

## NZIF Newsletter 2017-06 (10 April 2017)

### President's Column



It is the time of the year where I ask you all as members to help us with the conference. Our conference is only possible due to the sponsorship we raise. This year some of our regular sponsors have declined to sponsor, saying they feel it is someone else turn. Whilst disappointing, I fully endorse their views. There are many small and large companies involved in forestry who have not sponsored the conference.

The conference provides a opportunity for your staff to gain knowledge, keep up with the latest developments and network. All three of these help your company grow, and compared to other conferences our registration fees are low. So I encourage each an every one of you to discuss the possibility of sponsoring our conference with your managers, or if the decision is yours then I encourage you to give me a call to discuss.

This years conference is looking to be very informative. The line up of speakers is impressive and the topics all interesting. I encourage all of you to register to attend. Rotorua is one of the easier locations to get to so this year distance should be less of an issue.

During the awards dinner we will be announcing the inaugural winner of The Prince of Wales award for Sustainable Forestry. It would be a honour to have your name as the first ever winner of this award, which I know will continue for sometime. The purpose is to recognise our young foresters, and I ask all of you to consider nominating someone for this award. The award itself is supplied by The Prince of Wales and I look forward to awarding it at our awards night.

Some of you will remember the Leadership award I have discussed in the past. We are still working on this award (which is a 3 month work program in another country for our graduates) and I hope to be able to announce the program soon. Again we are looking for companies who could provide work to a young forester from Canada, UK or Australia; and we are looking for a cornerstone sponsor to help pay some of the travel costs.

As always our Institute needs you to be successful. Please put some thought into conference sponsorship and who you could nominate for the Sustainability award. I look forward to seeing the nominations and talking to you about potential sponsorship options.

Regards

James Treadwell

## [Institute News](#)

### **NZIF Conference 2017**

The 2017 NZIF conference “ **The Future of the NZ Forestry Sector**” and AGM will be held at the Novotel Lakeside, Rotorua between the **3rd and the 6th September 2017**. Please add this date to your diaries now!

A host of international and domestic speakers will provide insight into the technologies, policies, and market drivers that will shape our structure, position in the landscape and the composition of our workforce. The conference field trip will take advantage of Rotorua’s unique position at the heart of the industry and will offer a unique opportunity to visit processing sites, research trials and local forests. More details of the programme will be published shortly. This conference will offer something to a broad range of industry professionals, students and associated industry sectors.

If you are interested in sponsoring the NZIF Conference or would like to book a Trade Stand please contact our President, [James Treadwell](#).

### **Prince of Wales Award for Sustainable Forestry**

NZIF and IFA are pleased to announce a new award, the Prince of Wales Award for Sustainable Forestry all NZIF members.

The purpose of the award is to recognize the achievements of two outstanding young forest professionals in Australia and New Zealand. This award is to encourage engagement in and dedication to, the principles of sustainable forest management including policy, planning and practice, sound science based land stewardship. Awardees must be committed to public outreach and knowledge exchange focusing on the wise use and conservation of forests and the ecosystems that they encompass.

The eligibility criteria are as follows:

1. One trophy will be awarded in each country each year. Although available annually, the trophy will only be awarded if a suitable candidate/nominee is judged to be eligible and deserving by the Institute’s nomination committee.
2. Eligible recipients must either be a student or recent graduate and up to 30 years of age from a forestry, natural resources or environmental science university or college program, who has made outstanding contributions to their school and program, and to forest professionalism in general, within their community.
3. Recipients must be members in good standing of their respective Institutes, thus demonstrating their personal commitment to lifelong continuing education and professional development, and their support of forest professionalism.

Nominations for the Prince of Wales Award for Sustainable Forestry are now open and must be submitted by 1 May 2017. For more information please see [Prince of Wales Award for Sustainable Forestry](#) .

Please send completed application form to National Office [admin@nzif.org.nz](mailto:admin@nzif.org.nz) or PO Box 10-513 Wellington.

## **From the Registrar**

### Registration Reviews

The following Registered Members have their five year reviews due:

- Mr K Tsang of Auckland
- Mr J Schrider of Wellington

Any member of the Institute has the right to object to an application or review. Any objection should be made by lodging a notice with the Registrar within 20 working days of the first appearance (10 April 2017) of the notice in this Newsletter, specifying the grounds of the objection.

Mike Marren

## **Nelson/Marlborough Local Section Meeting - 27 April**

Tree Crops for the Future – Sweden, presented by Professor Urban Nilsson

Professor Urban specialises in forest production at Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences. He is located in southern Sweden and his research is primarily about forest production in the three most common conifer species in Sweden, the two native species Norway spruce and Scots pine and the introduced lodgepole pine.

Urban is also interested in management of mixed forests which has been a neglected area of research in Sweden. Since forests in Sweden serve multiple goals of e.g. wood production, recreation and biodiversity, much of the research is about how to combine these sometimes conflicting goals. In addition, half of the forest land in Sweden is owned by small private forest owners which makes it important to design forest management methods to meet the objectives of the owners.

The University of Canterbury School of Forestry Year 3 students will be in attendance, so please take this opportunity to come along to talk to perspective employees also.

When: Thursday 27th April 2017, 4.30pm

Where: Nelson Forests Ltd, 58A Gladstone Road, Richmond

RSVP: To [angus.malcolm@colliers.com](mailto:angus.malcolm@colliers.com)

## **Members Voice**

In the middle of last century, deer populations peaked in the Urewera ranges. The lower stories of the forest had been destroyed by browsing and ringbarking of saplings except mainly for the hook-seeded Uncinia sedge and Urtica stinging nettle. Lichen etc. had been taken from the lower trunks of the trees and some clay banks had been licked smooth in a search for minerals. The animals were skinny and Stags' antlers were grown to less than a half normal length.

Little gullies in the hills ran muddy water after ten minutes of rain. A forest catchment in this state is little better than bare farmland for absorbing rain and the hills are high and steep. Rain such as recently experienced will produce flooding under any circumstances, but it must be much worse when the country has little more absorptive properties than a "tin roof".

Subsequently, animal populations were reduced, but it would have needed many years of recovery to restore some of the health of the forest. Obviously this has not happened, probably because of lack of resources by an underfunded Department of Conservation and the Tuhoi owners of the lower levels.

Whether or not the people in the Whakatane area who suffered from flooding have a case to criticise the standard of the stopbanks can only be established by an investigation. But there should also be an enquiry into the management of the catchments above. It is possible that no amount of expensive engineering in the land below can compensate for neglect of the real cause in the high country upstream.

John G Rawson

## **In the News**

### **Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) Afforestation Grant Scheme (AGS) funding round.**

Applications will be accepted until 28 April.

Through the AGS, MPI provides grants of \$1,300 a hectare for farmers to plant new small to medium-sized forests (5 hectares to 300 hectares). The purpose of the fund is to achieve a better environment through planting new forests. Whether it be carbon absorption or reducing land erosion, the scheme is already making a real contribution. More information on the AGS is available [here](#).

### **Simpson Grierson**

#### **Forestry News Update**

##### **Whanganui roads damaged by forestry trucks**

The Whanganui District Council is facing a \$20 million shortage in their roading budget. Council manager Mark Hughes believes the pressure on roading from heavy forestry vehicles has resulted in an urgent need for repairs, which the Council is struggling to afford. It has been suggested that the Council will need to charge the forestry industry for the damage caused, especially with forestry activity expected to increase in the region next year.

[Link to article](#)

##### **Report compares economic impact of forestry and farming**

A new report has been released by the New Zealand Institute of Economic Research investigating the economic impact of forestry compared to other land use. The report, commissioned by the Forest Owners Association ( **FOA**) and Farm Foresters Association, has suggested that the forestry industry would be more competitive if other land users, such as farming, were required to pay for their environmental impact. FOA president Peter Clark also suggested forestry would benefit from its own department within MPI and a dedicated Minister.

[Link to article](#)

### **Red Stag Timber open 'super-mill' in Rotorua**

The largest sawmill in the Southern Hemisphere has opened in Rotorua. This 'super-mill' will be capable of processing more than 1 million logs per year. The number of sawmills in New Zealand has almost halved in the past 13 years, but Red Stag believes their new scanning and optimising technology will ensure their new mill will be successful in a very competitive market.

[Link to article](#)

### **Drones the future of plantation monitoring?**

A joint project between Australian and New Zealand forestry research groups is developing technology to collect tree density data from pine plantations via unmanned drones. This data could then be used improve the precision of growth assessments and projections. The researchers are also aiming to develop the ability to construct 3-D models of individual trees, to estimate log production.

[Link to article](#)

### **New Health and Safety legislation may take time to have an impact**

The decline in injury rates in the forestry sector in 2015 did not carry into 2016, with the rate of serious injuries rising nearly 11 percent last year. However, figures show that the overall trend has improved since 2017. Forestry Industry Safety Council national safety director Fiona Ewing has told Newstalk ZB that while the new legislation is a good step, it may take time before the industry sees its effect play out in injury statistics.

[Link to article](#)

### **FENZ provide information about changing structure of firefighting services**

The Fire Emergency New Zealand transition group has released a document addressing questions raised by the forestry industry regarding the merger of the New Zealand Fire service, the National Rural Fire Authority and various rural and territorial fire authorities. The merger will have an impact on existing agreements between forestry companies and Rural Fire Authorities, payment for firefighting services and the need for fire insurance.

[Link to article](#)

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