

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.