



## Presidential comments

### Diversity within the Institute

At the recent AGM of the Institute it was notable that the quality of debate was enhanced when topics were contentious. A number of observers noted the diversity of views and some expressed the opinion that this could almost be a division within the membership on specific topics. My opinion is that participants were educated by opposite views to their own and a greater awareness and tolerance was generated in this way. It is my intention to ensure that at our next AGM more time is given to debate issues of professional concern so that we can draw from the strength which derives from a diversity of opinions.

One topic of great and continuing interest is sustainability and the vexed question of overcutting. The Labour Party have recently prepared a paper on the environment and forestry issues and I was able to help their spokesmen on Finance and Forestry by use of Graham Whyte's paper from the May 1993 issue of NZ Forestry. It is obvious that continuing work on this topic in both plantation and indigenous forestry is needed, as in many cases people are either uninformed or misinformed on the central issues of forest area, growth and level of utilisation.

This of course will drive arguments on sustainability which, with the new Forests Amendment Act 1993 and the Resource Management Act 1991, is now a much debated topic. Sustainability of resources for use by the community, which include not just soil, water, forest and biodiversity but also people for economic and recreational use, will reintroduce tolerance of the concept of multiple use. This in the 1960-70 period enjoyed an almost hackneyed popularity and suffered, in the 1980-90 era, a reversal of the high level of acceptance which had become accepted in most Western societies.

### Diversity within the Forest Estate

As forests and forest planting become a more widely accepted land use with a broadening ownership base, species other than the highly regarded radiata pine are coming to the fore. The eucalypt planting increase is basically due to interest in short rotation fibre for pulp and paper. Douglas fir is now the subject of more attention, as are the cypresses, and this is being translated into acceptance of these species by

private individuals as a good choice for investment. Once again we have to applaud diversity.

### Forest Valuation Working Party

As more people are involved in investment, the process of valuing the quality of the growth of the forests is of concern to analysts. Our working party on forest valuation has met and commenced work on the format of valuation procedures aiming at guidelines on standards, methods, inputs and quality, the methods of implementation of guidelines and professional education, and providing a basis for compilation of market and cost information together with transaction evidence of forest sales. The results of this effort will be most appreciated by both the profession and by analytical economists and accountants.

### Science Working Party

The science working party have been a valuable adjunct to the provision of a professional view of research activity. It is of interest to note the importance given to this phase of forest activity by the whole



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forest industry and the support accorded the working party in dealing with MORST and the Foundation for Research Science and Technology.

This support for research has been recently expanded to provision of funds by industry for a further forest fire researcher with specific responsibility for technology transfer. Liam Fogarty joined Grant Pearce at FRI on July 2 and will be involved in extension work with NRFA and the Coordinating Committees at regional level by the coming spring.

**P.F. Olsen**  
President

## 1993 Conference roundup

The 1993 NZIF Conference was held in Napier between May 14 and 16 with the theme "Managing New Zealand's Forests for Future Markets". Over 200 delegates were attracted by two full days of papers plus field trips to local processing sites and forests. Support was no doubt enhanced by the current bullish attitude within the industry and investment sectors. It had also been three years since the Institute had held a stand-alone forestry conference.

John Groome welcomed the delegates in what was for him a nostalgic occasion. John established the Hawkes Bay Branch of the Institute which hosted the 1958 Napier Conference. He wove into his address mention of many key figures in the region's forest industry – Sir Russell Pettigrew, Callum Kirkpatrick, Phil Baker, Hal Nash, Duncan MacIntyre, Sir Richard Harrison, Sandy Hampton and others. With well-founded parochialism John described the favourable growing and location factors of Hawkes Bay forestry. A future constraint could be the supply of

suitable land. A following speaker, Tom Tuhura of the local Ngati Kahungunu, however, noted the potential in the 1.3 million hectares of Maori land in New Zealand.

Forestry industry consultant Dennis Neilson gave the keynote address on wood supply and demand in the Pacific Rim. He touched upon "a number of the important issues facing the Pacific Rim industry which is just showing the first signs of a shift from an adequate to a chronically inadequate regional wood supply environment". A principal issue in the United States is the role of environmental pressure on wood supply and the "flagship" of the environmental movement, the Endangered Species Act. Examining the pedigree of the current US administration suggested that environmental pressures on the supply side would increase rather than diminish.

Sandy Hampton, Carter Holt Harvey Forests' Regional Manager, also welcomed delegates and traced some of the