

OBITUARY

Alan Drummond McKinnon (1907-1984)

Born and educated in Wellington, 'Mac' McKinnon became one of the handful of B.(For.)Sc. graduates in 1930 from the short-lived School of Forestry of Auckland University College. No doubt with a father on the Wellington *Dominion* newspaper during the first planting boom and living in Eastbourne on the back door of beech forest, his interest in forestry was stimulated early on.

Like his colleagues from the two N.Z. Schools of Forestry, he had to launch himself into a forestry career at a time when the young State Forest Service itself was struggling to keep its recently won independence. Nevertheless, he joined the Service and remained with it his whole career, retiring in 1969 when he was Director of Forest Management. Throughout he was a down-to-earth administrator but also contributed a wealth of technical forestry. He maintained a life-long interest in forest history and economics. A great loyalty to New Zealand forestry and the department he served was tempered by a little Scottish dourness and stubborn persistence.

Along with other forestry graduates who sought employment with the State Forest Service about that time, he served his first few years as a student labourer — a convenient category in which "inexperienced" graduates were paid less than labourers. Even to get that far he had to produce highly commendatory references about his industry and conscientiousness. Not until 1935 was he appointed a Forest Guard — on probation! By that time he was married and at Waipoua kauri forest. He was appointed a Ranger there and moved on to Auckland Conservancy Office in 1939. His sojourn in the north gave him a useful background to kauri forest and its prospects for management to which he made valuable contributions.

After spending six years in Auckland, graduates were belatedly recognised and Mac became Forester and then Senior Forester. He made his mark in both technical and administrative fields for which he was rewarded in 1948 by being appointed Conservator of Forests, Invercargill, to follow the inimitable Fred Field, a daunting challenge and task. During the following three years Mac acquired a thorough grasp of his large Conservancy and contributed substantially to the initiation of permanent management in western Southland silver beech forests.

In 1952 Mac was appointed to Wellington as Inspector-in-Charge, Management, for which his Conservancy experience was invaluable. From then until he retired in 1969 he was variously responsible for the Management and Economics divisions in which he handled a wide range of duties.

Mac volunteered for military service in 1940 but was withdrawn from camp by the departmental head. In 1947 he was one of the New Zealand delegates to the Fifth British Empire Forestry Conference held in London, and in 1957 the Commonwealth Forestry Conference held in Australia and New Zealand. He attended the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology in Geneva in 1963.

In 1947 he produced *Elementary Mensuration* a publication widely used by forestry personnel of all ranks and which was still in current use right up to his retirement.

— A.L.P.

Albert William Liley (1929-1983)

Although Bill Liley will always be remembered as one of New Zealand's most eminent medical researchers, members of the Institute of Foresters were fortunate to have him as an Affiliate Member for 20 years. Indeed, he could just as likely have chosen forestry as his main pursuit in life, having always been intensely interested in New Zealand land use, forest management and conservation.

During the early 1950s he served for three summer seasons with the National Forest Survey, during which period he achieved what he always claimed was one of his most important successes in his varied campaigns against the established order of things in many fields. As a medical student he became alarmed at the extremely arduous conditions imposed on N.F.S. field workers and managed to get the field allowances raised significantly following the publication of a thesis on the subject.

As a counterbalance to the exigencies of intensive medical research, Bill, with the willing support of his family, became involved in no fewer than three farming and/or forestry ventures in the King Country and Lower Northland. All included commercial forestry elements, the benefits of which will now accrue to his family and associates. These activities he described as "a weekend hobby or superannuation project or anti-coronary exercise" and managed to fit them into a busy programme which included election as a Fellow of the Royal Society of New Zealand