

George Fry (1926-1999)

Older members of the Institute will remember George Fry who passed away recently in Adelaide, Australia.

George Fry was born in England and educated at London and Oxford Universities, graduating in Botany and Forestry. Like many of his contemporaries graduating in Forestry just after World War 2, he found work with the Colonial Service in Africa rather than in Britain.

George and his wife Dorothy went to Kenya in 1954 and spent the next 11 years, practising forestry, avoiding Jomo Kenyatta's Mau Mau guerrillas, and adding to their family of 4 children. The Fry family moved to South Australia in 1965 and George worked for the South Australian Woods & Forest Commission before coming to New Zealand and NZ Forest Products Limited, Tokoroa in 1971 as the Senior Forester. As such, George brought to New Zealand considerable experience of pine species we are familiar with, as well as other species such as mangroves and eucalypts.

I was fortunate to work for George, firstly as a student and then as a young forester in his R & D group. All of us in his group, benefited from working for a man who always made you feel you were working with him rather than for him. As a mentor he was often looking for opportunity to broaden young foresters minds, and his broad knowledge of forestry, his ability to think laterally, and his desire to involve and challenge you, made for an enjoyable and satisfying work environment.

He was highly regarded in forestry circles as a very competent forester and silviculturist and this was exemplified by requests from FAO and the World Bank for his time on consultancy missions in Asia and Africa. Experience gained on these missions was shared with his colleagues and employed in Kīnleith forest, whenever relevant.

George was a strong supporter of the Institute, both at the local and National level and enjoyed the socialising as well as the intellectual discussions on aspects of forest management. He

enjoyed food and wine and in keeping with his enquiring mind, was a source of knowledge and enjoyment on these topics as well as forestry.

George retired early in 1985, due to ill health, and has lived in Adelaide for the last few years. He is survived by Dorothy and 3 of their four children.

Barry Poole

Graeme Augustine Dolan (1938-1998) an appreciation

Graeme Dolan was born with the seed of greatness. His religious faith was inspirational as was his devotion to his mother and siblings, and his sense of responsibility on all occasions. However fate in the form of a persistent breakdown of the nervous system conspired against him and doomed him to a life of seeming futility and certainly at times, great difficulty.

He shone at secondary school, both as a scholar and sportsman but turned down beckoning tertiary education to ensure his earlier direct participation in the field as a ranger trainee with the New Zealand Forest Service. His particular abilities with mathematics and grammar saw him graduate to the Work Study Team at Kaingaroa Forest.

While there he became a member of the Bay of Plenty Senior representative rugby team and he also featured in his local sub-provincial cricket team.

Seeking greater challenges, Graeme sought and won the position of Officer in Charge Waiotapu Subdivision, then one of the major zones of activity in Kaingaroa Forest. Logging was commenced and the OIC was inundated with a large workload, which proved too much for Graeme and led to the disorder from which he never fully recovered. Although on the sick list for almost a year he retained his particular interest in forestry and his desire to continue to be part of the profession.

His particular talents were recognised by the Fire Control Section of the Forest Service where over many years he then worked to develop and publish much of the early information used to support the fire protection for the country's forests. This contribution continued into the Department of Conservation after the demise of the Forest Service and assisted in ensuring the new Department also possessed good fire protection capability.

He resigned voluntarily from the Department in 1993, his resignation being an effort to safeguard the employment of fellow workers with family responsibilities. Graeme lived his final few years at Paraparaumu before dying of the same cancer that had also struck him on an earlier occasion, at the beginning of October. Many of his old DOC and forestry acquaintances attended his funeral as did members of the Wellington Rugby Referees association, whom Graeme had served in both classification and grading roles.

Graeme Dolan was a staunch supporter of the Institute. At a local level he seldom missed a section meeting and was happy to assist in any organisational capacity. He was similarly seen at almost every AGM, continuing to participate almost right up to his death. Often we overlook the contribution of the "back room boys", however Graeme's quiet support and easy offer of assistance has been noted by many in the past.

In many respects he was a fine example to us all....rest peacefully Graeme.

W Girling-Butcher

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