

SCHOOL OF FORESTRY

New appointment in biosecurity

Dr. Hamish Cochrane has recently joined the staff of the School on a full-time basis as Lecturer in Biosecurity. He has recently completed a one-year teaching appointment at the School, after his stint as a Post-Doctoral Fellow. A very popular lecturer with the students, Hamish also teaches Application of Information Technology in Forestry, and contributes to the Conservation Biology and Management course, as well as to Forest Measurements. Hamish also presents a very well-attended summer course on Biosecurity. We are very pleased that Hamish has joined us.

Emeritus Professor Peter McKelvey is joining with well-known forestry personalities **John Groome, Tony Grayburn, Mike Andrews** and **Murray Sturgeon**, to present a 6-part seminar series on Aspects of New Zealand Forestry History. Starting in July and running through to September, the seminars will include topics such as the development of radiata pine silviculture and protection forestry, the evolution of plantation logging, history of sand dune forestry, the introduction of economic forestry, and innovations in forest products processing.

Dr Euan Mason and **Michael Watt**, a postgraduate student, recently attended an international conference on vegetation management in Nancy, France. During the conference summary it was noted that their work, along with that of Dr Brian Richardson at Forest Research, was leading the way in modelling of vegetation management. Dr Mason also visited Edinburgh where he reported on his research in initial growth modelling for the British

NELSON-MARLBOROUGH
INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Focus on business management

During the second term, the second-year students at Richmond Campus concentrated mostly on business management units after completing their Establishment Plan. Their plans covered five sites in Golden Downs and Moutere Forests, and they provided presentations on their proposals.

The business units included production management, job costing, financial resourcing of contract operations, business planning, contracts, tenders and property legislation. They provided assignments on a production recording system for a harvesting operation, harvesting windthrown stands, calculating a daily rate for a harvesting operation, preparing a loan application to set up a forestry business and a 12-month cash flow, revising a harvesting contract, preparing a tender for a harvesting operation, and preparing a detailed business plan for a forestry business. For those who are keen to go into contracting, their combination of practical skills and business knowledge will leave them well-placed to set up and run a forestry business, once they have accumulated sufficient practical experience. The labour shortages in the forestry sector suggest that there are plenty of work opportunities for these keen young men.

Forestry Commission. His Forestry Commission contract has been extended for another year.

Congratulations to **Associate Professor David Norton** who has been elected as the President of the Australasian Section of the Society of Conservation Biology. David has also been chosen to be on the international Board of Governors for that Society.

Members of the **School of Forestry Advisory Committee (SOFAC)** are pictured below after their recent meeting at the School. The role of SOFAC is to (i) advise the University of Canterbury on all areas of forestry education and research which SOFAC sees relevant to the School of Forestry and its future development, and (ii) to facilitate good communications between the School and the forestry sector. SOFAC comments on proposed developments at the School and has also made representations to the University when the School has been audited.



School of Forestry Advisory Committee: Pictured from rear left: Hank Bier, Dr Don McNickle, Bill Studholme (Chair), Mike Cuddihy, Tim Thorpe, Russell Dale, and Dennys Guild. Front left: Ket Bradshaw, Prof Roger Sands, Ron O'Reilly, and Murray McAlonan. Missing are John Blakey, Ian Boyd, Assoc Prof Alex Sutherland, and Jane Huria.

LINCOLN UNIVERSITY

Balneaves Travel Award

After a number of delays, **Dr Hugh Bigsby** headed to the U.S. in May as part of the Balneaves Travel Award he received from the NZIF. The purpose of the trip was to look at forest valuation issues and methods in the U.S. and to make contact with researchers in this area of study. The trip involved the Western Forest Economists meeting near Portland, Oregon and visits to a number of universities, predominantly in the U.S. southeast.

The Chinese interest in New Zealand forests extends beyond Fletcher Challenge. A number of visitors including officials from Yunnan Province and Shenyang Agricultural University have visited recently to look at opportunities for study, and staff and student exchanges.

Dr Pablo Peri recently successfully defended his PhD thesis and has returned to Argentina. Pablo is one of a number of students who have based their thesis research on Lincoln University's agroforestry trial.