



NZIF President's report

NZ Forest Accord and Principles

As noted in my previous report, representatives of the NZIF were invited to attend an August 29 meeting of Partners to the NZ Forest Accord and Principles held in Wellington, to discuss the Institute's position on these documents. A letter prepared to outline the NZIF position accompanies this report.

The meeting was generally positive. The NZIF draft Indigenous Forest policy was tabled to illustrate the very comprehensive and pro-active NZIF stance on indigenous forestry in New Zealand. It was acknowledged that once the policy is completed and formally adopted by the Institute then the Institute can be expected to actively promote the objects of the policy.

Representatives of Environmental NGOs present at the meeting were interested in identifying any particular cases where the instruments of the NZ Forest Accord could not be followed, while achieving an overall objective of maintaining and enhancing indigenous forests. (The Council is in fact hoping to make a field visit to examples of recent forestry development involving the identification and protection of areas of indigenous vegetation, prior to its November meeting.)

Given the NZIF advocacy for consideration of particular Maori forestry interests and the Accord and the recent contacts with the fledgling Maori Forest Industry Association, it was suggested that the Institute might help to facilitate dialogue between the Accord partners and Maori Forestry interests.

Council

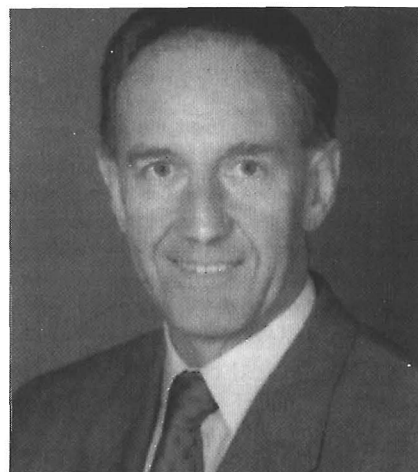
All positions on the current NZIF Council are up for re-election prior to the 1998 AGM. I believe that the Institute members have been well served by a strong and active Council in recent years and it is important that we get a good level of interest from members in standing for Council and providing a basis for renewal and ongoing strength.

Nominations for Council positions will be called for early in 1998 and members are asked to consider their interest in either standing for Council or in nominating other worthy members for such opportunity.

Travel award presentations

This year's recipient of the John Balneaves Award, Rob Prebble, used the funds to study machine operator training in Scandinavia, with a particular emphasis on the prevention of occupational overuse injuries. Rob has prepared an illustrated presentation on the trip and this is being promoted amongst local sections as a good way to extend the findings from the award.

John Galbraith President



John Galbraith

Letter outlines NZIF position

NZIF President John Galbraith has written to the Secretary of the Forest Accord and Principles Partners as follows:

"Thank you for the invitation to attend the August 29 meeting of Partners to the NZ Forest Accord and Principles for Plantation Forest Management in New Zealand. I understand that our letter of March 27 raised some questions and concerns as to the position of the Institute with regard to the Accord and Principles and I hope the following and our discussions at the meeting will clarify the Institute's position on these important documents.

"Institute members in general have high regard for the achievement of the parties to the Accord and Principles in developing and concluding such unique agreements. The common ground represented in the agreements provides an environment in which our members can carry out their endeavours in a professional and non-confrontational way, which is the envy of our professional colleagues in many other countries.

"As you will recall, the NZIF was invited to become a signatory partner to the Principles in late 1995. Following a survey of our members, a motion was put to our AGM in 1996 that the NZIF become a signatory, but subsequently the motion was lost. Our letter of March 27 conveyed the points of concern identified by our members, which are essentially

rooted in particular instruments of the Accord and some aspects of the process followed in the development of the Accord.

"The Principles Objectives state that 'These principles are complementary to the New Zealand Forest Accord (August 1991)'. However other clauses within the Principles directly link to the Accord, such that a signatory to the Principles would in effect be endorsing the Accord. It was recognised that such a position may prevent members from providing services to landowners who were acting lawfully and within the spirit and intent of the RMA.

"The prescriptive nature of Instruments 1 and 2 of the Accord can and have been interpreted to prevent a wider area planning approach, which would otherwise fully meet the Objectives and intent of the Accord. A major area of concern is that landowners, notably Maori, who had not signed the Accord or been consulted during its development were being expected to abide by its provisions and/or being captured by its instruments.

"The intent of the Accord with regard to the protection, enhancement and sustainable management of our remaining indigenous forests is strongly supported. To illustrate the NZIF's own position on the management of our indigenous forests I have attached a copy of our recently developed draft indigenous forest policy for your information. You will see that the

policy is vitally concerned with the maintenance and health of New Zealand's indigenous forests.

"In debating the above issues the Institute is increasingly aware that one of its primary objects is to be an independent

advocate for forestry. Maintaining this independence tempers the Institute's ability to enter into specific purpose commitments on behalf of its members. The Institute therefore sees its future role in this debate as assisting with resolution of

the areas of concern outlined above.

"Once again thank you for the opportunity to meet, and I hope that the above commentary helps clarify the NZIF's position with regard to the Accord and Principles."

Proposed revamp of NZIF Awards

Paul Smale

Introduction

The Institute is currently responsible for the promotion and administration of nine awards. While there is no question that they were originally established with good intent and with a sound funding base, times have of course moved on and their intent and appropriateness may no longer be relevant. For some there have been no applications or nominations in recent times. For others the funding base is now very low and unsustainable at current levels.

The purpose of this revue is to reposition the awards so that they more appropriately meet the needs of a modern, more professional organisation. Article 2 of the Institute's Constitution lists the following objectives for awards:

- affording members opportunities to express and exchange views
- encouraging fraternity and *esprit de corps*
- providing for the recognition of professional standards.

While trying to maintain the history associated with the awards an attempt will be made to adapt them so that they not only reward innovation and professionalism but at the same time promote the Institute, the professions associated with it, and encourage new membership.

Set out below are brief details of how the awards are currently administered by the Institute. For some no change is suggested but the details are included for completeness and as background to members. For others a revised format is suggested as a basis for further discussion.

Award for Eminence – Thomas Kirk Award (Kirk Horn Flask)

The purpose of this award is to recognise outstanding contributions in the field of forestry in New Zealand with those eligible being members currently working in, or who have worked in, forestry in New Zealand. No applications are called for, with the recipient being selected by a committee made up of either the President of the Institute, the President of the Royal

Society and Professor of the School of Forestry, or, made up in total or in part of winners of the award, at the discretion of Council. The award consists of the Kirk Horn Flask (filled with a suitable beverage), to be held by the recipient for one month and then returned to the Royal Society (minus the beverage), and a medal retained by the winner.

This is the most historically valuable award in all New Zealand science. It commemorates the original recipient of the flask, Thomas Kirk, a man with no formal schooling but who became one of New Zealand's foremost botanical explorer/scientists and teacher at the Auckland Institute and Museum. It also commemorates the donor, Captain Inches Campbell-Walker, a member of the Indian Forest Service who came to New Zealand in March 1876 as the first Conservator of Forests on a year's trial.

In 1984 the Royal Society approached the NZIF, provided a fund of \$2500, and invited them to administer the award "in forestry in the broadest sense" on their behalf. (See NZ Forestry, August 1988.)

No changes in this award are suggested.

Travel Awards

Chavasse Travel Award

The original purpose of this award was for bilateral exchanges of Institute members with selected professional forestry societies in other countries. It was amended in 1991 to incorporate the possibility of funding an overseas speaker to travel to New Zealand and speak at the Conference and/or to local sections, but to date this has not occurred. The award is open to all NZIF Honorary, Fellow, or Full Members who may be interested in travelling overseas. Written applications are required to include details on the country, timing of visit, particular interests, chosen itinerary, and a proposed budget. Selection is by a three-person committee comprising the President, Vice President, and Patron of the Fund (Mrs S. Chavasse). The value of the award was originally \$5000 although in latter years this was reduced to \$3500.

Geoff Chavasse gave the Institute a

substantial sum of money when he retired which was increased by donations and a membership levy to form sufficient capital to enable the annual interest to be used each year for the travel award.

The only change proposed is to use a common (with other awards) selection panel as set out below.

Balneaves Travel Award

No changes are suggested for this award which is administered by the Institute. Its purpose is to enable people in the forestry sector to travel overseas in order to increase their, and the forest industries', experience and knowledge. At John Balneaves' request, an applicant (who need not be a member of the NZIF) must be a person:

- of good integrity and who is currently active in plantation forestry research
- have at least 10 years of professional activity ahead of them
- be enthusiastic and energetic in their work
- have good communication skills and have the interest and ability to get alongside others.

Written applications are called for detailing background, reason for travel, provisional itinerary, additional financial support, and the names of two referees. The selection panel consists of the President of the NZFOA, the CEO of NZFRI and the President of NZIF, or their delegates. The award is for a minimum of \$5000 each year which is presented at the AGM for travel to be completed that year.

There is a fund of \$17,100 set up by the Forest and Forest Products Research organisations' Forest Technology Board with significant donations by NZFRI and a number of companies. The award is made out of principal and interest and the fund will therefore eventually be liquidated.

The recipient would be expected to produce a report within three months of their return to New Zealand with a summary of this report to be published in New Zealand Forestry and the full report to be