

After the war Syrach-Larsen travelled extensively and his enthusiasm and sincerity infected foresters and administrators; as a result we saw in the 1950s the initiation of numerous tree breeding programmes world-wide. It was no coincidence that the late A. R. Entrican, after Syrach-Larsen's visit to New Zealand in 1949, decided to include tree breeding in the programme for the new FRI being established at Rotorua.

Dr Syrach-Larsen was the recipient of many honorary awards and was made an honorary member of forestry societies in nine countries, including the New Zealand Institute of Foresters. His scientific and personal contributions will have a lasting effect on forestry practice.

I.J.T

M. R. Jacobs, 1905-1979
(Honorary Member)

Dr Jacobs was born in Adelaide and studied forestry and soils there in an environment which produced a number of Australia's well-known foresters. He commenced work in Canberra in 1927 where he was to spend the rest of his life, apart from study periods away and three years' war service with the Royal Australian Engineers. His overseas studies and research at Oxford and Saxony later culminated in a Doctorate in Philosophy from Yale in 1941.

His teaching career commenced at the Australian Forestry School in 1934 where he became principal in 1944. The substantially increased roles after the war, catering for returned servicemen, included New Zealanders from 1949, so his indirect influence on today's Australasian forestry is enormous. Many



considered it was a great pity that he resigned from the Forestry School in 1959 to become Acting and then Director-General of the Australian Forestry and Timber Bureau, from which he retired in 1970.

During the nine years of retirement, he continued his interests in eucalypts and forests generally by writing and travelling widely as a consultant for the Australian timber industry, FAO, the World Bank, N.Z. Forest Products Ltd and many others.

His friendliness and approachability, combined with a softly spoken, easy manner, endeared him to everyone, young and old, to whom he was known affectionately as either the Doc or Max. It did not matter whether he was talking to young foresters under the radiata pine at Perola or Tokoroa, or under the flooded gum at Pine Creek, to New Zealand bureaucrats or Australasian politicians, or confronting the most extreme environmental lobbies, his manner and approach were always the same. This enormous respect was backed by years of study, reading, field examination and writing of the highest standard, as evidenced by the many awards and honours attained during his lifetime.

At the time of his death, Max was rewriting *Eucalypts for Planting* as an assignment for FAO and wrote *The Growth Habits of Eucalypts*, published in 1955, *Forest Trees of Australia* and many other publications. These abilities, combined with his great enthusiasm for forestry, made Max a world authority on the taxonomy, silviculture and growth characteristics of the genera he knew so well.

Max helped form the Institute of Foresters of Australia and assisted in maintaining the high professional standards of its members through teaching and example. Because of his close association with New Zealand and many of our foresters, he was made an Honorary Member of this Institute in May 1958. He valued his connection with us and the many friends he made here.

To many of us, he became a very good friend; we enjoyed his experiences, wisdom, company and hospitality. The big house next to the Forestry School in Yarralumla was often the scene of an "at home" for students, but the Jacobs' real home was the house they retained for over forty years in Arthur Circle, resplendent with its rhododendrons, behind Canberra's beautiful street trees. Mrs Jacobs died in 1976 and they are survived by their two daughters.

A.W.G.