

NZIF 2015 Conference and AGM

Chris Goulding



The New Zealand Institute of Forestry held its annual conference and AGM on 10 August 2015 at Te Papa Tongarewa, Wellington.

Conference – NZ Forest Policy Project (FPP)

Garth Cumberland for the FPP management team introduced the conference and speakers. The forest sector is proposing an intergenerational forest policy for the greater good of New Zealand. The policy should cover all forest types in this country, look at economic, environmental and social benefits, and be pragmatic, enduring and utilitarian. The project itself was 'proudly crowd sourced, cooperative with self-help'.

NZIF President James Treadwell stressed that the FPP included, and was the initiative of, the whole forest sector. He stated, 'My hope is a clear policy will enable the government of the day to clearly understand what the sector can offer, understand the long-term nature of the sector, and ensure any decision made is made with the sector and the long-term policy in mind.'

Dr Wayne Cartwright presented a 'Futures Analysis', summarising that there are many drivers of change that will take human civilisation into situations where there is no precedent, and stating that climate change and sharply rising energy costs are certain to occur. Stuart Nash, Member of Parliament for Napier and opposition spokesperson for forestry, gave his view on the needs for a forest policy, which must be collaboration between the forest sector and government (and parliament). The sector should become more proactive with better relations with the general public.

The FPP is overseen by a project management team, with data collection and research carried out by thematic working parties:

- Forest resources and management
- Forest products, processing and marketing
- Environmental and social
- The regulatory framework.

The leaders of the working parties presented their findings and proposals for discussion by the conference. A governance group provides vision, guidance and support, and will progress the policy statement when it is complete and of an acceptable standard.

AGM

A motion to amend Section 1.8 of the NZIF Code of Ethics by adding at the end the sentence, 'Prior to making public statements on the environment, policy and forest practices, a member will indicate on whose behalf the statements are made', failed to obtain the necessary majority and was therefore not passed. The annual report and the budget 2015-2016 were presented and approved.



NZIF Foundation student and travel awards

Student awards



Ryan Drummond

The University Under-graduate Scholarship of \$1,000 was awarded to Ryan Drummond, 4th year Bachelor of Forestry Science at the University of Canterbury.

The Frank Hutchinson Scholarship of \$1,000 for a post-graduate student was awarded to Virginia Christians, a Master of Supply Chain Management at Massey University, whose thesis topic

is on cooperative competition in logistics activities in log exporting.

Chavasse travel award

The award of \$3,500 was made to Dr Peter Edwards, post-doctoral researcher at Lincoln University. He will travel to Belarus to teach a course in land use governance and develop a forest policy teaching and research programme, which he expects to deliver at Lincoln.

NZIF Forester of the Year

Brian Richardson

Brian is a Principal Scientist and General Manager, Forest Science at Scion. He oversees research relating to forest growing including forest genetics, management, environment/sustainability and protection/biosecurity. During the previous 18 months, Brian has led the sector's research initiatives in the areas of productivity and sustainability of New Zealand's forests. This has included focusing on foliage diseases and the Growing Confidence in Forestry's Future, which aims to double productivity of New Zealand's forests. One nominator summed up Brian as follows: 'He is reliable, does what he says he will do, no personal egos, no bullshit, very well respected by both scientists and industry people for his personal credibility, his ability and for quietly getting on with the job.'



New Fellows

Four new Fellows were appointed at the 87th AGM of the NZIF on 10 August 2015. These were the first set of Fellows elected under the new voting rules that require at least 100 eligible members to vote and 80% of those voting to approve the election of the member as a Fellow.

Ian Armitage

Ian joined the NZ Forest Service (NZFS) in the late 1950s, having obtained a BSc from Victoria University and an MA Forestry at Oxford. From the mid-1960s he was a rising star in the NZFS, including a stint as Assistant Conservator Planning for the Wellington Conservancy. By this time he already had experience working on forestry bilateral aid projects in the Pacific. On his return to New Zealand he headed the Ministry of Forestry's overseas advisory section for a couple of years. He soon became so much in demand by UN FAO, the World Bank and other agencies, that he was able to strike out on his own, and this led him to becoming probably one of New Zealand's best known forestry consultants on the international circuit.

Much of Ian's contribution to the profession of forestry has been largely unreported. This is due to the quiet unassuming nature of the man who simply has pursued his lifelong interest in forestry and not sought the limelight. He has nevertheless authored a number

of technical papers and has been a frequent contributor to the *NZ Journal of Forestry* over the years.

Outside his international forestry interests and commitments, he is a Council member of the Ornithological Society of NZ. This stems from his lifelong passion for improving the health of forests to provide adequate habitats to sustain bird populations. In 2014, Ian was recognised for this work when he was awarded Wellingtonian of the Year in the environmental section. This recognised his role as President of the Rimutaka Forest Park Trust, leading a team reintroducing kiwi into the park. Supported by the trapping of stoats and rats, there is now a thriving population of more than 100 kiwi in over 3,000 ha of native forest on Wellington's doorstep.

Alan Bell

After completing a Bachelor of Forestry at the University of Canterbury's School of Forestry in 1976, Alan embarked on a career with the NZFS. During this time he worked as a field forester, and later a resources forester for the New Zealand Government, which was at that time this country's largest owner of exotic plantations.

Alan moved to Wellington to undertake a corporate planning role with the New Zealand Forestry Corporation (NZFC), what the NZFS became after becoming an state-owned enterprise in 1987. After the Labour Government of the day embarked on a sale of state forests, Alan was seconded to the NZFC Asset Sales Group and set about valuing all of New Zealand's state plantations for the sales process. He became an independent forestry consultant in 1992 and was registered with NZIF as a specialist consultant in the field of 'Assessment, Investment Analysis and Valuation of Forest Resources'. Alan is a keen whitewater paddler.

Paul Nicholls

Paul is currently the President of NZ Forest Owners Association, a member of the Forest Owners Levy Trust Board, Chair of NZ Wood, and a member of the Wood Council of NZ. These are all elected positions of great significance to the New Zealand forest industry, notable for their requirement for astute leadership, sound judgement and willingness to commit significant time and effort to the forestry cause. Most notably, Paul has instituted the Independent Forest Safety Review as a response to the unacceptable and growing accident rate in forestry, answering challenges to the industry from political and community groups alike. Paul is continuing to front this programme and otherwise deal with the media and political response to this initiative on behalf of the industry, which involves communication with WorkSafe NZ, the Minister, opposition politicians and employee representatives.

Other initiatives include the restructure of NZ Wood to ensure it is self-funding and sustainable – he is passionate about the potential of wood and ensuring

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*?