
Higher memberships

Members may be interested in the requirements of advancement to Fellow or Honorary member. The constitutional requirements and current memberships are listed below.

Fellows

A Full Member shall be entitled to advance to Fellow when that person has:

- a been nominated by two Members who shall be Fellows, Honorary Members or Full Members;
- b been a Full Member for at least five years;
- c at the time of his/her application had at least 15 years experience in the practice, administration or teaching of, or research in, some branch of forestry;
- d submitted in writing a curriculum vitae and a supporting statement. Council may require an interview with the applicant;
- e submitted in writing two references from current or past employers, or colleagues of some standing, which manifest the applicant's allegiance to the Institute's Code of Ethics;
- f in the opinion of Council, achieved eminence in the profession.

A fellow shall be entitled to use the title Fellow or the initials FNZIF after his/her name.

The full list of NZIF Fellows (as at March 24, 1994) is as follows:

Mr I. Barton, Dr C. Bassett, Mr E. Bunn, Rev. C.G. Chavasse, Mr B. Childs, Mr M. Conway, Mrs M. Davidson, Mr A. Downey, Mr G. Fry, Mr W. Girling-Butcher, Mr A. Grayburn, Mr J. Groome, Mr J. Henry, Dr J. Holloway, Mr A. Kirkland, Prof. P. McKelvey, Mr C. McKenzie, Dr A. McQuire, Dr C. O'Loughlin, Mr G.M. O'Neill, Mr P. Olsen, Mr A.L. Poole, Mr J. Purey-Cust, Prof. S.D. Richardson, Mr A. Sexton, Mr P. Smail, Mr J. J. Spiers, Mr W. Studholme, Dr W. R. Sutton, Prof. G. Sweet, Mr A.P. Thomson, Mr J. Ure, Dr J. Wardle, Dr A.G.D. Whyte.

Honorary Members

An Honorary Member shall be a person who has been outstanding in:

- a service to the Institute, or
- b contributing to or influencing the practice of forestry in New Zealand;

and who shall be recommended by the Council and elected by a majority vote of the Honorary Members, Fellows and Full Members at an annual meeting of the Institute. Honorary Members shall not exceed 20 in number, and no more than two shall be elected in any one year.

The full list of NZIF Honorary Members (as at March 24, 1994) is as follows:

Mr N. Barr, Mr A. Beveridge, Mr E. Bunn, Rev. C.G. Chavasse, Mr J. Church, Mr A. Grayburn, Mr J. Groome, Mr J. Henry, Mr J. Johns, Rt. Hon. D. MacIntyre, Prof. P. McKelvey, Mr R. Moorhouse, Prof. S.D. Richardson, Mr P. Smail, Mr J.J. Spiers, Hon. Dr P. Tapsell, Mr G. Weston.

Forestry science matters

Progress with the Allocation of Public Good Science Funding (PGSF) by the Foundation for Research, Science and Technology (FRST).

Bids for the PGSF for 1994-95 were completed and sent to FRST in late 1993. The Foundation received 879 applications requesting a total of \$330 million. The total amount of funding available for distribution is about \$250 million. FRST has sent out the bids to various referees and has received back comments. The various FRST Advisory Committees, armed with referees' reports, are now in the process of reviewing the merits of each application and making allocation decisions. Funding levels for all applications will be finalised in late June and a full listing of funded programmes will be published in FRST's August/September newsletter.

Loss of Scientific Skills from CRIs

Over the last two years the Government has generally promoted the changes in the way science is funded and the restructuring of science (establishment of Crown Research Institutes (CRIs)) as a success. However, one of the less positive aspects of the science reforms has been the impacts of the restructuring and the introduction of a contestable science funding system on science staff. There has been a substantial loss of key scientific skills among the CRIs. As most NZIF members will be aware, FRI has not escaped from the problem of staff losses and a high staff turnover – an annual staff turnover of 7% is mentioned in the FRI Annual Report for 1992-93. A notable trend in the case of forestry research has been the loss of FRI staff to the New Zealand forest industry,

particularly Carter Holt Harvey and Fletcher Challenge. Since the establishment of FRI as a CRI in July 1992, FRI has lost at least 10 high-quality, senior scientific staff whose skills and expertise will be difficult to replace, and a number of other science and technical staff. The latest losses from FRI are Bill Dyck, formerly FRI's South Island Manager, and Hank Bier, a senior wood products scientist. Both these staff have worked at FRI for more than 10 years and were highly rated scientists in their respective fields. Landcare Research has also lost high-quality senior scientists who previously worked for FRI and were continuing to work in the forest ecology and ecophysiology area. In addition, Landcare has lost at least two soil scientists who were experienced in forest soil research.

Report to the NZIF Council meeting on March 4, 1994, Landcare Research Building, Ilam.

The claim that loss of older staff is a good thing because it encourages a continuing turnover which enables recruitment of young, more innovative and better trained scientists who can be selected to work effectively in priority areas has, in the opinion of many of the science community, worn a bit thin. Nevertheless, some losses have indeed provided the opportunity to employ high-calibre scientific staff who have brought new skills to FRI and Landcare Research.

The NZIF intends to examine the scientific staff losses and gains that have occurred at FRI and in forestry research-

related areas at Landcare Research. It is hoped that the study will reveal why staff left FRI or Landcare, whether or not replacement staff with similar skills were recruited, the overall impact of the losses on the New Zealand forestry research capability, and where the staff went to.

Indigenous Forest Research

Research which relates to the management of indigenous forests for wood production remains heavily underfunded. The Ministry of Forestry (MOF) are providing about \$40,000 for small coupe research in South Island beech forests and this is being supplemented by an additional \$20,000 from West Coast Timberlands. It appears that no money is available for researching the development of new management approaches for podocarp forests or the impacts of current helicopter logging in Westland on long-term sustainability of the forest ecosystems, productivity and genetic resources. The lack of funding for indigenous forest management is a small part of a much larger problem: the funding (or lack of) of so-called "policy research". Policy research is research which supports the development or implementation of policy which is usually specific to a government department. For instance, the development of economic instruments to reduce net CO₂ emissions, development of new methodologies for calculating carbon credits, understanding the capability and enhancement of the carbon sinks provided by forests and forest soils, and forecasting the impacts of climate change are examples of other policy research that should receive attention if New Zealand is to meet its commitments under the Framework Convention on Climate Change. Generally, FRST is reluctant to fund policy research because it sees that this is a responsibility of departments and departments such as Ministry for the Environment (MfE), MOF and the Department of Conservationists (DOC) do not have the funding to support operational policy research or have other higher priorities into which they allocate funding. Consequently, some important policy research, concerned with climate change and sustainable management of indigenous forests and other topics, appears to be slipping through the cracks under the present research funding arrangements.

In the case of indigenous forest research MOF should be providing more operational research funding for investigations concerned with the economics, ecological sustainability and environmental impacts of small coupe harvesting systems in beech and low-density selection logging in podocarp forests. After all, the Ministry has responsibility for ensuring

that the Forests Amendment Act (1993) is implemented correctly.

Future Funding for Plantation Forestry Research

The Foundation for Research, Science and Technology's research strategy for "Plantation forestry wood and paper processing" (September 1993) indicates that plantation forestry research funding from the PGSF will decline from \$10.2 million in 1992/93 to \$9.2 million in 1997/98. There is some concern by FRI that the silviculture and management of radiata pine and of specialty timber species and mensuration and management research programmes may be forced to take the brunt of the reductions. However, not all the research funding news is bleak. There are rumours in the Wellington bazaar that this year's Budget may include an extra \$10 million for the science budget. NZIF intends to develop a paper for the Ministry of Research, Science and Technology and the Minister of R S & T presenting a case for additional funding for indigenous forest management and plantation forestry research.

Overseas Research News

Graeme Caughley, who worked for FRI in the 1960s/1970s and then moved to Australia to work with Sydney University and CSIRO, died on February 16, 1994. Graeme Caughley became internationally

known for his work on large mammals (deer, thar, kangaroos, elephants) and was regarded as one of the world's foremost animal population dynamics experts. He was known in NZ for his book "The deer wars" and his "Kaikoura" theory for the early Polynesian colonisation of NZ.

The results of a long-term study of global forest carbon sources and sinks were recently published in Science (Dixon et al 1994. Carbon pools and flux of global forest ecosystems. Science Vol. 263, No. 5144; 185-190). The paper indicates that globally forests contain 1146 petagrams (10¹⁵g = 1 billion tonnes) of carbon, with approximately 37% of the carbon in low-latitude forests, 14% in mid-latitude forests and 49% in high-latitude forests. On average over two-thirds of the carbon in forest ecosystems is contained in soils. In 1990 deforestation in low latitudes emitted 1.6 petagrams of C per year, whereas forest expansion and growth in mid and high latitudes sequestered 0.7 petagrams of C, thus producing a net flux to the atmosphere of 0.9 petagrams of C. Future forest C cycling trends attributable to losses and regrowth associated with global-climate and land-use changes are uncertain and various modelling studies suggest that forests could be C sources or sinks in the future.

Colin O'Loughlin
Convenor, NZIF Science Group

The phoenix which rose from the ashes

Anyone who might have thought that the Institute of Forestry was dead would have been in for a surprise if they had attended the 1994 AGM and Conference at Nelson in April. The attendance list recorded 196 names, members and non-members, and I doubt if anyone would have regretted giving up their precious time to attend. This is a far cry from the 40-odd who attended the Tongariro Conference, and the conference which had to be cancelled through lack of support. It follows on from the very successful Napier Conference last year. We were told by Council that membership continues to increase strongly.

The AGM itself was presented in an innovative way, with the President choosing to reallocate precious time from what used to be a banal session of local section reports to a time for raising issues for the Institute to address. It is now up to Council to act on the ideas presented.

The conference theme "NZ Plantation Forestry – a Sustainable Resource" was timely as we all grapple with the piecemeal introduction of the Resource Management Act. Speakers ranged from Greens to grassroots foresters, and from scientists to philosophers. Dennis Richardson took us on a delightful journey through Burma and the inadequacies of modern economic theory which places no value on an existing indigenous resource, nor on the cost of making 70-year-old elephants redundant due to the (unsustainable) introduction of mechanised harvesting machinery.

The field day was held in lovely fine weather, and it was a welcome change to spend more time seeing things and discussing issues at the six stops than spending hours on buses getting from A to B.

No conference is complete without its social interaction, and this was well pro-