



• Dr. Goldammer at work in Gympie.

Forestry school is world class

GYMPIE'S forestry training school is a world-class educational facility, according to a visiting West German scientist.

Dr. Johann Goldammer, a lecturer in fire ecology and wildlife habitat management at Freiburg University was in Gympie as part of a three-month international tour of research, sponsored by the Volkswagen Foundation.

After two days at the Gympie Forestry Complex, he said the quality of training at the school was equal to that in Germany.

He said he had been impressed by the standard of training and research at the complex.

"I think they do a really good job."

Dr. Goldammer came to Gympie from East Gippsland in Victoria where he has been participating in a CSIRO exercise, Project Aquarius, dealing with forest fire control using aerial fire fighting techniques.

Dr. Goldammer was among American and Canadian visitors at the Victorian experiments.

"I would like to establish a similar programme in Germany to include research into the effectiveness of aircraft in forest fire fighting and different studies of fire behaviour he said.

His tour has so far included four weeks in Victoria, two weeks in New South Wales and two days in Gympie. From Gympie he has gone to New Zealand.

His main objective in coming to Gympie was to observe district pine plantations and the techni-

ques of controlled burning. This involves burning off grass, brush, dead leaves and fallen pine needles to reduce later fire risks.

Dr. Goldammer said that controlled burning in Queensland was "very well-developed" compared to other countries which had the same sort of exotic pines.

"People in Queensland have the skill to burn off without damaging the tree crowns.

"Before I came here I did not know the technique was so well-developed," he said.

Dr. Goldammer said his tour allowed him to exchange ideas with other experts as well as collect information.

Forest fire research in Europe was in its early stages, he said.

"We don't have fire research in Germany on a big scale.

"Forest fire problems in Germany are very rare, but when they do break out, they hit valuable forest.

All the forests in Germany are commercial forests.

"Although the area affected annually by forest fires is up to 3000 hectares, fire still causes a lot of damage."

Dr. Goldammer said the information he had collected would be used as a basis for future research in Germany.