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INSTITUTE NEWS



1990 Annual General Meeting

The 62nd AGM of the Institute was convened at the Hyatt Kingsgate Hotel in Rotorua on the afternoon of April 2, 1990. Thirty-seven members were in attendance.

Institute Awards

Institute awards were also conferred: Kirk Horn Flask, A. Grayburn; Schlich Award, M. Candish (1989); M. McLarin (1990); Frank Hutchinson Award, A.

Tilling; Curt Gleason Memorial Prize, D. Jannett; Travel Award, P. Lavery; Forest Service Carving, P. Smail.

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Amendments to Constitution

A large number of Constitutional amendments were passed at the AGM. Key amendments related to:

- the objects of the Institute
- discretionary advancement of associate members to full members
- flexibility in the timing of the AGM and election of Council
- investment of funds.

The proposed amendments had been circulated in the February edition of NZ Forestry. Some were subject to further amendment during debate at the meeting.

Other matters of business of particular note included:

- the election of J. Johns and the Hon. P. Tapsell as Honorary members
- agreement to hold subscriptions for another year at the current level
- the standing down of the Journal Editor and the vote of thanks to him for his excellent work
- a two-thirds majority vote of members present against the principle of privatisation of the Crown forest assets
- support for advising the relevant Ministers of the Institute's view on the principle of the sale of the Crown forest assets, while also acknowledging that the sale must now proceed, outlining conditions which must be considered by the decision makers, and offering the Institute's services wherever they may be required.

Tree replanting covenant seen as essential

A meeting of members of the Otago/Southland Section of the NZ Institute of Forestry held in Dunedin last month considered once again various aspects of the forthcoming sale of State forests. Professor Niederhof of the Central Oregon Community College earlier spoke to members in attendance at the meeting.

Members were advised that these issues were still under review by Government and that it was not too late for the voice of the profession to be made more plain.

Whilst there were a number of concerns it was agreed that the question of replanting of existing forests was the number one issue. Whilst the record of the major New Zealand-based companies in this matter has been very good to date, there is less confidence that a prospective overseas forestry company, or indeed a New Zealand-based investment company, would take the longer-term commercial forestry management goal.

Members believe that (1) the placing of a special replanting covenant (not included at this time) would remove much uncertainty on the part of all parties to the new leases, (2) sustainability of the productive role of land already com-

mitted to forestry is vital to the economic wellbeing of New Zealand, (3) carefully planned replacement of present forests with an absolute minimum of delay following harvesting would provide excellent insurance against weed infestation - a problem more important in the rapid growth environment common to most New Zealand sites, and (4) there should be provision for professional input in the formal planning procedures in the event of any justified subsequent change in land use following the sale with safeguards to protect public accountability.

The meeting also considered various aspects of the current and planned provision for accommodating greatly increased forest product cargoes at the Port of Otago. Members are keen to support moves that will enhance the flow of timber through the port since the huge forthcoming increase in harvest will be ultimately destined for export markets irrespective of the degree of processing that can be economically managed within Otago.

Jolyon Manning
 Chairman
 Otago-Southland Section
 NZ Institute of Forestry