

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