THE WHANGANUI NATIONAL PARK

New Zealand's newest National Park was created by Order in Council on December 6, 1986, and officially opened on February 7, 1987. The Whanganui National Park is centred on the Wanganui River (see map) although the Wanganui River bed is excluded from the Park. However the river is a major access route, being heavily used by canoists and other boats. Land for the Park came from scenic reserves (46%), in-cluded from the Wanganui River (see map) although the Wanganui River bed is excluded from the Park. However the river is a major access route, being heavily used by canoists and other boats. Land for the Park came from scenic reserves (46%), in-

The new Park is a fitting tribute to this centennial year for National Parks in New Zealand and also to the formation of the Department of Conservation. It is also a reward to the efforts of many people interested in the beauty of the river and who have been associated with the earlier efforts to preserve its scenery.

Forestry education

Sir,

A recent contributor to your Journal (G.B. Sweet, November 1986) in an article entitled 'Technical Forestry — A Chance for Change' suggests the disestablishment of the New Zealand Forest Service represents a chance for change within forestry education in New Zealand. I would like to suggest the facility for change should always remain protected from chance.

Considering the disestablishment of the Forest Service to be an event involving both change and chance I find the recent expansions in both teaching staff and buildings to the School of Forestry at Canterbury to permit around 45 graduates a year compared with the previous capacity of 30 graduates to be inopportune and probably unwarranted. I base this conclusion on the NZIF Education and Training Working Party's figures for graduate and ranger/technicians (respectively 15 and 26 per year) and that the current curricula offered by the School are obviously more suited to the production of Foresters than Rangers/Technicians.

Addressing the wider issue as to what form of technical forestry education should take and the related issue of where in New Zealand that education should be provided, I find that in terms of their respective curricula, teaching staff, and teaching environments neither the School of Forestry offering B. For. Sc. nor the Forestry Training Centre offering N.Z.C.F. currently has the facility to provide the single technical forestry training indicated by your correspondent. If a search for a single technical training system were to be undertaken then perhaps a survey of potential employers conducted by NZIF or some other unaffiliated body could be used to determine requirements concerning technically trained personnel. This suggestion is made since both educational facilities have the ability to pre-empt the actions of the other.

The non issue as to where tertiary forestry education should take place in New Zealand should have been resolved prior to 1968 (the year of reopening of Forestry School at Canterbury) by following the planters rather than historical precedence. The then principals of Canterbury University are to be commended for their anticipation of the need for tertiary training in forestry; greater however would be the commendation had they recommended Waikato as the most suitable location.

L.R. Broad

Focus on skills

Sir,

It is my sincere hope that everyone remotely concerned with the profession of forestry carefully read the recent article on education in forestry by Dr Geoff Sweet. Given the accelerating rate of State and private industry resource management reorganization, it is timely and vital that we focus on the skills that both new graduate apprentices and existing staff require during this evolution.

Surely if the Institute is to currently put energy and money into addressing any 'national' issue it should be to widely canvass its members on the issues of:

- The standards and achievement levels to recognize of available tertiary forestry education in New Zealand.