

New council has rolled up its sleeves

The new Council has had two lengthy meetings since the AGM in May. We have established a number of Council committees which are tasked with progressing matters between meetings. It is my hope that membership of some committees will be expanded to include non-Council members, both to broaden the talent available and to spread the workload. Members interested in being involved in this way are invited to contact me. Committees include:

- Policy. One of the tasks of this committee is to develop a number of position papers that set out some general background and develop some guidelines for the position that Council will take on specific issues when approached to make statements and submissions and contribute to initiatives;
- The membership committee has been busy processing membership applications and attending to a number of membership changes following the AGM's approval of amendments to the NZIF Articles of Association;
- The training and development committee will investigate opportunities for NZIF to provide or participate in courses, continuing professional development activities, etc. It will also take an interest in more general forestry education and training;
- The submissions committee screens opportunities for NZIF submissions and progresses those that are appropriate and for which resources (particularly members with the specialist knowledge and time to draft a submission) are available;
- I am convening a committee of local section chairs to provide better links between Council and the local sections. With the mixed fortunes of the sections (some very active, others less so) I want the committee to find ways to strengthen and fund section activity;
- The publications committee will oversee all NZIF publications including the Journal, Newsletter, handbook and web sites and is charged with developing a marketing strategy for publications.

The Registration Board is hard at work under new Chair John Schrider and new Registrar Mike Marren. They need to implement the changes introduced at the AGM and at the same time they will review all of the Board's policies and procedures.

The members of the first Fellows' Committee have also been elected. I am delighted that Tony Groome, Colin O'Loughlin and John Galbraith put their names forward for this new initiative that will give the Council access to a group with huge experience and knowledge of NZ forestry and the NZIF.

In order to keep up to date, we have introduced a slot for current issues in the Council agenda as a way for



The last meeting of the outgoing Council. Left to right, John Schrider, Geoff Thorpe, Mirray Parrish, Hugh Bigsby, Howard Moore, Andrew McEwen, Ket Bradshaw, Ron O'Reilly and Peter Brown. Absent: Sally Haddon and Euan Mason (Photographer).

members to be informed on at least some of the issues in the sector and of initiatives that we may wish to be involved with. Already a wide range of issues has been discussed but we are facing the problem that we just don't have the resources and capability to get involved in as many as we (and NZIF members) would like.

In addition to the internal activity, I have been able to take up a number of invitations to represent NZIF on various committees and working groups.

As shown by the NZIF review conducted under the last Council, there is a lot that can be done to improve the NZIF's performance and status as a professional body. The Council is progressing on that journey. With the support and help of all members we can achieve a lot.

Andrew McEwen



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