

President's comment

Growing the Registration Scheme

The NZIF 2008 AGM approved another step in the evolution of the registration scheme. It started life in 1966 as something for consultants only. In 1996 the class of registered member was introduced with registered forestry consultant as a subset. In 2008, the emphasis on consultants was further reduced with registered member now being the only membership class. The forestry profession has now accepting that, as with other professions, there is need for a formal process, administered by the profession, by which individuals can be assessed as to their professional competence. Those that achieve this status are registered and by so doing, they commit to maintaining and improving their knowledge, to observing standards of ethics and to submit to a complaints and disciplinary service.

I am often asked "Why should I register? What do I get for the extra costs associated with registration that I do not get from full membership?" My answer is that there is little that NZIF provides only to registered members. What you get is more personal. It gives you the satisfaction of knowing that you have been judged by your peers as meeting professional (as opposed to qualifications or experience) standards and as someone who has committed to uphold those standards. It gives you the opportunity to promote yourself as a full forestry professional, whether as

an employee, a contractor, a consultant or as an expert in front of a tribunal. Those who are not registered are not able to do this.

The Registration Board and Council have been examining ways to promote the scheme to members and to those who have a need for forestry professionals. There is a "chicken and egg" element to this. If we don't get greater recognition of the scheme amongst employers and clients, members are less inclined to register, but while numbers of registered members are small, it is hard to market the scheme.

The Board and the Council have agreed a number of steps aimed at removing some of the known impediments to registration. These include a very significant drop in the cost of registration for the next financial year, changes to the procedures associated with registration, making more information about the registration process available to members and tightening up administration of the scheme. The drop in fees is a bit of a gamble and will not be sustainable if we don't have a substantial increase the number of registered members. So we will also be approaching many of the more experienced non-registered members asking them to show their support for the scheme

NZ Institute of Forestry student membership



The New Zealand Institute of Forestry (NZIF) is offering students the opportunity to join for free. The Institute is an association of professional foresters. As an independent advocate for forestry it offers advice on issues of significance that are related to forestry, and has profoundly influenced legislation relating to a number of recent issues. It serves as an ethical guide for foresters, and sets standards for professional forester registration. In addition, the NZIF provides several fora for debate and ensures that professionals interact socially. Student members are eligible for a range of benefits, including:

- A weekly electronic newsletter
- Access to all issues of the New Zealand Journal of Forestry on-line (back to the very first issue over 80 years ago)
- Eligibility for scholarships
- Financial support for attending the NZIF annual conference
- Free attendance (along with drink and nibbles) at the Canterbury NZIF local section's event evenings
- A "Meet the employer" evening at the NZ School of Forestry each year
- A student debate sponsored by the NZIF
- A student representative on the NZIF Council (the Institute's governing body).

Join on-line at <http://www.forestry.org.nz>, and name your professors (ensure that they are members first) as nominators. The stated \$45 fee on the form is officially "refunded" by the Institute's council (no transactions will apply).

Join today!

and to consider registering. We will be seeking feedback from them, whether or not they decide to register, on how we can make further improvements to make the scheme more attractive. As the number of registered members increases, we will start working with employers and others to promote registered members and to seek information on what employers expect from such a scheme to enable them to recognise its merits and give preference to those who have registered.

Registration is something that all NZIF graduate and full members should aspire to. I invite you to at least consider registering and hopefully to go all the way. The sooner you start the sooner you will benefit and the sooner we build the critical mass of registered members we need to sustain the scheme.

New Editor

I welcome the appointment of Piers Maclaren as the new editor for the New Zealand Journal of Forestry. Piers is well known and has been a frequent contributor to the Journal. I am confident that the Journal will maintain its standards and continue to grow in stature under his care. I also thank and congratulate Euan Mason for his contributions as Editor over the last three years. In that time he has grown the Journal, maintained its professional standards and managed to coerce a wide range of high quality papers from a diverse range of authors.

Andrew McEwen

Recognition of achievement - Dr Andrew McEwen, Dr Chris Goulding and Kit Richards

There is no better form of recognition than acknowledgement by ones peers - who can better judge the quality and calibre of performance than those in whose midst the recipient toils?

Similarly there is no better way to exhibit professional capability than by identifying those who set the benchmark for the group or sector making the award.

At the 2008 Annual General Meeting in Palmerston North the Institute brought further credit upon itself when it recognised three of its members who exemplify the principles and practices that we hold so proud. The record of the meeting will show that Dr Andy McEwen, and Dr Chris Goulding were made Fellows of the Institute, while Kit Richards was unanimously voted Forester of the Year.

It is worth reflecting on each of these recipients as the basis for the awards was in each case different and reflects the breadth and depth of the NZ forestry profession.

Andrew McEwen became President of the Institute at the 2008 Annual General Meeting, the culmination of a long period of service to the Institute and an even longer period of service to the practice of forestry in New Zealand.

His nomination for recognition as a Fellow of the NZIF was made in;-

1. Recognition of his contribution to forest practice and science particularly in the field of mensuration and management modelling where he was awarded his PhD. Dr McEwen worked as both a scientist and project leader in this field of science over the period when mensuration science and IT came together to largely revolutionise technology of forest measurement and the systems that supported it.

2. Acknowledgement of his more recent role and recognition as one of the "Senior Statesmen" of the forest industry including involvement in providing high level advice on matters such as historical forest land administration, associated Maori land issues and most recently advising the forest industry on matters associated with levying forest growers for industry development purposes, etc. Specific roles such as the following are evidence of this wider industry representational role.
 - a. Trustee, Haparangi A4 Ahu Whenua Trust (November 1995 - February 2001)
 - b. Chairman, National Exotic Forest Description Steering Committee (1988 - 1997)
3. Outstanding service to NZIF including through the provision of the Newsletter for the past 3 years, a similar period on Council including two years as Vice-President, service on local committees over much of his forestry career, presentation of papers at various



President Andrew McEwen with the President's Burl.