President’s Comments

Council strategic planning provides platform for the future

In May the NZIF Council took time out to undertake a strategic planning process. The aim of this exercise was to look ahead over the next two years and to establish a work programme for this current Council to pursue. Planning took account of the NZIF’s objects, which in summary are:
- To be an independent advocate for forestry.
- To provide a range of services to members.

I would like to refer briefly to the first of these in respect to the strategic planning session.

Previous editorials in this Journal have commented on the role of the NZIF in providing an independent voice on forestry matters. The most recent discussion took place with regard to the National Forest Certification Working Group in which the NZIF took a position that not all in the industry agreed with, or indeed did all members of the NZIF (August 2001, volume 46(2) refers).

During the strategic planning process Council considered the approach adopted by those representing the NZIF in the National Forest Certification Working Group and endorsed the principles against which they have operated:
- Support the principles of the Forest Stewardship Council;
- Standards ought to be set for all forests in an integrated manner;
- Standards must be grounded in science; and
- Standards should not be set to the advantage of some while at the expense of others.

The adoption of these principles may require the NZIF to take a different stance to others around the negotiating table, but at the end of the day it is difficult not to commend the principles above. My thanks to Euan Mason, John Wardle and Roger May for their efforts on behalf of the NZIF.

The NZIF has also been active in another area in which its view has not always been in accord with others organisations in the forestry sector. The NZIF has now submitted twice to Government on Climate Change (see the NZIF website for the NZIF submissions). The Government adopted the first submission almost wholeheartedly in developing its draft position on forestry and climate change. The NZIF’s second submission endorsed the Government’s initial approach but suggested some further refinements. The results of this are still to eventuate.

Interestingly, feedback received from some NZIF members involved in these “other” organisations has endorsed the NZIF’s approach. What was most satisfying to me was that the NZIF submissions, put together by a range of NZIF members led by Justin Ford-Robertson and Piers Maclaren, enabled those members who participated to speak from a professional viewpoint, rather than having to adopt a “party” view. This is what membership of a professional body is all about.

The NZIF Council, in its strategic planning session, took the decision to be more pro-active on forestry issues and is developing its approach to this. The NZIF has already been active in two other areas in the past few months. The first of these is assistance provided by the Canterbury Section to the Primary Production Select Committee that has spent the last two years considering sustainable indigenous forest management. The final report of this committee (http://www.clerk.parliament.govt.nz/cgi-bin/search-report?cat=33) specifically acknowledges the assistance of the NZIF and I also like to add my thanks to Peter Allan, Rob Miller and John Wardle in this respect.

The NZIF has also written to the Minister of Biosecurity and other Ministers over the management of Painted Apple Moth in Auckland and I would like to thank Don Hammond for this assistance with this. A copy of this letter is available on the NZIF website.

Finally, my thanks to Council members for giving up a Sunday to undertake our strategic planning exercise. I believe that it will provide a useful platform for the next two years.

The outcomes of this process will be provided to NZIF members in due course once Council has ratified the process.

Tim Thorpe

Survey seeks feedback on CPD interests

CPD Survey
The NZIF Council is interested in developing continuing professional development for its members.

CPD is a mandatory part of registration and is essential for all members if they want to maintain or expand skills.

In order to develop CPD opportunities, this issue of the Journal has a short survey about CPD interests included as an insert.

The survey will be used to identify topics of interest and preferred delivery formats so that CPD opportunities that meet member needs can be developed. Please take the time to complete the survey.

Southern African Forestry Journal

A limited number of Journals of the Southern African Institute of Forestry are being made available to NZIF members as part of an effort to increase the flow of information between the two organisations.

The Journals will be by subscription on a first come, first serve basis. The cost of the subscription is $NZ 30 for the initial year.

The Southern African Forestry Journal is published 3 times per year. Information on the Journal can be found at http://www.foresters.org.za/safi.htm. Please contact the secretariat or Dr Hugh Bigsby (hbgbyh@lincoln.ac.nz or (03) 325-2811) if interested.