

private forested lands were extensively discussed with particular reference to the need for extra funding. They are designed to ensure representative samples of bush lands — as a flagship concept, i.e. "Help retain the best of what remains".

6. The session was dominated by questions of who decides and who pays.
P. Thode

Permanent Head for Conservation Department

Mr K. W. (Ken) Piddington, formerly the Commissioner for the Environment, has been appointed Director-General of the new department and took up his new position on June 3. Mr Piddington, 52, joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1959 where he held several positions in New Zealand Missions overseas and in Wellington. In 1977 he became Director of the Planning Council and in 1980 he joined the Commission for the Environment as Commissioner. Mr Piddington holds a MA (Hons) degree from Auckland University.

Since his appointment Mr Piddington has devoted a substantial amount of his time to visiting various areas that his department will be administering.

Further organisational planning and development of the department is also proceeding, and a small establishment unit has been set up to assist Mr Piddington with this process.

Issues presently being discussed are draft legislation, regional boundaries, organisational structure and DOC's role in marine and freshwater environmental administration.

Wood product 'failures'

Television New Zealand's 'Fair Go' programme has brought to light two 'failures' of wood products in New Zealand. The first is N.Z. Forest Products Ltd house cladding known as 'Weatherside'. This is an oil-tempered hardboard which has shown apparent glue failure under some conditions.

The second 'failure' was that of the preservative AAC (alkyl-ammonium compounds). About 3% of all timber treated by AAC (245,000 m³) between 1978 and 1985 have failed. The AAC treatment was withdrawn last year. The Minister of Forests, Mr Wetere, said in early July that the Timber Preservation Authority made an error of judgement in not fully publicising the problem.



Comments on new-look journal

The Editor and Editorial Board wish to thank those who have commented verbally or by letter on the new journal. Two of these letters are printed below.

Sir,

Just a short note to express my appreciation of the new format of the Journal of Forestry. Its new layout is attractive and more consistent with that offered by the Farm Forestry Association (New Zealand Tree Grower) and the Tree Crops Association (Growing Today). I consider the balance of content in this initial issue to be both interesting and informative. As recent events have proven, it is important to seek as wide a circulation as possible and I hope this objective is not overlooked.

Having subscribed for 25 years, I should also like to take this opportunity of saying "thank you" to the succession of former editors of the NZ Forestry Journal and their cultivation of critical and frank comment on current forestry issues.

Recognising that there are successive ranks of 'beginners' in the knowledge and understanding of basic forestry issues and that we have now accumulated a massive bank of information (much of it thanks to the work of FRI) can I suggest that a section of the new journal be devoted to a summing up of experience in various issues? We all need to be updated with the benefit of field experience.

Perhaps you might also give consideration to guest articles from leading politicians and Treasury spokesmen, etc.? We need to promote a better informed dialogue amongst those who are now making decisions that affect all of us.

Jolyon Manning
(Member of NZ Forestry Council
and Dunedin City Council)
Dunedin

Sir,

May I congratulate you and also your publisher on the new look Forestry Journal.

For the first time for years I went through the magazine from cover to cover and actually read about half the contents.

I have long thought that with the improvement of the photocopy machine it would be better if the more abstruse papers were dealt with in outline only, leaving those people who were particularly interested to send for photo copies of the whole works.

This would save a good deal of expense in publishing data which has but a limited appeal.

The article on tawa is a case in point. Once the average reader comes to the place where diameter growth is 1.5mm a year, the volume increment about a cubic metre and the probable rotation about 200 years, he tends to read no further. Only the specialist is likely to go on.

And are the lengthy lists of references really necessary? Sure, they ought to be on record somewhere to show that the author has done his homework, to help anyone who might want to follow up the matter and maybe as ammunition to fire at the nit-picking birds and bees people and the junior intelligentsia, but is the ordinary reader that interested?

For myself, I prefer to see more of the Neil Barr approach; easy to read and absorb and good practical information. I am therefore pleased to see recognition of this included in the editorial policy.

J. L. Harrison-Smith,
Tauranga

Snow damage to kauri

Sir,

Although Tokyo is Lat. 35° 41' N it has an average of seven days with snow a year. In early 1984, snow lay for 17 days. Despite this, a young free-standing tree in the New Zealand Embassy grounds (reported to have been planted 15 years ago — and now about 7m high) thrives; it now produces cones. It has not been damaged by snow before 1986.

There were two main falls in 1986. The second was accompanied with a gusting north wind. About 30cm of snow accumulated on trees. The Embassy tree lost about six branches, but the leader was not damaged. These branches were not snapped, but broke from the trunk, leaving the usual scission scars. So far the scars look uninfected, but there has been little or no resin flow over them.

A kahikatea and a *Podocarpus nivalis* were not damaged, but they are very much smaller specimens. Japanese native hardwoods in the nearby Yoyogi Park had considerable branch snap. Native softwoods, including *Podocarpus longifolia*, were not damaged.

Though Japanese foresters abjure exotics, the numerous *Cedrus* spp in Tokyo were not damaged either.

Are there other records of snow damage to New Zealand kauri?

R. Fenton,
Attache,
New Zealand Embassy,
Tokyo

Forest products to Japan

Sir,

To comment on "New Zealand's Forest Exports of Logs and Sawm Timber to Japan" (Fenton) in the *Journal of Forestry* (29 (2):225-247): New Zealand radiata exports to Japan fit a generic need — packaging, which is of mutual benefit to both trading partners. To reposition radiata into structural or appearance applications will invite head-on competition from existing traders for a slow growth softwood market.

May I redirect your readers that it is not what is "technically feasible", but what the market needs, that will sustain New Zealand's export future. For the present, there is economic and marketing merit in holding a good share of the existing packaging market.

The comparative advantage of clearwood production is a silvicultural wonder, not a recipe for marketing success. The adage "If you build a better mousetrap, the world will beat a path to your door" assumes the need for better mousetraps.

A national description of the forest resource serves no utility for the market, unless it is along market lines. Quality is a term relative to the buyer, and as such, any policy "to satisfy Japanese market requirements" must start in Japan, not New Zealand.

**C.A. Radomske,
Kawerau**

Membership

Sir,

May I refer to the Membership Committee Report 1985/6 on pp. 34-39 of the Special Edition of the NZIF Newsletter for the 59th AGM.

I am pleased to see that the Committee recommends that there should be some explicit guidelines for determining merit. This is long overdue, and in my view we need to build up a body of "case law" for the guidance of Council as to the criteria for admission and advancement.

I also go along with the idea of promotion to Fellow for those who achieve eminence in the profession of forestry; and of gaining the status of Companion for services to the Institute. These ranks will enhance the value of being granted Honorary membership.

I am concerned, however, about the appointment of Associate members on the basis given (First Alternative b)). First, Council will rarely, if ever, be able to determine in advance who will, or who will not, "contribute to the advancement of forestry". This conception will bog down Council for endless

hours each year, and this onerous burden should not be imposed upon it. Secondly, I am loath to open Associate membership to all and sundry. We are the *New Zealand Institute of Foresters*. Therefore, in my view, admission to Associate membership should be for New Zealand foresters (in the broad sense). We defined what we meant by this at the New Plymouth AGM — that is, we recognized Associate members initially on the basis of having passed an approved course "of a standing recognized by Council". I would be the first to admit that, later in one's career, such courses loom less and less in determining merit or achievement, but initially they are important as indicating that people have reached a certain standing, and have the serious intent of following the profession in which they are trained.

If that is agreed, then we will have a place for the useful rank of Affiliate — a person who need not be a New Zealander. We might need to broaden the criteria for admission in the Constitution by adding, after "of the Institute", the words "or of forestry". But there is no reason why Affiliate members should not advance to full membership, or indeed Fellow or Companion. An appropriate clause could be added under c); e.g. "An Affiliate Member will be entitled to advance to Full Member when, in the opinion of Council, he/she has made significant contributions to the advancement of forestry and/or of the Institute over a period of at least five years". Merit criteria could be laid down for Council's guidance on this also, and it would put Affiliate members on much the same basis as Associate members at the later stages of their careers.

I trust these comments are helpful.

**C.G.R. Chavasse,
Rotorua**

Council's efforts

Sir,

The most charitable thing I can say about Piers McLaren's letter (Newsletter 16(4), May 1986) is that it is unhelpful, and is highly unjust to Councils over the last few years. Perhaps he has not read the relevant NZIF Newsletters which seem to me to show that the work of Council has been vigorous and, in personal terms, bordering on the sacrificial.

And I suggest that the last thing Piers would welcome would be to be press-ganged into NZIF membership!

If he wants to know what it's like at the sharp end, I suggest he gets himself elected to Council.

**Geoff Chavasse,
Rotorua**

Letters appreciated

Sir,

Please allow me to express, through your journal, my gratitude to all those organisations, companies and consulting foresters who were unable to assist me during a recent job search in New Zealand! Although I wrote to them out of the blue, all took considerable effort to write sympathetic and helpful replies. In fact, I have never before received such long and helpful rejection letters.

I now fully appreciate the employment doldrums in which your industry finds itself; but, encouraged to discover such a friendly bunch of foresters, I am now keener than ever to emigrate with my young family to NZ from Zimbabwe, whence we are shortly to be evicted. Any positive leads towards securing an employment offer would, therefore, provide us with a much-needed opportunity to join you.

Thank you.

**Peter Lowe,
12 Newton Spicer Drive,
Chisipite,
Harare,
Zimbabwe**

56th ANZAAS

Massey University,

Palmerston North

26-30 January 1987

Congress theme: 'Science in a Changing Society'

Forestry focus: 'Social and Economic Perspectives on Forestry and Agroforestry'

Contact: Dr. Michael Roche,
Forestry Section ANZAAS,
Department of Geography,
Massey University,
PALMERSTON NORTH.

NEW ZEALAND INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

The 1986 convention is to highlight the dramatic changes in the public sector under the title

'Purpose, performance, and profit — redefining the public sector'

The convention is to be held in the James Cook Hotel, Wellington on September 16 and 17 and is open to anyone interested in the subject. Registration coordinator is Anna Aitken, tel. (04) 722-733 or write to P.O. Box 2661, Wellington.