

A pro-active Institute

Had it not been for the vision and the efforts of the foresters before us, New Zealand would now have neither any remaining accessible indigenous forest, nor a plantation resource that supplies almost all the domestic requirements for wood and we would not have the opportunity to considerably increase on the \$NZ1 billion we currently earn annually from forest products exports.

Comment from the President

However, just when our profession should be increasingly recognized for this major contribution to New Zealand's well being, our whole sector is undergoing a massive restructuring. Our role and importance are under attack by the conservationists on the one hand and by Rogernomic economists on the other. It is not surprising that some of us have self doubts about our contribution and worth. Many of our cherished ideals have been challenged, ridiculed and rejected. The past efforts of organizations we have long held in high regard have been criticized in the media and by politicians and activists alike.

Did we get it all wrong? Was our vision just an illusion? Was our faith without foundation? Is it all a nightmare from which we will soon wake and the world will have come to its senses?

A nightmare it may seem, but there is no return to the world as we once knew it. We must take stock. We must urgently reassess our position in the totally different world. We must honestly ask ourselves, were we too arrogant, too confident, too emotionally involved? If our past actions and contributions were so good and if our future is so bright, we certainly have been appallingly bad at communicating that message to our critics and to the public. We must now listen to our critics. We must try to see ourselves as they see us.

Where do we start?

Hard though it may be to accept, the support, the stimulus and, above all, the leadership provided by the old NZ Forest Service has gone forever. The new organizations, both Government and private, must provide the leadership the sector now needs. Sector organizations such as ours have an even more

important role now to provide direction and greatly increase public awareness of what forestry has done and what it can achieve for New Zealand. No one else is going to do this. The initiative is with us.

We must now rethink what forestry has to offer in New Zealand. If we put forward innovative and well-researched proposals they will be accepted by the New Zealand public. As this public is increasingly desperate for solutions to New Zealand's problems of employment, living standards and long-term security, we might be surprised at the support we can gain. We have much to achieve by such a pro-active course of action. However, we need your assistance. Your Council has some ideas on how we can be far more innovative and pro-active. However, Council would welcome any suggestions on how we, either on our own, or in combination with other organizations in the sector, can be a more effective advocate for forestry.

W.R.J. Sutton

NZIF AGM and Conference

The 1988 AGM and Conference was held at the Tongariro National Park in recognition of the National Park's Centennial. Although one of the smaller conferences in recent years it was highly successful. This was due to the efforts of the organizing committee and to the excellent programme of speakers.

The theme of the conference was 'National Lands - Mechanisms of Management' and it was appropriate that the conference was welcomed by Sir Hepi Te Heu Heu of Ngati Tuwharetoa. It was, of course, Te Heu Heu Tukino of Ngati Tuwharetoa who in 1887 gifted the central North Island volcanoes to the nation to become New Zealand's first National Park.

It was also appropriate that the meeting was opened by Hon. Peter Neilson, Associate Minister of Finance and Associate Minister for State Owned

Institute Awards 1988

Five awards were presented at this year's Annual General Meeting and Conference. Details of the new prestigious Kirk Horn Flask award are given elsewhere. In addition, awards were presented as follows:

The **Travel Award** was given to **Ian Moore**, a soil conservator who is to study the effects of forestry operations on soil and water in British Columbia.

The **Curt Gleason Memorial Award** was presented to **Stefan Kincheff**, a student at the School of Forestry. This award, presented for the first time, is to encourage communication to non-foresters and Stefan produced a display to encourage young people to consider forestry as a career (see photograph on page 32).

The **Schlich Prize** was awarded to **Richard Morison**, the top student from the B.For.Sci. degree at the School of Forestry, University of Canterbury.

The **Mary Sutherland Prize** for the top student from the New Zealand Certificate in Forestry course went to two people, **Jesa Osborne** and **Andrew Sutherland**.

Enterprises. In his speech the Minister looked back on the re-organization of the state forestry sector and the principles involved. He also commented on the possible selling off of state assets and Maori claims under the Treaty of Waitangi.

Some of the papers presented at the Conference appear in this issue of New Zealand Forestry, including the keynote speeches of Mr Max Peterson. Details of the awards are also given elsewhere.

Institute's Name Change

One of the key decisions of the Annual General Meeting was to alter the name of the Institute to the New Zealand Institute of Forestry. The new President, Dr Wink Sutton, covered the arguments for the name change on page 7 of the last issue of New Zealand Forestry.