



## Presidential Comments

### Research

The annual round of bidding for Public Good Science (PGFS) funds for research supported by the Foundation for Research Science and Technology (FRST) has again demonstrated the problems associated with this contestable process and the stifling of truly cooperative use of research resources. The desire of each Crown Research Institute (CRI) to succeed and build up capability has to be inevitably at the expense of other CRIs in closely related fields. The research strategy review process has not been able to achieve focus as suggested by the STEPS panel. Researchers scramble for access to funds in Outputs favoured by those reviews completed to date, and avoid disclosing their research ambitions to other providers.

Private sector fund providers are treated in a similar fashion and appear to be targeted in areas likely to suffer funding failure in the PGFS bid process.

It is of interest in this context to record the revival of the Royal Society NZ interest in science education, science excellence and ethical standards, science support and science advice. Our representative of the Agricultural and Forestry Electoral College on the RSNZ has been assisted with comment on the 1994 plan for the Society.

Dr Colin O'Loughlin has been our main contributor to science matters at the national level and many members have involvement via the Forest and Forest Products research organisation (FAFPRO) boards of NZFRI divisions or the cooperatives and collaboratives set up over the past five years. It appears obvious that there needs to be a better and more consistent professional interest in activities of research institutes, universities, research associations, and the research staff in these and other providers. These will need to be given attention by your Council in 1994.

### Professional Education

The review being conducted by the University of Canterbury has been supported by the Forestry Industry Technical and Educational Council (FITEC). The Institute nominated members of the panel to FITEC who will recommend two members for the five-member panel to be set up for the review task. The School of Forestry is to be covered in this review and a sub-committee of Council met with

the Chairman of SOFAC to collate views on the role of the School vis a vis Lincoln and Waikato.

The members' interest in setting up a formal continuous professional development process fits well in the context of our concern for the quality of tertiary education and similarly with the development of sub-tertiary NEQA approved educational capacity. In the New Year our working group will be formulating policy and practical implementation processes to be conveyed to members for their consideration.

### Indigenous Forests

The recent publicity given to the risk of Asian Gypsy Moth entry has been seen by many as another possibly overstated risk to monoculture radiata pine forests. The conservation-minded public would be well advised to consider the impact of both European and Asian Gypsy Moth on hardwood stands. In the eastern Canadian context a study of a well-used public viewpoint of oak stands showed 85% of the view was of dead trees. The public wanted to know why? The Gypsy Moth was the culprit and complacency on control from the original 1869 entry point was the reason.

The exposure of over four million hectares of indigenous forest with *Nothofagus* as a significant component should be properly understood together with the increasing risk of entry, not just from Siberian moth infestations, but also now from Europe and probably Eastern USA (North Carolina) and Canada. The Ministry of Forestry and Government should be anxious to ensure that proper funding for research and containment measures is budgeted. This year a MOF increase in activity was published.



Peter Olsen

What was not publicised was that there were no new funds allocated. Department of Conservation and MOF operational research funds were merely diverted from indigenous and associated current work.

Through the Forest Health Advisory Committee I have pressed for better funding of research which is not given priority by the Foundation for Research Science and Technology as it is regarded as "operational" and thus the concern of Departments. Cabinet assesses the priority for research via the Ministry of Research, Science and Technology (MORST). However forest protection appears to be seen as requiring belated action on mainly possums, and the ability to properly analyse other risks depends on advocacy by MOF and DOC. The members with concern in this area and expertise to assist Colin O'Loughlin should communicate this to both Council and Government either directly or via Dr O'Loughlin.

Peter Olsen  
President

## Obituary – Stan Reid

John Stanley Reid died in Wellington last October 5 at the age of 84 (1908-1993). His wife Jean died some three months previously.

Known by friends and acquaintances alike as Stan, he came from a Hawkes Bay orchardist family. He joined the fledgling State Forest Service in 1926 as a Public Service Cadet. This was only a few years after the Forests Act 1921-22 had been passed. It was also a short time into Mac-

Intosh Ellis' initial structuring of the new Service and his drive to secure trained staff. At the time, Leonard Cockayne, the ecological botanist, was attached to the Service as Honorary Botanist while undertaking his assessment of the all-important native forest situation. Cockayne had also been a member of the 1913 Royal Commission on "Forestry and the Use of Native Forests". Cockayne was to have a strong influence over Stan's university

work early in his career.

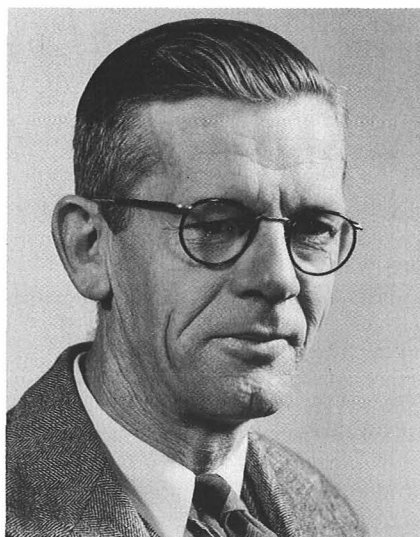
Stan studied for his B.Sc. at Victoria University College. He quickly displayed his leanings towards botany both in his studies and in his spare time field trips with the Tararua Tramping Club, in which he played a very active part, undertaking weekend and longer trips. He progressed to M.Sc. and Cockayne persuaded him to do a study of the vegetation of the Otari Reserve, a fine remnant of podocarp-hardwood forest that he had got the Wellington City to purchase. Stan's original observations and plots are still being followed and were included, in part, 60 years later in a thesis, carried out from Victoria University. Altogether these constitute probably the longest duration observations on any native vegetation in the country.

Ellis judged that the readily available timber supplies remaining in the native forests had a relatively short time to go, and also that many difficulties would have to be overcome in attempting to introduce sustainable management into native forest. On the other hand there was promising potential for exotic forestry if wood was going to be replaced with wood for the future. Provided introduced trees were grown, the problem then became how to ensure wood from them would replace the high-quality native timbers.

Trained and dedicated staff were needed to investigate what was a wide range of wood technology and wood-use problems. Stan with his background and position in the Service's Head Office was an obvious person to be drawn into this field. His botanical training and leanings, indeed, gave him added understanding of the problems involved.

The investigations that were got under way were expanded urgently during the war and particularly when two state mills were built to test and demonstrate the handling and use of wood from plantations. The driving force was A.R. Entrican. A Forest Products Branch was set up under W.C. Ward. Stan has written an account of these developments (NZ Forestry Aug. 87; Genesis of Commercial Division, NZ Forest Service). Success attending them soon lead to the smooth transition from native to exotic woods and the considerable benefits New Zealand has gained ever since. The introduction of improved sawing practices, appropriate grading, kiln drying and preservation practices throughout the industry were all promoted through investigations and particularly practical courses in which Stan played a prominent part.

Stan worked for his whole career in the Service's Head Office investigating these problems, eventually becoming the first Director of what was designated the Utilisation Development Division; in other



Stan Reid

words the field of work covering the transition period and the eventual absorption of the new woods in both customary and new uses. His knowledge of the total field became so embracing that he was asked to head an expanded research division when wide investigations were planned in the Forest Research Institute in Rotorua. But by that time Stan was thoroughly implanted in Wellington with his work and family and had no wish to leave.

When he retired in 1969 he agreed, however, to an invitation to head the course in timber technology and related matters at the School of Forestry in Christchurch. He continued this for six years and he and Jean lived in Christchurch temporarily for that time.

Students in the school soon found Stan's botany, particularly his knowledge of the native flora, sound and helpful too, so he used to attend the West Coast field station at Harihari and was "on tap", as it were, on matters botanical.

Stan pursued his botany in many ways

outside his official duties. Soon after the war the Wellington Botanical Society was formed and blossomed as a successful botanical organisation. Both Stan and Jean were inaugural members and contributed to it enthusiastically for the rest of their lives. Stan will be remembered particularly for his ability to embrace a tree and name it.

Stan accompanied me, when we were both retired, on trips to New Caledonia and Papua New Guinea to look at the southern beech forests. He was an ideal and helpful companion in the field and also when staying with sawmillers or missionaries, even when faced with vehement assertions that no non-Christians would ever see heaven. Yet Stan was a staunch supporter of his local Wadestown Presbyterian Church during his later Wellington years!

All four children, one from France and one from USA, were present at the funeral service, as were several grandchildren – a tribute to the cohesion of the family. His son Alan is remaining in New Zealand and is now with the Ministry of Forestry in Wellington.

The Reid family home in Wadestown is on the edge of the Ngaio Gorge which has been logged and burned in the early settlement days of Wellington. Gorse then invaded the gorge. Stan and others spent many long hours fighting gorse and planting native trees and shrubs. In recent times Stan contributed his time and knowledge to a local resident group set up to improve and monitor the forest in the Ngaio Gorge. At the time of his death the vegetation was well on the way back to an indigenous cover.

Both Stan's and Jean's ashes have been scattered in the Otari Reserve – their local forest that they knew and loved.

Lindsay Poole

## Obituary

### John Murray Balneaves

John Balneaves died after a long battle with cancer on November 12, 1993. His funeral, which was held in Rangiora, was attended by a large number of friends and colleagues from the forestry sector and the local community who gathered to pay their last respects to a remarkable individual.

John was remarkable in many ways, both as a scientist and as a person. As a scientist with FRI for more than 30 years (starting in January 1959) he worked in a variety of research areas including nursery stock production, establishment, herbicide

application, and site preparation impacts on long-term site productivity. He was even involved in early pruning research and in 1970 produced a report on "Pruning effort in relation to branch size of four species". However, John will be especially remembered for the work that he did to improve forest establishment practices in New Zealand plantations.

John produced over 100 scientific publications and reports in his career with FRI, including six during his last 12

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