

published in a journal with an impact factor of 30 does not automatically mean the research quality is high or that the author's conclusions are valid.

The goal of increasing a journal's "impact factor" might cause some to attempt to manipulate the rank (see <http://chronicle.com/free/v52/i08/08a01201.htm> and Wall Street Journal article entitled "Science Journals artfully try to boost their rankings.") Some editors might place free issues on the web in hopes of attracting more readers and thus more citations. A few editors might want to change the name of the journal in hopes that a new name would attract highly cited manuscripts (this seems unlikely to me). I know of one case where an editor rejected a manuscript that did not include any citations from her journal. Some editors might accept highly controversial papers (containing poor methodology) in hopes others will cite the paper in rebuttals. In contrast, a well-written applied paper might be rejected if the subject matter was useful to managers but would likely not be cited by many university researchers. A reviewer might say..."This paper is well written but the subject is not a hot topic and therefore it is more suitable for publication in another journal." This could be doublespeak for - "This paper is suitable for publication in a journal with a lower impact factor." Instead of evaluating the content of

the manuscript, a rejection could be based on this "numbers game." To counter these actions, some authors might decide to submit manuscripts with an unusually high number of host-journal citations (e.g. one recent paper had 4 out of 5 citations from the host-journal). The author may hope that editors and reviewers might think twice about rejecting a manuscript that would help raise the journal's "impact factor."

In summary, I believe a journal's "impact factor" does not relate to the potential impact it has on forest management. This "numbers game" will continue to have an effect on university researchers, but I say it holds little importance for most NZIF members. I am concerned that trying to increase the "impact factor" will alter the format and make the journal less attractive. I hope that with dedicated work and persistence, the NZJF will continue to be a valuable forum for forestry professionals for the next 50 years.

David South

** The journal Agricultural and Forest Meteorology has the highest impact factor (2.46) among the forestry journals listed in Journal Citation Reports.

obituary

A rough diamond with valuable facets

Patrick Clyde Crequer

Whether in the jungles of the Pacific; S.E.Asia or in a Rotorua boardroom, Pat was able to present a practical solution for any knotty problem. No matter that the audience comprised lawyers or landowners, his point of view was invariably readily accepted. This valuable skill, together with a fearless optimism, made him a most successful consultant and Institute Member for 42 year. He gained his mensurational skills in National Forest Survey teams located in the Ureweras and South Westland Under such experts as Stan Masters and Pat Duff he honed his skills in the most arduous conditions. Little wonder that the newly formed Kaingaroa Logging Company soon used him as a planning and assessment officer in the huge job of ensuring that the giant Tasman mill did not run out of raw material.

His rapport with Maori and other workers combined with his practical experience made him an ideal leader in a number of counties outside N.Z looking to put their little-known forests under some form of sustainable management. He tramped the steep but tracked hills of Vanua Levu in Fiji for 2 years. This resulted in the setting up of a veneer mill which after 44 years is still producing. This is a far cry from the "cut out and get out" experience of so many Pacific Islands. Leading a 12 family team to Irian Jaya (West Papua) to build and operate a training sawmill in 1969 was perhaps his greatest challenge. Chartering and unloading a ship in

Dyapura they had to first remove McArthur's wartime junk off the beach, unload the priceless vehicles and building material with an armed guard on every load, before erecting their houses and the mill. It is difficult to imagine a N.Z. crew doing the same thing now. But Pat's organisational ability was such that all problems were overcome. Similar efforts at (Vanimo; Kaut; Milne Bay And Bouganville (All P.N.G.) followed until he crossed a bridge too far -in South America, retiring in 2000.

His N.Z. legacy in Forestry is probably best remembered in the Crequer Cruising method which helped in the later development of MARVL. One of the last things he did on the day he died, was, with Tony Grayburn, to wrap up LIRA, an organisation he helped create and for a time chaired.

That a single man can achieve so much without the benefit of a University certificate, says a lot for N.Z. training or perhaps more for the measure of the man. Always fun to be with, he will be missed, with affection, by his many close friends.

John Groome