



## Editorial change

If you see Chris Perley with a permanent grin, you have me to thank. Chris finished his three-year tenure as Editor of New Zealand Forestry in June and gleefully turned the job over to me. I think I could speak for most of the membership of the New Zealand Institute of Forestry in thanking Chris for his outstanding contributions as Editor. Since such talent is too good to leave hidden, I will expect continued contributions.

As a brief introduction to the new Editor: I coordinate and teach into the Bachelor of Commerce (Forestry) degree at Lincoln University. Originally from Canada, where I have worked in both provincial government forestry agencies and corporate forestry, I have also lived in Australia, teaching forest economics in the Forestry School at the University of Melbourne. My background is in economics and I have worked mostly in the areas of economic policy, investment and trade analysis related to forestry. Having experience as an Editor was not a key criterion for the job (and I don't have any).

The continuity in the process of changing Editors is the Editorial Board. The Editorial Board currently consists of myself, Don Mead, John Allen, Mike Cuddihy, and a new member, Don Hammond. This group decides the theme and content of New Zealand Forestry, but only to the extent that the membership lets them. Since this is the journal of the Institute, it is important that ideas about content, and written contributions continue to come from the wider membership.

### New Sections

Having mentioned continuity, I have always been told that the point of changing people is a good time to make other changes. Readers in this issue will see new sections on education, forestry history and international perspectives. I am assured that none of these changes are original and for good reasons they either faded away or never got started, but we will see what happens this time.

Education News is a response to the Institute's focus on education and continuing professional development in the new membership structure. As the new membership structure is implemented later this year, NZIF members will need to be

informed about opportunities for continuing professional development. The section is intended for providers of forestry education and relevant continuing professional development to keep members informed about activities in this area.

Looking Back will provide an opportunity to profile articles on forestry history, and hopefully support the efforts of Forestry History Group outlined in this issue. Studying and understanding history is important because it provides a sense of perspective about where we have been and why we are in our current state of affairs. This is particularly so for the generation now entering the forest industry whose only experience of forestry will be the form of corporate forestry that is practised today. For those who have been around longer, history is still necessary to be a reminder that much of what we pro-

pose has been suggested or tried before, and that this experience offers lessons for what we are doing now. The excerpt in this issue from a speech of McIntosh Ellis 30 years ago will perhaps serve both purposes.

International Perspectives will provide an opportunity to hear how those outside New Zealand perceive forestry in the New Zealand context and to provide contrasting views of forestry. The objective is keep the membership informed about how the wider international community views forestry in New Zealand. An understanding of international perceptions or differences in forestry practices is important for identifying opportunities, addressing misconceptions and helping to maintain a clear picture of forestry in New Zealand.

Hugh Bigsby

## Editorial

# Fundamentalism to Imperialism?

The perceptions that the wider public have of forestry should be important to those who work within it, especially the public that resides in the rural areas where forestry has its most obvious impacts. After all, it is public perceptions which will ultimately influence the environment in which forestry operates.

One particular sector of the public that has had a substantial influence on forestry is agriculture. For as long as people have been keeping records, forestry has been the poor cousin of agriculture. In the competition for land, forestry has occupied only those areas which were too poor to eke out any type of existence under an agricultural system, or which were too far from markets for agriculture to be viable. This was particularly evident in the New World, where generations of settlers pushed back the forest and converted the landscape to agriculture. An important feature of this pattern of development was the creation of largely separate spheres of interest for forestry and agriculture. This

separation was generated by the general perception that each had its own management characteristics and business structures, and thus separate geographic areas. Once agricultural expansion was finished, a peaceful, but separate, coexistence between forestry and agriculture emerged.

Tensions began to develop between agricultural and forestry interests as the terms of trade changed and forestry was able to compete at the margins for agricultural land. This has subsequently developed into an accelerated process of direct competition for what many in the agricultural sector would consider to be prime pastoral land. This in turn has caused a major change in the relationship between the agricultural and forestry sectors, a change which might pose difficulties in resolving.

### Agricultural Fundamentalism

One way of characterising the effects that agriculture has had on forestry is to look at the criteria by which either gained the