



Fine Wine Takes a Little Time

Foresters generally tend to have a fairly long term perspective, why else would they be advocating the planting of trees they might not be around to see harvested, or in whose revenues they might not get to share?

New Zealand's foresters are no exception, the enthusiasm with which pruning (to produce clear timber for consumption 20 or more years hence), has been applied in this country is almost unique — only South African foresters can claim a similar record.

Nevertheless shortening time frames and increasing efficiency are two of the key-stones to success in the modern commercial world, and I have little doubt that the rotation lengths that I have become accustomed to will diminish over the next few decades. Geneticists will find ways to instill all the characteristics of mature (old) wood into younger and younger trees, growth rates will be increased although I suspect the premium product will still be solid wood.

But for many of us real value will still come from the individual crafting of fine furnishings and other products where detail and quality is paramount and upon which (the patina of age can be anticipated. As it is with a fine wine, so it is with a fine wooden piece — the end result makes the waiting worth while.

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Clearly other foresters share this view, otherwise what was I doing driving into Martinborough (South Wairarapa's best known wine growing region) with a senior member of the Institute a few weeks ago?



From left Institute President Peter Berg, former Journal editor John Holloway, and former Journal publisher John Wilson admire the 12 year old kauri bowl.

Former Journal Editor John Holloway had asked me to come and assist in a presentation to a long term publisher of Institute papers and I was happy to assist, the weather was superb and we were able to stop and pick up one or two props to support the occasion. As lunch with our guest of honour was coming to a close John passed me the presentation item, a finely crafted kauri bowl inscribed with a short message on a silver plate. The message read:

Presented to John Wilson by the New Zealand Institute of Foresters in recognition of his services to forestry, and to the Institute as provider of printing and

editorial services to the NZ Journal of Forestry 1963-86.

Well to some people 12 years might seem a bit of a delay, however we now had the advantage of seeing some well grown radiata pine that John Wilson had planted back in his Journal days, along with a good mix of other trees. John also runs a homestay in a beautiful rural setting and welcomes visits from other forestry-minded people. And of course the wine is maturing nicely ... thank you John H and John W for an excellent outing.

Peter Berg

Honorary Members and the Distinction of Fellow

At last April's AGM in Wanganui, the Institute passed a Constitutional Amendment to simplify membership categories and provide a clearer recognition of professional excellence and service. In the past, certain members have been classed as both Honorary and Fellow members of the Institute. At present there are a small number of people in this 'dual classification' and this will not change for these people. In future however, there will only be five categories of membership: Honorary, Registered, Full, Associate and Student.

Honorary membership shall be a special category reserved for those who are not members of the Institute, yet deserve special recognition for their contribution to

forestry or service to the Institute. Rather than a membership category, Fellow shall now be a distinction granted to Registered or Full members, in recognition of their achievement of eminence in the profession. From now on people cannot become both Fellow and Honorary members. There will be no fee attached to the Honorary membership class, being an award to 'outsiders', nor any additional fee for the distinction of Fellow.

Nominations now called ...

Members of the Institute are encouraged to consider and nominate suitable non members for Honorary Membership and eligible members for the distinction of Fellow.

Specifically :

An Honorary Member shall be a person who has been outstanding in :

- (a) service to the Institute, and, or
- (b) contributing to or influencing the practice of forestry in New Zealand.

A Fellow shall be a Registered or Full Member entitled to the distinction 'Fellow' when that person has :

- (a) been nominated by two members who shall be Honorary Members, Registered or Full Members;
- (b) been a Registered or Full Member for at least 5 years;
- (c) at the time of his/her application had at least 15 years in the practice, administration or teaching of, or research in