

through the family interest in farm forestry. His university career paralleled those of many well-known forestry personalities such as Dennis Neilson and David Viles between 1968 and 1971. He had his first battle with the disease at the end of this period being 10 months out of action.

After his return to fitness, the N.Z. Forest Service posted him to Hamner (1972-74) and Ashley (1975-77) where he was involved in production and recreation planning, followed by Waitemata (1978-82).

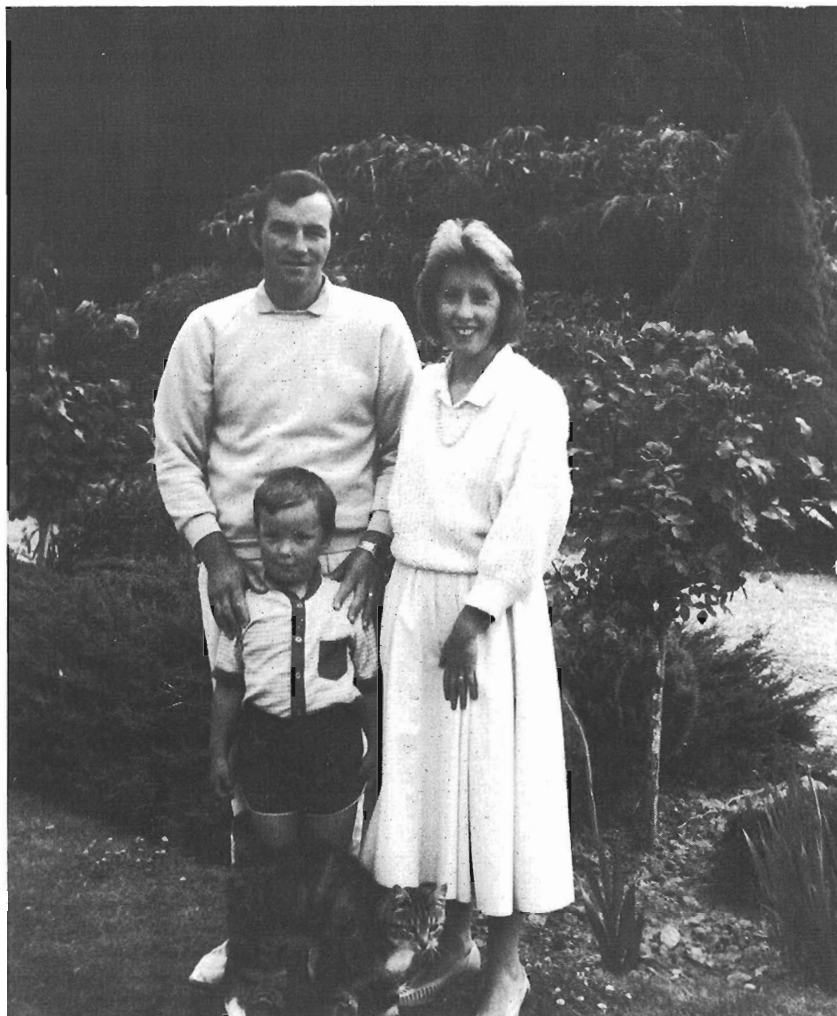
In 1982 he joined P.F. Olsen & Company Ltd, and in 1985 he gained recognition as a forest consultant.

He distinguished himself in all his professional work but particularly secured the respect and affection of those people who entrusted Gerry with operational control of their projects. A classic case is Great Mercury Island where the difficulties of isolation and logistics of supply to an island operation were overcome with distinctive panache.

Off duty, Gerry performed with skill in a wide range of sports being a prominent small-bore rifleman, an angler of skill and an enthusiastic cricketer. He took office in these clubs and was an organizing participant in the Business-house Cricket competitions and indoor cricket as well as golf and squash.

His fortitude and cheerful refusal to accept that disease should dictate his activities endeared him to all of us who enjoyed his professional company.

Our sympathy goes out to Francis and young Cameron in their loss.



Gerry Watt, pictured with his family — wife Francis and son Cameron

Peter F. Olsen.

The Kirk Horn

Thomas Kirk, F.L.S., (1828-98) arrived in Auckland in 1863 and devoted himself to botany, associating himself with the Auckland Institute and Museum, of which he was an original member, secretary and curator, before he became a professor of natural sciences at Wellington College, then attached to the University of New Zealand. He published extensively, both overseas and in the *Transactions* (130 titles in first 30 volumes), and produced *The Forest Flora of New Zealand* in 1889. He was Chief Conservator of State Forests from 1885 to 1888. Professor H.B. Kirk (Victoria University) and T.W. Kirk (Agriculture Department) were his sons, the Kirk family being a rare case of a family of scientists in New Zealand.

In 1874, Julius Vogel passed the first Forests Act, providing for state forests in the interest of forest conservation, and in

the following year he appointed Captain I. Campbell Walker, of Madras, as the first Conservator of State Forests. Campbell Walker inspected and reported on the New Zealand forests during his 15 months' stay, and was associated with Kirk on his tours of inspection. He left New Zealand in 1877 after a good deal of unpleasantness arising from political opposition to Vogel's Act. (For details of his life and work, see *New Zealand Forest Service Information Series 54*).

New Zealand's first Conservator of Forests commemorated his association with Thomas Kirk by presenting him with a silver-mounted drinking horn, engraved "To Professor Kirk from Capt'n Campbell Walker 1877". The drinking horn remained in the Kirk family until recently, when it came into the possession of Mrs Lanna

Brown and Mr A.D. McKinnon, of Wellington.

Set of Conditions

After a 20-year gestation, the Royal Society has asked the Institute if it would establish a set of conditions for the award and assume the responsibility for making the award.

The Institute has drawn up conditions which it will discuss with the Royal Society, whose wish it is that this award have the standing in the discipline of forestry that the Hector and Hutton medals have in their fields.

It is the Institute's wish that the award be made in recognition of outstanding contributions to forestry and be made in alternate years, starting in 1987.

The flask, which is the tangible link with Professor Kirk, will be held in the Royal Society; a medal will be struck and awarded.