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## WAIARIKI INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

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### Funding changes set to trigger new interest

Recent changes to the funding offered by Skill New Zealand (Rangitahi Maia) were a direct response by the Labour Government to submissions from WINZ and the newly established Central North Island Forestry Training Advisory Group (CNIFTAG), and after a visit by Jim Anderton to the sawmill at TITC. These changes will ensure that the students between 16 and 25 years can apply for funding. This is seen as a great opportunity for young Maori and Pacific Islanders to enter the industry.

The largest year three class of the National Diploma in Forestry (Forest Management) completed their Diploma in July. We are expecting 25 students to graduate from the class of 31. The year three class have rounded off their studies with two three-day forest management field trips. The first was to the Carter Holt Harvey Coromandel and Auckland estates and the second to the East Cape and East Coast region.

We are expecting to soon have the National Diploma upgraded to an NZQA level 6 qualification by the Forest Management Advisory Committee of Forest Industries Training. This will give recognition to the range of high level units that are being offered at FTC.

New initiatives are also in the pipeline to offer the first year of the Diploma in Te Kuiti with the Maniapoto Training Agency and in a PTE in Whangarei. This initiative is based on the success of the students from the Te Runanga o Turanganui a Kiwa programme in Gisborne, where many students have progressed to the second year of the diploma in Rotorua.

In August, the faculty started a two-year cycle for the National Certificate in Forest Health Protection (forest health surveillance) course. There are 18 students who are entering this programme from all over New Zealand. The one year forest harvesting programme, 16 week practical logging and 12 week log making programmes are being offered by Waiariki in more sites than ever before. The phenomenal demand for training has ensured that these programmes are being delivered throughout the Central North Island. The log making course is starting to satisfy demand for the new log making technology required by key suppliers and business partners in the industry.

*Gordon Acres*

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## NELSON MARLBOROUGH INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

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### Name change and silviculture course highlights

Nelson Polytechnic has just changed its name to the Nelson Marlborough Institute of Technology (NMIT).

The second intake of Diploma in Forestry students graduated in June. Those with previous work experience have set themselves up in business, either as silvicultural contractors, or offering a range of business and management services to existing

contractors, or gone into a management position with existing contractors.

A new 20-week silvicultural course leading to a Certificate in Silviculture started at Bottle Lake Forest in Christchurch at the beginning of the year to meet an increasing demand for silvicultural workers. It was organised by NMIT in association with Christchurch City Council and local silvicultural contractors. Course director John Heath has worked hard to develop the course, attract suitable students and provide appropriate work placement. The second course is now underway.

A new Certificate in Harvesting course is being offered at the Richmond Campus to replace the year long Certificate in Forestry course. It is also a 26-week pre-employment course that provides those entering the harvesting workforce with a range of practical skills. It was designed after consultation with local harvesting contractors and forestry companies. The first graduates are now in the local workforce and the second course is underway.

*Lindsay Vaughan*

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## LINCOLN UNIVERSITY

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### Taste of Asian forestry on Sarawak visit

The third year students had a successful field tour to Sarawak in April. Accompanied by Hugh Bigsby, the group was hosted by the Sarawak Timber Association. The students had opportunities to learn about and visit forestry operations, as well be introduced to the Asian way of life. Everyone came away adept at using chopsticks and blowpipes.

A delegation from Iran, including the Minister of Construction Jihad and members of his staff involved in the Forest and Range Division, visited the University in June looking at training opportunities. As part of the visit the group was taken to the agroforestry trial and graduate students explained their research.

*Hugh Bigsby*

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## SCHOOL OF FORESTRY

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### New lecturer in roading and transportation

Dr. Rob Douglas, a geotechnics and roading engineer from the Forest Engineering Department at the University of New Brunswick, has recently accepted a full-time appointment with the School of Forestry. Rob, who has considerable practical as well as research experience in North America, Europe and Japan, was a visitor to the School as an Erskine Fellow in 1999. His writings on many aspects of roading and transport have previously been published as "Roadnotes" through LIRO, and he has recently completed a text on road design and construction, and the interactions between road characteristics and vehicle performance. He will be contributing to the roading and transport courses for both School of Forestry and the School of Engineering, and has already organised research projects with industry. Welcome aboard, Rob!

*Ron O'Reilly*