Graham C. Weston

Graham Weston joined the NZFS in 1943 and was admitted to the Institute as a Student Member in 1948. He was the first Forest Service trainee to attend Oxford University, and set a fine example to those who followed when he was awarded first-class honours. On his return to New Zealand in 1951 he was posted to the Forest Research Institute. In an early assignment on forest nutrition he was associated with the first fertilizer trials in Riverhead Forest. This work, described in several important pioneering papers, provided evidence to support aerial treatment of gumland soils with superphosphate and such management is now standard practice. Subsequently he wrote the book *Exotic Forest Trees in New Zealand*, still a standard reference for any forester’s bookshelf and a major achievement. In recent years he has been FRI scientific liaison officer and has been associated with the organization and reporting of several of the annual FRI symposia.

Graham advanced to Associate Member in 1953 and to Full Member in 1955. From 1953 through to 1968 he was Librarian for the Institute (at which time the library was discontinued, most of the contents being donated to the School of Forestry) and from 1965 to 1974 he was Journal Subscriptions Manager. Graham also contributed substantially to the functioning of the Institute in an unofficial capacity, in supporting Council, servicing requests of Institute members, through his willingness to assist visitors from near and far, and through his conscientious attendance at Institute meetings. Much of his effort has been “behind the scenes” and therefore unlikely to be noticed by most members. Those who worked alongside him testify to his high sense of responsibility, meticulous attention to detail, and dedicated interests in forestry and the Institute of Foresters.

He maintained a wide correspondence with overseas visitors and is one of the best known New Zealand foresters to many of them. The thoughtful effort he put into arranging pleasant and informative visits for the many visiting forestry experts has undoubtedly helped to create the very favourable image New Zealand forestry enjoys overseas.

Graham’s interests are not exclusively forestry. They encompass many cultural pursuits, especially music, and he is a keen family man. Through music he met his wife and they now have two children. Recently he transferred from the Forest Research Institute to Plant Diseases Division of the DSIR, Mt Albert, Auckland, and so has left forestry to take up a new career. It is fitting at this time to give his active support for the Institute and his conscientious service formal recognition by elevation to Honorary Membership.

J. R. Tustin