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INSTITUTE NEWS



President's report

Collaboration with IFA

You will recall that, following the 1997 ANZIF conference and meetings in Canberra, several initiatives were raised with our colleagues in Australia to promote a closer professional relationship and some joint action between the IFA and NZIF. At its November meeting the NZIF Council discussed the very positive response which had been received from IFA President Ian Fergusson.

On the matter of professional registration and CPD, Ian advised that the IFA Council had formally decided to introduce systems for professional registration of members and he forwarded draft proposals under consideration by the IFA. There is close alignment between the IFA proposals and the recently introduced NZIF Registration scheme and this will provide a good basis for reciprocal recognition and perhaps in future a common scheme

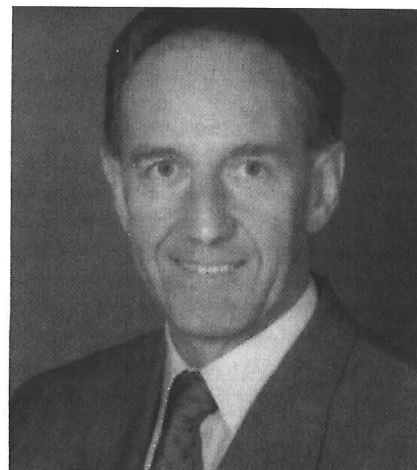
between our two professional bodies.

The IFA Council is also proposing to introduce a complementary scheme for accreditation of forestry degree providers. An NZIF Working Party is looking at whether our Institute should be involved in accreditation of degrees on this side of the Tasman too and a progress report from the IFA Education Committee on accreditation was very useful to their deliberations.

Again, the hope is that we can progress toward either a joint process or at least common criteria for accreditation.

Journal Editor

Editor Hugh Bigsby is on overseas sabbatical until August 1998, and we are very fortunate that we have an acting editor of the experience and ability of Don Mead to maintain production of our flagship during this time. Thank you Don.



NZIF President, John Galbraith

Environmental Working Group update

ISO 14 000

The ISO 14 000 technical report on forestry has been finalised, and subject to ratification through the ISO process should be available for use in mid-1988.

NZ Forest Accord and Principles

The NZIF has been invited to attend future meetings of the *NZ Forest Accord* and *Principles for Commercial Plantation Forestry* partners on a permanent basis. The NZIF is not a signatory to either agreement and its independence on issues

relating to the *Accord* and *Principles* has been noted by the partners. This independence has already proved useful in one particular instance relating to a potential land-clearing operation in North Auckland.

Position Statement on Biodiversity

No comments were received from members on the draft NZIF position statement on biodiversity published in the last issue of *NZ Forestry*. As a consequence, the draft will be taken to the NZIF Council for ratification, and action items further developed from it.

Environmental Report Card

ISO 14 000 and Forestry Stewardship Council are two prominent forms of environmental certification. Both have their weaknesses and do not necessarily meet all market or producer expectations. The NZ Forest Industries Council (FIC) is

currently looking at the development of a "report-card" for reporting on a company's environmental performance. Developed in Canada the "report-card" format is capable of being applied to both forest and processing plant. FIC has convened a working group to pursue the idea.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Environmental Working Group will be held in Southland, exact venue yet to be confirmed, on March 12-13, 1998. A visit to Rayonier's MDF plant at Mataura and discussion with Rayonier on ISO 14 000 and Forestry Stewardship Council certification is on the agenda. All NZIF members who wish to attend are most welcome to do so, and should contact the undersigned.

Tim Thorpe

Wellington Rainforest Action Group is updating

THE GOOD WOOD GUIDE.

It will list users/suppliers of alternatives to rainforest timber. We plan to distribute it widely. To apply to be in it, phone Katy Brown at (04) 385-6728, fax (04) 385-6753, or write - Freepost 103-139, WRAG, Box 11-964, Wellington.