

tax breaks, forestry as an investment for individuals has taken off. This phenomenon is without doubt due to the withdrawal of the State as a major but non-commercial player in the forestry sector. Social and political imperatives have always negated any genuine attempts by

Government foresters to manage and market commercial forestry at a profit.

Now that we are no longer burdened by such constraints our profession should hasten to protect both itself and the thousands of people who now depend on our knowledge. Formal registration of profes-

sional foresters having now been achieved, the next step is to ensure that the public are well informed of their existence.

**J. G. Groome**

# Forestry History Report

We should not overlook the importance attached to forestry history in other parts of the world. Indeed, Forest History is a Subject Group in IUFRO Division 6 (Social and Economic Aspects of Forestry, Group 6.07). The Forest History Subject Group is divided into four different working parties on the following subjects: ecological forest history, timber and timber industries, tropical forest history, and history of hunting culture. The Group holds global meetings in conjunction with the five-yearly meetings of the umbrella IUFRO World Group, the next being in Malaysia in 2000. There are over 300 members at present and membership of the subject group is free, to encourage people to take part. If New Zealanders wish to participate in Group 6.07, they should send their addresses to Dr Elisabeth Johann, AG Forstgeschichte im OFA, A-1130, Wien, Wlassakstrasse 56, Austria.

While in Vienna earlier this year the Dean of Forestry at Canterbury, Ron O'Reilly, took the initiative to contact Dr Johann and tell her of the developing interest in this country in New Zealand forestry history, leaving some published historical material with her. Dr Johann offers a forestry history course at the University of Freiburg. There are other forestry history courses at universities in Vienna and Munich. In all these courses emphasis is placed on both the social and the economic implications of forestry policy and forest management; the modern perspective is the comprehensive link between mankind and the forests.

Our steering group has continued to promote the forestry archive in the MacMillan-Brown Collection and has alerted a major forestry company holding historical records to its potential use. The steering group is not, and should not be, "pushy" in such approaches; the main objective is to emphasise the importance of records being kept in safe places. Material in the MacMillan-Brown forestry archive is kept in a secure library store which is heated and so maintains a fairly even temperature, has a fire alarm and contains spacious, high-quality mobile

shelving. The University is able to secure experienced archivists from time to time to order and catalogue the material. Organisations depositing material in the archive can retain control over it in various ways. They can stipulate conditions of access to it. For instance, they can arrange to be told about all research enquiries and can refuse to release any commercially sensitive data. (The MacMillan-Brown Collection already contains records of some commercial organisations.) Also depositors can continue to have access themselves to the materials they provided. The University would send faxes or photocopies to them of any records desired.

Over the last few months we have received several welcome approaches from people who possess, or know of, historical records or sources. We hope such contacts will keep on coming. Also it is gratifying to report from the farm forestry

scene that J.J. (Joll) Hosking is writing the history of the New Zealand Farm Forestry Association.

It is possible to speculate on one – doubtless there will be several – possible sequence in the continued development of New Zealand forestry history. One step is the deposit of records in safe, publicised places. A next step could be the interpretation of such records and the publication of accounts on circumscribed forestry subjects by well-informed specialists who would usually not be professional historians. The latter could come in later and fit these vignettes into larger historical pictures which would often extend beyond forestry *per se*. But first things come first; hence the current emphasis on safeguarding the records.

**Peter McKelvey**



## INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVES



### Observations on New Zealand forest policy

**E.F. Bruenig\***

In May, 1996 I had the opportunity to make a brief visit to New Zealand, visiting different forests and learning about forestry in this country. For me, the visit highlighted two outstanding features of New Zealand forest policy. The first is the privatisation of much of the forest activities. The second is the change in attitude towards the indigenous forests on private land, from seeing them as an obstacle to development to acknowledging their value as heritage and renewable resource (Ministry of Forestry, 1993). The forest policy,

\* Dr Eberhard Bruenig, Professor Emeritus, Hamburg University.

although obviously in a dynamic phase of adaptation and development, raises an important issue in terms of forest uses.

Within New Zealand, it appears that there has been a change from "multiple" use or "multiple purpose" forestry to "dominant purpose" forestry. The control of most indigenous forests has been transferred to the new Department of Conservation, while the productive plantation forestry was privatised. Naturally, opinions among the various interest groups are controversial. The plantation group wants "predominant purpose" to be interpreted as excluding any production function from the indigenous forest. This is supported