

the profession has been undertaken by Jolyon Manning with the aim of providing a focus for our efforts. It has not been easy to draft and I expect members to have their differing viewpoints which should be aired after the statement is considered by individuals. (See this page.)

#### 4 Climate Change and Forestry

The National Science Strategy Committee (NSSC), responsible for consulting and advising Cabinet on climate change research, has released two reports. The first, written by R.L. McKenzie, looks at the current status of Ultraviolet-B (UVB) research in New Zealand. The second paper, by David Whitehead, is titled "The Current Status of Climate Change in Research in Relation to Forestry".

David Whitehead identifies six research priorities in this field:

- continued long-term monitoring of climate and forest mensuration and inventory databases to allow changes to be identified;
- measurement of exchange of greenhouse gases between forests and the atmosphere at the stand level;
- detailed studies to quantify carbon budgets in a range of forest ecosystems;
- long-term studies to determine the response of large trees to elevated CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations and temperature in otherwise natural field conditions;
- determination of thresholds for the effects of increased ultraviolet-B radiation on growth and development of species;
- extension of the analysis between pattern in natural forest ecosystems and climate to a national level, and identification of the ecosystems that are particularly at risk.

## Rediscovering our mission

President Olsen has asked Council to review its mission statement. To this end I have recently tabled a paper for Council's endorsement and amendment. It is important, however, that all members of the Institute are prepared to give some thought to this goal-setting exercise.

The New Zealand Institute of Forestry is not alone in its current endeavour to refocus its activities in such a manner as to make it more relevant to the needs of our members in a changing society. But the primary goals of the professional forester remain the same. Namely, the promotion of excellence in forestry management, in terms of both –

- care and stewardship of the inherited indigenous forests – with their vital role in soil and water conservation and as a natural renewable resource for recreation, and
- the practice of good silvicultural principles in the pursuit of sustainable and productive commercial plantations to provide for an expanding global population with a huge variety of products.

The eminent US management guru,

The convenor of the NSSC, Dr Ellis, has written seeking comments on research developments and priorities from members of the Institute. Members interested in receiving copies can obtain them through the Royal Society of NZ (PO Box 598, Wellington) or through your President.

**P.F. Olsen**  
President

Peter Drucker, has said that "everyone questions the mission when things are in bad shape (when there are inevitably a lesser range of options from which to make a choice). Almost nobody asks the critical questions when things are going well".

He has said repeatedly that if we are to be relevant then we must work from the outside in and not from the inside out. We have therefore to consider carefully what is happening elsewhere in the community, those matters that directly impinge upon our sphere of traditional interest.

And this concerns both the

- public sector changes – reorganisation of the State role with the disbandment of some elements that characterised the former New Zealand Forest Service, the transfer of management responsibility for much of the remaining indigenous publicly-owned forest estate in the Department of Conservation, the divestment of State plantations in favour of predominantly overseas private ownership, and the adoption of the Resource Management Act to strengthen the goals of sustainability, and
- private sector changes – with the rapid change in the major companies associated with the productive forestry enterprise, the emergence of a much stronger advocate for commercial forestry in the form of the Forest Owners' Association, and a strengthened and more experienced New Zealand Farm Forestry Association.

In particular the disbandment of the former New Zealand Forest Service has had an important impact on the direction of the Institute. It has now to be more independent and professionally robust if its views are to be taken seriously by the leading players in the sector and in the wider community.

We need a large membership if we are to fulfil adequately these responsibilities. The steady expansion of recognised consultants is a feature in the life of the Institute at the present time. This is to be welcomed and encouraged but we must always ensure that our professional standing is fully maintained.

Council are committed to publishing a revised Statement of Mission later this year. In the meantime I would urge members at large to give some thought to these matters and submit ideas to any councillor of the secretariat.

**Jolyon Manning**  
(Vice-President)

### Guidelines for investment in forest growing projects

With the recent spate of forestry investment floats the Institute saw a need for some guidelines to assist potential forestry investors, particularly in the interpretation and evaluation of plantation forest investment prospectuses and proposals.

Rob van Rossen undertook the task and has recently completed a draft publication. A good range of points is covered. These include Securities Act obligations and liabilities for participants, forestry investment structures, forestry taxation, considerations such as location, site conditions, growth and yield expectations, and forestry management costs and revenues, as well as issues of risk, financial performance, valuation and the special features of a long-term, relatively non-liquid investment such as forestry.

The guidelines are available from the NZIF Secretariat, Sue Sheppard, P.O. Box 19-840, Christchurch.

**Chris Perley**