



# School of Forestry News

### New Undergraduate Curriculum

The School has just completed a revision of the B.For.Sc. curriculum which will be implemented in 1999. The major change is the inclusion of optional papers, which allow the student to take courses outside of the School of Forestry in each of the four years. This will make it possible for a forestry student to include, as part of their B.For.Sc., a number of courses in a particular discipline, such as economics, biology or sociology, and in fact to develop a 'minor' in the second discipline. Other changes make it easier for general B.Sc. students to take courses taught at the School of Forestry. Details of the new curriculum can be found in the 1999 Prospectus, which can be obtained from the Dean at the School, or by accessing our web pages at <http://www.fore.canterbury.ac.nz/>

### Student Overseas Exchange Underway

**Ashwood Ceasar** and **Jared Wayman**, two undergraduate students at the School, have recently returned from Virginia Tech and State University in the U.S.A., where they were taking advantage of a newly-agreed exchange programme between institutions. A similar agreement has been reached with the University of British Columbia in Canada. The agreements provide a great opportunity for New Zealand students to learn about forestry in a whole new environment under a reciprocal arrangement, which permits students to pay the tuition fees in their home university while studying overseas. This year, 6 students from the School of Forestry will be involved: **Chris Goodwin**, **George Fyson** and **John Goudie** are taking third and fourth year courses at Virginia Tech and State University, while **Joanna Liddell**, **Hamish Allan**, and **Andrew Barr** are at the University of British Columbia, and in return three students from each of the overseas universities are enrolled in courses in the School of Forestry at Canterbury.

### Comings .....

1. Professor **Roger Sands** and Ph.D. student **Bocai Zou** have just returned from Bordeaux, France, where they attended a July IUFRO conference on structural roots, and presented papers on aspects of soil physical factors and root growth.

2. Three new postgraduate students have just enrolled from Malawi, Norway and Nepal. According to **Victoria Mackisack**, Professor Sands' secretary, this brings to 32 the number of countries from which our postgraduates have come.

3. Twenty-eight fifth-form high school students visited the School of Forestry as part of the Siemens Science School, held in July to promote their awareness of the application of science in various disciplines. Giving the students 'hands-on' experience is a strong aspect of the Siemens Science School, and **Nick Ledgard** and **Karl Schasching** presented the students with 'hands-on' opportunities dealing with insects and pests, and mensuration and inventory. I understand that the research dealing with possum guts, a favourite of past visiting school groups, unfortunately couldn't be presented this year.

4. **Te Taru White**, Coordinator of the Maori Forestry Association, visited the School as part of the Dean's Lecture Series, and presented an overview of the Maori forestry resource and vision, as well as some insight into the Maori approach to planning of forestry management.

5. **Mr Ian Wild**, a lecturer in Forest

Management and Inventory at the School of Forestry at Melbourne University, is visiting the School for half a term as a guest lecturer in FORE 320, Management of Wood Production. Welcome Ian!

6. **Dr Kenneth Hobson** has recently returned from a visit to the Department of Entomology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. While there he collaborated with UW entomologist **Dr Ken Raffa** on an investigation into the pheromonal behaviour of the natural enemies of a pine bark beetle called the pine engraver. Dr Hobson also attended an international meeting of scientists concerned with the application of new molecular techniques to questions in bark beetle field ecology.

### and Goings

We recently said goodbye to postgraduates **Rachel Ebbet**, whose thesis was titled 'The Ecology of Lowland Totara in the South Island, New Zealand', and **Nur Masripatin**, 'Modelling Growth of a Tropical Rain Forest', who have successfully completed their Ph.D. studies. Congratulations to you both!

**Ron O'Reilly**

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# Lincoln University News

### Forest Economics

**Dr Hugh Bigsby** has returned from his study leave in Canada. Upon his return, Hugh and **Dr Lucie Ozanne** have begun working on a conjoint analysis of New Zealand consumer acceptance of environmental certification, funded by Lincoln University's New Development Fund and the Public Good Science Fund. This issue is also being examined in the Christchurch area by students in the third year Forestry Project paper, who are conducting market research as a part of their studies.

### Silviculture

**Dr Don Mead**, Honorary Research Fellow in Forestry, returned from a one month trip to Chile. He attended the Silvotecna X conference in Concepcion and helped forest companies on their tree nutrition problems.

**Dr Scott Chang** recently received

funding from the Asia 2000 Foundation to establish staff and student exchange programs with Nanjing Forestry University of the People's Republic of China. This follows a visit to the Forestry University by Drs Chang and Mead last year. Scott also received funding from the Brian Mason Scientific and Technical Trust for agroforestry research at Lincoln.

### Forest Ecology

Several postgraduate students have completed their theses in forest ecology and conservation over the last 9-12 months. These include:

The effect of deer browse on the recruitment of mountain beech in the Kaweka Forest Park (**Cathy Allan**, M.Sc.)

Dioecy in a lowland terrace rimu forest, south Westland (**Stan Van Uden**, M.Appl. Sci.)

Elder as a facilitator of succession,

Hoon Hay Valley, Banks Peninsula (Melanie Voyce, M.Sc.)

The conservation ecology of *Teucrium parvifolium* on Banks Peninsula (Tristan Boot, M.Appl.Sci.)

Several other postgraduate students are well into their research, including Stephen Urlich ('Dynamics of podocarp/beechn/hardwood forests, north Westland', PhD), Louise Cullen ('The influence of climate and disturbance on beech timberlines', PhD), Nancy Willems ('Impacts of forest fragmentation of podocarp stand structure and regeneration', M.Appl.Sci.), and Pius

Piskaut ('Patterns of beech regeneration after different types of harvesting', M.Sc.).

Andrew Wells, working with Drs Glenn Stewart and Richard Duncan, is nearing completion of his PhD research on the disturbance history of south Westland forests and has found some intriguing forest patterns. Large disturbances (probably massive earthquakes) have left a lasting imprint of the structure of the forests. The presence of widely distributed even-aged stands and patterns of tree ring growth reflect these events which occurred in 1717, about 1620 and about 1450.

## LETTERS

### South Westland Moraine Podocarps

Sir,

May I congratulate Messrs Stewart, White and Duncan (Feb 1998 NZ Forestry) on an article that seems to make better sense of these forest patterns than anything I have seen published previously.

Perhaps, however, there is still room for consideration of effects of climatic fluctuations, possibly, as I believe Jack Holloway suggested, thinning of the hardwood canopy by insects during times of climatic stress.

Also, it may be timely to record some of the background to the 'typing' pattern shown on the National Forest Survey plans.

The system used was derived by the first Unit Leader, Bob Lawn, and while it was modified a little and expanded considerably as work progressed southward through different associations, the basis remained intact, with a strong topographical bias in the interpretations.

While the extreme complexity of patterns in the Haast area demanded a much greater number of 'types' with narrower parameters, in the North (Rimu Forest etc.) the highest volume Type P1 remained fairly complex, for several reasons:

- That was how Bob Lawn saw it, and who was I to make major changes in my earlier work!
- The exercise was, after all, basically to determine timber volumes, and 250 merchantable rimu per ha agree fairly closely in this respect with 150 somewhat larger trees.
- Some of the densely stocked patches were so small that acre plots would have crossed boundaries.

- When at a later stage a request was received to delineate these, it came onto a personality clash, (undoubtedly well earned by a brash young forester), which resulted in information being returned that I was not capable of doing this and myself being forbidden to attempt it.

In fact, this type could have been split quite easily into two or more subtypes, and for ecological purposes this could have been as important as the delineation of the other 'pure' rimu 'types' recognised.

Should anyone attempt to use these plans from NFS Sub-Unit I and possibly further south towards Bruce Bay, I recommend strongly that they retrieve the original aerial photographs from whatever dark hole they now reside in and belatedly attend to this job.

I realise the article referred to dealt with moraine forests only, but in terms of a more general understanding of Westland's ecology I am sure some of the answers must lie in probably later establishment of 'reclaimed' dunes etc. in the Haast.

Finally, may I support Messrs Stewart, White and Duncans' "notion that lesser storms ... initiated local canopy collapse ..." Anyone who has lain in a small tent, with water rising through the slightly sloping ground beneath us, listening to a strong 'nor'wester' bringing tree after tree in lanthe forest crashing to the ground at distances that seemed far too close is a believer!

As, of course, must be anyone who has seen the fringes of a major pakihi in the Haast during a summer made dry by prevailing north easterly winds, with the ground rising and falling in waves as the trees swayed.

My only reservation is the paucity of regeneration observed where canopy collapse had occurred previously, suggesting that we must also consider other factors such as climatic variations.

John G. Rawson

## FITEC News

FITEC (Forest Industries Training and Education Council) which is the New Zealand Forest Industries Council's training organisation, has reported an excellent year for 1997. During that year registered trainees rose to 6,230, an increase of 38% over the previous year. This performance has gained FITEC 'high performing industry training organisation' status from the Education, Training and Support Agency and a 58% increase in government funding (to \$3M). This funding is likely to increase. In addition the forest industry has increased funding by 36% to \$1.6M.

During 1997 FITEC also registered five new National Certificates and undertook a review of one National Diploma.

### Call for Papers

## NZIF CONFERENCE

April/May 1999, Wellington

The theme of this conference is leadership of Forestry in New Zealand. It is proposed that there will be three sessions covering leadership in the following broad areas:

- Stewardship: Conservation, Management and Processing
- Information: Research and Training
- Other: Legislation and Infrastructure

Papers should be around 20 minutes in length, although longer papers will be considered. Abstracts for papers are required by 30 November 1998.

Please register your interest in presenting a paper by contacting the Organising Committee via:

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