

Members urged to participate in awards

With Christmas on the horizon now is the time to think about applying for one of the NZIF 2003 awards or perhaps you know a member you could encourage to apply or if appropriate nominate.

Chavasse Travel Award

Availability: Full, Honorary, or Fellow members interested in travelling overseas (or bringing overseas speakers to NZ).

Procedure: Written applications detailing country, timing, interests, itinerary and budget. Determined by NZIF awards committee. Up to \$3,500. Travel to take place prior to 31 March of the following year.

John Balneaves Ttravel Award

Purpose: To enable people employed in the forestry sector to travel overseas in order to increase their, and the forest industry's, experience and knowledge. John's career was devoted to carrying out practically based forest research. He gained the respect of field staff through the clear presentation of his findings which have had significant beneficial impact on forest management in New Zealand and the South Island in particular.

Availability: Open to anyone in the forestry sector who is of good integrity, active in plantation research, with 10 years of professional activity ahead of them, in possession of good communication skills, enthusiastic and energetic in their work, and with an interest and ability in establishing relationships.

Procedure: Written applications should be submitted to the Secretariat providing background details, reason for travel, provisional itinerary, additional financial support and the names of two referees. A final decision will be made by a selection panel comprising representatives from NZIF, NZFOA (Forest Owners Association), and Forest Research. The award is up to a maximum of \$5,000 for travel in the year of being awarded. The recipient will be expected to produce a report within 3 months of their return to New Zealand.

Forester of the Year (excellence)

Availability: Open to anyone in forestry sector with 10 years professional experience, integrity, communications skills and enthusiasm.

Procedure: Awarded on the basis of material delivered on any topic within the broad field of forestry using tangible communication techniques. Entries judged on ability to communicate the subject. Name engraved on (ex-forest service) carving and certificate.

Scholarships

As well as the above awards, there are three scholarships available:

NZIF

Availability: Any NZ University

Procedure: Undergraduate application for \$1000

NZIF Frank Hutchinson

Availability: Any NZ University

Procedure: Postgraduate application for \$1000

NZIF Mary Sutherland

Availability: NZ Polytechnic

Procedure: Forestry student application for \$1000

Scholarship selection is based on a three-page submission by each candidate. The criteria for selection are aptitude, personality, community service, financial need, and relevance of the course to the profession of forestry.

Applications for all awards and scholarships close on **14 March 2003**. There are no formal application forms.

The Awards Committee will make their selection in time for the recipients to be announced at the NZIF AGM/Conference in April 2003.

Please send all applications to:

The Secretariat

NZIF

PO Box 19-840

Or email sheppers@ihug.co.nz

Proxy voting for the NZ Institute of Forestry?

At the last Annual General Meeting John Groome suggested that the Institute consider adopting proxy voting for AGMs. Proxy voting means that you could award your power to vote to another member, and a member might arrive at the AGM armed with the power to vote for several people.

The advantage of this scheme is that those who don't wish to attend an AGM can still have their views represented, although proxy voting doesn't necessarily involve a commitment to vote a particular way. You should only provide a proxy to someone you trust.

The disadvantages of proxy voting are:

1. Voters who award proxies would not participate in discussion at the AGM, and could not be swayed by what may be powerful arguments there. Such voters would be less well informed than those who heard the discussion.
2. Members may decide that this is yet another reason to

not attend the AGM, and so we would miss their arguments and their companionship.

A compromise position would be to restrict issues on which proxy voting can be exercised to motions that have been published in the journal at least two issues prior to the AGM. This means that the issue immediately prior to the AGM could include responses to the motion, and some discussion could occur in that medium.

We also need to consider whether proxy voting should be allowed after a motion is amended. If the amendment is substantial then proxy voting should probably not be allowed. If it is minor and doesn't greatly change the substance of the motion, then it should be allowed. It may be preferable to allow the Chair to decide whether or not proxy voting would still apply after an amendment has been adopted by the AGM.

Please send your opinions on this issue as letters to the Journal Editor.