

*President's comments*

# Anniversary gives cause to ponder the future

In the last edition of the Journal I briefly mentioned that the Queenstown conference was a time for celebrating the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the NZIF. Bill Studholme's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary address to the conference was reproduced in the same Journal and touched on a number of themes. Prominent amongst these were the huge changes that have taken place in forestry over the years and the role of the NZIF.

In June this year around 30 NZIF members and guests attended a 75th anniversary celebration at Orari Native Bush Reserve in Wellington. A number of NZIF members have had a close association with Orari. Notable amongst these are Dr Leonard Cockayne, the first Director at Orari and an honorary member of the NZIF in 1929, and Stan Reid who carried out ecological surveys at Orari in the 1930s and then again 50 years later.

Former NZIF President Lindsay Poole, who knew Cockayne, and I planted a rimu tree at Orari and a memorial plaque situated alongside the rimu commemorates the event. It was great to see so many people there, a number of whom had not attended an NZIF function for some time.

As Bill had done before me in his presentation, my comments to those gathered at Orari reflected on what the NZIF had achieved over the years. These vary from submissions to local and central government, conferences, the journal, registration scheme, and valuation standards to the fellowship that people find in being part of such an organisation. It is a mixture of all of these that will make the NZIF relevant to members and at certain times one or other will be more important to them. It is vital, however, for the NZIF to continue to provide this range of services and indeed to offer more if it can.



The face of forestry in New Zealand has changed markedly since 1927. Forestry is now amongst the top three export earners for New Zealand and most of our indigenous forests are protected in one form or another. There are many foresters today for whom the NZ Forest Service (NZFS) and NZ Forest Products (NZFP) are just names and the Department of Conservation has always been there. It wasn't always so.

In another 50 years time I will be the same age that Lindsay Poole is now, 95. Interestingly, I was born during the period when Lindsay was President of the NZIF from 1956-1958. In 50 years the NZIF will be 125 years old, well outlasting the NZFS and NZFP which didn't even reach their 75<sup>th</sup> anniversaries. Who knows whether I will be able to attend the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the NZIF, but one thing is for sure the industry will be vastly different to that of today. The question that I ask myself, though, is what will the NZIF look like?

On the day that we gathered at Orari the NZIF Council held a meeting to review its strategic plan. The plan was developed in early 2002 and holds for two years. Progress against the plan has been steady and it is my belief that this will continue over the next 12 months or so. Members should refer to the Council Bullet Points for updates on progress. Copies of the plan can be obtained from the Secretariat if required.

Once again the NZIF has lost one of its prominent members. Jack Henry died in June. Jack was a former President of the NZIF and a Fellow and Honorary member who held senior positions in NZ Forest Products. Our thoughts are with Jack's family at this time.

**Tim Thorpe**

## New NZIF Southern North Island Section

Following a request from the Wanganui-Manawatu section of the New Zealand Institute of Forestry, the Council has agreed to the formation of a new Southern North Island section to replace both the Wanganui-Manawatu and Wellington sections. Members from both sections generally supported the merger although some expressed reservations about the difficulty of ensuring that all members in the new section had the chance to participate in its activities.

The new section covers the territory of three Regional Councils in the Southern North Island – Taranaki, Wanganui-Manawatu and Wellington. This is essentially that part of the North Island south of a line from Mokau in North Taranaki to the Hauhangaroa Range (including Taumarunui), then curling around the south side of

Ruapehu (including Ohakune and Taihape) and across Southern Hawke's Bay (including Dannevirke). It corresponds to the Southern North Island Wood Supply Region as defined by the National Exotic Forest Description, with the addition of the territory of the Ruapehu District Council (which lies within the Central North Island Wood Supply Region).

The table on Page 41 shows various statistics for the new section area in comparison with New Zealand as a whole<sup>1</sup>.

Significant wood processing plants within the new section boundaries include the Winstone pulp mill at Karioi, the Juken Nissho panel board mill at Masterton, ten sawmills producing at least 5,000 m<sup>3</sup> sawn timber annually (out of 93 such sawmills nationally), 25 plants

SNI as % NZ	
Land Area	14%
Population	20%
Plantation forest	11%
Indigenous forest	12%
Employed in forestry and first stage processing	10%
NZIF members	13%

with Woodmark licences (out of 142 licences throughout New Zealand) and three plants with New Zealand Dri licences (out of 29 licences throughout New Zealand). There are two ports (Wellington and New Plymouth) that together exported 171,500 m<sup>3</sup> logs (2.3% of the total for New Zealand) and 40,700 m<sup>3</sup> sawn timber (2.4%) in the year to June 2002. These totals are significantly less than the volume of logs and sawn timber exported through the next closest port (Napier) in the same year.

A significant feature of the new section is that it is the location of Parliament, the head offices of many of the Government Departments that are involved with the forestry sector (e.g. Department of Conservation, Industry New Zealand, Land Information New Zealand, Ministry for the Environment, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Ministry for Economic Development, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Ministry of Maori Development, National Rural Fire Authority, Occupational Safety and Health, Overseas Investment Commission), Local Government New Zealand, the head offices of many forest industry organisations (e.g. Association of Consulting Engineers New Zealand, Furniture Association of New Zealand, Log Builders Association of New Zealand (Masterton), New Zealand Farm Forestry Association, New Zealand Forest Industries Council, New Zealand Forest Owners Association, New Zealand Timber Design Society, New Zealand Timber Industry Federation and New Zealand Timber Preservation Council), several research bodies with interests in the forestry sector (e.g. Building Research Association of New Zealand, Institute of Environmental Science and Research, Hort Research (Palmerston North), a branch of Industrial Research Limited and a branch of Landcare Research (Palmerston North)) and the principle campuses of two universities (Victoria University of Wellington and Massey University (Palmerston North)). However, there are no significant institutions providing specific forestry training in the region.

The new section is also the location for five of the 28 branches of the Farm Forestry Association (Taranaki, Taranaki, Middle Districts, Wairarapa and Wellington).

It appears that only one employee of the Department of Conservation within the new section boundaries is an NZIF member. This is despite the fact that the

Department is responsible for three National Parks (Taranaki, Whanganui and Tongariro) and several former Forest parks (e.g. Rimutaka, Taranaki, Ruahine and Haurangi) all of which have significant forest areas. Apart from the Head Office of the Department in Wellington, there are two conservancy offices (Wellington and Wanganui) and seven area offices (Wellington, Waikanae, Masterton, New Plymouth, Stratford, Wanganui and Palmerston North). The conservancy and area offices employ over 240 conservation and management staff with additional employees at the Head Office.

There are 100 NZIF members within the new section. 64% are full members, and 18% are registered members. Six are in the life or retired categories. There appear to be few members who work for the larger forestry companies, but a significant number are public servants (e.g. at least 15 members work for the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry) and local authority employees. There are individuals or small groups of members associated with companies such as Forest Enterprises, Forme Consulting, Jaakko Poyry Consulting, PF Olsen, Roger Dickie and Wrightson Forestry Services. There are also a significant number of self-employed members.

56% of members are concentrated in the Wellington metropolitan area (Wellington, Porirua, Lower Hutt and Upper Hutt cities), 11% in the Palmerston North-Feilding area and 10% in the Wairarapa. The remaining 24% are scattered in ones or twos in places such as Taumarunui, six towns in Taranaki, Ohakune, Dannevirke and elsewhere. It is over 350 km from one end of the section to the other (Wellington to either New Plymouth or Taumarunui) and 200 km from Wellington to Dannevirke. This is significantly greater than the distance from the major centre to the more remote members in all other NZIF local sections.

In summary, the new section can be characterised as one of generally small, widely scattered forests with more significance as the home of central government and the head offices of many of the national forestry organisations than it has as an area of forest growing and forest industry. The section covers a large area with NZIF membership concentrated at one end.

The nature of the section is going to be a challenge for the committee. It will be difficult to provide activities to serve all the members. As a first step, a committee of "volunteers" is being established to cover specific portfolios including Wairarapa members, Manawatu – Taranaki members, continuing professional development and conservation forests. The main means of communication will be electronic, which is possible as 94% of the members have email addresses. This also means that overseas members of NZIF or members of other local sections can be kept in touch with the SNI section if they would like to have their names on the email distribution list.

Any one with an interest in the new section is invited to contact the initial chairman, Andrew McEwen (email [am.mcewen@xtra.co.nz](mailto:am.mcewen@xtra.co.nz)).

<sup>1</sup> Data taken from various sources including NZ Forest Industry Facts and Figures 2002/03, NZ Forest Owners Association, New Zealand Forest Industries Directory 2003, National Exotic Forest Description at April 2002 and Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry web site.