

Council comment on membership — submissions invited

Since the May 1986 AGM Council have had a small committee further examining the membership committee's report and discussion at the 1986 AGM, and subsequent correspondence. Generally strong support for some greater recognition of merit is evident. The number of levels or divisions of merit that could be recognized in a relatively small professional organization was felt to be around two to avoid an unnecessarily complicated membership advancement formula when placed over the formal membership structure. A small percentage of the membership were concerned that provision for merit categories of membership could lead to an elitist group.

Council at its meeting on October 2 considered proposals that met some of the reservations expressed and these are outlined briefly below. All reference to numbering in the rest of this discussion is based on that used throughout the article on the membership committee report.

Council concluded that in addition to Honorary members, one other merit class should be recognized, i.e. Fellow. The affiliate category would be removed. Council's proposal is closely akin to **Alternative 1** but excludes provision for a Companion category.

Council propose:

- 1(a) Student and Honorary membership remain as currently defined.
- (b) Associate — an applicant for admission or advancement to the class of Associate member may be anyone with an (a demonstrable?) interest in forestry. The remainder of the Committee's proposal is excluded on the basis that it would be extremely subjective and difficult to exercise.
- (c) Council propose adding a further requirement to those proposed by the Committee, i.e.,
 - “(i) shall have completed a formal course of a standing recognized by Council in some branch of forestry or an allied discipline, with this requirement able to be waived where

in the opinion of Council it is desirable to do so”, and either
(ii) or
(iii) (formerly (i) and (ii) as proposed by the membership committee).

(d) Full (Companion) — delete.

- (e) (i) Council proposed fellows should be nominated by two **Fellows**, but initially until the category of Fellow is adequately represented by institute members, nominated by **Council**. Or nominated from time to time by a majority vote of a local section's members, as part of their general business.
- (ii) — (vii) Stand as written.
- (viii) The total number of Fellows to be not more than 10% of the total membership

in Honorary, Fellow, Full and Associate categories, (currently around 750).

Council consider that the Honorary member category enables recognition for those who give long-term service to the Institute and accordingly do not favour Alternative 2.

Council now invite the membership to consider these revised proposals and write expressing any views. Letters received over the next two months will be reproduced in the next issue of NZ Forestry (in part or full), and will lead to the development of a formal constitutional change to be proposed for consideration at the 1987 AGM in Greymouth.

Peter Berg

Honorary Members 1986

John A. Church

The elevation of John Church to Honorary Member was proposed by Peter J. Thode (Honorary Treasurer) and seconded by John Rockell (Full Member) at the 59th AGM and Conference held in Wellington during May 1986. He has made valuable contributions to Forestry and the Institute during his life.

Career

John's working life in forestry began in 1946 with the New Zealand Forest Service as a junior labourer on the Indigenous Forest Survey. After a short stint at Victoria University he commenced work as a technical trainee in Southland at Dusky Forest. In 1948 he took part in the pulp and paper survey at Kaingaroa, then spent six months at Waipā Sawmill. From 1949 he worked as a logging trainee at Waipā and Kaingaroa Forests.

In 1951 he moved to N.Z. Forest Products Limited in whose employ he has remained. His first three years were spent in the technical areas,

particularly mensuration, before he was allocated operational responsibilities.

He has worked in operations since 1954. Some special responsibilities have included regeneration treatment, 10m pruning and in particular the development of machinery for establishment and nursery operations. He became Superintendent Operations for the Western Division of Kinleith Forests in 1974 and then responsible for Operation Services in 1981. In 1985 he was transferred to Whangarei, as Assistant Superintendent Northland, responsible for all operational activities. Throughout this time he has provided practical advice and knowledge to the wide range of Operations in Kinleith and Northland.

Institute

John joined the N.Z. Institute of Foresters in 1949 and held office in the Rotorua Local Section from 1958 to 1960. He acted as convenor of the 1971 AGM held in Taupo and was elected