

has recently taken on the position of Post-Doctoral Research Associate at the School. Dr Olson specialises in the socio-economic aspects of forestry, particularly in returning benefits to rural communities. He is working with Dr Ted Bilek and Dr Nora Devoe on their research programme on indigenous forests to improve the ecological, social, and economic benefits of sustainable indigenous forestry in New Zealand. Dr Olson holds degrees from the Universities of Wisconsin and Idaho and has professional academic experience from the United States, Cameroon, Hawaii, and China.

Dr Richard Woollons, a specialist in forestry biometry and well-known to the New Zealand forestry industry, has taken on a 50 per cent teaching position at the School. Richard is also acting as a consultant to staff and post-graduates on growth and inventory issues.

Kelvin Chapman, lecturer in Engineered Wood Products, will be offering a course in Panel Products at the post-graduate level to Masters' and Post-Graduate Diploma students for the first time. This is another feature of the forest products programme which involves exchanging students with the University of British Columbia.

NELSON MARLBOROUGH INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

New Diploma Class Starts

The first year National Diploma in Forestry class started at Richmond Campus at the end of January, although numbers were lower than expected. They are an interesting mixture of youth and experience and show every sign of developing into an excellent group. After completing first aid and fire fighting, they will be learning a range of practical forestry skills over the next few months, along with an introduction to the theory underpinning establishment, silvicultural and logmaking.

The National Diploma in Forestry has just been upgraded by NZQA from a Level 5 to a Level 6 qualification, in recognition of the number of higher level (Level 6 and 7) units that are covered during the latter part of the course. NZQA has also just approved a number of new forestry certificates covering business management and management of silvicultural and harvesting operations. This will make these qualifications more accessible for those in the workforce.

All graduates from last year's Diploma in Forestry course and the Certificate in Forest Harvesting course at Richmond Campus were successful in finding employment in the forestry sector.

Anecdotal evidence suggests that the forest industry is still having difficulty in attracting keen, enthusiastic and well-trained young people into the workforce, and there continue to be shortages of skilled labour, particularly in silviculture.

It is hard to project the image of a dynamic industry when the reality is tired dusty workers returning home at the end of another long day with hourly earnings that are often much lower than those of their urban counterparts.

Calendar 2001

The following conferences, expos, courses and other events will be of interest to readers. Details are brief, so please contact the organisers for more information.

26-30 March 2001

NZ Farm Forestry Association Annual Conference
Theme: Balancing Diversity

Contact:

NZFFA

Tel: 04-479 7337; Fax: 04-479 8589

nzffa@clear.net.nz

26-30 March 2001

Carbon accounting and emissions trading relating to bioenergy, wood products and carbon sequestration, Canberra.

www.joanneum.ac.at/iea-bioenergy-task38

Contact: Joanneum Research, attention Kimberly

Robertson, kimberly.robertson@joanneum.ac.at

6-8 May, 2001

New Zealand Institute of Forestry 2001 AGM and Conference

Stamford Plaza, Auckland

Theme: Processing the wood from the trees

Contact: Event Mergers, Tel: 09-420 5035, or

email: eventmergers@extra.co.nz

31 May-1 June 2001

FIEA Annual Conference

Theme: Non-wood Substitutes

Nelson

Tel: 07-348 1039; Fax: 07-348 1420

fiea@clear.net.nz

5 June-16 July 2001

Agroforestry for Sustainable Development (AGFOR)

Training course, Los Banos, Philippines (6 weeks)

Training Center for Tropical Resources and Ecosystems Sustainability (TREES), University of the Philippines Los Banos, College of Forestry and Natural Resources, College, Laguna, Philippines

Contact: trees@laguna.net

12-16 March 2002

New Zealand Forest Expo 2002

The four-yearly expo and conference of New Zealand forest industries.

Key contacts for the expo and conference

Dell Bawden

Phone/Fax: 07-362 7875; Email: bal@wave.co.nz