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INSTITUTE NEWS

NZIF comment on 'Report of the Review Committee on Education and Training in the Forest Industry'

The Institute believes that the Review Committee have adopted an overly simplistic, narrow approach to the issues. Their approach is dominated by short-term rather than long-term thinking and is unduly influenced by the uncertainty which characterizes the forestry sector consequent upon the massive disruption of the past two years. The Institute believes that, within a few years, the demand for well-rounded graduates in forestry, forest land management and related disciplines will greatly exceed the pessimistic projections made by the committee. Education and training can provide the linkage between the now separated aspects of administration and management.

Forestry is not simply plantation management. New Zealand has seven million hectares of indigenous forest upon which the demands of man will continue to increase and for whose management the Canterbury School of Forestry provides the only wholly relevant professional qualification currently available.

The Institute cannot find evidence in the report to cause it to depart from its previously expressed and firm view that there isn't any need for a separate NZCF training at a quasi degree level.

The School of Forestry would be better to formally combine with the other land and the forest management related disciplines at Canterbury and Lincoln College. There will then be increased numbers of students coming from a combination of technical, technological and other broad-based land management disciplines, perhaps in a "Department of Natural Resources".

The Institute is convinced that the educational and training requirements of forestry in the broadest sense can best be met by such an approach. In the circumstances the School would be able to justify the necessary numbers of staff to teach the wide range of disciplines involved.

The Institute is convinced that the transfer of the School to Waikato and the continuation of a separate NZCF in Rotorua would lead to a narrowing of the course substance to plantation management only, to fewer students and even greater difficulty in obtaining adequate staffing than the school has experienced in Canterbury.

P.J. Thode
President

FORSOC NEWS

For the students at the School of Forestry this has certainly been an interesting year. The departmental shake-up that now affects our future employment so much was not even a speculative rumour back when most of us chose Forestry as a career. Certainly the type of job I was aiming for no longer exists.

And now, more recently (and no doubt a direct result of the shake-up) an education review that proposes just as radical changes to the entire Forestry training and education system. There appears to be as many opinions among students here, on the school's future, as among any other interested group. But if there is one thing that all the students are

in agreement on, it is the need for a greater range of subjects available within the School. This is not easily possible under either the current system or that proposed in the Probine report. Hopefully whatever direction the School moves off in (not necessarily physically) it will maintain its autonomy and develop a solid but broad base of forestry disciplines.

Another issue the students have become involved in is the attempt to save 'our' Ecological Reserve in Ianthe forest. It has been a valuable asset as a study tool during the 2nd Pro field trips for a number of years now but it looks like

even a petition signed by most students still cannot guarantee its protection.

But not all our time here at the School concerns political intrigues, the severance party being an excellent example. Many thanks to the ex-NZFS bursar students.

Our keen activities officers have also provided us with a well attended and most enjoyable staff-student dinner, numerous sporting challenges, and the promise of a guided public house tour.

As with the end of every year we keenly await the publication of Te Kura Ngarere. This magazine is published annually by FORSOC and is a summary of the memorable and not so memorable events of the year.

A major activity that now involves many of the students is a Volunteer Forest Fire Team. The value to the students is hands-on experience in fire fighting and to Timberlands Canterbury a readily available group of trained personnel. I hope this sort of contact with the industry continues; it is something that all involved can gain from (and perhaps once we prove our worth we may see some contribution by the Corporation to FORSOC – a certain block of land in Ianthe forest would be nice).

Pete Boyack,
President,
ForSoc

Questionnaire on NZ Forestry

A questionnaire was included in the journal handed out to participants at the Greymouth NZIF Annual General Meeting. Only 24 were returned (about $\frac{1}{3}$) and so the results must be interpreted in this light. However some interesting points emerged.

Almost all respondents (96%) preferred the new format and the new name (78%) 'N.Z. Forestry'. Readability was described as good or very good and over 70% of respondents read more than 50% of the contents. It was interesting that people did not usually read the magazine at one sitting or solely at work, and that most readers 'sometimes' referred back to material.

A section of the questionnaire asked readers to rate the value of various sections of the journal. 'Comment' (opinion), 'Recent Events', 'Letters' and 'Articles' all rated slightly above high, on a scale of Very High, High, Fair, Low and Very Low. Another group, 'Conference Papers', 'Institute News' and 'New Information' and 'In our Contemporaries' averaged slightly below the 'high' level. 'Book reviews' and the 'Wood Price Indices', averaged a little above fair. There tended to be a wider range of opinion about the value of 'Institute News', 'Book Reviews', 'In

our Contemporaries' and 'Wood Price Indices'.

When asked to comment on the amount of material and balance between sections most readers felt that it was about right. However, between 22 and 30% of the replies indicated that 'Recent Events', 'Articles', 'Institute News' and 'New Information' had too little material, while 13% of the replies indicated we had too much 'Comment'.

Layout was generally described as good (75%) or very good (25%) and most liked the cover (87%). Half felt the magazine could do with more photographs and the other half felt this aspect was reasonable. Most people (90%) approved of the range of topics covered by articles. About half read most of them, while a quarter either read all or only a few.

There were also some useful written comments for the Editorial Board. It appears that members approve of their magazine but the questionnaire has indicated areas which the Editorial Board needs to pay more attention to. Our thanks to those who filled it in.

D.J. Mead
Editor

NZIF 1988 ANNUAL CONFERENCE MAY 11-15, THC CHATEAU HOTEL, TONGARIRO

The theme is "National Lands – Mechanisms of Management". The Hon. Peter Neilson, Associate Minister for State Owned Enterprises, will open the conference and Mr Max Peterson, retired Chief of the US Forest Service, as keynote speaker, will describe reactions and adjustments made in the US from greater environmental awareness and relate this to management of national lands.

Speakers have been approached who will present the expectations which we, the general public and taxpayers, have of the new government organizations. Speakers who are senior employees of the government organizations will reply as to the missions of their organizations and what measures have been taken, or planned for the immediate future, to implement the missions. Three separate sessions have been organized: (1) Department of Conservation and Ministry of Environment, (2) Forestry and Land Corporation, and (3) Ministry



Venue for the 1988 Conference – THC Chateau Hotel, Tongariro.

Photo: Dave Bamford

of Forestry. In each of these sessions, there will be a panel consisting of the main speakers and additional members who will broaden out the topic and allow

further discussion. The panel will answer questions from the floor.

The AGM has been planned for the mornings of Wednesday 11th and