

Conference 2006

The 2006 AGM and conference was a roaring success. Debate focussed the many values of forests and how we can improve the way that forest values are delivered in New Zealand. It brought together NZIF members, forest owners and managers, farm foresters, scientists, policy makers, NGO members, conservationists and the public. It highlighted the richness of forests, the options forest managers have to offer particular environmental services, and the ways in which they can be encouraged.

Eight sequential sessions covered:

- The broad perspectives
- Soil and water conservation
- Climate change; forests as carbon sinks
- landscape, culture and recreation
- Wildlife and biodiversity
- Biofuels, biomaterials and wood chemicals
- Investment and governance
- Conclusion - what have we learnt and what can we do about it?

Speakers in each session looked at the science, management and delivery of forest values. Panel debates provided opportunities for interaction between the attendees, the presenters and other experts. Five action items were identified (see President's comments for more information).





Conference field trip to the Rimutaka Range

The conference field trip included a visit to the Rimutaka Range. Highlights included some lost (and recently found) redwoods and cryptomerias (top right), and a sturdy wooden bridge over the gorge (top left). The farm forestry block (bottom) shows just how quickly radiata pine can grow, and how big branches become when stockings are low on fertile land.

