but I hope there can be some technology transfer between generations – in both directions. I conclude these thoughts with two pre-loved quotations of which I am sure Steve Spurr would have approved, since he, like me, was proud to call himself 'a whole forester – not just a tree farmer.'

"Si jeuness savait
Si vieillesse pouvait!"

and

"Intercourse of mankind may in time make the world one vast garden, in which all the blessings of a bounteous providence shall be naturalised, as far as climate, or the science of man, can render those plants common to all which were originally the property of a few."

I no longer know the authors but both pre-date the Treaty of Waitangi which, in itself, is perhaps significant.

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The East Coast Forestry Project amendments are now in place, resolving issues raised by conservation and forest owner interest, the Minister of Forestry, John Falloon, announced recently.

Mr Falloon said that the existing regulations prohibiting the clearance of emerging indigenous species and the protection of areas of natural and archaeological value will remain.

"Furthermore, the project will not approve grants on riparian strips and reserve areas imposed under the Vegetation Removal and Earthworks Regional Plan administered by the Gisborne District Council.

"The objectives have simply been refined – to encourage protection of existing indigenous and emerging indigenous tree species and to develop very severely eroded land on the East Coast," he said.

"Of major significance is that applications which set aside large areas of indigenous vegetation will be weighted to give them preference in the approval process. The weighting will be applied to the financial value of each grant tender.

"A second weighting system will also give preference to applications which contain higher proportions of Category 3 and severely eroding Category 2, Class VII land, with a target of 50 per cent of grants being applied to such land."

Mr Falloon said the agreement reached recently between the New Zealand Forest Accord partners (forest owners and environmental and conservation groups) will bring members of the New Zealand Forest Owners' Association back into the project.

"Their agreement means that for every hectare cleared under the existing scrub regulations, two hectares must be set aside for non-clearance," said the Minister.

"It is also anticipated that the Minister of Maori Affairs will be negotiating with Ngati Porou a substantial area of reserves of indigenous vegetation to be voluntarily set aside.

"This area will be a minimum of 15,000 hectares plus riparian strips estimated at 3000 hectares. These areas will be recognised in the weighting system for tenders which set aside from clearance areas of indigenous vegetation," he said.

The regulation changes include:
• making funding available for fencing off areas set aside from clearance and enriching these areas with indigenous species;
• reduction in the minimum qualifying area from 25 hectares of Class VII land in one year to a minimum area of 15 hectares spread over three years. This will allow more local landowners to be involved;
• accepting a greater range of species planted under the scheme: poplar and Douglas fir on clear or semi-clear pastoral land, Douglas fir on higher and more exposed sites. Slow-growing commercial indigenous species such as totara and rimu will be accepted for planting within lines or groups within scrub;
• the funding of Class VI land interspersed with the Class VII land to achieve full afforestation. This will generally be within catchment, sub-catchment and practical forest boundaries.

For 1993 tenders the whole Gisborne District will be eligible and tenders will be considered in northern and southern 'pools' with two-thirds of the funding going to the northern pool. This will focus on the areas most in need of afforestation.
NZ Imported Tropical Timber Group

For the past two years a group representing the New Zealand environmental movement, timber importers, and building supply retailers, with the Ministry of Forestry as observer, have been meeting to discuss the import of tropical timbers into New Zealand. The Imported Tropical Timber Group (ITTG), as this group is known, has been considering the concerns of the New Zealand public over the logging of tropical forests in relation to New Zealand timber imports.

The ITTG has sought to defuse some of the tensions that can arise between those with the strongest feelings on the issue. Over the last two years calls for a total ban of tropical timber imports have been replaced with agreement on which countries tropical timber can be sourced from in the interim, and those where it cannot unless forest sustainability can be verified. Additionally the timber retailers have agreed not to advertise the availability of tropical timber in New Zealand, and the timber importers have introduced a certificate of origin by which buyers of timber can be informed on the origins of the timber that they are purchasing.

Building supply retailers have explained that tropical timber products make up less than 1% of their annual turnover, and they would be quick to move out of the trade if public pressure grew too strong.

The ITTG has prepared draft criteria, based on ecological considerations, outlining procedures by which tropical timber can be classified as being from a sustainable source. The ITTG views the criteria as another form of product specification, similar to a grade or moisture content specification. The industry has also prepared commercial criteria for shipments of timbers.

In July 1993 a Task Force representing the four interest groups within the ITTG travelled to the Solomon Islands and Fiji to hold discussions with Government officials, forestry industry representatives, and the environmental movement about the work of the ITTG, and the criteria.

The nature of the visit was an exploratory one, and comments received are still being evaluated here in New Zealand.

The ITTG is aware of the ITTO objective that all exports of tropical timber should come from sustainably managed sources by the year 2000, although the work of the ITTG is quite independent of this. This ITTG has also been in touch with groups such as the Forest Stewardship Council who are attempting to set a worldwide standard for good forest management. In carrying out their deliberations the ITTG has been aware of New Zealand’s own record in sustainable forest management, and the need to consider forest management more broadly than just tropical forests.

Imports of tropical timbers into New Zealand have fluctuated markedly over the past 20 years. The peak was 25,000 m$^3$ in 1987, but current levels are around 12-13,000 m$^3$ per annum. This represents about 40% of total timber imports into New Zealand, or about 5% of total New Zealand consumption of wood fibre. Major suppliers in 1992/93 were Indonesia, Malaysia, Fiji and the Solomon Islands.

Members of the Task Force that travelled to the Solomon Islands were:

Jim Willett, Managing Director, Benchmark Building Supplies—Task Force Leader; Malcolm Scott, Managing Director, J. Scott and Co. (Timber Importers); Annette Lees, Deputy Chief Executive, Maruia Society; Tim Thorpe, Senior Sector Analyst, Ministry of Forestry (Observer only).

Tim Thorpe

Forestry Services Meeting – Rotorua

What is believed to be the first meeting of a wide range of New Zealand forestry service exporters took place in Rotorua in September. The meeting was at the instigation of the Ministry of Forestry taking advantage of those who had gathered to attend the NZ/Indonesian JCFC meeting reported on elsewhere in this issue. Some 20 people attended the meeting, representing 16 different organisations involved in forest consultancy, education/training, and research/technology transfer. Bruce Manley attended as Chairman of the NZIF Consultants Committee.

The aims of the meeting were for service providers to get to know one another, to discuss both formal and informal links among the industry, and to consider what role MOF might have in assisting the forestry services sector. It was recognised that the TRAIDNZ Consultancy JAG provided a strategic overview for offshore consultancy activities, but more specific forestry initiatives could be undertaken to complement this. Alan Ogle, from Groome Pöyry, currently the forestry sector representative on the JAG Executive Committee, attended the meeting in Rotorua.

The outcome of the meeting was largely that the sector saw some potential for improved networking but that it did not wish for formal links to be established at this stage. MOF was encouraged to undertake whatever strategic initiatives it saw as necessary for the sector, including acting as a clearing house for distributing information, developing a forestry services capability document for international distribution, and assisting with both offshore and on-shore missions. MOF indicated that it would need to consult more widely with the sector before committing itself to any action, as not all the forestry services organisations exporting offshore were present at the meeting.

Tim Thorpe
Women in forestry

Comprehensive and specifically relevant information on women in forestry and their involvement in the industry is largely non-existent. Furthermore, there is a very real shortage of information of special interest to women, particularly students contemplating a career in forestry.

The Ministry of Forestry has taken the first step in meeting this need through a publication, Women in Forestry, written by Adele Dimopoulos (Editor) and Nancy Peterson. The booklet originated as a Suffrage Centennial Project but soon developed into a project with an essential objective: to illustrate the great cross-section of jobs available in the industry across all skill and academic levels and encourage women to consider forestry as a career.

The 34-page booklet targets fifth, sixth and seventh form students in an easy to read style and straightforward format. The subject matter is a collection of interviews with eight women with very different jobs in the sector to provide role models for students.

The women are:

- Ket Bradshaw – Forestry Consultant, Wellington.
- Deb Campbell – Timber Sales Representative, Taupo Lumber, Taupo.
- Sue Carson – Geneticist, FRI, Rotorua.
- Myra Harrison – Forklift driver, Bajents, Nelson.
- Jaquie Webby – Public Relations Manager, Tasman Forestry, Rotorua.

The booklet was launched by the Minister of Forestry, Hon John Falloon, at the Beehive on August 11, 1993, during Trees & Forests Week. The Associate Minister of Women’s Affairs, Katherine O’Regan, also gave a presentation on her experience in an early timber mill.

Publicity surrounding the book in Trees & Forests Week newspaper supplements also helped to raise public and industry awareness of the very real contribution women make to the forestry sector. The response from the media was excellent.

Women in Forestry is one of three forestry booklets which will comprise a set for career guidance counsellors in schools. The second is a general overview of the sector, available now, and the third is on forestry training and details on specific courses and requirements. The third booklet will be out later this year.

Helen Potter
Ministry of Forestry

Indonesian JCFC visit

In September this year a delegation of 11 Indonesian officials from both the public and private sector visited New Zealand under the auspices of an Indonesian/New Zealand Joint Committee for Forestry Cooperation (JCFC) agreement. The agreement, signed in Jakarta two years ago, is a mechanism for closer cooperation in forestry with the potential for at least biannual missions between the two countries. Some 22 representatives of the New Zealand forestry sector attended the meeting, in addition to Ministry of Forestry staff.

Earlier in the year, under the same agreement, a MOF analyst had visited Indonesia to ascertain potential market opportunities for NZ forest products and services (See: MOF Market Report No. 2, Opportunities for NZ Forestry Expertise and Education: Indonesia.) His report identified that the main potential in the Indonesian market currently is in the forestry services area, particularly education and training, but also consultancy. Indonesia is currently New Zealand’s largest consultancy market abroad. Markets for NZ forest products have less potential as the local industry is reasonably well developed, and well protected. Medium density fibreboard, particleboard, and pulp have been the main exports from New Zealand to Indonesia.

The JCFC meeting in Rotorua recognised that opportunities between the two countries are mainly in the services area, and attendance and presentations from both sides reflected this. Field trips confirmed Indonesian interest in New Zealand educational facilities, research, and forest management expertise. There was one direct request from the delegation for information on NZ log prices; however log prices in Indonesia have always been well below international market rates, due to the protection already mentioned. The Indonesians encouraged investment from NZ forestry companies in Indonesia due to concerns about decreasing resources there, and acknowledgement of New Zealand’s expertise in plantation forest management.

The future value of the JCFC arrangement is under consideration by both sides. Response from sector representatives was that the meeting in Rotorua was extremely useful, especially given that personal links are very important in opening doors in the Asian market. It is also recognised that penetrating the Asian market can be a long-term process, and that the JCFC has only had a short life to date. However, there are a number of priority markets for NZ forest exports, and the value of the Indonesian JCFC arrangement is currently being assessed against the benefits that may result from efforts by MOF in other markets.

Tim Thorpe
Asian Gypsy Moth threat

Cabinet approves funding for pheromone traps

Cabinet has approved the allocation of $500,000 for the purchase, placement and monitoring of pheromone traps to detect whether the Asian Gypsy Moth has entered New Zealand.

Forestry Minister John Falloon said the money would be used by the Ministry of Forestry to place 1978 traps in the vicinity of 11 ports around the country.

Traps will be placed around the ports of: Auckland; Tauranga; New Plymouth; Napier; Wellington; Nelson; Lyttelton; Timaru; Port Chalmers; Dunedin; and Bluff.

The selection of ports is based on visits over the last four years by vessels which could have hosted Asian Gypsy Moth.

The traps will be placed in a seven kilometre radius around each port, based on recommendations made by the United States Asian Gypsy Moth Science Advisory Panel.

Each trap will be checked every week over the six months during the 1993/4 summer.

Mr Falloon said these intensive measures were necessary to establish that the Asian Gypsy Moth has not come into New Zealand.

"Cabinet is concerned about the issue and saw the necessity to move swiftly because of the potential threat the Asian Gypsy Moth poses to our country's forests.

"Cabinet also recognised the need to talk with the Australian Government about the issue. I have already forwarded a letter to the Minister responsible for the Australian Quarantine Inspection Service, Simon Crean, expressing my concerns on the matter.

"Both the Government and the Ministry of Forestry understand the need for quick action on this issue, and are making every effort to protect our environment and economy from the Asian Gypsy Moth," Mr Falloon said.

Cabbage tree decline

Sir,

As forest health specialists we were delighted with the excellent collection of articles in your last issue. However, having been principal contributors to the cabbage tree research effort we would like to comment on Philip Simpson's discussion of cabbage tree decline. While Dr Simpson presented a lucid and comprehensive review of the special research project, we would take issue with him on two points: the contention that sudden decline is affecting all Cordyline species, and that the primary cause is pathological.

With regard to the first point the FRI national survey, covering over 700 sites from Cape Reinga to Bluff, showed no evidence of decline in either *Cordyline banksii* (forest cabbage tree) or *C. indivisa* (mountain cabbage tree). The second point at issue is Dr Simpson's support for an MLO as the underlying cause of cabbage tree decline, a contention which deeply divided the two field-oriented ecological research groups from the then DSIR pathologists. Despite the numerous media pronouncements, encouraged by the research group involved and their political masters, no MLO has been observed in affected tissue, no remission of symptoms by antibiotics has been demonstrated, successful transmission of the disease has not been achieved, no vector has been demonstrated, and no epidemiological study of disease spread has been carried out. There is no evidence to support the contention that a virulent pathogen (the research group's term) is the underlying cause of cabbage tree decline. It is worth remembering that although dead horses invariably contain maggots it would be a mistake to conclude blowflies are the primary mortality factor.

The unfortunate controversy which has arisen in the case of cabbage tree decline is, in our opinion, largely the result of the present research funding environment in which research groups search desperately for funds to maintain their year-to-year existence, at the cost of well-planned, collaborative longer-term research.

In the case of the cabbage tree project the most expensive component, the search for a pathogen, was funded in parallel with an investigation of the nature and extent of the problem, primarily due to the availability of funds for only one year. This approach contrasts sharply with a recent investigation into pohutukawa decline, where a wide-ranging problem assessment was followed by a more focused programme once the nature and extent of decline has been clarified. Interestingly, the resource managers' (DOC) prime suspect, insects, was completely exonerated at stage one, and the real underlying cause, possums, identified.

As researchers, it is depressing to find science reforms, which were to greatly enhance our ability to deliver high-quality and relevant research, also proving divisive, isolating and extremely costly. The cabbage tree research project exemplifies these negative aspects of the current research environment. The monsoon bucket approach to funding is unlikely to provide value for money when applied to forest health problems such as cabbage tree decline where effective action depends on first defining the problem.

Gordon Hosking and John Hutcheson
NZFRI, Rotorua

Phil Simpson replies

Sir,

Sudden Decline symptoms in other Cordylines

I have observed classic Sudden Decline in *C. obtecta* (a Norfolk Is. species) and *C. kaspar* (cultivated), but not *C. rubra* or *C. stricta* (Australian species). I have observed symptoms consistent with Sudden Decline in *C. banksii* (Mt Messenger, Orongoronga Ra, Totaranui) and I have both observed and received reports of decline in *C. indivisa* (Mt Ruapehu and Taranaki and cultivated specimens) and *C. pumilio* (Hakarimata Ra, urban Auckland). *C. banksii* x *australis* hybrids are also prone. I have observed a similar die-back in *Yucca gloriosa* (a distantly related species to cabbage tree) in many individuals from North Cape to Nelson. It is important however not to confuse all cases of ill-thrift or die-back as Sudden Decline.

Pathogen hypothesis

I described my support for the MLO cause as a "working hypothesis" in order to get beyond the debate into conservation measures, because in fact Sudden Decline is not so important overall as "Slow Decline" caused by ecological dysfunction.

Two circumstantial observations influence my view in favour of an MLO cause of Sudden Decline. First, the death of seemingly perfectly healthy, young adult trees which lack any obvious environmental stress; secondly the symptomatic similarity and often close geographical association with Flax Yellow Leaf, a known MLO disease.

Landcare Research NZ Ltd has several current research projects (for completion June 1994) to further test the MLO hypothesis: the distribution of MLO in the...
Economy. My contention is that over time the rate of capital accumulation in the global economy... through the analysis of surplus value in the economy, though foresters may prefer to see it in terms of simple biological analogy. As we all know, a fixed discount rate equates to an exponential rate of capital growth, and biological systems do not sustain exponential growth rates indefinitely. Once the external environment is fully utilised the system comes under increased internal stress, and growth decreases or ceases altogether.

If the global economy does conform to the laws of natural growth, then we can expect rates of return on capital to drop, and the emphasis to shift more toward maximisation of yield and net revenue, meaning higher stockings, commercial thinning, and longer rotations. In other words, the regimes considered appropriate to the period before the global economy entered the exponential growth phase, may come back into force if, and when, we move onto the top of the “S” curve.

Those who remember me advancing this case against short rotation regimes in 1978 may feel that the intervening 15 years have not entirely vindicated my position. I am prepared, however, to wait another 15 years for a more conclusive verdict, for or against!

Geoff Fischer

In the deserved praise handed out to the Napier Section of the Institute of Foresters in Vol. 38(2), I was surprised that a major commercial initiative which that section successfully brought off in 1966 received no mention.

The Napier Section conceived and ran a large public meeting which launched the concept that as the 16 million cubic feet of wood available per annum from the Kaingaroa 320 million cubic feet 20 year sale roughly matched the volumes then offered “organic honey” although I foolishly thought that all honey is organic; it certainly isn’t “inorganic”! “Sustainable use of resources” has been obfuscated by the Resource Management Act because it is there applied to non-renewable resources which, by definition, can’t also be sustainable. The word has come to mean “rationing until the resource is totally consumed”, with the pious hope that something else can be found to replace it. And why sustainable yield should not apply to forests as much as to land I fail to understand. Land can be sustainable if it produces nothing.

What your correspondent is championing is the current orthodoxy that every thing must be decided by the market (that is, by those who control the levers of economic power), whereas it is patently obvious that the market can’t deliver welfare, and can’t look forward much beyond its

Ross Usmar