

Parliamentary forester lived full life

Donald Manning Slade 1935-2003

Don joined the New Zealand Forest Service as a Technical Trainee in 1955 following a successful scholastic and athletic career at Wellington College and a year at Victoria University studying for a BSc. His stated reason for a career in forestry, as quoted by many of his colleagues, was to dispense with study and enjoy a healthy outdoor occupation. This was not surprising considering his sporting achievements in boxing, fencing, gymnastics, rugby, soccer, cricket and athletics with emphasis on the long jump and hop step and jump. His Inter-Collegiate school record in the long jump stood for many years.

His trainee years were spent in Rotorua, Canterbury and Southland Conservancies. His first appointed position was as second-in-charge of Dusky Forest in West Otago followed by a period at the Forestry Training Centre in Rotorua. His first officer-in-charge position was at Te Wera Forest in Taranaki followed by the same appointment at Berwick Forest, Otago.

An appointment to staff training Head Office, Wellington in 1970 was relatively short-lived because he was seconded to Parliament as Private Secretary to the Minister of Forests, Duncan McIntyre, in 1973 for 2 years.

Don then joined the permanent core of private secretaries, continuing in this role until his retirement



Don Slade

in 1998 serving ministers in the forestry, lands, agriculture, police and Maori portfolios including Colin Moyle, Matt Rata, Venn Young, Koro Wetere, Jonathan Elworthy and John Luxton.

He enjoyed the parliamentary lifestyle because of his interest in meeting people, his organising abilities, his interest in all forestry matters particularly at the highest level, and of course the benefits of Bellamys plus the 'odd' game of golf, and internal and external travel.

Ministers he served spoke highly of Don's companionship while on overseas trips and his personal integrity in often-difficult situations. Don transferred from the New Zealand Forest Service to permanent parliamentary service under Internal Affairs before the Forest Service was disbanded in 1987. Don was awarded the Queen's NZ Commemorative medal in 1990 for services to the public sector.

Don was a person, respected by his colleagues, who enjoyed life to the fullest and in later years spent as much time as possible on the golf course.

His death on 11th May 2003 after a short illness shocked all those close to him. He is survived by his wife Barbara and children Mark, Deborah and Christopher.

Gavin McKenzie

Plantation establishment contribution recalled

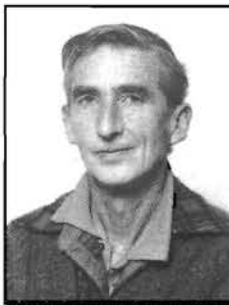
Tim Hedderwick 1921-2002

My first encounter with Tim Hedderwick was at the Forest Research Institute in 1977, where he impressed me as a quiet, capable fellow, with likely roots in the British Empire. He was always pleasant to talk with and displayed enthusiasm and inventiveness that were contagious.

Born in London, he was christened "Gilbert White" after an 18th century naturalist who was one of his ancestors. His family moved to Barcelona, Spain, when he was three months old, and by age 8 when he returned to England for boarding school he spoke fluent Catalan.

Tim completed a BSc (Forestry) degree at Edinburgh University in June, 1945, where he earned the nickname "Tim" by his tendency to shout "Timber!" when felling trees. After a stint in the UK Forestry Commission, he migrated to Burma and the Burmese Forestry Department in 1946, where he reputedly contended with bandits while using elephants to haul teak logs. With the onset of civil war he moved back to London, and was interviewed by Alan Entrican, a former Director General of the NZ Forest Service.

He arrived in Wellington in February 1946, from where



Tim Hedderwick

he was posted to Auckland Conservancy and then Rotorua Conservancy before finally settling in his natural habitat at the Forest Research Institute in 1952. He worked on seed predation during the early years, and his wife Doris remembers him bringing caged rats and mice home for the Christmas holidays. He later contributed to research on containerised seedlings, a vacuum disk design for a precision sower, pampus grass control, and distribution and guidance systems for aerial spreading of fertiliser pellets. He was a member of the Institute of Forestry from 1952.

Tim harboured a lifelong fascination with trains and boats, and tinkered with model trains until the end of his life. Sadly, he was beset with illness during his last few years, being confined to home on oxygen.

I'll remember him for his valuable contributions to plantation establishment research, for his thoroughness, and for the careful respect he offered to other people.

He is survived by his wife Doris and five children.

Euan Mason, with help from Doris Hedderwick, Harold Sanderson & Dave Preest