
From the NZIF Council Minutes

Chile Tour

Council has agreed to organize a tour of Chile in late 1988 although there will be no Institute financial commitment. The tour, being organized by John Gleed, will be oriented towards radiata pine in Chile and it is hoped that members covering a full range of disciplines (from soils to marketing) will be involved. The cost is likely to be \$12,000 for three weeks, so industry support would be needed.

The possibility of a Scandinavian tour has also been raised.

Membership Package

A membership package for new members has been prepared and is now being sent out to all new members.

Education and Training

Council was keen to support the School of Forestry in its attempts to organize practical work experience for undergraduate students.

Fellows

Selected members have been approached to form an initial group of

Fellows of the Institute. This group will be involved in helping process future applications to this class of membership.

Privatization of the New Zealand Forestry Corporation

Council has been seeking views within the Institute on this topic and may prepare a submission to put to Government at an appropriate time.

NZIF submissions

The issues committee of Council has organized three submissions in the last year.

1. **To Quango Review Committee (October, 1987).** The Institute supported the need for an Environmental Quango as it could offer truly independent advice to the Government, and could help reconcile conflicting views from single-issue lobby groups.

2. **To Conservation Quango Review (November, 1987).** The Institute supported the nationalization of existing conservation quangos and proposed a structure for regional and national quangos. The role of the regional or district groups would be advisory and have opportunity for local input. The national body was seen as having a policy formulation role, again in an advisory, not an executive, manner. The submission also covered relationships with other groups, like Acclimatization Societies, and specialists.

3. **South Westland Resource Management Study (February, 1988).** The submission supported additions to Westland National Park and Mt Aspiring National Park to preserve ecologically important forests and to provide a 'mountain to sea' corridor. It also supported the upgrading of all protected lands to World Heritage Area Status.

The Institute made strong comments on overcutting of native forests, seeing this as a key issue and was, for example, strongly opposed to any suggestions of clearfelling the gazetted sustained yield forest of Saltwater and North Okarito.

The submission supported the creation of two forest parks, the 'Cascade Forest Park' and a 'South Westland Forest Park' which would allow for tourist development and limited resources for craft purposes. It also proposed three limited areas for sustained yield to provide for the local population and traditional industries.

Members interested in obtaining copies of these submissions can do so through the Secretariat.

Obituary – Vernon Wood

Vernon Wood died in a flying accident in November 1987, leaving his wife Inez and five adult children.

At his funeral, tributes were paid by many friends. Among these were the following extracts from the eulogy given by his lifelong friend Bill Gimblett.

Will Rogers caught an important aspect of Vernon's life and character when he wrote:-

"He was always the example. In those days parents assumed an automatic leadership I don't see in parents today, including myself. My father was the head of the house. He behaved as the head of the house. He was the parent, kindly, generous, but definite. When he said it should be done, it was done. That fashioned us when we were young."

Vernon and Inez had five energetic and strong-minded children. In his paternal role Vernon was a firm head of the house and his friends sometimes wondered if he was not overdoing it. However, when the Wood brood were mainly in their twenties, it was revealing to see how they resisted leaving home.

That says a great deal both about Vernon and Inez and the strength of the Wood family as a whole.

Vernon's forestry career started in the 1940s with the Forest Service and even in those days he was precise and meticulous. Anyone who met him could not fail to recognize his exact approach to all matters. This reflected a very firm character which continued to develop throughout a life full of personal growth, achievement and adventure.

From the days I first knew him Vernon had an extraordinary capacity for fast and wise decision making and quick action. On our early hunting trips upon encountering a number of deer without warning, Vernon would have shot several while I was still considering the next move. On these trips he was invariably spartan in his arrangements and I always had the impression that, while the bag of bullets was plump and well filled, the food bag tended to have a slender and drawn appearance, as did we all by the time we turned for home.

Vernon had great physical strength

(Continued on page 28)

International Seminar on Forest Administration and Management

The United States Forest Service and the University of Michigan are presenting an intensive interactive training programme for senior forest managers from throughout the world. This 5th international seminar focuses on strategies and methods to develop, manage and conserve forest resources. Invited participants are selected to reflect the widest possible geographic distribution and experience. The seminar is from September 11 to October 5, 1988 and applications must be received by July 1. For further details contact:

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