Otago-Southland celebrates Jim Smith’s service to Institute

At the recent A.G.M. of our local section Jim Smith, our longest serving member, was made an honorary Life Member in recognition of his long service to the Institute locally.

For the last 23 years the local section has arranged a Study Tramp, and Jim has organised and led these tramps for 20 years.

Tramps have covered from the Copeland Valley in the North to Stewart Island in the South and practically every bush track in between.

Organisation of these tramps has been a major task as each one required a different approach as party members varied considerably from year to year – 25 down to 10-12, as did the terrain. Availability of aircraft, tide times, booking huts and all the other details to make these tramps a success have been willingly organised by Jim.

Jim’s presentation consisted of a certificate and a plaque covering the scenes of the 20 years of tramps he has organised with a surround of photos showing many of the parties who took part in the tramps.

The presentation was made by Percy Parker, another long serving Institute member, who, with Jim, is the Joint Secretary of the local section.

Local section activities:

Auckland

Garth Cumberland and a new committee have got this section going again. At a well-attended lunchtime meeting (doubling as an AGM) on 25 May, members heard a fascinating review of matters of concern to our industry. Presented by Murray Parrish it was entitled “Current Forestry Issues”. Murray Parrish is ‘Manager of External Relations’ with Carter Holt Harvey. Describing himself as a “lobbyist” Murray has a wide brief and deals with a wide range of subjects and decision-makers within government, NGOs and the private sector.

Rotorua

Members attended a meeting on 17 May to hear about Corporate Log Purchase Strategies and Options for Forest Owners, from Craig Wilson - CHH and Lance McNicholas - PCF.

A brief AGM followed, at which Theo Vos and Neil Geerkens were reconfirmed in their roles of President and Secretary respectively. There was support at the meeting for the local section to host the 2002 NZIF AGM and Conference, possibly at the same time as NZ Forestry Expo in March 2002.

Members gathered on 22 June to hear about the INVADER system from Ian Lockie and James Lamb of IFR Technologies. The presentation explained the features of the central database, the information that is being generated from the electronic calipers and other devices, and the types of reporting systems that are available.

Hawkes Bay

Two meetings have been arranged lately. On 5 July Ed Saathoff spoke about his recent trip to Chile, and on 24 August Andrew Wilson from MAF will speak on Climate Change and Carbon Credits.

Canterbury

This section is still recovering from the National AGM and Conference and has had no meetings since. However the local section did host a visiting group from the Society of American Foresters for an informal evening barbeque during May.

Mike McLarin
Councillor - Local Sections Liaison

NZIF Forest Policy Discussions

Nationwide, local sections are hosting discussion on the NZIF draft national policy on forestry, an action plan for addressing indigenous forestry issues, and NZIF’s future direction.

Hamish Levack is presenting the policy on forestry in the North Island, and Graham Whyte is presenting in the South Island.

Peter Berg and Councillors will be in attendance whenever possible. Meetings have already been held in Auckland and Rotorua, with further meetings planned for Wellington, Waikato and Hawkes Bay.

The policy can be found on the NZIF web site at www.fore.canterbury.ac.nz/nzif/home.html.

Have a look before the meeting so your views can be incorporated.