



Media release

Winner of The Prince of Wales Award for Sustainable Forestry

The Institute of Foresters of Australia is delighted to announce that the winner of The Prince of Wales Award for Sustainable Forestry for 2018 is Erin Hodgson.

Vice-President of the Institute of Foresters of Australia Mr Rob de Fégely said; 'His Royal Highness has a well-known passion for forests and natural production systems, a passion he shares with this year's winner, Erin Hodgson'.

Erin Hodgson B. Hort, M. ForEcosysSc completed a Bachelor of Horticulture at the University of Melbourne in 2009 and later completed a Masters of Forest Ecosystem Science degree also at the University of Melbourne.

As part of her studies, Erin travelled to Europe for a 6-month exchange to the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences where she learned about European silvicultural systems and management. Since completing her Master's degree, Erin has been working as a Projects Forester. Erin is Chair of the IFA's Future Foresters Initiative and a Director on the Board of the Institute of Foresters of Australia.

Mr de Fégely said; 'Erin has already made outstanding contributions to forest professionalism most particularly through her leadership and participation in the Future Foresters' Initiative which provides support to students and early career professionals through mentoring, training, networking and other social and professional development activities.

'His Royal Highness wants to encourage greater awareness of the importance of sustainably managing the world's forests and training and creating a network of young foresters who will manage them professionally.

'It is critically important that we continue to train professional forest managers who have the broad range of skills that early foresters were trained for to manage our forests for production or conservation purposes. To rely on people with only specialist skills such as ecologists or botanists would be like trying to manage our health system without General Practitioners', said Mr de Fégely.



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Australia's professional body for foresters and other forestry professionals