

We bemoan the lack of a coherent national forest policy. How much easier might it have been to plan and implement a rational future for our forest administration had we retained a national Forest Service? Maybe Hamish Levack is right, and we should resurrect it.

Clearly today's young foresters will see and influence equally dramatic changes over the next few decades, and they must be taught forestry in breadth and depth, with an emphasis on creativity rather than on rote learning. I can assure you that they are so taught. John Purey-Cust (page 43 of this issue) expresses concerns about professional forestry education, suggesting that it is narrowly focussed on current processes, but he presents no evidence and is very much mistaken. Most of the students I am with this week are enrolled in fore219, Introduction to Silviculture. In that course alone they are taught by me, Alan Griffiths (MAF), Ian Barton (Tane's Tree Trust), and Luis Apiolaza (NZ School of Forestry tree breeder). They have previously heard from Nick Ledgard, of Scion, employees of companies, New Zealand Institute of Forestry (NZIF) office holders, academics and foresters from overseas, and a wide range of other competent people with diverse

views. They were kindly hosted by the Nelson section of the NZIF on the fourth day of our field trip.

John's opinion piece arose from a small comment in the NZIF newsletter in which he complained about formulae and content in this Journal. I wrote to him, pointing out that the Journal is dependent on, and reflects, contributions from members and a few non-members, and invited him to contribute. His opinion piece is the result. I welcome suggestions from readers, and my vision for the range of content for the Journal includes his suggestions. I encourage you to read his opinion piece and then put pen to paper.

I strongly disagree with John about the formulae, though. Foresters are typically numerate, and not scared by a few equations. Our students will use them from time to time as they draw on their broad, deep, professional forestry education to help build a better future.

Euan Mason

## Letters

### Declaration on climate change

Sir,

We hereby declare that:

Scientists should follow the scientific method. Cause and effects are not determined by correlations.

Consensus is not science; probability values are not determined by a show of hands.

Politicians are accustomed to stopping debate, but the evolution of science requires debate.

Predictions made by researchers and psychics are not facts.

Water vapor is the dominant greenhouse gas. CO<sub>2</sub> is not the primary driver of climate change.

In prehistoric times, temperature levels rose perhaps 8 centuries before CO<sub>2</sub> levels increased.

In some places, magma will warm seawater and in some places it will melt ice.

Glacial retreats, sea-level rise and the migration of temperature-sensitive species are not proof of human induced climate change, for none of these changes has been shown to lie outside the bounds of known natural variability.

A change of 1 to 2 degrees C per century falls within known natural rates of warming and cooling over the last 10,000 years.

Some senior IPCC representatives, acknowledge that computer models cannot predict climate. Satellite data suggest that greenhouse models ignore negative feedbacks, produced by clouds and by water vapor, that diminish the warming effects of CO<sub>2</sub>.

Climate models demand that atmospheric temperature trends be 2-3 times greater than surface temperatures but satellite data do not show these trends.

Human populations affect the atmosphere in various ways; the burning of fossil fuels creates water vapor and CO<sub>2</sub>; certain chemicals affect the ozone layer; construction of cities and roads creates heat islands; irrigation adds water vapor; and airplanes produce contrails.

Skeptics force scientists into doing better science.

"In questions of science, the authority of a thousand is not worth the humble reasoning of a single individual." Galileo Galilei

"A good deal of skepticism in a scientific man is advisable to avoid much loss of time" Charles Darwin

"To know that you do not know is the best. To pretend to know when you do not know is a disease." Lao-tzu

Peter Brown, David Buckleigh, Bill Dyck, David South, Wink Sutton