

FORSOC News

FORSOC this year has concentrated strongly on ensuring that students got to know each other within the school. We have also managed to organize some events that included people from the outside world.

Fire training was organized by Mike McLarin who went to a lot of trouble for the benefit of his fellow students. Thanks must also go to the team out at Eyrewell forest who gave their time and effort in showing us the ropes. Now we all know never to get involved in a fire!

The crosscut saw competition was held again this year and again it proved popular. Chris O'Leary and friends organized the use of the saw and some competition from Ashley and FRI.

These two events and others such as the FORSOC dinner held at Cloisters, a Mystery Bus Tour that no-one can remember and a couple of softball games with barbecues afterwards provided a certain amount of interaction between the three professional years. One or two keen intermediate students came along also to see what future lies ahead for them at the school.

In fact the future of the school has been a very large topic of discussion this year. The Probine report was submitted and for a while we thought we were off to Waikato. There was much talk of alternative degrees rather than moving with it (although this was in fact a misinterpretation - we would have been allowed to complete our degrees here).

It seems to me that there are problems with communication within this country's forest industry. The Probine report was a reflection of this. The school is in a very difficult position trying to create a worthwhile degree and listening to the wants of the industry. How can this be done effectively if the industry has an opinion that differs with every person one talks to?

I'm glad that we are staying in Christchurch for these main reasons:

- Going to Waikato appears to be shrinking the industry into one small section of the country - the central North Island.
- The forest industry has the brains and courage to recognize and refute the dangers of the great northern drift.

E. Gebbie

Highlights from Council meeting

- Council decided that the Institute 1988 AGM minutes and reports would not be printed and automatically sent to all members, but rather copies would be sent to the local section chairperson. However members who wish to have their own copies are invited to write to the Secretariat for one. Copies will also be available at next year's AGM.
- Council was very concerned that many members had not paid their membership subscriptions. It is causing cash-flow problems.
- A generous donation was received from a life member and fellow to be used to replace funds lost in the stock market crash. This was gratefully received.
- Council met with Simon Upton (MP) over lunch to discuss research issues related to the Forestry Sector.

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