

# NZIF AGM and annual conference (3–6 September 2017)

Tim Thorpe, Murray Parrish and Chris Goulding

## AGM

Forty-six voting members attended the 89th AGM of the NZIF on 3 September 2017 in Rotorua. Members stood in silence in memory of John Groome (member since 1954), Percy Parker (1961) and Graham Weston (1954).

The Annual Report and the budget for 2017–2018 were presented and approved.

Two amendments were passed by the AGM. One was to clarify that the Registration Board prescribes procedures for registration, subject to approval by Council. The second was to amend a number of Rules to meet the requirements of the Real Estate Agents (Exemptions) Regulations 2017. A vote of thanks was carried with acclamation for the work undertaken by Andrew McEwen, Simon Rapley and John Schrider in relation to the latter.

## New Fellows

New Fellows appointed at the AGM were **Brett Gilmore**, **Peter Hill** and **Peter Weir**.

## Prince of Wales Sustainability Cup – Alfred Duval

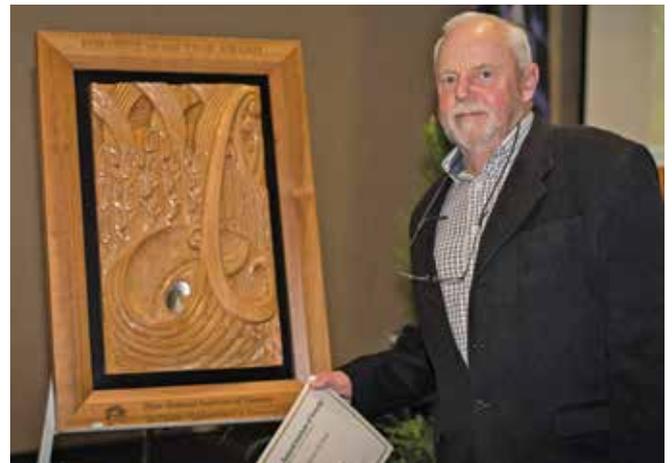
Alfred Duval, a recent graduate working for Port Blakely Ltd, was selected for outstanding achievements as an emerging leader in sustainable forestry. This new award was set up earlier this year to reward and encourage a young New Zealand forestry professional working in the area of sustainable forest management. The Prince of Wales was deeply involved in the selection process.



Alfred Duval – Prince of Wales Sustainability Cup

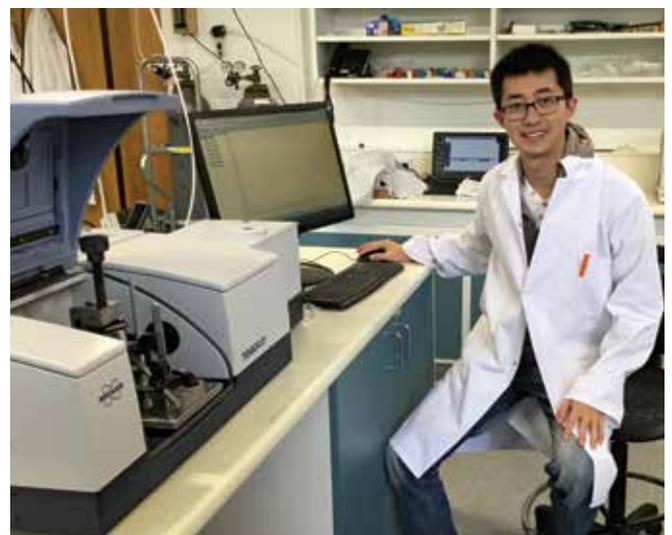
## NZIF Forester of the Year – Garth Cumberland

When presenting the award, James Treadwell, NZIF President, stated that this is the highest accolade attainable by a New Zealand forestry professional. Garth Cumberland is an agri-forestry specialist with over three decades of experience. He has made an outstanding contribution to the industry through his efforts to establish a cohesive national forest policy for New Zealand, obtaining critical support from key stakeholders within the forest industry and beyond. 'He is not just a great forester. Garth has vested a huge amount of time, effort and money to bring the Forest Policy Project to life,' said James.



Garth Cumberland – NZIF Forester of the Year

## NZIF Foundation student awards



Fei Guo – Future Forest Scholarship

**Future Forest Scholarship** of \$10,000: **Fei Guo**, a PhD student at the University of Canterbury is researching the use of spectroscopy of cellulose and wood to predict growth-stress levels in standing trees and logs. This award is made possible by a donation from the forest investment company, New Forests.

**The Otago/Southland Award** of \$1,500: **Luke Holmes**, a Bachelor of Forest Engineering Honours student at the university of Canterbury. His research topic is the productivity of fully mechanised cable logging operations based on a study of an innovative method of cable logging in an operation in Southland.

**The Mary Sutherland scholarship** of \$1,000: **Pauline Edge**, a second year Diploma of Forest Management student at Toi Ohomai Institute of Technology in Rotorua.



Pauline Edge receives the Mary Sutherland Scholarship award from Dr Andrew McEwen

**The Frank Hutchinson Scholarship** of \$1,000 for a post-graduate student: **Michael Pay**, a second year Master of Forestry Science student at the university of Canterbury whose project is estate modelling of a multi-species, multi-objective forest.



Michael Pay receives the Frank Hutchinson Scholarship award from Dr Andrew McEwen

**University undergraduate scholarship** of \$1,000: **Morgan Scragg**, a first-year Bachelor of Forestry Science student at the University of Canterbury.

## Student poster competition

The winners for the best student posters submitted to the NZIF conference, as judged by conference delegates, were:

- **William Hollis**, a Diploma in Forest Management student at Toi Ohomai Institute of Technology, Rotorua – the classification of native forest using remote sensing imagery (first prize of \$800)
- **Okey Francis Obi**, a PhD student at the University of Canterbury – the efficiency of logging crews (second prize of \$500)
- **Michael Pay**, a Master of Forestry Science student at the University of Canterbury – outcomes from the management of a marginal hill country forest property (third prize of \$200).

## Conference theme – ‘The future of the New Zealand forestry sector’

A CPD workshop was held on the first day of the conference. Andrew McEwen described the rights and responsibilities of Registered Foresters under the Real Estate Agents Act. Anna Tyler summarised the rapid expansion in law internationally to curb the trade in illegally logged timber.

On the second day, the opening address was given by Peter Clark, who in 2050 looked back on a resurgent forestry sector. He flagged politically contentious issues such as agricultural pollution in a positive light. Roger Smith described what successful biosecurity in New Zealand would look like in 2025. Maintaining the social licence to operate is essential to be able to act quickly in a crisis. The risk from relying on monoculture applies equally to *P. radiata*, cows, sheep and kiwifruit. The clock is ticking on methyl bromide. Charlotte Severne provided a vision of sustainable forestry land use by the Lake Rotoaira Forest Trust, managing 16,400 ha on behalf of 11,522 owners to realise the moemoea (dream) of their ancestors. The Trust works in partnership with the Crown under a Crown Lease process. Its forestry assets are increasing rapidly – \$37.9 million in 2017, expected to be \$80 million in 2026 when the lease expires and the Trust will take full responsibility for the forests.

A pilot afforestation programme for under-utilised Maori land on 1,000 ha was reported by Andy Dick. Government agencies, overseas investors and changing opportunities such as carbon forestry can be used to attract commercial investment. Graham Mulligan described the work carried out towards a safer Landcorp, providing a salutary reminder that no-one can take health and safety for granted and stop improving. The 1.226 million m<sup>3</sup> supply of pruned logs from the Central North Island processed locally was analysed by Jeff Tomblason. This total is forecast to reduce. Labour costs and demand for structural timber suggests that pruning will be increasingly

hard to justify. The objective of the Forest Policy Project as explained by Garth Cumberland is to establish and maintain a pragmatic and enduring policy for all New Zealand's forests, activities and users. Forestry interests in the future are far broader than even traditional uses.

Representatives from some of the political parties – the Greens, Labour, National, New Zealand First and TOP – spoke to their forest policy. They each outlined their views in 15 minutes, followed by questions and answers. Each party recognised forestry provides multiple benefits and has a major part to play in New Zealand. Most recognised the need for forestry to have its own voice in government and the public service.

'Forestry in the public eye' was covered by four speakers. Robert Nola spoke on 'Fake news and Post-truth', stating that individual knowledge is largely based on trust in the provider of information. The explosion in ready access to 'credible' information is undermining trust in the 'post-truth' world. Brian Richards proposed positioning the branding of the New Zealand forest sector, which currently reflects its evolution from a low-cost commodity. The sector is divided, inhibiting efforts to move wood and radiata up the value chain. An expanding, urbanised global population will be prepared to pay more for less, if convinced of our environmental credentials. The sector needs to be both tree-fellers and story-tellers.

Steve Wilton described Kiwis investing in forestry. As a licensed manager of Managed Investment Schemes, they currently have 6,500 private individuals investing their money each year for 25 years. They do so on the perception that they will make money from a successful forest industry that is sustainable and good for New Zealand. The sector's challenge is to ensure that the facts about the forest industry are the public's perception. Public investment is a barometer of that perception, with the investors becoming advocates for the industry. Forestry's great narrative was explained by Peter Oliver. Crafted publicity without credible performance does not fool the public for long, but credible performance that fails to converse with the public is little more than insiders talking amongst themselves.

Cameron Bagrie gave an economic update, the global economy muddling through with adequate growth but with four horsemen of the apocalypse: debt, decreasing working-age population, weaker productivity and very low global policy rates. Mike May suggested that research and genetics offer a way out of the dilemma of increasing production in a finite world.

Tim Payne carried out a NZIF member sample survey that showed awareness of the environmental risks and the need to develop and communicate a compelling narrative. Increased research on steeplands was required, with retirement of the worst of the worst. Russell Death reiterated that agricultural intensification is the cause of the decline in New Zealand's water quality. One dairy cow is equivalent to 14 humans in terms of faecal waste – there are 6.5 million dairy cows nationally, equivalent to 90 million people. Riparian planting prevents phosphorus

run-off, but 90% of cow urine nitrogen leaches through the soil. Sally Strang stated that forest certification in New Zealand will remain, with increasing emphasis on social issues likely to continue due to stakeholder expectations.

Wilding conifers are regarded as a major pest in New Zealand. Glen Thorby discussed the use of biotechnology to breed trees that are sterile, and hence improve productivity, without seed production and dispersal. The National Environmental Standard (NES) for Plantation Forestry comes into force 1 May 2018. Chris Fowler outlined its effect, features and implications as it applies consistent environmental standards to regional planning and resource consents.

Harri Savonen, Valtimo Forest Machinery Training Centre, North Karelia, Finland, with 230 students and 30 teachers, demonstrated the difference between Finnish operator training and that of New Zealand. This presentation was followed by Linton Winder, Toi Ohomai Institute of Technology, and David Evison, School of Forestry, University of Canterbury. Forestry training is not usually a student's first choice. Changing the public perception of forestry and the perception of key influencers of school leavers should be a priority for sector-wide promotional activities.

Mark Preece asked where next with industry training – could a collaborative approach improve training? Richard Parker stated that increased robotics and automation was inevitable, improving safety, productivity and economics, but that a completely different work environment and skill set is needed from current manual practice. Ross Davis commented that there was a forestry labour shortage, but no overall planning since the demise of the Forest Service.

Steve Chadwick, mayor, described the Rotorua Lakes Council's 'Wood First' policy. Marty Verry claimed that wood will be the future of mid-rise buildings, with advanced engineered timber products and pre-fabrication resulting in speedier construction and overall project savings of 3% to 4% over non-wood buildings. However, education and stringent quality assurance is vital; a loss of trust, as occurred from the leaky building crisis, would destroy this potential. Tobias Smith showed examples of a timber renaissance and the renewed interest in big, tall timber buildings, with imaginative architecture. Modern technology, and new construction materials and techniques, have pushed the boundaries of the structural timber world.

Florian Graichen illustrated advances in the research and adoption of bio-based (wood) products combining sustainability with performance. The bioeconomy and circular economy drivers are expanding rapidly worldwide. Daiman Otto concluded the session and the conference by stating that massive change is coming to the New Zealand construction industry from using wood and digital construction. His five prescriptions for change include full parametric typology-based design, CodeMark certification, sensing environments with embedded monitoring, a Blockchain ledger for consent control and information sharing with financial incentives.