

New Chairperson of NZITTG

Tim Thorpe, Strategic Planning Manager at Timberlands West Coast Ltd, and Council Member of the Institute of Forestry, has been elected Chairperson of the New Zealand Imported Tropical Timbers Group (NZITTG).



Tim Thorpe

The group represents over 80% of the country's tropical timber importers, retailers and environmental conservation NGOs associated with tropical forestry. The group works to ensure that all tropical timber imported to New Zealand is sourced from certified sustainably-managed forests. According to Tim Thorpe, "being able to work with industry representatives and organisations such as Greenpeace, Maruia Society and Friends of the Earth towards common goals, is a valuable and positive process".

Hawkes Bay environmental awards

Hawkes Bay Regional Council awarded last year's environmental awards to forestry groups. Hawkes Bay Forest Ltd were given an award for their innovative techniques to reduce erosion and visual impact from harvesting and roadworks in Guavas Forest.

Pan Pacific Forest Industries (NZ) Ltd received an award for their on-site environmental management. This included improvements in waste water treatment, reducing noise and traffic impacts, the use of bark as fuel and extensive landscaping.

The third award went to Roger and Michelle Thomsen for their management of their Patoka properties. Steep erodible areas and native bush have been retired and fenced off and spaced planting of



EDUCATION NEWS



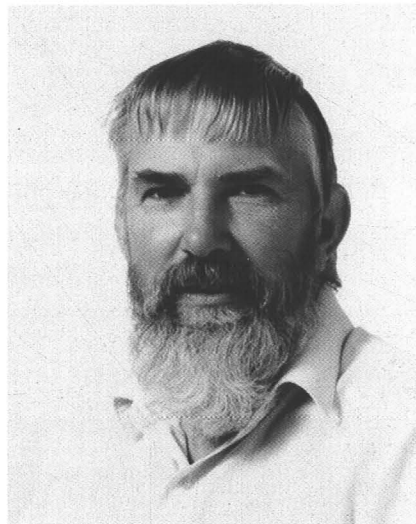
Lincoln University News

Restructuring

Lincoln University, like most of the other Universities in New Zealand, is currently being restructured in order to meet the changing demands on tertiary educational institutes. The Vice Chancellor, Dr Frank Wood, has decided on three main Schools covering undergraduate teaching, postgraduate and research and continuing education. These Schools will obtain their requirements from six divisions which are amalgamations of previous departments. Professor Ian Cornforth, previously head of the Soil Science Department is to head the new Plant and Soils Division. Dr Patrick Aldwell, formerly of the NZ Forest Research Institute Ltd, will be heading the Commerce Division. Both of these people will have a major impact on forestry teaching at Lincoln University.

Retirement of Dr Don Mead

Don Mead retired from Lincoln University at the end of last year but will be continuing his forestry links through consulting. Commenting about his time at Lincoln he said that he had been particularly satisfied that Lincoln was able to provide the forest, the agricultural and the regional planning sectors with graduates who appreciated the needs for forestry. The B Comm (Forestry) degree had been well accepted as it provided employers with business graduates who understood forestry. The postgraduate agroforestry courses had also been very successful. There have been 10 graduate students working in the Lincoln agroforestry



Dr Don Mead

experiments and several others have completed dissertations in agroforestry and related topics.

Don Mead will be teaching into some forestry subjects during 1998, giving the University time to decide on future forestry staffing. He is also editing this and the next couple of issues of NZ Forestry.

Promotions to Reader

Dr Glenn Stewart has recently been promoted to Reader in Ecology and Conservation within the new Plant and Soils Division. His area of speciality is forest dynamics (see his articles in this issue), having published over 45 papers in this

poplars and other trees have been used to improve soil conservation and landscape values.

GF Plus™

The NZFRI and the associated industry tree breeding cooperative have launched a new seed certification scheme call GF Plus™. This is a development on the growth and form ratings of seed which has been used for a number of years in New Zealand. Improved genetic material has been developed for a number of other traits including stem straightness, branch cluster frequency, *Dothistroma* resistance, wood density and spiral grain.



Dr Glenn Stewart

area. Last year he was invited to give keynote addresses at conferences in Japan, Chile and the USA. Glenn is currently supervising seven graduate students in forest ecology.

Recently Glenn, along with Andrew Wells and Richard Duncan, had a paper accepted for the Journal of the Royal Society of New Zealand on the occurrence of widespread even-aged stand establishment in Westland. They give evidence for periods of greatly increased stand establishment 200-300 and 500-550 years ago. They suggest this may have resulted from massive earthquakes.

Dr David McNeil has also been promoted to Reader. David is a plant physiologist who has, in recent years, specialised in perennial nut crops. He is the national coordinator of research for the Tree Crops Association of New Zealand.

Other

Dr Hugh Bigsby is on study leave in Canada until the middle of 1998. In addition Dr Sandhya Samarasinghe and Dr Don Kulasiri (specialists in timber drying and wood science) are both on study leave during 1998.

Forestry fusion: School of Forestry and Forest Research Institute prepare for cohabitation

Research scientists and technical staff from the South Island branch of the New Zealand Forest Research Institute will join faculty of the School of Forestry in the newly-completed extension of the forestry building at the University of Canterbury.

A celebration on February 18 has been planned with Vice Chancellor Brownlie introducing the Honourable Dr Lockwood Smith, Minister of Forestry, and Devon McLean, General Manager, Carter Holt Harvey Forests and member of the board of FRI, replying on behalf of FRI. Representatives and leaders from across the forestry sector in New Zealand were invited to attend and tour the new facilities with exhibits of the latest research from FRI scientists, School of Forestry postgraduate students and faculty on display.

School of Forestry personnel and FRI scientists are excited about the new building and the new arrangement sparking new ideas in research and teaching. FRI

and the School of Forestry should become strong partners in their twin endeavours of teaching and research.

Dr Kenneth Hobson, a new staff member at the school, is exploring new research topics in forest entomology with postgrads and colleagues:

- *Hylastes*, black pine bark beetle bio-nomics, host selection, damage and control with doctoral student Stephen Reay;
- insect biodiversity in response to various forest management regimes with masterate student Diane Jones, faculty colleague Dr Nora Devoe and entomologist John Hutcheson;
- *Platypus* pinhole borer chemical ecology, pheromone identification and options for management with post-doctoral scientist Dr Ecki Brockerhoff.

Ken is enjoying getting acquainted with New Zealand colleagues and forests and would like to hear from people who are interested in the above topics.



Indigenous forest fire protection

Sir,

With reference to Colin O'Loughlin's article in the November 1997 issue, "NZIF develops a new indigenous forest policy":

From the summary outlined it is obvious that a very intensive study of indigenous forest needs has been made by the Working Party on behalf of the Institute.

One puzzling omission, however, is that there is no mention in the summary of any need for indigenous forest fire protection?

Summary No. 4 deals with the "enhancement of the current integrated research effort" concerning control of animal and plant pests. Why not forest fire also?

Summary No. 5 says "The NZIF advocates and supports the establishment of a comprehensive national indigenous forest health surveillance system ...". In my opinion, a similar policy should be in place for the protection of indigenous forest against fire.

As most of us surely know, our original indigenous forest estate was greatly reduced by the ravages of fire. R. Cameron 1964 and L. McCaskill 1973 are good authorities.

Forest and Rural Fire Legislation has been developed over the years to help protect our remaining forests and other areas of vegetation. The Minister and DOC are responsible for the protection of State areas against fire (as well as some private ownerships). Protection of private indigenous forests will largely lie with District Rural Fire Authorities.

There is also forest fire research being carried out at NZFRI with an indigenous vegetation content.

Fire has burnt over 20,000 ha of DOC vegetation, including high forest, since 1987 (pers. comm.) and costs have been high — not only in the monetary sense, but ecologically also. Losses have occurred in private indigenous ownership also, but precise figures are difficult to obtain at present.

I have written to the Chairman of the Working Party suggesting some changes to the Draft NZIF Policy as well as to some individual NZIF members, asking for support in rectifying the omission of any policy statement on forest fire.

Hopefully other members will come to the aid of the party?

Neill Cooper

References:

Cameron R.J. 1964. Destruction of the Indigenous forests for Maori Agriculture during the 19th century. NZ Journal of Forestry 9, 98-109.

McCaskill L.W. 1973. Hold this Land. A History of Soil Conservation in New Zealand. Reed. Wellington.

Draft Indigenous Forest Policy

The draft Indigenous Forest Policy has had a long gestation period and has been put together by people with impressive credentials. I do not intend to comment in detail but rather in broader terms.

1. Indigenous forests are subject to change over time for a variety of reasons. Some of these changes can take place over a relatively short period (the death of totara in a number of North Island forests in the 1960s and 1970s), while others can be long-drawn-out affairs (the displacement of silver beech by mountain beech).

Attempts to manage forests as though they are frozen in time and complex ecosystems will remain constant and will in my view only result in failure. The forests which colonised the last Taupo ash shower give us some idea of how resilient and aggressive our forests can be.

Surely the first problem to be tackled is to develop management systems which will ensure restocking following logging. When this is achieved the other forest values will follow.