

# Profile of the new NZIF President

## Tim Thorpe

Tim Thorpe (right) is a second generation forester, his father Alec (Ben) Thorpe having served in the NZ Forest Service, National Park Service and the QE II National Trust during the course of his own career.

Tim graduated from the School of Forestry at the University of Canterbury in 1978. For the next nine years he was employed by the N.Z. Forest Service, initially at Reefton, working in beech forest management, but later in plantation forestry (Golden Downs and Karioi Forests) and utilisation forestry (Palmerston North and Wellington). From 1983-85 Tim undertook a Volunteer Service Abroad forestry assignment in Vanuatu.

At the end of the N.Z. Forest Service in 1987, Tim joined the Ministry of Forestry, and spent three years



undertaking overseas consultancy work in the Pacific before working as an extension forester in the Solomon Islands from 1990-1992. On returning to New Zealand he spent 4 years as an advisory officer with the Ministry of Forestry before joining Timberlands West Coast Ltd in 1996 as Strategic Planning Manager. In 2000, Tim shifted to Wellington to begin work with the Ministry of Economic Development on the government's wood processing strategy, where he remains to this day.

Tim previously served on the NZ Institute of Forestry Council and was Chair of the Environmental Working Group from 1993-96. He was also Chair of the NZ Imported Tropical Group from 1998-2000 and has served on various other forest industry committees. He is married with three children.

# Awarding the Kirk Medal 2002

## Dr A.L. (Lindsay) Poole

Professor Peter McKelvey once noted that the Kirk Medal was "...the most historic award in New Zealand science". The basis for Professor McKelvey's assertion relates to the fact that the Kirk horn flask, which is also presented to the winner of the award, commemorates a relationship that goes back more than 125 years. The association was between our well-known early botanist Thomas Kirk and Captain Inches Campbell-Walker, the first New Zealand Conservator of Forests.

In 1876-77 Kirk travelled the length and breadth of the country with Campbell-Walker (an Englishman recruited from the Indian Forest Service), to introduce him to New Zealand tree species and forests. They apparently got on well together and in 1877 as a measure of his thanks Campbell-Walker presented Kirk with a silver-mouthed horn flask suitably engraved.

Much later the flask came into the possession of the Royal Society who passed it on to the NZ Institute of Forestry as the basis for an award in the field of forestry science. The first award was made in 1988 and consists of a medal struck by the NZ Institute of Forestry and featuring both Kirk and Campbell-Walker, and the holder also retains the historic flask for a period of two years.

The award has continued to be made every two years as the NZ Institute of Forestry's tribute to high scholarship in contributions to scientific forestry in New Zealand. Previous recipients of the award are:

- 1988 E. H. Bunn
- 1990 A.W. Grayburn
- 1992 P. W. Smail
- 1994 C. G. R. Chavasse
- 1996 C. L. O'Loughlin
- 1998 P. J. McKelvey
- 2000 A. G. D. Whyte.

The 2002 Medal was presented by the 1990 recipient of the award, Tony Grayburn. In making the presentation Tony noted that Lindsay Poole was known in both



*Lindsay Poole receiving the Kirk Medal from Past President Tony Grayburn.*

forestry circles and the wider community as a forester, botanist, horticulturist, conservationist and an observer and commentator in all of these fields. Lindsay has already been honoured in several of these fields and it is appropriate that the NZ Institute of Forestry similarly recognize his very substantial contribution to forestry knowledge and practice in New Zealand. Amongst Lindsay's distinctions is the fact that at 94 years of age he is clearly the oldest active member of the Institute, regularly attending AGMs, conferences and participating in local section events, and as Tony noted "no New Zealand forester has had a more diversified career, and over so long a period".

Commenting upon that long career, Tony noted the following Poole milestones:

**1908** Born in Gisborne. As a youth travelled to King's