

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 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

Saturday 14th of May. A field trip is being organized for the Friday with the Conference Dinner in the evening; a well-known celebrity will be the after-dinner speaker. Various events are being organized to interest the family and we hope that people will take the opportunity to stay over Saturday night as golf, walks, and visits to places of interest are being organized.

Plan to be there, as groups of the most appropriate speakers on these topics have agreed to present their views.

NZIF Travel Award – Blair Haggitt

Blair Haggitt used the 1986 award to tour forests in California, Oregon and Washington. His report, which is in the form of diary notes and photographs, gives his observations on fire control, silviculture and forest management. Members may borrow the report from the Secretary, NZIF.

Studying overseas

Council have been asked whether a membership can be suspended while a member is overseas. Council have decided that such a provision is unnecessary; any member studying and not in receipt of a salary can take advantage of student subscription rates. It expects that those on a full salary will wish to retain membership.



Plantation Silviculture in Temperate Regions

Plantation Silviculture in Temperate Regions, with Special Reference to the British Isles. P.S. Savill and J. Evans, 1986. Clarendon Press, Oxford \$NZ102.50, 246p.

The senior author, Peter Savill, is the lecturer in silviculture at the University of Oxford; Julian Evans, who is in the British Forestry Commission, is well known for his 1982 book, "Plantation Forests in the Tropics", and his 1984 treatise on the "Silviculture of Broad-leaved Woodlands". As they state, this book is intended to be a student introduction to plantation silviculture in temperate regions and so stresses underlying principles.

It is a small book (with 210 pages of text) but covers a relatively broad field. There are four sections. The first introductory ones cover such topics as the role of plantations and long-term productivity questions. The second large section covers topics from site preparation and establishment through to tending and fertilizer use. The third section looks into specialized silviculture such as coppice or establishment on waste lands. The final section briefly covers protection — pests, pathogens, fire, wind, etc.

Is it a good textbook for students? Is it a useful book for southern hemisphere foresters? My impression is that it is useful supplementary reading for students as it concisely presents many concepts in a clear integrated manner. The section, for example, on nutrition is one of the better summaries about. Even its emphasis on European ideas and British practices in particular is useful for students in order to help them appreciate a wider range of situations.

Furthermore, the 22 pages of references are very useful for those wanting to delve more deeply.

However, it is not so useful for a for-

ester working in southern hemisphere plantations. It does not contain enough details to be an everyday reference book, nor does it cover the extensive plantation — silviculture research in this part of the world to the depth a forester in this region would expect. Thus its treatment of thinning and pruning is rather basic. Yet, if you were confronted by a problem you had no background in — for example in draining peatland — it could be a most useful starting place. So it's a book worth having a look through and having access to through libraries.

D.J. Mead

Introduced Plants Handbook

Plant Materials Handbook for Soil Conservation — Volume 2 — Introduced Plants. Edited by van Kraayenoord and Hathaway. (National Water and Soil Authority Misc. Pub. No. 94, Govt Printer) (\$49.50).

Let us all rise and take our hard-hats off to clap Chris van Kraayenoord and his merry men of MWD Aokautere, Palmerston North. They have produced a very useful book. What is more, by publishing it at a cost most of our employers will afford they have yielded up to an open society much of the information which in a user-pays world will be hidden behind consultant service charges and available only at competitive (?) prices. They have done the honourable thing.

It is a good book — 300 pages of reference, information and hints for those who must make choices and get things done. What I like most is that the technical notes on which it is based accept that most of us are not very good taxonomists. We know our plants by recognition, as we do our friends, rather than by identification. There are keys, as gui-

des, to the acacias, poplars and willows, and some quite detailed listing of characteristics of some important clones in the soil conservation field.

The colour illustrations, some 250 photographs, are true. The book is not a glossy for the coffee table, but handsome, and the standard of print and editing must be the envy of many publishers. The A4 size allows for space and style.

It is interesting to look up familiar species: *P. radiata* rates eight pages, Douglas fir half a page, the poplars 42 pages, willows 22 — all concise information with emphasis on soil conservation uses. The style is matter of fact without false claims: "The greatest deterrent to more widespread use of black locust (*Robinia*) in New Zealand is the crooked stem form, etc." — how true and how often ignored.

The authors have tried to cover the eucalypts in 20 pages. This publication includes 31 most commonly planted eucalypts, too many to face all at once, but as a catalogue and reference the listing is very useful. I am sure we would use eucalypts more and particularly the timber species if we were more certain as to "Which eucalypt is that?" Students, like foresters, are easily overwhelmed by them. We still need better guides than this which is better set out but no real improvement on the Forest Service publications.

As a handbook for first reference its use is much wider than for soil conservation materials. I look forward to getting hold of the companion volumes — Vol. 1 on field establishment and nursery production of soil conservation plants, and Vol. 3 on the use of 70 native species. If these volumes are as good as Volume 2 they will make a useful trinity.

I say again — let's raise our hard-hats to the authors who have made a significant contribution to forestry in New Zealand, and especially to farm forestry

BOOK REVIEWS