

with the South Island staff of Scion continues with several continuing to contribute to various undergraduate papers and to postgraduate research projects and supervision. Special note must go to the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry who continue to actively support the undergraduate teaching of indigenous forest management. Staff time and resources

are provided by the Ministry, and without this support the students would miss out on significant are of forestry in New Zealand. In particular we would like to acknowledge the efforts of Alan Griffiths in this area.

Hamish Cochrane

Waiariki School of Forestry, Wood Processing and Biotechnology

Student numbers rise as economy struggles

The first term of the academic year is now over. This has been a busy time with student enrolments, staff appointments and the commencement of course redevelopment programmes for 2010.

Student enrolments are again up this year, not only for our school but also for our Institute as a whole. I understand this is a trend affecting many other New Zealand tertiary institutions this year. At least there appears to be one benefit of the worsening economic situation in which we find our economy.

These lifts in student numbers bring some relief to the forest industry as forestry schools within New Zealand and across the ditch have struggled to attract students in recent years. Over the last few years tertiary institutions, such as the Nelson Marlborough Institute of Technology, University of Canberra, the University of Melbourne and Lincoln University, were forced to cancel forestry programmes as students moved towards apparently more attractive programmes such as marketing and IT. Now there appears to be an opportunity for us to attract more students onto our courses which is great for us and must be good for the industry.

In an effort to attract more students into our industry and to make our qualifications more relevant we have recently appointed Keith Raymond to assist us to redevelop our National Diploma in Forestry (Forest Management) Level 6 programme. Keith is well known to our industry, having completed his Bachelor of Forestry Science (Honours) at Canterbury in 1981, then having worked for Forestry Corp, Fletcher Challenge Forests Ltd and Carter Holt Harvey Forests, in harvesting, supply chain management and other senior operations roles until 2007 when he became an independent management consultant. Keith will work with our academic staff, with FITEC and with industry to help us tweak our current Diploma in Forestry to make it more relevant for industry and more attractive for students. The new Forestry Diploma will be offered from 2010.

We have also recently appointed Dr Jenny Aitken, as Head of Department – Biotechnology. Jenny also has considerable experience in the forest industry. She initially worked as a Technician and Scientist at Forest Research Institute for 20 years in plant propagation and tissue culture. She then managed biotechnology, breeding

and nursery production for Carter Holt Harvey for a further 10 years, before she set up her own biotechnology business, The Tree Lab, and a consulting business in New Zealand and overseas. Jenny commences with Waiariki Institute of Technology on a part-time basis, to help us develop several programmes in bio security, biotechnology and sustainable energy.



Dr Jenny Aitkin

In a few days our Institute will host the Bay of Plenty Job Summit in our new Forestry School building, which is a regional follow-on from the National Job Summit held recently in Auckland. One opportunity we will be pushing is that education is a way out of our nation's current economic woes and that forestry is an essential industry for our economy which does offer an exciting and rewarding career. Recent trends in student numbers have been encouraging. Now our challenge is to offer students more relevant, and more interesting programmes of study. That will be my challenge for Term 2.

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