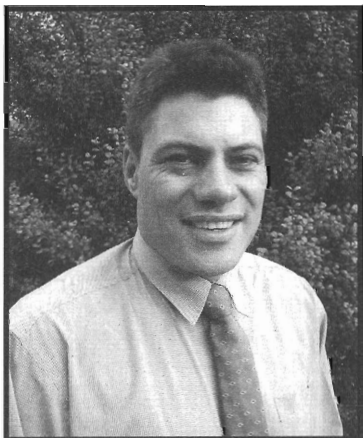


## **Celebrating the success of members**

### ***Lees Seymour becomes Chairman of FIC***



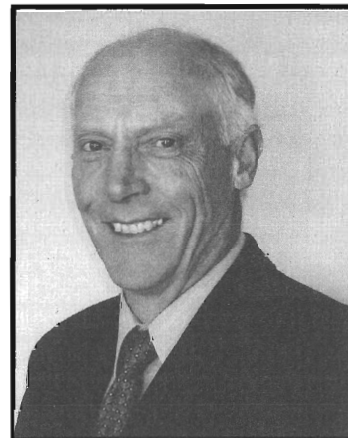
Congratulations go to NZIF member Lees Seymour on becoming the new Chairman of FIC. He takes over this role from another NZIF member Devon McLean who held the role for the last five years.

Lees, of Ngati Hikairo descent, has wide experience in senior management, marketing, forestry and lumber operations in both New Zealand and Australia, having held previous roles with Weyerhaeuser Australia and CSR Timber products in Australia and Fletcher Challenge Forests and Pan Pac Forest Products in New Zealand. His current role is Managing Director of Weyerhaeuser New Zealand.

Lees has a BForSc degree from the School of Forestry at the University of Canterbury as well as an MBA with distinction from Massey University. He worked for Pan Pac Forest Products in Napier as Sawmill Superintendent for 7 years before joining FCF to become Site Manager at FCF's Taupo sawmill. He became Regional Manager of Weyerhaeuser Australia's Caboolture operations in Queensland; these operations were acquired by Weyerhaeuser from CSR Timber in April 2000. Lees became Managing Director of Weyerhaeuser New Zealand in February 2002.

Lees has stated that his priority as Chairman is to use the opportunity of the recently announced Forest Industry Framework Agreement to enhance the industry's contribution to the country's economic, environmental and social progress. He has also pledged to seek a better funded and more unified industry structure able to articulate its needs more persuasively to Government and the wider community. Improving the domestic climate for investment in wood processing, securing better market access and positioning New Zealand wood products in key markets are all key goals.

### ***Russ Ballard made Companion of NZ Order of Merit***



Congratulations also go to NZIF Member Dr Russell Ballard on being made Companion of NZ Order of Merit in the recent Honours List. Russ has had a distinguished career in the New Zealand public service including the NZ Forest Service and MOF.

Russ was awarded Bachelors and Masters degrees in Agricultural Science at Massey University before studying for his PhD at the University of Florida. He was a research scientist in the Soils and Site Productivity group at FRI Rotorua from 1969 to 1977 before becoming Director of the North Carolina State Forest

Fertilisation Research Cooperative at NC State University. In 1981 he became Manager, Forestry Research for Weyerhaeuser Company. In this role he managed the forestry research programme of Weyerhaeuser across the states of Washington, Oregon, North Carolina and Arkansas.

In 1986 Russ returned to New Zealand to become Director of Research for FRI and responsible for policy, national programme planning and funding.

From 1987 to 1988 he was Secretary of Forestry for the Ministry of Forestry and led the establishment of the newly-formed department, created to look after the policy, research, regulatory and forestry service activities previously managed by the NZ Forest Service.

Russ was Director-General of Education from 1988 to 1989 before being appointed Director-General of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. From 1996 to 2003 he was Chief Executive of Land Information New Zealand. He was then Acting Chief Executive of Child Youth and Family until August.

Russ has published 60 papers in scientific journals, conference proceedings and books. He richly deserves being made Companion of NZ Order of Merit.