

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

College, Auckland, by steamer.

- 1926** First forestry experience in Whakarewarewa nursery, which at the time was central to the massive tree-planting programme of the central North Island volcanic plateau. Development of accurate seed collection and source records was an important focus at that time, replacing the more haphazard approach that had led to significant failures in the field.
- 1927** Awarded a Smith-Wylie Scholarship to study forestry at Auckland University.
- 1931** Graduated B [For] Science from Auckland. This was a time when it was very difficult to get jobs – due to the great recession (“The Depression”) of the 1930s. During this period Lindsay worked in a number of aspects of forestry practice, including deer culling.
- 1937** Joined Botany Division of D.S.I.R.
- 1940** Served overseas during the Second World War with the Forestry Unit - based mostly in the U.K.
- 1941-45** Also served as Scientific Liaison Officer for D.S.I.R. in London.
- 1945-46** Joined the British Military Government Timber Section in Germany working alongside the German Forest Service where he gained a useful insight into traditional forestry practice. At the end of this period of service he returned to the Botany Division of D.S.I.R. in Wellington.
- 1948** Completed a M.Sc. degree at Victoria.
- 1949** Appointed Director of the Botany Division.
- 1949-50** Took part in Fiordland Study Expedition.
- 1951** Appointed Asst. Director General of Forest Service.
- 1956** Steered the establishment of national deer control operations under the direction of the Forest Service - his experience as a deer culler, a forest botanist and on survey in Fiordland all being relevant to this undertaking.
- 1961-71** Director General of Forest Service.
- 1971-78** Lindsay was Chairman of the Soil Conservation and Rivers Control Council.

Some of his achievements during his time as Director General of the New Zealand Forest Service:

- Changed its structure to Divisions.
- Beginning of export log sales.

- Saw the future of the forestry sector as a significant export industry for N.Z.
- Development of the Forestry Encouragement Loan and Grant Schemes.
- Farm Forestry firmly established.
- East Coast soil erosion problems reviewed and initial erosion control plantings commenced.
- 1969 Forestry Development Conference set planting targets etc.
- School of Forestry re-established at Canterbury.
- Pointed out to Tasman Forestry Ltd and others the disadvantages of the stumpage sale formula to the forest owner.

In recognition of his extensive experience Lindsay was also appointed as a Director of the Cawthron Institute, Baigents Forestry Limited, Tasman Forestry, Scollays, and to other relevant posts from time to time.

Lindsay has also written a number of recognized works on Botany and Forestry, of which the most familiar to botanists and foresters alike is probably his Flora of New Zealand, illustrated by Nancy Adams.

He was made a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1962 and awarded the C.B.E. in 1971. In 1999 he was awarded an Honorary D.Sc. by the University of Canterbury.

Lindsay's contribution to the NZ Institute of Forestry is equally significant. He wrote many articles for the Journal after his return to New Zealand in 1946. From 1949 to 1950 he served on Council for the first time. In 1954 he was again elected to Council and for the next two years became President.

As noted above he has remained a keen supporter of the NZ Institute of Forestry regularly attending local section meetings and participating actively, and he has rarely missed an Annual General Meeting or conference over the last few years.

Lindsay is also well known for his love of golf. He has continued to play regularly, and he remains the bane of more than a few of his younger opponents.

The 2002 AGM and Conference of the NZIF take great pleasure in honouring Lindsay Poole and presenting him with the 2002 Kirk Medal.

Peter Berg

Calendar

The following conferences, expos, courses and other events will be of interest to readers. Details are brief, so please contact the organisers for more information.

2-6 July 2002

Woodfor Africa 2002, Pietermaritzburg, South Africa.
Contact: woodforafrica@futurenet.co.za

25-29 August 2002

Population and Evolutionary Genetics of Forest Tree Species (IUFRO). Stara Lesna, Slovakia. Contact: Prof. Ladislav Paule, Fax: 421-855-5332654; Email: paule@vsld.tuzvo.sk

10-14 September 2002

Management of Fast Growing Plantations IZMIT
Organised by Poplar and Fast-growing Trees Research Institute, Ministry of Forestry, Turkey.
www.iufro.boku.ac.at

27 April-1 May 2003

ANZIF Australian and New Zealand Institute of Forestry Conference, Queenstown

8-13 August 2003

XXII IUFRO World Congress, Brisbane
www.iufro.boku.ac.at