2. He was skilled at stimulating and motivating his colleagues particularly through his positive and non-threatening approach. Revolutionary ideas and solutions were encouraged. He was also totally unselfish at giving ideas and asking the “right” questions.

3. He emphasized that his researchers should be looking ahead (at least 5-10 years all the time) and answering tomorrow’s problems rather than becoming involved in today’s management problems. Managers would be finding their own solutions.

4. In trial work staff were encouraged to concentrate on extremes. Radical thinking must be applied to experiments so that not only were controls established but also outrageous ideas were used. These often became accepted practice later.

5. He stressed the absolute requirement not to prejudge results or the intentions of management. Prove the obvious; test everything.

6. He also pushed for experiments that had revolutionary rather than evolutionary change at their heart. He always looked for and expected others to look for quantum leaps in thinking or operational method.

7. Harry was a “simple forester” who hired very specialized people and made it his business to understand them. In this way he could not only always contribute but was able to lead from the front.

8. He was also a “simple forester” in that he could easily converse with the forest managers of the day and could contribute in helping to answer their problems.

When Neil Barr spoke of Harry Bunn to recommend him as an Honorary Member of this Institute he described him as “the most complete forester the world has ever known”. This is why he has been chosen as the first recipient of the Kirk Horn Flask Award.

P.J. Thode, President

Professional women training in Forestry

There are currently 15 women taking forestry at the School of Forestry, University of Canterbury. Of these, four are taking post-graduate courses, one at the Ph.D. level. This sounds good. But when we express the results on a % basis and compare it to other disciplines within the University of Canterbury or at Lincoln College, then we see how males dominate our student numbers:

University of Canterbury (overall) 48
Education 81
Music 75
Arts 70
Fine Arts 62
Commerce 36
Science 35
Forestry 13
Engineering 6
Lincoln College (overall) 29
Parks and Recreation (degree) 54
Horticultural (degree) 46
Landscape architecture (degree) 40
Agricultural (degree) 32

In the subprofessional course, the NZ Certificate of Forestry, some 10% of graduates have been women.

Women have already proved themselves valuable members of the profession. Obviously the sector needs to encourage more women to consider a career in forestry.

D.J. Mead

New Zealand-developed ‘Log Walker’

A New Zealand-developed log transporter which “walks” logs over difficult terrain using only the power of a motor mower engine, is to be intensively exported by a Lincoln College. Mr Colin Peel. He now farms at Clevedon (South Auckland) in retirement.

Earlier, inventor Colin Peel has developed a prototype machine at the request of the Bay of Plenty forestry company.

D.W. McLean

Australian Bicentennial International Forestry Conference

Held in Albury, NSW from April 25, 1988 the Bicentennial Conference was organized under the banner of the Australian Forest Development Institute. Delegates from more than 30 countries attended an occasion designed as a celebration of Australian forestry and the contribution of forests and forestry to Australian species, and others from around the world. Excellent papers by such notable contributors to Australian forestry as Dr Leslie Gentle gave perspective to the cutting edge of genetic improvement and propagation techniques. Of particular interest to many delegates were the contributions from around the world which portrayed the breadth of adaptability achieved by the Australian flora. Multi-purpose trees in Egypt, pulpwood production in Brazil, fast-growing trees for difficult saline sites in Pakistan and as site stabilizers in coastal areas of Orissa. However, even the eucalypt could not quite live up to the early claims of bond selling Californian entrepreneurs.

Two award presentations, to Professor El Lakany of Egypt the award of Forester of the Year and the inaugural Queen’s Award for Forestry to Dr John Turnbull, celebrated outstanding achievement by forestry professionals.

No forestry conference could succeed without the opportunity to develop new friendships and nurture associations of old. The organizing committee chose well in their allocation of time, venue and suitably convivial musical catalysts to the furthering of social interaction.

This was a celebration of forestry. In their bicentennial year our Australian friends can be forgiven a little patriotic intoxication. For New Zealanders it was heartening to see forestry people full of confidence and enthusiasm. Let’s hope some of that can rub off on the profession this side of the Tasman.

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IST Engineering N.Z. Ltd, of Auckland, has acquired world-wide rights to manufacture and market the machine – the invention of a former aerospace design engineer for Boeing, Mr Colin Peel. He now farms at Clevedon (South Auckland) in retirement.

The company recently signed an agreement with Mitsubishi New Zealand Ltd for the rights to market the machine, known as the ‘Log Walker’, internationally.

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The 'Log Walker' is designed to propel logs over widely differing terrain, including forest floors, swamps, sand, steep hill country, permafrost and snow-clad ground.

The half-tonne prototype has been tested in pine forests in the Bay of Plenty and in swamp country and hill country.

Using logs as its "legs", the prototype machine powered by a three-horsepower petrol motor, has arms which propel the logs strapped to it, steadily across the ground.

Some production models will be fitted with radio-controlled remote steering.

Because the invention is low-technology and low-maintenance, the company sees a major export market for it in Third World countries.

Commercial production of half-tonne, one, two and three tonne load models began at IST Engineering's Auckland plant in June.

An IST spokesman said the log walker would sell "for about half the cost in NZ of a small family car".

Western Southland foresters forced to quit beech management halfway through first rotation

H.H. Levack

In June 1988, after long deliberation through its subcommittees, Cabinet finally decided on the allocation of 28,000 ha of lowland Western Southland beech forests which were on interim transfer to the Forestry Corporation. This area included about 12,000 ha of virgin beech in Dean and Rowallan forests.

The Department of Conservation wanted all this virgin forest to be protected from logging to help ensure the survival of rarer birdlife but the Forestry Corporation contended that the rare wildlife was adequately catered for as DOC already had 44,000 ha of beech forest in Waitutu, Rowallan, Dean and Longwood as well as substantial tracts of contiguous lowland forest in Fiordland National Park. The Forestry Corporation also claimed that substantial beech management was both technically feasible and economically viable, that Tuatapere township depended on beech management continuing, and that continued beech management would depend on the Forestry Corporation getting a substantial share of the remaining virgin forest.

The outcome was that Government awarded the critical virgin forest to DOC. Since then the Forestry Corporation has announced that it will indeed pull out of beech management in Western Southland.

It is ironical that so soon after granting this increase to DOC's empire Government has hit DOC with major budget cuts rumoured to be about 20% of its 1987/88 total. The Tuatapere community is glum, but some kakas and yellowheads have reason to rejoice. Other more common birds would probably have preferred that the virgin forests had gone to the Forestry Corporation.

Pictured on Conference field trip

Dave Rook (Conference Organizer), on right, talking to Colin Bassett. (Photo L. Crozier)