

# Forestry and VSA

Forestry Work in Nepal will open up new horizons for a Hokitika couple, Kit Richards and Barbara McKenzie. They leave New Zealand shortly to take up a two-year assignment on a management and conservation project in the Solu-Khumbu Park, the region of Mount Everest. Kit and Barbara were recruited by Volunteer Service Abroad.

New Zealand attracted world attention in the late 1970s with its bi-lateral aid project in Nepal, helping to set up the Sagarmatha National Park. Sub-alpine tree nurseries were established using some seed from local plantations, local forestry staff were trained and the first recorded plantings of seedlings at 3500 metres above sea level were made.

Penny and Peter Gorman of Wanganui and Lawrie Halket of Te Kuiti were recruited by VSA to forestry positions during those years.

In 1981, the Himalayan Trust, under the chairmanship of Sir Edmund Hillary, Founder President of VSA, took over financial responsibility for continuing forestry work in this area, expanding Sir Edmund's long-standing links with the region. Long-term aims of the Trust involve developing the current scheme as a model for sub-alpine development. Current projects including growing pine trees for timber, managing oak stands for charcoal manufacture, conserving dry alpine juniper scrub, and reviewing grazing techniques and fencing practices. An ongoing requirement is monitoring fuel demands of visitors to the area. Total visitors each year often number more than the resident population, and must practise consideration and conservation in their use of the area.



Andre Neuman records growth measurement taken by Philip Zekele. This stand of 12-year-old *Eucalyptus* is measured annually and the data are now fed into the Forest Research Centre's computer in order to make growth and yield projections. Location: Munda, Solomon Islands.

Volunteer Service Abroad is currently advertising for another forestry officer to join Barbara and Kit.

It is 20 years since VSA sent its first forester into the field. In 1968 Fred Brewer was recruited for Tonga. Throughout the Pacific there is a growing understanding of forests as a major economic and renewable resource, and VSA has provided many skilled foresters to help with this development. In Solomon Islands from 1984 to 1986, Aucklanders Chris Turnbull worked on growth and yield data on the Government's largest plantation, 6000-hectare Poitete. Andre Neuman of Wellington also worked in Solomon Islands, 1986-88, establishing permanent growth plots and working with mensuration data on the Forest Research Centre computers. Martin Brown from Whangarei worked

as a forest ranger in Cook Islands, 1986-88, supervising nursery trials and forest development.

In a completely new programme, VSA is now recruiting forestry staff for Africa. VSA's African programme began in 1986 with teachers and health workers and this has been followed by requests for a range of forestry skills. In Zimbabwe, two experienced forestry lecturers are required for the College of Forestry. A Sawmill Superintendent with experience ranging from log deck to dry kiln, and a Logging Superintendent experienced in skidding, yarding and jammer loading are also needed. There are vacancies for a forest research officer in the Botswana Research Nursery and an experienced forester for a village programme in Tanzania.

Volunteer Service Abroad has 24 people in Africa already with more to leave New Zealand shortly. VSA has people working in 15 countries around the world. All workers are fully supported by VSA throughout their two-year term of service. VSA pays all travel and insurance costs and provides a lump sum allowance on completion of assignment. Accommodation and a living allowance are also provided for all volunteers. Single people are preferred but in some situations families with up to three children can be accepted.

For further information, write with work history and personal details to:

The Selection Co-ordinator,  
Volunteer Service Abroad,  
P.O. Box 12-246,  
Wellington.  
Telephone (04) 725-759

Linda Bremford  
VSA



Montrose Lomae learns how to key in *Eucalyptus* growth data from Andre Neuman at the Forest Research Centre, Munda, Solomon Islands.