

Forestry Institute honours award winners

Four successful recipients were honoured with New Zealand Institute of Forestry awards at the Institute's AGM at the Forest Research Institute.

Rob Prebble, national coordinator for machine operator and cable logging training for the Logging and Forest Industry Training Board, received the John Balneaves Travel Award. Travel awards enable people in the forestry sector to travel overseas to increase their own and the forest industries' knowledge and experience. Rob will use his to travel to Sweden and Finland to research the latest training techniques for mechanised harvesting machines and relate these to New Zealand needs. He says that Sweden in particular has identified unexpected muscular, skeletal and psychological health problems with mechanised harvesting systems and the New Zealand industry needs to take heed of Scandinavian experience to avoid the same problems. Findings from his study tour will be incorporated in workshops combining operating techniques and basic maintenance procedures. His itinerary will include visits to the Forest Worker School at Stora Segerstad and Varnamo, and a machine operator training company.

Winner of the Chavasse Travel Award is Alan Somerville, resource centre manager for the NZ Forest Research Institute's



Winning smiles at the New Zealand Institute of Forestry's annual awards presentation – from left to right NZIF President John Galbraith, Mrs Shirley Chavasse (patron of the Chavasse Travel Award), Alan Somerville, Tina Cummins and Jan Derks.

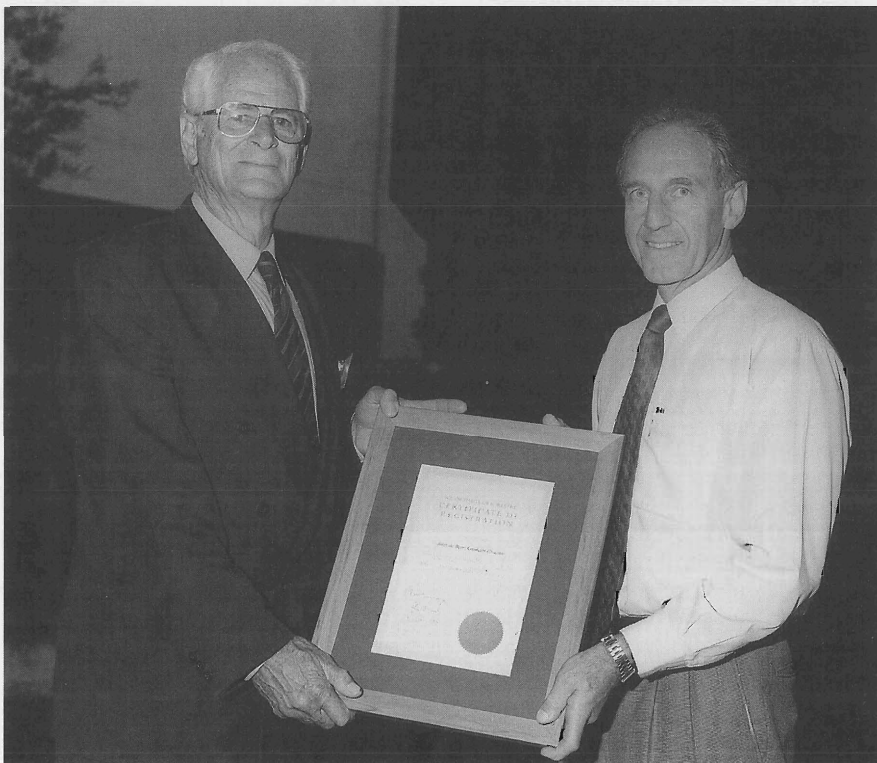
Special Purpose species Group and a scientist within the Resource Evaluation and Planning Group. Alan will use the award to travel to Japan to research the acceptability of New Zealand-grown cypress timbers in market niches currently occupied by Japanese grown Hinoki (*Chaemaecyparis*

obtusa) and imported cypress timbers. He will also look at the importance of sapwood content in sawn timber for solid wood products made from cypress timbers and examine current Japanese silviculture practices, yields and modelling capability for cypresses.

Alan says while cypresses are promising species for New Zealand, because of higher growing costs profitability will depend on achieving the sort of price premium traditionally paid in Japan for cypress timber. The question will be whether New Zealand-grown cypress timber will be seen as an acceptable alternative in Japan to species domestically grown or currently imported.

The Mary Sutherland bequest for the top student completing the National Diploma in Forestry at Waiariki Polytechnic was awarded to Tina Cummins. Tina was a member of the first class in New Zealand to complete the three-year National Diploma in Forestry (Forest Management), which includes practical forestry (including planting, pruning and plotting), technical subjects including wood science, harvest planning and forest inventory, and forest business management, including costing, financial management and business planning.

The Schlich Memorial Prize for the student displaying best all-round ability in the final professional year at the School of Forestry, University of Canterbury, was awarded to Jan Derks. Jan is supervisor, sustained yields, for Timberlands West Coast, based at Hari Hari. He is responsible for planning and coordinating the physical operations and people required in the sus-



John Groome (left) proudly displays his New Zealand Institute of Forestry Registered Member Certificate Number One, with President John Galbraith. The Institute's new membership structure has been operating since October last year and the first certificates were presented at the AGM in Rotorua.