

## The Hocking Papers

Recently the well-known farm forester Denis Hocking deposited the papers of his father, Gerald Hocking, in the forestry archive of the Macmillan Brown Library at the University of Canterbury. Gerald Hocking was a distinguished, senior professional forester who spent his entire career in the Wellington Conservancy of the old New Zealand Forest Service. Indeed he amassed such broad work experience in the Conservancy and developed such an encyclopaedic knowledge about it that he earned the informal sobriquet of "Mr. Wellington Conservancy". Gerald Hocking was a graduate of the first Canterbury College (as it was then) School of Forestry, attaining the degree Bachelor of Forestry Science in minimum time over the period 1927 – 1930. This course is well represented in the collection, which makes it very important historically.

There are two large photo albums, the first of which portrays the environs and residents of College House, where Gerald stayed, and the buildings of Canterbury College (now the Christchurch Arts Centre) where forestry studies were housed. It also contains photos of the recreational activities - rugby, deerstalking and climbing - which Gerald and his contemporaries in the School took part in. The other portrays the field practical courses that the forestry students attended at Rimu, Mananui and Ruatapu in Westland, Whangamoa in Nelson, and Hororata and Homebush in Canterbury. Also representative of the Canterbury course is Gerald's dissertation, a substantial typed document of 55 pages on "Variations in *Pinus*

*radiata*, with particular reference to Canterbury", a topic that had been suggested by the ranger in charge of Hanmer Forest, Hubert Roche. There is another album still to come with 1940s photos of Hawkes Bay (including Gwavas) and Wairarapa exotic forests.

Jobs were hard to get in 1930 and Gerald, and doubtless some of his contemporaries also, were forced into depression relief work at Balmoral, Hanmer and in Hawkes Bay forests, as shown in another photo album. (Indeed it is interesting to read a series of papers requesting improved status for the early forestry graduates.) In 1934 he worked in Karioi and Erua forests, the harsh conditions in the latter resulting in a serious pulmonary illness that put him off work for years and handicapped him all his career. There are photos of all these forests. Finally, there is a photo of a 1954 Forest Service Technical Officers' course with individuals named, important because many of them later rose to senior posts in New Zealand forestry.

Gerald represented the New Zealand Forest Service at the Sixth British Commonwealth Forestry Conference held in Canada in 1952 and his copious notes are included. There are many loose papers, mainly specific to Wellington Conservancy, which have been categorised into: sand forestry, protection forestry, forest history, farm forestry, management strategies etc. In all the Hocking papers represent an important addition to the Macmillan Brown archive.

Peter McKelvey

## education news

## Visiting Industry Fellow strengthens ties

### School of Forestry

**Peter Hay**, a Director of FORME Consulting spent 10 days at the School as a Visiting Industry Fellow. This programme is designed to strengthen links between the School of Forestry and industry. Peter presented a seminar to students on "What Industry Expects of Forestry Graduates" as well as an open seminar on "Professional forestry and consulting its image in New Zealand".

**Dr Peter Blandon**, Senior Lecturer in Economics at the London Metropolitan University, has been at the School for July/August as a Visiting Erskine Fellow. His specialty areas are business finance and the Japanese forest products market. During his visit he taught Forest Economics as part of the school's undergraduate programme.

**Dr Helge Dzierzon** has taken up a two-year

position as a Postdoctoral Fellow at the School of Forestry. He has come from the University of Gottingen in Germany, where he earned his PhD creating models of individual tree growth and yield in mixed age forests. He will be working with Associate Professors Euan Mason and Bruce Manley developing a nationwide, hybrid (mensurational/physiological) model of the growth and yield of *radiata* pine.

**Dr Linda Hsu**, who recently completed her PhD at the School of Forestry, has been awarded an AGMARDT postdoctoral scholarship to study molecular mechanisms for organic nitrogen transport in plants. She will be working under guidance from Dr Jan Grant at Crop and Food in Lincoln. This is a signal achievement as only 2-3 AGMARDT positions are offered every year.