

Excellent *Absolutely Positively* Forests conference

President's comments

Thanks to the organizing committee for the excellent conference at Te Papa. Every person I spoke to really enjoyed it. They were blown away by the papers and their interest increased as the topical and challenging programme unfolded over the two days.

A highlight of the conference was the final session, chaired by Dr Russ Ballard, where the threads of the seven sessions were brought together into 5 action items [refer below]. These action items give guidance to the institute as well as the sector. In the week following the conference there was considerable interest from the media on two of the action items - developing a carbon market and capturing the monetary value of the environmental benefits provided by forests. Media representatives are gaining a better understanding of the role of forests and climate change.

Incoming NZIF Council 2006 - 2008

This year elections were held for both president and council. The results were:

President	Jaquetta (Ket) Bradshaw
Vice-President	Andrew McEwen (elected unopposed)
Secretary	Ron O'Reilly (elected unopposed)
Treasurer	Howard Moore
Councillors	Hugh Bigsby *Peter Brown Angus McPherson *Murray Parrish *John Schrider *Geoff Thorp Euan Mason (Journal Editor) *Eddie Warren (student representative)

Congratulations on your election and welcome to the new councillors (*). Thanks to the outgoing council members, Stephanie Rotarangi, Rob van Rossen and Rob Miller. Special thanks to Bruce Manley who has stepped down as Journal Editor.

Award Winners – we made the following awards

1 Thomas Kirk Horn: Piers Maclaren
NZIF Top award for science. Piers has made a significant contribution to science as well as being an excellent communicator of science concepts

2 Forester of the Year: Peter Berg.
One of the top Institute awards to recognise leadership and excellence in the forestry sector. Peter has been active in the forestry sector for nearly 40 years. He is currently President of the NZ Forest Owners Association. His current employment is as chairman and executive director of NZ Forestry Ltd and Pentarch Forest Products Ltd.

3 John Balneaves Travel Award: James Turner, Research Economist at Scion, formerly the NZ Forest Research Institute. James will use the award to travel to The University of Wisconsin to research into the economic impacts of forest sector policies affecting the global trade of forest products.

4 Student Awards
Undergraduate scholarship: Daniel McCallum a third year student studying for a Bachelor of Forestry Degree at the Canterbury School of Forestry

Frank Hutchinson Student Award: Jeremy Mansell a post-grad student in the Masters programme at the School of Forestry. He is embarking on an interesting project preparing a draft management plan for Cashmere Forest in Christchurch's Port Hills.

Mary Sutherland Scholarship: Awarded to Ross Cumberpatch who is studying for the Diploma in Forestry Management at the Wairiki Institute of Technology.

Congratulations to the two new Fellows of the Institute
Dr Hugh Bigsby
Dr Rowland Burdon

Dr Hugh Bigsby from Christchurch and Dr Rowland Burdon from Rotorua were named as the newest fellows for the institute. They bring the total of fellows for the group to 25 out of a total membership for the NZIF of 800. Fellows are those who have made really significant contributions through research or effort in promoting the stimulation of forestry in New Zealand.

Both Dr Bigsby and Dr Burdon had commendable, long research careers in forestry. Dr Burdon, in particular, was New Zealand's leading tree geneticist and was internationally recognised as well as being highly thought of in New Zealand research circles.

Dr Burdon has been a practising researcher for 41 years and currently works at Scion and Ensis in Rotorua. He works on contract with the special role of interfacing between novel biotechnology and classical genetic research and breeding with official mentoring responsibilities within the company.

Dr Burdon is also a fellow of the Royal Society of New Zealand.

Dr Bigsby is a current member of the NZIF governing council and is an Associate Professor at Lincoln University in Christchurch. He has co-ordinated the Bachelor of Commerce (Forestry) degree since it began in 1994 and was responsible for the development of the degree which combines forestry and forest business studies with a commerce programme. He is responsible for the development and delivery of senior courses as well.

Outside his university work, Dr Bigsby is involved in consulting for government and industry clients in New Zealand and Asia. He is also the past editor of the New Zealand Journal of Forestry.

Conference Items Considered

Council has considered these conference action items and will work on both the carbon market and communications.

1. Carbon Market

Take the initiative to examine the options and develop the infrastructure to operate a carbon market in NZ.

Principal responsibility NZIF (facilitator)
 Other players NZFOA
 Farm Forestry Association
 MAF
 Scion/Ensis

2. Encouragement of the provision of non extractive values

Examine options for capturing the monetary value of non extractive services.

Review regulatory and institutional impediments to the appropriate supply of non extractive values.

Principal responsibility MAF/NZFOA
 Other players NZIF
 Farm Forestry Association
 DOC, MFE

3. Forestry Sector Strategic Plan

Develop a detailed strategic plan for the forestry sector encompassing international and domestic positioning, sustainable development, added value

processing, potential new directions and non extractive services. Utilise to obtain FIDA and FoRST development and research funds.

Principal responsibility WoodCo
 Other players NZFOA
 NZIF
 Scion/Ensis

4. Research Strategy

Develop a Forestry Sector Research Strategy linked to the Forestry Sector Strategy and the information and knowledge needs identified at this conference.

Use to leverage sustainable research funds from FORST.

Principal responsibility Scion/Ensis/NZFOA
 Other players NZIF
 Farm Forestry Association
 MAF/MFE/DOC

5. Communications Strategy

Develop a strategy to communicate the benefits of forestry to the general public and key decision makers.

Build around Forestry Sector Strategic Plan, sustainable development, economic and employment contribution and environmental benefits.

Find common ground with Federated Farmers.
 Principal Responsibility NZIF/NZFOA

Jaquetta (Ket) Bradshaw

Institute reappoints first elected woman President

The New Zealand Institute of Forestry's first elected woman President has been reappointed at the group's Annual General Meeting held today.

Jaquetta (Ket) Bradshaw welcomed the news of her fellow colleagues and friends reappointing her to the position for a further two-year term from 2006-2008.

"I thank you for your mandate to continue leading the Institute," she said during her president's report to the AGM, held as part of the NZIF's Annual Conference at Te Papa in Wellington.

"The institute is in good heart and now has over 800 members, bringing our membership back up to levels not seen since the 1990s.

"Our increasing membership, despite a sustained downturn in the New Zealand forest industry, indicates the Council is taking the right path and members see value in being part of the Institute. This is positive news and a platform from which I hope to see further improvement," she said.

Over the next two years, Ms Bradshaw has indicated she wants to see three specific changes – improved communication with members through revamping the NZIF website, journal and newsletter up to the level of professionalism required in the new century; adapting the membership structure to help attract and retain younger members; and finding ways to ensure that women are

retained within the NZIF's membership and forestry industry as a whole.

"New Zealand lacks policies that encourage greater gender balance in forestry. However, we have begun to address this by developing policies for our own organisation."

Ms Bradshaw said the group needed a strong foundation and the ability to provide sustainable services if they were to achieve the NZIF vision of being a "vibrant professional organisation, demonstrating leadership, well respected for its independent and considered views, advocating forestry in its widest sense, and relevant to current and new members".

As part of her president's report to the AGM, Ms Bradshaw also thanked the Council and local section committees for giving the many voluntary hours it took to run the NZIF. She also thanked the continuing members of the Council – Howard Moore, Hugh Bigsby and Angus McPherson and Euan Mason while she welcomed the "new blood" of John Schrider, Geoff Thorp, Peter Brown and Murray Parrish. Euan Mason also takes over as editor of the NZ Journal of Forestry from Bruce Manley.

"I look forward to leading this new team and encourage you all to participate fully. To the outgoing council members, Stephanie Rotarangi, Rob van Rossen and Rob Miller, it has been great working with you."