

## OBITUARY

J. P. Fitzgerald

It is a sad day when the first of a class departs in his prime. Pat was one of those who went through the rigorous apprenticeship of military service that gave early maturity, the formal technical training that built confidence, and the rigours of native bush assessment that formed self-reliance and lasting comradeship. He was one of those who contributed to the high *esprit de corps* in the Forest Service and indeed helped in the forest industry's rapid expansion to a place of importance nationally.

Pat had a career fulfilment to be proud of, with wide experience in all aspects of forestry, and he did many things that we all wish we could do. He began as a technical trainee, became a ranger, and was Conservator, Rotorua, at the time of his death.

He planted a new forest, Te Wera; he managed an important industrial forest, Maramarua. He broadened his experience in some vital specialist positions: working with industrial consultants he set up the work study approach for the Forest Service's part of the Tasman-Murupara scheme; he was deeply involved in training, at both the Reefton Ranger school and the Forestry Training Centre, where he is well remembered by the graduates of those schools; he became technically committed to improve logging, as logging superintendent for the New Zealand Forest Service.

In the management area he cut his teeth as the second-in-charge of that major forest, Golden Downs, and went on from there to district responsibility at Riverhead and eventually a major jump to conservator, Westland, where his tact, experience and ability to listen made him one of the most successful in that position.

Pat joined the Institute in 1957, and became a full member in 1976. He always supported its activities, particularly in making services available when those activities occurred in his area.

Within the Forest Service his concern for his workmates was not forgotten in the period at head office when he was a leading representative advancing the claims of General Division officers for more equitable treatment.

He was naturally involved in a number of bodies outside the Forest Service. He was on the original steering committee which set up the Logging Industry Research Association, and he was not an idle member of that body. On the board he became a

conduit for transfer of information and was instrumental in setting up an equitable levying system under which the Logging Industry Research Association operates today.

The foregoing is only the bare bones, the facts.

One can say little that expresses the sorrow at losing a friend, a workmate and associate. How does one appraise the man, the essence of him? Experienced but unassuming. Concerned with peoples' problems and a grand advocate to have on your side. Loyal to his employer, his team, his profession. Always ready for a bit of fun, a grand sense of wry humour, an easily approached boss and a great companion.

We tender our collective sympathies to Yvonne and the boys.

J.S.

### A. Bowers

Some of us enter this world, live out our allotted span, and depart leaving barely a scratch to remind others of where we have been. Others contribute much to posterity, in their work, their hobbies, and in human relations. One such person was Tony Bowers, and his premature death on February 5 at the age of 49 was a shock and a sad loss to many of us.

Tony graduated from Aberdeen University in 1960 with a B.Sc. (Forestry). He commenced his degree in 1951, but delayed its completion to spend several years in the Royal Air Force, during which time he served in the U.K., Libya and Cyprus.

After graduating, he worked for the Forestry Commission in Scotland until 1962, when with his wife, Grace, he came to New Zealand to take up a position as Assistant Forester with N.Z. Forest Products in Kinleith. Within a few months he was promoted to Forester, Silvicultural Research, and at the time of his death held the position of Forester, Investigations. He was responsible for many aspects of silvicultural development and planning, not the least being the selection, use and application of herbicides.

This subject was a major interest of Tony's for many years. When I first met him in the late 1960s he was involved with developing his company's desiccation programme, and investigating better techniques for grass release. Before long he became regarded as a leading authority on the use of chemicals in forestry and many of the treatments currently in use around New Zealand