

The Institute of Foresters of Australia

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MEDIA RELEASE

Institute of Foresters announce recipients of the N.W. Jolly Medal

The IFA President, Dr Peter Volker, announced today that two worthy recipients would be honoured in 2011 with the awarding of the N.W. Jolly Medal.

The N.W. Jolly Medal is the Institute of Foresters of Australia's highest and most prestigious honour for outstanding service to the profession of forestry in Australia.

In making the announcement, Dr Volker congratulated Mr Robert L Newman OAM and Dr David Flinn and acknowledged the invaluable contribution that both recipients have made throughout their careers as professional foresters.

'Davids career spans over 45 years and Roberts career over 60. These two men have dedicated their forestry careers to research and practical management in government, private and international arenas.'

'Both recipients have shown a remarkable contribution to forestry and continue to provide great insights into the strengths and weaknesses of the industry and the profession. Whilst these two professionals have worked in complimentary areas of expertise, together they respectfully represent scientific and management advancements seen in Australia.' Dr Volker said when making the announcement of the prestigious award.

The award to Robert and David recognises that science, research and how this translates into practical implementation are critically important aspects for the achievement of sustainable forestry and a sustainable and competitive forest industry – something that foresters have always strongly advocated and worked for.

The respective awarding ceremonies will be held later in the year.

Background Information on Robert L. Newman OAM and David W. Flinn is attached.

-END-(18/05/11)

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Mr Robert Newman OAM

Dr David Flinn

N.W. Jolly Medal Nomination Citation

Robert L. Newman OAM B.Sc.(For.), Dip. for., F.I.F.A., F.C.F.A., Cert. Bus. Admin., R.P.F.

Summary

R .L. (Bob) Newman, OAM, is regarded as one of the leaders in the development of private forestry in Australia spanning the years from 1970's to to-day. He has also played a significant part over an even longer period in professional and industrial associations.

He gained a B.Sc. (For) from Melbourne University in 1958 and a Diploma from the Australian Forestry School, Canberra, in 1955 (Appendix C:4) followed by a qualification in Business Management from the Hemingway Robertson Institute. In 1964 he was one of the first students to enter the private sector as a career in forestry and the forest industries

His career, which has spanned nearly 60 years, has covered many facets of Forest Establishment and Management, including eucalypt and pine Silviculture, Fire and Catchment Management. He started working in forestry, as a student in1951 for the Forests Commission of Victoria. In Forest Products he worked during 1952 and1953 for the Division of Forest Products CSIRO, then followed attendance at the Australian Forestry school (Appendix C:4). At the end of 1955 he was appointed Forester with Australian Newsprint Mills at Maydena in southern Tasmania and was responsible for resource assessment and supporting Dr Max Gilbert with his silvicultural research. In 1959 he was invited to join The State Electricity Commission of Victoria as the Works Forestry officer for the Kiewa Hydro-electric scheme at Bogong in North-east Victoria. Over 5 years he carried out the eradication of Plasmid plagues, was responsible for the Fire Protection, and stabilisation of newly constructed race lines and supply of logs to a major sawmill (Appendix C:3).

In 1964 he accepted the position of Development Manager for Strahan and Davies with pine sawmills at Myrtleford and a hardwood sawmill in the Otway's. During a 4 year period he was responsible for a major timber treatment plant construction and the installation of a Veneer peeling plant at Myrtleford and at the Company's H.Q. in Melbourne, new timber drying facilities. With this experience and the sale of the pine Mill to Bowater Scott he took up the offer to become General Manager for George Hudson for the A. C. T. and Southern N.S.W. in 1968. This was mainly a timber distribution role and with the intense competition in Sydney the position became untenable with the Company as a whole ceasing to trade .

With the support of timber suppliers in Sydney and Melbourne he commenced trading in Canberra in 1970 and had a successful business until 1976 when the Federal Government decided to reduce significantly funding for the Development of Canberra. He shut the business down and commenced full-time consulting with his first job from 1976 to 1980 with Risby Forest Industries in Tasmania,

He combined consulting with plantation establishment, from Launceston in 1980 carried out the role of Secretary of the A.F.D.I and the Timber Preservers Association. He under took the organisation of the Bicentenary Forestry Conference (Appendix C:7) by moving to Albury with his staff in 1987. After the conference in 1988 when he also organised the establishment of the National Foresters Grove (Appendix C:9). He kept his H.Q. there until 1993 when he was invited to take up accommodation at the C.S.I.R.O. Campus at Yarralumla (Appendix C: 10).

He merged his practice with G.H.D. Consultants in 2002 and has continued in private practice up to 2011. During his 30 years he carried out some 2000 client projects requiring detailed reports. Clients included;

A.N.M. Ltd; APPM Ltd Hyne and son Ltd, Forest Resources,, Tasmanian Government :N.S.W. Government, Tasmanian Board mills, Risby Forest Industries ;Duncans Holdings; Timberlands Plantations, Great Southern Plantations. Canterwood; Central Pacific Minerals, Fisher Jeffries, Rayonier; Victorian Government; DPI Queensland, Jardine Insurance and, CSR.

During his career he has worked overseas in Papua New Guinea, Malaysia and the Solomon Islands as well as in South Africa, New Zealand, Canada (Appendix C: 8), China and U.K..

Contribution to the development of Professional Foresters and of the role of forestry in general.

IFA.

1951 joined the I.F.A as a student member and have been a member ever since becoming a full member in 1961 and a fellow in 2005.

1958 attended second I.F.A. conference in Canberra and attended 14 (70%) of subsequent conferences and has been a committee man for three of them.

1960 one of the founders and served as Secretary of the I.F.A. Murray Catchment branch until 1964 and produced an I.F.A. publication "Forest services in Murray valley". With several editions

1961 to 1995 employed forestry students and recent graduates. (Dr. Wilf. Crane was the first). by 1995 he had employed some 80.

1962 presented a paper in the IFA (Melbourne) Conference to encourage the formation of branches.

1968 lectured in Forest Utilization at Melbourne Uni. before leaving for Canberra General Manager's appointment.

1977 gave a paper on the Marketing of Timber in Adelaide to the I.F.A. Conference.

1978 a founder member and became the second President of the Association of Consulting Foresters of Australia.

1982 was a substantial financial supporter of the IFA Jacobs memorial prize.

1984 was responsible for the suggestion to establish the M.R. Jacobs Oration to be given at I.F.A Conferences.

1985 Committeeman for the IFA (Hobart) Conference and gave a paper on Carbon sequestering.

1988 when responsible for the Australian Bicentenary conference also oversaw the establishment and then the maintenance of the National Foresters Grove. By 2011 nearly 200 trees dedicated with plaques.

1996 until 2004, Occasional Lecturer at ANU.

1997 raised funds (\$20,000 now) to initiate a permanent Jacobs prize for Silviculture; now at four Universities-A.N.U. ,Melbourne, Canterbury and Southern Cross.

2000 Committeeman for the reunion of A.F.S. students in Canberra.

2005 made a Member of the Order of Australia with Medal for Services to Forestry and the Community including Rugby Union.

2008 arranged the naming of a thoroughfare to be called Max Jacobs in Canberra and with Mark Parsons prepared nominations for 30 others

2008 gave a financial award for an A.C.T. Forester of the year for each of three years to establish an ongoing award .For the second time (the first about 1994) he joined the A.C.T. Division Committee and was responsible for Organising the Anniversaries Dinner in 2010.

AFDI, CFA et al.

1957 One of the Foresters to show Commonwealth Forestry conference delegates the A.N.M. Pulpwood operations in Southern Tasmania.

1970-72 President Canberra and Hobart (1980-82) Hoo-Hoo Clubs.

1977 Joined the Commonwealth Forestry Association.

1977 attended the first Conference of A.F.D.I in Traralgon and became a member and later a member and started Tasmanian branch in 1977 as Hon Secretary followed by being Chairman 1980-1981.

1979 responsible for supporting the AFDI Conferences in Launceston, Mt Gambier 1982, Dunedin N.Z. 1984, and Coffs Harbour. 1986.

1982 National Hon Secretary AFDI until 1990. Responsible for arranging core services such as insurance and tax concerns and servicing Branch structure from his Launceston Office.

1985 together with an AFDI Committee he arranged to meet with Hon John Kerin to forestall the Federal Government legislating to stop Individuals gaining a tax deduction on their private income when investing in Plantations. This was successful and in1986-1987 arranged Investment seminars in Melbourne and Sydney to encourage investment in Plantations.

I985 became a CFA Governing Councillor in time for C.F.C. in Vancouver.

Attended Commonwealth Forestry Conferences (Vancouver 1985, Rotorua, 1989, Kuala Lumpur, 1993, Perth 2001, and Colombo 2005).

1986 with Professor Poore instigated the H.M. Queens Award for Forestry and arranged the first award in Melbourne by H.M.The Queen.

1988 elected Vice Chairman of Governing Council.

1988 responsible for organising the Australian Bicentenary Conference in Albury and founding the National Foresters Grove.

1989 and 2004 Guest Speaker C.F.A. Function Vancouver.

1991 organised the move of the AFDI national office to the NAFI building in Canberra.

1990-1993 Chairman of CFA.

1993 continuing role of Vice President of C.F.A. up to today.

1996 on the 75th Anniversary of CFA presented H.M The Queen with an Australian parquetry piece depicting a Eucalypt.

1997 proposed a CFA regional medal to be awarded for excellence for S.E. –Asia. Implemented regularly since 1998.

1999 attended the function for the Duke of Buccleuch to mark his long service as President of the C.F.A. in Edinburgh.

2006 made Life Member T.C.A. .

N.W. Jolly Medal Nomination Citation

David W. Flinn Dip. For.(Cres.), B.Sc. (For.) Hons., Ph.D. (Melb.)

Summary

Dr David Flinn spent his entire 45-year forestry career in the field of forestry research and development. Significant advances in Australian forestry knowledge and practice were made as a result of both his personal research and the work of his staff. These advances were particularly important in the field of the nutrition and growth of *Pinus radiata*, the major plantation timber species in Australasia.

Born in 1944 and growing up in beloved north-east Victoria, David achieved his Diploma from the Victorian School of Forestry in the period 1963-5. He went on to the University of Melbourne to earn his B.Sc. (For.) Hons. in 1969. Post-graduate study resulted in a PhD for his thesis on the calcium nutrition of *Pinus radiata* in 1975.

On joining the Victorian Forests Commission's Research Branch in 1975 David focused on research into various aspects of the nutrition and productivity maintenance of tree plantations. In addition, he branched out into weed control and hydrology. The resultant identification of:

- new fertilizer regimes
- ways to deal with second rotation decline, and
- new, more environmentally-friendly herbicides and application techniques,

gave a strong scientific underpinning to the large plantation establishment programs that were underway in the 1970s and 1980s in south-eastern Australia.

Testament to his excellent managerial skills, David became the Manager of the Forest Research Branch of the Victorian Department of Conservation, Lands and Forests Division in 1986. In the period 1993-98, he was the Director of the new expanded Forest Research and Development Branch (known as the Centre for Forest Tree Technology - CFTT). A major player in the 1999-2000 merger of CFTT with the University of Melbourne's School of Forestry, David became inaugural Director of the new body - the Forest Science Centre – and was appointed an Associate Professor of Forestry of the University of Melbourne.

During the period 1975- 2000, David served the wider forestry profession with distinction in Australia and internationally by his active membership in the following groups:

- Research Working Group No.3 (Soils and Nutrition) of the Australian Forestry Council (incl. chairman for two years) 8 yrs
- Radiata Pine Research Liaison Committee of CSIRO Division of Forest Research 10 yrs
- Executive Board of the International Union of Forest Research Organisations (IUFRO) representing the Western Pacific nations 5 yrs
- IUFRO delegate on the Technical Committee of the Montreal Process Working Group
- Research Priorities and Coordination Committee of the Standing Committee on Forestry -14 yrs
- Australian Weeds Committee 8 yrs
- Technical Reference Committee during the development of the Australian Forestry Standard as the independent forest scientist
- The Institute of Foresters of Australia (incl. refereeing many papers for *Australian Forestry*) 27 yrs

David's involvement with IUFRO spanned several years and he attended many meetings in Europe, South-East Asia, and elsewhere. For someone who is not a keen flyer this was a major commitment! Among other duties and responsibilities, he was appointed a deputy vice-president of the IUFRO Board in 1997 and initiated the IUFRO/FAO/CIFOR International Conference on Sustainability Indicators in Melbourne in 1998. David's work with IUFRO was carried out in his usual thorough and enthusiastic way – raising the profile of Australian forestry in the process. David played a role within the Victorian government in bringing the now large Blue Gum plantation industry to south-west Victoria through his advocacy of the potential of the sector and his vision in fostering collaborative research to underpin this (then) new industry.

His extensive knowledge of herbicides and their modes of action on weed and plantation species made him a particularly valuable member of the Australian Weeds Committee, and a frequent referee for agricultural chemical registration reviews. One of his many legacies is Australia's National Weeds Strategy, of which he was a co-author.

During the mid-late 1990s David was key contributor to the revision of the Victorian Code of Forest Practices for Timber Production and to the State-wide Silviculture Working Party, a Departmental policy advisory body. In complex negotiations, David has a unique and valuable ability to summarise various views and pieces of information and then suggest a way forward that is acceptable to all parties.

David was always interested in putting research results into field practice. In the 1980s he pioneered a means of technology transfer known as Research and Development Action Groups (RDAGs). These regional groups were comprised of R&D staff, field officers and policy personnel, and met usually twice a year for a couple of days. RDAGs were remarkably productive and often led to new research projects when problems had no clear solution.

With his friendly and encouraging leadership style, David maintained a loyal group of scientists and technicians who worked on a large range of programs, including genetics, entomology, pathology, native forest silviculture, fire ecology, hydrology, as well as nutrition of eucalypts and pines. Some of the major research programs are listed on Page 1.

After retirement in 2000, David continued his passion for forestry and undertook a number of consultancies including authoring major reports on the extensive forest fires in Victoria in 2003 and 2006/07. He was awarded the Commonwealth Forestry Association Medal (Asia-Pacific Region) in 2000 for excellence in forest management. David is currently actively involved in a native forest harvesting project in East Gippsland which he believes will have positive outcomes for the forest, the industry, and regional communities.

David was, and is, well known for his perceptive and helpful editing of draft reports by colleagues – mostly in the days before word processing programs made this somewhat easier. This was a skill which helped to underpin the significant output of quality research reports. He published over 80 scientific and technical papers as senior author (~30) or co-author (~55). *These are listed below*. In addition, he contributed to numerous research project reports which were produced departmentally, but not formally published.

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