

## Waiariki Institute of Technology

### New School of Forestry and Wood Processing

In April 2003 Waiariki Council decided to split the School of Forestry and Technology into three new entities; a School of Forestry and Wood Processing, a School of Engineering and Rural Studies, and a Commercial Sawmill. Deryck Shaw, Chair of Council, explained. "Waiariki now has a clear vision for each of the three entities. The new School of Forestry and Wood Processing will become the premier New Zealand centre for integrated vocational education and training in forestry and wood processing. The new School of Engineering and Rural Studies will become the lead regional centre for vocational education and training in automotive and mechanical engineering and rural studies. The Sawmill will be managed on a commercial basis to become a model for New Zealand sawmills. Strategic planning in the entities will now achieve those ends."

Waiariki's Council also recognised that the new School of Forestry and Wood Processing will need to review all of its delivery systems. There have been a number of staff changes since April. A new Head of School of Forestry and Wood Processing is yet to be appointed. Plans are underway to relocate FTC from Forest Research to new premises on the Waipa site for 2004. This new School Campus will be home to all our forest management and wood processing courses in the future. The campus will integrate delivery of practical forestry, forestry management, solid wood processing and eventually construction trades training. The "Radi Centre" – a new National Centre of Excellence in Learning for Wood Manufacturing will be a major part of this development. For more information on these initiatives please contact the CEO: reynold.macpherson@waiariki.ac.nz

### National Diploma in Forestry (Forest Management)

Sixteen students completed the two and a half year programme in July 2003. Most have been absorbed into the workforce although good technical work opportunities are scarce in the current downturn.

We had a good intake into year one this year with a class size of 24 students currently. Seven of these are internationals from Fiji, China and India. The international market is growing and many of many are initially attracted to New Zealand to study English at our language school.

Recently Tim Thorpe and NZIF Council members hosted a barbeque lunch for our students and staff. This was enjoyed and successfully raised the profile of the NZIF. A number of students have since joined the Institute.

### National Certificate in Forest Health Surveillance

The introductory course for the new cycle was run early in July. There are currently 12 industry people attending and the course cost is subsidised by Forest Industries Training. This is a post-graduate certificate

and the cycle will consist of 7 one week courses delivered over the next two and a half years. Topics include forest health and protection principles, insects and pathogens, aerial and ground surveillance, abiotic influences and urban forest health issues. These are will be delivered by a range of people including Forest Research staff. For more information on this course please contact mark.cleland@waiariki.ac.nz.

### National Diplomas in Wood Manufacturing Level 5-6

Two Diplomas in Wood Manufacturing are being developed and will be offered by the Radi Centre in 2004. These are aimed at people with experience in wood manufacturing and who aspire to be industry leaders, in positions ranging from first line supervisors to more senior plant and operations managers. Some students may have already completed studies at a lower level in wood manufacturing while others will want to apply other technical or engineering training and their previous work experience to wood manufacture. For more information on these courses contact:

mark.stevenson@waiariki.ac.nz

## Lincoln University

### Field trip to Sarawak

Despite global events, the annual two-week field tour to Sarawak for final year Lincoln University forestry students went ahead during the Easter term break. Students had opportunities to learn about tropical forestry and wood processing, forestry and resource management issues in a developing country and use of wood in the tropics. In addition to the 'work' part of the trip, students also had an opportunity to learn about Asian food, customs and culture. Once again, the generous support of the Sarawak Timber Association in organising this tour is acknowledged.

*Lincoln University students on their field trip to Sarawak.*



### Professional Masters degree

The first group of students in the Forestry Business specialisation of the Professional Masters degree at

Lincoln University have completed their Forest Valuation subject with Dr Hugh Bigsby. The degree's off-campus delivery format meant that people in the course came from around New Zealand, making use of self-study materials and combined with a number of meetings where everyone could come together. The next subject as part of the Forestry Business specialisation will be in the area

of wood products markets, and will be offered next year. In the mean time, students can continue to take other generic subjects in the degree.

Congratulations to Brian McKinley, a student in the Forestry Business Stream of the Professional Masters degree at Lincoln University, who was the recipient of the 2003 NZIF Postgraduate award.

## University of Canterbury School of Forestry

### Companies support scholarships to boost number of forestry graduates

Concern that too few professional foresters are graduating in New Zealand at present has prompted some forestry companies to offer incentives for school leavers to adopt forestry as a career. Scholarship programmes to support study for a BForSc or BE (For) are being set up by Rayonier New Zealand, Weyerhaeuser New Zealand, Nelson Pine Industries and Wenita Forest Products. As well as providing financial support, the companies are also offering student vacation placements.

### Graduates of 1976 hold reunion

School of Forestry graduates from 1976 held a very successful reunion in Christchurch over Anzac weekend. The reunion, attended by 19 graduates together with 12 wives, included functions at the University Staff Club, a visit to the Mt Hutt afforestation project and a roll call at the School. The latter enabled graduates to revisit the old F1 and F2 lecture theatres and share reminiscences. Although some graduates had not seen each other for 27 years none of the Forestry School esprit de corps had been lost in the intervening years.



*School of Forestry 1976 Graduates enjoyed an afternoon in the sun at the University of Canterbury Students Association Mt Hutt afforestation project during their reunion.*