

live happily with and anyway I felt this was getting away from the forestry association of the flask and the donors. Council agreed that we could make the award for forestry in its broadest sense – botany, conservation, management and technology.

It also seemed to me that the Institute of Foresters would know about forestry in its broadest sense – or indeed in any sense – so I approached the Institute suggesting that it involve itself in the award. Indeed it should be their award. In the interim, Lindsay Poole had donated some money to the Society and because of his forestry association we added this to the Kirk Horn Fund. We were thus able to hand over a sum of money of about \$2500 to the Institute if they went ahead with the suggestion.

It is a pleasure and indeed a relief that we see tonight the end or rather the end of the beginning of the Kirk Horn Saga. The Institute has had a medal struck which will go to the recipient of the award. The Horn Flask will stay with the recipient for one month and then be returned to the Society for safe custody.

The flask would contain, in my estimation, enough whisky to keep any forester happy for a day in the woods. I would propose that it be presented charged with the fluid, representing the proper use of the flask.

The Selection Committee has recommended that the first award of the Kirk Horn Flask be made to Mr E.H. Bunn for his contributions to forestry research in New Zealand.

I have great pleasure in presenting the charged flask and the medal to Harry Bunn.



Liza Crozier (Institute Vice-President) and Andrew McEwen with Harry Bunn (right). (Photo D.J. Mead)

## E.H. Bunn first recipient of the Kirk Horn Flask

Harry Bunn was brought up on a farm in the King Country. He joined the New Zealand Forest Service in 1942 but spent most of the next few years with the RNZAF. After the war he did a B.Sc. degree and then a Diploma in Forestry at the Australian Forestry School in Canberra.

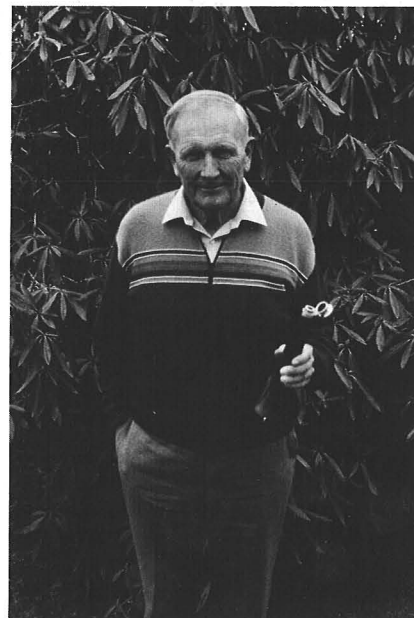
In 1953, on returning to New Zealand, he was posted to Pureora Forest where he spent three and a half years. He was then posted to Waipa sawmill for almost a year before joining the Forest Research Institute in Rotorua in 1957.

At the FRI he initially worked on rehabilitation of indigenous forests, on Eucalypts and on nursery and establishment techniques. However in 1961 he was promoted to Branch Head of Silviculture. Later he became Assistant Director of Production Forestry Branch and then Director of the Production Forestry Division.

### There were several important influences on Harry Bunn:

1. **Max Jacobs** at Australian Forestry School. M.R. Jacobs was insistent on exploring "why" something should be and passed this questioning attitude on to Harry.

Harry took the matter further, however, by adding: "How is this information we have found out to be



Harry Bunn with the Kirk Horn Flask. (Photo W.R.J. Sutton)

used to help people do their jobs better?"

2. **Pureora Forest.** He noted during his time in establishment of cutover forest that many things were done by rote. People were not improving their techniques. In later life he always talked of the lessons of Pureora.
3. **Waipa Sawmill.** Not only did he look with some horror at the methods employed there but he as usual asked questions on the "why" of what he saw.

The deep knowledge of silviculture displayed in later life came, in part, from here during sawing studies of radiata logs.

4. **Dennis Richardson.** This gentleman took the young scientist and helped him tremendously in developing his management skills by showing him how to use the system (within reason, of course) to get what was needed to push research ahead.

### Harry Bunn's influence on Forestry and FRI

Some eight areas can be easily identified:

1. In the field of silviculture his influence was felt during the 1963 symposium on thinning and pruning. He showed tremendous understanding of the subject and influenced his associates of the day: R. Fenton, W. Sutton and H. Beekhuis.

2. He was skilled at stimulating and motivating his colleagues particularly through his positive and non-threatening approach. Revolutionary ideas and solutions were encouraged. He was also totally unselfish at giving ideas and asking the "right" questions.
3. He emphasized that his researchers should be looking ahead (at least 5-10 years all the time) and answering tomorrow's problems rather than becoming involved in today's management problems. Managers would be finding their own solutions.
4. In trial work staff were encouraged to concentrate on extremes. Radical thinking must be applied to experiments so that not only were controls established but also outrageous ideas were used. These often became accepted practice later.
5. He stressed the absolute requirement not to prejudge results or the intentions of management. Prove the obvious; test everything.
6. He also pushed for experiments that

had revolutionary rather than evolutionary change at their heart. He always looked for and expected others to look for quantum leaps in thinking or operational method.

7. Harry was a "simple forester" who hired very specialized people and made it his business to understand them. In this way he could not only always contribute but was able to lead from the front.
8. He was also a "simple forester" in that he could easily converse with the forest managers of the day and could contribute in helping to answer their problems.

When Neil Barr spoke of Harry Bunn to recommend him as an Honorary Member of this Institute he described him as "the most complete forester the world has ever known". This is why he has been chosen as the first recipient of the Kirk Horn Flask Award.

**P.J. Thode,  
President**

## Australian Bicentennial International Forestry Conference

Held in Albury, NSW from April 25, 1988 the Bicentennial Conference was organized under the banner of the Australian Forest Development Institute. Delegates from more than 30 countries attended an occasion designed as a celebration of Australian forestry and the contribution of Australian timber species to forestry around the world. Excellent papers by such notable contributors to Australian forestry as Dr Leslie Carron, Professor Lindsay Pryor and Dr Wal Gentle gave perspective to the development of forestry in Australia, the contribution of forests and forestry people to the art and culture of Australia, and the globalization of the Australian flora. Here was an opportunity to reflect on the part played by forests and forest utilization in the development, both economic and cultural, of a nation. It was a time to ponder, with some misgiving but much pride, the contribution of those we could conveniently call foresters.

Later papers provided something for all forestry appetites with contributions reviewing the historical development of sections of the utilization industry, technical papers on the wood properties of the Australian species, and others from the cutting edge of genetic improvement and propagation techniques. Of particular interest to many delegates were

the contributions from around the world which portrayed the breadth of adaptability achieved by the Australian flora. Multi-purpose trees in Egypt, pulpwood production in Brazil, fast-growing trees for difficult saline sites in Pakistan and as site stabilizers in coastal areas of Orissa. However, even the eucalypt could not quite live up to the early claims of bondselling Californian entrepreneurs.

Two award presentations, to Professor El Lakany of Egypt the award of Forester of the Year and the inaugural Queen's Award for Forestry to Dr John Turnbull, celebrated outstanding achievement by forestry professionals.

No forestry conference could succeed without the opportunity to develop new friendships and nurture associations of old. The organizing committee chose well in their allocation of time, venue and suitably convivial musical catalysts to the furthering of social interaction.

This was a celebration of forestry. In their bicentennial year our Australian friends can be forgiven a little patriotic intoxication. For New Zealanders it was heartening to see forestry people full of confidence and enthusiasm. Let's hope some of that can rub off on the profession this side of the Tasman.

**D.W. McLean**

## Professional women training in Forestry

There are currently 15 women taking forestry at the School of Forestry, University of Canterbury. Of these, four are taking post-graduate courses, one at the Ph.D. level. This sounds good. But when we express the results on a % basis and compare it to other disciplines within the University of Canterbury or at Lincoln College, then we see how males dominate our student numbers:

|   | %<br>women |
|---|------------|
| <b>University of Canterbury (overall)</b> | 48         |
| Education                                 | 81         |
| Music                                     | 75         |
| Arts                                      | 70         |
| Fine Arts                                 | 62         |
| Commerce                                  | 36         |
| Science                                   | 35         |
| Forestry                                  | 13         |
| Engineering                               | 6          |
| <b>Lincoln College (overall)</b>          | 29         |
| Parks and Recreation (degree)             | 54         |
| Horticultural (degree)                    | 46         |
| Landscape architecture (degree)           | 40         |
| Agricultural (degree)                     | 32         |

In the subprofessional course, the NZ Certificate of Forestry, some 10% of graduates have been women.

Women have already proved themselves valuable members of the profession. Obviously the sector needs to encourage more women to consider a career in forestry.

**D.J. Mead**

## New Zealand-developed 'Log Walker'

A New Zealand-developed log transporter which "walks" logs over difficult terrain using only the power of a motor mower engine, is to be intensively export marketed by an Auckland-based engineering company.

IST Engineering N.Z. Ltd, of Auckland, has acquired world-wide rights to manufacture and market the machine – the invention of a former aerospace design engineer for Boeing, Mr Colin Peel. He now farms at Clevedon (South Auckland) in retirement.

The company recently signed an agreement with Mitsubishi New Zealand Ltd for the rights to market the machine, known as the 'Log Walker', internationally.

Earlier, inventor Colin Peel had developed a prototype machine at the request of the Bay of Plenty forestry company.