

and recommendations being reached and written up. On-the-job coaching also qualifies as legitimate CPD, providing that learning objectives have been identified and the coaching process is documented along with outcomes. Formulating objectives and evaluating how well they are achieved is the difference between an informal chat and structured learning.

Writing articles for journals and other publications is also recognised for CPD, providing this involves new learning or assimilation of ideas by the author.

CPD credits are assessed as the number of hours of active learning time, irrespective of the type of activity involved. This is the most easily understood and user-friendly measurement, even if, from a theoretical standpoint, it can be difficult to defend.

Registration is open to all Full Members and Fellows of the Institute. Application forms, including details of the criteria for registration, are being sent to all eligible members for their consideration. Applicants submit examples of their

written work and attend a professional interview with a panel of Registration Board members. Initial responses from members to the 'Expression of interest' questionnaire sent out earlier in the year suggest that many members welcome the opportunity of having their professional status reviewed by peers and recognised in the wider industry. The Registration Board is gearing up for a busy period processing applications over the next six months.

Environmental Working Group update

NZ Forest Accord and Principles

The NZIF is preparing a letter to the *New Zealand Forest Accord and Principles for Commercial Plantation Forest Management* partners expressing concern about a number of issues relating to both documents and offering to meet and discuss ways of resolving these. The letter has been prepared following comment expressed in this journal and at the NZIF AGM in Invercargill, as well as recent additional consultation by the Environmental Working Group with Maori forestry interests. Major concerns are with shortcomings in the wording in the documents, lack of consultation with some stakeholders in their development, in particular Maori, and issues of sovereignty, and landowners' rights. Events since the signing of the *Accord*, including the Resource Management Act 1991, mean that the *Accord* has, in part, been superseded.

The *Accord and Principles* are important documents with respect to environmental issues confronting New Zealand forestry, but there is now a need for a common set of operating principles acceptable to a broader range of stakeholders.

Environmental Seminar

The Environmental Working Group is progressing plans to run two one-day environmental seminars in Christchurch and Rotorua on February 25 and 27, 1997 respectively. The aim of the seminars is to raise awareness and practical understanding of forestry's impact on and interaction with the environment and means of ensuring environmental best practice. The Institute is planning the seminars in association with the New Zealand Farm Forestry Association and Commonwealth Forestry Association.

NZIF Position Statement on Biodiversity

Karen Shaw has prepared a draft position statement on biodiversity which will be distributed to members for comment in due course.

Environment and Conservation Organisation (ECO) Conference

I attended the ECO AGM and Conference at Otaki in August, the theme of which was Environment and the Election. Attempts are being made by some ECO

members to stir up issues over natural forest logging, including a proposed petition banning all natural forest logging, but otherwise forestry as an environmental issue is largely on the back burner. Some useful discussions were had with ECO representatives over the *Accord and Principles*.

I strongly believe that the Institute should maintain its presence at these forums.

Tim Thorpe
Convenor

Maori perspectives in forestry

Council at its July 2 meeting in Rotorua acknowledged a need to address appropriate processes to ensure recognition of Maori perspectives in forestry decision-making.

The September 6 meeting of the NZIF Environmental Working Group, with invited guests John Ruru and John Herbert, considered a specific example of problems caused by failure to take on board Maori perspectives. The particular issue was whether the Institute should or should not continue to take an interest in the New Zealand Forest Accord and Principles for Commercial Plantation Forest Management in New Zealand.

Consideration of Maori perspectives revealed that aspects of the Accord and the Principles worked against the interests of Maori. Some of the issues were:

- i. tino rangatiratanga, the right of Maori to maintain full authority over use of their resources, was being compromised;
- ii two or three cycles of land clearance on the East Coast has resulted in successive generations of seral vegetation in the form of manuka and kanuka and degradation of land productivity; reversal of this trend has been urgently needed;
- iii the scrubland is not "natural forest",

- iv enforcement of the NZ Forest Accord on a proposed joint partner with Ngati Porou cost Ngati Porou postponement of afforestation and restoration of productivity; this can be measured in an extra \$300 per hectare cost of removing regrowth to be carried over the length of a 30 year rotation;
- v emphasis on preservation of indigenous forest diminishes encouragement of sustained forest management for sustained yield of native timbers;
- vi the Accord has been corporate driven and penalises individual land owners.

It has been agreed that two courses of action need to be pursued:

1. At the local level Sections are encouraged to dialogue with tangata whenua on Maori issues which need to be taken into account in local forestry development; and
2. Dialogue is to be initiated with appropriate Maori organisations at the national level to enhance the Institute's understanding of Maori perspectives.

Peter Allan