

The major contract will be with LFITB to provide the necessary services, network and support systems to ensure that structured training to NZQA standards is delivered to the people working in the forest on silvicultural and harvesting operations (generally levels 1-4 on the Framework).

The well-known 'FIRS' modules will continue as an industry recognition of skills, but will in future be based on unit standards from the National Qualifications Framework. The modules will be awarded by FITEC-Forestry only after these unit standards have been achieved and registered with NZQA.

The Sector Operating Committee will continue to make use of Industry Advisory Panels to develop unit standards and design programmes and qualifications.

The Committee responsibilities are not confined to 'operator training' and cover the range from pre-entry (often school-based) to tertiary education. Industry Advisory Panels have been used to good effect in the development of the National Diploma in Forestry (replacing the NZCF), the new National Certificates in Forest Health and Quarantine. Moderation requirements, Unit standard development and 'packaging' into National Certificates, e.g., Mechanised harvesting. Working groups are also currently developing industry packages for environmental management and forest mensuration.

A comprehensive database is vital to effective management and monitoring of training and award systems. Development and management of a database will be contracted to LFITB. The database will ultimately cover all levels of learning in the forest industry and will provide information on trainee records of learning and achievement, monitor assessor activities and provide the information required to secure ongoing ETSA funding.

It is important to stress, however, that the organisation exists because of the industry's commitment to training and education and to safety in the workplace – not simply to capture Government funds, which alone are inadequate to support the programme.

Another important function of FITEC-Forestry is to promote education and training to the industry, and Institute members should see evidence of this in the near future.

FITEC-Forestry is part of the continued evolution of Education and Training in forestry. Initiatives taken nearly 20 years ago by Tasman Forestry, New Zealand Forest Service, New Zealand Forest Products regularised training, introduced commons standards, and gave rise to LFITB.

The new mandate for FITEC-Forestry from Forest Growers, Contractors and

other groups is part of the evolutionary process that strives for a well-qualified and skilled workforce at all levels, operating in an environment made as safe as possible and giving satisfaction to individuals who have a pride in their industry.

## REPRESENTATION IN FITEC-FORESTRY

- Representing Forest Owners
  - NZ Forest Owners' Association 3
  - NZ Farm Forestry Association 1
  - Maori groups with commercial interest in forests 1
- Representing Contractors (Forestry Contractors Assn of NZ)
  - Harvesting 1
  - Silviculture 1

In recognition of the nature of contracting, provision is made for permanent alternates for the contractor

representatives. These alternates can attend all meetings if they wish and are able.

- Representing employees
  - Wood Industries Union of Aotearoa Inc 1
  - NZ Institute of Forestry Inc 1
- A secondment from FITEC will assist to ensure that responsiveness to the needs of Maori and other minority groups is met as required under the Act.
- In addition the committee will seek input from education and training providers at three levels
  - level 1-4 training providers
  - level 5-6 providers (polytechnics)
  - level 7-8 providers (universities)

Murray McAlonan

# Forestry company's scholarship programme

Forestry company Rayonier New Zealand has called for applications for its annual scholarship programme.

The company will be giving a total of \$34,000 this year to the winning tertiary and secondary students from right around the country, including four forestry scholarships worth \$3000 each.

"We want to encourage forestry as a career choice and to help forestry students to achieve their goals. Assisting them financially is a practical and positive way to support their tertiary education, and it ensures the future vitality of the forestry industry," says Charles Margiotta, Managing Director of Rayonier New Zealand.

Previous recipients of the forestry scholarship include one from Waikato University and five from Canterbury University.

This is the first year students enrolled in the Waiariki Polytechnic forestry diploma programme have been eligible for the scholarship programme.

## Students Impress

"We've been bowled over by the calibre of the students we have supported so far. They have really impressed us with their talent, their vitality and their clear vision of where they want to go in life," says Charles Margiotta.

The forestry scholarships are available for students in the final two years of the Bachelor of Forest Science and the Bachelor of Engineering (Forestry) from Canterbury University, the Bachelor of Science (Technology-Forestry) from Waikato University, the Bachelor of Engineering (Natural Resources) from Lincoln University and the Diploma in Forestry from Waiariki Polytechnic.

Recipients are selected by considering their community service, leadership skills, academic or vocational performance, extra-curricular activities and special interests.

## General Grants

General grants ranging from \$500 to \$1000 are also available to enrolled polytechnic or university students, as well as secondary students intending to enroll in tertiary courses, who live near Rayonier New Zealand forest, operations or nursery locations. Under the general scholarship category, the courses don't have to be forestry related.

Rayonier New Zealand is one of New Zealand's largest forestry companies, with plantation pine forests, nurseries and processing plants located from Northland to Invercargill.