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NZ School of Forestry news

New staff members bring wide experience

David Evison

David joined the School of Forestry in April 2008. He is a graduate of the School and completed a PhD in forest economics at the University of Washington. His work experience includes a stint at the Forest Research Institute in Rotorua for 15 years, followed by 12 years in industry - in forestry (with Rayonier New Zealand), and financial services (with Bank of New Zealand), with some teaching on the side. His primary research focus will be in the forest economics area.



Simon Fairbrother

Born and bred in Christchurch, Simon completed a Forest Engineering degree at the University of Canterbury. He is now teaching at the School of Forestry and studying towards a PhD in Forest Engineering. Prior to life as a forest engineer, he worked for 11 years in the Royal New Zealand Air Force, travelling extensively as an aircraft navigator and was involved in project management of large-scale aircraft modification programmes. Areas of particular interest in forest engineering are the design of forest roads and harvest planning to reduce environmental impact, and the collection and utilisation of forest biomass for thermal power generation and/or production of biofuels.



Rien Visser

Rien completed a Bachelor of Engineering (Hons) in Natural Resources at the University of Canterbury in 1991. He received his Master of Engineering degree at the University of California (Davis), in 1992. He then joined the Logging Industry Research Organization (LIRO) where he studied environmental and operational issues in plantation forestry, and became program leader of the Environmental section in 1994. He completed his Dr. Nat. Tech. in Vienna in 1998. He then returned to LIRO, where he worked on operational research projects and explored radar as a means to detect internal wood properties. In 2000 he accepted a position at Virginia Tech, where he became an Associate Professor. He now joins the School of Forestry at Canterbury University in the role of Director of Forest Engineering. He is looking forward to building the Forest Engineering programme through contacts with the sector and with students.

