

HONORARY MEMBER

P. J. McKelvey

Nomination by Don Mead

It is with great pleasure that I would like to nominate Professor Peter McKelvey as an Honorary Member of our Institute. Professor McKelvey has had a distinguished career in forestry and has made several important contributions to the forest sector and to this Institute.

Professor McKelvey began his forestry career with the Forest Service, taking his forestry degree at Edinburgh. He remained with the Forest Service, rising to the position of Conservator of Forests, Palmerston North, at the age of forty.

In 1967 he was appointed the foundation Professor and Head of the School of Forestry at Canterbury University. It is here, perhaps, that he made his greatest contribution to our profession. As foundation professor, he had the responsibility of developing a new teaching curriculum, and having a building designed and built all within the space of three years. His careful planning, partly based on a round-the-world trip visiting forestry schools, has stood the test of time. His insistence on a broad, science-based degree, culminating in management skills, assured the acceptance of graduates into what was, at first, a somewhat sceptical forestry market. Professor McKelvey's strong leadership in the School continued until his recent retirement, which was marked by the award of Professor Emeritus status.

In the past few years he has led the second stage of development, which is aimed at meeting the future needs of the profession. He was also an excellent teacher. As a teacher he called upon his early experience in national forest survey and gave our graduates a detailed and clear understanding of our native forests and forest synecology. It would not be surprising to those who were taught by him that at last year's teacher assessment in the School the students voted him their best teacher.

Professor McKelvey as long been a supporter of this Institute and has always worked willingly to assist it. He also encouraged students to join. He was Vice-President during 1972-3, and in 1974-5 he became our President. His period as President was marked by the development of a more professional attitude within the Institute, culminating in the adoption of our "Code of Ethics".

Another major achievement of Professor McKelvey's career was his belief in and argument for multiple use in forests which promoted the nascent Forest Park concept. He has always fought for, and promoted, conservation. His expertise in this regard led to his being appointed Chairman of the South Island Beech Forest Management and Utilisation Committee, 1974-8. But his interests in native forests extended beyond State forests and since 1977 he has been a director of the Queen Elizabeth II National Trust.

As a person, Professor McKelvey has shown himself to be a dedicated worker and an outstanding leader. As a colleague of his, I can vouch for these qualities, and in particular for his deep interest in the wellbeing of staff and students, together with his high personal standards of work and conduct. He is a man of high principles. I am sure we were all delighted when he was awarded the O.B.E. in the last New Year Honours List.

Fellow members, it brings me pleasure to move that Professor Emeritus Peter McKelvey be made an Honorary Member of the Institute.

Seconding the Motion, John Holloway

It gives me particular pleasure to second this motion since Peter McKelvey had a very long association and friendship with my father, himself an Honorary Member of the Institute. Peter McKelvey was, for more than half of his career, an officer of the Forest Service. These twenty years established McKelvey's reputation as one of the several notable forest ecologists who emerged from the National Forest Survey 1946-56, which he joined on his return from forestry studies at Edinburgh in 1951. He was to stay with the Forest Survey until the end, and was its co-author with Stan Masters and Jack Holloway (1957). McKelvey drew upon this National Forest Survey experience and published ecological observations early in his career. "Forest Colonization after Recent Vulcanicity at West Taupo", "Ideas on Tawa Management", and "A Note on the Forest Edge at Te Whaiti", were all papers in the *Journal of Forestry*. The broad scope of his work during this period established his merits as a forester and was no doubt instrumental in his post-forest survey posting to FRI where with John Nicholls, he set up what became known to the next generation as ECO or Ecological Survey. This survey was originally designed to fill out the holes in the National Forest Survey, but it quickly developed into the first syste-

matic attempt to describe and understand the complex forests of New Zealand. McKelvey and Nicholls established hypotheses, drew up maps, and put in further transects. Their relocation and remeasurement are now providing valuable knowledge.

The work in ECO led to the production, in 1963, of possibly his major work which was "The Synecology of West Taupo Indigenous Forests". This work examined the patterns of re-establishment of forests following the Taupo eruption 2000 years ago. McKelvey's hypotheses are now being closely tested and examined. But what advantage do those testers and examiners have? The months of ground field work under primitive conditions which were instrumental in moulding the man are now replaced by helicopters, photography throughout the spectrum, observation from space, and contributions from sciences unheard of in the 'fifties. It is not unreasonable to wonder whether the development by man of mechanisms which enable him to explore nature without getting his feet wet has contributed significantly to his increasing failure to perceive the intricate linkage between nature and culture, and to perceive that human existence on this planet requires a marriage of the two and not a divorce.

McKelvey certainly has, during his career, been an exponent of the view that man is a part of nature and must learn to live in harmony with it, and we in the profession have benefited very largely from his willingness to stand up for his views, most recently at the environmental forum early this year, where McKelvey's balanced approach was so far out of tune with the jingoistic attitude of the day that he was openly rejected.

McKelvey's Forest Survey and ECO experience established not only his reputation as an ecologist, but a common element running throughout his later academic career. A major work in the Urewera forests in 1973 and a classification of South Island forests, to parallel that of the North which was published with John Nicholls in 1967, is due out later this year.

Finally, I should like to allude to McKelvey's role in protection forestry. He was Protection Forestry Officer in Forest Service Head Office from 1962 to 1965, having developed an interest in providing the technical leadership for the noxious animal control staff that had come over from the Wildlife Service in 1956. Suffice it to say that those staff whom I have met from those days cannot speak too highly of his leadership and the team spirit provided by him during this period. The whole course of

Forest Service and mountainland management would, I believe, have been significantly different had McKelvey remained in this field. Protection forestry led him onward to examine the questions of recreation and amenity and he was involved in significant changes in the Forests Act in 1965. The interest in multiple use, or perhaps multiple-objective management of forest land has been an outstanding feature of Professor Peter McKelvey's career as a forester, an ecologist, a manager and a teacher, but above all as a leader. He is truly a multiple objective man.

Fellow members of the Institute, I have great pleasure in seconding his nomination for Honorary Membership in this body.