

Obituary

on 8th April 2004 - a fitting recognition for an eminent forester, ecologist, educationalist, forest historian and manager, all in the field of professional forestry in New Zealand.

What I have described so far is largely about Peter McKelvey's career. But he was also active in service to his profession. He was admitted as a member of the New Zealand Institute of Foresters in 1947. He served on the Council of the Institute for six years - as Vice President from 1972 to 1974, President from 1974 to 1976 and Immediate Past President from 1976 to 1978. He was instrumental in the development of the Institute's Code of Ethics and he was a member of the group that produced the Institute's report on the New Zealand Forest Service beech utilisation proposals in 1972. He actively promoted Institute membership amongst students at the university.

Throughout the New Zealand Journal of Forestry are obituaries, some for people from those early days as a trainee and in the field with the National Forest Survey, book reviews and other articles prepared by Peter.

In recognition of his services to the Institute, Peter was made an honorary member in 1984, elected as one of the inaugural Fellows in 1988 and he received the Institute's highest award, the Kirk Horn Flask award in 1998.

Peter served as a Director of the Queen Elizabeth the Second National Trust for ten years from 1977 to 1987.

Yesterday I asked someone in Rotorua to check on the

kauri tree in Fairley Road, Lynmore. Now over 50 years old, it has a diameter of about 40 cm, it is over 20 metres high and grows tall, strong and healthy like the forestry school that Peter founded and the legacy that he leaves to forestry in New Zealand.

In his acceptance speech on receiving his Doctor of Science from Canterbury University in 2004 Peter said that he had been a forester all of his working life and that he regarded forestry as a prince among the professions. In his experience the greatest professional satisfaction came from service: service to the community, service to your employer, service to your clients, service to your students, service to your colleagues, service to your profession itself.

Peter was truly a prince among the forestry profession. I find it very humbling to follow in his steps as President of the New Zealand Institute of Forestry.

Peter John McKelvey - I salute you for the gift of your life and the service that you gave to the forestry profession in New Zealand.

And I thank you Joy, Pam, Sally, Quentin, John, Stuart, Simon, Bronwyn, Hannah, Richard, Callan, Jordan, Kim, Ella, Tim, Kayla, Jayden and Bessie so much for sharing your husband, father, grandfather and great grandfather with us.

Andrew McEwen
President
New Zealand Institute of Forestry

Letters

Electric pruner increases productivity

Dear Sir

In the review of pruning it was mentioned that mechanized pruning equipment was not being used in New Zealand. I was recently in the Misiones Province of Argentina where I saw electric powered pruners being used. Both large companies and farm foresters are using them, despite the relatively low wages and much higher equipment costs. The pruners being used are made by Electrocoup, a French company, and have been modified from vine pruners by having larger jaws. The battery pack (2.3 kg) allows them to be used for a whole day without recharging. In Argentina they are used mainly in loblolly pine stands but are also used with other species as well. Studies made in both Argentina and Australia show that new workers have a similar productivity to the best workers using standard forestry loppers (McWilliam, 2004). Results also suggest that using Electrocoup pruners workers become more productive over the day and there may be safety advantages with high pruning. I would be

interested to know if similar pruners have been tried in New Zealand.

Reference:

McWilliam, R. (2004). An Investigation of a power assisted tool (Electrocoup/Maxicoup) for low pruning of Australian Plantations. Part B Summary Report. Forest & Wood Products Research & Development Corporation, Project PN03.3905. Available on line at: <http://www.fwpa.com.au/Resources/RD/Reports/PN03.3905%20mechanical%20pruning%20B%20WEB.pdf?c=1>

Don Mead