10) The NZIF will promote the need for improved cooperation and coordination between government departments, local government authorities, research organisations, NGOs, indigenous forest owners, the Indigenous Forests Section of the Farm Forestry Association and other organisations, in the development of strategies, policies and plans for meeting international commitments that affect the management of indigenous forests.

11) The NZIF will promote the NZIF Indigenous Forest Policy, and with the assistance of indigenous forest owners and other interested parties will maintain an overview of indigenous forest management planning and practice.

12) The NZIF with the help of other interested parties, including forest owners, will jointly develop a comprehensive programme to monitor the effectiveness of the policy and review the policy every five to ten years.

Colin O’Loughlin

Obituary: Dr John David Allen

John Allen or, as he was known to many, JDA, died in Christchurch Hospital on September 27, 1997. He was 68 years old; it was only a few days before his 69th birthday.

John was known to many foresters because he was a foundation lecturer at the School of Forestry, University of Canterbury. He taught almost all students between 1970 until he retired in 1993. John was born in Scotland and did a B.Sc (Hons) degree in botany at the University of Edinburgh. After graduation he and his wife, Jan, spent eight years in Nigeria as a research officer for the West African Institute for Oil Palm Research. During this period they lived in a remote area, and as the children reached school age he applied for jobs in more civilised areas. John and the family moved to New Zealand in 1968 and he initially worked on crop diseases as a scientific officer with the DSIR at Lincoln.

In 1962 he moved to Canterbury University as a lecturer in the Botany Department. While there he completed his PhD, and then transferred to the School of Forestry in 1970. John initially taught forest protection, but later branched out into teaching silviculture, wood science, multiple-use forestry and social forestry. He said when he retired, about his time at the University: “My eyes were slowly opened to what could be accomplished in the university situation. I ceased to have narrow interests in things and became enamoured with teaching. I enjoyed teaching and interacting with students — more so than sitting at a lonely lab bench.” Many of his past students will remember JDA with affection and have a soft spot for him. Some will also recall being driven by John on field trips. On one trip the slogan “All the way with JDA” was written on the side of the van.

Dean of Faculty

John rose to the position of Dean of the Faculty of Forestry from 1989 to 1993. He promoted the idea that the School should be seen as a national body, John was also involved with the Arboretum Society and worked on urban projects with the Christchurch City Council.

After he retired in 1993 he continued his involvement in the forestry sector by being on the Editorial Board of “New Zealand Forestry”, a position he retired from only a few months ago. He did sterling service behind the scenes and was heavily used by editors Chris Perley and Hugh Bigsby.

John was a quiet person, slow to anger, and with a gentle sense of humour. He enjoyed telling jokes about himself. He and Jan were also avid gardeners and for many years ran a sideline horticultural business near Kaiapoi. However, they were forced to give this up as John’s health deteriorated. After his retirement John was often in hospital, but he was smiling until the last and forestry was never far from his mind. John was very much a family person and his family were very important in his life. He was always there when they needed him.

John will be missed by former colleagues, students and his family. He is survived by his wife Jan and their four children, Barbara, Kenneth, Margorie and David. They will have all our condolences in the loss of their loved one and friend.

Don Mead