undergo a further round of Government and Expert review.

THIRD INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON PLANTED FORESTS

This Congress ('Renewable Resources for the Future') is to be held on 16 -21 May 2013. The Plenary Meeting will be held in Estoril (Portugal) preceded by scientific workshops in Bordeaux (France), Dublin (Ireland), Porto (Portugal), Bilbao (Spain) and Edinburgh (UK). See http://www.efiatlantic.efi.int/portal/events/2013_icpf

The world's population continues to expand and more pressure than ever before is being placed on the forest resources. Planted forests, although only 7% of the world's forest resources, have superseded naturally regenerating forests as the principal source of industrial wood products. Demand towards the forest sector is expected to increase in the next decades not only for traditional sector but also for bio-energy, biochemical and by-products.

Lessening the pressure for wood production, tree planting has released natural forests to be managed for other purposes – carbon sinks, soil and water protection, conservation of biological diversity, recreation and amenity. Representing a complement, but not an alternative, to natural forests, planted forests have become increasingly important for reducing worldwide deforestation, loss of forest ecosystems and forest degradation.

Two international conferences on planted forests have been held previously in Chile in 1999 and New Zealand in 2003. Both highlighted the need to promote the multiple dimensions of Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) in view of the social and environmental challenges of the 21st century. Since then, new research, global assessments of planted forest resources and outlook studies for wood from planted forests, best practice guidelines and many interesting cases of country applications from around the world have documented and further emphasised the global significance of planted forests.

In parallel, international processes and financing mechanisms have increasingly recognised the central role of planted forests for mitigating climate changes, conserving biodiversity and combating land degradation. In contrast to these positive developments, negative social and environmental impacts of planted forests have given rise to concern.

It is therefore timely to investigate the contribution of planted forests to sustainable development in the context of global changes and to organize a Third International Congress on Planted Forests. Central topics include the sustainability of planted forests in the context of changing climates and the future role of planted forests in environmental protection and REDD+. The aim is to address issues surrounding planted forests today, their productive, environmental and social functions and the challenges they present. The target audience includes forest scientists, policy-makers, the private forestry sector and forest managers.

NZ WOOD TIMBER DESIGN AWARDS

Differentiation and competitive edge a driver behind huge surge in entries

"NZ's only Timber Design Awards achieved a massive jump in entries this year, reflecting the desire of professionals to differentiate themselves and their practices from the rest," says NZ Wood CEO Jane Arnott. "Winning an NZ Wood Resene Timber Design Award provides a competitive edge that is compelling in a marketplace that values expertise. The awards cater to such expertise, and they help draw a line in the sand between mediocrity and brilliance. In these tough economic times, what better way to do this than to put your work forward to be judged alongside your peers," says Ms Arnott.

2012 attracted 93 entries across the nine categories – more than three times the number in 2011 and a record in the more than 30-year history of the Timber Design Awards. Of these, 38 have been selected for second stage judging which requires the entrant to provide greater detail. Not every architect, architectural designer or engineer has the ability or inclination to create practical, safe, cost-effective yet dramatic homes and commercial premises in wood.

Wood as a construction material offers a level of versatility and texture that can be inherently challenging to today's designers. Understanding the beneficial properties of wood (including its resilience in earthquakes, its acoustics, structural strength and sustainability can be the domain of a new breed of professionals. Deciding to use indigenous timber to create dramatic and warmly special and often carved impacts is another unique consideration that only comes with wood.

"Highly skilled practitioners relish using wood because it can develop their own professional skills and meet their client's wishes – we commend them and will promote the winners strongly once they are announced in October," said Ms Arnott.

Finalists are expected to submit their second stage entry by Friday 7 September 2012, and winners will be announced at an awards ceremony on Tuesday 9 October 2012 at MOTAT Aviation Hall in Auckland. Minister of Building and Construction, the Hon Maurice Williamson, will be officiating. Details of the finalists, their projects, and tickets for the awards evening can be found at <http://www.nzwood.co.nz/timber-design-awards-2012/>. For more information contact Jane Arnott, CEO NZ Wood, 021 807 002, Jane.arnott@nzwood.co.nz

NZ ECOLOGICAL SOCIETY – ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2012

The conference is to be held on Sunday 25 November (student-only day) to Thursday 29 November (field trip day) at Lincoln University. The Organising Committee is now calling for papers for the 2012 NZES conference. The theme is: 'Is New Zealand Ecology on Solid Foundations? You are invited to submit an abstract to present a spoken paper or poster around the following symposia topics:

- Restoration Ecology
- Microbial Ecology
- Plant Functional Traits
- Drylands Research
- Next Generation Sequencing
- Wildlife Management and Conservation
- Community-led Projects
- Data Archiving.

There will also be general sessions in the conference for papers that do not readily fit into these symposia. The deadline for submission of abstracts is 14 September 2012. Earlybird registration closes on 30 September 2012. Further instructions and an abstract template can be downloaded from the conference website page <http://www.nzes.org.nz/events/conference-2012>. Please contact the conference organiser James Ross (james.ross@lincoln.ac.nz) if you have problems submitting your abstract.

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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.

August 2012

Wed 8	University of Canterbury regional evening in Greymouth (see Westland Section), justin.morgenroth@canterbury.ac.nz
Tue 14	CNI Section, Joint NZIF/APPITA Technical Meeting and FFR Science Awards (plus dinner)

Wed 22 – Thur 23	Carbon Forestry, Auckland, website here . NZIF members receive a special 10% discount off the advertised conference registration rates.
Wed 29 Aug	Otago-Southland Forest Products Industry Meeting, kerry.apthorp@innovatek.co.nz
October 2012	
Tue 9	NZ Wood Timber Design Awards, http://www.nzwood.co.nz/timber-design-awards-2012/
Wed 10 – Thur 11	Wood Innovations 2012, Melbourne, Australia, www.woodinnovationsevents.com
Tue 16 – Wed 17	Wood Innovations 2012, Rotorua, www.woodinnovationsevents.com
Fri 19 – Sun 21	Ex-New Zealand Forest Service workers – Westland get together, keenanr@kinect.co.nz
November 2012	
Sun 25	NZ Ecological Society Annual Conference, http://www.nzes.org.nz/events/conference-2012
Wed 28 – Thur 29	ForestTECH 2012 – Improving Wood Transport & Logistics, Melbourne, Australia, www.foresttechevents.com
December 2012	
Tue 4 – Wed 5	ForestTECH 2012 – Improving Wood Transport & Logistics, Melbourne, Rotorua www.foresttechevents.com
May 2013	
Thur 16 – Tue 21	Third International Congress on Planted Forests, http://www.efiatlantic.efi.int/portal/events/2013_icpf
June-July 2013	
Sun 30 June – Wed 3 July	NZIF AGM and Conference, New Plymouth

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