

this programme continues. More importantly, Paul was at the forefront of discussion and planning sessions that finally led to the decision to proceed with an industry-funded levy, and was a member of the interim board that took the process through the legal, voting and initial structuring process.

Paul is clearly one of the most involved and recognised foresters in the New Zealand forest industry, engaged in many cases in roles which acknowledge his deep knowledge of forestry and the industry, his great interpersonal skills, a high level of respect and acknowledged leadership ability.

Thomas Song

Thomas has demonstrated a long-term commitment to New Zealand's commercial forestry sector, as demonstrated by Ernslaw's ownership and retention of forests under his stewardship. Ernslaw owns and manages forests throughout the country, including the retention and successful management of forests in politically challenging parts of the country such as the Coromandel. He and Ernslaw have worked creatively to ensure as far as possible the continued viability of commercial forest estates in parts of New Zealand that others have chosen to walk away from.

Thomas picked up the pieces left by the receivership of the former Huaguang Forestry Company on the

East Coast, to create a stable environment for many contracting enterprises. He has endeavoured to bolster the wider sector through support and investment in the domestic processing capability of New Zealand's annual harvest, including purchasing Winstone Pulp International and Karioi forest, and the associated Tangiwai sawmill, just weeks before the onset of the global financial crisis.

Thomas has demonstrated a strong commitment to the forestry sector more generally through his and Ernslaw's involvement and active support of the work of the NZ Forest Owners Association. He has willingly allowed his staff the latitude to pursue sector-critical issues, such as preparatory work leading to the introduction of FSC certification capability to New Zealand. More recently Ernslaw staff have, with Thomas's active support and engagement, championed the forestry cause through the government's Land & Water Forum processes and spearheaded a National Environmental Standard as a more effective and equitable basis for nationally consistent management of forestry under the Resource Management Act 1991.

Thomas has ensured Ernslaw's long-term support for the New Zealand Douglas-fir co-op and for all strands of Future Forest Research, and has seen the company fund scholarships at the School of Forestry.

Letter to the editor

Pinus ponderosa – a *scopulorum* myth

Rowland Burdon, Emeritus Scientist, Genetics, Scion (NZ Forest Research Institute Ltd)

John Groome in his Letter to the Editor in the August issue (NZJF, 60(2)) has made a valid point in noting how politics intruded upon proper seed-sourcing practice with *Pinus ponderosa* during New Zealand's first planting boom. The practice of 'buying within the British Empire' evidently led to obtaining the large majority of the *P. ponderosa* seed from British Columbia. However, he is wrong in stating that this material represented var. *scopulorum*. It actually represented what is called the North Plateau race of the species within what has long been classified as var. *ponderosa*, that race being distributed through British Columbia, Idaho, western Montana, and Washington and Oregon east of the crest

of the Cascades. The var. *scopulorum*, which is basically from the Rocky Mountains and is extremely slow growing here, was fortunately only a small minority of the *P. ponderosa* planted in New Zealand.

However, that very little of the Pacific race ('Californian') of var. *ponderosa* was planted during the period was not entirely bad. While Pacific race material is generally quite a bit faster growing, it is significantly more susceptible to *Dothistroma* blight than the North Plateau race, which was grown over big areas of disease-hazard sites in New Zealand. And who knows, if Canadian seed had not been purchased, might we have got landed with a lot more var. *scopulorum*?