

## Otago-Southland annual tramp

J.A. Smith

During February this year the 21st annual tramp (four days) was made in Fiordland. A party of eleven, including four from the North Island, flew from an airstrip in the Hollyford Valley to the beach in Big Bay where the tramp commenced around the coast to Martins Bay. After about five hours of tramping, which included much rock hopping, Long Reef was reached where there was a large colony of seals. A short distance further finished the day at Martins Bay hut at the mouth of the Hollyford River.

After an hour's walk next morning a jet boat trip was made the length of Lake McKerrow. A stop was made at an isolated bush clad shore of the lake where once was the town of Jamestown. The resilience of our early settlers impressed. From the head of the lake and about four hours tramping, the welcome Alabaster hut was reached. The next two days were up the Hollyford

Valley on a high-grade track to cars at the road end. Unfortunately most of the Hollyford track was walked in rain, sometimes very heavy, which can be expected in this region. While the beauty of the lush forest and the grandeur of the Darran Mountains with its sheer rock walls could not be fully appreciated, a good number of waterfalls could be seen.

As usual, and above all, the comradeship of the party was a real highlight.

Intentions for the next trip, in February 2001, are to walk the new Hump Track near the south coast west from Tuatapere. This track, designed to relieve pressure on the overloaded Milford, Routeburn and Kepler Tracks, is expected to be officially opened in October this year. It offers quite a different experience to the other three tracks mentioned. A side, one day walk into the much publicised Waitutu forests is a possibility.

## Thomas Kirk Award to Dr. Graham Whyte

The following award address was given at the 2000 Conference Dinner by Peter McKelvey:

We are now to confer the most historic award in all New Zealand science. That statement is perfectly true. It commemorates the association between our famous early botanist Thomas Kirk and Captain Inches Campbell-Walker, the first New Zealand Conservator of Forests.

The award is now made every two years as the Institute's tribute to high scholarship in contributions to scientific forestry in New Zealand. In 2000 the award goes to Dr. Graham Whyte and there could not be a more suitable recipient.

Graham is a graduate of Aberdeen University who was persuaded to come to New Zealand by Dennis Richardson in the early 1960s soon after Dennis was appointed Director of FRI. Graham had expertise in computers which was pretty important and innovative for that time. Graham also had expertise in forest measurement. We managed to persuade him and Rosemary to join us at Canterbury for the opening of the School of Forestry in 1970. It was to be a happy appointment for us because Graham set about establishing the high quantitative standards for which the School became known. As time went on his interests broadened beyond forest mensuration to take in the whole field of forest management. And he turned his attention to the indigenous forests as well. He retired from the University a few years ago and took up consulting work which often involved the indigenous forests.

He became interested too in the impact of the forestry sector on the national economy and coordinated early attempts at forest sector modelling analysis in this country. He led much of the Institute's thinking on exotic forest sustainability and the 1991 New Zealand

Forest Accord.

He has been innovative. He was the first forester in New Zealand to face up to planning for multi-objective forest management which treated some of the less tangible benefits like landscape and erosion control in a quantitative context. He pioneered a link with the Fiji Pine Commission and for several years a few lucky Canterbury undergraduates spent their long vacations at Drasa near Lautoka. I even got up there myself. He has travelled extensively looking at forestry in many parts of the world. He is well acquainted with international forestry organisations like IUFRO and ITTO. He is well known overseas. He has frequently reminded New Zealand governments of their obligations under the UNCED Summit at Rio and the Montreal Process. Now he has an international reputation in the area of forest growth modelling.

He has published many important papers or written important reports in all these fields. They are scholarly because they are important, balanced, creative and clearly written. I have always been impressed by how quickly and well he writes.

Graham possesses a strong professional sense and with it the Scottish characteristic of maintaining his attitude. Indeed he has had a few debates in his time, including with politicians and media people. But forestry and forestry education have often benefitted as a result. He took a firm position recently over the West Coast beech scheme. He played a prominent part in the production of the draft national forest policy which we discussed a couple of days ago. He has the reputation of being strong and effective in New Zealand forestry, forestry education and in the Institute.

Graham, we are all delighted that you have been given the Kirk Award for the year 2000. Please accept it with our very best wishes.