

# School of Forestry News

## New staff position

The School of Forestry has been successful in its application to increase the staff. After the latest round of University staffing submissions, the School was informed that a new position will be established. This, along with the position left vacant when Dr Graham Whyte retired, brings to two the number of new staff being sought. It is envisaged that this latest position may be job-shared among appropriate NZFRI scientists, with the advantage that a number of aspects of forestry can be strengthened. Negotiations are presently underway with NZFRI to determine the particular individuals who may be involved in the job-sharing.

## A popular place to visit

The School has recently played host to a number of overseas visitors.

Between August and October, 10 scientists from India undertook a course on research and report writing as part of an FAO Fellowship programme. During the course, the scientists, whose main interest was in the wood utilisation research, visited industry in Christchurch, Nelson, Rotorua and Auckland, spent three days at the NZ Forest Research Institute in Rotorua, and discussed the management of forests of the South Island. (See photo.)

In early November, a delegation of senior Indonesian forestry personnel, including a Director General from the Indonesian Ministry of Forestry, visited the School to discuss Forest Management and Education, and to interview the many Indonesian postgraduate students at the School.

In mid-November, eight officials from the Chinese Academy of Forestry visited the School as part of a look at New Zealand's sustained-yield indigenous and exotic forest management.

Also in mid-November, delegates from the Kasetsart University in Thailand visited the University of Canterbury campus to discuss postgraduate teaching and research in specific disciplines. Forestry was high on their list and they visited the School with the aim of promoting stronger connections at the postgraduate level.

## Building extension approved

The Buildings Committee of the University recently approved the plans for a \$4.15 million expansion of the School of Forestry. The expansion, on the northern end of the present building, will include new lecture theatres and seminar rooms, as well as more office space and research labs. Part of the extension will be used by



The Indian FAO Fellows with Karl Schasching at Arthur's Pass.

NZFRI South Island research scientists, at present housed at Rangiora. Staff are looking forward to the expansion, which will allow some rationalisation of the existing facilities, especially the undergraduate and postgraduate computing facilities. The School has already had approval for an enlargement of the Wood Utilisation Laboratory at the south end of the building.

## Staff news

Professor Roger Sands recently returned from a IUFRO Conference on the Physiology of Roots from a Management Perspective, held at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York State.

Dr Nora Devoe, recently-appointed lecturer in tropical forest management and community forestry, was chosen by the

students as the best lecturer in the School in 1995. Well done, Nora!

## Postscript

Students in their final year find fascinating ways to release the stress which builds up after many hours of work on Case Study and Dissertation. Staff were recently horrified to find one of the undergraduate computers with a hatchet protruding through the screen! It turned out to be a discarded screen that the students brought in as a prank. David Clark, our computer technician, was not amused, and got his revenge by making the computers unavailable to the students for a half day while the room was being cleaned.

Ron O'Reilly

## 'Underfunding' decried

The political status of the Department of Conservation should reflect its role in earning the predicted \$9 billion tourist dollars at the turn of the century, said Arnold Heine, the editor of the Federated Mountain Club's bulletin.

Writing in the latest issue of the club bulletin, Mr Heine said DOC was underfunded and neither the National Party nor Labour Party gave the organisation priority in the allocation of resources.

"For the major resources it provides for the projected \$9 billion revenue expected to come from overseas visitors by the end of this century, DOC should be up there with the big boys," said Mr Heine.

The department had struggled since the New Zealand Forest Service was dissolved and DOC created, losing the technical and professional expertise of the NZFS, said Mr Heine.

The Service built bridges and other structures which were designed to reduce the risk to back-country users.

But Mr Heine said an under-funded DOC was struggling to maintain and service some of those structures. The status of DOC, when it came to allocating resources, had declined since the change. – Reprinted from the Otago Daily Times.