

## NELSON POLYTECHNIC

### Good support for Diploma

The National Diploma of Forestry programme commenced in 1997 and students from the foundation course graduated in July 1999 after 2.5 years. Those students are now in the workplace in a variety of positions including harvest planning, harvesting supervision and lumber sales, or have moved onto university. Lindsay Vaughan co-ordinates the second and third year programmes and Martin White co-ordinates the first year of the programme.

The course is well supported by local forestry companies who provide a number of guest speakers on current management practices. There are regular lessons in local forests on silvicultural, harvesting and technical services. Nelson has a wide range of topography and soil types close to the campus at Richmond that demand high standards of environmental practice to meet company and council standards.

Lindsay Vaughan

## WAIARIKI INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

### Dr Theron in new marketing role

Dr Margriet Theron, Dean of Forestry and Technology at Waiariki Institute of Technology, has been seconded to the position of Marketing Manager for Waiariki for the first semester of 2000. Gordon Acres, Head of School, Forestry and Applied Science, will be Acting Dean of Forestry for this time. Gordon came to New Zealand from South Africa three years ago, to lecture at Waiariki's Forest Technology Campus (FTC), where he specialises in forest business management.

TiTC (Waiariki's Timber Technology Campus) has purchased a new kiln from Windsor, which should be in operation in March 2000. The kiln will be used to cope with the demand for trained kiln operators, and to undertake small, specialist timber drying jobs. All the students who completed TiTC's sawdoctoring course in 1999 have found positions in industry, and there was a high demand for the nine places on the 2000 full-year course.

Eleven farm foresters from Japan visited Waiariki in January 2000, as part of a week-long study tour to the Central North Island. In April, a group of 23 students and 4 staff from Malaspina University College in Canada will be visiting Waiariki for a one-week short course and study tour.

Dr Margriet Theron

## CANTERBURY SCHOOL OF FORESTRY

### Forest Assessment a first

New Zealand's first certification assessment of an indigenous forest was completed under the School of Forestry's PGSF-funded programme on sustainable

management of indigenous forest. The draft report of the assessment team has just gone to peer reviewers and will shortly be made public. The Forest Stewardship Council certifier was Smartwood, a programme of the international environmental organisation Rainforest Alliance. Current single-tree selection management and historical coupe harvesting at the School's research site at Gowan Hill Forest, near Winton, Southland, was assessed. The assessment team was headed by Smartwood Director Richard Donovan, who travelled from the USA for the exercise. Jan Derks, a 1997 B.For.Sci (1st) graduate of the School served as the local forestry expert for the assessment while Stephen Urlich, now completing a doctorate at Lincoln University, served as the conservation biologist.

Nora Devoe

## LINCOLN UNIVERSITY

### Connecting in the South

The Third Southern Connection Congress was held at Lincoln University January 17-22, 2000. Organised by Dr Glen Stewart and Dr Richard Duncan of Lincoln University, and Dr Rob Allen of Landcare Research, Lincoln, the congress attracted participants from Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Chile, Finland, Netherlands, New Zealand, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, UK and USA. The Congress is held by the Southern Connection, an affiliation of biologists, ecologists, biogeographers and similar specialists with a common interest in southern hemisphere research.

Final year papers have been revised for the 2000 academic year into pre and post forest gate. FORS 310 Forestry Investment and Finance now cover all topics related to management and investment in forests. FORS 311 Wood Products Markets and Marketing covers topics related to wood processing and marketing of forest products. In addition, for the first time, a special topic in forest valuation will be offered to graduate students.

Hugh Bigsby

### *Cardiaspina fiscella* in the Bay of Plenty

Forest Health Dynamics Ltd delivered samples of *Eucalyptus* leaves to Forest Research Forest Health Group which revealed the presence of *Cardiaspina fiscella*. This is the first recording of this lerp in the Rotorua region. *Cardiaspina fiscella* was first discovered on *Eucalyptus* outside the Auckland airport in May 1996.

This again highlights why New Zealand must maintain a high vigilance of biosecurity at the borders.

Helen Chapman  
Manager

Forest Health Dynamics Ltd