

OBITUARY

E. Y. Cutten, 1902-1979

Eliot Yates Cutten died at his home in Christchurch on 10 October 1979.

Born in Dunedin in 1902, he studied at Auckland and Canterbury University Colleges, graduating Bachelor of Forestry Science from the latter in 1932.

In 1934 he undertook further study in forestry at Oxford, and, following a period on sand dune fixation work north of Auckland for the Public Works Department, was in 1937 appointed to the Woods and Forests Department in South Australia, which he later left for a position in Perpetual Forests Ltd at Mt Gambia.

After 10 years in Australia, he returned to New Zealand where he was appointed to the newly established Forest Experiment Station at Whakarewarewa as Sample Plot Officer. In this position, Eliot vigorously pursued the establishment of a large number of plots incorporating standard thinning trials in the major exotic forest species in most of the State forests and some forests owned by local authorities throughout the country. For most staff of exotic forests, Eliot and his permanent sample plots were the most visible evidence of the young Forest Research Institute. By his persistence he enforced recognition of the importance of protecting field trials established for research and he inculcated the necessity for objective observation and accurate recording.

In 1956 he transferred to Christchurch where he took charge of all South Island permanent sample plots besides his normal duties as a Conservancy forester. In 1967 he retired from the Forest Service but continued work as a private forest consultant in the South Island until 1975.

While being fully devoted to his duties throughout his forestry career, there is no doubt but that his heart lay with the more ornamental trees and shrubs in parks and gardens, their propagation, growth rates, site requirements, and so on.

By many Eliot will be remembered for his hospitality. Almost without fail he would invite visiting forestry staff and others to his home for the evening, a custom which may go back to his pioneer ancestry of which he was justly very proud.

Eliot leaves a wife, two sons and two daughters to whom the Institute accords its sympathy.

J. B. & H. H. W.