

West Coast visit highlight for 2nd Year Students

Lindsay Vaughan

The second-year Diploma in Forestry students had a three-day field trip to West Coast.

They visited beech forests in the Maruia Valley that had been selectively logged, heard an update on the resources of Timberlands West Coast and the marketing challenges it faces as a small scale and relatively isolated producer, and visited harvesting and processing operations.

It was interesting to see the challenges facing local harvest planners and harvesting contractors with the difficult operating conditions and the protection of historic relics from the early gold mining days.

At the Ruatapu plywood plant students were encouraged by the innovative approach being taken to identify and fill niche markets for a range of specialised end products.

The highlight for the students was their annual debate with Timberlands staff.

The chosen subject was "There is little to attract and retain young people in the forest industry". Their success can be attributed to

adequate preparation, a good selection of health and safety statistics, and an understanding of the rules of debating.

In response to the positive news about the forest



Photo: students discussing harvest planning at a West Coast cable logging operation.

LINCOLN UNIVERSITY

New appointment in silviculture

Mark Bloomberg has been appointed to a three-year position at the University. He will be teaching silviculture and agroforestry papers. Mark will also be involved in continuing the research programme in the agroforestry trial and developing new research initiatives.

Active research continues in the Lincoln University agroforestry experiment, with three PhD candidates and one undergraduate student investigating aspects of tree/understorey interactions.

Staff and students from the Plant Science Group will be presenting papers arising from research in the agroforestry trial at the next International Grassland Congress in Sao Paulo, Brazil.

Dr David McNeil has concluded the eucalypt biomass/spacing trial at Lincoln after a ten year period. This trial was carried out in collaboration with NZ Forest Research, and has yielded a information on growth of eucalypts on a short rotation coppice regime. The trial area will continue to be run as a demonstration forest for undergraduate forestry courses.

The interest in environmental certification has generated interest in research being undertaken at Lincoln University. In recent weeks Lucie Ozanne will have spoken at the FIEA Annual Conference in Rotorua, the Second

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industry, there has been an encouraging upsurge in the number of inquiries about the Diploma course.

We are confident of being able to select good quality students for 2001.

International Wood Markets Conference in Melbourne, and Forest Certification Recognising Society's Signals Conference (IFBWW) in Hobart.

SCHOOL OF FORESTRY

Grant for new software purchase

The School of Forestry has recently received a \$100,000 grant to fund the purchase of ArcView GIS software, datasets and supporting hardware. Sixty-five computers will be equipped, and initially 7 staff members with a significant mapping component in their research will benefit. A total of 6 undergraduate courses will use the new mapping capability, together with their postgraduate counterparts.

The new facility will strengthen the students' understanding and use of applications which they will encounter in their professional work after graduation. Dr Robert Douglas, who teaches the undergraduate course in Forest Transportation Planning, has received the StoraEnso Award for a paper presented at the Canadian Woodlands Forum Atlantic Branch Workshop on Water Quality. "Planning When Constructing Forest Roads and Stream Crossings" was chosen as the best paper of the current year on ecological landscape management of commercial forest areas. In other staff news, Dr Bruce Manley was recently chosen as the School's outstanding lecturer for the year.