

NZIF AGM and ANZIF annual conference 25–28 August 2019

Chris Goulding

AGM

A quorum of voting members attended the 91st AGM of the NZIF on 25 August in Christchurch. The minutes of the previous AGM, the annual report and the budget for 2019–2020 were presented and approved. Council decided not to continue with the position of General Manager on the resignation of Tim Thorpe. Instead a 'projects-based approach' is to be used, with formal evaluation and approval and with an amount of \$50,000 budgeted for the year.

Two amendments to NZIF Rules were passed at the AGM in order to better integrate the annual process for Registered Members with the NZIF accounting process. In Rule 158, '30th April' was changed to '31st May', while in Rule 159, 'for the year beginning on the 1st of April' was changed to 'expiring on 31st May of the following year'.

New Fellows

James Treadwell

Mike Marren.



John Wardle – NZIF Forester of the Year.
All photos in the conference report courtesy of Hayley Leibowitz

NZIF Forester of the Year – John Wardle

David Evison, NZIF President, presented the award to Dr John Wardle in recognition of an outstanding contribution to forestry for leadership, excellence and personal integrity over a large number of years. The award is one of the highest that the Institute can bestow. Dr Evison said:

Dr Wardle's earlier contribution to research included writing the authoritative text on the New Zealand beech species, and research into the effects of introduced wild animals on New Zealand's native forests. More recently Dr Wardle, in partnership with his wife Rosalie, has developed and managed a unique forestry operation at their property 'Woodside' in North Canterbury. They have pioneered innovative management of both indigenous and exotic forests for multiple uses.

Prince of Wales Award – Acacia Farmery

Geraint Richards, Head Forester, Duchy of Cornwall, presented the 2019 Prince of Wales Award for Sustainable Forestry to Acacia Farmery. The



Acacia Farmery (centre) received the Prince of Wales Award, presented by Geraint Richards (right), along with David Evison (left)

award recognises engagement in the principles and practice of sustainable forest management. Awardees are committed to public outreach and knowledge exchange, focusing on the wise use and conservation of forests and forest ecosystems.

NZIF Foundation student and travel awards

The Foundation was established by the NZ Institute of Forestry eight years ago. It is a registered charity and has its own board of trustees. Its purpose is the advancement of education in relation to forestry in New Zealand. This includes: encouraging and supporting forestry-related education, training and research through the provision of grants, scholarships and prizes; promoting the acquisition, development and dissemination of forestry-related knowledge and information; and other activities.

This year the Foundation advertised nine scholarships and awards, plus four poster prizes. With a total value of \$40,000 there were a total of 34 applications to consider. Winners were:

- The **University Undergraduate Scholarship** has been awarded to **Reihana Fisher** a fourth-year Bachelor of Forestry Science (Hons) student at the University of Canterbury School of Forestry. His dissertation subject is to decide if pruning should continue in the Lake Taupo and Lake Rotoaira Forest Estate.
- The **Frank Hutchinson Scholarship** for a postgraduate student has been awarded to **Monique Hall**, a Master of Science student at Waikato University. Monique is investigating the best conditions for planting environmentally sensitive late-successional plant species in restored urban forests. She is looking at 27 urban forests in Hamilton, Napier and New Plymouth, spanning an age range of five and 35 years. She is also investigating how to enhance the connection between Māori and urban environments.
- The **Chavasse Travel Award**, made to a person in mid-career, was awarded to **Bernadette Nanayakkara**, a scientist at Scion who is leading research into the wood formation/xylogenesis of *Pinus radiata*. Bernadette intends to use the award to fund travel to the 2019 IUFRO World Conference in Curitiba, Brazil at the end of September 2019.
- The **NZ Redwood Company Scholarship** is a grant of \$5,000 to a student enrolled in the Bachelor of Forestry Science at the University of Canterbury School of Forestry. This year's recipient is **Georgia Craig** a fourth-year Bachelor of Forestry Science (Hons) student at the School. Her dissertation topic is the impact of log storage on air quality.
- The **Future Forest Scholarship** was awarded to **Daniel Boczniewicz**, a PhD student at the University of Canterbury School of Forestry.

The Future Forest Scholarship provides two awards, each of up to \$10,000 per year, for postgraduate



Foundation Chair Andrew McEwen presents the University Undergraduate Scholarship to Reihana Fisher



Andrew McEwen presents Georgia Craig with the NZ Redwood Company Scholarship



Andrew McEwen presents Daniel Boczniewicz with the Future Forest Scholarship

research at any recognised New Zealand tertiary institution into New Zealand plantation forestry. A preference is given to projects in the areas of environmental markets, wood fibre markets, forest logistics, productivity and genetics.

Daniel comes from Poland and is the fourth generation of his family to take up a career in forestry. He has a Bachelors degree in Physics and Bachelors and Masters degrees in Forestry from Poznan University in Poland. He has also completed a Euroforester Masters Programme and Masters degree in Biology from the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences.

His thesis topic is 'Modelling Stem Properties for Eucalyptus in New Zealand's Dryland Environments'. He says his research will contribute to the overall body of the research coordinated by the New Zealand Dryland Forest Initiative (DFI) and the University of Canterbury.

Daniel has a scholarship in support of the DFI research which will run for a period of three years, covering tuition fees and cost of living. He intends using the Future Forest Scholarship for materials and chemicals, field trips, conferences and the presentation of results, and to produce video content to promote the results of his research.

There were no applications in 2019 for the following three awards:

- The **Mary Sutherland Scholarship** made to a polytech student
- The **Otago/Southland Award** of up to \$3,000, to assist or enable a project of relevance to forestry in the Otago/Southland region
- The **Jon Dey Memorial Award** of up to \$3,500, to assist research projects in the areas of work study or new technology aimed at improving forest engineering and harvest productivity.

Student poster competition

- First prize of \$800 went to **Reihana Fisher** for his poster on the Lake Taupo and Lake Rotoaira Forest Estate: To Prune or Not to Prune. He is a fourth-year Bachelor of Forestry Science (Hons) student at the University of Canterbury School of Forestry.
- Second prize of \$600 went to **Georgia Craig**, a fourth-year Bachelor of Forestry Science (Hons) student at the University of Canterbury School of Forestry for her poster Impact of Log Storage on Air Quality: A Case Study at the Port of Tauranga.
- Third prize of \$400 went to **Nick Berry** for his poster on Factors Affecting Processor Productivity. Nick is a fourth-year Bachelor of Forestry Science student at the University of Canterbury School of Forestry.
- Fourth prize of \$200 went to **Shaun Coles**, a fourth-year Bachelor of Forestry Science student at the University

of Canterbury School of Forestry for his poster on Capturing Asset Value Through Forest Inventory: A Review of Current & Potential Methodology.

Continuing Professional Development (CPD) workshop

Three CPD workshops were held on the first day of the conference. An update to the ETS was provided by the Ministry for Primary Industries in session one. Session two was a half-day practical workshop aiming to maximise participants' leadership potential. In session three, Bruce Manley led a discussion on the draft of the revised NZIF Valuation Standards.

Future Foresters

The Future Foresters organisation held a mentoring session followed by 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.

Conference theme – 'Communicating forestry in the connected age'

This year, the conference was the joint conference of the Institute of Foresters of Australia and the New Zealand Institute of Forestry (ANZIF), held at the



The Hon Shane Jones, Minister of Forestry giving the opening address of the conference

University of Canterbury, Christchurch. There were two days of presentations followed by a field excursion on the third day.

The opening address of the conference was given by the Minister for Forestry, the Hon Shane Jones, with a talk entitled 'Creating Good Forest Policy in a Political Environment'. He emphasised that he operates in the New Zealand democratic political environment. As such he is a 'retail' politician. Forestry requires the support of the general public, at risk from incidents such as logging debris carried by floodwater at Tolaga Bay and Nelson. Should the forest plantation industry lose that support he would have no alternative but to follow suit. Te Uru Rākau (Forestry New Zealand) is up and running and the One Billion Trees project is at full speed.

David Evison and Bob Gordon, Presidents of the NZIF and IFA, respectively, each gave a welcome and opening statement.

Over the two days there were nine keynote addresses. Eight were from Australian and New Zealand speakers covering topics on 'Communicating Impacts of Forestry Operations', 'Social Licences in New Zealand and Australia' and 'Creating a Better Forestry Future', with another presentation from Geraint Richards, Head Forester, Duchy of Cornwall on 'International Forestry'.

There were 35 papers in three streamed sessions, with attendees spoilt for choice. This meant that there were many presentations that had to be missed, but this could not be helped. All presentations were accompanied by an abstract published as one page each in the printed Conference Proceedings. Each session discussed and voted on one or more resolutions. These were compiled and edited by Jim Carle and the list provided to the two Institutes.

Phil Taylor, as Chairman of the Conference Committee, has provided the 'Last word' in this issue and has selected a few that he considers to be the most important messages of the conference. Mentimeter, a web-based polling system, was used to allow members of an audience to pose questions and for the audience to vote on them, the most popular being selected in the limited time available.

The **Women in Forestry** event took the form of a working breakfast with Julie Collins, Deputy Director-General: Forestry New Zealand and Head of Te Uru Rākau, speaking on her career and 30 years of experience in forestry and land use policy. This talk has been converted into her paper in this issue.

The **field trip** was to the Christchurch Adventure Park situated within the 400 ha Cashmere Estate Forest, a radiata pine commercial forest owned by McVicar Holdings and situated 6 km from the centre of Christchurch, population nearly 400,000 (metro area). The forest spans from the Canterbury plains to Marley's Spur on the Port Hills at around 500 m, enabling the adventure park to install a long chairlift with carriers for bicycles to operate a commercial mountain bike park under the forest canopy.

Six weeks after it opened in December 2016, two fires on adjoining properties spread into the forest burning 200 ha of mature trees. The field trip discussed the firefighting, salvage harvest operations, replanting with pine and subsequent reopening of the Adventure Park. It was commented that the mountain bikers prefer riding within the forest where the trees enhance their sense of speed. Future harvesting would change the environment, changing the bike trails and maintaining interest. A ride up the chairlift completed the visit, with magnificent views over the city, the plains towards the Southern Alps and Lyttelton Harbour.



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