

Joint Australia and New Zealand



Australasian forestry - a strategic vision



April 27 - 31, 2003
Queenstown, New Zealand

Invitation To Attend

Keynote speakers confirmed

Prof. Roger Sands, School of Forestry, Canterbury University, will be the presenter of the Maxwell Jacobs Oration, a traditional high point of all recent Institute of Australian Foresters' conferences. "Other Keynote speakers will include Dr Peter Shepherd of Melbourne University, and Mr Devon McLean of CHH Forests," said Chris Perley, organiser of speakers.

Record numbers of abstracts submitted

Dr Euan Mason has advised that the sub-committee dealing with abstracts have had over 70 submitted to date. "We are planning to have at least two, and possibly three parallel sessions in order to cope with the numbers of quality papers" said Mike Hetherington, Chair of the Organising Committee. "There is a wide spread of topics represented in the abstracts, and this makes for a very interesting conference." Abstracts have been received from Australian and New Zealand based authors, and there have also been offers of papers from other countries. "We intend to keep the Australasian flavour of this conference by ensuring that any papers from outside the region are compatible with the theme", said Hetherington.

Planning of field trips well advanced

"It's a major job to plan and co-ordinate all the Conference and Post-Conference tours," said John Edmonds of the field trip sub-committee. "We have three options for the mid-conference field trip, and two post-conference tour options."

One field trip concentrates on environmental certification of radiata pine production forestry and wood processing at Craigpine Ltd's Southland operations.

Another field trip option is to visit the head of Lake Wakitipu to look at environmental issues including wilding spread, and the challenge to the Department of Conservation in maintaining the integrity of high use National Parks. There will also be an optional extra to participate in adventure tourism by taking a ride in the Dart Jet Boat Safari.

Those opting for the third field trip will see a huge contrast between the unique dry-land Jolendale Park arboretum at Alexandra, and some of the fastest growing Douglas fir production forest in the world near Arrowtown.

This field trip also travels through the Cardrona Valley, recognisable from some famous beer advertisements, and passes over the Crown Range.

Post conference tours

Those contemplating the post-conference tours will have a choice of traveling to Christchurch from Queenstown via one of two very different routes. The eastern route will travel over Lindis Pass to the Mackenzie Country, a high altitude plain with spectacular views of Aoraki Mt Cook and the turquoise lakes Pukaki and Tekapo, where various plantings and research trials will be visited. Thence on to Peel Forest to see Douglas fir, before striking out across the Canterbury plains for the Garden City.

The western route travels through the Southern Alps at Haast Pass, and then through lush (4000+ mm per annum rainfall!!!) temperate rain forest to Franz Joseph Glacier, where there will be a side trip to the ice face. Then on to Okarito, and the Kotuku (white heron) colony. Arthurs Pass will provide the access back through the Southern Alps to view high altitude revegetation research at Craigieburn, and then on to the Canterbury Plains and Christchurch.

Partner's activities and social events

Partners will have no excuse for being bored in Queenstown. Every death defying feat that the warped mind of mankind can dream up, as well as the age old cure all of shopping therapy are all on tap most hours of most days. In addition, there are vineyard trails, several golf courses, and wonderful restaurants to sample. Some of these can be booked at the time of registration, but there will be ample choice of alternatives that can be booked on the day.

The Welcome Cocktail Function and Conference Awards Dinner will be MUST DO events, and there is an option of dining at the Skyline Gondola Restaurant one night.

Conference Venue

The 4 star Millennium Hotel Queenstown opened in 1995 and stands in splendid profile against an awesome backdrop of lake and mountain magic. Queenstown is a small but vibrant tourist town, with gold rush roots, set in the middle of New Zealand's most popular adventure tourism region.

On-line registration is now available on the official conference website. Further details are available on the 2003 ANZIF Conference website through the NZIF site: www.forestry.org.nz, and from EventMergers, Conference Management Specialists, PO Box 101, Silverdale, Auckland, New Zealand, Phone +64 9 4263066, Fax +64 9 426 3016, Email anzifconference@eventmergers.co.nz