

School of Forestry update

Bruce Manley

Graduation 2015

A total of 24 students completed their Forestry Science (BForSc) degree in 2014 while three completed a Forest Engineering (BE) degree. Following the graduation ceremony, a function was held to celebrate the achievements of the graduates and a number of awards were made:

Forest Engineering

- Top research project (Jacob Fairhall)
- Top Forest Engineering student (Jacob Fairhall).

Forestry Science

- Max Jacobs Prize for Year 3 Silviculture (Ben Slui)
- University prize – for Academic Achievement (David Saathof)
- Dissertation prize (Ben Slui)
- Schlich Award – for overall top Forestry Science student (Ben Slui).

Employment

The graduates have all found employment. Employers who have recruited this year's graduates include Asset Forestry, C3, Ernslaw One, Forest Management NZ, Forestry NZ, Forestry NSW, Hikurangi Forest Farms, Laurie Forestry, Nelson Forests, NZ Forest Managers, PF Olsen, Rayonier, Scion and Timberlands. Job locations vary, but four of the graduates are located in each of Gisborne and Rotorua while three are in Canterbury and two are in Nelson.



Final year Forestry students on the bridge of PFP charter ship Chitral loading logs at Mount Maunganui

2015 field trips

A feature of the Forestry degree at the University of Canterbury has always been the field trips – both the half-day Christchurch-based field trips as well as the longer field trips held during the breaks. The latter in particular provide plenty of opportunities for the shared experiences that help turn forestry classes into tight-knit groups, as well as the memories and stories that invariably feature at class reunions 20 or more years later. During the April break we ran a field trip for each of the four years of the BForSc degree.



Some of the 24 Forestry Science and three Forest Engineering graduates who completed studies in 2014



Above left: Briefing – 2014 Year 1 field trip to Hanmer; above right: Plenty of empty plates at Apumoana Marae

Year 1 – Hanmer Springs

This is a two-day field trip designed to introduce students to forestry and their class-mates. On the first day students carry out a field exercise to estimate the volume of a stand, initially from first principles and then using an industry-standard approach. The second day is spent with Rayonier looking at establishment and harvesting operations. The day was hosted by Josh Tansey who completed his BForSc(Hons) degree in 2014.

The Hanmer field trip was led by Dr Justin Morgenroth with support from Lachlan Kirk and Nigel Pink. Ahead of the field trip students have a one-day general requirements course (Demonstrate Knowledge of General Health, Safety, and Environmental Requirements in Forestry) run by Nigel Pink.

Year 2 – Harihari

The focus of the Year 2 field trip is on indigenous forest ecology and the identification of indigenous trees and arthropods. During the trip students undertake a number of practical exercises that make up 30% of the assessment associated with FORE218 Forest Biology.

As generations of forestry students before them have done, they spend five nights at the University of Canterbury Harihari field station, working in adjacent forests. The programme this year was:

- Day 1 – Travel to Harihari and then visit Wanganui forest (establish insect exercise)
- Day 2 – Forest sampling exercise, lowland rimu forests (Saltwater forest)
- Day 3 – Forest altitudinal gradient exercise (Alex Knob)
- Day 4 – Post-mining forest regeneration (Blue Spur Road)
- Day 5 – Finish insect exercise (Wanganui forest/field station)
- Day 6 – Hand in reports, return to Christchurch.

The field trip was led by Professor David Norton supported by Dr Tara Murray (invertebrate guru) and Dr Laura Young (plant guru).

Year 3 – Nelson

The Year 3 field trip is part of FORE307 Plantation Silviculture. Students spent four days visiting forests and processing plants around Nelson. The field trip was hosted by Nelson Forests, PF Olsen and Nelson Pine Industries. In addition, students visited DOC at Nelson Lakes National Park to learn about National Park management and the Mainland Island Programme. The field trip was based at St Arnaud and was led by Professor Euan Mason.

Year 4 – Rotorua

Final year Forestry Science and Forest Engineering students spent five days based in Rotorua visiting companies in the Central North Island including PF Olsen, Timberlands, Pacific Forest Products, the Ministry for Primary Industries, CNI Iwi Land Management, Ngamanawa Incorporation and Hancock Forest Management

The focus was on large-scale plantation forestry. The field trip looks at forestry operations but the focus is on understanding what the objectives are of different owners – both owners of trees and also landowners. A feature of the field trip is meeting recent graduates and learning what they are doing. As part of this year's field trip, 11 Forestry School post-2008 graduates presented to the students on what they had done since graduation and where they were headed. The field trip is part of FORE 419 Management Case Study and was led by Professor Bruce Manley. Accommodation was at the Apumoana Marae in Rotorua.

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