

locations missing from this list, notably Auckland and Wellington Conservancies.

The emphasis will be on reminiscence and recall of the good times, with some reminders of the historical significance of New Zealand Forest Service achievements.

Former staff prepared to assist with address lists and information distribution should contact me, as should anyone seeking more information.

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'Forestry Corporation sale best use of resource'

"The sale of the Forestry Corporation's cutting rights would give the central North Island forestry industry a much-needed shot in the arm," said the Minister of Forestry, the Hon. John Falloon.

"It is far from ideal that the Government's largest forestry company is also New Zealand's largest log exporter. The Government is hardly setting a good example," he said.

"Half of the volume of New Zealand's standing timber is in the central North Island, where FCNZ has its forests, while the region's main port, at Tauranga, accounts for 56% of New Zealand's log exports.

"The region has received little new investment in solidwood processing, even though more than 60% of its forests have been intensively managed to produce clearwood, well above the national average of 45%.

"In other words, too much of the region's high-quality resource is either exported as logs or pulped.

"If we want these logs processed onshore, then significant new investment and skills are needed," said the Minister.

The Ministry of Forestry has identified that between \$4.5 billion and \$6.4 billion will have to be invested in processing over the next 15 years if New Zealand is to maximise its value-added potential. The impact of this investment on employment could be substantial. MOF estimates that this \$4.5-\$6.4 billion investment could create between 30,000 and 40,000 new jobs.

"Since 1988, the forestry industry has earmarked \$2 billion for investment in new processing ventures. By this year, FCNZ had invested just \$69 million, or 3% of this total," said Mr Falloon.

"There is clearly substantial underinvestment within the region."

Mr Falloon said that the capital invested in the central North Island has been in pulp and paper processing, rather than in the solidwood processing appropriate for the region's high-quality clearwood crop.

"FCNZ's share of the necessary future investment will either have to be paid by the Government, with the taxpayer taking the risk, or by another investor," he said.

"New owners will be able to invest the money, bring in new skills and provide the technology and international marketing linkages necessary to develop these forests.

"We know there are a number of forestry companies keen to invest in the New Zealand forestry industry, but many are holding back on their investment plans until the future of FCNZ is clarified.

"Furthermore, local companies that rely on FCNZ's log supplies are hindered in their ability to invest in further processing while the future of FCNZ is in doubt.

Government Concern

"The Government is becoming increasingly concerned about this situation.

"The New Zealand forestry industry has many competitors overseas. If these investors don't put their money into New Zealand, they will put it into countries such as Chile and Brazil. This will significantly disadvantage New Zealand in the long term."

Stormy end for Forestry Insights

Forestry Insights came to a stormy end in September when Auckland turned on one of the nastiest nights of the year for the end-of-project celebrations held at the Auckland Museum. Over 100 guests braved the conditions to see the launch of the final theme, *Science and Technology*, and to acknowledge the successful completion of the four-year project.

Colin McKenzie, chairman of the Forest Industries Training and Education Council, paid tribute to the support the industry has given the project. "The \$3 million investment in Forestry Insights shows the commitment the industry has in telling the forestry story to all students in all schools. Forestry will play an increasingly big part in the lives of New Zealanders and it is important that the next generation understands the opportunities sustainable plantation forestry offers," he said.

"A project of this size and scope could not have been undertaken without the backing of Carter Holt Harvey, Fletcher Challenge and the Forestry Corporation of New Zealand, and the host of smaller companies that contributed to production of materials. Companies associated with the forestry industry, for example Railfreight, ECNZ, Shell, Ernst and Young, Bell Equipment and Du Pont, were also generous in their support."

The highlight of the evening was three schools presenting Forestry Insights in action. Panmure District School, a sponsor for *The Forest* theme, performed a specially written rap about the project: All New Zealand schools received a kit. Sent to us all - bit by bit. Junior and Middle, Intermediate too. Secondary level was included - phew!

Two sixth-form students from Epsom

Girls' Grammar presented their economics projects on economic growth in the timber industry; and third formers at Pakuranga College demonstrated how they had created brochures on recreation in the forest on computer.

The results of a recently commissioned survey on the use of Forestry Insights were also released by Forest Industries Council chairman, Tone Coyte. Sixty-eight per cent of primary teachers and 89% of secondary teachers responding to the survey had used the materials. Primary teachers continue to spend extended periods using the kits with the most common timeframe being a month to six weeks. The quality of the kits was also rated highly.

Forestry Insights has been a joint effort by the Forest Industries Training and Educational Council and the Ministry of Forestry, so it was fitting that the final thanks to all those involved in the project were given by Kyran Newell of the Ministry of Forestry. Many people have been involved in the creation of the materials and they have often worked on tight deadlines and under pressure. The teacher-writers in particular have been a vital ingredient in the success of Forestry Insights, as without their ideas and enthusiasm, the materials would not have had the same appeal.

The five themes (*The Forest, Processes, The Environment, The People and Science and Technology*) have all been produced on time and under budget. In all, 35,000 boxes have been distributed free to schools. At the end of October, Forestry Insights passed into the caretakership of the Forest Industries Council and those involved in Forestry Insights are able to draw breath and look back on the project with a great sense of achievement.