The Ministry of Forestry’s Head Office has become home to a magnificent radiata pine sculpture entitled Genesis. Carved and turned from two 1m diameter butlogs and laminated beams, the sculpture is based on the concept of the sustainability of plantation forests.

The sculpture represents a pine seed nestled into its aerodynamic wing. The sculptured wing is truncated, the hollow seed form cut open revealing internal structures based on cone segments. Each segment is inset with seeds and wings and is set along a central column in a manner reminiscent of the structure of DNA.

This ‘seed within a seed’ concept emphasises the enormous potential of a single seed and underlines sustainability. Carved by Whiratoa-based sculptor Rolly Munro, Genesis has been months in gestation.

“Pine is an excellent timber for large structural pieces. It’s light, making large sections easier to handle, the size of the growth rings are in harmony with the size of the work, and its pale colour allows the form to dominate. Pine's strength enables it to be carved thin yet remain stable once dry,” said Mr Munro.

NZ Forest Industries Council policy on CO₂ emissions

The New Zealand Forest Industries Council is aware that the Ministry for the Environment is in the process of developing a strategy for reducing CO₂ emissions based on current Government policy. The Council notes Government’s stated policy is aimed at achieving a 20% reduction of 1990 CO₂ emissions by the year 2000 and that New Zealand should begin by implementing measures that are estimated to:

- be the most cost-effective;
- provide the greatest range of benefits regardless of whether climate change occurs or not;
- not reduce New Zealand’s competitive advantage with its trading partners;
- have a net benefit for New Zealand society.

In supporting a policy to reduce CO₂ emissions over time the Council believes three basic tenets to any strategy are:

- New Zealand should not move unless all countries agree to move unilaterally;
- it must be consistent with an economic growth strategy;
- it must be based on net and not gross emissions.

Two paradoxical influences complicate New Zealand’s position: our high rate of methane emissions resulting from the animal population; and the significant contribution forests provide as a carbon sink.

In devising a strategy the Council believes Government must be careful not to penalise industry generally and forestry processing in particular by setting much more ambitious goals than other countries. New Zealand should certainly follow world developments but our own economic difficulties and the small size of our contribution to the global problem must be taken into account.

B.P. Quinn
Executive Director