

## Institute Conference a Success

The recent AGM and Conference of the New Zealand Institute of Forestry proved to be very successful and well attended.

The conference focused on "Assessment and Management of Forest Investment Risk" and attracted 160 attendees.

Papers from the conference will be published in coming editions of *New Zealand Journal of Forestry*.

The new NZIF Council is as follows:

Peter Berg (President)  
Chris Perley (Secretary)  
Howard Moore (Treasurer)  
Don Hammond  
Andy Dick  
David Rhodes  
Mike McLarin  
Nora Devoe  
Euan Mason  
Hugh Bigsby

New council members are Chris Perley and Euan Mason.

## Risk Assessment of Gypsy Moth Entry

The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry has released a report for consultation, which assesses the probability of gypsy moth entering New Zealand via a used vehicle from Japan. The document assesses the likelihood of gypsy moth egg masses entering New Zealand via used vehicles and hatching, leading to the establishment of the insect in New Zealand. Consultation on this report will determine whether the current import health standard for importing used cars from Japan needs to be revised.

While the review focuses only on the used car pathway, the assessment concludes that there are alternative pathways for gypsy moths to enter New Zealand such as on vessels and shipping containers. Following consultation, a decision will be made as to whether changes are required to the current import health standard. Submissions close on 30 April 2000.

The document can be found via the MAF website at [www.maf.govt.nz](http://www.maf.govt.nz)

## Richard John James Perham

11 November 1929 - 7 March 2000

**A 55 year career devoted to linking forest growing and processing.**

As well as being one of the best known leaders in the timber and chip industry over the past half century, Dick also contributed in a very effective manner to the expansion and improved management of the resource itself. His contribution to the former was well recognised at his funeral in Lower Hutt on March 13 and in the *Forest Industries* magazine. Among many achievements he was responsible for splicing Sawmillers and Timber Merchants into one organization - The Timber Industry Federation. He was elected their first Life Member.

Not so well known are his unceasing attempts to crack the problems associated with the processing of the beech species. This included the management of plants at Stillwater, Reefton and elsewhere. Always conscious of the opposition to 100 per cent chipping of the forests, he led attempts to segregate parts of the trees into a form acceptable for both timber and veneer production.

He was also responsible for the largest successful company project to replant cutover natural forest land in Westland, at Aratika on the eastern side of Lake Brunner. Without his skills in diverting finance from company dividends to planting and intensive silviculture, this difficult task would never have succeeded.

Forestry Rights, now a fertile field for learned treatises, opened the door for the creation of hundreds of new forest ownerships, both large and small. Dick Perham's influence on the development of joint ventures, which then helped in the enactment of the empowering FRRA legislation has never been adequately recognised. Under his innovative leadership, Odlins Tree Farms Ltd provided the investment finance and paid most of the consulting and legal fees to set up the first joint ventures on farmland. These were located in Otago and Hawkes Bay, and involved

overcoming strong opposition. Local bodies fought the introduction of an instrument that would ease land use change and avoided many of the requirements associated with leasing. The District Land Registrars objected to the minimal recording requirements. Half the surveyors in the country opposed the use of aerial photographs for locating the forest lots within the properties and the removal of the need to define R.O.W.'s.

The simple yet effective Forestry Rights Registration Act of 1983 was passed through the select committee stages only because Odlins had already tackled these problems and reached agreement for a number of joint ventures in practice. Even then, the text of the Act was not simple enough for some M.P.'s.

One committee Member declared that he had no idea what *Profit a Prendre* meant. He had asked the shadow Minister of Forests and Koro had said, "Well, it's not Maori, but if Dick Perham is putting money into it there must be a profit somewhere so it must be good!"

Dick's earliest recollections of forestry life revolved around the old cottage at the Waipoua Forest where his father, F.J., was officer in charge in the 1920s. After being exposed to no less than four Conservancies, in all of which his father was the boss, it is little wonder that he later became so skilled at combining conservation of the forest with its profitable utilisation. After serving the State, Fletchers, Tasman and Odlins, he completed a most productive career as a world-wide consultant to one of Japan's largest corporations. A measure of his ability to transcend cultural differences was shown by ITOCHU when the company made a public tribute to their indebtedness and two of their most senior staff traveled to Lower Hutt from Tokyo to pay their last respects.

Dick joined the Institute of Forestry in the fifties and became an active Full and Life Member. He will be missed as much by his friends in forestry as he will in the timber business.

-John Groome