

# Fellow of the Royal Society

Paul Kibblewhite, a scientist with the Pulp and Paper Research Organization (PAPRO) at the Forest Research Institute in Rotorua, has been made a Fellow of the Royal Society. The Fellowship is in recognition of his work on fibre characteristics and the paper-making process. His work has led to improvements in the quality of many paper products.

Paul began his career as a trainee in the NZ Forest Service, did a B.Sc. in New Zealand and then his M.S. and Ph.D. at the Institute of Paper Chemistry in Wisconsin. He has worked at the Forest Research Institute since 1969 and is currently leader of the Fibre and Paper Group at PAPRO.

The Institute of Forestry congratulates Paul, one of its members, for being given this honour.



Dr Paul Kibblewhite

## Obituary R.L. Hathaway

Bob Hathaway died suddenly at the age of 41 on July 9, 1988.

Bob was Group Leader, Plant Materials at the Soil Conservation Centre, Aokautere. He was born and educated in Wellington, obtaining a B.Sc. (Botany) from Victoria University in 1968. Joining the Water and Soil Division of the Ministry of Works and Development in Palmerston North, he worked as a scientist at the Plant Materials Centre. In 1970 he completed an M.Sc. in plant physiology and plant breeding at Massey University.

Bob's main research field was the genetic improvement of willow species. This work resulted in the release of a

# NEW INFORMATION

## BOOK REVIEWS

### 'Forest vines to snow tussocks'

**Forest vines to snow tussocks – the story of New Zealand plants, by John Dawson. Victoria University Press, 1988. ISBN 0-86473-047-0; 264 pages. \$NZ45.00.**

As a former student of Dr John Dawson, who has recently retired, I was immediately attracted to the idea of reviewing his book 'Forest vines to snow tussocks'. That I was able to read it and enjoy catching up on New Zealand plant ecology and geography as I flew to North America is a tribute itself. For like Len Cockayne's classic, 'New Zealand Plants and their story', this is a book full of interest to those who love plants, particularly the southern flora.

Dr Dawson has brought together a large body of ecological and paleo-botanical literature and in doing so has given a balanced view of the various native vegetation types and their past development. The book begins by looking at the unique characteristics of New Zealand flora covering the forests, shrubs, open habitat and alpine communities. This is followed by a brief description of the relationships with outlying islands and other parts of the Southern Hemisphere. The final chapter considers the fossil evidence and draws the subject together.



Bob Hathaway.

large number of shrub and tree willows now widely used for soil conservation

I do believe that we have the last word on our plant geography in this book. My impression is that many of the ideas have had to evolve as we have progressed in other disciplines – our understanding of plate tectonics, past climates and fossils are three obvious examples. Researchers now also have other tools which will clarify our understanding, many of these revolving around physiological, biochemical and genetic studies. They will and are providing good methods for testing many of the older hypotheses and developing new ones. No doubt in many cases, as Dr Dawson puts it, "with little direct evidence from the past we can only speculate".

This book has its limitations. Firstly, as Dr Dawson indicates at the outset, it deals only with the vascular plants. More important, it is largely a book looking backwards. There are only a few pages on introduced plants and little on man's impact. Yet obviously these will have overriding influence on the future. Again, as Dr Dawson points out, we don't have pristine vegetation anymore. Thus the dynamics of change due to man are, to my mind, another area worthy of as detailed attention as is given to the long-distance past.

## CONSULTANT RECOGNITION

Mr John Gibson Roper, Rotorua, has applied for recognition as a Specialist Forest Consultant in Marketing, Utilization and Timber Processing, BOP.

Under the NZIF Constitution any member of the Institute may send objections in writing to the:

Registrar of Consultants,  
NZ Institute of Forestry,  
P.O. Box 12314,  
WELLINGTON NORTH

and river control in New Zealand. Bob's work received international recognition when, in 1987, he was invited to present a paper at a willow breeding symposium held in Sweden.

Bob was a member of the New Zealand Association of Soil and Water Conservation and the New Zealand Society of Horticultural Science. He was also a member of this Institute.

Bob's untimely death is a sad loss to his family, colleagues and friends.