

LINCOLN UNIVERSITY

Exploring business opportunities

In November 2000, Hugh Bigsby and three graduate students travelled to British Columbia and Alberta in Canada for three weeks as part of a graduate course in wood products market development. The students spent the previous term researching changes in markets, products and technology to develop a plan for businesses to visit on the tour. During the trip we visited Government offices, forestry consultants and a range of wood processing mills. The end product of the paper was the development of a proposal for a new business opportunity for a New Zealand company.

Students are once again gearing up for the academic year. Part of the education process is work and project experience to ensure that students have as wide as possible experience in the industry before graduating. We would like employers or anyone with small projects you have not had time to tackle to consider taking on a student. Please contact us if you have any questions (Hugh Bigsby - bigsbyh@lincoln.ac.nz or (03) 325-2811).



Lincoln students at a Riverside Forest Products logging operation in Armstrong, B.C.

WAIARIKI INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Waiariki Forestry graduates prove "work ready"

A group of eight students who completed the National Diploma in Forestry (Forest Management) at Waiariki Institute of Technology in Rotorua last year are employed collecting data from central North Island forests.

Don Hammond, managing director of Hammond Resource Management Limited in Rotorua, assisted his partner business, Data Collection Services in the hiring of the students.

Don says the Diploma students from Waiariki were an attractive proposition, because they had completed unit standards in the area of data collection.

"That means that aside from a couple of days orientation, these Diploma students were able to hit the ground running, and be productive from day one. Generally,

we've been really pleased with these Waiariki students."

Waiariki is the leading provider nationwide of the National Diploma in Forestry (Forest Management), a two and a half year qualification that equips students for employment in the planning and management of commercial plantation forests.

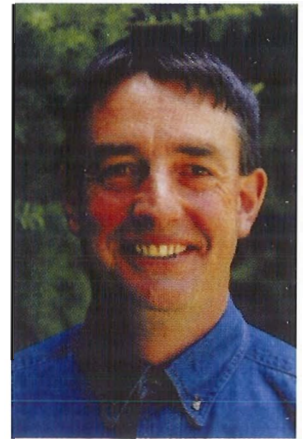
The qualification has been developed by Forest Industries Training in consultation with industry, based on the identified skill requirements of the industry. As a result the students are recognised as being well trained and able to quickly slot into the workplace.

Don Hammond says a key benefit of employment for the Waiariki Diploma students is the opportunity to see a range of different operations in different forests, during their early years of working in forestry.

"They'll get to see different operations in lots of different forests, and will see how different companies work."

Don Hammond, Visting the Faculty of Forestry at UBC says forestry remains a marvellous career choice for young people, particularly those with an aptitude for maths, the sciences and computers, wanting to be part of an environmentally sound and growing business.

"However, the employment openings in forestry are increasingly with smaller companies, involved in key supplier groupings. So students wanting to make a career in forestry need traits of creativity and reliability, along with good academic aptitude, if they are to do well in the new commercial environment," said Don Hammond.



Don Hammond

SCHOOL OF FORESTRY

Professor to provide international view

Professor Karl-Reinhard Volz from the University of Freiburg, Germany has accepted an invitation from the School of Forestry as a visiting lecturer during his sabbatical. Prof Volz is the director of the Institute of Forest Policy at Freiburg University and specialises in the social and political aspects of forestry. He will give lectures on international forest policy issues to both undergraduate and graduate students. He is currently undertaking research on the influence governments have on the private forest sector. Prof. Volz holds degrees from the universities of Munich, Goettingen and Freiburg and previously had professional experience in state forestry administration. At present he has consultancy work with certain Eastern European countries and is very involved in the complex process of the formulation of a National Forest Programme (NFP) for Germany.

Dr Steven M. Olson from Calgary, Alberta, Canada

has recently taken on the position of Post-Doctoral Research Associate at the School. Dr Olson specialises in the socio-economic aspects of forestry, particularly in returning benefits to rural communities. He is working with Dr Ted Bilek and Dr Nora Devoe on their research programme on indigenous forests to improve the ecological, social, and economic benefits of sustainable indigenous forestry in New Zealand. Dr Olson holds degrees from the Universities of Wisconsin and Idaho and has professional academic experience from the United States, Cameroon, Hawaii, and China.

Dr Richard Woollons, a specialist in forestry biometry and well-known to the New Zealand forestry industry, has taken on a 50 per cent teaching position at the School. Richard is also acting as a consultant to staff and post-graduates on growth and inventory issues.

Kelvin Chapman, lecturer in Engineered Wood Products, will be offering a course in Panel Products at the post-graduate level to Masters' and Post-Graduate Diploma students for the first time. This is another feature of the forest products programme which involves exchanging students with the University of British Columbia.

**NELSON MARLBOROUGH
INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY**

New Diploma Class Starts

The first year National Diploma in Forestry class started at Richmond Campus at the end of January, although numbers were lower than expected. They are an interesting mixture of youth and experience and show every sign of developing into an excellent group. After completing first aid and fire fighting, they will be learning a range of practical forestry skills over the next few months, along with an introduction to the theory underpinning establishment, silvicultural and logmaking.

The National Diploma in Forestry has just been upgraded by NZQA from a Level 5 to a Level 6 qualification, in recognition of the number of higher level (Level 6 and 7) units that are covered during the latter part of the course. NZQA has also just approved a number of new forestry certificates covering business management and management of silvicultural and harvesting operations. This will make these qualifications more accessible for those in the workforce.

All graduates from last year's Diploma in Forestry course and the Certificate in Forest Harvesting course at Richmond Campus were successful in finding employment in the forestry sector.

Anecdotal evidence suggests that the forest industry is still having difficulty in attracting keen, enthusiastic and well-trained young people into the workforce, and there continue to be shortages of skilled labour, particularly in silviculture.

It is hard to project the image of a dynamic industry when the reality is tired dusty workers returning home at the end of another long day with hourly earnings that are often much lower than those of their urban counterparts.

Calendar 2001

The following conferences, expos, courses and other events will be of interest to readers. Details are brief, so please contact the organisers for more information.

26-30 March 2001

NZ Farm Forestry Association Annual Conference
Theme: Balancing Diversity

Contact:

NZFFA

Tel: 04-479 7337; Fax: 04-479 8589

nzffa@clear.net.nz

26-30 March 2001

Carbon accounting and emissions trading relating to bioenergy, wood products and carbon sequestration, Canberra.

www.joanneum.ac.at/iea-bioenergy-task38

Contact: Joanneum Research, attention Kimberly

Robertson, kimberly.robertson@joanneum.ac.at

6-8 May, 2001

New Zealand Institute of Forestry 2001 AGM and Conference

Stamford Plaza, Auckland

Theme: Processing the wood from the trees

Contact: Event Mergers, Tel: 09-420 5035, or

email: eventmergers@xtra.co.nz

31 May-1 June 2001

FIEA Annual Conference

Theme: Non-wood Substitutes

Nelson

Tel: 07-348 1039; Fax: 07-348 1420

fiea@clear.net.nz

5 June-16 July 2001

Agroforestry for Sustainable Development (AGFOR)

Training course, Los Banos, Philippines (6 weeks)

Training Center for Tropical Resources and Ecosystems Sustainability (TREES), University of the Philippines Los Banos, College of Forestry and Natural Resources, College, Laguna, Philippines

Contact: trees@laguna.net

12-16 March 2002

New Zealand Forest Expo 2002

The four-yearly expo and conference of New Zealand forest industries.

Key contacts for the expo and conference

Dell Bawden

Phone/Fax: 07-362 7875; Email: bal@wave.co.nz