

Foreword

I consider this edition of the journal a very significant one because it coincides with an exciting and historic milestone in Irish Forestry.

On January 1, 1989 Coillte Teoranta was established. This new state-sponsored company faces great challenges but concurrently there are great opportunities out there to be explored and exploited.

I am confident, however, that the staff of the new company will respond in a positive and effective way to these challenges. In this context, they can be assured of my commitment and, that of the Government, to ensure an environment exists whereby a positive and successful approach can be adopted to develop Ireland's forestry potential.



The Society of Irish Foresters, since its foundation in 1942, has played an important part in the history of forestry in Ireland.

Through its meetings and study tours it has been a force in the education and development of the management team which brought the forests to their present productive condition.

The dedication of its members, and of its officers, is a wholesome indicator of the commitment to forestry which has come to be regarded as normal.

In conclusion I wish all of you every success.

Michael Smith, T.D.
