

# A strong tree gathers many branches

Jim Smith (1928-2009)

Jim Smith passed away just prior to Christmas 2009, having fought a battle with cancer over the previous 13 months. Jim's funeral was well attended by a wide range of people that reflected his interests and contribution to life. That such a large number attended his funeral between Christmas and New Year, with many travelling some distance from their holidays, showed the respect with which Jim was held.

Jim was born in Invercargill and brought up on the family farm at Waimahaka, near Fortrose. He attended Southland Boys High School, where he boarded during the school week, travelling home at weekends by train. After leaving school Jim joined the New Zealand Forest Service, timber cruising in the Catlins forests. This was an area he would come to know well through his work and his interest in the outdoors. Jim married Daphne in 1951, and they remained in Invercargill until the mid 1950's, when he took up a position as a timber inspector based in Dunedin. Jim spent the remainder of his career based in Dunedin, servicing sawmills, timber processors and exporters throughout the region. A highlight for Jim was two trips to Guyana in 1970s, where he gave advice to the timber processing industry on timber preservation. Jim retired when the NZFS was disbanded in 1987. However, he remained active in forestry through the Otago/Southland Section of the NZIF. Jim made a significant contribution to the running and activities of the local section, often with the help of his wife Daphne, and for this service was made an Honorary Life Member of

the Otago/Southland section in 2008.

Jim was a tireless worker, with real enthusiasm for forestry and the work of the Institute. His organising of the annual tramp is legend, as is his organising and catering of the many meetings held at the Zingari-Richmond club rooms. Jim was always keen to see the local section actively promote forestry in the region, and participated fully in local section and committee meetings. His infectious enthusiasm was greatly appreciated, and will be sorely missed. Jim and his family also tended a grove of kauri established in the Akatore Creek area of Otago Coast Forest by AH Reed. The grove still exists, and the local section is investigating whether it is feasible to take some role in helping maintain it.

Jim had a wide range of interests outside forestry. He was a Life member of the Zingari-Richmond Rugby Football Club, a founding member of the Hawksbury Community Living Trust established to take over the care of many Cherry Farm patients after it closed in 1992, a member of Probus, and a keen gardener. He was also a proud and devoted family man. Jim's was a life lived well and to the full. A tree will be planted to commemorate Jim, along with a plaque, at Jolendale Park in Alexandra on Sunday 16 May.

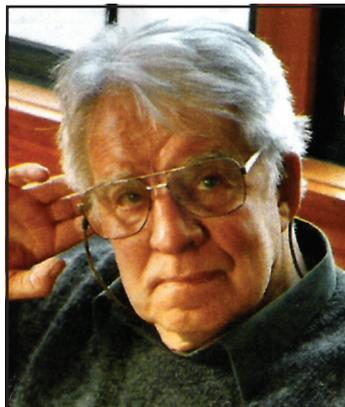
Angus McPherson

## A forester exemplar

William John (Bill) Gimblett 1928-2010)

If you wanted to put forward an exemplar of what it is to be a forester - set apart from the pressures to make us into radiata pine agronomists - then you couldn't go far past Bill Gimblett. He was a man who easily straddled all the meanings associated with forests: from community to commerce; from sense experience to - yes - spirituality. Bill loved many things; land, landscape, ecology, history, the social links to places that gave them meaning, ideas, but he most especially loved people and community.

He built and maintained his own community through his good-natured conversations. He could always be guaranteed to provide some interesting snippets, some thought provoking words, always with a smile and a gentle laugh. He remained a gentleman and a thoroughly decent one, supported so well by Margaret and his family as his body began to slow in later years. His mind more than made up for his dicky ticker. He was liked and loved by many, and as a personality, is already greatly missed.



Bill was born in 1928 in Dannevirke, the eldest of a family of eight children (the scion of EJ (Ted) Gimblett who made his career in the NZ Forest Service). He was educated at Southland BHS and Lawrence District High School. He commenced work as a labourer with the NZ Forest Service in 1946, joining the permanent staff as a technical trainee in 1947. He was promoted to Forest Ranger in 1950, and spent the next 15 years in indigenous forest management at Waipoua, Ahaura and Whirinaki Forests, the National Forest Survey, as Logging Officer at Minginui Forest, time at Waipa Sawmill, at Tauranga and Wellington

ports as a timber inspector; and in Head Office on the Kaingaroa working plan.

Bill resigned from the Forest Service in 1961 to take up an appointment as Forest Manager (and later, as its Managing Director) with Hawkes Bay Forests Ltd. Whilst there he was involved in the restoration of Lake Tutira as a trustee of the Guthrie Smith Trust Board, and was Chairman of the Tutira