

primary reason why 75% of the current CRI scientists would not recommend a science career to the next generation, and why 20% of current science graduates choose to take their skills overseas.

Conclusions

In the scientific tradition, what conclusions are allowable from the evidence?

There is evidence both empirical and theoretical showing that the science system is malfunctioning. It is predictable that the current problems will not be resolved by further tinkering with the current system. A new science management model is required, built on evidence-based and objective analysis of the needs of science and the needs and goals of New Zealand. Some solutions have been suggested (see for example Edmeades 2004) but further development of these ideas waits further evidence-based policy development.

References

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education news

School of Forestry, University of Canterbury

The year ended has marked another changing year for forestry education in New Zealand. The decision to cease undergraduate forestry education at Lincoln is a significant concern which has reduced the breadth of education available for students within New Zealand. It emphasises the importance of the continuing providers of forestry education for the sector.

The school has undergone a substantial change in leadership. Late in 2006 Professor Roger Sands stood down as Head of School, a position that he has held since arriving in New Zealand in 1994. It also marks 24 years for Roger as a head of a Forestry School. Professor Sands has had a substantial impact upon forestry education and the broader New Zealand in his time here, something the school hopes to mark in mid-2006. Associate Professor Bruce Manley is now Head of the Forestry School. Bruce has been at the school since 1999 and is looking forward to the challenge of being head.

Associate Professor Rob Douglas has resigned and returned to Canada. In the interim the Dean of Engineering and the Forestry Board of Studies chair are looking after the management of the forest engineering programme. The school has been given permission to seek a replacement for Rob and is in the process of advertising for a suitably qualified Forest Engineer. The programme itself is very important as it is a critical area for the industry and is also a strong link for the school with the engineering departments.

Fire has been very much under focus in recent months with the heavy fire season in Australia. The school now belongs to the Bushfire CRC (research centre) based in Australia. This has been achieved through support by a variety of people and entities including Murray Dudfield, NZRFA, and colleagues based at the Ilam office of Ensis. One honours dissertation has been completed to date by Martin Bayley. The dissertation focused on national and

provincial fire severity ratings, provincial fire occurrence, areas burnt, and suppression costs. We are looking to grow our research and teaching involvement in this area.

First year enrolments are trending upwards although new undergraduate enrolments are predominantly being made by older or overseas students. It remains a challenge to attract young people from school into the degree. Associate Professor David Norton has taken over the management of postgraduate students at the school, and numbers are again climbing, although again the interest is primarily from overseas students. The school is working through the process of introducing a one-year professional masters degree. The degree would mirror similar qualifications on offer in North America in that it would be paper based combined with a small research report that would be industry focused. We would be delighted to receive any thoughts on such an offering.

Dr Martin Ritchie (pictured), a modeller from the US Forest Service, is working at the School with Associate Professor Euan Mason for three months, applying



techniques Euan has developed for incorporating radiation and climate-modified radiation use estimates directly into growth and yield equations. This kind of modelling may provide a solution for managers who wish to make growth projections in stands that have experienced climate change, and has already provided better fits to PSP datasets in New Zealand when compared to traditional modelling methods.

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