

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

to the position of Treasurer in 1972. It was his work over eight years (1972-80) in this post that showed his dedication. In 1974 he added control of the N.Z. Journal of Forestry subscriptions service, a thankless job. Anyone who has been associated with this side of the Institute's work will appreciate the hard work required. The more so because records were manual throughout most of this time.

John stood down from this post in 1980 but then assumed the role of Registrar of the Consultants' Committee. He toiled at this for a further four years until 1984, at which time he finally gave up a formal role in the Institute (after a stint of 14 years).

During all that time his colleagues had a high regard for his abilities and his very significant contributions. His elevation to the status of Honorary Member was carried with acclamation.

— P.J. Thode

Jim Spiers

Jim Spiers was proposed as an Honorary Member by Mick O'Neill (Full Member) and seconded by Ron O'Reilly (Full Member). He has made large contributions to the Institute, to forestry and to harvesting in New Zealand.

Jim Spiers commenced his career in forestry in 1941, when he joined the Forest Service as one of the first groups of trainees appointed. Jim made up his mind to concentrate on harvesting and that really has dominated his career in forestry since then.

One of the first jobs he did after graduation was to write the first Kaingaroa logging plan, helped by Pat Crequer and Eric Johnson. The interesting point about this plan was that it was the first major logging plan written in New Zealand, and in the first few years the Kaingaroa Logging Company followed it very closely. This was a landmark — it was a plan that worked and was used by the people it was designed for.

Jim's career had its moments. Following his return from Canada, after doing a masterate in logging engineering, there was some difficulty in finding a slot for him. One feature of his career was his willingness to argue with people regardless of their status; perhaps this is one reason he was sent to Minginui for a period.

After Minginui he was appointed Logging Superintendent, based in Head Office, Wellington. Next he was appointed Officer-in-Charge Kaingaroa, and was there during a period of major growth.

As the first Director of LIRA, Jim tackled a very difficult job but one that has been appreciated by the industry. Although he retired in 1983 he still has a large influence in the logging field.

Jim has also contributed to the Institute. As a member he has always supported it. He was also a Council member, Vice President, and later President (1972-74). He has also been a foundation member of the New Zealand Loggers Association and is a member of the New Zealand Forest Engineering Institute.

His elevation to Honorary member was greeted with acclamation.



Lisa Crozier is the second woman ever to be appointed a member of the Council of the Institute of Foresters. She is also currently chairperson of the Canterbury local section of NZIF.

NZIF submissions

The Institute has recently decided to make submissions to:

- * The Minister of Forests, on the Forestry Corporation Establishment Board Report.
- * Minister of Lands, on the composition of the Crown Estate Commission Establishment Board Members.
- * Parliament's Select Committee, on the Environmental Bill
- * Parliament's Select committee, on the State-owned Enterprises Bill.
- * Parliament's Select Committee, on the Taxation Reform Bill No. 2.

* Mr K. Piddington, Director General of Conservation, on the nature of the Institute of Foresters and the role of its members in the area of environmental forestry.

* Dr R. Blakely, Ministry for the Environment, on the Preliminary report of the Working Party on West Coast forests.

* Chairman, Land Development and Management Corporation Establishment Board, on its initial report.

Copies of these are available on request from the Secretary, P.O. Box 12-314, Wellington North.

INSTITUTE AWARDS

At the Annual General Meeting the following awards were given:

Schlich Memorial Prize

Mr Peter Sweetapple, now with the Forest Research Institute in Ilam, was the top student at the School of Forestry, University of Canterbury, and was awarded the Schlich Memorial Prize. As Peter was unable to attend the annual general meeting, Dr Don Mead accepted the prize on his behalf. However, the local Canterbury Branch were able to honour Peter at their June meeting.

Mary Sutherland Bequest

This bequest went to Mr Ian Reed who was last year's top graduate of the Certificate of Forestry Science Course. Ian Reed works for the Forest Service, Nelson.

The New Zealand Institute of Foresters Travel Award

The 1986 overseas travel award was presented to Blair Haggitt who plans to use the award visiting the United States. On his visit he will look at agroforestry and other aspects of forest management. Blair is with the Forest Service in Palmerston North.