



School of Forestry News

It's Official!

On Wednesday, March 19, The Honourable Lockwood Smith, Minister of Agriculture and Forestry, officially opened the new extension to the School of Forestry building. In attendance were the Vice-Chancellor of the University and many invited industry representatives, including Carter Holt Harvey's Devon McLean and Rayonier's Andy Wiltshire (both graduates of the School). In his opening speech, the Minister referred to the benefits of having both the School of Forestry staff and the staff of the South Island branch of Forest Research under one roof, while Devon McLean, in his opening address, mentioned the opportunities that lie in new products and new markets for forestry, and the chance to produce graduates better equipped and focused on the opportunities that lie ahead. The successful occasion was made festive by a group of post graduates from around the world, who dressed in their native costumes for the event.

Prizes

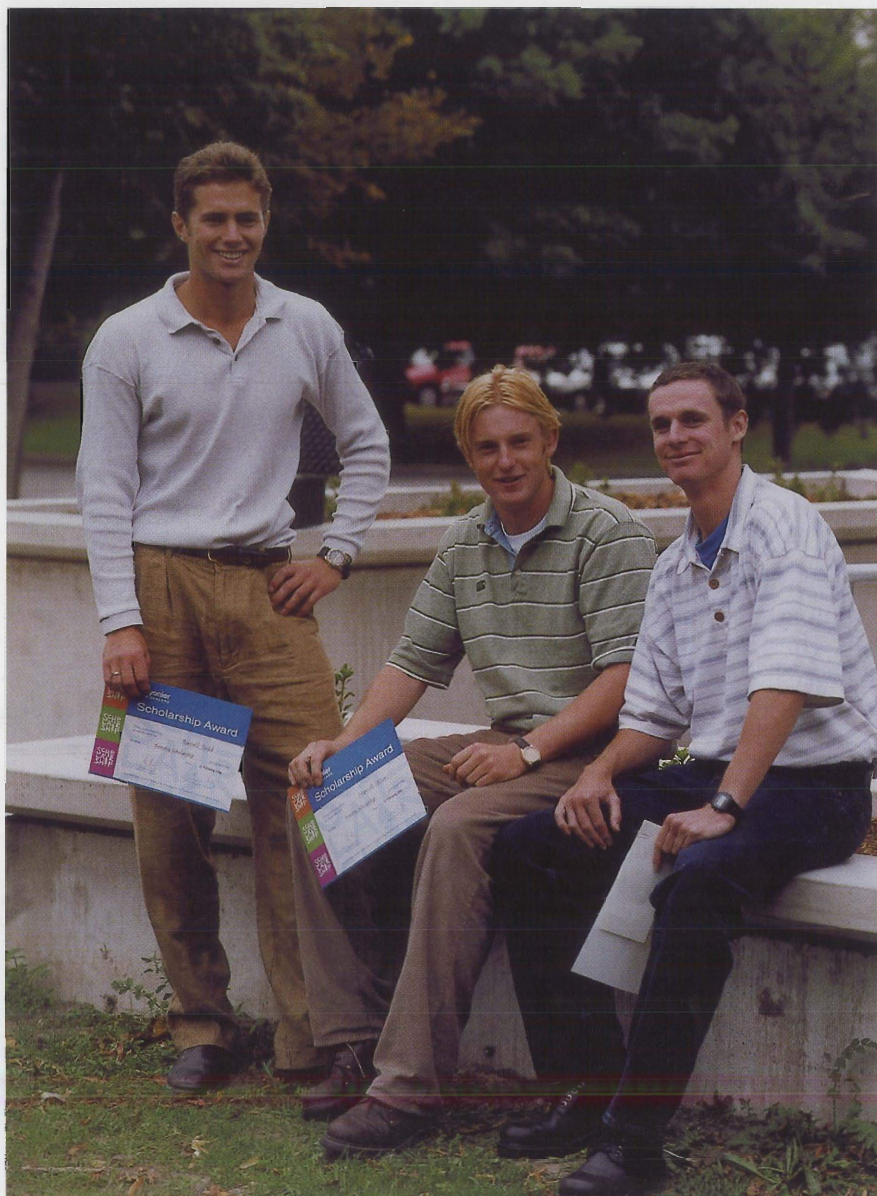
Congratulations are in order for three School of Forestry students who were selected to receive Rayonier Forestry Study Scholarships for 1998. Third-year students Russell Judd, Hamish Allan and Aidan Harrison are shown (left to right) are at the School after receiving their \$3000 Scholarship Awards and certificates. The School gratefully acknowledge the support of Rayonier New Zealand in providing these Study Awards for these deserving students.

Comings ...

Dean Ron O'Reilly has returned from his study leave in Canada, the US and Australia (plus a quick trip to Wageningen, The Netherlands), where he discussed teaching and research trends in forestry. The main emphasis of the study leave was on the topics of urban forestry and forestry history, aspects which at present are poorly represented in New Zealand but well-developed overseas.

and Goings

Dr Euan Mason has been awarded a fellowship by the Scottish Forestry Trust to work with the British Forestry Commission, to develop decision-support systems



Rayonier New Zealand forestry scholarship winners: from left, Russell Judd, Hamish Allan and Aidan Harrison.

and models for plantation establishment. The fellowship award, which follows a recent trip to Chile to design a research programme on the same topic, is another indication that the achievements of the School of Forestry in this area are widely recognised internationally. Dr Mason will work at the Roslin Research Station for the second half of 1998.

Final-year students at the School recently achieved the impossible - they

went south for the North Island field trip! Instead of making the trek across Cook Strait, the class travelled to Southland to study beech forest management - the topic of their final year Management Case Study. Led by Drs Nora Devoe and Ted Bilek, the students spent a week looking at indigenous forestry management. They also had time to join in with a Farm Forestry Conference and were shown an impressive coverage of harvesting, road-

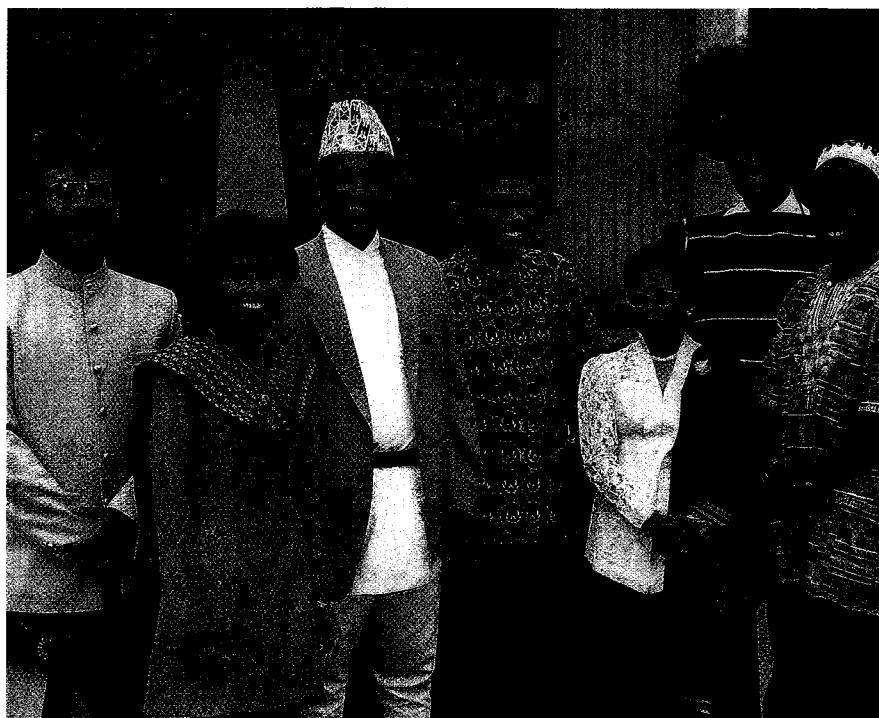
ing and site preparation by Rayonier New Zealand forester Shaun Kaywood. Visits to the Carter Holt Harvey Mill and the Rayonier MDF plant at Matura rounded off their week.

Successful Beech Forest Management Workshop

Recently the School of Forestry hosted a workshop on Beech Forest Management, organised by Dr Devoe, which attracted over 60 foresters, ecologists and landowners from both the North and South Islands. The one-day workshop consisted of a number of specialist working groups which discussed marketing, harvesting and processing, protection, silviculture, as well as ecological effects, and then presented their findings to the group as a whole. Reports from the workshop will be published in the Tree Grower as well as New Zealand Forestry and Indigena, the Newsletter of the Farm Forestry Indigenous Forestry Group.

New Research Initiative

Dr Ken Hobson is beginning a research programme on the introduced cypress bark beetle. He will be examining the beetle as a potential vector of fungi such as cypress canker in young shelterbelt *Cupressus macrocarpa*. This is the beginning of a larger long-term programme examining the pathogen vectoring poten-



Postgraduate forestry students donned national dress to mark the opening of the Forestry School extensions: (from left) Dedy Wurjanto and Tri Esti Kadarwati (both from Indonesia), Krishna Gautam (Nepal), Putranto Nugroho and Nur Masripatin (Indonesia), Victor Venegas (Chile), and Balozi Kirono Bekuta (Kenya).

tial of many of the insects feeding on our introduced trees. One of the challenges we have in predicting the risk to New Zealand

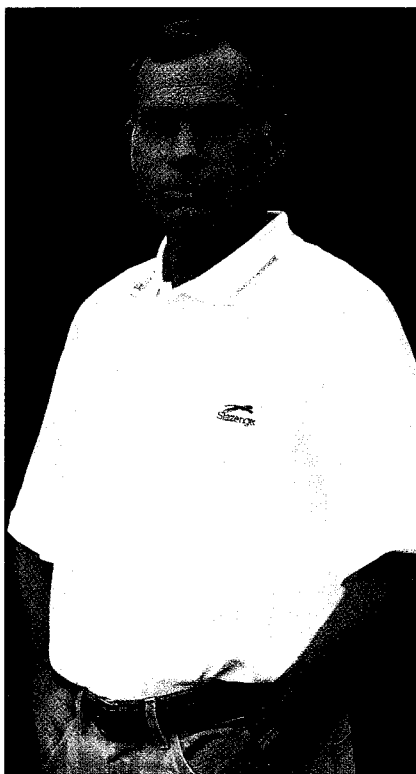
of exotic diseases such as pitch canker is the lack of information about insects that are incidental feeders on our trees.

Nelson Polytechnic

Lindsay Vaughan has recently been appointed forestry tutor to manage the second year of the Nelson Polytechnic's diploma course. He recently moved to Nelson from Rotorua where he had been a forestry consultant.

Nelson Polytechnic diploma in forestry is a three-year course that concentrates on technical, practical and business skills. It is designed for those who want positions in operational planning, technical support or contact operations management.

The polytechnic also offers a Certificate in Forestry which is a 34-week course with about 85% practical and 15% theory. In addition students spend 12 weeks on work experience with local forestry contractors.



Lindsay Vaughan, forestry tutor at Nelson Polytechnic.

Forest Nursery Training

The New Zealand Horticulture Industry Training Organisation has recently developed a specialised level 4 programme in the National Certificate of Horticulture for those wishing to specialise in forest nurseries. It is estimated there are about 150 permanent staff and 900 casuals employed by forest nurseries. The course is available through the Open Polytechnic and eight had already signed up as of the end of March. Most of the key material on forest nurseries has been written by Jaap van Dorsser. For further details contact NZHITO, PO Box 8638, Riccarton, Christchurch.