

President's Comments

Conference a time of reflection

The NZIF Conference and AGM in Rotorua was a chance for someone like me, who only partly mixes in forestry circles these days, to catch up on old colleagues and marvel at this thing called forestry. I listened with interest to the papers presented at the conference, was disheartened by the (ongoing) debate that took place on lack of leadership in the industry and enjoyed my stroll around the equipment on display at the forestry exhibition.

The highlights for me from Rotorua were two-fold. One was the Forest Industries magazine Young Leaders Award, presented at the conference dinner, and the second was the presentation of the Kirk horn flask to Lindsay Poole at the NZIF dinner.

The combined ages of the four finalists in the Young Leaders Award was probably not much more than Lindsay's 94. The combination of experiences that they had accumulated would fall significantly short of Lindsay's but I was impressed with their dedication and calibre. It is these young leaders who represent the future of forestry in New Zealand and we did right to honour them. So too, we did right to honour Lindsay, in fact we should have done it long ago. Forestry is, after all, about people and we should honour those who have contributed to our sector and to our profession.

It is in this light that I must acknowledge the contribution of our immediate past-President Peter Berg and retiring councillor Don Hammond to the NZIF. Peter stood at the helm of the NZIF for four years, during which time he also took on the role of Chair of the Registration Board. Peter has a particular interest in the people side of forestry and placed particular emphasis on ensuring that the NZIF's voice was heard in government and industry circles. Don represented the NZIF on a number of industry committees related to bio-security and training and was editor of the 1995 Forestry Handbook.

My thanks to both Peter and Don for their efforts on

behalf of the NZIF. My thanks also to the incoming Council for putting their names forward and I look forward to working with them over the next two years.

Hugh Bigsby is also retiring as Journal Editor after six years, although he has been elected to Council in his own right. The Journal has gone from strength to strength over recent years and letters to the editor in recent Journals have all acknowledged the high regard in which Hugh's editorial skills were held. My thanks to Hugh for his contribution to the NZIF and a warm welcome to Bruce Manley who takes over as new Journal Editor.

The Council have agreed to meet in late May for a strategic planning exercise to chart the way forward for the NZIF over the next two years. Items for consideration include the NZIF's role in providing CPD, a NZIF brand, a business case for the NZIF to hire permanent staff and a range of other issues. There will be a full report back from this exercise to members.

Tim Thorpe



Geoff Brann, owner of Roydon Downs agroforestry property, answers a question at the redwoods lunch stop during the NZ Institute of Forestry AGM field day from Rotorua on 14 March. Seated is Lindsay Poole, recipient of the Kirk horn flask (Photo: Graham Weston).



Roydon Downs agroforestry property - NZIF AGM field day 14 March (Photo: Graham Weston).