

Mount Aspiring National Park, where he remained until retirement in 1979. The following year he was awarded the QSM for his services.

In 1990 Ray received the NZ Commendation Medal for services to conservation, having been a member of the now defunct Nature Conservation Council, which had previously presented him with a citation extolling his "significant contribution to the cause of conservation within New Zealand, namely, his long-term commitment to conservation and, in particular, his practical efforts to enhance the environment within National Parks.

During the period 1969-73 he was involved with the "Hands off Wanaka" campaign which led to the Lake Wanaka Preservation Act, 1973 whose aim was to preserve, as far as possible, the water levels of the lake and its shoreline in their natural state. For the last nine years he has been a Trustee of the Nga Manu Trust which owns and manages a wildlife sanctuary at Waikanae.

Ray has been a keen skier and in 1966 initiated the development of Treble Cone skifield near Wanaka, of which he remained a Director until 1980. He is now an active member of the Northern Southland Farm Forestry Association, with a keen interest in preserving native forest remnants on farm land which, he firmly believes, is in the interests of good farming. He affirms that he is fortunate to live in an area with "some of the best of New Zealand's farming scene", just as he has been blessed by a career "spent amongst some of New Zealand's finest scenery".

Ray joined the Institute of Foresters in 1954 and has since then been an active Full, and finally a Veteran, member. His means of communication has tended to be verbal rather than written, but "Recreational Use of Forests" was published in NZJF 8(5), 1963; and "Park Aspiring" in Tussock Grassland and Mountain Lands Institute Review in 1969. He chaired the "Animals in Forests" Working Party in 1983 and from 1977 to 1979 he was a member of the Forestry Development Council Environmental/Recreational Working Party.

Ray married Constance Bowen in 1950. They had a son, Arne, now co-proprietor of a nursery and landscaping business in Southland, and a daughter, Lesley. Arne and Jenny have two daughters and Lesley has a son and a daughter; they live in Cromwell. Sadly Constance died in 1973, and since then Ray has collected very little baggage and lives sparsely.

There is no space to record Ray's pithy comments on many subjects, but he



NEW INFORMATION



Silviculture handbook on UK trees

The Silviculture of Trees Used in British Forestry by Peter Savill is published by C.A.B. International, Oxford, England.

This is a short (143 pages) handbook describing the silviculture of 33 genera and 60 species planted or managed in the forests of the UK. Species are listed in alphabetical order, beginning at *Abies alba* and ending at *Ulmus*, and for each the principal silvicultural characteristics are given. First a general introduction of varying length depending on the importance of the species, then: origin and introduction, climatic requirements, site requirements, other silvicultural characteristics, flowering, seed production and nursery conditions and timber.

BOOK REVIEW

The text is written in a plain and straightforward manner (which I regard as an advantage) and the book is illustrated throughout by clear line drawings of the leaves and fruiting bodies of some of the main species. These illustrations are well done and serve as a reminder of the identity of the species but it is not the purpose of the handbook to provide a diagnostic tool for species identification.

What the book does is succinctly summarise the siting and establishment requirements for a large number of the species which are grown in parks, large gardens, around farms and even on forests in New Zealand where objectives

other than profitability rule the day. It is in these situations that this book will find most use in this country. Most NZ foresters are monoculturists – and proud of it – and sources of local information on the major alternatives to radiata pine can be found in other publications such as the Institute's own Handbook or the FRI Bulletin 124 series, but where information is required on the silviculture of other, less common, species this handbook is a good place to start.

The advice will need to be tempered with local knowledge for, as the title makes plain, the book is designed for use by British foresters, and climatic conditions differ markedly between the two countries. This is illustrated by the following quote from the introduction to *Eucalyptus*: "The south of England is at 50 degrees N so Britain is probably outside the range where they can safely be grown, but occasional enthusiastic Australian visitors manage to persuade research workers to try new species or provenances – the result is a burst of research on eucalypts every 10 to 15 years". Of course, fashions in research are not unknown in this country also.

The relative youth of our own country is brought home by remarks like "It is believed that the Druids planted apples (*Malus sylvestris*) in the vicinity of their sacred groves of oak trees".

This book does provide a source of information on many species that is not available from local sources.

There are a number of appendices which give information on: relationships between crown and stem diameter (useful for determining stocking levels if you have a target tree size in mind), life expectancy of some species (yew is listed as 300 years or more, willow as only 50 to 70), rotation ages for the common species and maximum dimensions recorded in the UK.

Approximately 160 references are given, making this very readable book a good first reference to the silviculture of exotic species of minor occurrence in New Zealand.

**Ryde James
FRI Rotorua**

should have the final say. He notes: The Nature Conservation Act defined nature conservation as "the preservation of the native flora and fauna and natural features and the natural beauty of New Zealand". Statutes no longer contain this valid definition. He claims that during his career "there were rangers in the mountains; today we have conservation officers conserving mountains of paper!"

He is indeed a dedicated "earth man".