

An Appreciation Dick Browne 1950-1998



When reports of Dick Browne's sudden illness circulated through the forestry community on Monday, 10th August, there was a general hope that they had been exaggerated during circulation. This hope was transformed into shock by the sombre appearance of a death notice on Wednesday, 12th August – shock that someone so young and vibrant with passion should be so suddenly taken from our midst.

Dick hailed from Derrybeg, Rosbrien, on the fringe of Limerick City, an area for which he retained a great loyalty and love. It was there that he was laid to rest, in the presence of a vast gathering of family, friends and colleagues.

Dick's forestry career began at Kinnitty 30 years ago in September 1968, when 30 trainees began their studies under the gentle direction of the late John Thornhill. Dick began his career as a forester in Mayo, working at Glenisland, Ballycastle and Crossmolina Forests. He was then posted to Inventory in Letterkenny, remaining there until his appointment to Castlepollard Forest in 1980. He became Region Cost Accountant in the Mullingar Region, and more recently, District Manager in Cavan.

Dick was deeply committed to the Society and was always keen to help out. He was always available to lead forest walks, helped with the staging of Wood Ireland in 1989, and was available when the Society last visited the midlands region at Ravensdale in spring 1997. Early in his career, Dick attended many study tours in Ireland. His coffin was draped with the Society tie – a clear indication of his admiration for the organisation.

He will be sadly missed in the forestry circles, where his death leaves a large void. He will be missed especially by his wife Kay and daughter Claire, to whom we offer our sincere sympathy. We also offer condolences to Dick's parents, Dick and Margaret, his brothers Gerard, Eugene, Kevin and John, his sister Catherine and her husband, John Carmody, Forest Manager, Killane Forest, and to all the members of Kay's family in Wexford. We pray that they will all be given the strength to bear their sad and inestimable loss.

'Ar Dheis láimh Dé go raimh a anam dilis'

John Mc Loughlin