University of Canterbury School of Forestry News

Agroforestry Lecturer Chosen Tops
For the second year in a row, a first-time lecturer has been chosen as the best lecturer in the Canterbury School of Forestry. Piers Maclaren, FRIN researcher and past graduate of the School, is now coordinating the Third Year Agroforestry paper, and topped the students' list in the annual survey. Well done Piers!

School Extension News
The expansion and refurbishment of the Wood Technology Laboratory is completed. For those of you who cannot visit the lab in person, we have provided a photo, taken from the south-west corner of the School, which shows the outside of the new lab.

Also, the news has just come down that the planned extension of the School of Forestry will go ahead. The project has been held up because of financial matters, but the latest word is that the new building, to the north of the existing building, should be completed in time for the first classes in 1998. The extension will house FRIN South Island staff as well as staff and postgrads from the School of Forestry. A feature of the extension will be a much larger lecture room with all mod cons, something that has been lacking in the School for many years.

Woodlot Management Expert Visits
Joachim Hermelin, recently-retired Director of Extension Forestry in the Department of Natural Resources, New Brunswick, Canada, visited the School to talk to staff and postgraduate students. Joachim has an extensive background of private forest management in both Canada and Sweden and was in New Zealand recently as feature speaker of the LIRO Woodlot Logging Conference held in Rotorua. While at the School, Joachim presented a seminar and held discussions with postgraduates, as well as talks with members of the Farm Forestry community.

Staff Activities
Richard Woollon, CHH Visiting Lecturer, recently attended a statistics conference held on Nantucket Island, near Boston, USA. Richard’s current research into development of growth and yield models which incorporate climatic and spatial inputs was well suited to the conference theme of Modelling Longitudinal and Spatially Correlated Data. Richard also travelled to the School of Forest Resources, Athens, Georgia and presented a series of seminars on growth modelling.

Dr Euan Mason recently attended an IUFRO Conference on “Modelling Regeneration success and Early Growth of Forest Stands” in Copenhagen, Denmark, and presented four papers on modelling of regeneration, interspecific competition, and early growth modelling. Euan has also recently established an experiment to examine the interaction between tree genotype and weed competition, using clones provided by the Fletcher Challenge Lt Center for Advanced Biotechnology.

In late October, Dr John Walker and the Wood Technology Research Group presented a workshop on “Capturing the Benefits of Forestry Research and Putting Ideas to Work”.

Professor Sands travelled to Greytown at the end of October to present a seminar on “Sustainable Management in New Zealand – Who’s Kidding Whom?” at the Forest Owners’ Association Annual General Meeting.

Also in late October Dr Ted Bilek spoke to the Wellington Branch of the NZ Institute of Forestry regarding his research into the timing of the sale of Forestry Corporation. From all accounts this topical issue provided a source for lively debate in our capital! Speaking after Ted on the sale, and the general future of forestry in New Zealand, was the Minister of Forestry, John Falloon.

Finally, graduates of the School will be interested to know that Paul Fuller and David Clark have embarked on a fact-finding mission which will take them to Hong Kong and Mainland China (briefly) and then to India. Their three-week trip is in response to a visit by FAO-funded scientists from India in 1995 and an invitation from those scientists upon their return. We look forward to many interesting tales from their exciting trip.

Ron O’Reilly

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