ing and site preparation by Rayonier New Zealand forester Shaun Kaywood. Visits to the Carter Holt Harvey Mill and the Rayonier MDF plant at Mataura rounded off their week.

**Successful Beech Forest Management Workshop**

Recently the School of Forestry hosted a workshop on Beech Forest Management, organised by Dr Devoe, which attracted over 60 foresters, ecologists and landowners from both the North and South Islands. The one-day workshop consisted of a number of specialist working groups which discussed marketing, harvesting and processing, protection, silviculture, as well as ecological effects, and then presented their findings to the group as a whole. Reports from the workshop will be published in the Tree Grower as well as New Zealand Forestry and Indigena, the Newsletter of the Farm Forestry Indigenous Forestry Group.

**New Research Initiative**

Dr Ken Hobson is beginning a research programme on the introduced cypress bark beetle. He will be examining the beetle as a potential vector of fungi such as cypress canker in young shelterbelt *Cupressus macrocarpa*. This is the beginning of a larger long-term programme examining the pathogen vectoring potential of many of the insects feeding on our introduced trees. One of the challenges we have in predicting the risk to New Zealand of exotic diseases such as pitch canker is the lack of information about insects that are incidental feeders on our trees.

**Nelson Polytechnic**

Lindsay Vaughan has recently been appointed forestry tutor to manage the second year of the Nelson Polytechnic’s diploma course. He recently moved to Nelson from Rotorua where he had been a forestry consultant.

Nelson Polytechnic diploma in forestry is a three-year course that concentrates on technical, practical and business skills. It is designed for those who want positions in operational planning, technical support or contact operations management.

The polytechnic also offers a Certificate in Forestry which is a 34-week course with about 85% practical and 15% theory. In addition students spend 12 weeks on work experience with local forestry contractors.

**Forest Nursery Training**

The New Zealand Horticulture Industry Training Organisation has recently developed a specialised level 4 programme in the National Certificate of Horticulture for those wishing to specialise in forest nurseries. It is estimated there are about 150 permanent staff and 900 casuals employed by forest nurseries. The course is available through the Open Polytechnic and eight had already signed up as of the end of March. Most of the key material on forest nurseries has been written by Jaap van Dorsser. For further details contact NZHITO, PO Box 8638, Riccarton, Christchurch.