Main points from Council meetings (May-June 1986)

1. The Institute is to convene an in-house seminar on the topic of Forest Valuation. FRI would run the seminar and provide the Chairman. Council does not wish to indicate support for any one valuation method over another, but wishes to ensure that all methods included in an approved "basket" do in fact meet certain criteria. Council can then be satisfied that only members of the profession are qualified to value trees and will proceed to advise Inland Revenue, the Courts and the Institute of Valuers accordingly.

2. Standing committees set up were Membership — J. Holloway (convenor), P. Berg, plus one other member to give an "outside" view. Education/Training — H. Bunn (convenor), G. Cameron and L. Vaughan.

3. Council is concerned that the Institute's forest policy is not widely understood, indeed whether the term "forestry" is properly understood. There has been a lot of discussion on matters of definition, policy and whether the name of the Institute and its journal really reflects the nature of what the Institute should be over the next decade. Council wishes to encourage debate on these questions and members are encouraged to do so via their local sections or their nearest Councillor.

4. Council decided to print 3000 copies of the new handbook. These will be out in August. There will be enough to service the likely needs of training institutions for the next few years. Council agreed that the production of another handbook should be looked at in five years' time.

5. Council is remaining in touch with environmental Ministers and the Permanent Heads of the new department to ensure that the Institute's philosophy is properly understood, and that foresters are not disadvantaged in the subsequent staffing reshuffle. For this reason, Council has to be very clear in its perception of forestry, and be sure that foresters are being educated and trained appropriately to meet the various demands over the next decade.

The Council has a challenging yet exciting period ahead.

Annual General Meeting 1986

"The Business of Forestry" was the theme of this year's Annual General Meeting held in Wellington last May. There were 120 delegates with a total of 165 people involved when family members were included. The organisation of the meeting was excellent and the Michael Fowler Centre proved to be an exciting venue.

The organisers had lined up an impressive list of speakers. The meeting was opened by the Minister of Forests. Only selected papers presented by the speakers are to be published in future issues of New Zealand Forestry. These are likely to be:

Bassett, C. The role of the Forest Service in the conservation of indigenous forests.
Cooper, A.N. and Ashley-Jones, C. The economics of fire prevention in exotic forests.
Easton, B. Forestry as a growth sector.
Girling-Butcher, W. Forestry Insurance.
Gleason, C. The structure of forestry — when will it be big enough to think small?
Piddington, K. Balancing conservation values and the needs of society — the tasks of the new institutions.
Proctor, R. A rationale for current government policy towards forestry.

However, copies of the following papers which are not to be published are available at $3 each including postage to members by writing to the Institute's Secretariat:
Maughan, C.W. The domestic demand for wood sales wherever possible.

C.D. Gleason, President, N.Z. Institute of Foresters
for sawn timber and panel products (exotic softwoods) in New Zealand.
Scales, G. N. Requirements for successful trade in processed forest products.
Scott, R. J. The need for cheaper wood, electricity and other inputs to maintain international competitiveness.
Stevens, B. Environmental forestry - should the user pay?
Woods, N. R. The international dimension to longer-term planning in an open market economy - the case for NZ forestry.
The minutes of the Annual General Meeting have been sent separately to members. The minutes of the Annual General Meeting have been sent separately to members. Other major points from the minutes were:

- Clause (i) of the Code of Ethics was proving difficult to uphold, particularly by consultants who were required to follow the code. Clause (ii) states that colleagues "shall not check the work of a colleague without the latter being informed". This often put consultants in a difficult position as they were required to maintain client confidentiality. Council would like members' reaction to deleting this clause so that a recommendation can be brought before next year's A.G.M.
- The next A.G.M. is to be held in Greymouth with a suggested theme: "Is there still a place for multiple use forestry?"
- The 1988 A.G.M. may possibly be held at the Chateau Tongariro and as this is in the centennial year for National Parks, a suitable theme might be: "Foresters in the Environment - where are they now?"

The ongoing debate on membership of the Institute has been subject to continuous and healthy deliberation since 1974, when major changes to membership criteria were effected. On addressing this issue I am mindful of the inseparable issues involved - the Institute's objectives, the means to achieve these aims, our perceptions of identity as foresters, and so on. The continued monitoring of membership rules will help ensure the Institute's continuing relevance. At the same time, it is to be hoped that the present specific issues can be satisfactorily resolved in a reasonably short period of time.

As the Institute's object is to promote the best use of New Zealand's resources and to encourage the wise use of forests and forest land, forest management may be reasonably considered to be our central concern. Practitioners in this field, notably field managers, technical planners, scientists, consultants and administrators, traverse an integrated but diverse range of activity. This diversity in the overall discipline of forest management contributes to a very broadly based and exciting profession. It also provides a range of aspirations which may even be defined as conflicts of interest in some situations. I believe that a reasonable consensus of opinion of our basic identity as foresters is important to provide a sound foundation on which to develop the Institute's "modus operandi", including such matters as membership criteria. Where this identity lacks clarity, focus and drive may be diluted.

The nature and tradition of forest management in New Zealand is markedly different from other more clearly demarcated professions such as law, medicine or accountancy. These professions generally have the following characteristics:

- self-employed practitioners operating from private chambers;
- direct one-to-one financial arrangement with client;
- dispensing of personalised, private services.

The nature of the growing consultant sector of the forest management profession is nearest in structure to these professions. However, it is expected that the vast majority of foresters will continue to operate in the same environment as at present - that is, as salaried employees in public and private sector organisations providing non-personal management services.

These observations suggest that the Institute, as the body to represent forest management, should seek to be a broad-based organisation to cover the widest possible membership of personnel. If there is a need to provide a membership facility at the top level to recognize professional excellence it is hoped that such a category could be established without "elitising" the Institute or dissipating the more fundamental issue of maximising the range and number of general members. It is most difficult, I believe, to see how emphasis on extension of the membership ranking of the Institute at the top end will do much to help resolve the wider and more fundamental issues.

There seems to be limited value in revising membership specifications without also reviewing other facets of the Institute. As an objective forestry advocate, a means of public education, and co-ordinating body, this will involve taking forest and land management issues into the public arena by developing a higher public profile, conducting seminars and so on. Local sections, as much as Council, would need to be involved. Attainment of such programmes would of course depend on recruitment and turnover of greater numbers of energetic local officers. As membership increases, we can be confident that such people will readily appear. To assist this process, it is suggested that some form of agreed