

in a way that left you in no doubt where he stood. All in all, he was one of the characters of New Zealand forestry.

But underneath was a surprising degree of sensitivity, which did not always show. Mick was essentially a humble person. He was also a good and loyal friend. Perhaps in these gender-conscious days we shy away from acclaiming someone as a good man, but that is what he was in every sense of the term. I shall remember his wit and humour and the fun we had. And I shall remember him with respect and affection.

Our sympathy goes out to Mary and the family, including Institute Member Terry O'Neill, in their sad loss.

Peter McKelvey

(From eulogy at Lower Hutt, December 2002)

"Sad News"

This message by email, usually early in the morning, comes as either a confirmation or a shock to Institute members. Another member has been clearfelled, usually after some essential neuro/cardiac component has failed. Considering the full and sometimes hard life many have experienced, these notices are not unexpected. Premature termination by pathogens or accidents is harder to take.

We that survive the rotation deserve to enjoy our 70s and 80s striving to play a round of golf on a gross score

less than our age. If this is interrupted by yet another funeral let us not complain. Accept that "there for the grace of God go I" and go to the funeral.

Why do we go? It is not only for the wake or the chance to yarn with old friends, perhaps for the last time. Nor to show our departed mate that we valued knowing him – after all he will never know we were there. At Mick O'Neill's funeral, Pat Crequer very clearly stated that we do it for Mary or Vivienne or Prue. Recent widows must surely take solace from being shown that their much-loved partners were greatly admired and will be missed by their former colleagues.

As Mick's strong, slightly cynical and knowing image watched from the memorial funeral programme we sang an Irish hymn to the tune of Danny's Boy – his favourite song. It was a pleasure to talk with the triumvirate of D.G widows present and recall the supportive roles they played when their husbands were battling ignorant Treasury officials to keep forestry on the up and up, and we in our jobs. Innumerable trainees enjoyed the often-unheralded hospitality of Prue Thomson in No 1 house of the FRI village; Pam Conway's Reefton haven, and Jocelyn Kirkland's house on Daniel Street, Kaingaroa.

At funerals, those of us who rode on and benefited from the waves of success that made forestry so enjoyable in the third quarter of the 20th Century, have another chance to honour those responsible.

John Groome

Researcher exuded enthusiasm for forestry

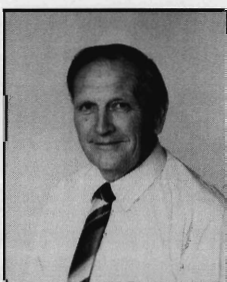
Ernest Harold (Harry) Bunn 1924 - 2002

Harry retired from FRI 18 years ago. There have been tremendous changes in the organisation over that period but the flag is flying at half mast, not only as a mark of respect to a past Director but also to recognise the tremendous contribution he made in leading FRI to where it was recognised, both here and overseas, as a centre of excellence in the science and practice of plantation forestry.

That contribution was highlighted at the 50th anniversary of the Institute - he was awarded the Research Leadership Award in Production Forestry.

Harry was a very well rounded forester:

- Of all the people New Zealand sent to the Forestry School in Canberra, Harry as well as being a top student, was the one who more than anyone else developed a special interest in the eucalypts - a deep understanding of this complex group, which ones are best suited to growing in New Zealand, and their potential for timber and veneer. He also had developed an understanding as to how they should be grown to minimise the effects of growth stresses.
- Before coming to FRI, he spent three years at Pureora



involved in indigenous forest and plantation management.

- Then his first period in Rotorua was spent at Waipa Mill which gave him first hand experience of the impact of silviculture on timber quality.

This experience was coupled with a tremendous enthusiasm for forestry and a keen sense of enquiry.

We first met in 1957 when Bet and I were Harry and Viv's next door neighbours. They were great neighbours and we have valued their friendship ever since. However, that was when I first encountered Harry's enthusiasm for forestry - there were times when we were together and Harry would have talked all night. I recall a couple of winter evenings when I decided the best way to call a halt was to let the fire go out. It made no difference!

Other colleagues have a similar story to tell: Harry liked nothing better when away on field trips than gathering everyone around in the evenings and discussing forestry issues into the wee small hours. Next day in

the car he would continue on and then take a quick cat nap before waking up again and carrying on where he left off. What he had to say was always worth listening to and he had an interesting way of making his point by ending with an eh! eh! That way he turned a statement into a question, to force a response.

Harry's first role at FRI covered the broad research areas of rehabilitation of indigenous forest, eucalypts, and nursery and establishment techniques. Then in 1961, he was appointed Branch Head of Silviculture by Dennis Richardson. For the last 12 years of his time at FRI, 1972-84, he was Director of Production Forestry Division during a period of great progress in all aspects of production forestry.

Harry, I know, was held in high esteem by foresters in the field which was an important issue when the principles of modern silviculture were being introduced to the industry in the face of quite a bit of scepticism.

He also had a close involvement with the Farm Forestry Association starting with its Founder, Neil Barr. They were kindred spirits, having a special interest in eucalypts as well as the broader aspects of plantation management. They were a couple of free thinkers! After Harry retired, they joined forces and gave a series of field day presentations around the country and even some in Australia. They were dubbed the Barr/Bunn Clinics by the Members who found them extremely instructive.

Harry

You have had a long and healthy and happy life.
You and Viv have been blessed with a wonderful family.

And you have achieved much in your career- and if I can use a forestry analogy:

You emerged through the canopy, a dominant, a superdominant, an elite tree

You gave support to all the young trees around you
Now you have been felled it has left a big hole in the canopy

But you have left the site so much richer than before.
Well done.

John Kininmonth

(From eulogy at Rotorua, November, 2002)

Leader and motivator

Harry's greatest skill was as a leader and as a motivator. He had the ability to convince his staff that their work was the most important contribution they could make. Harry was able to identify the key questions, advise on the design of experiments and trials, take intense interest in the results and enthuse and speculate about the implications. Nothing motivates a scientist or technician more than the passionate interest of the director, especially if that director is also able to get the resources needed and to defend the importance of the work.

Harry had a vision of what research was required.

Also he could see little point in doing research if it was unlikely to influence practice in the field. Harry encouraged research that could result in big gains. His approach was not to research today's problems but to concentrate on tomorrow's opportunities. Scientists were encouraged to think about how they might answer questions that could be asked in 10 or 20 years time. Because he appreciated their importance in gaining the acceptance of new ideas, Harry was a strong advocate for field demonstrations.

The FRI symposiums were not only a means of getting researchers to better appreciate what research was required but also of ensuring the rapid and universal adoption of research. From 1961 (Fertilisers in Forestry) to 1981 (Nursery and Establishment) there were a total of 22 symposiums that reviewed every aspect of production forestry. As well as making a significant contribution, Harry played a pivotal role in the design and structure of each symposium.

Harry was a strong supporter of the NZ Institute of Forestry. Not only did he personally serve on council (from 1964 to 1970) but also he encouraged and supported his staff to also stand for council. He also encouraged his staff to make contributions to AGMs, local sections and the Institute's Journal.

Everyone who knew him has a Harry Bunn story to tell. Every memory is most likely to be positive. Harry had the ability to put everyone at ease. He certainly could be challenging (his favourite challenge was "why?" – responses were always illuminating and sometimes disarming), but he was always positive. Of all his advice the most effective was the ideal he lived by – "never criticise unless you have something better to offer".

With Harry's passing New Zealand has lost one of the country's forestry greats. The current success of plantation forestry is evidence of his contribution. Harry was not directly responsible for all that has happened but plantation forestry might still be a minor land-use if Harry had not initiated, motivated and encouraged the research that became the foundation of the expansion of the last 30 years.

Our deep felt sympathy goes to his wife Viv and all his family.

Wink Sutton

Extract from "Characters of FRI" by Ken Klitscher

Harry was a manager, a leader, a motivator *par excellence*, and by the time he retired, his staff had challenged most aspects of forest management, and paved the way for widespread acceptance of practices previously thought to be beyond the lunatic fringe.

Why was he so successful? His contemporaries agree there were several reasons:

- He had the broad range of experience necessary to see the inter-relationships between the issues; no problem was seen in isolation.
- He placed the emphasis on getting practical results,

and insisted that these be communicated to the people who could use them; the FRI Symposia of the Bunn administration were excellent examples of knowledge transfer in both directions.

- He had a knack of identifying staff capable of getting results, and providing them with what they needed. He also gave them encouragement, often in the face of strong opposition.
- He motivated people well, and was totally unselfish in passing on ideas; original thinkers thrived in this non-threatening atmosphere. Harry rarely criticised anything – except scientists who criticised without having something better to offer.
- He encouraged revolutionary, long-term thinking. No

idea was too far out (“Test the extremes, hnnn?”), and ideas were welcome from anywhere, from wage-worker on up. Harry set his sights on tomorrow’s problems, rather than those of today.

- He had the administrative and management skills to bypass or outwit opposition; when faced with intransigence, Harry always seemed to find another way. He had the patience to wait until the timing was right before putting forward any major proposal – and he was always ready to make a compelling case for a worthy potential appointee who just happened to be waiting in the wings.
- Perhaps, above all, he kept asking questions, and most of them turned out to be the right questions.

Roles in forests and family recalled

Charles Arthur Brutton Kenderdine
3 December 1902 – 13 June 2002

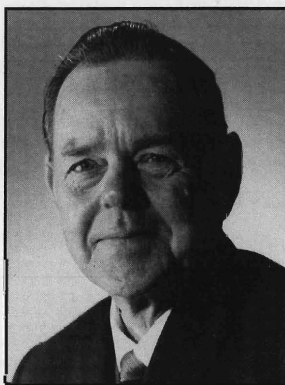
Charles (Charlie) was born in Auckland on 3 December 1902. In 1906 his father Arthur took his family to Taumaranui and, when the local native school was taken over by the Education Board, Charlie and his older brother Tom were amongst the first day pupils. His next schooling was at Wanganui Technical College. He boarded there and took a commercial course for a year.

The next two years were spent at Seddon Memorial Technical College in Auckland where he took an agricultural course. He was at this college during the 1918 influenza epidemic at which time the College was turned into a hospital and Charlie helped in the kitchen – all helpers were sprayed before and after entering the kitchen to cut down the risk of contracting or spreading the flu.

He spent the next eight years on sheep and dairy farms at Clevedon, Pukekohe, Ohinewai and Taumaranui. In 1927 he gave up farming for trees and joined the New Zealand Forest Service. Karioi Forest was the starting point for his forestry career and after a year on survey work, and six months with a planting gang, he was appointed nursery foreman with 60 acres of nursery and a gang of 12 to look after 15 million trees.

In 1940 he moved to Ohakune and spent the next seven years appraising areas of native forest to ensure that sawmills could provide all the timber required by the armed forces. Then followed seven years on the West Coast, first as District Ranger Ahaura and then Senior Ranger Hokitika. He was transferred to Head Office in 1954 to supervise the recruitment and training of Forest Service field staff.

Charlie had married Elsie Penny from Tokirima, near Taumaranui, in 1931. While in Ohakune Charlie and Elsie became involved in various community activities and were active in the Anglican Church (Elsie playing the organ and Charlie singing in the choir and a lay-reader). This involvement in church and community



continued throughout their time on the West Coast and in Wellington.

Charlie remained with forestry for 40 years. He was well known for his excellent memory and his methodical working style. On his retirement in 1967 he was made an Honorary Forest Ranger of New Zealand.

In retirement Charlie had more time to spend on his genealogical interests and soon assumed the role of chief historian for both his own family and Elsie’s family. He had enjoyed woodwork during his working life and on retirement was able to devote more time to this interest. His woodworking skills were soon put to use making and mending kindergarten toys. He spent the last 12 years of his life living at Ropata Retirement Village in Lower Hutt and still took an interest in all matters up to the time of his death.

Charlie is survived by his children Anne, Donald and Keith, seven grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

Keith Kenderdine

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By Dennis Richardson

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