

NZIF Vision of the future

President's comments

In early September the NZIF weekly newsletter, edited by Andrew McEwen, will mark its first anniversary with a bumper edition. The majority of members are overwhelmingly positive about the newsletter and enjoy discussing topics in real time or just to be informed about news and events. It's been a great boon to the Institute and I thank Andrew for his interest and enthusiasm.

The newsletter has changed the way the Institute interacts with members and we plan to match it with changes to our website, such as a search tool for the directory of Registered Forestry Consultants. We will also be looking at the journal and we're aware that there is a world-wide trend towards online availability.

Mavis Davidson (see obituary in this Journal) has left a generous bequest of \$5,000 to the Institute. Without imposing any obligations on the Institute she asked that "... this gift be used for the encouragement of women in forestry by way of prizes, bursaries or other assistance and in either the professional or technical fields". The three women on the Council are investigating ways to make the best use of the funding. At this stage we'd like the funding to benefit all women in forestry. Our aim is to get more women interested in forestry and provide a support network for those of us already here.

One of the first things I wanted to do as President was to set a vision for the Council to work to. Where do we want to be in 5 to 10 years time? We are currently putting together a business plan to set out how we will achieve this vision, which we will then share with the membership. The vision we developed is: "to be a vibrant professional organisation demonstrating leadership, well respected for its independent and considered views, advocating forestry in its widest sense and relevant to current and new members."

Council will work in 5 main areas to achieve the vision and will provide or undertake:

1. General services to members (e.g. the newsletter, journal, and local sections)
2. Professional development for members (e.g. registration, standards, continued professional development, awards, conference)
3. Professional services to others (e.g. standards, dispute resolution, accreditation, seminars, training)
4. Promotion of professional forestry (e.g. submissions, media releases, partnerships, membership of other organisations)



5. Good governance and administration of NZIF (e.g. secretarial services, accounting, funding for NZIF, servicing Council, the Registration Board and local sections, membership directory).

In July I had the opportunity to speak at the Te Ohu Whenua - Hui A Tau : Maori Succeeding in Agribusiness Conference in Palmerston North. Around 100 participants were addressed by no less than 3 Ministers of the Crown. A tag team of Hon Parekura Horomia and Hon Dover Samuels pushed home their messages with lots of humour and candour making it clear that all New Zealanders benefit when Maori succeed in business. Many inspiring examples of this were presented at the hui.

In the forestry workshop a number of NZIF members gave presentations - Bill Dyck on research, Chris Insley on the Ngati Porou Whanui Forest Ltd as a case study of a successful Maori Forestry venture and Rob Miller on Sustainable Management of Maori Owned Indigenous Forests.

Those working for government fielded some tough questions as to why one part of government encourages and controls sustainable indigenous forest management when another arm is encouraging covenanting through Nga Whenua Rahui.

Maori are showing both innovation and leadership in the forestry area. Their success will certainly help the forestry sector as a whole. Maori will play a greater role in forestry as Treaty of Waitangi settlements are made and the crown returns forestry leases to Maori at the beginning of the second rotation. Current estimates are that Maori own 300,000 ha of plantation forest and following settlements will own 40% of the land on which the 1.81 million hectares of plantation forest is grown. In indigenous forestry Maori also own a similar percentage of the private forest estate.

Those who attended certainly came away with a much better understanding about forestry from a Maori perspective. This experience will help the Institute to build stronger links with Maori. Both Maori and Institute members are taking a greater leadership role in the industry. Congratulations to Lees Seymour on his appointment as Chairman of the Forest Industries Council.

Ket Bradshaw