

policy is vitally concerned with the maintenance and health of New Zealand's indigenous forests.

"In debating the above issues the Institute is increasingly aware that one of its primary objects is to be an independent

advocate for forestry. Maintaining this independence tempers the Institute's ability to enter into specific purpose commitments on behalf of its members. The Institute therefore sees its future role in this debate as assisting with resolution of

the areas of concern outlined above.

"Once again thank you for the opportunity to meet, and I hope that the above commentary helps clarify the NZIF's position with regard to the Accord and Principles."

# Proposed revamp of NZIF Awards

Paul Smale

## Introduction

The Institute is currently responsible for the promotion and administration of nine awards. While there is no question that they were originally established with good intent and with a sound funding base, times have of course moved on and their intent and appropriateness may no longer be relevant. For some there have been no applications or nominations in recent times. For others the funding base is now very low and unsustainable at current levels.

The purpose of this revue is to reposition the awards so that they more appropriately meet the needs of a modern, more professional organisation. Article 2 of the Institute's Constitution lists the following objectives for awards:

- affording members opportunities to express and exchange views
- encouraging fraternity and *esprit de corps*
- providing for the recognition of professional standards.

While trying to maintain the history associated with the awards an attempt will be made to adapt them so that they not only reward innovation and professionalism but at the same time promote the Institute, the professions associated with it, and encourage new membership.

Set out below are brief details of how the awards are currently administered by the Institute. For some no change is suggested but the details are included for completeness and as background to members. For others a revised format is suggested as a basis for further discussion.

## Award for Eminence – Thomas Kirk Award (Kirk Horn Flask)

The purpose of this award is to recognise outstanding contributions in the field of forestry in New Zealand with those eligible being members currently working in, or who have worked in, forestry in New Zealand. No applications are called for, with the recipient being selected by a committee made up of either the President of the Institute, the President of the Royal

Society and Professor of the School of Forestry, or, made up in total or in part of winners of the award, at the discretion of Council. The award consists of the Kirk Horn Flask (filled with a suitable beverage), to be held by the recipient for one month and then returned to the Royal Society (minus the beverage), and a medal retained by the winner.

This is the most historically valuable award in all New Zealand science. It commemorates the original recipient of the flask, Thomas Kirk, a man with no formal schooling but who became one of New Zealand's foremost botanical explorer/scientists and teacher at the Auckland Institute and Museum. It also commemorates the donor, Captain Inches Campbell-Walker, a member of the Indian Forest Service who came to New Zealand in March 1876 as the first Conservator of Forests on a year's trial.

In 1984 the Royal Society approached the NZIF, provided a fund of \$2500, and invited them to administer the award "in forestry in the broadest sense" on their behalf. (See NZ Forestry, August 1988.)

No changes in this award are suggested.

## Travel Awards

### Chavasse Travel Award

The original purpose of this award was for bilateral exchanges of Institute members with selected professional forestry societies in other countries. It was amended in 1991 to incorporate the possibility of funding an overseas speaker to travel to New Zealand and speak at the Conference and/or to local sections, but to date this has not occurred. The award is open to all NZIF Honorary, Fellow, or Full Members who may be interested in travelling overseas. Written applications are required to include details on the country, timing of visit, particular interests, chosen itinerary, and a proposed budget. Selection is by a three-person committee comprising the President, Vice President, and Patron of the Fund (Mrs S. Chavasse). The value of the award was originally \$5000 although in latter years this was reduced to \$3500.

Geoff Chavasse gave the Institute a

substantial sum of money when he retired which was increased by donations and a membership levy to form sufficient capital to enable the annual interest to be used each year for the travel award.

The only change proposed is to use a common (with other awards) selection panel as set out below.

### Balneaves Travel Award

No changes are suggested for this award which is administered by the Institute. Its purpose is to enable people in the forestry sector to travel overseas in order to increase their, and the forest industries', experience and knowledge. At John Balneaves' request, an applicant (who need not be a member of the NZIF) must be a person:

- of good integrity and who is currently active in plantation forestry research
- have at least 10 years of professional activity ahead of them
- be enthusiastic and energetic in their work
- have good communication skills and have the interest and ability to get alongside others.

Written applications are called for detailing background, reason for travel, provisional itinerary, additional financial support, and the names of two referees. The selection panel consists of the President of the NZFOA, the CEO of NZFRI and the President of NZIF, or their delegates. The award is for a minimum of \$5000 each year which is presented at the AGM for travel to be completed that year.

There is a fund of \$17,100 set up by the Forest and Forest Products Research organisations' Forest Technology Board with significant donations by NZFRI and a number of companies. The award is made out of principal and interest and the fund will therefore eventually be liquidated.

The recipient would be expected to produce a report within three months of their return to New Zealand with a summary of this report to be published in New Zealand Forestry and the full report to be

made available to any interested parties at the cost of production.

### Scholarships

#### *Schlich Memorial Prize and Mary Sutherland Bequest*

The Schlich award is to recognise the student who displays the best all-round ability at the School of Forestry and is open to all students in the final professional year at the School of Forestry, University of Canterbury. The prize was established in 1971 from a trust fund established by public subscription in memory of Sir William Schlich, a pioneer of British forestry. The award is administered by the NZIF and is presented at the Institute's AGM and Conference.

The Mary Sutherland Bequest recognises the top student each year completing the NZ Certificate of Forestry at Wairiki Polytechnic. Originally the fund was to be used to assist New Zealand foresters to travel but this was changed at Council's discretion in 1971 to become a 'Ranger School award'.

Recently the prize for both of these awards has consisted of a \$100 book voucher, travel expenses to the AGM and one year's free membership. They go to the top student at each establishment and so no nominations are called for as the award is made on the recommendation of the academic staff. It is probably fair to say that few recipients have heard of the award until they receive it. The funds available for both awards are at a very low level and, depending on where next year's recipients live, probably insufficient to cover costs.

#### *Frank E Hutchinson Memorial Trust*

This fund was originally established to recognise significant postgraduate work in reforestation in New Zealand, but was amended in 1990 (with the acceptance of Miss Rata Hutchinson), to provide annual recognition of the best postgraduate student in sustainable forestry at the School of Forestry, University of Canterbury. All postgraduate students at the School of Forestry for work in the general area of sustainable forestry are eligible to apply. No applications are called for, as selection is based on the recommendation of the School of Forestry. The award, which is announced at the AGM, consists of a certificate and \$100 worth of book vouchers and is based on an initial endowment of \$1000 made by Miss Hutchinson and other donations of at least another \$350 made in 1983. It was first presented in 1990 and is made in the memory of Frank (Francis) Edward Hutchinson who died in 1982. He became a member of the Institute in 1929 and was elected an Honorary Member in 1964. (See NZ Forestry, May 1990.)

### *Proposed changes to Scholarships*

It is proposed to turn these three awards into scholarships. Schlich for Universities, Mary Sutherland for Polytechnics and Hutchinson for postgraduates. The award would be available to all students in their final year of study who are studying a discipline of relevance to the forestry profession (i.e. in keeping with our name and recognition that there are many disciplines other than forestry that contribute to our profession). In the case of the Hutchinson Scholarship it is suggested that the purpose be modified 'to promote innovative forestry and forest products research'.

The value would be \$1500 each, travel expenses and registration at the AGM, and one year's free student membership of the Institute. Selection would be by the NZIF awards committee and would be based on the applicant's ability to demonstrate high professional and ethical standards, good social skills, community involvement and financial need, and would be based on a two-to-three-page written application (with no set format). The panel should not necessarily select top academic achievers.

A scholarship such as that proposed would give the Institute an opportunity to promote itself to a wide range of students within all the tertiary institutes rather than the relatively narrow base we currently have. The scholarships would hopefully become something to be sought after and valued rather than an unknown award made after the academic year has finished. Properly promoted, which brings its own cost of course, it has the potential to significantly raise our profile and increase membership.

### **Other Awards**

#### *Curt Gleason Memorial Prize*

The purpose is to foster creative communication in forestry and is open to NZIF members 30 years of age or under. Entrants may choose any topic within the broad field of forestry and can use any tangible communication techniques. First prize is \$500 with up to three merit awards of \$100, with presentation at the AGM.

The prize is in memory of Curt David Gleason who was President of the NZIF in 1986, but tragically died on July 12, 1986 from injuries received when hit by a car while jogging in Rotorua. (See NZ Forestry, August 1986.) The trust was established from residual funds from the 1986 AGM and Conference in Wellington, at which Curt Gleason was elected President, from donations from members of the Institute, and from a donation of \$1300 from the NZFS Forest Officers Group, Nelson. The fund for this award currently stands at \$13,100.

### *NZ Forest Service Carving*

This award is to commemorate the contribution to practical forestry made by the staff of the NZ Forest Service and is open to any person working in the broad field of New Zealand forestry, with nominees not necessarily members of the Institute. Applications are made by any Institute member or through a local section with selection by a committee comprising the President and two council members.

The award consists of a carved panel in native timber symbolically showing the integration of the sky, the land, the forests and the people. It is presented at the AGM and held for one year. The recipient also receives a print to keep.

The primary sources of funds were the two occupational groups within the NZ Forest Service - the Forest Management and Forestry groups. (See NZ Forestry, November 1989.) The combined funds for this and the Forest Service Sports Award is \$6400.

#### *Forest Service Sports Award*

This award is to recognise sporting excellence and is open to any outstanding young sportsperson who is under training or has just completed training at a recognised forestry institution. Up to three nominations (with supporting reasons) are sought from the heads of the forestry schools with selection by the President and two co-opted members, initially those involved with NZFS sports tournaments.

The award consists of a cup and a training award of about \$300 per year to be presented at the AGM of NZIF or at an appropriate meeting of the local section.

#### *Proposed Creation of a scholarship for Maori*

For a number of reasons none of these three awards has been working satisfactorily. Of recent times there have been very few applicants. While not questioning the good intentions of those people who set up the awards, it is perhaps questionable whether their purposes are, or can be, met, given the current make-up of the industry. For these reasons it is proposed to discontinue all three of these awards and create a new one which will be for Maori students at a tertiary institute. Details of the award are currently being worked out in consultation with Maori.

### **Selection**

Currently there are different selection panels for each of the awards. This is administratively difficult and does not add anything to the awards' effectiveness. It is proposed that a selection panel consisting of the NZIF President, the Councillor responsible for awards and at least one person outside of Council (but who is

appointed by them) be used as a selection panel. With the exception of the Balneaves Travel Award (because the NZIF only administers this award on behalf of the Forest Technology Board and is therefore not able to change the terms) and the Thomas Kirk Award (because of its historical significance) they would be responsible for selecting candidates for all the remaining awards and scholarships.

The selection panel may, at its discretion, require interviews, consult with family members associated with the awards, speak with referees and co-opt other NZIF members to assist in the selection process.

### Funding

In order to make the financial value of the awards more relevant, and also to enable them to be used as an opportunity to promote the Institute, the basis of funding will have to be modified. Currently the funds set aside for awards are held in a trust account and they are (at least nominally) kept separate. It is proposed that in future no attempt be made to separate the funds allocated to each award but that the Treasurer just keep an awards trust account.

The table below summarises the current financial situation with regard to the base funding and the annual award drawings for both the current position and that proposed. Simplistically if the current balance of \$68,575 was invested at 7.5% interest it would generate approximately \$3500 per year after tax. The additional \$13,100 required to meet the estimated annual cost of running the programme

(including promotion) would need to be made up out of our annual budget. This is however likely to be a very cost-effective mechanism for promoting the Institute to a receptive audience.

### Where to now

Constructive comment on this proposal is sought, preferably in writing, by:

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Please ensure that any comments are sent by the end of January 1998.

In the meantime discussion will occur with a number of interested parties including Maori (for the proposed scholarship) and those who have been involved in setting some of the current awards and, where appropriate, the family members.

The comments received will be discussed by Council early in the new year and a revised proposal put to the next AGM in Wanganui. Changes adopted at that meeting will hopefully be implemented from 1999. The current format will be used for the 1998 awards.

### Acknowledgements

This revamp of the awards is based on the

background work of John Novis in 1988 and John Novis and Lisa Langer in 1994.

## NZIF Forest Valuation Working Party Update

### Submissions on Forest Valuation Standards now due

The Exposure Draft of the Forest Valuation Standards was released in October 1996. In this document, interested parties were invited to provide feedback to assist the Working Party prepare a final set of Forest Valuation Standards. The closing date for submissions was given as September 30, 1997 and feedback has been received from a wide range of organisations, including the Securities Commission and the NZ Institute of Chartered Accountants. However the Working Party has decided to extend the deadline for submissions until January 31, 1998 to ensure that NZIF members and other users have an adequate opportunity to apply and comment on the Exposure Draft.

Members are invited to comment and make suggestions about any aspect of the Exposure Draft. Examples which illustrate forest valuation issues are also welcomed. Submissions should be sent to the

|                                    | Award  | Type         | Current          |                 |                |       | Proposed                     |                 |       |
|------------------------------------|--|--------------|------------------|-----------------|----------------|-------|------------------------------|-----------------|-------|
|                                    |  |              | Consideration by | Base Funds      | Annual Costs   | Notes | Consideration by             | Annual Costs    | Notes |
| <b>NZIF Awards</b>                 |  |              |                  |                 |                |       |                              |                 |       |
|                                    | Thomas Kirk Award (Kirk Horn Flask)  | Prize        | Selection        | \$3,400         | \$100          | 1     | Selection                    | \$100           |       |
|                                    | Chavasse Travel Award  | Travel Award | Application      | \$40,300        | \$3,500        |       | Application                  | \$3,500         |       |
|                                    | Schlich Memorial Prize   | Prize        | Nomination       | \$225           | \$600          | 2     | Scholarship (by application) | \$2,000         | 3     |
|                                    | Mary Sutherland Bequest  | Prize        | Nomination       | \$350           | \$800          | 2     | Scholarship (by application) | \$2,000         | 3     |
|                                    | Frank E Hutchinson Memorial Trust Fund                                     | Prize        | Nomination       | \$4,800         | \$100          |       | Scholarship (by application) | \$2,000         |       |
|                                    | Curt Gleason Memorial Prize  | Prize        | Nomination       | \$13,100        | \$500          |       | Discontinued                 | -               |       |
|                                    | NZ Forest Service Carving  | Prize        | Nomination       | \$6,400         |                |       | Discontinued                 | -               |       |
|                                    | NZ Forest Service Sports Award   | Prize        | Nomination       | (part of above) | \$300          |       | Discontinued                 | -               |       |
|                                    | NZIF Scholarship for Maori   |              |                  |                 |                |       |                              | \$2,000         |       |
|                                    | Award promotion and administration   |              |                  |                 |                |       |                              | \$5,000         |       |
|                                    | <b>Total NZIF Awards</b>   |              |                  | <b>\$68,575</b> | <b>\$5,700</b> |       |                              | <b>\$16,600</b> |       |
| <b>Awards administered by NZIF</b> |  |              |                  |                 |                |       |                              |                 |       |
|                                    | Balneaves Travel Award   | Travel Award | Application      | \$17,100        | \$5,000        |       | Application                  | \$5,000         |       |
| Notes 1                            | Beverage plus medal.   |              |                  |                 |                |       |                              |                 |       |
| 2                                  | \$100 book voucher plus travel costs to the AGM estimated to average \$500 |              |                  |                 |                |       |                              |                 |       |
| 3                                  | \$1500 Scholarship plus travel costs to the AGM estimated to average \$500 |              |                  |                 |                |       |                              |                 |       |