

# Elmia Wood 89

Arrangements are proceeding for the Elmia Wood 89 forestry and sightseeing tour to Sweden in June 1989, further to the advertisement in the May issue of New Zealand Forestry. This visit will be of 25 to 30 days' duration, with its main focus comprising the four-day Elmia Wood International Forestry Trade Fair in central Sweden. The 1989 Fair will cover the whole range of activities (including planning, establishment, tending, logging techniques, processing and impact of conservation) in a forest setting.

Travel within Sweden to visit a wide range of forest environments and organizations in an extensive study tour is also envisaged. Ample time will be allocated to enjoy Sweden's many cultural and scenic attractions, such as Stockholm, the capital city. Due to the diverse programme, spouses of intending patrons will find plenty of interest in the tour and will be most welcome. There will also be flexibility of tour arrangements for those seeking a totally forest management oriented itinerary.

As the New Zealand forest industry directs more attention to marketing and processing, so exchange of information with countries like Sweden who are more advanced in these areas will be increasingly important. The Elmia Wood 89 tour will contribute in a small way to this vital development.

The contracts and similarities between our present industry situation in New Zealand and that in Sweden will be a feature of the tour. It is quite evident that Sweden has developed a very different mix of forest ownership, market environment, labour laws and forestry

regulations from ours. A very broad ownership pattern in Sweden (50% of forests owned by small private growers organized in a number of very large co-operatives) has helped to maintain a strong conservation ethic, particularly noted by "everyman's right" granting free right of access to countryside and forest subject to a responsible code of behaviour. With a major established export forest industry, Sweden is cost competitive on international markets while operating a centralized and regulated active labour market policy. There is also extensive legislation to oversee forest management practices, whereas in New Zealand there is no such statutory control. Another area of great interest for New Zealand foresters is Sweden's advanced position in silvicultural equipment development – from automated nursery techniques with containerized seedlings, to mechanized site preparation, use of planting 'guns' through to a wide range of mechanized extraction systems (such as the "Iron Horse" motor manual shortwood method).

Institute members and other interested people are invited to register their interest in this splendid forestry experience. As arrangements develop further, notices will be issued to interested persons. Please write to:

NZ Institute of Forestry,  
Elmia Wood 89 Tour,  
P.O. Box 12314,  
Wellington North.

## Changes in membership

Council has decided that the names of new members, advancements and resignations should be published in NZ Forestry.

At the Council Meeting of June 9, 1988 the following new members were accepted:

J. Dey (associate), A. Everitt (student), T. Payn (student), J. Schreider (associate), and D. White (student).

The following resignations were accepted:

A. Heinen and M. Faulkner.

## OBITUARIES

### Thomas Fraser (1938-1987)

Tom Fraser, my partner and long-time friend, died last year after a long illness. His passing is a sad loss to his family, business associates, professional colleagues and friends.

Tom was born in Scotland and emigrated to New Zealand with his parents and completed his secondary education at Rongotai College. He attended Victoria University as a part-time student while working, initially with the Treasury Department and then with the NZ Forest Service until graduation with a B.Sc. in Economics in 1966. While in Head Office he worked in a variety of positions including Executive Officer – Environmental Forestry Division, Investigating Officer – Forest Economic Division, and Senior Research Officer – Forest Economic Division. During his last four years, he was heavily involved in the preparation of national forestry sector statistics, background papers for the New Zealand/Australia Free Trade Agreement and the development of leasing schemes for forest land.

In 1974 he was transferred to the Forest Research Institute, Rotorua

where he worked until 1980 in the Economics Section on a wide range of their current studies. This work included forest valuation methodology, forestry taxation, energy usage in wood processing and evaluation of possible use of wood for electricity and liquid fuels production.

During this period at FRI, his special interest in forestry sector energy usage and the comparative economics of agriculture and large-scale forestry involved him as a team leader in a number of major studies in these topics. It was here also that he had his first taste of private consulting as project economist for P.F. Olsen & Company in a feasibility study on the production of electricity from wood in Western Samoa.

In 1980, he left the Forest Research Institute to join Alan Larsen and myself in a six-month-old forestry consulting business. Tom weathered the financial and nervous rigours of the first and most difficult years in that business to become an invaluable member of our small team. His great attributes as a consultant were

## NZIF Submission

### Draft Mining Guidelines (April 1988)

The Institute made comments to the Department of Conservation, emphasizing that the guidelines tighten up the provisions for mining; the Act is unclear whether the Minister can legally consent to mining on Conservation Department lands and the Minister of Conservation must act solely as the advocate for Conservation. It considers that these three aspects together create an unequal contest between conservation and other values as far as the use of Department of Conservation land for mining is concerned. Modification to the Conservation Act is recommended so that balanced decisions can be made.

his cheerful personality, even when under great stress, and the ability to impart his highly developed knowledge of economic principles to people in all walks of life. A wide knowledge of basic forestry principles enabled him to direct forest industry projects ranging from establishment to pulpmill evaluation.

Of particular satisfaction to him was his extensive clientele of Maori land owners for whom he prepared forest lease agreements, attended innumerable meetings on innumerable maraes in order to obtain for them a fair deal which was both commercially sound and understandable. Various overseas assignments as a consultant drew heavily on his impeccable knowledge of forest economics and ability to translate these principles into a language understandable by any audience.

His act is a hard one to follow.

**Keith Chandler**

## Jack Harrison-Smith

Jack Harrison-Smith died in Tauranga on April 28, 1988 after a mercifully short illness. Born at Auckland in 1909, he was christened John Louis and educated at King's College. The infant State Forest Service then recruited him as a technical trainee, and this novitiate served him well throughout his long and illustrious career.

Jack transferred to Works Department in 1938 to manage sand dune stabilization and reclamation along the north-west coast of Northland. He was first based at Te Kopuru and later at Ninety Mile Beach. He planted these areas in marram, seeded them with yellow lupin and established sizeable plantations around Dargaville, Waipapakauri and Ngatake. Despite some fire incursions the more northern plantations survived to be included within Aupouri Forest. This was demanding and pioneering work and in "The Top-dressers" of 1940 Janic Gulen lauds Jack's "brain child". During the war he was retained by the New Zealand Navy to find suitable kauri for the building of their Fairmiles and similar ships. He located most of this wood in Compartment 8, Omahuta State Forest.

Whakatane Boardmills employed Jack in 1945, and he was soon in charge of their supply source and logging village at Matahina Forest. Thus he became the third of the genuine forestry characters managing plantations along Kaingaroa Forest's border. Jack Bryce at Matea and Vivian Fail at Tauhara were virtually caretakers, but Jack Harrison-Smith was running a fully operational forest

with exotic and indigenous logging. The neatness, efficiency and economy of his management was most impressive, and in nothing more so than the handling of Matahina Rural Fire District, probably the most hazardous in the region.

At this time the Harrison-Smith name for original work and inventive genius became known. The benign climate and untreated state of Matahina stands provided a prime target for the *Sirex noctilio* post-war epidemic. Jack recognized this as no more than a highly desirable heavy thinning, but it left him with a great deal of valuable and well-grown wood, in difficult thinning country, and at the mercy of insects and fungi. He met the problem with wooden logging chutes and delivered bolts of the infected wood to roadsides from all readily accessible stands. His improvement of living conditions in Matahina village was continuous and included his own variations of ducted heating and water and power reticulation.

In 1961 he decided to quit the backblocks, and set up as a forestry consultant in Tauranga. As a result of this decision and his qualification as a pilot, his name, long familiar to NZIF members, became known throughout the land with his Harrison-Smith flame throwers – a godsend at that time – his tree poison injector, his spot seed planter, his logging protector, etc., and his aerial photos in the NZ Herald, Soil & Water and other magazines.

Quite apart from his forestry exper-

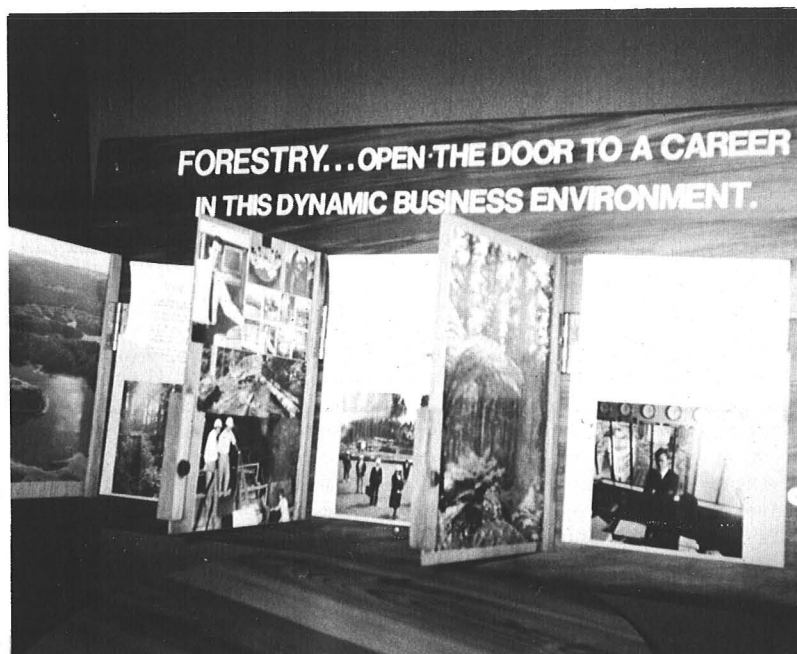
tise, Jack excelled in the elements of air and water. Flying became a great joy to both Jack and his wife, and he used this method of surveillance extensively in his consultancy practice, becoming an above-average pilot. Water had always fascinated him, and when not fashioning forestry gear in his workshop, he was producing waterwheels and turbines for use in New Zealand and the Pacific. Both Fiji and New Caledonia have found his fail-safe equipment invaluable. To advance projects of this nature, in 1985 he published a succinct little book, "Practical Water Power", in which he explains the theory and practice in layman's terms. Yet another very successful venture was his production of low-powered marine jet units for small craft. Any relevant mechanical problem was a challenge to Jack and his final invention was a small electrically powered treadmill to afford gentle walking exercise to a bronchitis sufferer.

Surprisingly for a man so gentle, courteous and dedicated to the job in hand, Jack was devoid of fear and enjoyed supreme self-confidence. To drive with him on an icy road was hair-raising to say the least.

Jack Harrison-Smith was an active member of this Institute for many years, he graced our forestry scene and we will miss him. Our heartfelt sympathy goes to his wife, Helen, and their children, Louis and Mary, and their four grandchildren.

**W. Girling-Butcher**

## Curt Gleason Award winner



Stefan Kincheff's winning entry for the Curt Gleason Memorial Award.