

Hoon Hay Valley, Banks Peninsula (Melanie Voyce, M.Sc.)

The conservation ecology of *Teucrium parvifolium* on Banks Peninsula (Tristan Boot, M.Appl.Sci.)

Several other postgraduate students are well into their research, including Stephen Ulrich ('Dynamics of podocarp/beech/hardwood forests, north Westland', PhD), Louise Cullen ('The influence of climate and disturbance on beech timberlines', PhD), Nancy Willems ('Impacts of forest fragmentation of podocarp stand structure and regeneration', M.Appl.Sci.), and Pius

Piskaut ('Patterns of beech regeneration after different types of harvesting', M.Sc.). Andrew Wells, working with Drs Glenn Stewart and Richard Duncan, is nearing completion of his PhD research on the disturbance history of south Westland forests and has found some intriguing forest patterns. Large disturbances (probably massive earthquakes) have left a lasting imprint of the structure of the forests. The presence of widely distributed even-aged stands and patterns of tree ring growth reflect these events which occurred in 1717, about 1620 and about 1450.

LETTERS

South Westland Moraine Podocarps

Sir,

May I congratulate Messrs Stewart, White and Duncan (Feb 1998 NZ Forestry) on an article that seems to make better sense of these forest patterns than anything I have seen published previously.

Perhaps, however, there is still room for consideration of effects of climatic fluctuations, possibly, as I believe Jack Holloway suggested, thinning of the hardwood canopy by insects during times of climatic stress.

Also, it may be timely to record some of the background to the 'typing' pattern shown on the National Forest Survey plans.

The system used was derived by the first Unit Leader, Bob Lawn, and while it was modified a little and expanded considerably as work progressed southward through different associations, the basis remained intact, with a strong topographical bias in the interpretations.

While the extreme complexity of patterns in the Haast area demanded a much greater number of 'types' with narrower parameters, in the North (Rimu Forest etc.) the highest volume Type P1 remained fairly complex, for several reasons:

- That was how Bob Lawn saw it, and who was I to make major changes in my earlier work!
- The exercise was, after all, basically to determine timber volumes, and 250 merchantable rimu per ha agree fairly closely in this respect with 150 somewhat larger trees.
- Some of the densely stocked patches were so small that acre plots would have crossed boundaries.

- When at a later stage a request was received to delineate these, it came onto a personality clash, (undoubtedly well earned by a brash young forester), which resulted in information being returned that I was not capable of doing this and myself being forbidden to attempt it.

In fact, this type could have been split quite easily into two or more subtypes, and for ecological purposes this could have been as important as the delineation of the other 'pure' rimu 'types' recognised.

Should anyone attempt to use these plans from NFS Sub-Unit I and possibly further south towards Bruce Bay, I recommend strongly that they retrieve the original aerial photographs from whatever dark hole they now reside in and belatedly attend to this job.

I realise the article referred to dealt with moraine forests only, but in terms of a more general understanding of Westland's ecology I am sure some of the answers must lie in probably later establishment of 'reclaimed' dunes etc. in the Haast.

Finally, may I support Messrs Stewart, White and Duncans' "notion that lesser storms ... initiated local canopy collapse ..." Anyone who has lain in a small tent, with water rising through the slightly sloping ground beneath us, listening to a strong 'nor' wester bringing tree after tree in lanthe forest crashing to the ground at distances that seemed far too close is a believer!

As, of course, must be anyone who has seen the fringes of a major pakihi in the Haast during a summer made dry by prevailing north easterly winds, with the ground rising and falling in waves as the trees swayed.

My only reservation is the paucity of regeneration observed where canopy collapse had occurred previously, suggesting that we must also consider other factors such as climatic variations.

John G. Rawson

FITEC News

FITEC (Forest Industries Training and Education Council) which is the New Zealand Forest Industries Council's training organisation, has reported an excellent year for 1997. During that year registered trainees rose to 6,230, an increase of 38% over the previous year. This performance has gained FITEC 'high performing industry training organisation' status from the Education, Training and Support Agency and a 58% increase in government funding (to \$3M). This funding is likely to increase. In addition the forest industry has increased funding by 36% to \$1.6M.

During 1997 FITEC also registered five new National Certificates and undertook a review of one National Diploma.

Call for Papers NZIF CONFERENCE April/May 1999, Wellington

The theme of this conference is leadership of Forestry in New Zealand. It is proposed that there will be three sessions covering leadership in the following broad areas:

- Stewardship: Conservation, Management and Processing
- Information: Research and Training
- Other: Legislation and Infrastructure

Papers should be around 20 minutes in length, although longer papers will be considered. Abstracts for papers are required by 30 November 1998.

Please register your interest in presenting a paper by contacting the Organising Committee via:

Paul Lane
email: lanep@mat.govt.nz
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