

mercial operations have been excised the new stand-alone agency should be able to do all necessary sectoral planning and servicing.

The Institute of Foresters does not believe the functions of the Forestry Council are necessarily appropriate now, given the reorganisation of the sector and it is certainly timely to review both the objectives and status of the Council. The Institute's view of Council places great emphasis upon its role in development of a longer-term utilization and marketing strategy for our wood resource. Although this goal has been accepted in principle by virtually all the sector there have been difficulties in achieving the degree of industry confidence and commitment necessary to realise real progress. We feel much of this observable sluggish participation reflects present short-term constraints in wood supply, the atmosphere of change to established order introduced by Government early in its term, the still predominant place of domestic sales relative to total wood processed and the pronounced move by Forest Service to secure greatly increased revenues from wood sales wherever possible. None of these factors looms so significant in the longer term when wood availability expands suddenly and greatly — even in the short term the free-up of trade restraints in wood products (for example papers and paper board) may be expected to highlight the need for improved industry cooperation.

Institute opinion has confidence that Ministry of Forestry staff could expertly collect data on forestry and monitor the vigour and contribution of forestry to the nation but this does not constitute sector planning. We feel the national interest is best served by positively encouraging and aiding genuine inter-industry consultation and planning — this implied a degree of separation from the Forestry agency. The Institute suggests an allied or alternative participatory role by the Council overseeing Ministry activities may be worthy of consideration. Regardless of the immediate future of the Council as presently established it seems inevitable that industry will eventually generate some sort of producer board, lobby group or whatever. However the need in forestry is for planning in advance and discipline in moving towards perceived goals. Forest management generally and silvicultural practices specifically determine cost and quality characteristics in the wood resource. Wood and the wood industry can respond to markets and marketing only if timely decisions are made well in advance of harvesting. The long term is a very real dimension in forestry; short-term market forces are not reliable

## Main points from Council meetings (May-June 1986)

1. The Institute is to convene an in house seminar on the topic of Forest Valuation. FRI would run the seminar and provide the Chairman. Council does not wish to indicate support for any one valuation method over another, but wishes to ensure that all methods included in an approved "basket" do in fact meet certain criteria. Council can then be satisfied that only members of the profession are qualified to value trees and will proceed to advise Inland Revenue, the Courts and the Institute of Valuers accordingly.
2. Standing committees set up were  
**Membership** — J. Holloway (convenor), P. Berg, plus one other member to give an 'outside' view.  
**Education/Training** — H. Bunn (convenor), G. Cameron and L. Vaughan.  
**Reorganisation** — Thode, plus others as necessary.
3. Council is concerned that the Institute's forest policy is not widely understood, indeed whether the term "forestry" is properly understood. There has been a lot of discussion on matters of definition, policy and whether the name of the Institute and its journal really reflects the nature of what the Institute should be over the next decade. Council wishes to encourage debate on these questions and members are encouraged to do so via their local sections or their nearest Councillor.
4. Council decided to print 3000 copies of the new Handbook. These will be out in August. There will be enough to service the likely needs of training institutions for the next few years. Council agreed that the production of another handbook should be looked at in five years' time.
5. Council is remaining in touch with environmental Ministers and the Permanent Heads of the new departments to ensure that the Institute's

guides to building a secure and competitive forestry sector around the forests already planted.

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philosophy is properly understood, and that foresters are not disadvantaged in the subsequent staffing reshuffle. For this reason, Council has to be very clear in its perception of forestry, and be sure that foresters are being educated and trained appropriately to meet the various demands over the next decade.

The Council has a challenging yet exciting period ahead.

## Annual General Meeting 1986

"The Business of Forestry" was the theme of this year's Annual General Meeting held in Wellington last May. There were 120 delegates with a total of 165 people involved when family members were included. The organisation of the meeting was excellent and the Michael Fowler Centre proved to be an exciting venue.

The organisers had lined up an impressive list of speakers. The meeting was opened by the Minister of Forests.

Only selected papers presented by the speakers are to be published in future issues of New Zealand Forestry. These are likely to be:

Bassett, C. The role of the Forest Service in the conservation of indigenous forests.

Cooper, A.N. and Ashley-Jones, C. The economics of fire prevention in exotic forests.

Easton, B. Forestry as a growth sector.  
Girling-Butcher, W. Forestry Insurance.  
Gleason, C. The structure of forestry — when will it be big enough to think small?

Piddington, K. Balancing conservation values and the needs of society — the tasks of the new institutions.

Proctor, R. A rationale for current government policy towards forestry.

However, copies of the following papers which are not to be published are available at \$3 each (including postage) to members by writing to the Institute's Secretariat:

Hunt, M. Investor confidence in forestry.  
Keating, J. E. International competitiveness and trade patterns in the Pacific basin 1985-2000.

Maughan, C. W. The domestic demand

for sawn timber and panel products (exotic softwoods) in New Zealand.

Scales, G. N. Requirements for successful trade in processed forest products.

Scott, R. J. The need for cheaper wood, electricity and other inputs to maintain international competitiveness.

Stevens, B. Environmental forestry — should the user pay?

Woods, N. R. The international dimension to longer-term planning in an open market economy — the case for NZ forestry.

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting have been sent separately to members. Other major points from the meeting were:

- Clause (i) of the Code of Ethics was proving difficult to uphold, particularly by consultants who were required to follow the code. Clause (i) states that colleagues "shall not check the work of a colleague without the latter being informed". This often put consultants in a difficult position as they were required to maintain client confidentiality. Council would like members' reaction to deleting this clause so that a recommendation can be brought before next year's A.G.M.
- The next A.G.M. is to be held in Greymouth with a suggested theme: "Is there still a place for multiple use forestry?"
- The 1988 A.G.M. may possibly be held at the Chateau Tongariro and as this is in the centennial year for National Parks, a suitable theme might be: "Foresters in the Environment — where are they now?"



A.G.M. field trip — Bill and Jan Studholme on safari at Mt Bruce wildlife reserve.

## Membership issues — One member's view

The ongoing debate on membership of the Institute has been subject to continuous and healthy deliberation since 1974, when major changes to membership criteria were effected. On addressing this issue I am mindful of the inseparable issues involved — the Institute's objectives, the means to achieve these aims, our perceptions of identity as foresters, and so on. The continued monitoring of membership rules will help ensure the Institute's continuing relevance. At the same time, it is to be hoped that the present specific issues can be satisfactorily resolved in a reasonably short period of time.

As the Institute's object is to promote the best use of New Zealand's resources and to encourage the wise use of forests and forest land, forest management may be reasonably considered to be our central concern. Practitioners in this field, notably field managers, technical planners, scientists, consultants and administrators, traverse an integrated but diverse range of activity. This diversity in the overall discipline of forest management contributes to a very broadly based and exciting profession. It also provides a range of aspirations which may even be defined as conflicts of interest in some situations. I believe that a reasonable consensus of opinion of our basic identity as foresters is important to provide a sound foundation on which to develop the Institute's "*modus operandi*", including such matters as membership criteria. Where this identity lacks clarity, focus and drive may be diluted.

The nature and tradition of forest management in New Zealand is markedly different from other more clearly demarcated professions such as law, medicine or accountancy. These professions generally have the following characteristics:

- self-employed practitioners operating from private chambers;
- direct one-to-one financial arrangement with client;
- dispensing of personalised, private services.

The nature of the growing consultant sector of the forest management profession is nearest in structure to these professions. However, it is expected that the vast majority of foresters will continue to operate in the same environment as at present — that is, as salaried employees in public and private sector organisations providing non-personal management services.

These observations suggest that the Institute, as the body to represent forest management, should seek to be a broad-based organisation to cover the widest catchment of personnel. If there is a need to provide a membership facility at the top level to recognize professional excellence it is hoped that such a category could be established without 'elitising' the Institute or dissipating the more fundamental issue of maximising the range and number of general members. It is most difficult, I believe, to see how emphasis on extension of the membership ranking of the Institute at the top end will do much to help resolve the wider and more fundamental issues.

There seems to be limited value in revising membership specifications without also reviewing other facets of the Institute and injecting new vigour as appropriate. In particular, development of activities that are calculated to attract new members are strongly recommended. We may find it useful to look at the programmes carried out by other successful, growing organisations as guidelines. The importance of the following activities merits emphasis:

- **Journal** I support the thrust of current changes. They are positive steps to increase interest and appeal. However, we need to guard against the loss of the wide-ranging technical papers that were the foundation of the previous format, and contributed to the advance of forestry on a broad front.

- **Council Submissions** Continuation of this work is vital to ensure that Institute concerns are presented at relevant national forums. However, greater input from local sections appears desirable.

I consider, however, that a much wider range of outward-looking activity is needed if the Institute is to be seen as an objective forestry advocate, a means of public education, and coordinating body. This will involve taking forest and land management issues into the public arena by developing a higher public profile, conducting seminars and so on. Local sections, as much as Council, would need to be involved. Attainment of such programmes would of course depend on recruitment and turnover of greater numbers of energetic local officers. As membership increases, we can be confident that such people will readily appear. To assist this process, it is suggested that some form of agreed