- 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.