

Through this link, I learnt to think differently about the nature, origin and status of New Zealand's natural forests and to question aspects of the way in which the Forest Service viewed them and their management. Mary also encouraged me to become more actively involved in NZIF as parts of my career started winding down and she daily provides support to that activity.

Overall, I believe that I was extremely fortunate to have had my forestry career grounded in the Forest Service. There was huge support and friendship in that organisation and in the links which had throughout New Zealand and international forestry. This, and the lessons from the people that I worked with, gave me the background and the contacts

that have enabled me to survive the changes that came later.

Presentation of the Forester of the Year Award to me only makes sense when put in the context of the opportunities that I have had in my career and of the lessons and support that others, many of them members or former members of NZIF, have taught or given to me. I give all of them my thanks. I only hope that some of the initiatives that I am involved with through the Institute of Forestry, and which are based on the help and support that I have enjoyed from others through my career, will in some way, give support and help to others in our profession.

Andrew McEwen

NZIF Travel Awards

The **NZIF Chavasse Travel Award** has been presented to Ian Nicholas, Senior Scientist at Ensis, for a study tour to assess the blackwood market in Australia. The purpose of this award is to enable people interested in the forestry sector to travel overseas, in order to increase both their and the forest industry's experience and knowledge. Ensis are also supporting the study tour.

In his application Ian said that "as a scientist in the old Forest Establishment section of FRI under the late Geoff Chavasse, and having had a blackwood silvicultural trial on the Chavasse Holt property, I consider it an honour to be able to contribute and help the future marketing of

blackwood from the family property and to develop the New Zealand blackwood industry".

The **NZIF John Balneaves Travel Award** has been presented to Charles Sorensson, Wood Performance Leader at Horizon2, to study Clonal Plantation Pines in South East USA. John Balneaves dedicated his career to benefiting the NZ forest industry by the clear presentation of sound and practical research. The purpose of this award is to enable people employed in the forestry sector to travel overseas, in order to increase both their and the forest industry's experience and knowledge. Horizon2 will also be supporting Charles's study tour.

PRESIDENT'S BURL

Last year at the Gisborne Conference two members expressed a need for a more tangible handing over of the leadership of the Institute by the outgoing President to the incoming President. The kaumatua for the Conference, John Ruru, and I discussed options and agreed that the matter was one needing to be deliberated over during the year.



NZIF President Ket Bradshaw with the newly presented President's Burl at the Gisborne Conference.

During the year we agreed that an appropriate tangible item to pass from President to President could be a timber burl from Te Tai Poutini. What we chose was a yellow silver pine burl passed over by a silver pine cutter in Craigieburn Creek on the eastern slopes of the Paparoa Range some 38 years ago. A close friend of mine, Maynard Macdonald, revealed the hidden beauty of the burl and placed it on a base. (It was significant to me that Allan is a hapu of the iwi McDonald).

Laser engraved on the base is Te Kaiwhakahaere o Te Pūtahi Ngāherehere o Aotearoa. John and I trust that the words will have growing significance to each President of the Institute.

So it is with pleasure that I gift this burl to the President as a tangible item to be passed from one President to the next. I leave it to Council to work with tangata whenua on the appropriate kawa (ceremony) to accompany the handing over of the President's Burl.

Peter Allan
19 Pipiri 2005