

Where to from here?

This edition marks the completion of the 50th volume of the Journal. This is a milestone worthy of celebration; this edition does so by reflecting on the history of the Journal and looking forward to what the next 100 years could bring for forestry. In addition, some current issues facing the New Zealand forestry sector are covered.

Hamish Levack provides a review of the first 50 volumes of the Journal from the first journal published as Te Kura Ngahere in 1925 through to the current journal. He notes the integral role that the Journal has played within the NZIF. He also observes how the Journal has continuously evolved in order to better meet the needs of members. Then Wink Sutton, Piers Maclaren and John Roper give their thoughts on where forestry is heading in the long term. I asked them to write about where forestry would be in 50 to 100 years time – the time when volume 100 of the Journal will be published. Their articles contain some similarities but also some distinct differences.

Current issues facing the forestry sector include property rights (Trish Fordyce), carbon accounting (Justin Ford-Robertson) and wilding spread (Nick Ledgard). The article on property rights by Trish Fordyce includes, among other things, some strong views about the inequity of government policy on climate change as it affects the forestry sector. Justin Ford-Robertson looks at the bigger picture around carbon accounting. He comments on the arbitrary nature of some of the carbon accounting rules set under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol. He argues for a more rational set of rules

based on atmospheric impact.

Nick Ledgard puts concerns about wilding conifer spread into context and describes how the risk of spread can be mitigated. He argues that foresters need to accept the risk of wilding spread and incorporate it into routine management.

The question of 'where to from here' applies as much to the NZ Journal of Forestry as it does to the NZ forestry sector. After I became Editor in 2002, the goals of the Journal were reviewed. At its 2002 Strategic Planning meeting, Council confirmed that the priority goals of the Journal are to:

- Promote and focus debate on topical issues.
- Increase the technical knowledge of practitioners.
- Update members on Institute news.
- Celebrate the success of members.

Of course things have changed since then. In September 2003 the weekly electronic newsletter commenced (and we must commend and congratulate Andrew McEwen for the vitality this has added to the Institute). It has covered some of the above goals, particularly the first, third and fourth goals. So the role of the Journal has changed and, just as it has over the last 50 volumes, it needs to continue to evolve. This process is under way with the electronic archiving of back issues of the Journal. Although the first step is to archive past material, the next logical step is to proceed with making future journals available electronically. Such a step is vital if we are to make the Journal accessible to members in an easily searchable way, as well as allow material to be accessed by the broader forestry and scientific community via the internet.

One can anticipate a seamless NZIF information system that provides members with access to material now covered by the Journal and the Newsletter, as well as other complementary services.

This is my final Journal. After four years in the role I decided not to seek reappointment as editor, an enjoyable but time consuming task. Euan Mason has been appointed Journal Editor and he will commence his term with Volume 51(1). His web skills and knowledge mean he will be well placed to oversee the next phase of the Journal.

I thank the Editorial Board of Hugh Bigsby, Piers Maclaren, Euan Mason and Colin O'Loughlin for the outstanding support that they have provided over the last four years. I also thank Nick Ledgard for providing ready access to his great photo library.

Note

The cover photos depict activities of the first School of Forestry at the University of Canterbury. The significance for this edition is that they feature the first and third editors of the Journal: Frank Hutchinson (Vols 1-3) and Gerald Hocking (Vols 5-6). Photos show: Field camp HQ at Mananui 1927 (1 to r: Turnbull, Hocking, Skipworth, Hutchinson); Measuring larch at Hanmer (Hutchinson, Sando); and Wood Technology class 1926.

Bruce Manley

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