

Forestry Insights

FOCUS ON FORESTRY PEOPLE

"The forest industry is built on the calibre of its people," says Colin McKenzie, Chairman of the Forestry Insights Committee, "and in recognition of this, the focus of the fourth Forestry Insights theme is *The People*."

Forestry Insights is a \$3 million project by the forest industry to provide educational materials to all schools at all levels. Companies and individuals associated with the forest industry, as well as the forestry corporates, have sponsored the project in what has become a prime example of cooperation between industry and educationists.

The joint project by the Ministry of Forestry and the Forest Industry Training and Education Council began in 1992 and since that time materials on *The Forest*, *Processes* and *The Environment* have been released to schools. *The People* is the fourth theme in the series and the fifth and final theme, *Science and Technology*, will be completed in September next year.

"Highly qualified, multi-skilled people will be needed in the future to help maximise the value of the forest crop. The forest industry is a dynamic and growing industry – an industry that school leavers can look to for employment opportunities in virtually any field. *The People* materials give students an insight to the work people do in forestry as well as providing schools with valuable educational resources," says Mr McKenzie.

Forestry Insights has established a reputation for providing schools with top-quality educational resources. An ingredient vital to the project's success, says Mr McKenzie, is an industry-education partnership.

"All too often resources are produced without taking the needs of teachers into account. The forest industry wanted to provide teachers with top-quality information in a form suitable for them to use, and working with teachers and education advisers has made this possible."

Forestry Insights kits come in five age levels: Juniors, Standards, Intermediates, Lower Secondary and Upper Secondary. All schools receive free of charge the kits appropriate to the level they teach. The industry hosts 19 regional launches throughout the country where the writers run workshops on how to use the materials. This also provides an opportunity for teachers and forest industry personnel to meet on a community level.

"Forestry will play an increasingly important role in the economy and the forest industry has shown its commitment to the industry and to education by initiating such an ambitious and innovative project," says Mr McKenzie. "The high rate

of use by teachers proves the partnership approach works and the high use of the materials in schools is the reward for all those involved in the project."

Gendie Somerville-Ryan

Students impressed with teacher's talent

"Wow did you write all of these?" and "So this is what you were doing while you were away!" was typical of the reaction of Third Form students from Auckland's Waitakere College at a sneak preview of Forestry Insights' *The People* theme.

Their teacher, Tracey Cocker, was delighted to share her first glimpse of the Social Studies book she had written with her students. She is a first-time writer for Forestry Insights, an educational project developed in partnership with the forest industry.

Tracey's class was impressed that their teacher had been part of a team that produced the highly regarded Forestry Insights kits, and students were eager to look over the other resources with her.

The People theme follows on from other Forestry Insights themes *The Forest*, *Processes* and *The Environment* and focuses on the human side of forest industries.

Tracey described her feeling as "one of total relief" to see the finished product. Although she is glad to have finished writing for *The People*, she is pleased to have been chosen to write for the next Insights theme, *Science and Technology*. She will start writing in January, and the material will be released in September 1995.

Tracey is also involved in the regional launches in late November and early December, to be held in Northland, North Auckland, Central Auckland, West Auckland, South Auckland, Waikato, Rotorua, Tauranga, Palmerston North, Gisborne, Hawkes Bay, Taranaki, Wellington, Upper Hutt, Nelson, West Coast, Christchurch, Otago and Southland.

Teachers who wrote for *The People* will travel to the different launches and hold workshops on the content and use of the kit.

Primary school materials are based on the following focus questions:



Teacher Tracey Cocker discusses *The People* with her pupils.

- How do people value and use forests?
- Who are the people involved in forest industries?
- How are people organised and how do they interact within their workplace?
- What is it like to be a member of a forest community?
- How are people affected by changes in the forest industry?
- How might people use forests and processes in the future?

Secondary school topics focus on the social aspects of forestry, including forest communities, people dynamics in the workplace and individual attitudes towards forestry. There is also a strong focus on the types of jobs available in forestry and the opportunities for career advancement.

Extra funding for indigenous tree research

An extra \$139,000 has been allocated to research into techniques for developing indigenous tree plantations for a sustainable supply of high-value wood, the Minister of Research, Science and Technology, Simon Upton, announced recently.

The funding from the Public Good Science Fund will be used to strengthen the skill base of the country's indigenous plantation forestry expertise, he said.

Mr Upton said the aim of the indigenous plantation forestry research programme is tree improvement by selection of superior genotypes, growth and yields of totara and kauri, economic evaluation of indigenous plantations, determination

of factors affecting heartwood formation, and evaluation of nurse crops.

"This research is conducted by the NZ Forest Research Institute in a way that is environmentally sensitive, maintains choice and opportunity for future generations of New Zealanders, and recognises Treaty of Waitangi obligations to, and kaitiakitanga of, Maori," said Mr Upton.

The new funding is part of an additional \$1 million allocated from the Public Good Science Fund by the Foundation for Research, Science and Technology to ensure key science capabilities, including databases, collections and scientific bases, are retained.

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