

IFA Annual Report 2012 to 2013

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Rob de Fégely

The past year has been one of significant change for the Institute with a new President and new Chief Executive Officer and a number of new Board Members. The Board has reflected deeply on the future of your Institute and their findings along with those from the conference forum have been combined to develop our new strategic plan. Australia has nearly 150 million hectares of forest and it all needs management so the future for forest managers irrespective of tenure is assured. How the Institute continues to provide a valuable service to current and future forest managers is our biggest challenge.

Last year has also been one of the toughest I can remember for production forest managers where prices for all major products from pulpwood to sawntimber have been under severe stress. In addition there is continuing fallout from the failed Managed Investment Schemes but as these companies stabilise under professional forest management these plantings can become good news stories. The long term outlook for forest products is strong as the economic growth of Asia continues and the recent fall in the Australian dollar will help boost exports and increase the competitiveness of the Australian production.

Your Institute continues to build linkages with international networks.

We are very close to signing a partnership arrangement with our cousins in New Zealand, we will produce a Chinese edition of Australian Forestry which will have some different perspectives on forestry and we continue to investigate ways to assist the Foresters Association of PNG to re-constitute themselves and become an independent voice on sustainable forest management.

The Institute has continued to make submissions on forest planning and we were disappointed with the outcome in Tasmania. Forest conservation is not about lines on a map it is about management and the irony of those arguing for another tranche of forests in Tasmania to be placed on the World Heritage register is in fact an admission that there is nothing wrong with the current management.

Our Canberra conference was a great success and I would like to thank Stuart Davey and his team for all the work they put into the program and the field days. I am continually amazed by the depth of knowledge and skill that our members hold and we hope to create more opportunities for all members to benefit from this experience.

The coming year will continue to challenge the Institute as our membership is declining and our plans are bigger than our budget however we hope that you will continue to support us as we wrestle with change, technology and the cost efficient delivery of the latest trends in forest management from conservation to production.

AROUND THE DIVISIONS

ACT Division



Chair: Stuart Davey

The attention of the ACT Division for the 2012/13 financial year concentrated on developing, organising and planning a successful IFA 2013 National Conference – Managing our Forests into the 21st Century. The conference was held 7-11 April 2013, at the Canberra Rex Hotel, Canberra.

The Division also finalised a document regarding current forest policy issues that was used at the Future Forest Forum on the last day of the conference. The Forum shaped and informed the Institute's new strategic plan and will continue to influence the direction of the Institute and forestry.

Throughout the year ACT IFA members and the Division continued to work with and promote forestry with other organisations. ANU has organized a significant number of forestry seminars with eminent speakers from Australia and overseas. Divisional representatives held several meetings with ANU regarding forestry education.

Queensland division



Chair: Stephen Walker

The Queensland Division held its 2012 AGM on 16 August with 16 members attending. The guest speaker

was IFA member Dr Glenn Dale of Tree Crop Technologies talking on Irrigated Hardwood Plantations in the Coal Seam Gas Fields.

Thank you to Steve Worley who earlier this year Steve Worley resigned as Chair of the Queensland Division. Stephen Walker was subsequently appointed as Interim Chair by the Queensland Division Committee and as a Director by the IFA Board.

The Queensland Division also welcomed two new committee members - Steven Husband and Stephen Catchpoole to the Queensland Division Committee (in addition to Emma Leslie-Mohr - Secretary, Tony Willett and Stephen Walker). The Committee met three times during the financial year and regular email updates were provided to members in 2013.

Following the State election in early 2012, the Queensland Government initiated the development of a Queensland Forest and Timber Industry plan through a working group comprising representatives of Timber Queensland, other industry stakeholders and the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF). This plan identifies 50 actions that could assist sustainable business growth and innovation in the Queensland-based forest and timber industry. A number of Queensland IFA members were involved in development of the plan, either through their involvement in the working group or through participation in the stakeholder engagement process.

The plan was finalised and submitted to the State government for consideration in December 2012. While a formal response to the plan (including funding arrangements) has yet to be announced by the State government, the Queensland IFA membership appears supportive of a number of actions initiated to date, including the issue of long-term sales permits to Cypress sawmillers and a commitment to a continuation of harvesting in around

one million hectares of natural forest previously earmarked for transition to conservation tenures.

The major events for the year was our celebration of International Day of Forests - with events being held during March in Brisbane, Gympie and Cardwell Cardwell, and this resulted in good coverage in Timber & Forest E-news.

The key focus for the Queensland Division during 2013/14 will be continuing the process of reinvigorating the Management Committee so that it has the capacity to support the National Secretariat in providing value for money services for our members and identifying opportunities to raise the profile of the forestry profession.

WA Division



Chair: John Clarke

The Division made a substantial submission on the draft new 10 year Forest Management Plan and it is pleasing that, for the first time for perhaps 50 years, it appears that the area of the south west's native forests dedicated to multiple use will not be reduced and the nominated annual volume of wood allocated to industry will be maintained at more or less current levels. This is significant given the continuing downward trends elsewhere in Australia. Nevertheless, there are many aspects of forest management in WA that remain of concern such as the difficulties experienced by authorities to achieve any sort of prescribed burning target and the challenges to manage heavily stocked regrowth jarrah forests in a drying climate.

Importantly, during the year the Division has built a strong relationship with key State government ministers responsible for forest management and hopefully we will be referred to for advice on future key decisions.

The Division also made a submission to the sandalwood industry enquiry, prepared a number of media statements and submitted many letters to newspapers.

Well attended field days during the year focussed on plantations and land management issues north of Perth and on the softwood industry in the south-west. The annual busy bee at the Foresters Wood saw the completion of more valuable maintenance, and a call for two events per year rather than just one.

Highly respected forester Frank Batini was named WA Forester of the Year at a World Forestry Day social event and foresters John Robley, Karl Kelers, Peter Kimber and Alex Hart were presented with long service certificates.

In March, in conjunction with the Bushfire Front, the Division hosted a public lecture by renowned historian Bill Gammage, author of the award-winning book on the history of 40,000 years of deliberate and systematic aboriginal burning of vegetation across Australia. The IFA continues to support not only the Bushfire Front but also the Friends of Wellington Discovery Forest.

Honouring our professional heritage is important therefore I was pleased to recently announce the launch of the Named Tree project. This will see carefully selected trees named after outstanding foresters from years past, with the trees suitably signposted and their locations marked on maps.

Victorian Division



Chair: Mike Ryan

Forest management in Victoria has been dominated by a number of issues such as wildlife, fires, plantations and farm forestry.

We continue to struggle to communicate the science about Leadbeater's possum. We know the possums require a combination of

wattle and older eucalypts and the best habitat is already reserved and there is a world class National Park in the heart of the possum's range but the call for more reserves continues.

It has been a difficult fire season with many fires in the Grampians and Alpine regions as well as in areas previously burnt in 2003 and 2006/07. The Harrierville fire especially was an on-ground nightmare given the number of dead trees from previous fires overtopping areas of operation. This tragically led to the deaths of two fire fighters. A third Victorian fire fighter died on the job supporting the Tasmanian fire control efforts. A positive outcome from the Harrierville fire was the identification of a seedbed in dual burnt Alpine Ash forest and the combined efforts of foresters and Victorian departmental staff in reseeded the sites.

We are delighted that as the State's hardwood plantations mature they provide habitat and food for increasing numbers of koalas, another example of how Australian faunal numbers opportunistically increase or decrease population size according to the suitability of habitat. Unfortunately this success becomes problem at harvest and we are working with plantation managers to help manage this situation so Koalas are not harmed.

IFA members participated in development of the farm forestry industry action plan. One of the workshops coincided with the launch of the parliamentary support group for the forest and wood product industry. This launch at Parliament house was well attended by parliamentarians, industry, farm forestry, plantation forestry and natural forest managers in a positive atmosphere of support from both major parties.

Divisional events included a DLA piper hosted seminar on Carbon Sequestration where David Andrewartha of DLA piper covered new rights under the Climate Change Act 2010, the status of existing property rights and reporting and monitoring obligations.

The IFA hosted a seminar on the Future of America's Forests and Rangelands by Dr Linda Joyce of the USDA. Dr Joyce presented a synopsis of the recent renewable resource assessment completed by the USFS.

VicForests hosted a seminar by the CEO Robert Green on the challenges and opportunities for managing the planning, harvesting, sale of product and regeneration following harvesting.

At another seminar David Coote described aspects of European community scale biomass energy production. The use of woody biomass at this scale, often run by local farmer or forestry co-operatives, is very popular in European communities as it builds energy resilience and promotes local economies. This attracted quite a number of non-IFA members and even the interest of the Wilderness Society.

And on a less serious note the final event was the "Sticks and Spechts" International World Day of Forests trivia event.

This is Michael Ryan's final year as the Victorian chair, having completed two terms of 3 years each. We can't thank him enough for the time, dedication and passion he has put into the role. He will be sorely missed as the "quiet achiever".

NSW Division



Chair: Ross Peacock

NSW continues to be a place of uncertainty and change in the forest business, regulatory and employment environments. The major change was the passage of the Forestry Act 2012 and the formation of the Forestry Corporation of New South Wales. While these developments provide for a new approach and management structure it has also introduced another level of employment uncertainty to members which is still being played

out. This uncertainty is widespread across government with downsizing a common theme across the agencies and catchment authorities. Many foresters are changing careers and this continues to have a negative impact on our membership base.

Divisional activities for the year included a range of submissions, meetings and field events. Hilary Smith coordinated the preparation of several IFA submissions on the Carbon Farming Initiative. Paul Massey-Reed, as a member of the NSW North Coast Forests Taskforce, represented the Institute at meetings and contributed to the development of a strategic plan to promote community understanding of the environmentally sustainable management of North Coast forests and their timber products.

In December 2012 several Institute members were invited to present evidence to the Independent Review into Agricultural Education and Training in NSW (which includes forestry) led by the NSW Department of Education and Training. This is one of many reviews focussing on the lack of training in the forest industry and sought evidence on how to address it.

Previous Divisional Chair Nick Cameron continued his role representing the Institute on the NSW Forest Industries Taskforce that is undertaking a general review of forestry in NSW. The Division provided a detailed submission, attended hearings and supported regional industry visits.

The Division continued to monitor the activity of the NSW Upper House General Purpose Standing Committee No 5 Inquiry into the management of public land in NSW which includes forest management. A substantial submission to this inquiry was compiled by Ron Wilson.

Meeting functions throughout the year included the August 2012 AGM where the Commissioner of the NSW Natural Resources Commission Dr John Keniry spoke about future directions in sustainable native forest management and a function

led by Bob Newman at the National Foresters Grove in April 2013.

Social functions were limited to a dinner gathering in December 2012 at Darling Harbour.

Our main field activity associated with International Year of Forests in 2013 was a “timber tramway heritage” field weekend north of Batemans Bay led by Ian Barnes. This meeting was a joint event with the Australian Forest History Society and the Light Railway Research Society of Australia.

NSW members provided strong support to the national conference in Canberra.

SA Division



Chair: Jim O'Hehir

Mount Gambier.

Changes to the SA Natural Resources Management Act now means that plantation forests in the Lower Limestone Coast Region of South

Australia will require water licences to cover deemed water use. During March, members of the Mount Gambier IFA branch were briefed on the new legislation by the water resources regulator, and its proposed implementation through a soon to be released Water Allocation Plan. It is likely that other water regulators elsewhere in Australia will attempt to introduce similar regulations on plantation forestry.

Adelaide. Divisional Chairman Jim O'Hehir, and four other Mount Gambier based members attended a November meeting to discuss changes in the forest industry in SA, as well as the visitors giving a taste of some cutting edge technical innovations in yield regulation using LiDAR. This discussion brought together Norm Lewis, the originator of the South Australian Site Quality system during the 1940's, with Jan Rombouts who has developed and implemented a LiDAR based system for assessing Site Quality.

Tasmanian Division



Chair: Aidan Flanagan

Tasmanian members endured a turbulent year with the collapse of businesses, the appointment of receivers

to manage forests, ongoing environmental campaigns and the passage of legislation that aims to establish an additional 500,000 hectares of reserves.

These changes have led to job losses and many members have been forced to change careers. The loss of research capacity within Forestry Tasmania, the University of Tasmania, CSIRO, the Forest Practices Authority, Private Forests Tasmania, and private companies is also of concern and has undermined future capacity to develop robust approaches to forest management.

However, the strength and professional capacity of foresters has also allowed many members to adapt to these changes and find employment in new areas.

During the last year, social opportunities have been limited as the Tasmanian Division has been focused on responding to the development and implementation of the Tasmanian Forest Agreement. Work by the Committee has included letters to Ministers, assessments of reports and the preparation of briefing material (and presentation) to the Legislative Council considering the legislation, and briefings to opposition members. A submission to the World Heritage Committee considering an extension to the Tasmanian World Heritage area was also prepared.

Encouragingly, organization's such as Forestry Tasmania, Private Forests Tasmania and the Tasmanian Farmers and Grazers Association have provided opportunities for members to gain new knowledge and participate in field days and these opportunities

were promoted by the IFA.

Next year will see changes in the management of forests, and it is expected that members expertise in fire management, pest and diseases, wildlife, multiple use and recreation, and other areas will be required if this transition is to be successful.

The Tasmanian Committee will continue to engage with the Government to ensure practical, science based forest management practices are adopted. However, it is clear that the current approach to these changes is being influenced more by non-members who often lack forest management experience. This remains a concern to the Committee which we will try to address.

In conclusion, the Tasmanian Committee commends the support and resilience of its members to responding to these changes and look forward to continuing to promote better forest management outcomes to that the wider community can benefit from this natural resource.

FINANCES

The following information is a summary of the current situation, and the audited annual financial report is available on the IFA website under the “About IFA” Corporate documents.

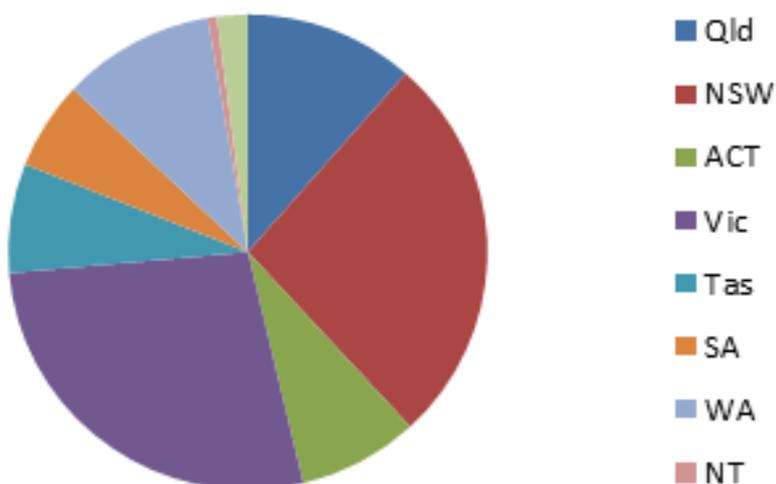
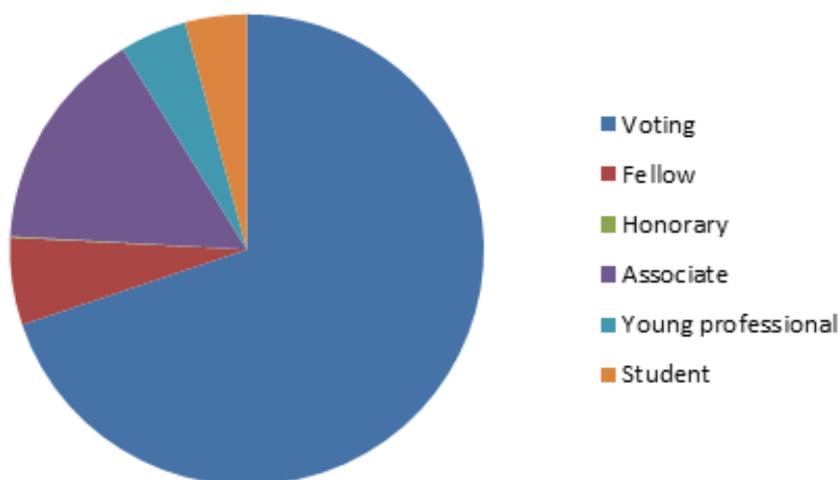
The year ended with a small surplus, due to a modest profit from the conference and by cutting expenses. For example, monthly phone charges were reduced by 75% by installing an IP phone system.

Early in the financial year targets were set for the conference and these were all exceeded. Conference income was \$170k from 200 attendee and \$47k in sponsorship. Total expenditure (including a small amount spent in the previous year) was \$130k, resulting in a profit of \$40k.

Membership

IFA membership remains strongest in NSW and Victoria with good numbers in most other states. Overall, membership fell for the fourth consecutive year from 1206 to 1117, across all States except for NT where numbers rose from 4 to 7, and across all membership categories except for students which rose by 10%. Attrition was consistent across all categories.

Voting membership is by far the strongest category with 780 members. Just over 55% of members are under 55 years of age, with the remainder over 56 years old and more than likely retired. The increasing number of discounted memberships impacts greatly on the types of services and information sought by members and the IFA's ability to fund those services.



COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLICATIONS

Australian Forestry journal. From the first issue in 2013, Australian Forestry is compiled and edited by the IFA but produced and distributed by Taylor & Francis on behalf of the IFA. The immediate benefit has been the digitisation of all older issues of the journal and the availability without charge of abstracts on the web, increasing global exposure of the journal.

There have been some problems in the transition such as the significantly longer production deadlines resulting in smaller issues for March and June 2013, and late delivery, and this situation should improve over time. More good news is that the 2012 Impact Factors and rankings indicate that Australian Forestry has increased

in Impact Factor to 0.97 from the 2011 Impact Factor of 0.625. Australian Forestry now has a ranking of 30/60 in the Forestry subject group.

We commend **Colin Matheson**, Managing Editor, and **Alan Brown**, Production Editor and the editorial panel for their many hours of work to produce 4 issues a year, and especially for their forbearance as we bed down the new publishing arrangements.

Website. A new, fresher-looking website went "live" in the first half of 2013. The new site allows IFA staff to update information quickly and easily. We note that by the end of the financial year some functionality that was available on the old site for members has not yet been made available on the new site.

The Forester newsletter. Four 32-page issues of The Forester were produced in September, December, March and June respectively. We are delighted that members provided excellent cover photos and we have had more material than we could publish for each issue.

As our journal publishers have kindly offered to distribute The Forester newsletter with the journal at no additional cost, both the March and the June issues of the newsletter were delivered late due to late distribution of the journal as described above. We trust that the timing will improve over the rest of the year.

Email bulletin. The weekly email bulletin received a makeover early in 2013 and the content is now distributed in the body of an email rather than as a PDF attachment and takes less than half the time to produce than previously.

IFA policies

One new policy was released during the year being Riverine Red Gum Forests of the Southern Murray-Darling Basin. The policy maintains that:

...the forest management systems for the riverine red gum forests of the southern Murray-Darling Basin should be based on

their inherent ecological requirements and the needs and expectations of communities. Active management across all land tenures under principles of ecologically sustainable forest management can ensure the maintenance of the wide range of social, economic, environmental and cultural values for present and future generations.

Thank you to Tony Bartlett and the policy committee for their efforts in keeping our policies of consistent high quality.

Submissions and letters

Copies of all submissions and letters are available on IFA website at <http://forestry.org.au/publications/ifa-submissions>.

- Submission on Carbon Farming Initiative amendments tranche 3
- Submission on Carbon Farming Initiative amendments tranche 2
- Response to IUCN exposure draft of the Valuation of Forests
- Submission to WHC on extensions to TWWHA
- Submission re Tasmanian Forests Agreement Bill
- Submission on Carbon Farming Skills: Accreditation Scheme for Carbon Farming Initiative Service Providers
- Inquiry into the management of public land in New South Wales
- Letter to Premier re Tasmanian Forest Agreement
- Letter to Prime Minister re Tasmanian Forest Agreement
- Letter to House of Reps Standing committee on Climate Change, Environment and the Arts.

Thank you to the many members who volunteered to contribute to the above submissions, there are too many of you to mention by name. We couldn't do it without your efforts.

RECOGNITION PROGRAMS

Registered Professional Foresters

At the end of 2013 the Registered Professional Forester program had 83 members. Over 80% of RPFs are registered as General Practicing Foresters, 11% have nominated the speciality area of Forest Science

and Research and the rest covering Agroforestry and Carbon Accounting; Data and Systems Management; Farm Forestry; Management, Harvesting and Marketing; and Native Forest Management.

We welcomed **7 new** RPF members during the year. They were:

- John Michael Byrne
- Dr Marie Connett
- Darren Herd
- Stephen Dobbyns
- James Wilson
- Alex Lindsay
- David Menzies.

The following eight people withdrew or were withdrawn from the program due to changing roles, retirement and a death.

- Stephen Manson
- Matthew James Wood
- Richard Shoobridge (d)
- Ian Barnes
- Andrew Yates
- James Shirley
- Barry Vaughan
- David Quill.

Thank you to **Graham Wilkinson**, as Chair of the Registered Professional Forester Registration Committee, and to all the committee members for your contributions during the year.

ACFA



The Association of Consulting Forester of Australia (ACFA) is a Division of the Institute of Foresters of Australia and all members of

ACFA are Registered Professional Foresters™. As a Division ACFA is unique in that it is “interest” based rather than “geographically located” which reflects the nature of the members as a broad range of 33 individuals spread across Australia and some working in the international sector. Recognising the geographic spread of members the 2012 ACFA AGM was held by teleconference and ACFA considers that the use of technology to facilitate meetings must

be underpinned by face to face events and the 2013 IFA conference provided a venue for a number of members to meet and network.

The role of many members is to provide independent and objective professional services to clients across the full breadth of forestry and forest management, including processing and selling of wood products. Another product in which some ACFA members contribute is carbon and greenhouse related products. The carbon space is somewhat volatile with exposure to policy change and we have seen a number of ups and downs in this sector. In support of members, ACFA organised and ran a successful continuing professional development (CPD) event going back to basics of carbon related issues. The event was well attended by both ACFA members and others with excellent presentations by a range of industry leaders in this space.

Another area of expertise practiced by ACFA members is the provision of forest asset valuations and this is underpinned by ACFA's The Australian Forest Valuation Standard which provides guidance for forest valuers in conducting a valuation. During the last 12 months significant works have been undertaken by Dr Jerry Leech in the maintenance of this volume of work and by providing specific feedback to the International Valuation Standards Council's exposure draft “The valuation of Forests”. It is pertinent to note that under the leadership of Jerry and Profession Ian Ferguson, Australian forest valuation practices are well recognized around the world as cutting edge and contributing to the standard of excellence.

AWARDS and SCHOLARSHIPS

Max Jacobs Fund. The Max Jacobs Fund is used to support worthy projects in any field of forestry research and to provide graduates within Australasia with support for professional development not readily available from other sources.

Two awards were made during the year, both supporting research.

Arne Matthesius was given a grant of \$2000 + GST towards travel for his University of Melbourne PhD project titled “A landscape trap leaves suppressed heavy hardwood trees with no chance to grow”.

Ariana Iaconis was given a grant of \$2000 + GST for travel and testing for her PhD project with Macquarie University titled “Fire management planning in world heritage rainforests: quantifying the flammability of rainforest fuel”.

A number of previous grant winners had their research reports published in *The Forester* during the year and we look forward to publishing both Arne’s and Ariana’s reports on completion of their projects.

A R Henderson Grant. Charles Lawson, Planning Coordinator of the Huon District of Forestry Tasmania, was the winner of the 2012 A R Henderson Grant. The Trust was bequeathed by Allan Henderson to enable IFA Voting or Associate members to refresh or improve their knowledge and skills. Charles received funds to attend a “Leading Teams” course and he reported on his experience in *The Forester* during the year.

Jacobs and Chinner medals. Both medals are awarded to a final year student for Field Studies in Forestry at the Australian National University and University of Melbourne respectively. Congratulations to 2012 winners Hannah McInerney, ANU and Marita McGuirk, University of Melbourne.

Forestry Scholarship Fund. The Forestry Scholarship Fund was established to financially support graduate and post-graduate forestry students. Management of the fund was changed during the year and the trustees are now IFA President Rob de Fégely, IFA Director and Chair of the Awards Committee Ross Peacock, and CEO, Alison Carmichael.

Undergraduate recipients for 2013 were:

- Madeleine Hearnden, ANU
- George Mackarness, ANU
- David Kenna, ANU.

Only one of the 15 scholarships was taken up for the National Forestry Master’s Program and the recipient was Bindu Johnson, ANU.

The Forestry Scholarship Fund is dependent on donations and in the financial year the fund received \$1000 as an ongoing donation and \$2300 interest. In the same period \$14,500 was distributed as scholarships. The Scholarship Fund has been granted with Deductible Gift Recipient status by the Australian Taxation Office, therefore any donations to the fund of \$2 or more are tax deductible.

Max Jacobs Oration and Jolly Medal. Late in 2012 **Dr Sadanandan Nambiar** was awarded “*the Institute’s highest and most prestigious honour for outstanding service to the profession of forestry in Australia*”, the N W Jolly Medal and was also invited to give the Max Jacobs Oration at the IFA Conference in April 2013. The text of his Oration is included in the conference proceedings.

CONFERENCE

The IFA Biennial Conference was held in Canberra from 7 to 11 April 2013. The theme was “Managing into the 21st Century” and the format was similar to previous conferences with two days of presentations, one day of tours and in addition a facilitated forum on final day in place of an IFA business day.

A wide range of forest management issues was covered at the conference. Feedback from delegates indicated the conference very worthwhile and in tune with the challenges being faced by our members and the professions the institute represents. Examples of topics presented included: the state of Australia’s forests, landscape and habitat restoration, urban forestry, forest education, international forestry, certification and carbon accounting.

Senator Richard Colbeck, shadow Federal spokesperson on forestry,

opened the conference and was able to attend events over the four days.

The international keynote speaker Dr Peter Holmgren (CIFOR) provided good insights on international forestry while Nick Roberts (Forestry Corporation of NSW) provided current perspectives on Australian forestry and forest industries. Delegates found panel sessions on forest education and political perspectives very informative.

The conference dinner will be well remembered for the speech delivered by the Hon. John Kerin, who gave his own, often humorous, personal take on historical and political events, which have in different ways been part of the history of forestry.

The conference proceedings will be available shortly and members will find them informative and a useful reference. I would again like to thank the ACT and NSW members who helped organize a most successful conference and would like to thank conference sponsors for their support.

Thank you to all the committee members who all contributed to the success of the conference: **Stuart Davey (Chair), Alan Brown, Brian Turner, Bill Kerruish, Mark Parsons, Ross Florence, Joseph Henry, Phil Pritchard, Kim Wells and George Dashwood.**

BOARD DIRECTORS AND 2012 AGM

Nick Cameron (NSW) and Lew Parsons (SA) completed their three year terms in the second half of 2012. Ross Peacock and Jim O’Hehir were elected to replace them as Divisional Chairs and Directors in NSW and SA respectively.

Stephen Worley resigned as Queensland Divisional Chair and IFA Director early in 2013, before the end of his term, and Stephen Walker was appointed as his replacement in both roles until the 2013 AGM.

The continuing directors are Robert de Fégely (President), Michael Ryan (Victoria), John Clarke (Western



Australia), Aidan Flanagan (Tasmania), Stuart Davey (ACT), Braden Jenkin (ACFA Division) and Michelle Freeman (Youth and Women).

Adrian O'Loughlin resigned as Company Secretary on the 1/07/2012 and was replaced by the new CEO, Alison Carmichael on 2/07/2012.

Three major outcomes of Board activity during the year were 1) the finalisation of a strategic plan for growth; 2) the decision to place the Australian Forestry journal in the hands of an external publisher; and 3) the conduct of the "Managing into the 21st Century" policy forum held on the last day of the conference, and the drafting of the accompanying documentation.

During the year the Board worked with the new CEO to strengthen governance with the approval of a comprehensive Chart of Delegations; Terms of Reference for Board subcommittees; and creation of an awards subcommittee.

The Annual General Meeting for the 2011/2012 year was held in Melbourne on 15 November 2012. It was preceded by a presentation on carbon accounting by members Braden Jenkin, Zoe Ryan and Rod Keenan. The event was attended by 30 people, and was followed by drinks and a member dinner.

There were no payments made to directors during the year other than minor direct reimbursements. All Directors paid their own registration, and travel and accommodation costs to attend the 2012 conference in Canberra.

Board meetings were held as follows:

- 18 September 2012 by teleconference
- 15 November 2012 along with the AGM in Melbourne, face-to-face and included a strategic planning session
- 11 January 2013 by teleconference
- 15 February 2013 by teleconference
- 7 April 2013 face-to-face before IFA Conference in Canberra
- 17 May 2013 by teleconference