

- b) Raw material or added value exporting
- c) Planning and managing a sustainable environment
- d) Notable agroforestry developments
- e) Socially responsible forestry in Australasia.

The pre-conference tour, featuring the many beauty spots of Godzone's mainland plus local facets of primary production, is being finalised and is available for all conference participants and families and, depending on numbers, other interested people. There will be a chance for visitors to see North Island forests too, in a post-conference tour.

The conference field trips are designed to highlight different aspects of Canterbury plains and high country forestry, with beautiful scenery thrown in and an enjoyable relaxing atmosphere guaranteed.

The last joint conference in Hobart in 1985 is still spoken of with great enthusiasm by those lucky enough to attend and the Christchurch experience will be no exception.

If you haven't been to an NZIF conference for a while, make a point of not missing this one. Meet up with your fellow graduates at the School of Forestry's 21st reunion which will be celebrated during the conference. For

those who trained at ANU or Yarralumla, meet up with your old friends too.

This conference represents a chance to make new contacts and renew old ones. Find out what is happening where and to whom.

The committee will arrange a variety of accommodation to meet all budgets. Ring now to book bed space if you have colleagues in Christchurch.

Registration Forms

Registration forms will be distributed through the journal in the New Year.

FORESTRY IDENTITIES

JACK HENRY

This is the first in a series of articles on Forestry Identities, written by Geoff Chavasse.

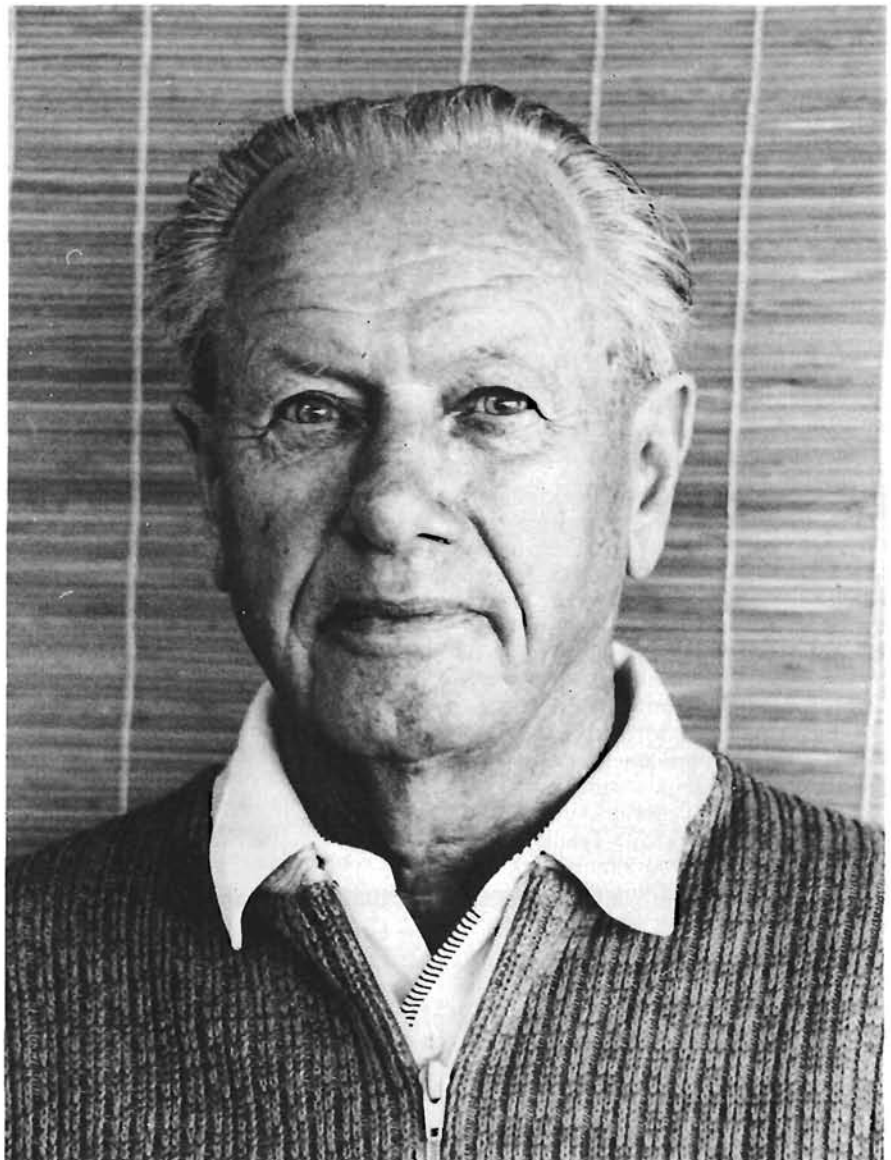
C.G.R. Chavasse

"Laddie, we must not make the mistake of doing nothing." These were the words Sir David Henry, Chairman of NZ Forest Products Limited, said to Jack Henry in 1956 when he was trying to persuade the company that it ought to invest money in tending its huge forests. Jack followed the prescription for the rest of his career.

Jack is a loyal man, and also acknowledges his debt to Alex Entrican whose approach to the Minister of Forests just after the war made it possible for Jack to go to Otago University to study botany. From there he graduated B.Sc. in 1949.

Jack's story is one of dogged progress from the bottom to the top. He was born in June 1917. He left school in 1931 having passed a Proficiency Examination. Times were hard. He worked on farms in Northland, the Waikato and Australia before joining the State Forest Service in 1938 as a labourer. He camped out in Kaingaroa, Murupara, Waimaroke and Wairapukau, planting, pruning and working in the nursery. In 1939 he was appointed cruising foreman at Te Whaiti just as tractor logging commenced in native forests.

There was a break in 1942 to 1945 when Jack served in the RNZAF in the Pacific as a fitter-turner, but his life was to be devoted to forestry thereafter. During university vacations he worked with Jack Holloway on Forest Survey in the initial studies of the Longwoods and western Southland beech forests. He was a member of the New Zealand-American Fiordland Expedition in 1949 before moving to the Forest Research Institute.



In October that year he joined NZ Forest Products as Assistant Forest

Administrator for 176,000 acres of untended plantations. At that time 50%

of the trees were dead, due to Sirex attack – an “awesome sight”, he records.

Jack was appointed Assistant Forest Superintendent in 1957 and knew that the urgent need was to introduce intensive silvicultural practices, including full stocking on replanted felled stands. He had to fight entrenched accountants, and was grudgingly granted £20,000 in that year.

Gradually the practice of excellent state of the art silviculture was extended to the whole forest estate, which was growing fast, and eventually covered 500,000 acres. Among the difficulties was the “slaughter” (Jack’s word) caused by logging. The loggers were persuaded eventually that they had a part to play in successful silvicultural management, and this improved.

Reluctantly Jack realised that he would have to move to higher management if excellence in forest management were to be achieved, and in 1963 he was appointed General Manager, Forestry Division, with responsibility for all forest operations including roading and logging. Many aspects of forestry were developed under his vigorous administration, including computerised working plans and forest models.

In 1971 Jack was appointed Associate Director, moving to full Director in 1976 when he took control of sawmilling as well as retaining responsibility for all forest operations. In 1978 he became Resident Director, Kinleith, in charge of the whole industrial complex and nationwide forestry operations. He retired in 1982, a man of wisdom and integrity.

Other Activities

This does not cover his extra-company interests and activity, which were very considerable. He was a member of the Forestry Council 1972-82; a council member and later President of the Forest Owners’ Association; Director of Forest Investments Ltd, from 1983 to 1985. His service to our Institute was also exemplary – member since 1950, on Council from 1956 to 1964, Vice President 1958-60, President 1960 to 1962, and Honorary Member since 1978. He was also responsible for raising funds for Dothistroma research, Frank Newhook’s pathology programme, the Chair of Wood Science at Canterbury University, LIRA, and also Visiting Fellows at the School of Forestry.

Jack is a modest man, and is full of praise for others who shared his work and enthusiasm for forestry. Apart from those already mentioned he especially remembers Dave Kennedy, Owen Jones, Jack Holloway, Steve Spurr and Max Jacobs.

Jack enjoys a busy retirement in Brisbane, swimming and practising his hobbies of gardening and wood turning.



NEW INFORMATION



BOOK REVIEWS

Forestry in China

China’s forest regions are vast and diverse – from the northern coniferous forests to tropical rainforests of the east, the steppes and desert forests of the north, and the mountain and plateau forests of the west and southwest. This land of 9.6 million square kilometres contains 30,000 species, including 2800 tree species and 2700 genera of seed plants, making China’s flora among the richest in the world.

Professor S.D. Richardson, the west’s foremost forestry expert on China and author of the 1966 classic “Forestry in Communist China”, recently visited China for the second time. In this comprehensive and current book, “Forests and Forestry in China”, he details not only how forest resources are managed, but includes lessons learned by the Chinese which can be applied to many other developing countries.

Because forest production plays a crucial role in economic development, China has been forced to acknowledge the significance of forestry. Richardson maintains that forestry is of greater importance in China than in any other country of the world, basing this theory on three critical aspects of China’s economy; the importance of protective reforestation in conserving water for agriculture, the importance of timber in industry, and the acute shortage of forest products throughout most of China. His up-to-date assessment and analysis of the economics of present-day forestry show how the Chinese people are attempting to solve their problems – forestry’s aim is to increase the area under trees to the point where China can eventually be self-sufficient in industrial timber and fuelwood.

Richardson takes a comprehensive look at China’s:

- Economic Background
- Environment and Land Use
- Forest Economy
- Forest Industries and Trade
- Administration, Policy, and Law
- Production Practices
- Environmental and Protection Forestry
- Education, Training, and Research

Additionally he focuses on harvesting, sawmilling, tariffs, foreign exchange, and pulp and paper production. The

book also contains an analysis of seed collection, site preparation, forest health and protection, and planting. Also included is a section on environmental and protection forestry with information on urban forestry, water conservation, soil erosion, desertification, and salinisation and alkalinisation.

While Richardson focuses on forestry’s importance, he also demonstrates its significant interrelationship with the rest of China’s natural resource base, especially agriculture. To maximise these resources, China must learn from the past to find ways to avoid an imminent supply/demand crisis caused by excessive cutting of forests, and work toward achieving sustainable, agriculture-supportive forestry. As China begins to address these new challenges to move toward a more efficient and less wasteful system, changes in forest policies during this time of transition may offer important guidance to other countries struggling to cope with their own natural resource problems.

Richardson’s detailed picture of the forest industry may be the last complete view of his key element in the Chinese economy that we see for some time.

This book, apart from being extremely interesting for all forestry practitioners, is essential reading for any forester who intends to visit or has visited the People’s Republic of China. It is of great help in at least partially unravelling the bewildering complex of administrative structures that visiting foresters encounter. I am very impressed with the way in which Professor Richardson has drawn together such a complex of information into an eminently readable and coherent text.

I have one word of caution based on personal experience of poplar breeding and cultivation in China. Take the botanical names (and probably statistical data) with a very large grain of salt. The poplars in China are given different species names in different provinces for exactly the same cultivar. Poplar and willow cultivars with the same name in different provinces may consist of a different complex of clones.

The translation of numbers from Chinese to English can vary by factors of 10 to 100, depending on the ability of particular translators.