

SCHOOL OF FORESTRY

Biosecurity course proves popular

Dr. Hamish Cochrane of the School presented a hugely successful course on biosecurity issues over the summer period. Sixty five students from six faculties and a number of cultural enrollees attended the course, which was presented in conjunction with Dr. John Klena of Plant and Microbial Sciences.

Guest speakers included Dr. Barry O'Neill and Sue Cotton from MAF, representatives from Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Environment Canterbury, and Anderson Lloyd Caudwell, a local law firm. A further summer course is planned for November and December 2002.

Another new course on Applications of Information Technology in Forestry, incorporating GIS and GPS to solve spatial analysis problems in forestry, will be part of the Year 4 curricula starting this year, taught by Dr. Rob Douglas and Dr. Hamish Cochrane.

Dr. Nora Devoe is presently based at the U.S. Forest Service Institute of Pacific Islands Forestry in Honolulu, Hawaii, while on Study Leave. She and forester Tom Cole are analysing growth and yield in Southland silver beech forests, in a study financed by the Public Good Fund and the U.S. Forest Service. On behalf of the NZIF, Nora visited the Society of American Foresters' Headquarters and reports that the SAF has agreed to cooperate with the Institute in establishing accreditation for tertiary forestry education in New Zealand.

Dr. Rob Douglas has been appointed the Director of Studies for the Bachelor of Engineering (Forestry) degree and will be looking to increase student numbers and industry involvement with the degree programme. His appointment will strengthen the ties between the School of Forestry and the School of Engineering. Dr. Douglas has also been granted a \$40,000 University of Canterbury Research Grant to carry out large scale network analyses of logging truck traffic on public roads.

Planning is underway for the School's second trip to Sarawak with a number of undergrad and postgrad students. Barney Chan, General Manager of the Sarawak Timber Association, recently visited the School to promote the visit and finalise details.

LINCOLN UNIVERSITY

Sarawak "in-country" tour

In April, Hugh Bigsby will again be taking a group of students to Sarawak for a field tour at the invitation of the Sarawak Timber Association (STA). Barney Chan, General Manager of the STA was recently at the University to talk about the trip and other activities.

This "in-country" experience in Asia is a regular part of studies in the forestry programme at Lincoln University. The field tour is integrated into studies and is structured so that students will be more "job-ready" given New

Zealand's growing dependence on Asian markets.

Students are once again gearing up for the academic year. Part of the education process is work and project experience to ensure that students have as wide as possible experience in the industry before graduating.

We would like employers or anyone with small projects you have not had time to tackle to consider taking on a student. Please contact us if you have any questions (Hugh Bigsby (bigsbyh@lincoln.ac.nz) or Mark Bloomberg (bloombem@lincoln.ac.nz) - (03) 325-2811).

NELSON-MARLBOROUGH INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Busy time for first years

The first-year students at Richmond Campus returned in early February after working with silvicultural and harvesting crews during the vacation. They have a busy year ahead of them that will take them through the higher-level technical forest management and business management units before they graduate in December 2002. They will be the first graduates from the compressed two-year Diploma in Forestry course. There were insufficient numbers to run the first year of this course in 2002 and the next course is set down for February 2003.

The field trip to the West Coast in November 2002 by the first-year students covered beech management, plantation management, and wood processing. A student team and TWC staff debated the motion "That the future of West Coast forestry lies in the growing and processing of special purpose species". Despite the enthusiasm and research of the students and a couple of practice runs beforehand, they were unable to convince the TWC that their future lay in special purpose species. They acquitted themselves well against a team that collectively had more than 90 years of forestry experience.

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