

NZIF Environmental Working Group

The Environmental Working Group has met twice; in November and December 1994. After discussing a wide range of areas we could be involved in, and keeping in mind that we did not want to reinvent the wheel, we developed the following objectives.

These objectives have yet to be confirmed by the NZIF Council, on February 28, 1995, and your input, preferably before that date, is welcomed.

The objectives are listed below.

1. To coordinate and disseminate information regarding local and international environmental issues affecting forestry amongst NZIF members and others.
2. To prepare position statements for

NZIF on environmental matters affecting forestry.

3. To provide input into the development criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management in New Zealand.
4. To develop an environmental component to the NZIF code of ethics.

"Environmental" is defined in its widest context to include ecological, social and economic aspects. Forest growing, as opposed to wood processing, would be the main focus of the working group.

Part of the task of coordinating and disseminating information has been to develop a simple database of environmental groups/organisations, their involvement with other groups and the task they

have undertaken in the area of forestry and the environment.

Any suggestions concerning the database would be welcomed.

Please send any feedback to the convenor of the group:

Tim Thorpe, Senior Technical Adviser, Ministry of Forestry, PO Box 1610, Wellington, (Fax 04-472 2314).

Other members of the group are Helen Agnew, Ket Bradshaw, Trish Fordyce, Dougal Morrison, Colin O'Loughlin, Peter Olsen, Karen Shaw, Kevin Steel, Clive Tozer.

Ket Bradshaw
NZIF Councillor



PERSONAL PROFILE



Andrew Kirkland

Andy Kirkland is unique in the annals of New Zealand forestry in that he was elevated to a commanding position throughout the most turbulent recent history of the profession; he regards it as "a privilege to have been so involved".

Andy was born in Wellington in 1935. His father emigrated from Blantyre, Scotland; his mother, daughter of a kauri bushman, came from Puhipuhi. He had two brothers and three sisters. His schooling was at Mitchelltown, Te Aro and Wellington College, followed by a university career at Victoria, the Australian Forestry School, where he won the Schlich Memorial Medal in 1957, and finally at U.C. Berkeley, California, where he studied economics and business administration under a Harkness Fellowship, in 1970-71.

Andy joined the NZ Forest Service in 1952 as a junior labourer in Hawkes Bay. During University vacations he worked on Forest Survey which gave him a valuable insight into native forests. In 1958 he was appointed Forester in north Westland and devoted his considerable intelligence and energy into the study of beech forest silviculture, and the conversion of logged, burnt forest land to exotic plantations. Thirty years later he saw those early plantations being felled, as originally intended, for local sawmill supply. Even at this early stage Andy had the ability to concentrate his mind on the matter in hand, marshalling his thoughts logically, concisely and lucidly, and constantly pursued excel-

lence. It was not long before these virtues led to his rapid promotion.

In 1964 he became Principal Forester, Kaingaroa Forest, where he made himself fully conversant with the forest industry, especially Tasman Pulp and Paper Company's operations. He was responsible for tightening up silviculture and management in this large tract of forest, and for control and distribution of the harvest.

In the midst of the controversy launched by the conservation lobby, in 1972, Andy was appointed Director of Management in Wellington, where he became immersed in policy and legal issues relating to conservation and the environment and, at the same time, he was responsible for the allocation of planting programmes to regions and for all aspects of silviculture and management including control of regional harvesting programmes.

In 1978 Andy was appointed Director-General of the NZ Forest Service with oversight of most of the indigenous forest estate and half the nation's plantations. He did not take kindly to the vilification of the Forest Service and championed multiple-use forestry on behalf of the profession, which brought down the wrath of the conservation lobby who claimed that he was undermining what they considered to be government policy. The unjust claim was investigated by the State Services Commission and Andy was exonerated. During his final two years as Director-General he was called upon to advise Government



Andrew Kirkland

on the appropriate slicing up of the coordinated role of the Forest Service into commercial, advisory and conservation functions under the New Zealand Forestry Corporation, the Ministry of Forestry and the Department of Conservation.

In 1987 Andy became Managing Director of the New Zealand Forestry Corporation, which took over the 550,000 hectare plantation estate of the then defunct Forest Service, directed to run it as a profitable business. In the first year the Corporation realised a profit of \$61 million, which was exceeded in each subsequent period until the better part of the cutting rights were sold to private industry, under Andy's supervision, culminating in the demise of the Corporation in November 1990. In that year Andy was awarded the Q.S.O. for public service and a Sesquicentennial Commemorative Medal.

In the following year Andy was

appointed to the onerous task of Director-General of the Department of Social Welfare, a position he held with distinction until he had to retire for health reasons in February 1993.

In 1964 Andy married Jocelyn Hill. They have two sons: John, currently completing a Ph.D. in Engineering; and Andrew, already awarded a B. Mus. and currently completing a B.Sc. in computer science.

In the 1980s Andy was a Member of the Environmental Council, of the Land Use Advisory Council, and of the extended State Services Commission dealing with senior Public Service appointments; and in the late 1980s he served on the Harkness Fellowship selection panel. In that decade, also, he negotiated the first technical exchange agreement in forestry with the People's Republic of China.

Andy has produced a number of well-researched, informative and challenging papers, recent ones being: "Accountabil-

ity in Multiple Use Enterprises: Urgent Problem or Dead Horse?" delivered at the Commonwealth Forestry Conference in Rotorua in 1989, and "Forest Ownership and Resource Availability on the Pacific Rim" in Sydney in March 1991. He has also commissioned books on forestry in New Zealand – for example "History of New Zealand Forestry" by Michael Roche, and "Pumice and Pines" by Joan Boyd – and is trustee for the current preparation of a book on the development of the New Zealand Forestry Corporation.

Andy has been a member of the NZIF since the early 1950s, and served as Councillor in the early 1970s. He has always been, and remains, a staunch protagonist of the forestry profession. He comments: "The professional bodies in forestry in the Pacific Basin have been slow to answer the unprecedented criticism of foresters' attitudes and values so evident in western North America and Australasia, and growing even in Japan. I believe our own

Institute could undertake a leading role in attempting to do so. It would be instructive to trace the influence of foresters on 'the forests of the Pacific region' and draw from it some worthwhile directions for the coming century" which "might well cover professional obligations including those of shareholders of commercial forests, the rights of indigenous forest dwellers, and the preservation of the diversity of forest ecosystems. A profession which has so widely been forced into a defensive posture needs some constructive introspection."

Andy believes his most important contribution to New Zealand forestry was to maintain the standards and motivation of ex-Forest Service staff through the U-turns of corporatisation and privatisation. Many will be leaders of New Zealand forestry in the years ahead, he claims.

Geoff Chavasse

NEW INFORMATION

Update from the Indigenous Forestry Unit

The Forests Amendment Act, amending the Forests Act 1949, has been in operation since July 1993. The Act is administered by the Ministry of Forestry's Indigenous Forestry Unit (IFU), based in Christchurch. The transitional sawmilling provisions (allowable cuts) appear to be working well.

Under the Act, any sawmill which mills indigenous timber must be registered. These registered sawmills are authorised to mill indigenous logs harvested from areas managed under the approved sustainable forest management plans or permits. They are also able to mill an "allowable cut" under the transitional provisions, which expire in July 1986.

At the end of 1994, 312 sawmills throughout New Zealand (190 in the North Island and 122 in the South Island) were registered to mill indigenous timber. Over 100 of these were portable mills.

Allowable cuts are held by 75 sawmills in the North Island and 40 in the South Island. Production has favoured rimu (*Dacrydium cupressinum*) with silver beech (*Nothofagus menziesii*) in second place.

About 105,000 cubic metres of allowable cut remains from a total of 195,000 cubic metres sought by qualifying mills.

This is split almost evenly between the North and South Islands. However, North

Island forest owners appear to have a slight advantage for access to allowable cut over their South Island counterparts because of the regional spread of cut.

The industry has yet to feel the impact of the 70,000 cubic metre per annum reduction in available volume (mainly rimu) from the West Coast indigenous production forests managed by Timberlands West Coast Limited. This reduction follows the ending of unsustainable harvesting levels in North and South Westland at the end of last year, as agreed under the 1986 West Coast Accord.

Private forest owners are now looking seriously at their options. The IFU has received a number of enquiries on sustainable forest management plans and permits.

A number of draft plans and permit applications are being prepared. The IFU has also received applications for milling windblown and salvage timber as well as timber for personal use.

Nine sustainable forest management permits and one plan have been approved as at the end of 1994. A further 12 permits and plans are being assessed.

Most market interest is in podocarp and beech forest. However, a slow but steady demand on tawa for veneering, solid furniture and turnery, along with other species suited to niche products, is encouraging

some landowners to look at their forests' potential.

Exports have remained firm based on timber from West Coast Accord forests and areas in Southland exempted under the Forests Amendment Act. Australia remains the main destination for rimu and beech dressed timber and partially processed products such as profiled mouldings and panelling.

Export markets are showing increased interest in finished articles. Products ranging from xylophones and furniture through to a complete shop interior kitset form have gone to markets in Asia, Europe and the United States. In addition, small quantities of tree fern fibre and tree fern products have gone to Asia.

Exporting salvaged stumps and roots (chiefly swamp kauri) has settled down from the levels of a year ago. The Government is re-examining this industry following a dispute between an exporter and the Ministry over the definition of a "stump", and the use of such timber. Under current legal interpretation, all buried trees may be defined as a "stump". Some legal clarification is being sought.

Ian Platt
IFU, MOF