

ments about what happened in the 1980s. It is an account from the point of view of those who were present and saw some of a major historical process; that experience is not set in a wider context.

While *A Century of State-Honed Enterprise* is presented as a retrospective survey of the entire experience of State forestry in New Zealand and not as a re-examination of the developments of the 1980s, its tone and content is dominated by the end of the process. It is written mostly from the records of the Forest Service, and it records rather than analyses the achievements of the Service. There is no doubt that the achievements were considerable and *A Century of State-Honed Enterprise* is a convenient source for the basic narrative of choosing the species which were to compose the State forestry plantations and the development of the nurseries and plantations themselves. There is also a useful account of how the Forestry Service saw the development of Tasman Pulp and Paper Co. Ltd, but it would have to be supplemented elsewhere if what was wanted was the history of Tasman itself. And then we are into the 1980s.

So a foresters' record rather than a history or analysis. It is, however, lucidly written and well illustrated, and can therefore be recommended for those who want a foresters' record.

Gary Hawke

## 'Trees, Timber and Tranquillity'

'Trees, Timber and Tranquillity' by Lindsay Poole. C. Rex Monigatti Publishing, Wellington, 1998.

As we approach the turn of the century now is a good time for reflection and fresh vision. It is more than a decade since the New Zealand Forest Service was abandoned by the Government of the day in an unholy alliance between the emerging popular environmental movement and the then currently fashionable deregulated market-led new age treasury apostles. They were supported by an extraordinary bipartisan political policy reversal. These are matters that continue to worry author Lindsay Poole.

In the contemporary scene many in the forestry sector today may not support a reversal of present-day policies (and widespread privatisation), but I would urge them to purchase and read for themselves this modestly-priced lifetime testimonial of one of this country's all-time most experienced foresters, and uniquely wise land use advocate.

'Trees, Timber and Tranquillity' is essentially autobiographical (including a fascinating account of the author's formative years and overseas experiences) — one that describes episodes in the long life and times of a man well steeped in the understanding of the New Zealand environment — a former Director of the Botany Division DSIR, Director-General of Forests 30 years ago, and a notable Chairman of the Soil Conservation and Rivers Control Council. An outstanding scientist with a practical and proven

working knowledge of the earth sciences and the wise management of our soil, water and land resources. Lindsay Poole has been honoured by the Institute of Forestry, the Royal Institute of Horticulture, the Institute of Chartered Foresters in Britain, and was a former President of both the Institute of Forestry and the Ecological Society. He is a very special person — today a father figure in the forestry world in this country.

Lindsay Poole knows better than most the art and culture of forestry — both indigenous and introduced. His well-documented professional interest in the wise long-term environmental stewardship of the land — its mountains and varied river catchments — is unchallenged. During his lifetime he has studied the experiences of other countries where forests have been successfully managed for centuries on a sustainable and usefully productive cycle compatible with the care of their geographically unique landscapes.

Many have enjoyed lifetime friendships with this man, students of botany have reason to be thankful for his insights and practical observations, and thousands are grateful for his leadership nearly three decades ago of the New Zealand Forest Service whose recent demolition continues to give Lindsay Poole much pain and anguish. For a man of his age and one who prides himself in keeping his golf score under that figure he is also mentally very alert and one whose passion for the trees in our varied landscapes — both indigenous and introduced — is undiminished.

As Director-General of Forests in the Sixties, Lindsay Poole is remembered for his chairmanship of the important Forestry Development Conference and his leading role in the implementation of the second major tree-planting boom in New Zealand. There has been a three-fold increase in commercial plantings since 1966. The planned decentralisation away from the Volcanic Plateau which held no less than 56% of this country's plantations in 1966 into districts from Northland to Southland was greatly encouraged by Lindsay Poole.

Those other districts gained no less than 72% of the newly-expanded plantings. And whilst state-funded measures to spread population growth are no longer popular this earlier initiative is unique and one for which many in these districts will be forever grateful. He actively encouraged the emerging and now influential farm forestry movement too.

His book 'Trees, Timber and Tranquillity', excellently illustrated by lifetime professional photography friend and forestry colleague, John Johns, contains a personal testimony and informed view on the state of forestry in this country — a viewpoint based on a lifetime of distinguished service to the public and an unwavering commitment to the care of our land, soil and water values.

Jolyon Manning  
Jolendale Park  
Alexandra

## 'Trees, Timber and Tranquillity'

by  
Lindsay Poole



The greater part of Lindsay Poole's working life, or for that matter his whole life, has been geared to forestry one way or another — by forestry is meant the use of forests for multiple purposes, including especially protection of soil and water, and the growing of trees and the selling of wood. This life is traced in his new book, 'Trees, Timber and Tranquillity'.

**His comments about the relationship between short-term changing Governments and the long life of a tree have special significance, and his story will be of considerable interest especially to professional foresters, farm foresters, tree lovers generally, and politicians!**

The 144 page casebound book includes 32 pages of colour and black and white photographs — many taken by noted forestry photographer John Johns — and they have informative captions.

**Copies of 'Trees, Timber and Tranquillity' are obtainable from the publisher:**

**C. Rex Monigatti Publishing, PO Box 3541, Wellington, and from the author at 22A Waru Street, Khandallah, Wellington.**

The \$35.00 price includes GST and packaging and postage within New Zealand.