

NZIF AGM and annual conference (9–11 July 2018)

Chris Goulding

AGM

A quorum of voting members attended the 90th AGM of the NZIF on 9 July 2018 in Nelson. The annual report and the budget for 2018–2019 were presented and approved.

Three amendments to NZIF Rules were passed at the AGM. One was to remove the restriction that the Chairperson of the Registration Board must be an elected member of the NZIF Council. The second was to further amend a number of Rules to meet the requirements of the Real Estate Agents (Exemptions) Regulations 2017, as requested by officials during the final sign off on the amendments approved at last year's AGM. The third provided a definition of eminence as guidance when a member is proposed for election as an NZIF Fellow.

A motion to alter the composition of the NZIF Council, including reducing the number of elected persons, was debated at length but failed to pass.

New Fellow

Steve Wilton

Honorary Member

Trish Fordyce

Conference theme – ‘The Power of Collaboration in the Forestry Industry’

The opening address of the conference was given by the Minister for Forestry, the Hon Shane Jones, with a talk entitled, ‘The Power of One, The Power of Many’. His talk had three themes: the opportunities presented by the government's proposal to plant one billion trees over the next decade; the potential for the loss of public support for the forest plantation industry due to incidents such as logging debris carried by floodwater at Tolaga Bay and Nelson; and the desirability of reducing the percentage of the harvest sold abroad as raw unprocessed logs.

Lees Seymour, Managing Director of Nelson Forests Ltd, spoke on the need for collaboration in his talk, ‘Collaboration, Smollaboration – Who Cares?’ He indicated its importance and highlighted good forestry examples (e.g. Safetree or the Forest Owners Association), while explaining those factors that can prevent collaboration being effective (e.g. lack of commitment and trust).

Linda Sewell, Chief Executive Officer of OneFortyOne Plantations, described how in just five

years the company had grown from a single planted forest estate to a vertically integrated company in South Australia and, most recently, had acquired Nelson Forests.

Simon Hardy, Studio Pacific Architects, introduced how engineered wood was likely to transform the building industry. He spoke on the use of laminated veneer lumber (LVL) and cross laminated timber (CLT) for low carbon, environmentally-friendly buildings, which when combined with innovative engineering makes for strong structural resilience in the face of earthquakes.

The field trip the following day visited the construction site of the new Nelson Airport Terminal where these techniques were being employed, after earlier visiting XLAM and Nelson Pine Industries where CLT and LVL, respectively, were manufactured.

The increase in harvesting volume and in export log sales has placed demands on a port's efficiency. **Martin Bayley** discussed how his company, Eastland Port, Gisborne, improved their operations so that the average waiting and unloading time for trucks was reduced to 40 minutes.

That increase in harvesting coincided with an unacceptable spike in the rate of fatalities. **Dale Ewers**, DC Equipment, demonstrated how mechanisation can reduce the rate of overall severe incidents. In Moutere Logging's case, as their annual tonnes harvested doubled, their annual accident rate halved. In his presentation he showed the Falcon claw and winch-assisted logging, describing the current development of a felling carriage and a remote operator station.

This talk was complemented by that of **Keith Raymond**, Future Forests Research Ltd, on a Primary Growth Partnership, the Steepland Harvesting programme 2010-2017. The programme was a catalyst that encouraged the development and implementation of new harvesting technology, so that by today 80% of ground-based and 30% of cable-hauler operations are mechanised. The need for equipment appropriate to New Zealand conditions has resulted in a thriving, expanding local engineering industry that is now also exporting a significant proportion of its manufacturing.

Lesley Bak, Nelson Forests Ltd, spoke on engaging and collaborating with contractors to improve health and safety. **Ian Reid**, Austimber Harvesting, gave the contractor's perspective of collaboration, expanding on the impact between a tender and negotiated renewal of a contract. He suggested that good collaboration and fairly sharing any gains from increased productivity would maximise owners' value recovery from their forests.

Azwood Energy is an experienced wood energy supplier that makes the entire range of wood fuels – biomass hog fuel, wood energy chips and wood pellets. **Ben Crawford**, Operations Manager at the company, spoke on creating the market for wood residues, implementing the conversion from using fossil fuels to that of wood waste (e.g. from coal boilers to wood pellet fuel). He suggested that had there been a market for wood energy in the East Cape, the logging debris would have been extracted off the hill, thus forestalling the disaster at Tolaga Bay.

Tara Strand described international science collaboration at Scion to improve fire control and biosecurity, specifically the behaviour of particles in the air and practical applications from understanding this. **Matt Hippolite**, Department of Conservation, spoke on the control of wilding conifers spreading from plantations, re-emphasising the need for the forest sector to collaborate with the environmental sector and public at large or risk losing its licence to operate. **Euan Mason**, University of Canterbury, spoke on modelling site productivity using eco-physiology.

The potential rapidity of change that replaces long established custom was emphasised by **Peter Casey**, New Zealand Carbon Farming, showing two photos of the New York Easter Parade, asking of the one taken in 1900, ‘Can you spot the car?’ and of the one from 1913, ‘Can you spot the horse-drawn carriage?’ He quoted Sean Bennett who had commented that synthetic fibres are today the mainstay of the textiles industry with wool relegated to niche applications: ‘Back in the 1950s, it’s not likely many farmers anticipated that the New Zealand wool boom would end so rapidly.’ The Editor asks, ‘Could wood fibre be synthesised, with a similar effect on the plantation forest industry?’

Future Foresters

The official launch of the Future Foresters organisation was made on 9 July with a quiz night open to all ages and experience levels. Future Foresters is a non-profit social organisation that aims to provide a community for young forestry-minded individuals. The organisation covers the wider industry and aims to have members in all aspects of forestry.

NZIF Forester of the Year – Peter Clark

David Evison, NZIF President, presented the award to Peter Clark in recognition of an outstanding contribution to forestry for leadership, excellence and personal integrity. ‘The Forester of the Year award is a fitting recognition of the contribution that Peter Clark has made to the sector over a large number of years,’ David said. The award is one of the highest that the Institute can bestow.

Peter Clark is a NZIF Registered Forester and until this year was CEO of PF Olsen.

Kirk Horn – Russell Dale

The Thomas Kirk award, made biennially, was awarded to Russell Dale for his outstanding contributions in the field of forestry over his long career. The Kirk Horn Flask is the most historically valuable award of the Institute. David Evison noted that, ‘Russell has proved himself to be an outstanding leader in forest management, and in the management of major industry-funded forestry research programmes, over a long and distinguished career.’



David Evison with Peter Clark – NZIF Forester of the Year



Russell Dale – recipient of Thomas Kirk award

Russell Dale is the Research and Development Manager of the Forest Owners Association and Forest Growers Research Ltd, which manages funds from private and government sources for investment in research and innovation.

Prince of Wales Award for Sustainable Forestry – David Saathoff

Subsequent to the conference, on 1 October the New Zealand Institute of Forestry announced that **David Saathoff** was awarded The Prince of Wales Award for Sustainable Forestry in 2018.

This award recognises engagement in the principles and practice of sustainable forest management including

policy, planning, practice and sound science-based land stewardship. Awardees must be committed to public outreach and knowledge exchange, focusing on the wise use and conservation of forests and forest ecosystems.

Continuing Professional Development (CPD) workshop

A CPD workshop was held on the first day of the conference. Bill Liley provided a forum for discussion of 'Forest Value as an Alternative Fact', which also included an update on the current review of the NZIF Valuation Standard. Professor Tim Dare, University of Auckland, presented, 'The Role of Ethics for a Forestry Professional', indicating the increased, formal importance of ethical standards amongst NZIF members.

NZIF Foundation has record year

Andrew McEwen

The NZIF Foundation announced education and research awards totalling \$41,000 at the NZIF conference in Nelson on 10 July 2018. There were more awards, more applications and a record level of distributions this year than ever before. In 2012, the first year of the Foundation's operation, there were four awards totalling \$6,500.

For 2018 there were 10 award categories worth \$44,500 on offer. The 29 applicants who collectively made 43 applications came from a wide range of institutions and forestry interests, with research projects in plantation forest management, harvesting and trade, social issues, indigenous forests and urban forests.

Award recipients



Foundation Chair Andrew McEwen (left) presents the Jon Dey Memorial award to Cameron Leslie (centre) and the Otago/Southland award to Rhys Black

Awards announced and recipients were:

- **Trevor Best** – a PhD student at the University of Canterbury School of Forestry, who received a \$10,000 Future Forest Scholarship for his research on the way machine operators in the logging industry deal with stress within their work-life, with an emphasis on the implications for their health and safety
- **Leo Mercer** – a PhD student in environmental studies at Victoria University of Wellington received a \$10,000 Future Forest Scholarship for his research examining the role native forest restoration, in association with carbon farming, can play in the development of Māori land on the East Coast of the North Island
- **Matt Curry** – a Forestry Science student at Canterbury University received the \$5,000 NZ Redwood Company Scholarship
- **Logan Robertson** – a Forestry Science student at Canterbury University received the \$5,000 Invercargill City Forests award, which is available to assist residents of Invercargill City in studies, research or travel in an area benefiting forestry
- The Jon Dey Memorial award assists research projects in the areas of work study or new technology aimed at improving forest engineering and harvest productivity. \$3,500 was awarded to **Cameron Leslie** for his Master's project on the productivity of winch-assisted machines
- The Otago/Southland award of \$3,000 went to **Rhys Black**, a University of Canterbury student, for his