

SOURCES OF ASSISTANCE : LIRA

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Introduction

LIRA's aims are to improve the efficiency, safety, productivity and profitability of the logging industry. It is set up to serve its members, who support it by voluntary levies or subscriptions.

The sources of funding for 1988/89 are illustrated in figure 1.

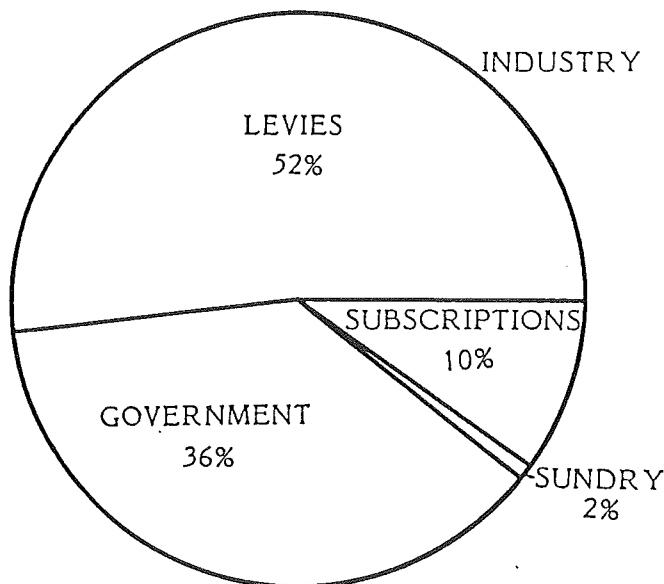


Figure 1 - Sources of LIRA funding for 1988/89

The breakdown of LIRA membership at present is :

- Levy payers (forest owning and producing companies, comprising over 91% of New Zealand's resource) 15
- Contractors 46
- Machinery suppliers and service companies, etc 46
- Consultants 8
- Industry Associations 5
- Overseas members 13

Assistance is provided in four ways:

- Applied research
- Information
- Advice
- Training

1. Applied research

The most comprehensive assistance LIRA provides to the industry is the effective transfer of results from its research work program. A three-year rolling work program is discussed and agreed with members each year and therefore reflects the current priorities for R & D.

While the work program is the blueprint for most research work, there is the opportunity to include requests from

members, opportunistic work, such as evaluations of new machines, and major unplanned events such as windthrow related work.

During the year the bimonthly Newsletter and Research News keep the industry up-to-date with progress on research work and people interested in specific projects are encouraged to contact the researcher concerned.

The results of LIRA's research work are supplied to members in reports and handbooks, and verbally in industry presentations.

Brief Reports, the most common form of publication, are aimed at busy people with neither the time nor the familiarity to read more comprehensive scientific reports.

Project Reports are aimed at a more technical audience and are often summarised in Brief Report form for wider circulation.

An important point about publications is that they are normally a one-off event and their arrival in the member's mailbox will often not coincide with an immediate need or opportunity to use the information. We hope that all recipients will read the publication at least for subject and the main findings, then ask :

- can any of this work or information be used to improve my operations?

If not, then file the subject in your mind for future reference and the report where it can be retrieved in the future if required. A list of LIRA publications by subject and a binder make this simple. But do not make the storing of hard copy too much of a chore. As outlined in the next section, it is becoming so easy to check with the LIRA librarian for publications by subject that a phone call, and for some users a computer link, is more time-efficient than searching files or shelves for past reports.

2. Information Services

The first port of call for most enquiries is the LIRA Information Centre. Its objective is to assemble technical information of relevance to New Zealand's logging industry from a variety of sources worldwide. The material is used as a base for LIRA's own research and as a source of information for the industry.

The Centre concentrates on logging material and, with over 10,000 items, is the most comprehensive library in this subject area in the Southern Hemisphere, possibly in the world.

New material is listed monthly in the Accessions List. We maintain important links with overseas organisations that are similar to ourselves, eg. Skogsarbeten (Sweden) and the Forest Engineering Research Institute of Canada (FERIC). We do this by exchanging publications of mutual interest, including future research programs. This enables us to keep tabs on what is happening overseas and to expend our research dollar in areas that do not duplicate work being done elsewhere.

We have recently automated the Information Centre's database to improve retrieval of our own collection and have ready access by computer to New Zealand and overseas databases eg. DIALOG. This effectively expands the "database" available to us by many millions of items, not all of course related to logging.

Searching for information on a particular subject is as simple as giving our librarian the subject and title, author or keyword(s).

3. Advice

Members are encouraged to ask LIRA staff for advice and information. In general the information is supplied on the basis that it would be freely available to any other member who asked as well.

The guideline for non-members is :
up to a half hour of staff time to
answer queries or for discussion.

LIRA has not got involved in consulting
work to date for two reasons :

- consulting for a single client, even
a member, diverts scarce research
resources away from the agreed
program.
- there are existing consulting
services available to the industry,
most of whom are LIRA members.

However we may need to change our
policy on this in the future.

We have had a number of requests over
the past year for consulting
assistance, particularly in the logging
planning and cable technology area.
This field does not seem to be well
served by existing consultants. Some
industry managers who have recently
reduced inhouse technical and work
study resources, have noted their
interest in using LIRA services instead
as required.

Our counterpart organisation in Sweden,
Skogsarbeten, is quite heavily involved
in consulting work with its industrial
members and this has obvious benefits
to industry contact, research staff
development and credibility.

3. Training

LIRA is not primarily a training
organisation. However we have an
active role in industry training
because, in a number of research and
development areas, training is an
important and integral part of
implementing research results and
passing on up-to-date techniques and
information. Examples are the Harvest
Planning and Cable Logging courses.

Also LIRA is often drawn into the
training field through discussions and
requests at its seminars, meetings and
demonstrations. The LIRA annual
seminar is the major technical forum
for the logging industry and it is

natural that when new technology or
ideas are exposed the next question
is - where can I go to learn more about
this? A good example was the 1987
seminar on Logging Roads and Trucks.
Some relatively new costing, planning
and network programs were demonstrated
which were sufficient to wet the
appetites of many attending. The
Logging Software courses were a result
of the requests for training and follow
up.

LIRA's main training involvement has
been at the technical and supervisory
level, which falls between the operator
training level (chainsaws and machine
operators) and the tertiary training
level (School of Forestry).

A description of the courses LIRA is
involved with follows:

- i **Cable logging.** A five day course
run in conjunction with the School
of Forestry and Wood Processing,
Waiariki Polytechnic. The course
concentrates on the practical
aspects of cable logging. Through
a combination of lectures and
field demonstrations, it covers
safety, basic planning require-
ments, productivity, wire rope and
splicing, carriages and rigging
options and rigging rail trees.

A model cable hauler is used to
demonstrate the various rigging
alternatives. The course is run
twice a year, once in Rotorua and
once in Nelson. A special course
was run in Southland in 1985 for
indigenous cable logging operators
and a first offshore cable course,
in Tasmania, in August 1986.
Lecturing is provided by LIRA
researchers and a representative
of a wire rope supplier. NZFP
Forests Limited and Tasman
Forestry Limited provide field
demonstrations of cable
operations.

- ii **Harvest Planning.** A nine-day
course also run in conjunction

with the Waiariki School of Forestry and Wood Processing. The course objective is to provide logging planners and managers with the skills needed to identify and plan the most economical logging transport systems. Central to the course is a practical planning exercise. The next course will be July 4 to 15, 1988.

- iii **Logging Software Courses.** During the past two years considerable PC software has become available to assist in costing, planning and evaluating logging operations. Coupled with the availability of powerful low cost hardware, they offer an efficient tool to test a number of machine and logging options quickly and easily.

A series of five day courses have been organised by LIRA using facilities at Waiariki Polytech.

Further courses in 1988 will be in July, September and November.

- iv **Business of Logging Courses.** First presented in 1986, the courses were originally prepared for the large numbers of private and state wage workers who were being offered contracts. Since then the courses have been developed to suit established contractors and are in fact the forerunner to this seminar.

The two day courses are designed to improve the business skills of intending or existing logging contractors. Courses are run on demand.

From 1983 to 1986, LIRA also ran a five day Hydraulics in Logging course. This has now been dropped favour of the Mobile Hydraulics course offered by Waiariki Polytech.

With the exception of Cable Logging, all courses are run outside of LIRA

using lecturers on contract. LIRA members are charged the direct costs of running the courses plus materials, while non-members pay extra to contribute toward the cost of preparation of lectures etc.

The intention of using outside services where possible is to avoid diverting LIRA research resources into training, while still retaining control of course content and contact with the industry/training interface.

Summary

LIRA provides assistance in a number of ways and is deliberately building a "one-stop, information shop" service for the logging industry in research and technology. Users do not have to be members, but it pays to be.

Reference

Nordansjo, I 1983. How to get the results applied. A paper presented to the LIRA Seminar on Research and Development in Tree Harvesting and Transportation, June, 1983 by Klas Norin, Skogsarbeten.