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Chairman's Column

"The time has come", the Walrus said, "to talk of other things – of ships and shoes and sealing wax and cabbages and kings". Lewis Carroll.

The dust has settled on the second "Earth Summit" in Johannesburg during 2002 and the world's forestry attention has begun to focus on the World Forestry Congress in Quebec City during September 2003. Many people express concern about the costs of such huge meetings in terms of money (when most institutions are facing severe financial restrictions); carbon dioxide production from the transport required for thousands of passengers and millions of miles (when the world is worried about climate change and the use of fossil fuels); and time (of policy-makers, managers, researchers, media representatives and the public).

The carbon dioxide production could be acceptable if it is absorbed by "carbon-offset" forests of some type approved under the Kyoto Protocol and many governmental and commercial institutions are now initiating various forms of voluntary or mandatory carbon taxes. The financial and time costs will be acceptable if the real benefits of conferences are also recognized. Of course conferences offer the opportunity to learn the latest research, management developments and policy issues through formal addresses but the major values arise from the inter-personal sharing of experiences and the combined pressure that it is possible to bring on

national and international agencies through conference resolutions and public information.

The World Forestry Congress will attract several thousand participants from all aspects of forestry and the programme will allow many simultaneous and diverse sessions. Political and technical resolutions will be transmitted to governments and hopefully raise their commitments to support their forests and sustainable management for all benefits. Individual members of the Commonwealth Forestry Association will play active roles in the Congress while the CFA itself is organizing a special side event on the forestry issues of Small Island Developing States. We shall also hold the Annual General Meeting during the Congress to allow many more members to participate than can normally attend AGMs in the UK; the Governing Council and Executive Committee are anxious that all members have their chance to play a part in the development of our Association. There will also be an opportunity for the presentation of the Queen's Award for Forestry.

The final comment on conferences must surely refer to the Commonwealth Forestry Conference to be held in Sri Lanka in 2005. The Standing Committee on Commonwealth Forestry (on which the Association is represented) is developing an exciting and relevant programme; it will take careful note of the outcomes of the World Forestry Congress to examine how

The international newsletter of the Commonwealth Forestry Association

"To promote the well-being of the world's forests and all who benefit from them".

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www.cfa-international.org/Zambia/index.htm

Chairman's Column (concluded)

foresters can cooperate in addressing common policy and technical issues that affect the countries of our Commonwealth of Nations.

We may use ships and shoes in arriving at conferences, we may even discuss cabbages as non-wood agro-forest products, but

above all we must influence the kings of governments and industry, of non-governmental organizations and academia, that forests are among the world's major resources that should receive appropriate management and adequate political support.

from **JEFF BURLEY**, Chairman

Association News

AGM

Quebec, Canada 24th September 18.30

The Annual General Meeting of the Commonwealth Forestry Association will be held in conjunction with the XII World Forestry Congress in Quebec City, Canada.

This has been arranged so that CFA members and those interested in CFA from many countries attending WFC, as well as our Canadian hosts, are able to meet and participate in the AGM. It is hoped that participants from all countries will make sure to join the AGM to take this opportunity for an international discussion of the role and activities of the CFA and its future direction. Final arrangements will be announced later.

cfa@cfa-international.org www.cfa-international.org

The joint Meeting of the Governing Council and the 81st Annual General Meeting of the Commonwealth Forestry Association will be held on Wednesday 24th September, 2003, 18.30 in the Hilton Québec, 1100 boul René-Lévesque Est, C.P. 1797 Québec, Canada.

AGENDA

1. Welcome and Apologies for Absence
2. Minutes of the 80th AGM held on 16 May 2002, Lifton, Cornwall, England.
3. Matters Arising
4. Chairman's Report – To be tabled
5. Presentation of the 2002 Accounts – To be tabled
6. Editors' Reports
 - (a) Review
 - (b) Newsletter
7. Association's Awards
8. Election of Officers
9. Member's input
10. Membership Issues including Subscriptions
11. National branch reports
12. Any Other Business
13. Date of next AGM

Forestry in Small Island Developing States.

Location: Hilton Quebec, on 24th Sept, 1230–1400hrs.

CFA is organising a satellite meeting at the XII World Forestry Congress. The event will consist of short presentations given by three invited speakers, Mette Loyche Wilkie, Manuel Dengo and Angela Cropper, outlining the key challenges and opportunities facing the inhabitants of SIDS and their forestry resources. This will be followed by a directed discussion chaired by the CFA. All CFA members are welcome. If you are attending the Congress please contact the CFA Technical Director by email at cfa@cfa-international.org for more details.

Commonwealth Day – March 10th 2003

Peter Wood, CFA Vice President, attended the Commonwealth Day Observance at Westminster Abbey in the afternoon, Alan Pottinger represented the CFA at the gathering at Marlborough House, London, in the evening.

Alan reports "I was pleased to meet Don Mackinnon, Secretary General of the Commonwealth Secretariat, and hear him tell me that he was familiar with the CFA.

"I also met the Queen, Duke of Edinburgh and Prince Edward. Politeness rather than interest was the order of the day although I did get a chance to offer the Duke a CFA tie – which he turned down".

from **ALAN POTTINGER**, CFA Technical Director

CFA in Australia

Three Events have occurred during the year.

1. The Governor Generals presentation already reported on.
2. Two new Excellence Awards.
3. Circulation of membership invitation to forestry & forest products people in Australia.

from **BOB NEWMAN**, Vice President and Regional Chairman for South East Asia and the Pacific.

Southern African Institute of Forestry (SAIF)

The initiative of Julian Evans to increase CFA membership in RSA through strengthening ties with the SAIF, appears to have been successful. There were 52 members of CFA/SAIF in 2002–2003 and a successful AGM was reported.

Zambia Branch

The CFA Zambia Branch has over 60 members and has opened liaison offices in each of Zambia's nine Provinces to address CFA activities at provincial level. Our target is to spread membership wings to all of the 74 Administrative Districts in Zambia taking due advantage of District Forest Offices, District Departments of Agriculture, public, private institutions, local community leaders and traditional chiefs.

Recent communication with Victor Kawanga led to the creation of the new Zambian Branch website at www.cfa-international.org/Zambia/index.htm.

It is suggested that all national branches should have their own websites linked to cfa-international.org.

The Zambian Branch recently submitted to CFA International a proposal for funding entitled 'Forest Awareness Programme and Management Strategy'. The project was well thought-out, consistent with CFA objectives, and had a reasonable budget. CFA is assisting Zambia Branch to secure funding from alternative sources

UK Branch May Tour 2003

The first event, a tour of the world famous Dawyck Botanic Gardens and Arboretum, on 15th May set the scene for the May Tour. Three century-old tree giants along the "David Douglas" trail set the benchmark for health and stability by tree form. The form of the free-grown giants with a h/d ratio of 20 – 35 equals that of the emergent giants in tropical rainforests. Mixed stands of native and non-native species with complex spatial and taxonomic structure visually demonstrated superb beauty, health, vigour, habitat, adaptiveness and brimming primary productivity. The party was deeply impressed and thankful for the spirited guidance by the curator, Dr David Knott.

The picture of the arboretum gave the next event, ecological restoration of woodland in the denuded Carrifan Valley essential terms of reference. There will be a long way to go. The question of whether the intensive, dense and costly planting of native tree and scrub species on about 600 ha could produce a guide and blueprint for the rest of Scotland, arose. The vastness of the denuded area, climatic change, changeable and diverse attitudes and preferences of the people as well as financial prudence may make greater use of natural succession a more attractive option, if not a necessity. The host for our visit to this worthwhile experiment was Dr Philip Ashmole.

The next day gave a fascinating insight in two contrasting forestries. First the conventional afforestation forestry with Sitka spruce plantations in Glentrees Forest of the Forestry Commission. Thinning with extraction by horse in a dense Sitka spruce stand produces timber – there is demand but no willingness to pay a price that at least cover the cost because timber of this grade is oversupplied in the world market, and will remain so.

Then the traditional naturalistic "Dauerwald" silviculture and user- and market-orientated management in Bowhill Estate. This follows traditions which the father of the present owner and Professor Sir Harry Champion promoted and passed on to His Grace, the Duke of Buccleuch, (past President of CFA). The Estate Forester, Andy Wisemann effectively realises the ecological and economic astuteness and flexibility, aesthetic appeal and social adaptability, which are invaluable in a time of constant social economic and environmental change.

The May Tour demonstrated critical issues right across the gamut of Scottish forestry and deserved a larger attendance than the sixteen who came.

from **EBERHARD BRUENIG**

Large type or audio

It would be possible to provide copies of CFNews and possibly IFR in large type to make for easier reading. It would also be possible to arrange for an audio version of CFN. We would like to hear from any members who would like to receive CFNews in either of these formats.

from **PHILIP WARDLE and ALAN POTTINGER** Editors

Executive Committee Discussion

• Charging Life Members for the IFR

Several Life Members have written to ask whether it was correct for the CFA to ask Life Members to pay £25 per year to receive the IFR, following receipt of letters in August asking for the contribution. The Charter and Bye Laws state that the issue of membership entitlements and subscriptions could be discussed and modified at the AGM. In this particular case the issue had been discussed at the 2002 AGM and had been reported in CFN 17 in June 2002.

- o It was agreed that there was understandable confusion over the issue of Life Member entitlements but that their membership status was not in question.
- o Many Life Members had responded positively to the request for financial support and the additional subscription for IFR.

• Other membership issues

- o The question whether members were happy to receive the Newsletter alone or whether they would be willing to pay a (subsidised) additional price for the Journal, should be put to all Membership Categories in the next issue of the Newsletter.
- o It was suggested that the £10 membership fee for developing country members was unrealistic given the difficult financial situation of the CFA and proposed that £25 would be more appropriate if they are to receive copies of the Journal as well as the Newsletter.

Membership categories and entitlements are being reviewed with a view to making a proposal to the next meeting of the Executive Committee for submission to the AGM 2003. Members' views on the merits of these proposals are invited, to be sent to Mr Alan Pottinger, CFA Technical Director.

Around the World



XII^e Congrès forestier mondial
XII World Forestry Congress
XII Congreso Forestal Mundial

QUÉBEC, CANADA 2003

September 21 to 28, 2003

Information

From the Congress Web site at www.wfc2003.org or from the Secretariat:

XII World Forestry Congress

800 Place d'Youville, 18th floor,
Quebec City (Québec), Canada G1R 3P4
Tel: (418) 694 2424 Fax: (418) 694 9922
E-mail: sec-gen@wfc2003.org

17th Commonwealth Forestry Conference, Sri Lanka

Preparations for the 17th Commonwealth Forestry Conference are now underway.

Date: 28 February to 5 March 2005.

Place: Colombo, Sri Lanka

Title: 17th Commonwealth Forestry Conference – "Forestry's Contribution to Poverty Reduction"

Organiser: Forest Department of Sri Lanka/ Standing Committee on Commonwealth Forestry

Contact for further details: forlib@sltnet.lk or libby.jones@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

UNFF 3

The third session of the United Nations Forum on Forests was held from 26 May to 6 June 2003 in Geneva, Switzerland. The focus was on the following elements:

- economic aspects of forests;
- forest health and productivity;
- maintaining forest cover to meet present and future needs.

The session included a multi-stakeholder dialogue, in which major groups shared their views, experiences and lessons learned regarding the 3 elements. The Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue provides a forum for direct interchange of ideas between governments and civil society, represented by 9 major groups: youth, women, business, farmers, local authorities, environmental NGOs, indigenous peoples, trade unions and the scientific/technological communities.

Pekka Patossari (Coordinator and head, UNFF Secretariat) writes: "I have been especially excited about development of relations between UNFF and the various stakeholders – the "major groups". The secretariat envisions major groups as fully fledged members of the UNFF process and the multi-stakeholder dialogue is a first step in making this vision a reality.

unff@un.org

UNFF and planted forests

The UNFF New Zealand inter-sessional expert meeting on maximising the role of planted forests in sustainable forest management. This meeting is discussed below in the special feature – Planted Forests.

IUFRO and UNFF

IUFRO has been nominated as the focal point representing the Scientific and Technological Community in the multi Stakeholder Dialogue at UNFF3

Sitka spruce in Canada

Professor Gordon Weetman, former CFA branch secretary in Canada, was the principal guest speaker at the UK's Institute of Chartered Foresters 2003 National Conference in April. The conference theme was 'An Industry Reborn: the UK's new forests' and Professor Weetman spoke on 'The Ecology and Management of Sitka spruce in its Native Range'. His presentation was extraordinarily well received as British foresters, used to growing Sitka spruce in uniform monocultures on short rotations, heard about the variety of sites and stands, not to mention great ages achieved, by this remarkable species in its native habitat.

from JULIAN EVANS, Vice President

Conversion of plantations to other uses in South Africa

On 14 September 2000 the Minister of Public Enterprises, Jeff Radebe, and the Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry, Ronnie Kasrils, announced that: "Forestry will be phased out of 12,000 ha of the Eastern and Western shores of Lake St Lucia ... within five years, and the land will be incorporated into the Greater St Lucia Wetland Park. ... Forestry will be phased out of 15,000 ha in the Boland area of the Western Cape [i.e. the SW part of that Province] and 30,000 ha in the Southern Cape currently managed by Safcol. These plantations are not commercially viable, and timber no longer represents the best land use option in these areas. This will open opportunities for other land uses including agriculture (particularly fruit and grapes), tourism and conservation. The process of conversion will be carefully managed over a period of 10–15 years." The government has decided to retain the ownership of the land.

On 2 May 2003 a symposium on the conversion proposal was organised in Stellenbosch jointly by the Departments of Forest & Wood Science at the University, and the Western Cape Branch of The Southern African Institute of Forestry. The head of the state forest service, Winston Smith, spoke about the issues. The other speakers were Dirk Versfeld on strategic planning; Maude Dlomo from the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry (DWAF) on the position of the regulator; Mikael Grut on South Africa's new National Water Act; Peter Roberts on the water demand/supply situation; Patrick Kime on farm forestry in Natal; Susan Steyn on community forestry in the Western Cape Province; Stanley Visser on urban forestry in Cape Town; Dave Reeves on the consequences for the sawmilling industry of the proposed conversion; Greg Forsyth on fire protection; David Daitz on nature conservation aspects; and Ruiz Fernandes on alternative land uses in the La Motte forest plantation.

Further information from the university's Public Relations Officer, Mrs Ilse Schröder, email ilse@sun.ac.za

from MIKAEL GRUT

International meetings of forestry interest

July 2003

6–11 July. *XVth International Plant Protection Congress.* Beijing–China. Contact: Ms. Wen Liping; Fax: +86-10-628-15913; Email: ippc2003@ipmchina.net; www.ipmchina.net.
20–24 July. *10th North American Forest Soils Conference,* Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, Canada. URL www.fs.fed.us/forestsoilsconference.
26 July – 1 August. *International Rangeland Conference,* Durban, South Africa www.ru.ac.za/institutes/rgi/irc2003/IRC2003.htm

August 2003

14–17 August. *Peripheral Communities: Crisis, Continuity, and Long–Term Survival.* Angersjö, Sweden. Contact: Kristian Falk; Email: kristian.falk@ekohist.su.se.
17–24 Aug. *3RD International 'Wind and Trees' Conference – "Strong Winds and Trees: ecology and management"* (IUFRO 8.08.02). Zurich, Switzerland. Contact: Reinhard Lassig; Fax: 41-1-7392389; Email: laessig@wsi.ch, www.wsi.ch/forest/waldman/waldman-en.ehtml.
20–23 August. *Linking Mountain Diversity with fire, grazing and erosion.* La Paz, Bolivia. Contact: Dr. R.W. Bussmann; rbussmann@natureandculture.org; www.biodiversidad.utpl.edu.ec
25–30 Aug. *2nd Congress of Conservation of Biodiversity in the Andes and the Amazon Basin + 4th Ecuadorian Botanical Congress,* Loja, Ecuador. Contact, Ranier Bussmann, Email: rbussmann@natureandculture.org, www.natureandculture.org.
28 Aug –2 Sept. *Forest Research Crossing Borders, 10th Annual Conference of the European Forest Institute.* Joensuu, Finland and St Petersburg, Russia. www.efi.fi/events/2003/10AC/

September 2003

8–17 Sept. *World Parks Conference.* Durban, South Africa. Contact: Peter Shadie, Email: pds@iucn.org ; URL:<http://wcpa.iucn.org/wpc/wpc.html>
10–14 Sept. *Breeding and Genetic Resources of Five-Needle Pines* (IUFRO). Borovetz, Bulgaria. Contact: Scott Schlarbaum, Fax: +1-615-974-4733; Email: tenntip@utk.edu
14–20 Sept. *Tropical Savannas and Seasonally Dry Forests,* Edinburgh, Scotland, UK. Contact, Toby Pennington, Fax: +44 (0) 131 248 2901, Email: t.pennington@rbge.org.uk. www.ectf.co.uk.
16–18 Sept. *International Workshop "Wind Effects on Trees."* Karlsruhe, Germany. www.ifh.uni-karlsruhe.de/ifh/science/aerodyn/windconf.htm.
17–19 Sept. *Information interoperability and organization for national and global forest information systems.* Quebec, Canada, (IUFRO). Contact: Dr. Alan J. Thomson, Fax: +1-(250) 363-0775. Email: athomson@pfc.forestry.ca.

Irish Forestry and teak

Since 1993, Coillte Consult has worked in Latin America (Costa Rica, Panama, Brazil, El Salvador, Belize), Africa (Ghana, Benin, Cameroon, Kenya, Tanzania), and Asia (Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam), providing a range of independent services to growers, investors, traders and development agencies in the tropical timber plantations sector – with emphasis on teak. To consolidate these services and to provide greater customer focus, Coillte Consult established the International Teak Unit (ITU) in 2003.

ITU provides investment analysis for proposed or existing plantations. The analysis incorporates: site appraisal, growth

21–28 Sept. *XII World Forestry Congress.* Quebec City, Canada. Contact: Fax: 418-694-9922; Email: sec-gen@wfc2003.org, www.wfc2003.org/.

October 2003

3–6 October. *3rd International Wildland Fire Conference & Exhibition.* Sydney, Australia. Contact: Fax 61-2-9248 0894; Email: wildland03@tourhosts.com.au; www.wildlandfire03.com.
5–8 October. *Biological Resources and Migration* (IUFRO). Marburg, Germany. Contact: Dietrich Werner: info@biol-resource-migration.de; www.biol-resource-migration.de.
13–15 October. *Monitoring and Indicators of Forest Biodiversity – From Ideas to Operationality* (IUFRO), Florence Italy. Contact: Email: tor-bjorn.larsson@eea.eu.int.
14–18 Oct. *Natural Forests in the Temperate Zone of Europe – Values and Utilisation.* Rakhiv, Transcarpathia (Ukraine). Contact: Brigitte Commarmot, Fax: 41-1-739-22-15; Email: rakhiv_2003@wsl.ch; www.wsl.ch/forest/waldman/rakhiv_2003/
19–30 Oct. *Sixth Conference Of The Parties To The Convention To Combat Desertification* (CCD COP–6). Bonn, Germany. Contact: CCD Secretariat; Fax: 228-815-2898/99; Email: secretariat@unccd.int; www.unccd.int/

November 2003

3–8 Nov. *35th Session of the International Tropical Timber Council,* Yokohama, Japan. Contact, Collins Ahadome, Fax: +81 45 223 1111, Email: itto@itto.or.jp, www.itto.or.jp.

December 2003

2–5 December 2003. *International Conference on Quality Timber Products of Teak from Sustainable Forest Management* (ITTO/IUFRO). Peechi, India. Contact: K.M. Bhat, Email: kmbhat@kfri.org; www.kfri.org/html/k0500frm.htm

August 2005

8–13 Aug. *XXII IUFRO World Congress,* Brisbane, Australia. Contact: Russell J. Haines, Queensland Forestry Research Institute: Fax: 61-7-389-69714; Email: hainesr@qfril.se2.dpi.gld.gov.au.

2005

28 February to 5 March *17th Commonwealth Forestry Conference, theme "Forestry's Contribution to Poverty Reduction"* Colombo, Sri Lanka
forlib@sltnet.lk or libby.jones@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

The web sites of EFI, EFRN, CIFOR and Gyde Lund's Forest Information Update, are acknowledged as sources.

from NELL BAKER

assessment, valuation, economic assessment, markets, return on investment and risk. It has developed and operates a methodology for auditing of all operations from planting to harvesting that ensures consistent best practice standards are met. The Unit also provides independent operational audit for investment companies and market analysis to support plantation investment decisions, timber processing expansion and export development.

Coillte Consult Ltd is a subsidiary company of Coillte (Irish Forestry Board) teakunit@coillte.ie

from RAYMOND KEOGH

Special Feature

Planted Forests

Alarms over deforestation continue unabated as a social, environmental and ecological catastrophe of our time, but little publicised is the astonishing rise in the extent of planted forests. Globally planted forests have increased from around 100 million to 180 million ha in just 20 years. While some of this increase arises, believe it or not, from deciding when a forest is defined as 'planted'(!), there is no doubt that planted forests are becoming the primary industrial wood fibre resource of the world. Indeed, by about 2025 more than half of global wood requirement will be sourced from such forests and, in this sense, will help divert pressure from natural forests.

This theme was the subject of a UN Forum on Forests intersessional experts meeting on Planted Forests in Wellington, New Zealand (25-27 March 2003). The full title was the 'Role of Planted Forests in Sustainable Forest Management' and was a follow-up to an earlier intersessional on this subject held in Santiago, Chile in April 1999. Ten countries, including 6 from the commonwealth - Australia, Canada, Malaysia, New Zealand, South Africa and UK - sponsored the Wellington meeting and in all 45 countries were represented. As well as government delegates there were representatives from several international organisations such as FAO, CIFOR, IUFRO and ITTO, the timber trade, and national and international NGOs. CFA members involvement was significant including Don Wijewardana, who not only planned and developed the meeting's agenda, but led the team organising the event, and Julian Evans who was invited by the New Zealand hosts and contracted by UK DFID to chair the meeting.

The meeting was accorded high priority by the New Zealand government and was opened by the Prime Minister, Hon. Helen Clark. She not only referred to the astonishingly successful radiate pine plantations, but mentioned that her government had stopped logging in all state owned natural forest. New Zealand's sustained investment in plantations had, in effect, made this sweeping policy possible, though not everyone in the forest industry was in full agreement!

The report of the meeting, including 16 recommendations, was submitted to the third session of UNFF in Geneva in late May. The role of planted forests as a rapidly expanding resource is recognised as is the diverse range of types embraced from large-

scale industrial plantations to small scale holdings established for protection or community needs. Planted forests are seen as complementary to natural forest, never able to replace all the values associated with the world's fabulous natural forests, but, when appropriately developed, helping to divert some of the pressures away from them. This sense of complementarity needs further research and assessment to clarify the relationship between planted and other types of forest at the landscape and regional scale. In forest-poor countries the contribution planted forests can make to poverty eradication was highlighted.

While considering the increasingly important role planted forests play, it was fully realised that achieving optimum use and development would not simply happen by default. Resources to build infrastructure, to ensure transfer of knowledge and technologies, particularly in the third world, will be crucial. Equally critical is the further development and implementation of certification and labelling schemes, procurement policies, and the full recognition of non-market benefits if planted forests of the future are to fulfil all that is expected of them.

These remarks perhaps sound strange to foresters in countries like Britain where almost the entire estate is built around plantations and planted forests, but for many countries achieving the balance between planted and natural forests is one of the major challenges of the present time. On the one hand, one has only to consider Canada's huge commitment today to tree planting as a means of forest regeneration and even creation to realise the importance of the topic. On the other hand German forest statistics suggest they have no planted forests at all, yet we all know how much regeneration, in the Black Forest for example, has been and is achieved by planting trees.

Planted forests, and that is now the fashionable term, are not only here to stay but will increasingly come to dominate forest production in the future. Let us hope this trend will help alleviate threats to natural forest.

from JULIAN EVANS, Vice-President

Taxing, pricing and training

- evidence to an Australian Senate Enquiry

Bob Newman, Vice President of CFA, gave evidence in February 2003, to the Senate Enquiry being conducted through its Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References and Legislative Committee.

He contended that the continuation of the up-front personal tax deduction for forest establishment is essential to continue the flow of money into the plantation sector and to ensure also that private natural forest is maintained as a dynamic forest. The taxation implications are not perhaps as difficult as some people make out-in other words, the loss of cash flow to the Commonwealth-because the majority of the money that is paid up front is expended on wages and equipment, much of which attracts taxes. It is important because the private forestry investment industry is replacing the investment previously made by state governments.

The growth in short-term rotation hardwood plantations, with investment periods as short as 10 years, has attracted over \$1 billion in recent years, whose primary objective is to produce wood fibre for both the Asia pulp and paper manufacturing industry and, hopefully, an Australian industry. The level of investment in new plantings of radiata pine, the softwood, has dropped very strongly. The level of availability of softwood sawlog in particular in the future appears not to have been considered by policy makers. Solving this issue of a 25- to 30-year P. radiata rotation versus a 10- to 15-year Eucalyptus pulp rotation in attracting investment requires a tiered approach to taxation.

If the correct taxation arrangements are structured to allow an investor to sell his trees which he established originally to a second owner at a taxable profit at age 10, and for the buyer to then have a tax deduction as a primary producer on the value for which he purchased the trees, then for a start this would interest people to other than eucalyptus pulpwood.

It would also establish some interest by natural forest owners in maintaining their forests by valuing their forests at the start and end of the period and taking a taxable profit, and even enabling another member of the family to buy the interest as a primary producer. This system could be repeated on the same forest asset several times. You could have a plantation of 50-year-old red cedar with five successive owners. Bear in mind that practically all investment has a time restriction; people are not interested in an investment over 10 years. For example, the longest Commonwealth bond period is 10 years. Additionally, it would allow the creation of a secondary market for all investors,

A main problem for encouraging softwood plantation development is what one might describe as unnecessary and even unconscious competition in selling pulpwood and sawlog between the private and public sectors. It is to do with pricing. Crown plantations, except perhaps in South Australia, have been to date by far the largest compared with the private sector. When it comes to harvesting, the Crown generally insists on a take-or-pay clause in a contract, so any adjacent private plantations are sold only when demand is high. Even when private wood is bought, the attitude of the industry is that they can get it significantly cheaper. As well, the industry does not generally sign long-term contracts similar to those related to Crown log purchases. The solution is to have a regulation which ensures that in age classes, irrespective of Crown or private ownership, harvesting in an economic utilisation region should be at the same price based on quality during that period.

The timber industry is a viable and relevant activity with employment and such a whole host of other positives about its products that further security is needed. The two policy initiatives for plantations described, if introduced, would go a long way towards ensuring its stability, funding and long-term economic benefits.

The quality of training of foresters is of an international standard, even though it is carried out on a shoestring. The committee could well inquire as to what is needed to change the shoestring to a reasonable shoelace. It would be well aware of the effect of not managing fuel levels in natural forests with the recent bushfires. As historically the forest services have experience of fire behaviour and control, it would be worth while canvassing more appropriate qualifications required for senior people in national parks, particularly those that might impinge on plantations.

from **BOB NEWMAN**

News of members and friends

Don Wijewardana honoured

I am delighted to report that the Queen's Birthday honours list included Don Wijewardana of the Policy group in MAF (and secretary of CFA NZ Branch), who has been awarded a Queen's Service Order for Public Services. Don was nominated by the forestry industry in recognition of his efforts over many years in support of forestry issues, both in the global arena and in New Zealand. His most recent achievement was organising an outstandingly successful United Nation's conference in Wellington on the subject of plantation forestry.

Congratulations Don!

from **M A SHERWIN, Director General, NZ Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry**

Forest Scenes

Green energy

The first power plant in Britain designed to use forest residues and fast growing willow crops has gone bankrupt after producing electricity for only eight days. The Arbre project turned wood and wood residues into gas to be burnt as fuel, design problems, however, prevented it from operating effectively.

The Yorkshire based Renewable Energy Growers, a thirty five strong co-operative is growing more than 1500 ha of willow to fuel the plant and was due to harvest the first crop this year. The uncertainty has major implications for the embryonic biomass power market, particularly the collapse in confidence among farmers in the case for growing energy crops.

The system of pyrolysis, turning wood and other plant matter into oil for burning, is also in trouble. Border fuels, a company planning to build several pyrolysis power plants, has gone into

liquidation. So far, straw and chicken manure plants are the only successful biomass energy projects.

These programmes have been supported by grants from the EU and the Department of Trade and Industry, which with other support was worth up to 12 pence per kilowatt-hour.

from THE GUARDIAN, 31.5.2003

The Scottish Midge

An Aberdeen University research team is waging war on the common midge. The team will explore why midges bite some individuals and not others and then use the information to develop more effective midge repellents using masking chemicals of human origin. The research will help address the problems experienced by some Scottish industries, for example, forestry - through loss of days at work, and the effect of the midge population in tourism.

from GAUDEAMUS, June 2003

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