

# Doing it right – doing it well

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This is my first editorial for the *New Zealand Journal of Forestry* and I will try and keep it simple. I would like to thank everyone who has helped make this issue of the *Journal of Forestry* possible. A lot of credit in particular goes to Piers MacLaren. He planned ahead well enough to ensure there were papers and articles organised, even though he was not sure who was to be the editor.

### Who is the new editor?

Bateson Publishing Limited has been around for just under 15 years, and I have been around a few years longer. The main business of the company involves the production of magazines and journals for the primary industry sector. I also produce and publish occasional books, the most recent relevant one being *Wardle's Native Trees of New Zealand*, funded by the NZ Farm Forestry Association.

My background is as a scientist, with a first degree in biology and a masters degree in environmental science, along with 20 years working in conservation. It was during the latter period that I started work in publishing and editing. My involvement with forestry is not up to the level of the previous editor, but I have been working with trees and forestry for over 10 years and am a member of the NZIF. I also own a few hectares of plantation forestry

### In this issue

This issue of the *Journal of Forestry* is a bit of a mixture. Papers on small-scale forestry around Whanganui and in the southern United States offer an interesting comparison and contrast. John Moore's paper on structural timber gives an insight into the perspectives of timber and what can be done to improve wood properties.

Forest visualisation is examined in the paper by Simon Swaffield and Barbara Hock, where visualisation is used to evaluate the effects on the landscape. One of New Zealand's most obvious sights to tourists is a clear-felled hillside looking as if a fire or a severe storm has passed through. For those of us brought up in a European environment this is not a welcome sight. If visualisation studies help convince forestry to harvest more conservatively it will be a significant benefit.

The final article, by Michael Roche, outlines how the first Professor of Forestry was appointed in 1925 and makes for a fascinating read. The opinion piece on the future of forestry by the award winning Wink Sutton is guaranteed to make you think.

### Future content

David Evison, in his article on the following page, outlines the purpose of the journal and the type of content the NZIF wish to see included. As editor I will be working with the Editorial and Publications Committees to do my best to ensure we have an improved journal that members want to read.

The style, design and layout of this issue should be within the NZIF brand identity guidelines and is similar to the August issue. However, as it was not possible to get access to any of the original files from previous journals, all the artwork has had to be re-created from scratch. If there are minor discrepancies these should be ironed out in future issues.

My aim as editor is to produce a journal which does the right job, and does it well. I intend to make it my aim that every member of the NZIF will want to read their copy as soon as it arrives, even if they do not have the time to read it all straight away.

Articles need to be professional and informative, but eminently readable. Just because a subject has a base in science or statistics, it does not need to be incomprehensible to anyone but an expert. Papers subject to peer review, in particular, often have a tendency to be a real problem. If necessary they will be edited to a readable style, then returned for the author to check. We will be producing guidelines for authors to help make this a painless process.

The example I often use for what can be done involves a Doctor of Medicine thesis on specific markers in brain tumours. Some years ago I had to edit this long thesis, written by someone whose second language was English. It was clearly written and was eminently understandable, even for those without medical training. After the manuscript had been edited, checked and submitted, the writer was granted his doctorate based on this thesis. Papers can all be good science and still be simple to understand, it just takes a bit more effort.