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EDUCATION NEWS



School of Forestry News

Dr John Allen

Staff of the School were saddened to hear of the passing away of Dr John Allen. Past graduates and friends will remember John as a well-respected and much-loved staff member of the School from 1970 until 1993. Our thoughts and condolences are with Jan and family.

Minister of Forests' Visit

Lockwood Smith, Minister of Forests, visited the School recently and spoke briefly to members of the staff before presenting the Deans Lecture to an attentive student audience. The Minister discussed what government policies and the forestry potential in New Zealand will mean for future graduates from the School of Forestry. Despite heckling from (non-forestry) students, the capacity crowd was attentive and asked some thoughtful and searching questions. The Minister will be again in Christchurch for the formal opening of the new wing of the School building.

Building Progress

As can be seen in the photo, the new wing at the northern end of the School building is almost complete. Academic and secretarial staff will be moving into the new wing in mid-November, and the official opening of the building will be held on February 18. The Minister of Forests and other dignitaries will be present for the official opening.

Staff Activities

Dr Euan Mason recently returned from Chile where he designed a research programme for initial growth modelling of radiata pine. He also advised the Chileans, who are investing more than \$US1 million in the project, how best to make decisions about expenditure during plantation establishment when the rotation-length responses of crops to establishment treatments are not well known.



Dr Richard Woollons, Carter Holt Harvey Visiting Senior Lecturer, spent three weeks recently at the Division of Forest Research, CSIRO, Canberra, continuing his earlier work into adding environmental and climatic variables to growth and yield systems, with a view to enhancing predictive accuracy. The emphasis on this latest joint research is associated with Napier *Pinus radiata* forests.

Curriculum Review

Academic staff recently held a two-day workshop at Akaroa, in which the undergraduate and postgraduate programmes were reviewed. Following open and frank discussion, considerable changes have been proposed, which, if adopted, could result in some major changes to the curricula. The main thrusts of the review were to increase student numbers taking forestry courses, to strengthen ties with other faculties and departments, and rationalise and, if possible, reduce teaching con-

tact hours of the staff. Proposals will be discussed with students and university personnel, with any agreed changes coming into effect in 1998.

Lincoln University News

Dr Don Mead and Dr Scott Chang spent five weeks in China visiting various Universities and research centres. The trip was funded by the New Zealand/China Travel Awards, host institutions in China and the Chinese Ministry of Forestry. During the trip contacts were made with researchers and teachers in forestry who have a particular interest in silviculture, agroforestry, and forest ecology, and opportunities for future collaboration and student exchange were explored. The visit included the Fujian Forestry College, the Chinese Academy of Forestry, the Beijing Forestry University, the Forestry Academy of Sichuan and the Nanjing Forestry University.