

Government meeting be urged to establish a special Commonwealth TFAP support fund to enable Commonwealth countries to play their full part in implementing the TFAP by increasing and strengthening the resources available for project preparation and implementation and for promoting regional activities, particularly those which promote the reconciliation of environmental interests and sustainable forest management;

- that to promote the TFAP, regional working groups be formed to encompass interests concerned with the environment, timber production, timber trade, forestry, agriculture, finance and economic development to carry out an immediate review of possible options for reconciling the objectives of conservation of biological diversity and protection of local people's interests on the one hand, and the continuation of sustainably managed timber production on the other.

The next conference is to held in Malaysia in 1993.

## 8th NZASIA Conference on Asia studies

The 8th NZASIA Conference, which attracted about 200 delegates, was held at the University of Canterbury from August 16 to 20. The delegates came from all parts of Asia and Australia to examine "Costs of Change in Asia" as they related to regional economics and politics, tourism, women's issues, business, Asian music and forestry. This was the first time that forestry featured in these biennial conferences, which have dwelt formerly on regional politics, economics and culture. By all accounts, forestry and the other major newcomer, Asian music, proved to be welcome additions to the programme and are likely to be retained at future conferences.

There were four keynote addresses to all delegates, and forestry dominated two of them. Dennis Richardson presented one of these at the opening session entitled "Costing Change or Changing Costs". The content of his address was as provocative as might be expected. He identified several controversial issues – natural forest management versus plantations, optimum versus maximum, eucalypts versus other species, science versus technology and culture versus cult – and then proceeded to "fling open the doors of an Augean stable of hobby horses" and challenge quite a few eco-

logical and economic "half-truths". The other keynote address relating to forestry was by Thayalan Muniandy, of the Consumer Association of Penang, who spoke about environmental degradation in the Asian tropics in general, including tropical forests. His presentation contained much damning evidence, but it was delivered with a voice of reason and it intimated a willingness to manage resource wisely rather than ban this or that altogether. Curiously, Mr G. Salmon, who was in attendance, also claimed that he has always promoted a similar view and espouses the ethic of sustained yield now for tropical forests just as he did for South Island beech forests! Is your memory to that effect any better than mine?

Up to 45 people attended each of the six forestry group sessions, two of which were concerned with forest products trade in the Asian/Pacific region and one each dealt with sustained yield capabilities of forests in Asia, deforestation patterns, possible solutions to deforestation and local perspectives on Indonesia,

Thailand, Inner Mongolia, Guanzhou and the Philippines. The Forest Research Institute Forest and Wildland Ecosystems Division turned on a display at its Ilam base, and on the last day a field trip was made to Peter Smail's farm at Hororata and to Craigieburn Park research station. Canterbury turned on one of its usual fine winter days for the time spent in the field, but with just a sufficient nip in the light breeze to demonstrate the need for farm shelter that Peter Smail proclaimed so enthusiastically and humorously.

The 18 forestry papers and two keynote addresses are to be formally published in a proceedings of the conference, while copies of all papers will be available in the libraries of three universities – Auckland, Victoria and Canterbury. Anyone interested in ordering a copy of the proceedings should contact Lisa Crozier at FRI, Ilam, or Graham Whyte at the School of Forestry, University of Canterbury.

A.G.D. Whyte



A conference tree-planting ceremony was held in the grounds of the Forest Research Institute to commemorate this important event. The Minister of Forestry, Hon. Peter Tapsell, is pictured planting a rimu tree, watched by the Duke of Buccleuch and Queensberry, President of the Commonwealth Forestry Association, and some of the other delegates.