

# Environmental Working Group update

## Green and Growing Seminars

The *Green and Growing* seminars attracted some 60 attendees in Christchurch and 120 in Rotorua. The topics included predictions of the future, marketing, processing and forest growing from a range of environmental perspectives. New Zealand Forest Industries magazine ran extensive coverage of the seminars in its April 1997 issue, and papers from the seminars are being printed in New Zealand Forestry. Otherwise copies of the papers presented at the seminars may be obtained from the NZIF Secretariat.

## ISO 14 000

The New Zealand ISO 14 000 forestry working group met again in March. Further comment was provided on the draft ISO 14 000 forestry technical document which, subject to a further series of national and international meetings, should be finalised in September 1997.

## Follow-up

Amongst the subjects raised at the *Green and Growing* seminars was Forest Stewardship Council certification and Maori participation in forestry. The NZIF is keen to further members' understanding of both FSC and ISO 14 000 and is considering appropriate measures to do this, including the possibility of a series of regionally-based workshops. Maori participation in forestry, and the forestry profession, is already being actively addressed by the NZIF and will receive further impetus throughout the year and at the 1998 NZIF Annual General Meeting in Wanganui.

## New Zealand's Forestry Image Abroad

There has been some debate in forestry circles about the image that New Zealand forestry should be promoting abroad. Under the NZ Forest Service, multiple-use forestry was the management term of the

day, to be debunked by Treasury and others at the time of the carve-up of the Forest Service in 1987. More recently, the argument has been put that plantation forests are "crops" which are managed quite independently of indigenous forests (which are not particularly important to New Zealand forestry anyway) – a "dual" approach to forest management.

The 1966 NZIF AGM in Invercargill indicated that not all agree with the "dual" approach to New Zealand forestry. At a Ministry of Forestry Contact Group meeting in January 1997 it was decided that

"integrated forestry" was the more appropriate term to use in international forestry circles. This recognises that plantation and indigenous forestry in New Zealand are part of a forestry continuum, and not divorced from each other. New Zealand's image abroad will be enhanced by promoting plantation forests as more than just crops. It is the overall management of our forests – indigenous as well as plantation – that will be under the scrutiny of overseas countries.

**Tim Thorpe**

## Why a Maori name?

(Continued)

In seeking to address the New Zealand Forest Accord, a voluntary agreement between parties, the Institute was alerted to the fact that the Maori perspective had been not only ignored but trampled on. So the Council has spent a year exploring ways and means of getting on board with Maori perspectives of forestry.

For many Pakeha in the Institute a big shift in attitude could be required. It could mean moving outside the comfort zone to tune in with the land ethic and heritage of the other culture which has been treated as being of little consequence because it became a minority soon after the signing of the Treaty. It could mean recognising and accepting the protocol of the marae. Many people in the forestry profession are accustomed to such attitudes. But how often is such comprehension actually coming to the board table? Or is such comprehension being seen by Maori as tokenism which never translates into action?

The Institute is serious about taking on board the Maori perspective in forestry.

Forests are recorded in the founding document of our nation, Te Tiriti o Waitangi. Aotearoa/New Zealand has two official languages, English and Maori. Government has set the lead by providing each central government department with a Maori name alongside its English name. The Maori Language Commission (Te Taura Whiri te Reo Maori) has recommended that all corporate bodies provide dual names.

## Enabling Process

A member of the Institute asked why not names in Japanese, Korean, Taiwanese, German, Dutch, etc. as well? The answer lies in the fundamental principle of the nation's integrity. What enables the people of our nation to function in an integrated manner? Recognition of indigenous people's rights is an enabling process for a large proportion of people in our profession.

It is also an enabling process for Maori forestry to work in partnership with Pakeha-dominated forestry in development of the industry and profession as a whole.

So, adoption of *Te Putahi Ngaherehere o Aotearoa* is a first step being formally taken to state that the Institute wants to enter into serious dialogue with Maori in the forestry profession.

**Peter Allan**

## NZIF Website

The NZIF now has a cyber-face, thanks to the efforts of one of our members, David South at Auburn University in the US. The NZIF website can be found at two locations:

<http://www.forestry.auburn.edu/people/faculty//biology/south/nz/nzone.html>

<http://www.canterbury.ac.nz/fore/nzif/home.html>

Comments are welcome and should be directed to Paul Smale (paul.smale@rayonier.com). Paul is on the NZIF Council and looks after publicity for the Institute.