Jim Spiers

Jim Spiers was proposed as an Honorary Member by Mick O'Neill (Full Member) and seconded by Ron O'Reilly (Full Member). He has made large contributions to the Institute, to forestry and to harvesting in New Zealand.

Jim Spiers commenced his career in forestry in 1941, when he joined the Forest Service as one of the first groups of trainees appointed. Jim made up his mind to concentrate on harvesting and that really has dominated his career in forestry since then.

One of the first jobs he did after graduation was to write the first Kaingaroa logging plan, helped by Pat Crequer and Eric Johnson. The interesting point about this plan was that it was the first major logging plan written in New Zealand, and in the first few years the Kaingaroa Logging Company followed it very closely. This was a landmark — it was a plan that worked and was used by the people it was designed for.

Jim’s career had its moments. Following his return from Canada, after doing a masterate in logging engineering, there was some difficulty in finding a slot for him. One feature of his career was his willingness to argue with people regardless of their status; perhaps this is one reason he was sent to Minginui for a period.

After Minginui he was appointed Logging Superintendent, based in Head Office, Wellington. Next he was appointed Officer-in-Charge Kaingaroa, and was there during a period of major growth.

As the first Director of LIRA, Jim tackled a very difficult job but one that has been appreciated by the industry. Although he retired in 1988 he still has a large influence in the logging field.

Jim has also contributed to the Institute. As a member he has always supported it. He was also a Council member, Vice President, and later President (1972-74). He has also been a foundation member of the New Zealand Loggers Association and is a member of the New Zealand Forest Engineering Institute.

His elevation to Honorary member was greeted with acclamation.

— P.J. Thode

NZIF submissions

The Institute has recently decided to make submissions to:
* The Minister of Forests, on the Forestry Corporation Establishment Board Report.
* Minister of Lands, on the composition of the Crown Estate Commission Establishment Board Members.
* Parliament’s Select Committee, on the Environmental Bill
* Parliament’s Select committee, on the State-owned Enterprises Bill.
* Parliament’s Select Committee, on the Taxation Reform Bill No. 2.

INSTITUTE AWARDS

At the Annual General Meeting the following awards were given:

Schlich Memorial Prize
Mr Peter Sweetapple, now with the Forest Research Institute in Ilam, was the top student at the School of Forestry, University of Canterbury, and was awarded the Schlich Memorial Prize. As Peter was unable to attend the annual general meeting, Dr Don Mead accepted the prize on his behalf. However, the local Canterbury Branch were able to honour Peter at their June meeting.

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* Mr K. Piddington, Director General of Conservation, on the nature of the Institute of Foresters and the role of its members in the area of environmental forestry.
* Dr R. Blakely, Ministry for the Environment, on the Preliminary report of the Working Party on West Coast forests.
* Chairman, Land Development and Management Corporation Establishment Board, on its initial report.

Copies of these are available on request from the Secretary, P.O. Box 12-514, Wellington North.

Mary Sutherland Bequest
This bequest went to Mr Ian Reed who was last year’s top graduate of the Certificate of Forestry Science Course. Ian Reed works for the Forest Service, Nelson.

The New Zealand Institute of Foresters Travel Award
The 1986 overseas travel award was presented to Blair Haggit who plans to use the award visiting the United States. On his visit he will look at agroforestry and other aspects of forest management. Blair is with the Forest Service in Palmerston North.