About 50 members attended the AGM held on Monday 20th April with an additional 50 people being present for the main seminar on Investment in New Zealand Forestry on the Tuesday. This later session was held in the new, very comfortable, auditorium of the Wanganui Collegiate School. The main field trip on the Wednesday included visits to Gentle Annie to get an overview of hinterland forestry prospects, to Rayonier New Zealand’s Lismore forest, to Arbor Forest’s plantations, to Enslaw One’s coastal Harakere forest and to the Wanganui Sawmill. There was also a variety of social functions including the Annual Conference dinner on the Tuesday evening. At the dinner the Kirk Horn Flask and Medal was awarded to Professor Peter McKelvey by Dr Colin O’Loughlin. The Schlich Memorial Prize (to the best graduating student at the School of Forestry) was awarded to David Skelton.

Some of the highlights of the meeting were:

- The excellent AGM run by John Galbraith.
- The evening cruise up the Wanganui River on a 1907 paddle-powered river-boat.
- The variety of papers presented to investment seminar — some of these will be printed in NZ Forestry.
- The earthquake during the seminar.
- The remarkable after-dinner talk by Shelly West. Shelly is blind and confined to a wheelchair but her verve for living was an inspiration.
- The award of the Kirk Horn Flask to Peter McKelvey.
- The beautiful weather which made the field trip even more enjoyable.

Our thanks to Ian Moore and his team for organising a memorable and well-run Conference.

**Don J Mead**

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Evening cruise up the Wanganui River — 1998 AGM. (Photo D.J. Mead).

Professor Peter McKelvey being awarded the Kirk Horn Flask and medal by Dr Colin O’Loughlin. (Photo D.J. Mead).

Te Tara White presenting his paper on ‘Maori Investment in Forestry’ at the Wanganui NZIF Conference. (Photo D.J. Mead).

David Skelton being awarded the Schlich Memorial Prize by Paul Smale. (Photo D.J. Mead).

Shelly West, after-dinner speaker at the 1998 annual conference dinner. (Photo D.J. Mead).