

President's Comment:

Plaques' unveiling a reminder of NZIF's role in fostering forestry

Peter Berg

One of the notable events of this year's Annual General Meeting in Christchurch was, immediately following the closure of business, the unveiling of two plaques featuring the names of former Presidents, Secretaries and those awarded the Kirk Medal. Our oldest surviving former President, Lindsay Poole was there to reveal the plaques, one made of Rimu and the other of Red Beech. The plaques have been placed on a wall in the School of Forestry at Canterbury University alongside another brass plate commemorating the opening of the School by Former Minister of Forestry, the Hon Duncan McIntyre, who is also an Honorary member of the NZIF.

It is appropriate the plaques reside at the School of Forestry as this is one of the major nurseries for our membership, many of New Zealand's forestry leaders are former students, and the plaques include several Canterbury graduates amongst those recognised by the Institute.

It is also appropriate that the Institute remember its office-bearers and honoured members in this way. There is no better way to outline the contribution of the NZIF to forestry development in New Zealand or the capability of its membership, every one of the names listed is a person who in the past has significantly helped with the protection, enhancement and expansion of this country's forestry resource. It would be impossible to consider the history of forestry here without the leadership they have provided quickly becoming apparent.

Lindsay Poole is of course one of those leaders with a long-standing involvement in forestry in New Zealand. From his earliest days as a Forest Service employee in Whakarewarewa Nursery in the 1920s, to a decade as leader of that same organisation years later (1961-71) Lindsay contributed substantially to our forestry knowledge and capability. This knowledge and experience has subsequently been made available via a series of technical and discursive books and other publications, the most recent of which was only recently published.

Another former President of the Institute has been recognised for his contribution to forestry, twice in the same month. Dr Wink Sutton has been accorded the status of Honorary member of the Society of American Foresters, and awarded the Asia-Pacific Medal for Forestry Excellence by the Commonwealth Forestry Association. International recognition of our members in this way (Professor Denis Richardson is similarly



The photo shows Honorary Member Lindsay Poole (92) unveiling the plaques immediately following the AGM.

recognised by SAF) demonstrates the high calibre of our membership and a capability others tend to take for granted.

Recognition of Registered Member and Consultant Don Geddes in the Queen's Birthday Honours reflects community approval of his contribution to rural fire prevention and protection.

Each of these members deserves our congratulations for their achievements and appreciation for the credit that they also bring to the Institute.

I would like to reflect upon another matter for a moment. Recently I have attended a number of local section meetings, partly to receive feedback on the Draft NZIF Forest Policy prepared by Hamish Levack and Graham Whyte, and partly to make contact with members not usually able to be so directly involved in Institute affairs. While the turnout at each meeting has varied, participation has been keen and members have demonstrated continued strong interest in the development and representation of

their organisation. It is very evident that enthusiastic, well-lead local sections remain the life-blood of the Institute and I congratulate those local section office bearers and organizers for their continued input in this respect.

For those of you less-sure or less committed to local section activity, I urge you to consider again the opportunities these meetings provide for interaction with local communities, keeping up with events and changing forestry technology, and networking with your forestry peers. Council through the endeavours of Michael McLarin are putting particular emphasis on communication with local sections and as far as possible their activities will be advertised on the Institute's website to ensure all members will have the chance to participate.

Applicants for Registration

The following has applied to become a Registered Forestry Consultant

Christopher (Kit) Richards - Greymouth

The following have changed status from Registered Forestry Consultant to Registered Member

Jeff Nicholls
Maree Candish
Peter Wallis

The Registrar, NZIF Registration Board,
PO Box 1340, ROTORUA.