LU is happy to announce that following consideration of the report of its accreditation review committee, the NZPI Council has reaccredited the Master of Environmental Policy (MEP) (with the required electives) for a further 5 years. The Bachelor of Environmental Management and Planning (BEMP) with the Professional Planning minor plus one year of specified post graduate study has also been accredited for two years. The difference between the accreditation period for the two reflects the intention of the NZPI to review its education policy, and it would seem that for consistency the NPZI would be likely to do the same for all other undergraduate programmes coming up for review.

Out of more than 100 post graduate students in the Faculty of Environment, Society and Design, there are currently 15 post-graduate students at various stages of doing programmes that would make them eligible for NZPI membership.

**MERGER PUT ON THE BACKBURNER**

In March an amalgamation between Lincoln University and AgResearch was mooted.

During three months of investigation, the University strongly focused their attention on ensuring that existing undergraduate and postgraduate programmes were retained.

Recently Lincoln University and AgResearch decided to propose a knowledge partnership model as opposed to a full merger, and keep the two organisations as separate entities.

This was decided to be the most cost effective outcome for both parties and ensures the stability of current and future programmes of study.

**AWARDS FOR LINCOLN GRADUATES**

In 2008 the John Hayward Memorial Prize went to Clare Sargeant. This prestigious prize is awarded to the most outstanding Master of Environmental Policy student who has completed the degree, based mainly on academic performance in all the core/compulsory subjects of the degree. It was created after the death of John Hayward (in 1993), who was the founder, and for a long time director, of the Centre for Resource Management and of the Master of Science (Resource Management) degree, the precursor of the Master of Environmental Policy degree.

It must be noted that Clare completed the required electives for the NZPI planning accreditation and is the NZPI Young Planners Branch Representative for Canterbury/Westland. Congratulations Clare!

Millie Woods has won the Brooker Prize for Lincoln University for 2008. Thomson Brookers is the major law publishing firm in New Zealand and has close connections with Lincoln University. Its online and hard copy versions of the Resource Management Act and other legislation enables students to keep up to date with relevant changes in planning law.

It offers awards to planning/planning law students at universities throughout the country and the criteria for gaining the award varies from university to university. At Lincoln University the Brookers Prize in Resource Management is awarded each year to the student enrolled in the first year of the MEP who gains the highest marks in the five core subjects: ERST 630, ERST 631, ERST 632, ERST 633 & MAST 603.