

# Waiariki Institute of Technology welcomes Prof. Brack as inaugural Chair of Forestry

Prof. Cris Brack - B.Sc. (For) (Hons) ANU, PhD UBC

On 2nd February Dr Cris Brack took leave from his position as Associate Professor (Forest Management, Measurement and Modelling) at The Australian National University (ANU) to become Professor and the inaugural Chair of Forestry at the Waiariki Institute of Technology in Rotorua. The School of Forestry, Wood Processing and Biotechnology within the Institute has a long history of teaching Diploma students in forest management, operations and wood processing, but was keen to increase its research and academic potential. Cris's 14 years experience in developing the research and teaching of forest measurement and management in the Australian National University made him ideally suited to help develop the Institute's potential in this area.



Jeremy Christmas, Director of the Waiariki School of Forestry, Wood Processing and Biotechnology said he was thrilled with this appointment. 'This will enable Professor Brack to concentrate on research into forestry related topics as well as contributing to our undergraduate programmes in forest management,' Jeremy said. 'It is also hoped that he will work in conjunction with such institutes as SCION and Canterbury University on research subjects of mutual interest. Cris will enable links to be strengthened between the two national forestry schools, at Waiariki and Canterbury University, and with SCION, that can only benefit our students and our forest industry'.

Cris completed his undergraduate B.Sc. (For) (Hons) degree at ANU in 1982 then worked as a Forest Inventory Officer for the Forestry Commission of New South Wales (NSW). Following a PhD in Canada he returned to Australia as Senior Inventory Officer for State Forests of NSW with responsibility for supporting management of plantations and multiple-use native forests. He joined ANU Forestry in June 1994. Cris subsequently undertook extensive research and consultancy work throughout Australia as well as New Zealand, Malaysia, Indonesia, PNG, Germany, South Africa and USA.

Cris' most significant research contributions to forestry science have been the development of optimal sampling strategies, modelling tools, and decision-support systems for trees and associated biota at stand, landscape and continental scales. Cris' research has been influential in development of the National Carbon Accounting System for Australia (winner of the prestigious Eureka Environmental Science Award, 2008), and in catalysing the development and adoption of new inventory, modelling

and management approaches by forest and land managers and policy makers.

Over the last 14 years, Cris has developed and coordinated undergraduate level courses covering topics including: Biological Measurement, Ecological Measurement, Society and Environment Research Methods, Forest Mensuration, Sustainable Forest Planning, and Modern Techniques of Forest Inventory.

In his new role at Waiariki Cris will focus on continuing his research in the areas of Forest Management, Measurement and Modelling, while supporting the other Forest Management tutors in the review and delivery of the Diploma of Forestry and other related qualifications. He will also remain active in Australian and international working groups on Forest Measurement and Information Systems; Inventories on Successive Occasions; Improving Education and Further Education in Forestry.

Cris has been a member of the Institute of Foresters of Australia since 1992; however he is also now keen to also become an active member of the New Zealand Institute of Forestry.

If anyone wishes to contact Prof. Brack please email him on [Cris.Brack@waiariki.ac.nz](mailto:Cris.Brack@waiariki.ac.nz)