

NZIF 2014 conference and AGM

Chris Goulding

Minister affirms support for forestry but issues challenges

Jo Goodhew addressed the NZIF conference in Napier, reaffirming the importance of the forestry sector to New Zealand's economy and listed what the government is doing to support the forestry sector. Growth in value from the forest sector depends on greater levels of domestic wood processing, supplying export markets that are opened through the free trade agreements that the government is negotiating.



Jo Goodhew, Associate Minister of Primary Industries responsible for Forestry

Reforming the Resource Management Act to make it more proactive will encourage better forestry decision-making, reducing costs. The Forestry Strategic Partnership Group is bringing greater alignment between industry and government. The Minister issued several challenges. Health and safety: the number of fatalities and injuries is too high. Quality and reputation: demand will continue as long as quality expectations are met. Boom and bust nature of the export log markets: lift the reputation of New Zealand radiata pine. 'If you see a partnership role for government, talk to us.'

Labour's forest policy

Chris Hipkins, the Labour spokesperson for forestry, outlined Labour's initiatives should they form the next government. Labour recognised that the volatility of the exchange rate and its high level were serious disadvantages to an export industry and would work with the Reserve Bank to include stabilisation of the rate in its objectives.



Chris Hipkins, Labour's spokesperson on forestry

He expounded on the need for a comprehensive New Zealand forest policy. Labour would make a pro-wood commitment for all government buildings up to four storeys high. The policy would include tax deferrals and accelerated depreciation for capital investment in wood processing, with research and development tax credits. They would retain the Emission Trading Scheme, improving it to make it effective and to remove the inequitable treatment forestry has received.

Awards

Thomas Kirk award – Andrew McEwen

The Thomas Kirk award, made biennially, was awarded to Dr Andrew McEwen for eminence and recognises outstanding contributions in the field of forestry. Andrew started as a NZ Forest Service forest trainee in 1962, graduating with a BSc from Victoria University of Wellington followed by a BSc Forestry from Aberdeen University in 1968. Posted to Southland Conservancy, Invercargill, he then joined the Forest Research Institute in Rotorua in 1971 as a Scientist, Forest Mensuration. During his time there he undertook his PhD at the University of Canterbury. In 1982 he moved to the NZ Forest Service head office in Wellington and from 1987 to 1999 worked for Crown Forestry Management Ltd. At the end of 1999 he started his own business, McEwen Associates Limited.



Dr Andrew McEwen receives the Thomas Kirk award

Over the last decade Andrew has volunteered countless hours to the industry in his role, first as Vice-President of the NZIF for four years followed by President over the last six years. In making the award, President James Treadwell stated, 'I am reliably told Andrew entered into the forestry industry as he was told at a careers evening it was an industry where every day was a picnic in the bush.'

NZIF Forester of the Year – Paul Nicholls

Paul Nicholls, Managing Director of Rayonier NZ, was awarded NZIF Forester of the Year for 2014. The award is one of the highest accolades in the industry, recognising contribution, leadership, excellence and integrity and is awarded annually for outstanding performance. Paul graduated in forestry from the Australian National University, Canberra beginning work as a forester in Tasmania before moving to New Zealand. He is President of the New Zealand Forest Owners Association, Chair of the NZ Wood Governance Committee and has governance roles with



Paul Nicholls of Rayonier NZ is the NZIF Forester of the Year for 2014

the Wood Council of NZ, the Levy Trust Board and the Independent Safety Review Panel.

In announcing the award, President James Treadwell stated that during his more than 30 years in forestry across Australia and New Zealand, Paul has generously given his time and expertise to the benefit of the industry. He is one of New Zealand's most experienced foresters and has contributed greatly to the industry's ongoing growth and success. Paul's knowledge and passion is highly respected and he is a very committed member of the Institute.

NZIF Foundation student and travel awards – David Sartoff and Mathew Waghorn

Student awards

Two students received awards from the NZIF Foundation for 2014 at the dinner of the annual conference in Napier:

- the Undergraduate Scholarship of \$1,000 to a student enrolled for a forestry or forestry-related degree at a New Zealand university went to David Sartoff, a fourth year student at the School of Forestry, University of Canterbury
- the Frank Hutchinson Scholarship of \$1,000 is available to postgraduate students enrolled for a forestry or forestry-related postgraduate degree at a New Zealand university. This year it was awarded to Mathew Waghorn who is carrying out his PhD at the School of Forestry, University of Canterbury with joint supervision from Scion.



David Sartoff

Chavasse travel award

The NZIF Foundation Chavasse travel award is open to any person interested or employed in New Zealand forestry. This year the award was made to Rhys Millar, Director and Natural Environment Consultant at Ahika Consulting Ltd, Otago. It will enable him to travel to the United Kingdom to meet with the FSC (UK) and the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (UK), certification bodies that specialise in small grower certification and managers of group schemes. Lessons learnt from the United Kingdom will be brought back to aid the development of a NZ Farm Forestry Association group scheme.

New Fellows and an Honorary member appointed at AGM

The 86th Annual General Meeting of the NZIF was held on Sunday 6 July at Napier prior to the conference. Amongst other business a motion to amend the rules concerning voting for the appointment of new Fellows was

passed after some debate. The amended rules now require at least 100 eligible members to vote for a proposed Fellow and 80 per cent of those voting to approve the election of the member as a Fellow. Under the rules existing before the change, two new Fellows were elected.

Ket Bradshaw

Ket was the first woman to be elected as President of the NZIF, a position she held for two terms from 2004 to 2008. She has been an active member of the Institute since 1983 and was the first female Registered Forestry Consultant, 21 years ago. As President, Ket was a strong advocate for forestry and a role model for other women. With council members, she developed the NZIF position on the Emissions Trading Scheme. She created a student position on council to help stimulate student membership of the NZIF. She fostered international forestry relationships and led a New Zealand forestry delegation to China in 2007 at the invitation of the Chinese government.

Ket has been the Executive Officer of the NZ Farm Forestry Association and has held a number of positions within the Ministry for the Environment. Currently, she is a Senior Policy Advisor at the Canterbury Earthquake Recovery Authority.

Tim Payn

Tim graduated with a PhD from the University of Canterbury, then joined the Forest Research Institute in Rotorua (now Scion). He has made a significant contribution to forestry research and research leadership, achieving national and international recognition. He was invited to chair the Declaration Writing Committee for the 13th World Forestry Congress at Buenos Aires in 2009. He has been the coordinator of the Montreal Process Technical Advisory Committee since 2003.

Tim's passion for geostatistics has led to the wide application of spatial models in New Zealand forestry and more recently of spatial models linking the environmental and economic dimensions of forestry. He was very involved in FSC certification, working closely with Scientific Certification Systems in the United States on the first audit of Fletcher's plantations and subsequent FSC activities. He has led the development of new research programmes to support sustainable management in New Zealand.

Alexander James Sutherland elected an Honorary member of NZIF

Dr Sutherland was appointed by invitation of the council as an independent industry representative of the NZIF Registration Board in 2005, serving until his retirement in 2014. The criteria for the appointment are that the individual shall be a member of another professional association in New Zealand and shall have knowledge and expertise in the registration scheme of that association. His knowledge and experience with the Institute of Professional Engineers NZ has been of immense value to successive NZIF Registration Boards.