New Forestry Corporation
Chief Executive

Former Director-General of Forests, Mr Andy Kirkland has been appointed interim chief executive of the future Forestry Corporation. Mr Kirkland has been Director-General of Forests since October 1988.

Cabinet agreed late in July to senior interim appointments being made to new corporations by their establishment boards. The appointment of Mr Kirkland was announced on August 8.

In making an appointment to the senior staff position of the Corporation, recognition is being given to the need to resolve organizational issues, and to sort out procedures for personnel appointments.

Mr Kirkland joined the Forest Service in 1952 as a junior labourer at Gwavas Forest, Hawkes Bay.

He was a forester in the Ahaura District, Westland, then worked with the Forest Economics Division in Head Office, and later shifted to Kaingaroa Forest.

He has a B.Sc. degree from Victoria University of Wellington, and a Diploma in Forestry from the Australian Forestry School in Canberra, where he won the Schlick Memorial Medal for the most competent scholar of the year.

In 1969 he was awarded a Commonwealth Fund Harkness Fellowship, and studied in the United States. There he graduated with a M.Sc. degree from the School of Forestry and Conservation of Berkeley University, California.

Mr Kirkland became Director of Forest Management in 1971, Deputy Director-General in 1978, and Director General in October 1983.

He has been a member of the NZIF since 1958, has served on Council (1968-1970) and has otherwise been a keen supporter of the Institute.

New Forestry Corporation
Board Members

On September 10, Hon Koro Wetere, Minister of Forests, announced changes to the establishment board of the future Forestry Corporation.

“The board will formally take over from April 1 next year, and some of the members of the present Establishment Board of the Corporation will continue on it,” said Mr Wetere.

The present Chairman, Mr Alan Gibbs, and Deputy Chairman John Fernyhough continue on the board along with Ian Levinesting of Napier.

Brian Gaynor and Peter Travers have discontinued their membership because of other commitments. The board has three new members, details of whom are provided briefly below.

Mrs Beverley Adlam of Kawerau. She is the 1986 winner of the business Woman of the Year Award, and executive Director of Kawerau Enterprise Agency, a business promotion consultancy which created 49 new businesses in the last 16 months. An ex radio announcer and teacher, she is a director of the investment company, Apex Group Ltd, Chairman of New Zealand Salmon Ltd, Cardroma Ski Area Ltd, and of the construction company Fulton, Hogan Ltd. She has a Bachelor of Commerce degree, is a chartered accountant, and is a newly appointed member of the Postal and Agency Establishment Board, which is part of the Post Office reorganization.

Mrs Beverley Adlam of Kawerau.

Mr Ian Farrant of Dunedin. He is a director of the investment company, Apex Group Ltd, Chairman of New Zealand Salmon Ltd, Cardroma Ski Area Ltd, and of the construction company Fulton, Hogan Ltd. He has a Bachelor of Commerce degree, is a chartered accountant, and is a newly appointed member of the Postal and Agency Establishment Board, which is part of the Post Office reorganization.

Mr Ian Farrant of Dunedin.

Interim Forest
Service changes

The Minister of Forests, Mr Wetere, announced on August 8 that Mr Alan Hamilton of the Forest Service has been appointed its Acting Director-General.

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Previously Deputy Director-General (Forest Management), he has taken over from Mr Andy Kirkland who has been appointed interim Chief Executive of the Forestry Corporation.

The new Acting Deputy Director-General (Forest Management) is Mr Robin Cutler, the Director of the Service's Forest Management Division.

Mr Peter Bygate is the new Acting Deputy Director-General (Corporate Services), and was previously the convener of the State Services Commission's Environmental Administration Review Secretariat.

The changes are aimed at ensuring that the Forest Service will continue to provide its full range of services and functions during the reorganization phase.

By H. Levack

Superficially there was a mood of contented nostalgia. Colin Sutherland, John Ure, and others entertained members with stories about the pioneer days developing Mangatu Forest.

Robin Black pointed out amazing geological features with an equally fascinating flow of geological terminology.

Participants were taken to view the Tarndale slip. Even John Ruru and Bruce Willis, who probably cannot remember how many times they have seen it before, got another buzz from it.

There was plenty of banter. Robin Cutler said he felt like Sir Robert Muldoon introducing the Rocky Horror show. Another wit expressed disappointment that no puha seedlings grew in Puha Nursery.

Underlying it all, however, was a sense of anxiety, and gravity.

The new PPP sawmill, which has been feted as the high tech hub of the conference, was not operating when the conference participants arrived and it has not worked since, presumably a casualty of high interest rates, high exchange rates, depressed markets and overcapitalization.

Simultaneously, Government appeared to be pulling the rug of forestry development expenditure from under the feet of 200 odd East Coast afforestation and silvicultural workers.

A.P. Thomson's paper 'The East Coast Afforestation scheme'

The eminent Priestley Thomson who, being retired, does not have to worry about his future job in a shrinking forestry sector, obtained nervous applause when he robustly defended past East Coast forest development and equally robustly attacked the Government for its current land use policies and philosophies. Referring to recent Ministerial statements he said:

"We now have the situation where a Government agency does a competent job of doing exactly what it was instructed to do and then two senior Cabinet Ministers, Messrs Douglas and Prebble, have the effrontery to attack it publicly for growing forests in the wrong place or for growing forests which are uneconomical to log. These statements are incredible, not just for their effrontery but for their ignorance and when one considers the human effort involved, for their unforgivable insensitivity. Mr Prebble is reported as saying the performance of the Forest Service has been "bizarre"; the evidence suggests that if he is referring to E.C. plantings it is Mr Prebble not the Forest Service who is bizarre. Even the normally well-informed Deputy Prime Minister has recently and loudly proclaimed his complete ignorance of what the East Coast Afforestation scheme was all about.

"In my view and in the view of many other New Zealanders including prominent conservationists, Mangatu (like Molesworth in the South Island) is a noble exercise in successful land rehabilitation, perhaps the noblest in New Zealand's history. The nobility of it seems to have entirely escaped the notice of some members of the present Government, and of the doctrinaire tunnel-visioned urban economists who advise them. They have come to the simplistic view that forestry consists on the one hand of growing cellulose factories for profit, and on the other of locking up land and forests as museum pieces; and this view has contributed largely to the recent decisions that forestry is divisible and that the forest administration should be fragmented. They were wrong in this view and wrong in their decision. Mangatu proved them wrong before the decision was taken, Mangatu still proves them wrong today, and Mangatu and the rest of the East Coast will continue to prove them wrong.

"It is not too late though for the Government to see the evidence before its eyes, to recognize that dual purpose forestry and multiple purpose forestry is essential to the future well-being of the district and to encourage and foster this as a matter of formal Government policy. I am still hopeful that it will happen. I believe strongly that in the long run common sense and intelligence will