President's comments

First woman NZIF President for 60 years

Ket Bradshaw

Gisborne conference

Bribes have their place. Paul Marshall and I found a bottle of Lindauer helped us to win the Fun Debate and prove, beyond doubt, that “wood processing is not only profitable” but is the second oldest profession in the world. This doubled as the Gisborne conference theme and we spent a day and a half hearing a range of stimulating speakers discuss this topic. Howard Moore used his knowledge of the industry plus contacts from his NZ Trade and Enterprise “day job” to make this happen. Equally exceptional field trips went into the heart of Maori East Coast forestry to Mangatu and Paroa, where we were welcomed onto the marae. Many thanks to the companies who sponsored the conference and ran the field days. We look forward to working in partnership with you over this coming year and hosting you at the 2005 conference in Whangarei.

During my tenure I will be looking for the Institute to make stronger connections with Maori in two areas. The first steps that will make a real difference would be to learn waiata to sing on the marae and to understand marae protocol. I’d like to see these type of connections at the Whangarei conference. And secondly to ask our members, such as John Ruru, to help us make a better connection with Maori as forest owners. Maori forest owners are increasingly influencing forestry in New Zealand and the Federation of Maori Authorities (FOMA) are another group that the Institute needs to understand and have close ties with.”

Council – a woman's view

There were many new, younger and some female faces at the successful NZIF conference in Gisborne. This has been reflected in the make up of the 2004/2006 Council as we now have 2 more women. Stephanie Rotorangi has joined us along with Krysta Giles-Hansen, a 4th year Canterbury School of Forestry student. I took the opportunity to fill the Council vacancy with a student. We want to encourage younger people into the Institute, as they are truly our lifeblood. By providing an opportunity to become involved in the type of work and the areas of interest of the Institute, I’m sure that we will all benefit. In future I’d like to see a hotly contested “student representative” position on the Council. I also would like more women to take an active role in the Institute as we make up about 20% of the membership.

Institute Services

Within the Institute we can streamline our services so that we are attractive to new members and can demonstrate and reinforce our value to existing members through services such as this journal and active local sections. We need to grow our membership base and develop clear ongoing partnerships with sponsors to ensure the Institute is financially secure. Thanks to Andrew McEwen, we have made great strides with our electronic newsletter. We need to match this with our website so that members are able to easily access the services that we provide.

Our use of professional conference organisers reflects the reality that there is less voluntary time to run conferences. Fortunately, through sponsorship we have the ability to raise funds to pay for their services. Having been the part time Executive Officer of the NZ Farm Forestry Association, I am only too aware of the need for the NZIF to be realistic about the level of funding and activity that can be generated.

Over the last two years, Tim Thorpe and his council have prepared a strong base for us to work from and demonstrated both increased influence and professionalism, perhaps most clearly over the leaky buildings debate. Partner organisations within the industry are keen to build stronger ties with the Institute. Over the next 2 years we will enhance the leadership role of the NZIF in New Zealand forestry.

Introducing the new NZIF President

Jaquetta (Ket) Bradshaw

As your first elected woman president in 60 odd years, since Mary Sutherland took over the reins in the early 40s, I've helped the Institute to average one such president each century. More than 30 years ago Prof McKelvey encouraged me to study at Canterbury. I wanted to be a ranger but women were not allowed to train as rangers in those days, so I mixed academic and practical forestry by co-managing the Canterbury Student's Association forest at Mt Hutt (we planted the Douglas fir), dabbled with silviculture in my parents' forest and eventually began planting my own forest in the 1980s. Unlike the many female logmakers on our skid sites I'm known for getting my chainsaw firmly stuck!
For a number of you my name is familiar as a person who has been around the forestry scene looking at forestry from a number of angles and in doing so having explored new territory for women. This has included forester for the NZ Forest Service, recognised forestry consultant with Jaakko Poyry, forestry and environmental adviser to NZ Aid programmes in Asia and the Pacific, Executive Officer for the NZ Farm Forestry Association and more recently I managed the Waste/Resources Group in the Ministry for the Environment where we prepared and launched the NZ Waste Strategy.

I cut my teeth on forestry politics during the 1980s as secretary/treasurer and executive member of the Marlborough Forest Industry Association. This was followed by a stint on the NZIF Council in the early 1990s during the reign of Peter Olsen.

My current work, leading the Ministry for the Environment’s work on the voluntary government-industry NZ Packaged Goods Accord, brings me into contact with the diverse manufacturing and retailing sectors. My recent visit to the Carter Holt Harvey Penrose paperboard plant showed me how my two worlds, forestry and waste, are becoming more integrated. A few years ago I would have looked at the plant thinking that it was replacing virgin fibre, whereas from a resource recovery perspective it was great to see so much paper and packaging being recovered rather than ending up in a landfill.

So what can I bring to the Institute? I’m a team player and enjoy leading effective teams. I believe there are ample opportunities for us to show leadership and be an independent voice in areas such as forest certification and more broadly in the area of sustainability. From the “waste” perspective, we need as an industry to “close the loop” and think about how our products can be recovered or disposed rather than accepting waste as an inevitable part of doing business. Producers need to expand their thinking and understand the implications of this, if, in the future, they are required to take back their products. In the central North Island, forest residues are now seen as a valuable source of bio energy and old landfills are being dug up for hog fuel.

In a few years I’ll begin harvesting the wide range of exotic trees in my forest in Marlborough. Hopefully my grandchildren will be able to harvest the indigenous timber species. My plan is to have a continuous canopy regime with reclaimed wetlands and healthy indigenous pockets. In the meantime I’m looking forward to leading the Institute and working with both the existing and new councillors.

2004 NZIF Awards

The NZIF Awards for 2004 were announced at the Conference Dinner in Gisborne.

Balneaves Travel Award ($5000)

Lisa Langer, scientist with Forest Research in Christchurch, received the Balneaves Travel Award. Lisa will undertake a study tour to learn more about riparian forest management in the state of Oregon and to attend a speciality conference on biosolid management in plantation forests and public participation in the process.

Frank Hutchinson – Post Graduate Scholarship ($1000)

Rosa Rivas Palma is studying for a PhD at the School of Forestry. The PhD project is “Social and environmental valuation of plantation forest ecosystems in New Zealand”. As part of this Rosa will attempt to quantify the social and environmental benefits of plantations. A major part of the study involves interviews and surveys with the stakeholders of case study forests in order to evaluate their perceptions of the value of the forest.

Undergraduate Scholarship ($1000)

Adie Fortune is a fourth year BForeSc (Hons) Student at the School of Forestry. During her degree Adie has worked over summer for CHH and Forest Research and has also worked as a research assistant with the University of Dublin. Adie hopes to undertake a PhD once she has completed her degree.

Mary Sutherland – NZ Polytechnic ($1000)

Joshua Clausen is in his final year of a National Diploma of Forest Management at Wairariki Polytechnic. He has worked for Harvest Pro during his course. The scholarship will assist with his course fees and related costs.