

University of Canterbury – Student News

The academic year is very nearly over for most of us. Exams have dawned upon us all too quickly, and have started the annual panic to get outstanding assignments finished and handed in. For those of us in our final year there remains but one hurdle left to conquer. As a result the Forestry School computer room is busy almost 24 hours as the deadline for our respective dissertations looms. This final effort marks the last formally-assessed contribution to the degree, and for many of us means an exit from student life, and an entry into the job-hunting arena. A daunting thought indeed.

Many of us took time out recently to attend a presentation given by the Minister of Forests (and an old friend of ours), Dr Lockwood Smith. Of course, a few people could not resist the temptation to question Lockwood on the student loan scheme, but thankfully most of us were

present solely to hear the national policy regarding the future of forests in this country, delivered in the way only Lockwood can.

The presentation, that was part of the Dean's Lecture Series, was generally well received. Lockwood was at his best, and still managed a smile even when some particularly stupid, and completely off-the-topic questions were hurled at him by some of the less enthusiastic members of the audience.

I have received a number of letters, Email messages, and faxes from various people from all over the country relating to this column. I would like to stress that this column serves as a medium through which all student members of the NZIF can express their views or thoughts on any topical issue. It is by no means reserved for students here at Canterbury and all correspondence is welcome.

medium and will be much appreciated. Any mail should be sent care of the School of Forestry. As of next year, correspondence should be directed to Austin Gardiner who will be taking responsibility for this column.

Tim Myers
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Forestry education at Massey University

Students wanting to study forestry at Massey University can elect to take the Forestry Option within the Bachelor of Applied Science degree (BAppSc) offered through the Faculty of Agricultural and Horticultural Sciences. The BAppSc offers a number of Options ranging from the very flexible General Option to specific subject areas, such as Forestry, which contain compulsory papers. For the Forestry Option these include papers such as Forest Management, Forest Mensuration, Silviculture and Forest Systems. The emphasis in all of these papers is on farm forestry. The primary objective of the Forestry Option is to produce students capable of utilising information from areas such as economics, technology, tree biology and resource management to design appropriate forest management strategies. Students enrolled in a number of different degree programmes are utilising the opportunity to take forestry-related papers.

Wood technology courses

Waikato University is offering two Part 3 Wood Technology courses as distance modules again next year. This time it's likely to be held in Rotorua – on alternate weekends from March to June. This is to give employed persons a bridge into the graduate Diploma in Applied Science (Wood and Forest Technology). The focus is on utilising technology and solving problems at the wood processing and product end of forestry – in response to industry demand. Subsequent modules, a masters paper in Wood Technology and a site-based technology investigation thesis, can be done part-time over 18 months. The Dip.App.Sci. can lead to a higher degree for the super keen. Entry requirements are a suitable background in science and technology, e.g. B.Sc. or in exceptional cases NZCF plus extensive professional experience. Enquiries to Department of Technology or email bathgate@waikato.ac.nz.

Consideration is currently being given to upgrading the B.Sc. (Tech) Forestry degree, which entails academic papers to Part 3, to a genuine four years of papers. Options are a stream within the new Bachelor of Technology Degree, with a strong engineering slant, or a B.Sc. Honours Degree (only a possibility for Waikato as yet) with more of a traditional forestry science slant. Survey of stakeholders' views has yet to occur and all advice and views would be most appreciated at this stage.

Employment Opportunities

Those of us who are leaving the School at the end of this year face a variable employment market, to say the least. Restructuring in many of the larger corporate bodies has meant that potential employment opportunities are perhaps fewer than was hoped for. However, optimism is surprisingly high, and many of us feel that genuine opportunities exist. Whatever the case may be, the next few months are sure to be exciting times and will undoubtedly prove to be an interesting eye-opener to the realities of life outside the student environment.

Correspondence can be sent via any

Continuing Professional Development Opportunities

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| November 17-19, 1997 | IUFRO Division 2 Meeting on <i>Pinus radiata</i> Breeding and Genetic Resources in Rotorua. Contact Dr Peter Ades, School of Agriculture and Forestry, University of Melbourne.
(peter.ades.agfo@muwayf.unimelb.edu.au). |
| December 1-4, 1997 | IUFRO '97 "Genetics of Radiata Pine" conference in Rotorua.
Contact Peter McFetridge (07) 347-5899. |
| February, 1998 | Otago-Southland 19th Annual Study Trip Tramp to Stewart Island.
Contact Jim Smith (03) 453-5143. |

To add conferences, meetings and local NZIF section events which are relevant to CPD to this list, contact the Editor. The Journal is published quarterly, so plan accordingly.