

*President's comments*

# ANZIF conference a great success

**A**s I write this note it is only four days since the end of the ANZIF Conference in Queenstown and what a conference it was. Some 230 delegates attended, 100 from Australia, with around 44 students also attending. Some 75 papers were presented on a wide range of topics and I know that keen discussion took place on many of these.

There were three things that I took from the conference. The first of these was a reaffirmation that forestry is more than just about growing commercial plantation crops. Many of the papers took an integrated approach to forest management covering a range of environmental and social elements. I sat next to one of New Zealand's corporate plantation forest managers at dinner and he said that he was concerned about the narrow viewpoints of his employees who could not put their work into a wider context. He, for one, intends to do something about it. Professor Roger Sands, echoed this viewpoint noting that from an academic point of view it is important that a wide perspective on forestry is taught at university and other levels.

The conference also confirmed for me that foresters can hold their heads up high in the world at large. In the plantation corporate world, in which foresters are competing for recognition from accountants, financiers and other professionals, it is important to note the number of foresters who are now leading large companies. Foresters also have a lot to offer in conservation or environmental management, not only because they have the right technical skills but also management skills that are often not to be found in other disciplines. Witness the number of foresters who now hold senior positions in the Department of Conservation.



*Professor Roger Sands of the School of Forestry delivers the MR Jacobs oration at the 2003 ANZIF professional Conference.*



*NZIF President Tim Thorpe*



associations and during the conference at least one new joint initiative with the Institute of Foresters of Australia was discussed.

In my closing remarks I referred to the high standard that the conference achieved right from the opening presentations, through all presentations, the field trips, conference dinner, the student poster competition and associated activities. Much of the credit for this must go to Mike Hetherington and his team who put together the conference with Carlene Marshall and her helpers from Event Mergers. My thanks go to all those who assisted in so many ways and also to our sponsors.

Stephen Jacobi acted as rapporteur and his remarks will be circulated in due course along with a wide range of commentary in the next Journal.

The conference was also an opportunity for the NZIF, founded in 1927, to celebrate its 75th Jubilee. Lindsay Poole was on hand to cut the 75th Anniversary cake. Although Lindsay was not a member in 1927, he joined shortly thereafter, and there can't be many organisations that can celebrate this milestone with such a long serving member.

Look out for next year's conference in Gisborne.


## FOREST SALES

www.forestmarkets.com

## forestmarkets.com

“...representing commercial  
forests, throughout New  
Zealand, to buyers  
throughout the world”

**Peter Read**  
+64 6 359 4400  
+64 25 455 655  
pjr@forestmarkets.com



**forestmarkets.com**  
LIMITED

©idgroup2000