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This issue contains five papers based on presentations at the September 2017 conference held in Rotorua. Peter Clark's opening address 'New Zealand forestry in 2050 – a backwards look into the future' leads off the issue, remarkably prescient about the change in voters' preferences, while the paper itself benefits from 20/20 hindsight following the election. The editor owes Peter an apology for his initial editorial comments, but even so, still firmly believes in the Danish proverb attributed to Niels Bohr that 'Prediction is very difficult, especially about the future'. Peter is optimistic that what ought to happen, will happen, particularly the re-balancing of land values, an increase in afforestation rates and more domestic processing.

Jeff Tomblason's paper on the pruned wood supply from the Central North Island demonstrates that predicting future market demand and prices is difficult. The large-estate forest growers are transitioning away from the low stocking rates and pruning of the 'direct sawlog' regime (originally known as the Fenton and Sutton regime) that depended on a premium price for pruned logs. He states that for the past 20 years the pruned log price differential over structural grade has rarely reached the required threshold of \$80/m³. The reduction of pruned log supply will commercially compromise most of the CNI pruned-log sawmills.

Robert Nola discusses fake news and post-truth, arguing that these undermine trust in all sciences (including forest management). He covers the pervasiveness of trust in science, what trust is and the deleterious effects of undermining that trust.

His paper provides a good introduction to that by Brian Richards which challenges the forest industry to become 'incredible' in the best sense of the word, needing to become tree-fellers and poets in order to do so. He suggests that New Zealanders think of their forest industry as logging trucks clogging roads and a dangerous industry to join. This is in contrast to many Europeans who appreciate their forest sector for its contribution to their economic, environmental and social welfare. Observing the industry's governance and communications he finds it 'difficult to see a collective certainty in a bright future'. For a forest industry brand to deliver it must contain three things: Ethics, Aesthetics & Functionality. Ethics for this industry would include sustainability and cultural diversity amongst others; Aesthetics concerns the presentation of the industry's story; Functionality is how easy the sector is to deal with.

Tobias Smith's paper describes the emergence of new and existing materials, technologies and techniques that embrace the tech age, leading structural timber to new heights. Glue laminated and cross laminated timber, laminated veneer lumber, the use of computer numerically controlled (CNC) machines and new methods of connections such as Pres-Lam technology

are techniques that, coupled with the view of timber as a clean, environmentally friendly material, are revolutionising architecture.

Brian Richards states that wood is an inspiring material with a few brilliant architects around the world now making incredible buildings designed in wood. Brock Commons, shown on the front cover, the new student accommodation at the University of British Columbia, at 18-storeys, 53 m tall, is currently the tallest wooden building in the world. The new building technologies allowed it to be completed in record time ahead of schedule and on budget. Any architect aspiring to be first rate must now be thinking in terms of wood.

In addition to the five conference papers, Ian Barton provides a history of Tairua Forest while Wei-yi Li and David Evison provide information on the consumption of timber in the Chinese construction industry. Half of the logs exported from New Zealand to China were used for concrete formwork. With almost 60% of the New Zealand harvest exported as unprocessed logs, 70% going to China, this low-value usage contrasts markedly with the optimism of Brian Richards' and Tobias Smith's papers.

An update from Forest Management and Forest Operations at Toi Ohomai Institute of Technology, Rotorua shows that the NZ Diploma in Forest Management continues to produce well-qualified graduates. The Institute has purchased a CAT excavator with a 324DL grapple loader with help from PF Olsen to complement the suite of harvesting simulators (CAT, John Deere and Waratah) used in training for the New Zealand Certificate in Forest Harvesting, Basic Machine Operations. The machine provides students with work-ready skills. The School of Forestry, University of Canterbury, is growing their numbers with at least 20 and more than five students in each year of the BForSc degree and the BE (Forest Engineering), respectively. Thirty-five postgraduate students are enrolled.

Murray Parrish provides the last word, commencing by describing the restoration of Rotorua Island in the Hauraki Gulf. Nationally, poor water quality issues are causing international commentators to query New Zealand's 'Pure' image. This country must face up to the true costs of its land choices, and ignoring this is a problem for forestry and every other alternative land use.

Finally, the newly elected government has appointed a Minister of Forestry with a ministry separate from the Ministry for Primary Industries, remedying a long-standing deficiency. However, in the editor's viewpoint, suggesting that its Head Office be in Rotorua is a mistake. While the Bay of Plenty does indeed have lots and lots of pine trees, this is an inadequate reason for its location. The Head Office of the new ministry should be located in the capital, with perhaps strong regional offices across the country.

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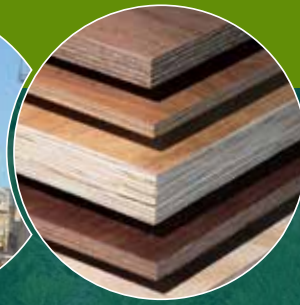
in the forestry industry



New Zealand Institute of Forestry
Te Pūtahi Ngāherehere o Aotearoa Incorporated

9–11 July 2018

Rutherford Hotel Nelson



It is with pleasure that we invite you to the 2018 NZIF Conference:

*The Power of Collaboration in the Forest Industry
Nelson 9–11 July 2018*

We have a great line up of speakers covering:

- ☆ Government targets for new planting, domestic processing supply, and carbon*
- ☆ International perspective on industry collaboration and what works best*
- ☆ Increasing productivity as result of closer ties with previous competitors*
- ☆ How adopting an industry-wide safety perspective can increase results to all participants.*

The field trip will showcase the progression from logs to final use of engineered timber products. Starting at an advanced mechanised harvesting operation, followed by laminated veneer lumber and cross laminated timber manufacture, and culminating at the partially constructed Nelson Airport Terminal which is using timber as the main building material.

Note the dates in your diaries now!

For details on the conference visit the NZIF website: www.nzif.org.nz

Sincerely,

Angus Malcolm

Conference Chair