

90 per cent of the membership that is not registered? Part of reconciling what professionalism means leads to the third point and how the NZIF reaches out to the wider community.

When professional status becomes economically important it will become relevant. While the NZIF might have a profile among consultants, it is certainly not obvious in the corporate sector, and it still has a low profile in the wider community. Worse still, judging by the membership patterns and trends, there are indications that the NZIF is losing some of its profile within parts of the forestry community. Becoming economically important means making professionalism work so well that it becomes widely recognised. Ultimately, this will generate a de facto requirement for organisations serving the forest sector to have NZIF registered professionals on staff, and for the wider community to seek out NZIF registered professionals.

Long term success as an institution is going to require a proactive strategy of promoting the NZIF, what it is and what it offers to members and non-members. Sorting out what professionalism is and how to make it happen would seem to me to be the most important tactical issue to achieve a strategic goal.

Other feature articles in this issue of the Journal look at the role of forestry professionals from the perspective of the past, the future and the current environment. The beginning of the new millennium seems to be a good time to reflect on past achievements and to consider the future.



Hugh Bigsby

## letters

Sir

Thank you for including my "QA Indicator Plot" article in the February 2000 edition of the Journal. However, there were a few minor problems.

Due to a technical error, part of the second and third lines of the introductory paragraph is missing. The sentence should read:

"any product that is not of uniform quality soon loses its appeal in the market place. In forestry, uniform growth is essential for the production of evenly sized trees for high volume recovery of quality wood."

Would it be possible to also note that copies of the appendices mentioned under Establishment of QA Indicator Plot can be obtained from the author.

*Robin Trewin*

# The Institute and the Private Sector

Tony Grayburn

The New Zealand Institute of Forestry was formed in 1927-28, incorporated in 1929 and its first news items were published in Te Kura Ngahere in 1927 and continued that way until 1934. The first New Zealand Journal of Forestry appeared in 1937. (Not published regularly until 1948.) The major support for the Institute until after 1950 has always come from staff in the State Sector and the old Canterbury School of Forestry. Those in the private sector who strongly supported the Institute over time mainly came from the State Sector or their training programmes, and more recently from the educational institutions. It is necessary to recognise this when acknowledging what the private sector has done for the Institute since its inception. Let us look at what that contribution has been in various time spans viz up to 1950, 1950-84 and 1984-2000.

## Up to 1950

The Institute and its Journal struggled to survive during this period because of the depression, the closing of the Schools of forestry and the Second World War. Those outside the service who did everything they could to keep it alive were Owen Jones (Pres. 1946-48), Arthur Cooney (Pres. 1948-50), Arnold Hansson (Pres. 1929), Viv Fail, Barry Morehouse and Mary Sutherland. In addition, these




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members added enormously to forest establishment, sample plot detail, fire protection and local body forestry. Mary is remembered to this day through her scholarship fund.

## 1950-84

This post war era saw the growth of industries based on the exotic forest estate already in place, both State and private.

Plantations were extended in area during this period and farm forestry blossomed. Many private sector staff played an active role in Institute affairs, advocated in a keynote address in 1952 by a Canadian, many becoming President and others being made Honorary Members for their contribution to forestry. Examples are Hon. Duncan McIntyre, Jack Strong and Neil Barr to mention a few. Such Presidents were Alan Perham (1950-52), Frank Hutchinson (1954-56), Jack Henry (1960-62), Tony Grayburn (1966-68), John Groome (1970-71), Peter McKelvey (1974-76) and Colin McKenzie (1982-84). The contribution their employers made to the Institute in staff time and expenses must be recognised. In addition their forests were frequently used for demonstrations, field trips and generous hospitality. Frank Hutchinson was always a great historian and many are his contributions in the Journal from the beginning while at the Canterbury School of Forestry, through N.Z. Forest Products Ltd, and until his death in 1982. He too left prize money to the Institute.

The David Henry Scholarship was set up in 1957 to encourage all types of study. Soon after the Government established the Private Forestry Bursary to help students study overseas. This was added to later by Tasman and Fletchers. The cadetship schemes established by the companies enabled students to attend the newly established Forestry School at the University of Canterbury from 1969-70. This all contributed to the growth of the Institute as their students were encouraged to become members. The Institute was active in the debate as to where and when the School should be re-established.

John Groome set up the first full time consulting business in 1962-63. As others followed, he realised that consultants needed to be formally recognised by the Institute and that there be a code of practice. This led to the Institute's Registration Board which helps to safeguard the public's interest. These actions emphasised the need for greater professionalism with the Institute and its members. At the same time, John edited the first series of Newsletters additional to the Journal. Others have been members of editorial committees from time to time.

Forest expansion was encouraged by Government starting in the mid-1960's and following the 1969 Forestry Development Conference and other conferences up to 1982. Private companies, Local Bodies and farm forestry all had staff involved in this planning, conferences and Forestry Councils, many of whom were Institute members. Their contributions raised the profile of the Institute and made it possible for the Institute's voice to be heard because of their wide representation, varied experience and senior

positions with great responsibilities. In addition to Presidents already mentioned, to that list can be added Jim Syme, Max McKee, Dick Perham, Barry Downey, Mike Andrews, Bill Studholme, Mike Hetherington and Mike Smith. Certainly others could be added to the list.

While Maori had always been very active in land clearing, planting, silviculture and logging they had seldom been involved in forest ownership. This changed when people, such as Frank Hutchinson, Mick Sexton, John Groome, Keith Chandler and Peter Olsen, became consultants. With the Government's encouragement schemes, they persuaded several Maori Incorporations to embark on substantial schemes, many being joint ventures with others.

## 1984-2000

This was the period of enormous change with the dissolving of the N.Z. Forest Service in 1987 and the sale of State assets. The Institute no longer had its largest member group from the Forest Service but its members were now retirees, consultants, researchers, lecturers and employees of a larger number of companies. The challenge to the Institute was to hold all these members together and to provide encouragement for the changing demands on people. All Presidents came from the private sector, illustrating their dedication to the Institute.

The Institute took on a much greater range of activities and causes as evidenced by the number of sub-committees set up by councils.

That put strains on their financial resources while at the same time members had their careers at risk and could not put time and money into the Institute. For a while, student numbers at the Forestry School dropped drastically and a "help plan" was instituted via the companies. As soon as the sector started to grow again in the nineties, student numbers grew too and education and training centres flourish. To make sure that members kept pace with ever changing professional requirements, the Institute established a Continuing Professional Development Programme. Registration was encouraged as consultant numbers grew and it recognised the professional competence of staff. The Institute has done everything it can to make sure the profession is in good shape for the start of the new Millennium. Only history can add to this short section.



Tony Grayburn