

Practical advocate of multiple-use plantation forestry

Chris Johns 1922 - 2004

Full Life Member C.G. (Chris) Johns died in Christchurch on 2 January, 2004. He was 82. Chris was born in England and spent almost the whole of World War 2 in the RAF, initially in Coastal Command and then on supply-dropping missions in the Far East.

After the War he attended the British Forestry Commission technical forestry school in the Forest of Dean. After graduating from there in 1951 he went to north Wales for a short spell on sand fixation work. Then he and his wife Margery moved to Fiji where Chris was involved in the early stages of the afforestation with Caribbean pitch pine of degraded soils in western Viti Levu. After several years the Johns moved to New Zealand where in 1962 Chris became officer in charge of Bottle Lake Forest, a coastal sand-stabilising timber forest on the outskirts of Christchurch then owned by the Christchurch City Council. He was to stay there for the rest of his working career.

Chris had to cope with the great gale of 1975 which flattened almost half the thousand hectare forest. He managed to salvage many of the mature trees, selling them to the Japanese log market and local sawmillers.

In the early seventies Bottle Lake Forest was promoted by the Christchurch City Council as a multiple-use forest park which would provide recreational opportunities to citizens. Chris responded by establishing systems of riding and



walking tracks and other simple amenities. Soon the forest was full of people walking, jogging, riding and orienteering.

Another feature of Chris' stewardship was his initiative, launched about 1980, of using the forest to teach work skills to unemployed youths. Buses hired by the Labour Department left Cathedral Square in central Christchurch early every morning for Bottle Lake Forest and the scheme built up to 170 trainees (including young women) at a time.

Some of the successful trainees finished up working in other forests in Canterbury and beyond. Sadly the scheme stopped in 1984 when Government support was withdrawn.

In his spare time Chris was a car enthusiast and over time he owned a wide range of impressive models. He took up gliding after he retired and at his funeral a representative of his gliding club paid a tribute to his competence in this field.

Chris was a quiet, gentlemanly, effective person of integrity. His open and straightforward personality ensured that he got on well with everybody. He transformed Bottle Lake Forest into a multiple-use project that really worked, satisfying both the timber and environmental needs of the City and Canterbury.

Peter McKelvey

Registered Forestry Consultant Application

The following individual has made an application under Article 39 of the NZIF Articles of Association for recognition as a Registered Forestry Consultant.

Craig Russell FISHER Richmond, Nelson

Article 40 (2) allows any member of the Institute the right to object to any application for Registered Forestry Consultant.

Any objection should be made in writing and sent to the Registrar, NZIF Registration Board, PO Box 19840, Christchurch within 20 days after the date of despatch of this journal.

5 Year Review of Registration

The following individual has made an application under Article 41 (2) of the NZIF Articles of Association for the Five Year Review of Registration as a Registered Forestry Consultant.

Marty Watson

Gisborne

The review process as approved by Council allows any Member of the Institute the right to object to the continuation of a Members Registration.

Any objection should be made in writing and sent to The Registrar, NZIF Registration Board, PO Box 19840, Christchurch within 20 days after the date of despatch of this journal.