

School of Forestry news

New staff at School

Professor Roger Sands, a tree physiologist from the University of Melbourne, has taken over the reins as Head of Department at the School. Since arriving, Roger has been overseeing the review of the undergraduate and postgraduate curricula, as well as lecturing and setting up his research programme.

Dr Nora Devoe, who holds a Ph.D. from Yale and has worked extensively in the Pacific Islands and Malaysia, has joined the staff at the School. Nora will be responsible for teaching and research in the areas of tropical forest management and community forestry.

Student numbers increased – again

Enrolment at the School continues to grow, with an 18% increase in overall numbers of undergraduates and postgraduates. Interestingly, first-year numbers are down slightly compared to last year – the increase seems to have come about partly because of a larger number of postgraduates, especially at the Diploma level (20 students are now enrolled for the Diploma), and partly because last year's final year was comparatively small.

Works Civil Construction Prize awarded

John Moore, a Bachelor of Engineering (Forestry) graduate of last year, has been

awarded the Works Civil Construction Prize in Forest Harvesting and Transport. The award goes to the student who scores the highest combined marks in the final-year projects associated with FORE 422 (Forest Harvest Planning) and FORE 423 (Transportation Systems in Forestry). All B.E.(For.) students take these two papers, which are option papers for B.For.Sc. students. The prize of \$1000 and a plaque was awarded to John by Kevin Thompson, Chief Executive of Works Civil Construction (pictured).

Staff, students attend the Australian IFA Conference

Six students from the School of Forestry opted for a different type of North Island field trip this year, and instead received permission to attend the Institute of Foresters of Australia Conference in Ballarat. As well as the conference, the students, with Dr Ted Bilek as supervisor, joined into a special post-conference field trip. Ron O'Reilly also attended the conference and presented a paper on forestry education which he co-authored with Professor Roger Sands.

School hosts Oregon farm foresters

Professor Sands, Ron O'Reilly and Dr John Allan (now retired) hosted a visit by a group of farm foresters from the Pacific North West states of Oregon, Washington

and Idaho. Mike Bondi, a postgraduate of the School of Forestry who is now an Extension Officer at Oregon State University, organised the tour, which included both North and South Islands.

25th Anniversary events underway

As part of the 25th Anniversary celebrations, Dr Mike Carson, Manager of the Biotechnology Division of the Forest Research Institute and graduate from the School, gave a presentation on Trends in Biotechnology Research as the first in the Dean's Series of Lectures. Throughout the year, outstanding alumni of the School will be presenting talks to the students, highlighting activities in which future graduates will be involved.

Plans for the 25th Anniversary and Reunion in late November are well underway (see inside back cover). Industry support and interest from all sectors is growing. The staff of the School is looking forward to a large turnout from past graduates as well as a great range of industry personnel. Should be a great time!

Ron O'Reilly

LIRO studies forestry students

The increasing importance of forestry in many regions of New Zealand, along with the media portrayal of plantation forestry as a generator of income and employment, has accelerated interest in forestry careers. This in turn has led to increasing numbers of students choosing to take forestry courses or options as part of their degree.

The range of courses and options available suggests a wide range of career options. However, as with many degrees, little is formally known about the final career choices of these students. Questions such as how many forestry students end up in the forest industry, how long do they stay in the industry and what are their movements within the forest industry need to be answered.

Since 1989 the Logging Industry Research Organisation (LIRO) has been following the workforce progress of students taking Polytechnic courses in Logging and Forestry. This project identifies the workplace experiences of these students, how long they stay in the industry, what their perceptions are of the industry before they begin working and once they

