

President's Comments -

Let's make Christchurch a Special Reunion

Peter Berg

A number of members have encouraged Council to enter into the spirit of the new millennium and provide opportunities for its celebration at the 2000 AGM and conference. A keen Christchurch-based organising committee is making substantial progress with arrangements for the conference and details will be provided shortly.

Council has determined that millennium celebrations will indeed be part of the event, which will include amongst other things a celebratory dinner and a special issue of the Journal. A quick review of the past records of the Institute suggests that over the 72 years we have existed we have not devoted a lot of time to looking back or reflecting on our achievements, so this occasion may be a little unique. I would urge members to take advantage of this opportunity by:

- Joining us at Christchurch and making this a real reunion of members. Bring your partners and renew old acquaintances.
- If you have a story to tell or a photo to share forward it to the Journal Editor for possible inclusion in the special millennium issue. You will need to get it to him by mid-January and we would like to have as much of this material as possible. A number of our members will also be approached for contributions in specific areas and the special issue should become a real keep-sake.
- Bringing any other material associated with the last 72 years of the Institute along to the conference to be put on display, eg photographs, programmes, books. This material might well be useful for subsequent publication or display.

I shall look forward to seeing you all there. Over the

last few years as demands on time have increased members have found it more difficult to also support the Institute to the extent they would like. We have had the unprecedented situation of the Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer resigning from Council during the one term of office as a consequence of employment changes.

We have been fortunate that others have been prepared at short notice to step up and plug the gaps and Council will once again complete a busy work programme. Nevertheless we still have two vacancies on the current Council. If we wish to have a vibrant, energetic organisation providing leadership on forestry issues to the wider community, and promoting members interests as widely as possible, then we need more support.

The 2000 AGM will also be marked by the election of a new Council to guide us through the next 2-year period. Although we try and keep the demands on Councillors' time to a minimum, attendance at meetings, convening and participating on one or two subcommittees, and reporting back together require several days input per year. For members of Council there are rewards in being able to represent areas of particular interest and provide leadership.

I invite you to give consideration to your possible contribution to the Institute through Council. It would be great to have a strong list of nominees and be in a position to hold a ballot. I look forward to your support.



NZIF Indigenous Forest Management Committee

In the August issue an almost unforgivable error was made in the Indigenous Forest Management Committee Report by omitting the name of John Wardle as a member.

The Committee has been dealing with submissions to the Forests Amendment Bill and response to the Labour Party Indigenous Forest Management Policy. The Institute's written and oral submission on the Bill:

1. Supported sustainability controls being placed on the forest rather than the market.
2. Sought for forests under the South Island Landless Natives Act 1906:
 - a) Their recognition under Article II of the Treaty of Waitangi;
 - b) Their treatment in terms of the stated intent of the 1906 Act, i.e. for unalienable ownership for sustenance of beneficiaries;
 - c) Encouragement of their sustainable management by (a) education, (b) the Crown paying the cost of Sustainable Forest Management Plans, and (c) the Crown paying full compensation for the difference in net present worth between clear-felling and sustainable management, and;
 - d) Inclusion of West Coast Accord forests under Clause 2 of the principal Act subject to repeal of clause 10 of the

Second Schedule of the principal Act, viz. the detailed prescriptions.

Passage of the Bill has been interrupted by closure of the House to permit aspiring M.P.'s to campaign for the General Elections. Following the President's press release on 10 and 11 September responding to the Labour Party's Indigenous Forest Policy the Committee posed to the then Rt Hon Helen Clark the signals which can be read into the policy. Labour's publicly stated intent to halt sustainable management of beech forest on West Coast lands of the Crown designated for that purpose, under the legally binding West Coast Accord commercial contract, signals:

1. Intent to break the contract that compensates Waitutu Forest podocarp with sustainable management of Southland beech forest on lands of the Crown;
2. Intent to prevent sustainable management of privately owned indigenous forest for production of timber;
3. Intent to breach Article II of Te Tiriti o Waitangi by not permitting Maori land owners manage indigenous forest according to their tikanga (customs), and;
4. Intent to prevent Maori from sustainably managing their indigenous forests for the production of timber and other forest products.