Frank E. Hutchinson Award

A memorial trust fund was established in 1983 in memory of Francis Edward Hutchinson, with an initial endowment from Rata Hutchinson, Frank Hutchinson's daughter. The award was created to provide recognition for postgraduate study in reafforestation.

Frank Hutchinson became a member of the Institute in 1929 and was elected as an Honorary member in 1964. He was an active Institute member and contributor to forestry in New Zealand until his death in 1982. His varied career included a 10-year position from 1924 as a lecturer in Forest Utilisation at the first forestry school at Canterbury University College; 16 years in Australia, with three years employed by the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research in Melbourne; and a further 16 years at NZ Forest Products in Tokoroa.

The award was amended this year, with the acceptance of Rata Hutchinson, to provide annual recognition to the best postgraduate student in sustainable forestry from the School of Forestry, University of Canterbury.

The Institute presented the award, in the form of a certificate and $100 worth of books, for the first time this year. The recipient was Dr Andrew Tilling, in recognition of his Ph.D. thesis, "Alternative use of West Coast indigenous forest". The external examiner from the University of New Haven, Connecticut, considers "his study is a major contribution to social forestry and deserves wide exposure to the world forestry research community".

Lisa Crozier

MEMBERSHIP

During the last six months Council has approved the nominations of 23 new members. There have been a number of advancements and resignations which may also be of interest to members.

New Members
G. Thorp I. James D. Paul
P. Smart I. Newlands P. Oliver
H. Hovell C. Mallins J. Malcolm
L. Teller P. Dickinson N. Self
A. Batchen J. Webb M. Preece
I. Melmus R. Stark M. Smith
H. Richardson A. Grieve P. Rogers
R. Hambling R. Niederhof

Advancement to Full Member
J. Sheppard Lek-Lim Chan

Reinstatement
R. Saunders K. Bannan

Resignations
D. Rooke B. Burridge F. Hand

New Honorary members
John Johns

John’s forestry experience began at Dartington Hall in Devon. It was there that he first became keen on photographing forests and trees - an art which requires a high degree of skill if it is to be successful. He then went to a British Forestry Commission Forester Training school and obtained his Diploma in Forestry. In 1951 he came to New Zealand and became the official NZ Forest Service photographer. In those days forestry was a get up and go business with few frills, and many old hands wondered what all this business of photography, public relations and the like was all about. Although John wasn’t actually ignored, he was viewed with some doubt.

His first assignments were largely illustrations, but the late great Alex R. Entwicke could see John’s very considerable talents early on, and commissioned him to make a book illustrating New Zealand’s forests. John produced some major studies of the trees, bark, foliage, flowers and seeds of most of the major species, but unfortunately this project was set aside while other work crowded upon John.

Others began to realise the great skills that John had and in 1959 the Minister of Forests, the Hon. Sir Eric Walpole, sent him down to Westland to do a book on the forests there. John came down in haste and grabbed me and a small plane and we rapidly got into gear. Fortunately, John already had a fine portfolio of Westland photographs, and the book was put together and published with unprecedented speed by the Government Printer. This book, Westland’s Wealth, was sold out in a matter of weeks. From that time John was commissioned to make several books and showed quite outstanding patience in...