The recommendation of Council is that there be three scholarships community (through publicity surrounding both the applications and those that exist). NZIF remains. No comment

Paul Smale

Proposed Award Structure

Introduction

In the November 1997 Journal (Volume 42, Number 3) I outlined the existing Awards structure of our Institute and proposed some changes. The changes were thought to be desirable so that the Awards could be better used to promote the Institute and so that those that were no longer relevant could be phased out. The principle of using them to recognise high professional standards remains unchanged.

No comment was received on the Journal article but it was debated at the 1998 AGM in Napier. As a result of the comments made at the AGM Council has reviewed the proposal and the current recommendations for Awards to be presented from 2000 are outlined in this report.

New Awards

Tertiary Scholarships

The aim of these Awards is to provide a mechanism whereby the NZIF can promote itself to potential new members and to the wider community (through publicity surrounding both the applications and receipt of awards).

The recommendation of Council is that there be three scholarships with two for universities (both undergraduates and post-graduates) and one for polytechnics. Only students studying forestry courses at New Zealand universities and polytechnics would be eligible (currently Canterbury, Lincoln, Massey and Waikato Universities, Waikato and Nelson Polytechnics) and they must be in either of their last 2 years of study. Recipients of a scholarship will not be eligible to apply again. Each scholarship would be to the value $1000.

Applications would be called through the February Journal and through personal contact at each eligible university/polytechnic with the closing date 31 March. There would be no formal application forms but selection would be based on a 3 page submission by each candidate. The criteria for selection would be aptitude, personality, community service, financial need and relevance of the course to the profession of forestry.

The awards referees committee should make their selection in time for the recipients to be announced at the AGM/Conference in April/May of each year but the recipients will receive their awards at an appropriate local section meeting ASAP after the AGM.

It is appropriate that the School of Forestry continue making the Schlich award to the top student in each graduating class. However administration of this should in future be made by the School. Some debate is required on the naming of our Scholarships. Do we want to retain the Hutchinson and Sutherland names or choose other titles?

"Forester of the Year"

Council recommends the introduction of this type of Award in order to promote and reward professionalism amongst members and to provide opportunities to promote the NZIF and its members to the wider community.

It is recommended that it be awarded annually and known as the "Gurf Gleason Award of Excellence", but as with the scholarships the actual title is open to debate. The awards referees committee will call for nominations through the Journal in February of each year. However nominations should not be relied on and the committee should, in addition, consult with the officers in local sections.

In order to be nominated the member must be active in the profession, and have carried out some outstanding work that is of credit to themselves, their employer (if appropriate), the Institute and the forestry profession. In order to be deemed "outstanding" the candidate must have demonstrated qualities such as innovation, leadership, professionalism and tutoring.

The award will consist of the NZFS carving, which will be held for one year, and a certificate. The recipient will have their travel, accommodation and registration costs to the AGM/Conference met by the NZIF.

Awards continued without change

The following awards will continue to be made at the AGM each year:

- Kirk Horn Flask (biannually)
- Chavasse Travel Award
- Balmeaves Travel Award (Administered by NZIF)
Discontinued Awards

Council considers that the following Awards should be discontinued:
* Curt Gleason Memorial Prize (no interest in the last 5 years or so)
* NZ Forest Service Carving (no interest in the last 5 years or so)
* NZ Forest Service Sports Award (no longer relevant)
* Schlich Memorial Prize (replaced by a scholarship)
* Mary Sutherland Award (replaced by a scholarship)
* Frank E Hutchinson Award (replaced by a scholarship)

Funding

The following table indicates the likely changes in the costs of both the Awards and their administration (the cost of the Balneaves Travel Award is not shown as the Institute only administers this).

The estimated cost of the Awards and their administration increases by $2100 or 28%. While this position is not sustainable in the long term Council acknowledges that at some point in the near future a special effort will have to be made to increase funds available in this area. It is thought that the benefits associated with the revamped Awards (more meaningful, greater publicity opportunities) outweigh the additional costs.

General

It is recommended that Council establish an Awards Referees sub-committee consisting of the Councillor Membership / Promotions Chairperson of the sub-committee, the President, and one other Full NZIF member nominated by Council. This sub-committee will select the recipients of the scholarships, the "Forester of the Year" and the Chavasse Travel Award (in consultation with the Patron, Mrs S Chavasse). The selection procedures for the Kirk and Balneaves awards will otherwise remain as specified when gifted.

Council also recommends that we should consider making other one-off awards from time to time (as we did in 1998 to Lindsay Poole), not only to individuals, but to organisations as well. This would give us the opportunity to reward and encourage individuals and organisations working in areas like sustainability, or Maori forestry development, for example. There would be no monetary value to the award that would consist of a certificate only.

This whole subject of Awards will debated further at the 1999 AGM in Wellington. If these proposals are agreed to they will hopefully be implemented from the year 2000.

Summary

The proposed changes would result in the Institute with two Awards of excellence (Kirk and "Forester of the year") made to members, three tertiary scholarships promoting the profession and the Institute, and a travel award that promotes and rewards innovation in the profession. All Awards are meaningful and provide opportunities for the Institute to be promoted in the community. This is achieved at a modest increase in costs.

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LOCATIONS

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For further details contact: The National Cypress Seminars, PO. Box 16-630, Hornby, Christchurch or Freephone: 0800 600 900

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