

## SCHOOL OF FORESTRY

**Selwyn scholarship boost for modelling**

Selwyn Plantation Board Ltd. (SPBL) has provided a scholarship of \$13,000 per year for three years, for a Ph.D. student to continue studies in growth and yield modelling under the supervision of Dr. Euan Mason, Dr. Richard Woollons and Dr. Bruce Manley. This scholarship will permit the development of some new modelling techniques as well as an updating of a modelling system created for SPBL by Dr. Zhao, a former Ph.D. student.

Drs. Mason, Devoe and Norton are joining with Mark Bloomberg from Lincoln University to develop collaborative studies in the natural regeneration of plantation species in New Zealand, in order to identify potential opportunities to create high quality products more efficiently, and to determine appropriate practices to ensure natural regeneration on diverse sites.

Alan Barnes, a Registered Forestry Consultant and member of the Institute of Forestry Valuation Subcommittee, is first recipient of the Industry Visiting Fellow scheme. Alan is spending a few weeks in November at the School discussing the undergraduate curriculum as well as contributing to our weekly seminar series.

Although lectures are finished for the year, the School continues to be very busy. Activities last week included a very successful 3-day ROADENG workshop, a visit by 32 members of the Japanese National Association for the Promotion of Afforestation, and a one-day Workshop on Capturing the Benefits of Forestry Research, organised by the Wood Technology Research Centre. School staff are now busy marking reports and final exams which must be completed by the end of November.

A mini workshop on modelling of juvenile growth in plantations (initial growth models) will be held at the School during January 2002. Invitees include scientists from Sweden, Australia, the United Kingdom and the United States. The workshop will lay the foundations for further international cooperation in the construction of these models.

## LINCOLN UNIVERSITY

**Masters and PhD theses completed**

Several masters and PhD theses in forest ecology have recently been completed in the Ecology and Entomology Group under the supervision of Associate Professor Glenn Stewart and Dr Richard Duncan. Masters student Pius Piskaut looked at the effects of coupe logging on health and mortality of rimu at Okarito forest in south Westland. Sarah Wedde has very recently

finished a masters degree on the population ecology of *Ascarina lucida* in Saltwater Forest, also in south Westland. PhD students Stephen Urlich and Louise Cullen working in north Westland investigated mechanisms for co-existence in north Westland conifer-beech-hardwood forests and the effects of climate and disturbance on *Nothofagus menziesii* timberlines, respectively.

Craig Tomlinson, a former research assistant in the AERU, is currently completing his sociology masters by returning to his field study in Gisborne. Earlier this year Craig played a major part in Lincoln's work on the social aspects of forestry development on the Gisborne/East Coast area. His AERU report on impediments to forest sector development provided important insights into key development issues. He is now returning to Gisborne to update changes that have occurred since his last fieldwork before finalising his thesis on regional development.

## WAIARIKI INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

**Centre of Excellence Investigated**

Waiariki is investigating the setting up of a Wood Processing Centre of Excellence for New Zealand. Waiariki's governing body, the Council has initiated an investigation into the feasibility of establishing a Wood Processing Centre of Excellence at TiTC.

Waiariki will be seeking support from industry players during the feasibility study and would welcome any input and assistance. Please contact Gordon Acres, the Head of Waiariki's School of Forestry and Technology, on 07 346 8778 or e-mail [acresg@waiariki.ac.nz](mailto:acresg@waiariki.ac.nz).

Meanwhile, Waiariki's organizational review has seen the three old Faculties disappear, and the original eight Schools rationalised into five. The structure of the School of Forestry and Technology, of which wood processing and forestry make up the major part, has been maintained through these changes at Waiariki to ensure the education and training needs of the industry are satisfied.

There has been a substantial increase in business for Waiariki's Timber Technology Campus (TiTC) in 2001 and expansion is anticipated for 2002. The South Island Timber Machining programme has also expanded to the extent where the level of activity now justifies the appointment of a regional trainer/assessor in this region. This region can be further developed with a local presence.

There has been phenomenal growth in Practical Logging courses in 2001 with high rates of placement in industry. Trevor Gray has been appointed FTC Manager.