

New NZIF Fellows

Three members have recently been advanced to Fellow status in recognition of their eminence in the profession.

John Galbraith

John has had a long career in the forest industry since 1971 when he joined NZ Forest Products Ltd in Kinleith as a forest engineer in the Logging Department having graduated with a BE in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Canterbury. Since then he has had a wide range of roles including



- Wood Supply Manager, NZ Forest Products, Kinleith
- Director, NZ Logging Industry Research Association
- General Manager – Wood Supply, CHH Forests
- General Manager, Whakatane Mill, CHH Pulp & Paper
- Chief Executive, CHH Tasman, Kawerau

John has worked across the whole forestry sector from growing through harvesting to wood processing. He has always demonstrated a professional approach to doing a good job and demonstrated commitment to working well with people – whether they be employees, colleagues or external stakeholders such as iwi groups. He has always been committed to continuing professional development.

John became an NZIF Council Member in 1992, Vice-president in 1994 and was President from 1996 to 1998. During this time he was instrumental in developing the NZIF membership structure that was implemented at the 1996 AGM in Invercargill. These changes included the creation of Registered Member and Registered Forestry Consultant categories and formation of a Registration Board. John believed that it was vital for the NZIF to develop and promote professionalism amongst members.

Peter Thode

Peter graduated with a BForSc from the School of Forestry at the University of Canterbury in 1972. He was Forester with the NZ Forest Service until 1980 when he joined NZ Forest Products in Kinleith as Forester – Forest Planning. Since then his positions in New Zealand included:

- Forester – Forest Operations, Kinleith
- Superintendent – Domestic Wood Supplies, NZ Forest Products
- Marketing Manager, Kinleith

In 2000 Peter moved to Victoria to become National Resources Manager, CHH Wood Products, Australia. In this role he is responsible for all raw material and wood-based sales for CHH Wood Products in Australia. Prod-

ucts primarily relate to sawmilling, plymilling, LVL manufacture and reconstituted boards.

Peter was an NZIF Council Member from 1983 to 1986 and President from 1986 to 1988. He provided strong leadership for the Institute following the tragic death of incumbent President Curt Gleason in 1986. He has adhered to and promoted the Institute's standards as a member and office-holder over a considerable period of service to the organisation.

Don Wijewardana

Don Wijewardana (or Wije as he has become known) has been closely involved with forestry since 1980 when he joined the New Zealand Forest Service as a Senior Economist.

Don currently leads the international forestry team within the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. He has worked in the area of international forest policy for the past thirteen years. During this time he has had considerable input into international negotiations on sustainable forest management.



This has involved extensive work within the United Nations, the UN Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) and the International Tropical Timber Organisation (ITTO). He has also worked on improving market access for New Zealand's forestry products.

Internationally Don has actively promoted the importance of planted forests, as practiced in New Zealand to provide forestry products in a sustainable way. Earlier this year Don led a team that convened an international expert meeting in Wellington on the "Role of Planted Forestry in Sustainable Forest Management". Over 100 experts from 45 countries participated in this meeting. The meeting produced a far-reaching report that he presented to a recent meeting of the UN Forum on Forests. It is expected that the recommendations from this meeting will guide international discussions on this subject for the next ten years.

Don has served as the Chairman of the International Tropical Timber Organisation and has chaired a number of international expert meetings of the UN Forum on Forests, FAO and the ITTO. Don was made a Companion of the Queen's Service Order in the Queen's Birthday honours announced in June 2003 and was awarded the regional Commonwealth Forestry Association medal in 1999 in recognition to his contribution to sustainable forest management.

Don has been along standing member of the New Zealand Institute of Forestry and is the current secretary of the New Zealand branch of the Commonwealth Forestry Association.