

For all parties this process imparts a significant degree of responsibility. For the Board and Council:

- Maintenance of entry standards. It is not axiomatic that all applicants will at first succeed, although those that are fully committed virtually always achieve registration.
- Maintenance of standards in practice. The Board have established procedures to ensure all registered members' performance is audited at least 5-yearly.
- Handling of complaints. From time to time the Board is asked to review the practice of a registered member, and has established procedures that do so as fairly and efficiently as possible. Although there have been few cases that the Board has had to deal with, the precedent developed is valuable.

For the registered member responsibility for maintenance of professional capability and adherence to the Institute's relatively undemanding standards are the main requirements.

The records of the Board show that there have been very few issues raised relating to the conduct of our registered members, a record that reflects well on both the Board's processes and those members. Nevertheless prudence requires that a level of vigilance is maintained, and as the number of members registered with the Institute increases this will become an increasingly important aspect of the Board's work.

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Recognition of the attainment of members is an activity not just of importance to

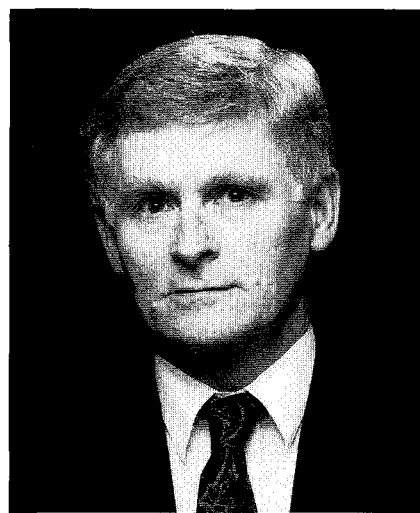
those of us within the Institute. The Queens Birthday Honours included important awards to two of our members, with John Holloway and John Valentine receiving awards for services to forestry.

In Dr Valentine's case the award recognises his important leadership role both within and outside the forestry community. As Chief Executive of the Ministry of Forestry his contribution to both national forestry policy and development of the sector have been noted, and his commitment to representing New Zealand's case in international fora has ensured the contribution of plantation forestry to sustainability goals is not overlooked.

John Holloway's award is for his contribution to forestry and conservation, reflecting John's quiet determination to achieve wider recognition that good practice in the one case was invariably good practice in the other. Throughout a life time career in the former Forest Service and Department of Conservation embracing planning, management and science this tenet has been at the forefront of his work. John has also been particularly active as Councillor, Journal Editor, and member of the Registration Board over a long period.

Both Johns are graduates of Aberdeen University from the mid to late 1960's. While recognition of individual achievement in this way is to be admired, it also reflects well on our Institute that two of our senior members have thus been recognised. Congratulations to you both.

**Peter Berg**  
President



**John Holloway**



**John Valentine**

## Maintaining Professional Standards

"Uniformity for its own sake is inconsistent with professionalism. If all that Foresters are expected to do is to follow the prescriptions contained in a book of rules, they are not acting as professionals. They are merely practising a trade like a plumber or electrician. It is of the essence of a profession that a high degree of judgement is required in its practice. This is as true of doctors and lawyers as it is of Foresters. One of the main purpose of standards in any profession, is to increase the probability that the expert judgement of a series of different practitioners will result in similar decision on how to deal with a particular problem." (Stamp 1980).

The NZIF Council is currently reviewing the role it takes in maintaining the professional standards of its members with a view to developing a Council policy on this matter. The Council has initiated this

review following the receipt of letters expressing concern regards professional standards. The current Registration Board has a discipline process, however its only related to formal complaint against a registered member. There is currently no appropriate process to deal with this in the absence of a formal complaint. This incident has highlighted to the Council the need to develop a policy for the general issue of when formal disciplinary process against a member should be commenced.

To assist the Council with this task, a report by Katherine Fraser of Kinetics on maintaining professional standards was commissioned in February this year. The report reviews the disciplinary and counselling processes of six other high profile NZ professional bodies. Most of these bodies have formal complaint and discipline procedures specified in their rules.

Those professions with statutory recognition have independent registration boards which handle discipline separately from the main professional body. The following recommendations were made in the Kinetics report.

1. That the NZIF Council debates the role of discipline within the achievement of its stated goals and objectives. The recommendation of the report is that an effective discipline process, accompanied by proactive steps in the form of quality assurance mechanisms, publication of guidelines, education and counselling are consistent with the goal of maintaining and raising professional standards.
2. The establishment of a quality assurance function within the Institute at either the Council level or Registration Board with the purpose of being pro-

active in dealing with issues for which formal complaints have not been received. This role primary focus is to ensure that members are assisted in recognising deviations from standards. The quality assurance role must be promoted as a service to maintain and enhance standards. However the role has a secondary focus that would not be prejudiced by the initial primary productive objective, in that formal proceeding may be enacted if a complaint is subsequently laid.

3. The quality assurance role is supported by an appointed panel able to offer advice to members as well as evaluate the serious of concerns that are raised informally.
4. The NZIF formally review and report back on a regular basis how various systems are operating in relation to achieving the stated goals and objectives.
5. In developing discipline procedures the NZIF must ensure that the rules of natural justice are not contravened.

The Professional Development Committee of the NZIF Council is currently working through the full impact of the implementation of the five recommendations. Members feedback, views and comments on the recommendations is welcomed by Council.

**Peter Casey**  
**Convenor Professional**  
**Development Committee**

## Awards

Three Institute of Forestry Awards were recently presented by the Rotorua Section's Chairperson, Dave Field.

Graham West received the Frank E Hutchinson Award which recognises the best post-graduate student at the School of Forestry. Graham was awarded a Master of Forestry (distinction) for his research into Maku Lotus at Kaingaroa Forest.

Jonathan Jensen was awarded the Mary Sutherland Bequest which recognises the top student completing the NZ Diploma in Forestry at Waikariki Polytechnic in Rotorua.

Jeremy Cox received the NZ Forest Service Sports Award. Jeremy recently represented New Zealand at the Oceania Judo Championships in Samoa, coming 5th overall in his weight class.



Three Rotorua residents recently received national awards from the New Zealand Institute of Forestry in a special presentation ceremony. Pictured are left to right: Jeremy Cox (NZ Forest Service Sports Award), Jonathan Jensen (Mary Sutherland Award), David Field (chair, Rotorua Section, NZ Institute of Forestry) and Graham West (Frank E Hutchinson Award).

## The NZIF and Arbitration

The NZIF was recently requested to appoint an arbitrator in a dispute between two forestry companies. The request arose as a result of a clause in a contract between the two companies that became active once other methods of mediation had failed. The President of the NZIF has subsequently responded to this request.

In dealing with this situation the NZIF Council felt that it would be a useful opportunity to set up procedures on how the NZIF should respond to such requests. Accordingly draft procedures have been prepared which are outlined below.

NZIF members are asked to comment on the attached draft procedures, and are also asked to provide any ideas or suggestions on how the NZIF should deal with arbitration. The procedures will be reviewed by the NZIF Council for ratification at the 1999 AGM.

Members should note that the Council

is intending to be proactive with respect to these procedures, as a means of promoting the NZIF. It is highly likely that the NZIF will be named as an arbitrator between the Crown and Maori forestry claimants under Treaty of Waitangi settlement.

All comments to Tim Thorpe, C/- Timberlands West Coast Ltd, PB 608, Greymouth:

Tel: 0-3-762 6111; Fax: 0-3-762 6777;  
e-mail: timberlands@extra.co.nz

Comments due by 30 September 1998.

### Procedures

The NZIF is willing and able to act in the appointment of arbitrators for forestry related disputes. The NZIF will not itself act as an arbitrator but is willing to appoint persons to act in this capacity. NZIF procedures on the appointment of arbitrators are as outlined below:

- All disputing parties must agree that the NZIF is the appropriate body to appoint an arbitrator.
- Application must be made in writing to the NZIF President to appoint an arbitrator.
- The NZIF may charge for the appointment of an arbitrator.
- All costs of arbitration will be borne by the disputing parties.
- The NZIF will not be liable for the outcomes of arbitration, nor will become involved in any appeal against arbitration.

The NZIF reserves the right to decline appointment of an arbitrator when it has not received adequate notice, or where the services required are incompatible with the objects of the NZIF.