This is an important issue as Institute publications are the means by which contact with, and the interest of, the membership is maintained. Publications are also often seen as the only tangible commodities which existing and prospective members, and the forest industry at large have to judge the worth of the Institute - their effectiveness needs continuing critical examination.

(c) The annual conference is a major event that depends largely on the enthusiasm, imagination and hard work of the local section hosting the event. Council itself needs to take greater responsibility for the conference by making available to the organising committee a planning timetable and a detailed statement of the responsibilities of Council and the local organiser. The councillor delegated the responsibility of conference liaison should have terms of reference which requires him to meet regularly with the organising committee.

There would appear to be scope for improvement in the way in which conferences are run, in both style and format. For example, it has been suggested that a more effective way for members to participate in Annual General Meeting business may be through a remit system. The Institute should therefore give serious consideration to introducing a well planned and controlled remit system. Many organisations similar to the Institute have such a system - it provides an opportunity for rank and file members to express a point of view and make a contribution to Institute affairs. To work effectively however a remit system must be well understood and correctly managed and have adequate actioning and reporting back procedures.

(d) For many members, their only personal contact with the "Institute" is through local section activities. Local sections also play an important role in recruiting new members for the Institute. Council needs to give much more attention to the purpose and operation of local sections. This could be done by allocating one council member to each local section. Each would be charged with the responsibility of liaison between Council and the local section concerned, and for encouraging a high level of activity at the local section level. Terms of reference need to be drawn up to permit this to occur effectively.

(e) At present Honorary status is the only membership category where merit is recognised. Without denying the need for this prestigious award, the membership committee believe there is a need for two other membership classes where merit can be recognised. That of professionalism, and that of service to the Institute - both being intended to be less exclusive than Honorary membership, but nevertheless, requiring a standard of merit that will require some effort to achieve. Details of this proposal are dealt with in a separate report.

Other Membership Issues

Other membership matters identified by the membership committee are:

(a) The ability of members to feel as though they can fully participate in Institute affairs and aspire to the highest membership class. This is not possible at present for those in the affiliate class, and is being fully addressed in the report which reviews membership criteria.

(b) The perception of obtaining value for money. There is a feeling of discontent amongst some members at being required to pay a surcharge for a travel fund for which there is little interest or competition.

(c) There is also a feeling that subscriptions are too high for full members.

(d) The name of the Institute. Although opinions in response to the 1978 questionnaire were divided 2:1 in favour of a name change to the NZ Institute of Forestry, it is felt that this is now much less of an issue than it was to be, and is likely to become even less of an issue when the Forest Service drops the term foresters to identify a particular type of training and occupational category.

Recommendations

In order of priority:

(a) There is urgent need to introduce improved Institute publications.

(b) Council should lend greater support to local sections by appointing a council member to liaise with each local section.

(c) Council should take greater responsibility for annual conferences by giving clear guidelines to the local organising committee and the council liaison member.

(d) The Institute should review the following issues:

(i) Improvements to the annual conferences.

(ii) The travel fund surcharge.

(iii) Membership fees.

Reference


NZIF DISCUSSIONS WITH NZ FORESTRY CORPORATION ESTABLISHMENT BOARD

The NZIF welcomes the opportunity to discuss the formation of the New Zealand Forestry Corporation with the Establishment Board. We understand the Board brief is to oversee the transition of the Department to a commercial Forestry Corporation, and to advise on its financial and management structures, and on the ways of protecting the rights of its employees.

We believe that the sudden transformation of the State Exotic Forest Corporation to a purely commercially orientated corporation will create major difficulties, and anomalies within industry. Many of the State Exotic Forests were established for reasons other than high commercial gain. The handling of these forests within the Corporation will have to be carefully considered.

The NZIF has no vested interest and believes that it can present a view that will be objective.

We should like to point out:

1. The proposed corporation must clarify any constraints Government may impose on Indigenous Production Forests before they are considered for inclusion within the Corporation.

2. The level of public benefits are greatest in public forests. These social and environmental values would include:

   i) Public Recreation

   ii) Landscape values

   iii) Soil and water values

   Many of these benefits are obligatory under existing legislation.

3. The value placed on forests by Government when they are transferred to the Corporation will be vital to its future viability. It is noted that long term established companies and Boards acquired forest assets at historic costs.

4. A single Corporation with the objective of vertical integration is likely to be the most commercially viable. The viability of small industry would be best provided for by two separate corporations:

   i) forest growing

   ii) manufacturing

5. Commercial viability will be enhanced by employing professional staff with a quantitative base and training in operations research. No job in the NZFS can be protected. There will be a cost involved if the Government
insists on job protection for existing staff. There should be a people plan developed with provision for voluntary redundancy and early retirement and transfers where appropriate.

6. Initially the Corporation should concentrate on the present operations. Future diversification should be a considered move.

7. There will be a need for individual profit centres with transparent and uniform accounting systems.

8. The Corporation must manage its forests for long-term sustained wood supply. There should be an annual auditable state of the forest reports.

9. There is a need for a coordinated and internationally uniform radiata marketing organisation now.

W.P. Studholme
President NZIF

FORSOC NEWS

FORSOC (Forestry Society) is an on campus club which was formed to further sporting and social interests amongst students undertaking studies in Forestry at the University of Canterbury. Events organised by FORSOC are primarily aimed at increasing social contact amongst students, although events which foster awareness in current forestry are also held.

This year is the third year FORSOC has been active (after an absence of five years) and presently we are trying to change towards a more educational vein away from the purely social theme. Presently FORSOC, with School of Forestry staff, is planning a bird population study in the proposed School of Forestry educational reserve in lane the State Forest. It is hoped that this will become an ongoing study which will enable students with little indigenous experience to become acquainted with the "other" side of forestry. The Society also annually produces a magazine, "Te Kura Ngahere", which is a publication that recounts the year's events, both of FORSOC and at the School of Forestry. Contact from both old graduates of the School and Forestry organisations is welcomed as are subscriptions to the magazine and articles from the forestry sector which will allow students to be informed of current forestry issues.

The address is: The Secretary, FORSOC, C/o School of Forestry, University of Canterbury, Private Bag, CHRISTCHURCH.

On Wednesday evening, February 5, 1986 a party of 16 assembled at Te Anau. The following morning two float planes took the party, in two trips, to Supper Cove. Fortunately the flight was smooth and the bacon and eggs stayed down but after viewing the steep terrain some may have questioned the notion that tramping can be fun.

Because the hut was occupied at Supper Cove, seven of the party stayed on to fish and the other nine went on to Loch Maree. The day was fine and the track, formed in 1903, was good. During the night it poured and the alternative route up the Seaforth River flats disappeared under a metre or two of water. With only 15 in the 12-bunk hut we were reasonably comfortable. The next day was showery but the fittest explored the track to Hauroko. Strangely the hill is called Pleasant Range, but the track starts off very steeply and some described it as similar to walking up a waterfall. That day the rest of the group arrived soaked, but as the hut resembled Wellington Railway Station four went on to the next hut. Even then with 23 in the hut it was a little crowded.

On Saturday we sloshed on to Kintail hut while part of the group kept one hut ahead of us.

The next day we went on over the feared Centre Pass to Spey Hut. As we fought our way up a vertical tangle of tree roots then great slabs of bare rock, we were rewarded with great views as the mist cleared. The pass above the bushline was quite easy except for the steep parts on each side. Going down the Spey River, the sides of the track were very steep, especially where a recent large slip had wiped off a swathe of forest. However, in the valley a forest of Hoheria was in full bloom. Masses of white flowers covered the trees; the scent was a nice change from dirty wet socks!

The photographs taken cannot capture the vast majesty of the area but will keep memories alive and prove that we've been there.

— Ted Ramsay

Fishing on Loch Maree. Photo: S. Rae.