

School of Forestry news

Students win at Australian Conference

Six final-year students from the School of Forestry took part in the Technical Session of the Institute of Foresters of Australia Conference, held recently in Ballarat, Victoria. The theme of the conference was "Applications of New Technologies in Forestry: Tools or Toys?", and the students' presentation on "Helicopter Harvesting and Sustainable Management of New Zealand's Native Forests" won first prize in the competition with students from the Australian forestry schools. Congratulations to Dan Gaddum, Damion Harris, Damion O'Meara, Aaron Robinson, Ian Strahan, and Simon Temple.

The students also took time to learn more about Australian forestry, visiting forest protection trials, two Eucalyptus sawmills, the Trees for Profit programme, several agroforestry trials and the Toolangi Forest Discovery Centre. The students would like to recognise the assistance of Rayonier Corporation for sponsorship, and Timberlands West Coast for the technical information and video concerning helicopter logging. A special thanks goes to Dr Ted Bilek for accompanying the students and organising the visits.

Launch of Steepland Forests publication

In May, the School of Forestry was the venue and host for the launching of Professor McKelvey's recently-published book "Steepland Forests". Many forestry friends and supporters were on hand for the event, and enjoyed hearing some of the exploits which arose from the First Indigenous Forest Survey, and other aspects of this historical look at this most important facet of New Zealand forestry.

Increased industry involvement with the School

The School of Forestry is fortunate to be able to call on forest industry experts who are willing to contribute to the academic programme. Industry personnel who have visited the School recently to lecture to the students include Dr Wink Sutton (Tasman Forestry), Bill Studholme (Selwyn Plantation Board), Allan Sayer (Lumber Specialities), Dr Barry Fahey (Landcare), Wayne Coffey (Timber Industry Federation), Dave Janett (Janett and Associates), Andrew Priest (Forestry Corporation), and Colin Hicks (CHH Panels). Staff of Groome Poyry and FRI have also contributed in diverse fields such as GIS and Forest Protection.

International connections

In early June, Dr David Norton, representing the Royal Society of New Zealand, attended the IXth General Assembly of the Scientific Committee on Problems of the Environment (SCOPE) in Tokyo. SCOPE is involved in synthesising current research on key global environmental issues, such as biological invasions, mercury poisoning and the sustainable biosphere programme, and it is hoped that New Zealand scientists will play a role in a new SCOPE programme on biodiversity conservation in non-protected landscapes.

The School will be playing host to 10 forest researchers from India for the next three months under a scheme funded by the FAO. The researchers are mostly in the wood science area and will be upgrading their research and computing skills. The programme for the visitors is being coordinated by Dr Nora Devoe.

School of Forestry reunion planning on schedule

Dr David Norton reports that all guest speakers have been finalised for the 25th Anniversary and Conference. If you have not already received the brochure and registration form, there should be one inside this issue of New Zealand Forestry. Check with your ex-classmates to see if they are going to attend – see if you can get 100% attendance from your graduating class. If they haven't heard about the reunion, tell them to contact Jeanette Allen at the School of Forestry. Looking forward to seeing you there.

NZFEI returns

The Forest Engineering Institute, a 10-week course aimed at logging planners and contractors, will be presented at the School of Forestry in association with the New Zealand Logging Industry Research Organisation. The course will run from

November 20 until February 9, with a break over Christmas. For more information about the FEI, contact Ron O'Reilly at the School or John Gaskin of LIRO.

Ron O'Reilly

Further forestry promotion in Northland

"The Government has increased the amount of money it is spending on promoting forestry as a land use in Northland," the Minister of Forestry, John Falloon, said recently.

"The Government is to spend an extra \$225,000 on forestry promotion and facilitation services for Maori forestry development in the region.

"The aim will be to get some more forest-growing ventures off the ground on some of the significant areas of under-utilised Maori land in the region," said the Minister.

"In order to undertake this work, the existing funding for the Ministry of Forestry's services in Northland will continue for the next three years.

"The Government had originally earmarked funds for a grants scheme for forestry establishment. However, since the scheme was proposed, unemployment has fallen rapidly and there has been strong private investment in forest growing in the region. Therefore, it was felt that such a scheme was no longer necessary.

"However, analysis showed that Maori land that was very suitable for forestry still wasn't being developed.

"The Government decided, instead, that the Ministry will help local Maori find suitable forestry partners.

"This kind of assistance will be far more productive in the longer term," concluded the Minister.

SUSTAINABILITY

"Foresters seem to generally believe that in practising sustained yield timber production they are also practising sustainable management. Incorrect; the concept of sustainable management is much broader. It incorporates all the values of forests, which includes timber production under sustained yield."

Alf Leslie

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