NZIF Seminars

Last year the NZIF Council accepted an invitation by Profile Publishing to organise and present a series of free seminars focusing on private forestry investment at the Forest Industries 1994 Exhibition in Rotorua.

In agreeing to this exercise NZIF Council set the following objectives:
- To provide an interested public with factual and independent information on subjects related to forestry investment.
- To raise the profile of the Institute with the public and within the industry.
- To promote the 'NZIF Recognised Forestry Consultant'.

Seven seminars were prepared as follows:
- Forestry Investment Structures, Peter Clark
- Forestry Taxation, Mark Blackburne
- Management of Forestry Investment Blocks, Peter Carter
- Forestry Investment Rates of Return, Alan Barnes
- New Zealand Log Prices and Log Markets, Murray McAlmon/New Zealand Forest Owners’ Association
- Future Opportunities for New Zealand Radiata Pine, Dennis Neilson
- The New Zealand Plantation Resource, Chris Perley

Each seminar was presented in a slide show format in a half-hour session, the seven seminars covered a half day, and the full set of seminars was repeated morning and afternoon over the three days of the exhibition.

Feedback from the public, industry people and Institute members indicated that the seminars were well received. The quality of some of the questions from audiences indicated that many of the attendees were there with a specific interest.

Session attendance ranged from two to approximately 60 in a single session, with an average attendance of about 20 per session over the 42 sessions during the three days of the exhibition. Many people attended several sessions, with some keen individuals attending all seven seminars.

Supporting texts for each seminar were compiled into a single document and sold at a nominal cost at the seminars. These are available from the Secretariat at $2.00. (Include a stamped, self-addressed A4 envelope.)

A static display focusing on the competitive advantage New Zealand has in plantation forestry was assembled with the assistance of the Ministry of Forestry to accompany the seminars. An explanation of the NZIF Forestry Consultant Recognition Scheme was included in this display along with a current list of recognised consultants.

The Institute is grateful for the sponsorship from the following organisations who supported the NZIF FI 1994 seminars:
- Carter Holt Harvey Forests Limited
- Chandler Fraser Keating
- Forestry Corporation of New Zealand
- Groome Pöyry

Rob van Rossen

CODE OF ETHICS

The concept of professional responsibility for an individual’s competence to carry out tasks to standards that can be recognised by the public is well established with professions such as medicine, surveying, valuation and accountancy.

It is increasingly obvious that forestry practitioners are similarly expected by the public to set and adhere to standards of professional competence. The first step in this process is the adherence to ethical standards which the Institute has set for our profession and which are republished below. (P.F. Olsen)

1 Generally
Each member shall act to uphold the dignity, standing and effectiveness of the profession of forestry and to promote the objects of the New Zealand Institute of Forestry. Each member shall endeavour to keep up-to-date in his/her training and study so that New Zealand forestry practice may develop and maintain high standards.

2 Specifically
Each member shall be beholden to the public, clients and employers, and colleagues in the following ways:

Public
a In making public statements or in supplying material for dissemination by the news media or for publication, he/she shall endeavour, where appropriate, to make clear distinctions between facts and personal opinions; he/she shall restrict his/her comments to matters within his/her own knowledge and competence (and if they are not he/she shall say so); and he/she shall not knowingly attempt to influence public opinion except in accord with the above principles.

b He/she shall work in the public interest. If he/she becomes aware of any activity which is not in the public interest he/she shall notify the Council so that the Institute may take remedial action.

Clients and Employers
c He/she shall represent his/her competence only in a truthful and dignified manner and shall not, without disclosing his/her limits, undertake work beyond it.
d He/she shall not disclose any confidential information of his/her past or present clients or employers.

e He/she shall not, without the full knowledge and consent of his/her clients or employer, have an interest in or accept remuneration or gifts from any other business or principals which may influence his/her judgement.
f If his/her professional judgement is overruled on non-technical grounds he/she shall present clearly the likely consequences.

Colleagues
g He/she shall be scrupulous in giving full credit for the work of others.
h He/she shall not do anything which would unfairly harm the reputation, business or prospects of a colleague.
i He/she shall have regard for the welfare of colleagues.

(Worded as approved by Council, February 22, 1975, amended May 1987)