developed a unique relationship with the company; with our industry; with the School of Forestry; and special relationships with people of all levels, variously as mentor, teacher, confidante, counsel and friend.

However Brian was not the easiest person to handle in a team because of his often unorthodox approach to things and occasional flashes of impatience. For example, he once said to a group of directors and senior managers: “If you ask me stupid questions, you’ll get stupid answers”, even though he was trying to win them over to his point of view.

His list of contributions to the sector were to be in the fields of forest taxation, forest valuation, leases and joint ventures, National Exotic Forest Description (NEFD), Resource Maturity Simulations (RMS), articles and books on total forest planning and university lecturing at many places. Another significant aspect of Brian’s work was the efforts he went to in making sure that company executives and directors had an understanding of forest valuation, planning and control. He spent a long time with accountants, taxation experts, company auditors and directors, explaining his methods and developing concise regular reports by which they could check what was going on in the company’s major asset.

In the early days his working plan records were kept in an accounting style, but readily available, in loose leaf form and aerial photos, to field supervisors. They were then converted to main frame computers and latterly to personal computers which he was working on when he died. His ideas on standards of forest description and reporting, although tantalisingly close to completion, were unfinished in a formal sense. He saw crop types in a forest estate as populations of growing batches to be sampled for comparison. He developed a set of measurements of forest mass by making minor adaptations of forestry concepts of the normal forest, von Mantel’s allowable cut formula and the Faustman formula. The forest mass measures could then be used to specify a target state for a forest in a Forest State Report with deviations from the targets highlighted.

Brian had many interests, all of which he approached in his usual thorough and searching way. History and literature were often the basis of his quotes, so he always wanted to be near a good library. His last years in Christchurch gave him great satisfaction in this respect plus being in a city blessed with beautiful trees and gardens, an environment he loved even from his hospital bed. He was a good gardener himself and became an expert with maples.

Brian kept fit by cycling and walking. He did not live long enough to fully enjoy the patch of native bush he bought at Kumara. All of these things added to his love of New Zealand, the country which gave him unlimited opportunities for his interests and talents. He in turn will be remembered for his unique contribution to total forest planning.

A.W. Grayburn

With input from M.J. McAlonan and A.G.D. Whyte

Peter David Cheney Bolton
1939-1993

Peter Bolton died on September 7, 1993, at the age of 54, after a short illness. At the time of his death he was working for a West Coast sawmilling company as their North Island timber sales representative. He will probably be best remembered by Institute members, however, for the time he spent as a nursery manager in the central North Island, and as manager of the tree seed company Proseed.

Peter was born in Hawkes Bay and educated in Wellington. He joined the Forest Service as a trainee in 1956 and worked, among other areas, in seed collection and extraction. From 1961 to 1973 he moved out of forestry and worked in the horticulture industry first as a grower and then as a distributor. It was as a grower that he first showed the enthusiasm for technological development which would later stand him in such good stead as manager of Proseed.

He came back into forestry in 1973, as 2 I/C of Sweetwater Nursery in Kaitaia, moving from there to become officer-in-charge of Owihita nursery (1980-84), and then Kaingaroa nursery (1984-87). In those latter positions he was responsible for producing 8 to 10 million high-quality seedlings per year. It was in these jobs that his capacity to work effectively with researchers developed, along with the ability to meld new technology into the constraints of a production programme. He was also highly regarded for his advanced staff-development practices, and for his regular teaching at the FTC, on nursery and seed topics.

When he was appointed Manager of Proseed in 1987, it appeared that his earlier career had largely been in preparation for that event. And it is as manager of Proseed that I think he would most wish to be remembered. Prior to the formation of the company, seed orchard developments had been largely the prerogative of researchers. Peter brought to Proseed a highly entrepreneurial, market-oriented approach; a keen and questioning mind, and a capacity to cut through technical obfuscations. He was able to listen to specialists, evaluate their offerings, and then make his own decisions, which were often contrary to the advice he received. As a consequence of these attributes, he took seed orchard technology in Proseed’s orchards in the late 1980s to a level which most of the world is unlikely to reach for another decade. It took him less than two days of analysis to accept that meadow orchards were the direction of the future. And despite the fact that there was a meadow orchard in existence anywhere in the world, he proceeded to turn all his new orchard establishment in that direction. It is already abundantly clear that this was a top-quality decision which has set new directions in the industry, globally. But as with all major new directions, the developments were not smooth. And there again, Peter showed great managerial skills in the way he resolved problems and enabled the technological advances to continue.

He is a blend of practical technology and entrepreneurial vision was truly appropriate for the new directions of the 1980s. And his people management skills enabled his vision to be turned into reality.
When he left Proseed in 1990 he moved to a family home in Waikanae which he subsequently developed, while marketing forestry through the East Coast Farm Forestry Association and was planning in January, 1994 to go to Sri Lanka on an 18-month consultancy to set up a nursery and seed collection system. It is Sri Lanka's loss that his death prevented this.

Peter is survived by his wife Bonnie and three sons. The forestry sector has been the richer for the presence among us of such a constructive and achievement-oriented visionary. Our sincere sympathy is extended to his wife and family in their loss.

G.B. Sweet

Membership changes

In the sixth months from April 1, 1993 to September 30, 1993, the Institute Council has processed 40 applications for membership from new and returning members, and nine resignations. These names are listed below.

Applications

Averes R.R. O'Neill T.
Bawden R.P. Perry J.D.
Bigby H.R. Perry J.C.H.
Bogiatto G. Pye J.D.
Broad T.R.M. Read P.J.
Buchanan G.C. Reade D.
Cane P.T. Simpson M.
Cassella R.M. Steibsens P.M.
Crawley D.J. Taylor P.J.
Goodall A.M. Templetown H.C.
Guy M.C. Treadwell J.B.
Hill R.J. Weblin P.E.
Hitchings M.W. Wheeler W.J.
Kensington E. Wiltshire A.G.
Kilvert S.
Kitchin M.P.
Kouwenhoven T.
Lamers J.C.J.
Leith J.
Marren M.D.
Mclvor J.R.
McKenzie G.R.
McPherson A.
Morice S.D.
Mossman D.H.

Resignations

Barker C.S.
Boardman R.
Fitzwilliam G.B.
Gibson H.J.
James Ian
Krippner J.
Phibbs S.B.
Sutton G.J.
Weston K.S.

Mary Sutherland

1893-1955

Forestry is not a common career for women in New Zealand. Yet the science of forestry in this country owes much to the first woman to be employed as a forester.

Mary Sutherland came from Britain, where she had obtained her science degree in forestry at the University College of North Wales, served in the Women's Land Army during World War I, worked as a forester on two Scottish estates, and worked as assistant experimental officer with the British Forestry Commission. Emigration to New Zealand in about 1924 gave Mary first-hand experience of the strongly conservative attitudes and male prejudice in the New Zealand Forest Service. In those days 'all forestry [was] subject to camp conditions, and there [was] no place for a woman in a forestry camp'. Mary persevered, despite being merely tolerated at first, and received a permanent appointment in 1925, employed at Wellington and Rotorua offices on investigative work in silviculture.

During field-work Mary often wore her British Forestry Commission kit of off-white leather jacket, leather belt with rings and snaps, riding breeches and high boots. It was rather an unusual outfit for a woman in those days, but no doubt serviceable, and it came to be accepted by her colleagues as an integral part of her personality.

Field-work conditions during the 1920s and 1930s were less comfortable than they are today. During a three-week introductory course for rangers at Whakarewarewa in 1924, Mary was distanced from her colleagues not only by chauvinistic pride but also by the 'practicalities' of accommodation. Although it was mid-winter, all the 20 rangers and senior rangers, except her, camped in tents in a horse-paddock, while Mary's lodgings were at the Geyser Hotel along with the chief inspector, visiting officers, and part-time specialists. It was no doubt more comfortable than tent life, but the message was clear that she was not quickly going to be accepted on grounds of merit. And there was always going to be a financial disincentive for the Forest Service to send Mary into the field under these conditions.

Mary's good grounding in biology, her common sense and quiet unassuming character, her intelligence and friendliness, and a strong Scottish doggedness saw her through the difficulties. She could also match her male counterparts in all aspects of their work, including field-work. On the introductory course her knowledge of botany came to the aid of senior foresters in their lectures and by the end of the three weeks she had won the respect and friendship of her peers.

The Depression years of 1933-36 led the Forest Service to make severe cutbacks, including in Mary's speciality area of research. She was laid off and spent these years working at the Dominion Museum in Wellington. 1937 saw her back with the Forest Service again, this time as a botanist. She began her pioneering work in agricultural forestry in 1946 when she was seconded to the new position of Farm Forestry Officer with the Department of Agriculture. The New Zealand Journal of Agriculture published many of her articles relating to the use of and improvement in trees grown for shelter-belts, weed control, and timber on farms. Her foresight and talent have benefited farmers across the country. She also had to make field inspections of the department's many land holdings, deal

Mary Sutherland. FRI photo.