



2024 Forestry Australia Symposium

*Healthy and resilient forests
for our future*

Symposium Handbook

Tuesday 29 to Thursday 31 October 2024

Mercure Ballarat Hotel and Convention Centre, Ballarat, Victoria



forestryconference.com.au

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*Scientists, professionals and growers
who manage, study and care for our forests*



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SPONSORS



EXHIBITORS



WELCOME



Jim Wilson

Symposium Convenor and Vice President, Forestry Australia

Forestry Australia is delighted to welcome you to Ballarat for the 2024 Symposium – an opportunity to come together as a community of scientists, professionals and growers who manage, study and care for our forests.

This Symposium is now well established on an annual rotation with the Conference, and it's pleasing that these events are increasingly valued by our professional community, including strong support from Australia's leading organisations in all things forests. This aligns well with Forestry Australia's trajectory as a growing membership based organisation, most recently evident with the award of Association Turnaround of the Year 2023 by Associations Forum.

This year's theme is 'Healthy and resilient forests for our future', a contemporary theme that aims to attract Forestry Australia's broad church of stakeholders in an immersive program, and align our profession capability towards a forward plan and ultimately a better future for forests. Your Symposium Organising Committee are delighted with the calibre of speakers, and commend the program to you.

Please immerse yourself in all this symposium has to offer, and stay focused in our pursuit of sustainable, nature-based solutions for the future of the planet.

2024 SYMPOSIUM ORGANISING COMMITTEE

- Jim Wilson (Symposium Convenor)
- Amanda Bell
- Monique Blason
- David Dore
- Jacquie Martin
- Emily Post
- Joedy Wallis
- Naomi Will (Symposium Manager)

GENERAL INFORMATION

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Forestry Australia acknowledge and pay respect to the Wadawurrung and Dja Dja Wurrung People, the traditional custodians of the lands and waters on which we are meeting. We acknowledge the Indigenous and First Nations people who are attending this event, and pay our respect to their Elders, past and present. We recognise and value the cultural practices and customs of all Indigenous Australians and First Nations peoples.

REGISTRATION DESK

The Registration Desk is located in the Convention Centre Foyer. It will be open at the below times to assist with any of your Symposium enquiries:

Tuesday 29 October: 7.00am – 5.30pm

Wednesday 30 October: 7.30am – 4.30pm

Thursday 31 October: 7.30am – 9.00am

For any enquiries outside of these designated times, please contact Naomi Will on 0439 336 511.

PRESENTERS AND SESSION CHAIRS

All speakers are asked to visit the Speakers Preparation Room (Convention Centre Foyer) to upload and test your presentation with an AV technician. We ask that all presentations are uploaded by no later than two refreshment breaks prior to your session.

The hours of operation for the Speakers Preparation Room are:

Tuesday 29 October: 7.00 am – 4.00 pm

Wednesday 30 October: 7.30 am – 1.00 pm

Please arrive to your session room at least 20 minutes before your session is scheduled to commence. This will offer you the opportunity to meet your Session Chair, conduct a final check of your presentation and allow time to familiarise yourself with the technology and room.

Thank you for your assistance, and we look forward to your great contributions as part of the Symposium program.

FIELD TRIPS AND PPE

Participants are required to bring and wear their own Personal Protective Equipment as outlined below. Please see staff at the Registration Desk if you have any queries or need assistance.

Field Trip #1 – Creswick/History/People

PPE: Closed shoes are required for this field trip. Hard hats are not required, although people will be in forest for a short portion.

Field Trip #2 – Farm Forestry

PPE: Closed shoes and hard hats are required for this field trip.

Field Trip #3 – Plantations

PPE: Hi-vis, hard hat and closed toe shoes.

Field Trip #4 – Woowookarung Regional Park

PPE: Closed toe shoes – please ensure that footwear is suitable for walking in forests, and sun and rain protection.

Field Trip #5 – Wombat State Forest – Storm and Fire Recovery

PPE: Closed shoes and hard hats are required for this field trip.

SYMPOSIUM NAME BADGES

All delegates, speakers and sponsors will be provided with a name badge, which we ask you to wear at all times within the Symposium venue. Your name badge will be required for access to all sessions.

EXHIBITION

We are pleased to welcome our Sponsors and Exhibitors to the Symposium. Please visit them in the Exhibition Hall during the refreshment breaks, to add extra value to your Symposium experience and to thank them for their support of the event.

DIETARY REQUIREMENTS

The Mercure Ballarat has been advised of any special dietary requirements you have indicated when registering. Please make yourself known to the staff – they will be happy to assist in providing you with your appropriate (and delicious!) food.

AHASLIDES

To maximise engagement opportunities we will be using AhaSlides during Symposium sessions. You can use AhaSlides to ask questions of presenters in real time via your digital device. There will be QR codes in each session with instructions to use AhaSlides.

INTERNET ACCESS

The Mercure provides complimentary Wi-Fi to Symposium delegates. Please use the below details:

Wi-Fi Name: **Mercure Ballarat Conference WIFI**

Password: **Mbwifi613**

MOBILE PHONES

As a courtesy to other delegates, please ensure that all mobile phones are switched off or put on silent mode during all sessions.

CONFERENCE MANAGER

For all conference enquiries, please contact:

EventSphere

Naomi Will
naomi@eventsphere.com.au
 0439 336 511

Alongside Symposium sessions and Field Trips sits an exciting social program, to extend networking and informal learning opportunities at the 2024 Forestry Australia Symposium. We look forward to seeing you at these events.

WELCOME RECEPTION

Proudly sponsored by



Date: Tuesday 29 October

Time: 6.00pm to 8.00pm

Location: Exhibition Hall

Cost: Included in full and student registrations. Additional tickets \$60 pp (inclusive of GST).

Following Day One of the Symposium, join us at the Welcome Reception, sponsored by HQPlantations, for a casual evening to catch up with colleagues, both familiar and new. Substantial snacks and some drinks provided.

SYMPOSIUM DINNER

Proudly sponsored by



Date: Wednesday 30 October

Time: 6.30pm to 10.00pm

Location: Sovereign Hill

Dress Code: Smart casual

Cost: Included in full and student registrations. Additional tickets \$125 pp (inclusive of GST).

Join us for the Symposium Dinner, sponsored by Sustainable Timber Tasmania.

Go back in time to the 1850s Gold Rush era, for a casual evening to network with colleagues, both new and familiar – set amongst the iconic Sovereign Hill. An opportunity to reflect on the happenings and learnings of the previous days of Symposium sessions, prior to the Field Trips the following day.



The Australian Government is committed to supporting Australia's forest industries

The Australian Government is proud to sponsor the Forestry Australia Symposium 2024

We are delivering a suite of initiatives totalling **over \$300 million** to support Australia's forest industries to innovate and improve the capacity and capability of the sector.

We have recently awarded **\$5.65 million** in grant funding through **the Support Plantation Establishment Program** to expand our domestic timber supply, bringing the total amount of funding given to date to **\$15.7 million**.

We are investing in our forest and wood products industries' research and innovation capacity, contributing over \$100 million to **Australian Forest and Wood Innovations**.

We are investing \$10 million over four years in the **Forestry Workforce Training Program**. The program, which will be delivered by ForestWorks Ltd, aims to improve access to required qualifications and credentials for the forest and wood products sectors.

We have also directed \$3.4 million in the 2024-25 Budget to initiatives that help Australia's forestry industry plan for the long term.

We're proud to work with industry and state and territory governments to ensure Australia's forestry industries are productive, competitive and sustainable. Our work helps to strengthen, support and continue a sustainable forestry sector now and into the future.

 agriculture.gov.au

Field Trips are a wonderful way to have a hands-on learning experience, complementing our Symposium sessions program.

Please refer to the General Information section of the Symposium Handbook for details on Field Trip PPE.

Participation in Field Trips are included in all full registrations, and additional tickets are available to purchase.

Field Trips all take place on Thursday 31 October.

We ask attendees to please meet in the Convention Centre Foyer no later than the times indicated below. The coaches will depart at the times indicated, due to very full itineraries the coaches cannot wait for delegates who are running late.

Field Trip #1 – Creswick, History & People

Departure time: 8.30 am for an 8.45 am departure.

Return Time: 4.45pm

Field Trip #2 – Farm Forestry

Departure time: 8.30 am for an 8.45 am departure.

Return Time: 3.30pm

Field Trip #3 – Plantations

Departure time: 7.45 am for an 8.00 am departure.

Return Time: 4.30pm

Field Trip #4 – Woowookarung Regional Park

Departure time: 9.00 am for a 9.15 am departure

Return Time: 2.00pm

Field Trip #5 – Wombat State Forest – Storm and Fire Recovery

Departure time: 8.30 am for an 8.45 am departure.

Return Time: 4.00pm

Please note, return times are approximate. We will do our best to ensure return by the times listed above - however, please note that we cannot guarantee that you will be back in time to meet flights.

For more information, please see our friendly Registration Desk staff.

FIELD TRIP #1

Creswick, History & People

This tour will include a visit to the Lost Trades Centre, University of Melbourne's Creswick facility (formerly the Victorian School of Forestry). It will look at the effects of gold mining on forests in the vicinity, including historic water management and impacts on the structure and diversity of the forests. This tour will give some of the back story of the development of forestry in Victoria and directions of future forest research.

FIELD TRIP #2

Farm Forestry

Hosted by members of the Ballarat Region Treegrowers (BRT), this tour will visit two sites demonstrating forest management projects on private tenure that integrate landscape rehabilitation with long-term, sustainable farm-forestry.

Established by the BRT, the biorich plantations initiative bridges the gap between environmental plantings for biodiversity conservation values, and production farm forestry for landholder use and profit. The second site is a 400ha reforestation effort facilitated by the Grow West program that aims to rehabilitate degraded land through revegetation and farm forestry projects. This site visit will be led by program partner Moorabool Landcare Network.

FIELD TRIP #3

Plantations

Hosted by HVP Plantations, AKD Softwoods and ArborCarbon, this field trip will visit plantations in the Mt Lonarch area to the northwest of Beaufort. Some of these plantations were burnt in February 2024 by the 22,000 hectare Bayindeen / Beaufort fire. Plantation health and fire protection will be the focus of the trip. In particular, the value of integrated long-term plantation health monitoring and the operation of CFA Forest Industry Brigades in fire management. Pests and diseases associated with fire affected plantations and their potential impacts on adjoining plantations and replanted forests will be examined.

FIELD TRIP #4

Woowookarung Regional Park

This half-day trip will commence with a visit to the Prime Ministers' Walk in the Botanic Gardens, where we get a nineteenth century view of parks and gardens. We will then visit the 5-storey mass timber building of Ballarat GovHub for a discussion on the role of timber in architecture, before visiting the Woowookarung Regional Park established in 2016 adjacent to the Canadian pine plantation. This park features a dementia-friendly forest and sensory trail. Tony Fitzgerald and Kerry Wailes will lead participants on an experience of forest therapy. Prepare to move slowly! The morning will finish with a tea ceremony.

FIELD TRIP #5

Wombat State Forest – Storm and Fire Recovery

This tour will visit the Wombat Fire Effects Study Areas (FESA), an experiment established in 1984 by Dr Kevin Tolhurst AM, which had replicates based on short rotation and long rotation fire frequency, in both spring and autumn. We will also visit some of the other silvicultural experimental sites in the Wombat Forest, and look at the lessons from these in relation to prescribed fire management, and recovery from the severe storm damage that occurred in October 2021. The tour will be led by staff from The University of Melbourne and retired research scientist John Kellas, and visit Barkstead and Bullarto before returning via Daylesford.



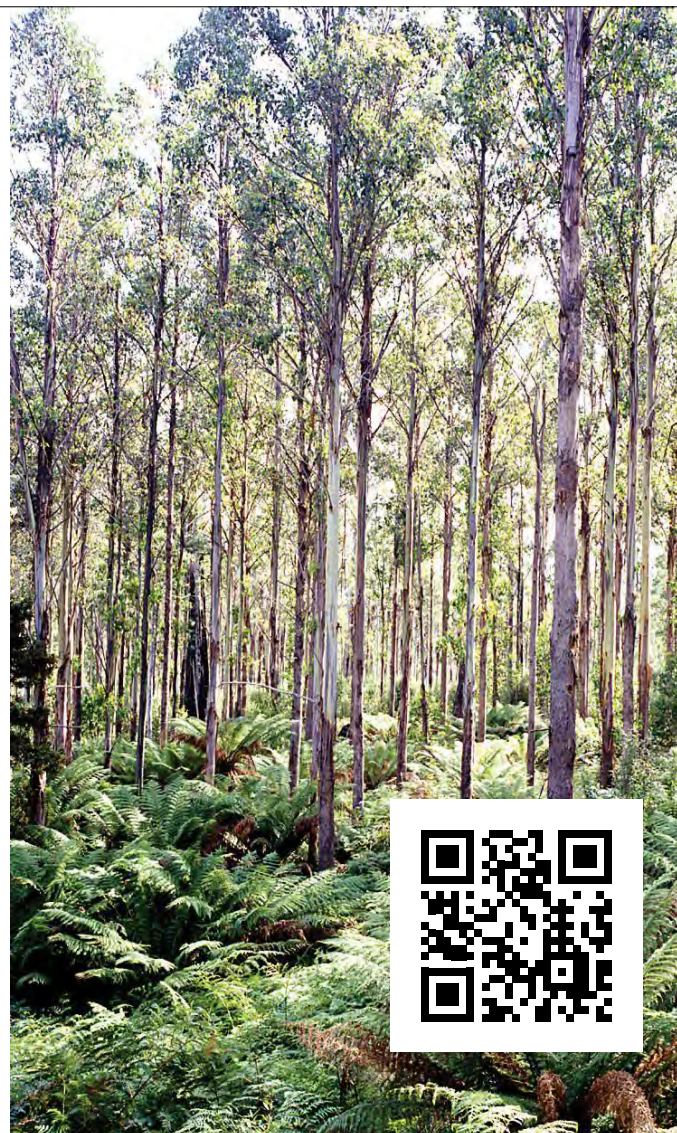
Supporting Australia's forest and forest products industries through high-impact research, innovation, and industry engagement.

KEY RESEARCH THEMES:

- Climate change solutions
- Making the most of available wood fibre
- Sustainable forests for our future



Building our national research capacity through our three AFWI Research Centres, and our National Open Calls for Research (Round 2 opening soon).

Learn more by visiting afwi.au





SYMPOSIUM PROGRAM

Tuesday 29 October

07.00	Registration desk opens Convention Centre Foyer
OPENING AND PLENARY SESSION 1 Convention Centre	
Chairs: Jim Wilson & Jacquie Martin	
<i>Proudly supported by</i> 	
08.30 – 10.10	<p>Symposium Opening Jacquie Martin, <i>Forestry Australia</i> Welcome to Country Jenna Oldaker, <i>Wadawurrung Traditional Owner</i> Troy Firebrace, <i>Yorta Yorta, Dja Dja Wurring artist</i> Reflections & Thanks Jim Wilson, <i>Symposium Convenor</i></p> <hr/> <p>KEYNOTE SPEAKER 1 Nurturing healthy and resilient forests to mitigate wildfire and climate change Prof Lori Daniels, <i>Department of Forest and Conservation Services, Forest Services Centre, Canada</i></p> <hr/> <p>KEYNOTE SPEAKER 2 Supporting the sustainable future of forestry Adam Fennessy, <i>Secretary, DAFF</i></p>
10.10	Morning refreshments & trade exhibition Conservatory & Victoria Room
PLENARY SESSION 2 Convention Centre	
Chair: Tracy Matthews	
10.40 – 11.15	<p>KEYNOTE SPEAKER 3 The Art of Radical Diplomacy Kirsha Kaechele, <i>Co-owner of MONA & sponsor of Forest Economics Congress</i></p>
PLENARY SESSION 3 Convention Centre	
Chair: Blair Freeman	
<i>Proudly supported by</i> 	
11.15 – 11.45	<p>KEYNOTE SPEAKER 4 The Philosophies of production forestry and conservation: what can we learn from each other for the future of Australia's forest health Dr Bill Jackson, <i>Acting President, Forestry Australia</i></p>
11.45 – 12.25	<p>SESSION 1: ACTIVE FOREST MANAGEMENT PRODUCING HEALTHY FORESTS Refining timber harvesting and reservation approaches to maximise biodiversity outcomes A/Prof Sue Baker, <i>University of Tasmania</i> Stand density management for ecological outcomes Prof Patrick Baker, <i>University of Melbourne</i></p>
12.25 – 12.35	Major Sponsor Spotlight: ForestWorks
12.35 – 13.30	Lunch & trade exhibition Conservatory & Victoria Room
PLENARY SESSION 4 Convention Centre	
Chair: Paco Tovar	
13.30 – 14.50	<p>SESSION 2: THREATS TO HEALTHY AND RESILIENT FORESTS Convention Centre New technology for controlling feral deer in forests: from the SA Feral Deer Eradication program and beyond Myall Tarran, <i>Department of Primary Industries & Regions, South Australia</i> Testing tolerance - forest health in the era of megafires Dr Tom Fairman, <i>University of Melbourne</i> Linking heat and crown dieback in trees Prof Tim Brodribb, <i>University of Tasmania</i> Forest Health Surveillance, why bother? Dr Danielle Wiseman, <i>Plantation Health Collaborative</i></p>

SYMPOSIUM PROGRAM

14.50 – 14.55	Major Sponsor Spotlight: Healthy Forests Foundation	
14.55	Afternoon refreshments & trade exhibition Conservatory & Victoria Room	
PLENARY SESSION 5 Convention Centre Chair: Prof Rod Keenan		Proudly supported by 
15.25 – 15.30	Richard Stanton Award <i>Presented by Responsible Wood</i>	
15.30 – 16.45	SESSION 3: ABORIGINAL FOREST MANAGEMENT AND CARING FOR COUNTRY Indigenous nature repair: Healthy forests, healthy communities and healthy people Rachael Cavanagh , <i>Balun Budjabin Consultancy</i> Assessment of Noongar Cultural Values to Inform Forest Management Myles Mitchell and Elder Phillip Ugle	
17.00	Forestry Australia Annual General Meeting Convention Centre	
18.00 – 20.00	Welcome Reception & Trade Exhibition Conservatory & Victoria Room	Proudly supported by 

Wednesday 30 October

08.00	Registration desk opens Convention Centre Foyer	
CONCURRENT SESSIONS		
09.00 – 09.20	CONCURRENT 1 Convention Centre Biodiversity Chair: Suzette Weeding Forest Resilience under climate change: are we ready for planned adaptation? Dr Elizabeth Pryde , <i>Greening Australia</i>	CONCURRENT 2 Eureka Ballroom Healthy forests, diverse, inclusive and healthy people Chair: Monique Blason Forests and psychological wellbeing Prof Kath Williams , <i>University of Melbourne</i>
09.20 – 09.40	Biodiversity monitoring program Chris Slade , <i>Forestry Corp NSW</i>	Improving accessibility for people with disabilities in forest reserves in partnership with other agencies Yvette Eglington , <i>NPWSA and ForestrySA</i>
09.40 – 10.00	Standardised approach for monitoring change in vegetation quality David Bennett , <i>PF Olsen</i>	Healthy communities and healthy forests Dr Jacki Schirmer , <i>University of Canberra</i>
10.00 – 10.20	Nature Repair Markets	In the eyes of beholders: how worldview influences definition of healthy forests Rebecca Ford , <i>University of Melbourne</i>
10.20	Morning refreshments & trade exhibition Conservatory & Victoria Room	
CONCURRENT SESSIONS		
10.50 – 11.10	CONCURRENT 3 Convention Centre Technology, innovation & latest research Chair: Julianne O'Reilly Wapstra <i>Proudly supported by</i> AFWI  AI camera technology for bushfire detection Mike Lawson , <i>SFMES</i>	CONCURRENT 4 Eureka Ballroom Carbon methods and active management Chair: Liam Costello <i>Proudly supported by</i>  ForestrySA Towards full carbon accounting for forests Rob Waterworth , <i>FLINTpro</i>

SYMPOSIUM PROGRAM

11.10 – 11.30	Browsing management in a changing landscape: a global analysis of non-lethal mammal browsing control Jamie Grimsdale , <i>University of Tasmania</i>	Opportunities for Forestry in the ACCU Scheme Dr Fabiano Ximenes , <i>Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, NSW</i>
11.30 – 11.50	Is loss of forest research capacity a furphy? Dr Jim O’Hehir , <i>Forestry Centre of Excellence, University of South Australia</i>	Carbon Farming for healthy forests Zoe Ryan , <i>Climate Friendly</i>
11.50 – 12.10	Australian Forest and Wood Innovations – supporting transformational innovation across the national forestry and forest product value chain Dr Dean Williams , <i>Australian Forest and Wood Innovations</i>	Native regrowth thinning in Tasmania is - the light on the hill Michael Schofield , <i>Midway Tasmania</i>
12.10	Lunch & trade exhibition Conservatory & Victoria Room	
CONCURRENT SESSIONS		
13.10 – 13.30	CONCURRENT 5 Convention Centre Healthy forests, healthy farms and agricultural landscapes Chair: Emily Post <hr/> Strategies for healthy and resilient agroforestry landscapes Rowan Reid , <i>Bambra Agroforestry Farm</i>	CONCURRENT 6 Eureka Ballroom Forestry, art, history & creativity Chair: David Dore <hr/> Play in Nature – cultivating connection fostering healthy people Daniel Burton , <i>Educated by Nature</i>
13.30 – 13.50	Productivity and carbon benefits of integrating trees into farming systems Dr Rachelle Meyer , <i>Trees on Farms Project</i>	Forests as medicine Kerry Wailes , <i>forester and natural health practitioner</i>
13.50 – 14.10	Creating landscapes which are both productive and ecologically resilient Krista Patterson-Majoor , <i>Cassinia Environmental</i>	Forestry imagery & how people respond Mike Ryan , <i>Senior Project Officer, Forest Ecology</i>
14.10 – 14.30	Recent Advances in Queensland’s Silvopastoral Systems Dr Nahuel Pachas , <i>Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries</i>	The importance of people and their stories Mike Bleby , <i>freelance forester</i>
14.30	Afternoon refreshments & trade exhibition Conservatory & Victoria Room	
CLOSING PLENARY SESSION Convention Centre Chair: Bob Gordon		
15.00 – 16.30	Panel: What is a healthy forest? Dr Tegan Brown , <i>Forest Fire Management Committee</i> Rachael Cavanagh , <i>Balun Budjabin Consultancy</i> Prof Lori Daniels , <i>Department of Forest and Conservation Services, Forest Services Centre, Canada</i> Dr Bill Jackson , <i>Acting President, Forestry Australia</i> Dr Michelle Freeman, President , <i>Forestry Australia (currently on maternity leave)</i> Final remarks and wrap up Jacque Martin , <i>Forestry Australia</i> Dr Bill Jackson , <i>Acting President, Forestry Australia</i>	
18.30 – 22.00	Symposium Dinner Sovereign Hill	Proudly supported by 



Supporting Forestry to develop workforce skills

ForestWorks is an industry-owned not-for-profit organisation offering skills development services for the forest, wood, paper, timber, furnishing, textiles, clothing and footwear industries.



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ForestWorks

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MAJOR SPONSORS

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry



Australian Government

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry works to enhance Australia's agricultural, fisheries and forestry industries.

Our vision is a more sustainable and prosperous Australia through biosecurity, agricultural production and trade. We support industry to grow towards a \$100 billion agriculture, fisheries and forestry industry by 2030 amid changing global market conditions.

We work with state and territory governments and industry to create and support productive, profitable, sustainable and internationally competitive Australian forest and forest products industries. This includes delivering a suite of initiatives totalling over \$300 million to support Australia's forest industries to innovate and improve the capacity and capability of the sector.

Additionally, through the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences (ABARES), we produce Australia's State of the Forest Report and provide key industry research and data.

For further information, please visit:

<https://www.agriculture.gov.au/>

ForestWorks



ForestWorks is an industry owned not-for-profit organisation offering services to support skills development of the forest, wood, paper, timber, furnishing and textiles industries. ForestWorks partners with government, industry, unions, workers, and training providers to develop a highly skilled workforce for these sectors. Focus areas include developing new workers, upskilling existing workers and supporting workers through their careers.

Our services include gathering industry intelligence, providing skills development solutions, developing nationally accredited VET training packages, and managing government-funded training programs. We are a collaborative partner and professional service provider to Skills Insight JSC.

Key achievements include the successful Snowy Valley Skills Development Service, and the establishment of the Victorian Forestry Worker Support Program in response to the Victorian Government's Forestry Transition Program. Additionally, we developed a scoping study report for the Forestry Workforce Training Program supported by a \$10 million investment from the Australian Government over four years.

Our success is driven by a Board of Directors, engaged stakeholders, dedicated staff, and expert service providers. With offices in Victoria, New South Wales, and Queensland, ForestWorks ensures high-quality, locally tailored services.

Healthy Forests Foundation



We believe humanity has a duty to take active steps to ensure the health of our forests for future generations.

The Healthy Forests Foundation is a new environmental non-government organisation committed to restoring degraded forests through meaningful partnerships with First Nations people.

We are professionally led, science-based, and action-oriented.

Healthy, well managed forests are essential for sustaining our ecosystems. They provide crucial ecosystem services like clean air and water, as well as vital habitats that allow forest-dependent endemic species to thrive. Additionally, they contribute to both the mental and physical health of humans. Unfortunately, many of our forests are currently unhealthy or vulnerable, facing threats from invasive species, fire, and climate change. These challenges mean that our forests cannot recover without deliberate human intervention.

What sets the Healthy Forests Foundation apart is our holistic approach to forest management. We believe that the most effective way to restore forest health is by integrating First Nations Knowledge with the latest scientific research. This humanistic approach aligns with how Australia's forests were managed by First Nations people prior to European settlement and is supported by the latest local and international research, reports, and frameworks.

<https://healthyforestsfoundation.org>

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS AND EXHIBITORS

SUPPORTING SPONSORS

Forestry Corporation of NSW



Forestry Corporation of NSW sustainably grow and manage the ultimate renewable resource – our State forests.

State forests both contribute to and complement NSW's conservation estate, delivering a range of benefits to communities, from access for tourism and recreation to protection of cultural heritage, fire protection and renewable timber production.

We manage around two million hectares of multiple use public native forests, including coastal native forests, cypress forests and red gum forests, approximately 225,000 hectares of softwood timber plantations in the central west, south and north of NSW and just under 35,000 hectares of hardwood timber plantations in north east NSW.

Our forest management is independently certified to the Australian Standard for Sustainable Forest Management, Responsible Wood, and our operations underpin a vital and vibrant renewable timber industry in regional NSW.

Forest and Wood Products Australia



FWPA is an industry-owned, not-for-profit Rural Research and Development Corporation (RDC) for the forest and wood products industry. Partnering with the Australian Government and industry stakeholders, we invest in research and development and marketing to improve the profitability, productivity, competitiveness, and sustainability of our industry. <https://fwpa.com.au/about-fwpa/>

HVP Plantations



Melbourne-based HVP is one of Australia's largest private timber plantation companies, and is owned by a combination of Australian and international investors. The 240,000-hectare estate is located across Victoria, extending from Gippsland in the east, the border with South Australia in the west and large holdings in the north-east of the state. About 170,000 hectares of this land is pine and eucalypt plantation. Complementing the plantation area, 48,000 hectares of HVP land is native forest managed for conservation, environmental and cultural values.

Each year, HVP supplies over three million tonnes of timber. HVP's customers in Victoria, South Australia and New South Wales process the timber into a broad range of construction, landscaping and packaging products.

At HVP, our commitment is for sustainable and safe management of our plantations. We strive to balance the needs of our employees, customers, and local communities, all while delivering optimal returns for our investors.

New Forests



New Forests is a global investment manager of nature-based real assets and natural capital strategies, with AUD 9.95 billion (USD 6.85 billion) in assets under management across more than 1.1 million hectares (2.9 million acres) of investments.

New Forests' vision is to see investment in land use and forestry as central to the transition to a sustainable future. To achieve this vision, New Forests' investment strategies support the role of forests as nature-based solutions, provide sustainable wood fibre for the growing circular bioeconomy, and contribute to the sustainable development of regional economies and rural communities. Headquartered in Sydney, New Forests is a Certified B Corp and operates in Australia, New Zealand, Southeast Asia, Africa and the United States.

For more information, please visit:

www.newforests.com

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS AND EXHIBITORS

OneFortyOne



OneFortyOne is a forestry and sawmilling business. We operate throughout the Green Triangle region of Australia and the Nelson, Tasman and Marlborough regions of New Zealand (Top of the South Island).

We manage over 160,000 hectares (ha) of land including pine plantation and conservation areas. We plant over four million seedlings every year, renewably replacing the trees that we harvest.

The timber processed at the OneFortyOne Jubilee and Kaituna sawmills is turned into products that help people build and renovate their homes, construct fences on their farms, and support the landscaping in their gardens.

OneFortyOne is a significant regional employer, we employ more than 500 people directly and many more indirectly as contractors.

We are committed to the communities where our people live and strive to grow a better tomorrow through our environmental actions and community involvement, including the PINE Community Grants Program.

DESTINATION SPONSOR



SYMPOSIUM DINNER SPONSOR

Sustainable Timber Tasmania



At Sustainable Timber Tasmania we manage over 800,000 hectares of production forests. It's a great responsibility and one that we never take for granted.



Image: Barossa Wellness

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS AND EXHIBITORS

The work we do is about more than making forests productive. We are here to keep them healthy and thriving. We do this for our community, industry and customers, as well as the Tasmanian environment that future generations will inherit.

From conservation to firefighting, our people care for the forests we manage with passion and respect. Through forest regeneration, we make available forest products and high-quality timber for Tasmania. We do all this and go home safe and well every day.

As a land manager, we provide access to some of the State's most beautiful places. We share public production forests through roads, recreation, leases, licences and more. This makes our business an integral part of the local communities that share these forests.

We are always looking for new ways to deepen our connection with these communities. This means listening to many voices and engaging with new ideas. We are here to build confidence through communication and by becoming a trusted neighbour.

Above all, sustainability is what drives us. Our future depends on sustainability and Tasmanians can depend on us.

WELCOME RECEPTION SPONSOR

HQ Plantations



HQPlantations is our people and our people are HQPlantations.

Together, we're growing something that truly matters - for today and tomorrow.

We're one of the largest plantation growers in Australia. That's an exciting opportunity and it's also a great responsibility. We have a duty to treat the land with respect and tread lightly. It's why we invest so much in improving the quality of our plantations, the soil and the water.

At HQPlantations, you'll find real people who get stuck in. People who are passionate about their work and what it means, and about the future they can shape together. We may joke about it, but our forestry family matters. We hope you'll agree.

We've come a long way and so has our industry. We're innovating, always, deploying cutting-edge technology, data-driven insights and fresh perspectives from far and wide.

We're good people, doing good things and we'd love to meet you.

SESSION SPONSORS

Australian Forest and Wood Innovations



Australian Forest and Wood Innovations

Australian Forest and Wood Innovations (AFWI) is a national research institute established by the Australian Government and the University of Tasmania, with over \$100 million in funding to advance forestry and forest products research.

AFWI's network of researchers collaborates with industry through its Research Centres and National Open Call projects, focusing on innovative solutions for climate change, sustainability, and optimising the use of our available wood fibre.

By building a national research capacity, AFWI aims to deliver practical outcomes that enhance the sector's resilience, sustainability, and profitability.

Learn how AFWI is shaping Australia's forestry industry and how we can collaborate: www.afwi.au.

Forestry SA



ForestrySA is South Australia's trusted commercial and community forest manager since 1875. Our sustainable forest management program covers 10,000ha of plantation and 16000ha of Native Forest Reserve in the Mount Lofty Ranges and Green Triangle

Our forests at Kuitpo, Mount Crawford and Second Valley provide sustainable softwood production, habitat for native flora and fauna and are also home to significant water catchments.

Our close proximity to Adelaide makes our forests a popular place for recreational visitors, eco-tourism initiatives and community events.

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Indufor



Indufor

Indufor is a global specialist forest sector consulting group. For more than 40 years, Indufor has provided independent, robust advice to a broad range of public and private sector clients worldwide.

Based on deep sectoral expertise and analytical rigour, our advice covers best practice forest management, policy, sectoral strategy, forest valuations and due diligence, climate change and sustainability frameworks to address environmental, social and governance (ESG) considerations.

Indufor has offices in Melbourne, Auckland, Shanghai, Helsinki and Washington DC. For further information, please visit us at www.induforgroup.com.

Midway Limited



Founded in 1980, Midway is one of Australia's largest high quality woodfibre processors and exporters with operations in Victoria, Queensland, Tasmania and the Northern Territory. Midway also manages almost 50,000 ha of plantations in Victoria, Northern Territory and Tasmania for large investors and small landholders. The Midway Group's values drive our culture to be a trusted corporate citizen that is respected and valued in the communities in which we operate.

- Safety and the Environment
- Honesty, Integrity and Respect
- Performance
- Sustainability and Community

Rhizocore



Rhizocore Technologies is an applied mycology company founded in Edinburgh, Scotland and now operating out of the National Innovation Centre in Sydney, Australia. Rhizocore deploys local ectomycorrhizal fungi to enhance tree planting success. By working with native fungi, we offer a sustainable solution to accelerate the growth and resilience of forestry & native regeneration tree planting projects. Our biotechnological solution applies native symbiotic fungi at scale to improve seedling survival and growth rates, forest productivity, carbon capture and drought, pest and disease resilience.

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Technical Forest Services



From humble beginnings, 20 years ago, Technical Forest Services has grown to become a trusted independent advisor on all aspects of silviculture, right across the growing cycle, and across all forest types. Bringing an enviable mix of practical forest management experience, and staff with tertiary backgrounds in forestry, science, geology and environmental management, we are an agile and productive team.

Our operations and personnel now extend across TAS, VIC, SA, NSW, and QLD. We are able to tailor services to meet your needs at all levels of involvement, from full project design and oversight through to the provision of personnel.

Healthy Forests Foundation.org

We believe humanity has a duty to take active steps to ensure the health of our forests for future generations.

The Healthy Forests Foundation is a new environmental non-for-profit organisation focused on restoring degraded forests in partnership with First Nations people.

We are professionally led, science based, and action orientated.

We are passionate about raising awareness about what is really needed to make our forests healthy and are focused on facilitating partnerships to get work done.

We are looking for members, volunteers, advisors, partners and financial donors and sponsors.

If you want to find out more about our positive form of environmentalism and our commitment to resurgent Indigenous conservation, come and chat to one of our team, or scan the QR code to learn more.



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EXHIBITORS

ArborCarbon



ArborCarbon is an Australian environmental consultancy combining expertise in forest pathology, remote sensing, surveillance, and strategy. We have developed a range of innovative technologies including the aircraft-mounted ArborCam™ and artificial intelligence to provide rapid and cost-effective forest services including inventories, pest and disease monitoring, carbon and biodiversity. Clients span the government and private sectors across Australia, NZ and the UK.

Clean Energy Regulator



The Clean Energy Regulator is an independent statutory authority with the purpose to accelerate carbon abatement for Australia. We administer schemes legislated by the Australian Government for measuring, managing, reducing or offsetting Australia's carbon emissions. The Australian Carbon Credit Unit (ACCU) Scheme provides opportunities for organisations and individuals to adopt new practices and technologies to reduce their emissions or store carbon. Vegetation projects under the scheme generate abatement by removing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and storing it as carbon in plants. This includes reforestation, regeneration and protection of native forests, and plantation forestry activities.

First Super



First Super is the super fund that is large enough to perform, and small enough to care. More than 70,000 members trust us to manage \$4.67 billion of their hard-earned savings.

We're an industry super fund, which means we're run to benefit our members. We welcome all Australians regardless of their occupation or location, but we have particularly strong links to the timber industry.

When it comes to super most Australians want the same things: value for money, tailored service and long-term returns that can help members have a dignified retirement. We pride ourselves on our tailored service and are committed to helping each member achieve the best possible retirement.

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Muir's is a proudly Australian-owned fourth generation family business delivering innovation in products, services and expertise to help local agribusinesses grow and flourish.

Through our national network of specialist staff, we create value for growers by improving farming efficiency, profitability and sustainability, so that the next generation can continue to Grow Forward™.

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Responsible Wood is a not-for-profit accredited standards development organisation, licenced by Standards Australia to develop standards. The Responsible Wood certification scheme demonstrates that products produced under those standards are sourced from sustainably managed forests. Responsible Wood is endorsed by, and mutually recognised by, the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC), the world's largest forest certification scheme. The Responsible Wood certification scheme, through the new revised joint Australia and New Zealand AS/NZ 4708:2021 Sustainable Forest Management standard covers about 20 million hectares of forest in Australia, making Responsible Wood Australia's largest forest certification scheme.

Grow the future with us.



Forestry Corporation grows trees as a renewable timber resource used in houses, furniture and infrastructure like power poles and railways. We manage our forests sustainably to ensure the trees regrow and these healthy forests provide habitat for wildlife and exciting outdoor destinations for local communities and tourists.

With over 500 forests throughout NSW we are the largest commercial manager of forests in Australia and we have been growing and regrowing trees for timber for over 100 years.

Our forest management is certified sustainable to the Australian Standard for Sustainable Forest Management.

Our team of foresters, ecologists, logistics experts, natural resource and land managers and field staff working across areas like roading, firefighting and timber harvest operations are supported by experts in business management, IT and finance.

> Opportunities to join our team and grow your career at www.forestrycorporation.com.au



SPEAKERS AND ABSTRACTS

Please note abstracts are listed in program order and are correct at time of printing.

PLENARY 1

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WELCOME TO COUNTRY



Jenna Oldaker

Jenna Oldaker is a Wadawurrung Traditional Owner and visual artist creating works under 'Murrup Art'. 'Murrup' is the Wadawurrung word for spirit, which is fitting as Jenna's art comes from the sacred tradition of storytelling told by her ancestors and their spirits.

Through her art, Jenna expresses her deep connection and love for her Aboriginal culture, Country, and heritage. Every piece created by Jenna comes from her heart and strong connection to her family and mob. Her passion is to create each work with its own individual story and meaning, and also to educate others about Wadawurrung culture and Country. All artworks are named in Traditional Wadawurrung language, as a further means of helping facilitate shared learning of First Nations culture and heritage.

Born and based in Ballarat on Wadawurrung Country, Jenna uses mostly bright, contemporary colours to create unique and detailed artworks. Her vibrant, multicoloured artworks are largely inspired by the Traditional marks and symbols from the dreamtime and also from Wadawurrung Country itself. Working primarily with acrylic paints on canvas, Jenna enjoys creating new pieces using a variety of forms and dimensions, including public space art, installations, murals, and digital designs.



Troy Firebrace

Yorta Yorta, Dja Dja Wurrung artist

Troy Firebrace is an Aboriginal artist and Director of Firebrace Designs. After completing a Bachelor in Creative Arts, Major in Fine Art, at Bendigo University, Troy is now studying a Masters of Teaching

Secondary. He hopes to pursue a career as an artist but also to provide cultural learning and education to students. Troy noted an absence of Aboriginal art and

culture during his school career, and wants to rectify that, not just so non-Indigenous children can grow up respecting and understanding the importance of Aboriginal culture but also so Aboriginal kids children feel validated in wider society. Troy is also an accomplished musician, playing the didgeridoo for us.

NURTURING HEALTHY AND RESILIENT FORESTS TO MITIGATE WILDFIRE AND CLIMATE CHANGE



Prof Lori Daniels

Department of Forest and Conservation Services, Forest Services Centre, Canada

Abstract

Wildfire is an essential ecological process and primary agent of disturbance across the diverse ecosystems of British Columbia, Canada. However, during five of the last eight wildfire seasons (2017, 2018, 2021, 2023, and 2024), extreme events have cumulatively burned 7.3 million hectares and cost \$3.4 billion CAD for direct suppression, alone. The indirect ecological, economic, social, and human health impacts are unprecedented. Contemporary wildfires are the culmination of a century of altered human-forest-wildfire relationships, exacerbated by rapidly changing climate. Transformative changes to wildfire and forest management systems are urgently needed to nurture healthy and resilient ecosystems, and human communities embedded in them.

Lori will share a vision for "wildfire coexistence" developed by my research team and our collaborators that includes six strategies to amplify the pace and scale of change in response to recent wildfire extremes: (1) Immediately diversify wildfire response strategies and restore the ecological and cultural role of fire across diverse ecosystems. (2) Invest in suppression capacity at local scales. (3) Support innovations for mitigating risk and building resilience in the wildland urban interface. (4) Apply landscape concepts to drive a paradigm shift in forest management to increase ecological resilience to wildfire. (5) Transform wildfire governance to support collaborative and community-based solutions. (6) Strengthen expertise and capacity to uplift diverse ways of knowing and managing fire. These interrelated strategies, combined with bold policy and governance changes, and supported by sustained funding, provide a holistic approach to transform management and enable our society to coexist with wildfire.

Presenter

Lori Daniels is the inaugural Koerner Chair of the Centre for Wildfire Coexistence and directs the Tree-Ring Lab at UBC. Lori investigates the impacts of natural and human disturbances and climate change on forests. With her research team, she has on-going projects on wildfires, forest dynamics, and social-ecological resilience to climate change across British Columbia. Her enduring partnerships with local, provincial, and national governments, environmental organizations, forest management companies, community forests, and First Nations ensure her scientific advances are translated to active conservation, restoration and management. She is among the 150 Canadian Scientists recognised in 2017 for research shaping new frontiers and making our world a better place (#150Scientists). She received the 2019 Canadian Institute of Forestry Scientific Achievement Award, 2022 Distinguished Career Award in Biogeography from Association of American Geographers, and 2023 Distinguished Leader in Research Award from the Association of Fire Ecologists.

SUPPORTING THE SUSTAINABLE FUTURE OF FORESTRY



Adam Fennessy PSM

Secretary, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Abstract

The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) leads the Australian Government's efforts to

support, protect and grow the country's food and fibre production industries. Secretary Adam Fennessy will discuss how DAFF is fulfilling this role with respect to the management of Australia's forests.

The Australian Government has a significant agenda relating to forest industries and management that spans policy development, investment in research, innovation and industry capability, and data and information to inform decision making.

Secretary Fennessy will outline key elements of DAFF's work in delivering the Government's forestry agenda and explore connections with other policy reforms such as the Agriculture and Land Sector Plan.

Presenter

Adam Fennessy PSM is the Secretary of the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF).

Adam has over 25 years of public sector experience at state and federal levels. His former roles have included Secretary of the Victorian Department of

Environment and Primary Industries, Secretary of the Victorian Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning, the Victorian Public Sector Commissioner and Dean & CEO of the Australia and New Zealand School of Government (ANZSOG). Adam has worked in the private sector as a partner with global advisory firm Ernst & Young.

PLENARY 2

THE ART OF RADICAL DIPLOMACY



Kirsha Kaechele

Co-owner of MONA & sponsor of Forest Economics Congress

Abstract

The Forest Congress focuses on a central question: what is the value of Tasmania's forests and how do we derive the greatest

benefit for the Tasmanian community? How can we imagine and model an optimal future; one that includes everyone? This question is evolving, and the project is ongoing.

In November 2023, Mona hosted the first Forest Economics Congress, culminating in the coming together of 120 guests from all sides of the Tasmanian forest wars. First Nations leaders, community leaders, loggers and saw-millers, activists, academics, scientists, economists, conservationists, policy think tanks, and artists. The room was filled with an electric mix of rivalry and camaraderie, and some gentle, mutual loathing—it felt like a battery. You need both the positive and the negative charges to get the energy flowing. Many hadn't been in a room together and probably would have preferred to keep it that way.

Mona offered a sanctuary where differences of opinion were welcomed, and open discourse was mandatory. No agenda, no conclusion set in advance. Across three days, we agreed to listen and connect as people, beyond personal ideology, and through the diversity of our views, uncover a truth, or truths, working together towards an optimal future that benefits Tasmanians and creates the greatest prosperity from our forests.

My mind was blown open by the whole experience. And why was it possible, why did it work for Mona to be Oslo? art provided a space for coming together. Art united us. Hilariously, for once, Mona was 'safe'. I'm not sure how that happened but, you know, just when you think you're the epicentre of controversy.



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Presenter

Kirsha Kaechele is an artist and curator at Mona (Museum of Old and New Art), and founder of Material Institute—a charity with branches in two countries—New Orleans, USA, and Lutruwita / Tasmania, Australia. She is interested in the space where complex problems exist, and places transformation at the heart of her work. For Kaechele, problems are a medium for art.

Her projects include: Forest Economics Congress—where economists, the forest industry, scientists, conservationists and artists come together to investigate how markets might harness human initiatives to sustain forests globally; Eat the Problem—a super-deluxe food and art compendium featuring a series of ‘recipes’ using invasive species (both real and surreal) with an accompanying exhibition at Mona; CA\$H 4 GUN\$—a conceptual artwork in the form of a gun buyback scheme in New Orleans; and Material Institute—a registered charity with a vision of healthy, beautiful and resilient communities where children, young people and their families can achieve their full potential.

PLENARY 3

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RHIZOCORE
TECHNOLOGIES

THE PHILOSOPHIES OF PRODUCTION FORESTRY AND CONSERVATION: WHAT CAN WE LEARN FROM EACH OTHER FOR THE FUTURE OF AUSTRALIA'S FOREST HEALTH



Dr Bill Jackson

Acting President, Forestry Australia

Abstract

What constitutes a healthy forest? How are our views on this question shaped by our broader philosophies and the information, or in many cases

the misinformation, we receive?

Understanding how the views of people and institutions are shaped is important to understanding how the policies and practices of production forestry and conservation are formed and why some views persist even in the face of compelling contrary evidence.

As Professor Les Carron put it ... *the most satisfactory planning for the future [of forestry] will come, not from the sort of confrontation that has been an unhappy feature of the past decade, but from reasoned discussion amongst reasonable people.*

But how do we shift from confrontation to reasoned discussion amongst reasonable people?

The presentation will provide a personal reflection on what, if anything, production forestry and conservation can we learn from each other for the future of Australia's forest health.

Presenter

Bill Jackson is an adjunct Professor with the Tropical Forest and People Research Centre of the University of the Sunshine Coast and an independent consultant with over 40 years' experience in forest conservation and management, protected area management and community development.

Bill was the chief author for the Australia State of Environment Report 2016, and he held the positions of Chief Executive of Parks Victoria and Director of National Parks from late 2010 until mid-2015. Prior to his appointment to Parks Victoria, he was Deputy Director General of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). During his 13 years with the IUCN, he helped establish the organisation's overall strategy and worked on a wide range of conservation issues in Africa, Asia, the Pacific and Latin America. Earlier in his career he worked on community forestry in Nepal and forest and fire management in New South Wales. His PhD focused on community forestry in Nepal.

SESSION 1: ACTIVE FOREST MANAGEMENT PRODUCING HEALTHY FORESTS

REFINING TIMBER HARVESTING AND RESERVATION APPROACHES TO MAXIMISE BIODIVERSITY OUTCOMES



A/Prof Sue Baker

University of Tasmania

Abstract

Human demand for wood products is increasing, and society rightly demands that timber production should not place forest-dependent species at risk. Plant and animal

communities show succession following harvesting, with recovery rates varying among taxa due to differing dispersal processes. Research on edge effects in mature forests and the positive impact of retained mature forest on succession in nearby harvested areas has guided conservation planning. Ecologically sustainable native forest management often aims to adapt timber harvesting practices to emulate natural disturbance such as wildfires. Comparisons between clearfelling and wildfire show generally

SPEAKERS AND ABSTRACTS

similar community compositions, though differences exist in plant and soil microbial communities and the loss of habitat trees. Recognizing these differences led to the development of the 'aggregated retention' harvesting system for high conservation value forests, where unharvested patches are retained within coupes. These patches act as 'lifeboats' for mature-forest plant and animal communities, providing source populations that facilitate re-establishment in harvested areas. Our research demonstrates site-scale benefits of aggregated retention harvesting compared to clearfelling. However, at the landscape scale, there is a trade-off between the intensity of site-scale management and the amount of reserves in the landscape for a defined level of timber production. Our current research aims to resolve this conundrum by applying the land sparing vs. land sharing paradigm to forestry. We aim to determine whether it is better overall for biodiversity to combine intensive plantation management and more reserves (land sparing), low intensity ecological forestry with less reserves (land sharing), or a mix (Triad management).

Presenter

Sue is a forest ecologist and conservation biologist at the University of Tasmania. She completed an undergraduate forestry degree at University of Melbourne. For her Honours and PhD at UTas, she investigated forestry impacts on ground-active beetles, finding them to be highly sensitive to subtle ecological gradients. Her research seeks to guide adaptive management of harvesting systems and reserve designs to improve conservation of plants, animals and ecological processes in production landscapes. Her Future Fellowship aims to determine the optimal landscape-scale mix of management systems and reservation to maximise biodiversity outcomes for a given level of timber production.

STAND DENSITY MANAGEMENT FOR ECOLOGICAL OUTCOMES



Prof Patrick Baker

University of Melbourne

Abstract

Dense, overstocked stands present a challenge to forest managers and conservationists. Individual tree growth is low, mortality is high, and the stands have little biodiversity value. Reducing stand density can set the stands along a trajectory that is more likely to produce quality habitat and reduce the vulnerability of the stands to threats such as fire, wind, and insects. However, this involves cutting trees down. Developing an evidence base to better understand the consequences of thinning on ecological values should be a priority. More than

half a century of thinning for sawlog production across much of Australia's public forest estate offers significant opportunities for understanding how reducing stand density may influence ecological outcomes. However, there is also growing interest in developing new prescriptions that specifically target ecological outcomes, particularly in dense regrowth forests. Here I discuss some of the challenges and opportunities for developing ecological thinning prescriptions for Australian forests.

Presenter

Patrick Baker is a Professor of Silviculture and Forest Ecology at The University of Melbourne. His work focuses on understanding how forests change, the forces that shape these changes, and how this knowledge can be applied to better manage forests in a changing world. He has degrees from Bowdoin College, Yale University, and the University of Washington. He worked as a post-doctoral fellow for the US Forest Service and The Nature Conservancy of Hawaii. He was an adjunct research scientist at Columbia University's Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory (2009-13), an Australian Research Council Future Fellow (2013-16), and a Charles Bullard Fellow in Forest Science at Harvard University (2020-22).

PLENARY 4

SESSION 2: THREATS TO HEALTHY AND RESILIENT FORESTS

NEW TECHNOLOGY FOR CONTROLLING FERAL DEER IN FORESTS: FROM THE SA FERAL DEER ERADICATION PROGRAM AND BEYOND



Myall Tarran

Department of Primary Industries and Regions, South Australia

Abstract

The South Australian Government is undertaking an ambitious program to eradicate feral deer from the State by 2032. There were an estimated 40,000 feral deer in South Australia in 2022, and since then more than 20,000 feral deer have been culled. Thousands of this total have been removed from the State's native and planted forests. Feral deer are a serious and costly problem for forestry managers as they damage and

How are we unlocking biodiversity opportunities?

New Forests has almost two decades of experience and a strong track record in seeking to enhance risk and returns from nature-based solutions and land-based investments.

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SPEAKERS AND ABSTRACTS

kill young trees, damage infrastructure and fencing, impact on biodiversity, and attract illegal poachers onto forestry estates. The SA feral deer eradication program works closely with ForestrySA and the forestry industry more broadly in the most deer impacted regions of the State to conduct aerial culls for feral deer in complex, working forest environments. Aerial culling in forestry is made possible with advances in thermal technology which allow for feral deer to be detected and culled in forests, even through forest canopies. This presentation will discuss the lessons learned, opportunities and limitations of feral deer control in forests using Thermal Assisted Aerial Culling, as well as some of the practicalities of coordinating aerial control operations in working forests, and end by looking to an example where these new control tools are already being applied in forests in other parts of Australia.

Presenter

Myall has been in the role of Feral Deer Eradication Coordinator since 2022, and is involved with coordinating statewide feral deer culling programs in collaboration with regional landscape boards, industry groups and hundreds of private landholders, as part of the ambitious South Australian Feral Deer Eradication Program 2022-2032. Prior to this role he worked as a Planning Officer supporting the Kangaroo Island Feral Pig Eradication Program. Myall holds a PhD in environmental science from the University of Adelaide.

TESTING TOLERANCE - FOREST HEALTH IN THE ERA OF MEGAFIRES



Dr Tom Fairman

University of Melbourne

Abstract

Since 2000, bushfires have burned more forest in south-eastern Australia than the previous 50 years combined. This has resulted in a wide range of forest types - from

low elevation mixed species forests to snow gum forests at the peak of the alps - being burned by high severity fire more frequently than usual. In this presentation, I will survey what we know about these abrupt changes in fire frequency, what it means for forest health, and what we can do about it.

Presenter

Tom Fairman is a forest scientist who works in forest and fire science at The School of Agriculture, Food & Ecosystem Science at The University of Melbourne. His research interests relate to the role of fire in forest landscapes, and how forests can be managed and stewarded for health and resilience under climate change.

LINKING HEAT AND CROWN DIEBACK IN TREES



Prof Tim Brodribb

University of Tasmania

Abstract

Climate warming is often discussed as a contributing factor to high levels of forest dieback in recent years.

In this talk I will explain the connection between

atmospheric heat, drying and the process of tree failure.

I will introduce new techniques for monitoring the "pulse" of trees and predicting canopy damage based on daily cycles of tissue collapse.

Presenter

Prof Tim Brodribb is a plant physiologist who has worked in Tasmania, US, Europe and Central America on plant response to drought. He is currently working as Professor at UTAS where I am node leader of the Centre of Excellence in Plant Success, a large research centre aimed at improving plant resilience by understanding how plants adapt to drought.

FOREST HEALTH SURVEILLANCE, WHY BOTHER?



Dr Danielle Wiseman

Plantation Health Collaborative

Abstract

Forest Health Surveillance is a formal inspection process undertaken by trained personnel. The aim is to identify areas of damage or

substandard tree growth, identify the cause to enable prompt remedial action where possible. Insects, pathogens, nutritional disorders, poor silviculture, droughts and storms, or even accidental overspray with herbicides can affect tree health and growth. This talk will outline why forest health surveillance is important to maintain a vibrant and sustainable forestry sector, how we could improve programs in Australia and the challenges of maintaining surveillance programs.

Presenter

Dr Danielle Wiseman is currently coordinating the Industry Plantation Management Group (IPMG) in Western Australia. The IPMG works with its eight industry partners to collaboratively undertake research projects which benefit plantation

management. Danielle has a short attention span or possibly gypsy blood, this has led to her working in multiple plantation species including Indian sandalwood, Teak and Red Mahogany in the tropics, Hoop Pine and eucalypt hybrids in the subtropics, as well as Blue gums and Pines in the temperate areas. Danielle has also had a stint as manager of Weeds, Pests and Diseases for conservation reserves in Western Australia from 2015-2019.

PLENARY 5

SESSION 3: ABORIGINAL FOREST MANAGEMENT AND CARING FOR COUNTRY

INDIGENOUS NATURE REPAIR: HEALTHY FORESTS, HEALTHY COMMUNITIES AND HEALTHY PEOPLE



Rachael Cavanagh

Balun Budjabin Consultancy

Presenter

Rachael is a Minyungbal mibbiny from the Yugambeh Nation of Northern NSW and South east QLD. Rachael has a graduate in Health and a post graduate diploma in Natural

and Cultural resource management. Bringing over a decade of senior executive experience in partnership building, strategic planning, community consultation and policy development; extensive networks across all levels of government, community and business; a demonstrated ability to build collaborative vision; as well as strong cultural foundations.

At Rachael's essence, she is a mother, a carer, and valued community member. Professionally Rachael is a facilitator, broker and connector. Her foundations lie in building relationships, trust and rapport before business.

Rachael's work is underpinned by her longstanding, genuine and meaningful relationships within First Nations communities across Australia and internationally. These collaborations within First Nations communities have increased genuine investment and awareness of the important role that First Nations Women and communities hold within the Environment and Climate sectors.

Rachael believes First Nations people are the greatest asset to our Country, especially in the current global climate. Rachael is committed to creating genuine relationships with communities to help support them as world leaders in Whole of Country.

ASSESSMENT OF NOONGAR CULTURAL VALUES TO INFORM FOREST MANAGEMENT



Myles Mitchell and Elder Phillip Ugle

Abstract

The Noongar people have carefully managed the forests of south-west Western Australia for thousands of generations. The intricate knowledge systems developed during this time can be used as a framework for assessing forest health and the effectiveness of forest management techniques from a Traditional Owner's perspective. Our project looked at different forestry treatment areas and sought a Noongar view of standards and indicators for forest management to deliver healthy forests through 'listening to Country'.

Presenters

Myles Mitchell is a consulting anthropologist and archaeologist specialising in land management and cultural planning. Much of his work is with First Nations communities, focused on understanding how Aboriginal values and knowledge systems can be applied to contemporary land management.

Phillip Ugle Snr is a Noongar Elder and knowledge holder from Collie in Western Australia. Having grown up among the jarrah marri forests of the south west, Phillip has an intricate knowledge of forest ecosystems, and Noongar perspectives on forest management.

SPEAKERS AND ABSTRACTS

CONCURRENT SESSION 1 - BIODIVERSITY

FOREST RESILIENCE UNDER CLIMATE CHANGE: ARE WE READY FOR PLANNED ADAPTATION?



Dr Elizabeth Pryde

Greening Australia

Abstract

Australia's forests are facing increasing threats from climate change, with Alpine Ash forests standing as a critical example of ecosystems already at risk. As temperatures rise and extreme

fires become more frequent, these forests struggle to regenerate, posing risks not only to biodiversity but to the ecosystem services they provide. Planned adaptation offers a proactive approach to addressing these challenges, but how do we do it, and is now

the time to implement it? Our Alpine Ash climate-adjusted seed project illustrates both the potential of such strategies and the barriers that must be overcome, from social, supply and logistical constraints to ecological complexities. If we want resilient forests in the future, we need to prioritise proactive solutions today.

Presenter

Dr. Elizabeth Pryde has worked broadly as a conservation scientist in academia, native forestry, NRM, and state government throughout Australia and Oceania. She has a background in conservation genetics, forestry and forest ecology, threatened species management, and agricultural restoration. Liz has extensive experience managing conservation research projects and is passionate about applying science to inform management decisions that are most effective at addressing environmental problems. Liz's current work with Greening Australia focuses on scaling up impact in the restoration sector to contribute to solutions that address the many challenges faced by our country's ecosystems and the biodiversity that depends upon them.

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BIODIVERSITY MONITORING PROGRAM



Chris Slade

Forestry Corp NSW

Abstract

A cross-coastal NSW State Forests monitoring program has been initiated under the Coastal Integrated Operations Approval (CIFOA). This program is monitoring

biodiversity using remote cameras, sound recorders and ultrasonic sound recorders for echo-locating bats and compliments a long-term program that has been underway in the Pilliga for a decade. The program, under the guidance of an independent steering committee chaired by the NSW Natural Resources Commission commenced in 2022. A total of 600 sites have been established and will be sampled over a 5-year period. The program is developing approximately 30 TB of data per year with early results showing support for the multi-season sample design and high levels of naïve occupancy of a number of threatened species. Additional species-specific monitoring programs are also underway showing remarkable post 2019/2020 wildfire recovery. These programs are providing valuable data on occupancy of species which will allow for comparison against baseline data enabling adaptive management where appropriate and linkage to other tenure monitoring programs to assess the overall biodiversity health in forests in NSW.

Presenter

Chris studied an applied science degree at the University of Western Sydney, Hawkesbury and Natural Resources Management Masters at the UNE. His Masters project investigated the installation of grates at derelict mines to enable bats to continue to utilise these important roosting sites while keeping people out.

Chris has worked for Forestry Corporation of NSW (and its previously named organisations) since 1992. He took up the role of Regional Ecologist in Eden, for 10 years and then the mid north coast as the Regional Ecologist in 2007. Chris has been the Senior Ecologist for Hardwood Forests across NSW since 2014 and is now a member of the NSW Threatened Species Scientific Committee.

STANDARDISED APPROACH FOR MONITORING CHANGE IN VEGETATION QUALITY



David Bennett

PF Olsen

Abstract

Since 2011, PF Olsen has managed the in excess of 150,000ha of plantation assets on behalf of New Forests in the Green Triangle and south-west Western Australia. Integrated

within this estate is a further 25,000 hectares of remnant vegetation and temporal wetlands. Our client, the Forestry Investment Trust is investing in a long-term biodiversity improvement program. Central to this investment is quantifying the impact of the investment.

The vegetation remnants are scattered throughout landscapes that were cleared extensively for broad acre agriculture. The areas have been identified as priority landscapes in DCCEE's 2022 Nature Positive Plan. Enhancing the quality of the remnants has been identified as the most cost-effective method for improving biodiversity within the plantation asset.

The presentation will outline:

1. Challenges of monitoring vegetation quality in a standardised way across an estate that is scattered across four states and multiple bio regions.
2. The proposed approach.
3. Efforts to establish a broader community of interested groups who can adopt the approach and help establish a solid basis for demonstrating nature positive vegetation management.

Presenter

David is the Risk and Compliance Manager for PF Olsen in Australia. He is an experienced forester with qualifications in law. In recent years he has focused on developing strategies for quantifying and improving biodiversity within the plantation assets that PF Olsen manages. This includes implementing long-term birdlife surveys across large landscapes, engaging PhD students to identify opportunities for wildlife friendly forestry and establishing a long-term biodiversity Improvement plan in these landscapes.

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HEALTHY & RESILIENT FORESTS
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CONCURRENT SESSION 2 - HEALTHY FORESTS, DIVERSE, INCLUSIVE AND HEALTHY PEOPLE

FORESTS AND PSYCHOLOGICAL WELLBEING



Prof Kath Williams

University of Melbourne

Abstract

This presentation explores the links between healthy forests and the wellbeing of people, with a focus on psychological function. Forests shape human wellbeing through multiple pathways. As we envision new futures for forests and forestry in Australia, it's critical we do so with attention to how new approaches to forest policy and management might - or might not - promote psychological function. I draw on models of human environment interaction and social-ecological systems to explore the diverse factors that shape people's relationships with forests. I consider the potential positive and negative implications for wellbeing and highlight points of leverage for forest managers and policymakers to support the healthy people and healthy forests.

Presenter

Kathryn Williams is Professor (Environmental Psychology) at The University of Melbourne, School of Agriculture, Food and Ecosystem Sciences. Her research is in the environmental social sciences, focusing on the emotional, social and cognitive factors that shape experiences of nature, conservation behaviour, and perspectives on environmental policy and management.

IMPROVING ACCESSIBILITY FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES IN FOREST RESERVES IN PARTNERSHIP WITH OTHER AGENCIES



Yvette Eglington

National Parks and Wildlife Service SA, and ForestrySA

Abstract

There's overwhelming evidence that spending extended time outdoors has enormous health and wellbeing benefits. Contact with nature is critical for our physical, mental, social and spiritual health. Despite this evidence people with disabilities find it more difficult to access our natural environment, due to many barriers, yet they often have poorer health outcomes, which may benefit from time spent in nature. Barriers limiting people's ability to access nature and enjoy these benefits can include a combination of physical obstacles, a lack of information, or inadequate services.

Forest reserves in South Australia have increased in popularity proving they continue to be a highly valued community asset. It's vital we ensure these areas and the recreational opportunities they provide are readily accessible for everyone.

Recognising that people with disabilities comprise around 20% of the population, creating inclusive and accessible spaces is a critical component to connecting South Australian communities with nature for physical, mental, social and spiritual health and wellbeing.

Forest Reserves, along with National Parks, and Reservoir Reserves all provide important managed natural spaces for people to connect with and immerse themselves in nature.

Forestry SA, National Parks and Wildlife Service, and SA Water have partnered together to develop the Accessible Outdoors Program, a program dedicated to making the natural outdoors accessible to people with a disability. The program provides opportunities and activities that promote and enable a deeper connection to nature for people with disability.

Presenter

Yvie works for The Department for Environment and Water as Coordinator Access For All. Yvie's role is to ensure that national parks are accessible to all people. Part of this role has been to assist in developing programs and strategies to ensure that national parks can be accessed by people with disabilities. Yvie is passionate about using her experience to advocate for the rights of people with disability and ensuring that the world around us is accessible and inclusive to all people.

HEALTHY COMMUNITIES AND HEALTHY FORESTS



Dr Jacki Schirmer

University of Canberra

Abstract

It is well known that healthy forests contribute to healthy human communities. Increasingly, people are encouraged to spend time in forests to support their

personal wellbeing, with activities such as forest bathing growing rapidly in popularity. However, less well understood are the more complex ways the wellbeing of communities and forests are interlinked. This presentation will explore the many and varied ways the health of humans and forests influence each other – and the tensions that can emerge when we demand forests support human wellbeing in the short-term without understanding potential long-term consequences for forest health. Examples to be examined include wellbeing benefits of nature connection; how commercial forests support community functioning in forest-industry dependent communities; and what happens to human wellbeing when the health of forests declines or forests are lost in major events such as bushfire. The presentation will conclude by discussing approaches to more holistically understanding the linkages between human and forest wellbeing and how forest managers can support positive outcomes for both.

Presenter

Jacki Schirmer is Director of the Centre for Environmental Governance at the University of Canberra, and leads the Regional Wellbeing Survey, an annual survey examining the views of 15,000 rural, regional and urban Australians about the liveability and resilience of their community, and their own wellbeing and resilience. Jacki's research focuses on understanding the social dimensions of natural resource management and resilience to extreme climatic events, particularly how people's access to and use of natural resources affects their health and wellbeing. Her work in recent years has focused on (i) understanding wellbeing, resilience and recovery amongst communities experiencing cumulative extreme weather events and disasters, (ii) examining how to achieve greater adoption of pro-environmental behaviours, particularly in agriculture; (iii) analysing the social impacts of changes in management of natural resources such as forests, fisheries and water on workers and rural communities, and (iv) understanding the factors that drive conflict over natural resource management and which affect social acceptability of environmental policy and practice.

IN THE EYES OF BEHOLDERS: HOW WORLDVIEW INFLUENCES DEFINITION OF HEALTHY FORESTS



Rebecca Ford

University of Melbourne

Abstract

The term 'Healthy forest' is a focal point for conversations about future forests in part because it holds meaning for people who have diverse interests in forests. However,

the meanings evoked by the term differ. Three such meanings, healthy forest as a goal for adaptive management, as a cultural concept akin to 'naturalness', and as 'Healthy Country', position humans very differently in relation to forests, as managers, as separate from, or as integral to forests. With colleagues at The University of Melbourne, such nuances in people's thinking about forests were explored through the concept of social representations. These are systems of values, beliefs, norms and practices that people draw on as they respond to new situations such as policy shifts or climate change. We held focus group discussions with members of interest groups and a survey of residents of Victoria to characterize social representations. Four were identified and named for the human-forest relationships which helped define them: Shaping forests; Partnering forests; Defending forests; and Relating forests and society. Each was associated with a state or dynamic that people expected forests to be in, varying from highly managed to unmanaged old growth. The findings indicate how definitions of 'healthy forest' may relate to worldviews, however further research is needed to fully describe different definitions and the commonalities and differences among them. In conclusion, professionals should not assume their understanding of 'healthy forest' will be shared by other stakeholders. This study suggests entry points for opening up conversations to explore different definitions, such as asking people 'how are you connected to the forest; how do you relate to it; and what kind of forest do you have in mind?'

Presenter

Rebecca Ford is an honorary senior fellow at The University of Melbourne and an adjunct researcher at Tribhuvan University, Nepal. She draws on psychological and interdisciplinary frameworks to study people and their interactions with forests and forest and fire management by observing aspects such as values, human-forest relationships, social licence, institutions and decision-making.

Careers at OneFortyOne

OneFortyOne operates throughout the Green Triangle region of Australia and the Nelson, Tasman and Marlborough regions of New Zealand (Top of the South).

From foresters (like Lily, pictured), environmental planners, engineers, sawmill technology specialists and scientists, to human resources, finance, marketing, and legal experts - our people are the reason for our success and we are passionate about being a great place to work.

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CONCURRENT SESSION 3 - TECHNOLOGY, INNOVATION & LATEST RESEARCH

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AI CAMERA TECHNOLOGY FOR BUSHFIRE DETECTION



Mike Lawson

SFMES

Abstract

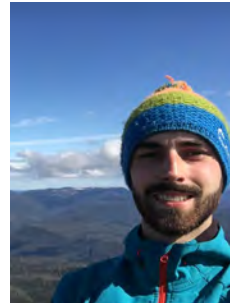
This presentation will discuss the rapid growth of AI technology and its application to fire management for forest growers and regional communities. We will look at

how the technology works, how fire management teams engage with the technology, and how it can be integrated into existing systems. The presentation will also explore how commercial forest growers are utilising this technology today to better improve early fire detection and response.

Presenter

Mike is the Chief Operating Officer for SFMES, a privately owned forest management business with operations in Tasmania, Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia. Mike has extensive experience in AI technology used for bushfire detection in both Southern Tasmania and the Green Triangle. Mike held the position of Chair for the Green Triangle Fire Alliance (GTFA) in 2023 and was a member of the steering committee charged with the roll out of cameras across south-east South Australia and south-west Victoria.

BROWSING MANAGEMENT IN A CHANGING LANDSCAPE: A GLOBAL ANALYSIS OF NON-LETHAL MAMMAL BROWSING CONTROL



James Grimdsdale

University of Tasmania

Abstract

Stakeholders are becoming increasingly averse to the lethal control of pest mammals in forestry landscapes. As such, there is a growing call to reduce and eventually cease the lethal

control of browsing mammals and replace those methods with non-lethal alternatives. To make this transition without a reduction in control efficacy and then maintain high efficacy into the future we require knowledge to immediately implement the optimal non-lethal control methods for any current setting, and also provide a framework for developing effective, novel, non-lethal control methods going forward. This study used a meta-analytical approach of 2,795 effect sizes from 156 literature sources to summarise the global literature on non-lethal control of browsing mammals in forest systems. Results show that across different experimental scales there is significant variation in the efficacy of different non-lethal control methods to reduce mammal browsing. Stakeholder groups acknowledge exclusion fencing as the gold standard for non-lethal mammal control but in this study it did not perform best at any spatial scale, with results showing that alternative non-lethal control measures such as tree guards and repellents were just as successful at reducing browsing damage. The framework that can be constructed using these results will guide the implementation of optimal non-lethal browsing control in a range of growing scenarios as well as identify gaps in our collective knowledge that can be filled by further research.

Presenter

Jamie is a PhD candidate in the ARC Centre for Forest Value and the Behavioural and Evolutionary Ecology Research Group at the University of Tasmania. His research centres on the management of browsing mammals: both investigating novel management methods and identifying the current tools which work best in different scenarios. Using a combination of field experiments, modelling of historic browsing data and meta-analyses he aims to develop tools that will guide future mammal browsing management approaches as stakeholder pressure changes the production forestry landscape.

IS LOSS OF FOREST RESEARCH CAPACITY A FURPHY?



Dr Jim O'Hehir

*Forestry Centre of Excellence,
University of South Australia*

Abstract

Much has been made of the decline in Australian forest research capacity over the last 2 decades and consequently government and industry

funding and effort is going into redressing the decline. But what future research challenges can be anticipated and what skill sets are needed to address them? What are the implications for the forestry profession?

Presenter

Jim has spent 40 years in the plantation forest industry, beginning in 1984 with the Woods and Forests Department/Department of Primary Industries and later at ForestrySA in executive and senior technical roles, and Board and Chair positions at Tree Breeding Australia. He started working as General Manager of Forest Research at UniSA in Mount Gambier in 2018 and the Forestry Centre of Excellence in 2024.

Jim initiated and has been involved in research projects including all major plantation growers and sawn timber manufacturers nationally. UniSA has mostly led or been a research partner in 13 NIFPI projects and 19 FWPA over the last 6 years.

Jim established the Mount Gambier Centre for the National Institute for Forest Products Innovation. He has also published papers, chaired seminars and workshops and presented at conferences both internationally and locally.

Jim has qualifications in forest science, including a Bachelor of Science (Forestry) from ANU and a Master of Forest Science and PhD from The University of Melbourne.



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For more than 40 years, Indufor has provided independent, robust advice to a broad range of public and private sector clients worldwide. Based on deep sectoral expertise and analytical rigour, our advice covers sectoral strategy, policy, forest valuation and due diligence, climate change and sustainability frameworks.

SPEAKERS AND ABSTRACTS

AUSTRALIAN FOREST AND WOOD INNOVATIONS – SUPPORTING TRANSFORMATIONAL INNOVATION ACROSS THE NATIONAL FORESTRY AND FOREST PRODUCT VALUE CHAIN



Dr Dean Williams

Australian Forest and Wood Innovations

Abstract

Australian Forest and Wood Innovations (AFWI), has been given the resources and the direction to lift innovation and research delivered to the

Australian forestry and forest products industries, to bring about transformational change. With \$100 million in cash contributed by the Federal Government, and close engagement with our industries, we are already seeing opportunities to deliver change come to life. The delivery of AFWI outcomes has a focus on people, those who deliver research and those that benefit from the positive change it brings. AFWI has a mandate to

build Australia's research capacity and capability in forestry and forest products by investing in new researchers, with fresh outlooks and ideas that will help to sustainably grow these industries and provide benefits to communities across Australia. This presentation provides an overview of AFWI structure, how it functions and an update on its activities, since it was officially launched in March 2024.

Presenter

Dean is currently the Interim Director of Australian Forest and Wood Innovations (AFWI) based at UTas, leading the implementation of AFWI.

Prior to joining UTas in 2023, Dean was employed for 20 years by Sustainable Timber Tasmania/ Forestry Tasmania in various roles including Forest Management Services Manager, where he was leading the organisation's diverse research program and delivering award winning innovation.

Dean has a Bachelor's Degree with Honours, a PhD in forestry and an MBA, all from UTas.

Dean has a passion for applied collaborative research to deliver positive change, all along the forestry and forest products value chain.

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- *Sustainability and Community*

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CONCURRENT SESSION 4 - CARBON METHODS AND ACTIVE MANAGEMENT

TOWARDS FULL CARBON ACCOUNTING FOR FORESTS



Rob Waterworth

FLINTpro

Abstract

There is a growing public recognition that climate change and the decline in the state of the world's natural assets is reaching a critical point. Less recognised is the

role of natural assets in providing products and resources that can help reverse this trend (also known as the 'bioeconomy'). Forestry is one of the few examples where nature and the bioeconomy, without using these words, has been operating for decades if not more. As such, it is well placed to play a key role in the transition required to meet the challenges of the . But to do this requires a more complete understanding of the role of forests and forest products in carbon and nature, so the win-wins and trade-offs are well understood. Key to this is the growing number of voluntary and compulsory programs for reporting impact on climate and nature, and legislation aiming to address issues such as deforestation.

This presentation will cover the core components of more complete carbon accounting and reporting for forests, the current reporting needs being outlined in legislation and guidance and the opportunities and challenges this represents for forestry in the coming decade.

Presenter

Robert is the co-founder and Chief Science, Policy and Innovation Officer at FLINTpro where he has led the development of FLINTpro, the world's first SaaS-based system designed to maximize the utility of models, spatial data and satellite products for land sector reporting. Rob has over 25 years of experience in land sector monitoring systems across the private sector, academia, and state and federal governments. This has given him a profound understanding of the intricacies involved designing and building technical systems to meet policy and reporting needs. He is a sought after expert and is an IPCC lead author, UNFCCC expert reviewer and has authored numerous peer-reviewed papers and guidelines, including the upcoming land sector guidance for the Greenhouse Gas Protocol.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR FORESTRY IN THE ACCU SCHEME



Dr Fabiano Ximenes

*Department of Primary
Industries and Regional
Development, NSW*

Abstract

The Australian forest industry can contribute to climate mitigation in a variety of ways. However there has been

limited opportunity for the sector to contribute to abatement under the domestic carbon market. The Federal Government has changed the model for method development for participation in the Australian Carbon Credits Units (ACCU) Scheme to a "proponent-led methodology" approach. This will provide industry with an opportunity to propose additional methodologies and variations to existing ones.

In a recent FWPA-funded project, a group of national forestry carbon experts was convened to discuss the range of options for the forest sector to engage with the new approach. The options included changes to the existing Plantation Forestry method to enable greater take-up, and the development of new methodologies. The various options were discussed taking into account the offset integrity standards and Scheme principles as defined in the interim guidelines, as well as other criteria of direct relevance to the industry. This talk will discuss the outcomes of the workshop, also in light of the recent first round of EOI method proposals.

Presenter

Dr. Fabiano Ximenes is a Senior Research Scientist at the DPI Forest Science Unit, with a research focus on wood products, biomass, bioenergy and carbon. Fabiano has worked in various aspects of forest greenhouse accounting for over twenty years, both in plantations and native forests. Fabiano was one of lead authors of the IPCC 2013 Revised Supplementary Methods and Good Practice Guidance Arising from the Kyoto Protocol (Harvested Wood Products chapter).

SPEAKERS AND ABSTRACTS

CARBON FARMING FOR HEALTHY FORESTS



Zoe Ryan

Climate Friendly

Abstract

It is now over a decade since Australian forests and woodlands have been eligible to generate carbon offsets that help meet Government emission reduction targets.

This presentation examines the state of play of Australian carbon markets, based on historical and emerging trends impacting forest growers' access to carbon markets. The analysis responds to questions such as "what type of forest carbon projects are eligible?", "who is buying Australian Carbon Credit Units (ACCUs), and at what price?", "what is a typical size project in terms of ACCU generation?", "how big should a project be to cover transaction costs?", and "how will emerging trends such as carbon neutrality, natural capital, social license of carbon farming, and the Integrated Farm and Land Management method affect the carbon market."

Presenter

Zoe Ryan has twenty years of experience working and researching land-based carbon abatement opportunities, both in Australia and internationally.

For the past seven years, Zoe has worked at Climate Friendly, which is one of Australia's largest and longest established carbon farming service providers, with more than 150 projects registered under the Australian Government ACCU scheme. Zoe manages teams responsible for the due diligence and auditing of Climate Friendly's carbon farming projects, and is also responsible for planning the rollout of the Integrated Farm and Land Management method within Climate Friendly. Previously at Climate Friendly, Zoe managed the Business Development team which was responsible for assessment of new project types under the Emissions Reduction Fund, and value-added services such as natural capital and carbon neutrality.

Prior to joining Climate Friendly, Zoe was the Forest Carbon Specialist for the FFI/Macquarie Carbon Forests Taskforce, where she was responsible for technical oversight of a portfolio of Reduce Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD) carbon projects located in Asia-Pacific and South America.



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NATIVE REGROWTH THINNING IN TASMANIA – THE LIGHT ON THE HILL



Michael Schofield

Midway Tasmania

Abstract

This presentation gives a brief history of time, tracks MWT learning, partnerships with stakeholders, promoting value, including the potential for carbon, and a narrative of

healthy and resilient forests into the future.

Midway is a well-established forest company founded in Geelong Victoria in 1980 and has since diversified with interests throughout Australia.

Midway Tasmania (MWT) was established in September 2018. This required imagination and courage as the business model focused on the opportunity in thinning native forest regrowth on public land and multi-aged native forest on private land. MWT has secured wood supply contracts with forest managers and owners, worked closely with contractors that have invested in high tech equipment, constructed a purpose-built woodchip mill at Bell Bay, established markets for high quality export woodchip and domestic sawlog sales, achieved Responsible Wood and Forest Stewardship Council certification for native forest in Tasmania and worked closely with stakeholders to ensure harvesting and forest management is contemporary and is communicated and shared with them.

Presenter

Michael Schofield is a forester.

He currently works for Midway Tasmania as the Resource and Sustainability Manager and has been involved in native forest thinning, plantations, carbon and forest certification.

Michael has a Bachelor of Science (Forestry) and a Postgraduate Certificate in Wildlife Management. He has 25 years' experience in forest management in Tasmania, Victoria and Thailand working in operational, regulatory, community forestry and certification roles.

He flipped a coin on studying marine science or forest science in 1992, the coin landed on marine science, but he ended up a forester.

CONCURRENT SESSION 5 - HEALTHY FORESTS, HEALTHY FARMS AND AGRICULTURAL LANDSCAPES

STRATEGIES FOR HEALTHY AND RESILIENT AGROFORESTRY LANDSCAPES



Rowan Reid

Bambra Agroforestry Farm

Abstract

In 1993, a small group of landholders formed a new type of Landcare group in southern Victoria. We called it the Otway Agroforestry Network. Agroforestry, for us, was the

establishment and management of trees on farms for the reasons that were important to farmers. This definition was critical in shifting the focus of farm forestry R&D from trying to change farmers in the hope that they would grow the forests that government, industry or NGOs wanted, to changing forestry itself, so it reflected the needs, aspirations and opportunities of those that choose to call themselves farmers.

From day one we rejected the standard approach of using publicly funded cost-share grants to pay for trees and fences or establish demonstration sites. If trees were to be planted, they would be funded by the landholders themselves or in partnership with family, off-farm investors or industry. The public money we have been able to raise—more than several million dollars to date—has been invested in people through community networking, education and training, peer mentoring, research, industry development and advocacy.

We think the results have been extraordinary in changing both landscape and culture, and directly challenge the R&D strategies commonly adopted by governments and NGOs to promote tree growing on farms, whether they be for conservation or profit. However, despite our successes, we now worry that our work is at risk of being undermined by the policies, incentives and actions of some government agencies and industry players.

Presenter

Rowan (B.For.Sci. & M.For.Sci.) is a forester amongst farmers. He won the Australian Eureka Prize for his farmer course (The Australian Master TreeGrower), which he continues to deliver around Australia and internationally to support farmer and community forestry programs in Africa, Timor Leste, Indonesia, Vanuatu and other countries.

SPEAKERS AND ABSTRACTS

He is the originator of a subject in agroforestry at Melbourne University (1991) and has supervised many graduate students.

Most importantly, Rowan is also a farmer and tree grower in his own right, with a family farm in the Otway Ranges of southern Victoria and a founder of one of Australia's most successful Landcare groups, the Otway Agroforestry Network. More than 12,000 visitors have toured his Bambra Agroforestry Farm, which is set up as a 42-hectare outdoor classroom for farmers, scientists, students and tree lovers, and a living laboratory for his own learning.

Currently Rowan is working full time on his farm growing, harvesting, milling and drying timber and building a new family home. His latest book is "Heartwood - the art and science of growing trees for conservation and profit".

PRODUCTIVITY AND CARBON BENEFITS OF INTEGRATING TREES INTO FARMING SYSTEMS



Dr Rachele Meyer

Trees on Farms Project

Abstract

This research aims to quantify the productivity benefits of integrating trees into livestock systems in southeast Australia, assist graziers in incorporating information into planting decisions and ease the implementation process. These aims address current research gaps and challenges identified by farmers that increase uncertainty and hinder tree planting. This project used a case study modelling approach to address the aims. The results provide a better understanding of the benefits and risks associated with integrating trees into farm enterprises. When tree plantings replaced pasture that could carry 9 DSE/ha, rates of return varied from 4% to 10% depending on the frequency and severity of extreme conditions, effectiveness of shelter, carbon auditing costs, and revenue from timber. Replacing higher quality

What would you like to take a closer look at?

Sustainable Timber Tasmania has created a website to share information about what we do as manager of public production forests.

We'd also like to understand what parts of our operations and forest management activities you would like more information on.

Visit takeacloserlooksttas.com.au to learn more.



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pasture resulted in lower rates of return. The large difference in the impact of shelter on productivity at the two sheep case sites is due to the extent to which the animals at the sites are exposed to conditions that lead to lamb mortality. On the site with less exposure to wind, timber revenue provided a substantial portion of the return on investment. The results highlight that farmers can customise tree planting configurations based on their situation and objectives. Outputs from the project support improvements in farm profitability, resilience and sustainability.

Presenter

Rachelle Meyer's research interests focus on climate change mitigation and adaptation in the land sector, particularly agriculture. She completed her PhD in 2017. For her thesis, she used a whole-farm system model to address the climate change adaptation and mitigation potential of soil carbon in grazing systems of western Victoria, including modelling the impacts of climate change on soil carbon stocks. Dr. Meyer recently completed a project using a case study approach to investigate the mitigation potential and productivity benefits of integrating trees into farming systems.

CREATING LANDSCAPES WHICH ARE BOTH PRODUCTIVE AND ECOLOGICALLY RESILIENT



Krista Patterson-Majoor

Cassinia Environmental

Abstract

Cassinia Environmental is a land management company with proven results in wilderness protection, ecological restoration, regenerative agriculture and

social investment. Cassinia Environmental is also the Victorian Government's key delivery partner for the private land stream of BushBank.

The Victorian Government's BushBank program is addressing climate change and supporting native wildlife as it restores more than 20,000 hectares of land across Victoria. Millions of native trees and shrubs will be planted to capture carbon and create healthy habitat.

BushBank provides a unique opportunity for private landowners to play a meaningful role in landscape restoration, leaving a legacy for generations to come. Landowners will be supported to undertake revegetation projects and access carbon markets with financial incentives paid over several years. Sites are permanently protected and ongoing stewardship support provided through a Trust for Nature conservation covenant.

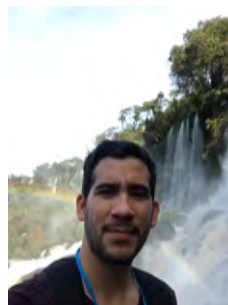
Cassinia's BushBank team is currently developing projects in partnership with landowners, securing co-funding from project partners, and has already started implementing revegetation over 3,000 hectares.

Krista will share how the BushBank private land stream can help landowners, businesses, groups and networks achieve their landscape restoration goals - and participate in the most ambitious restoration program in Victoria's history.

Presenter

Krista has had a long career in environmental management in Victoria, ranging from planting thousands of native plants on farms with young people to developing state-wide policy. She has worked for community-based organisations, as well as local and state government. Her favourite thing is to see local projects come to fruition that make a difference to the landscapes and the people and creatures that live in them. This has been made more real than ever in her current role as BushBank Project Manager with Cassinia Environmental. In her spare time, Krista volunteers with Landcare and explores wild places with her family in all sorts of adventurous ways.

RECENT ADVANCES IN QUEENSLAND'S SILVOPASTORAL SYSTEMS



Dr Nahuel Pachas

Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries

Abstract

Silvopastoral systems present a viable option for enhancing productivity and profitability for extensive beef grazing operations in Queensland.

Recent research in Queensland and northern New South Wales has focused on understanding the benefits of integrating commercial tree species, both hardwood and softwood, into farms, particularly within private native forests. Since 2021, over 14 experimental sites covering more than 900 hectares have been established. In private native forest, sustainable management practices, such as thinning, have shown to improve tree growth and pasture productivity. Integration of commercial trees on farm has been evaluated using alternative planting configurations, like double and triple rows with 10-20 m alleys, seems to provide a good balance between tree-pasture interactions, enabling cattle to graze in the alleys shortly after planting, facilitated by low-cost electric fencing. Biodiversity impacts have been compared between open pastures and silvopastoral systems, and animal productivity and behaviour have been monitored at two sites.

SPEAKERS AND ABSTRACTS

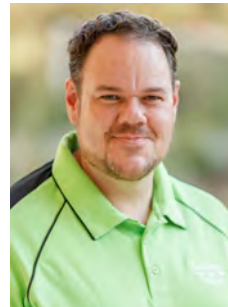
Overall, silvopastoral systems offer a promising strategy for graziers to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through carbon sequestration while maintaining high livestock productivity.

Presenter

Dr Nahuel Pachas is a senior research scientist from Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (QDAF) with more than 15 years of international experiences in agroforestry in South America and southeast Asia (3 years in Lao PDR) and over 10 years of experience in Australia. He is the project leader of the Steak n Wood project co-funded by Meat and Livestock Australia and QDAF which is focused on demonstrating livestock productivity and environmental service benefits of trees on farm in northern systems. He has also undertaken silvopastoral trials of commercial pine systems in North Queensland with a focus on integrating livestock and timber production. In the last 10 years, he published over 20 peer-reviewed papers and co-authored book chapters and more than 40 publications in proceeding conferences.

CONCURRENT SESSION 6 - FORESTRY, ART, HISTORY & CREATIVITY

PLAY IN NATURE – CULTIVATING CONNECTION FOSTERING HEALTHY PEOPLE



Daniel Burton

Educated by Nature

Abstract

This presentation explores the vital role of play in nature for cultivating connection and fostering healthy, resilient people. Grounded in Deep Nature Connection and Nature

Pedagogy, we delve into how unstructured play in wild spaces encourages deep connections—within ourselves, with others, and with the environment. By embracing playful exploration, risk-taking, and curiosity, we not only nurture healthier individuals but also inspire a sense of stewardship for our forests. Participants will discover practical strategies to



Technical Forest Services is a renowned forestry service provider with a distinguished 20-year legacy in serving the diverse needs of the Australian forestry industry. With a steadfast commitment to safety, confidentiality, and honesty, TFS has become a trusted name. We pride ourselves on offering a wide

range of services while harnessing modern technology to deliver innovative solutions. Our dedicated team of professionals specialize in resource assessment, quality assurance, research trials, fire fighting, controlled burning and many other independent third party services.

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Confidentiality Guaranteed – We understand the sensitive nature of forestry data and take stringent measures to safeguard our clients' information. Our data management practices, including secure storage and controlled access, ensure the utmost protection of your confidential information.

Honesty and Integrity – The cornerstones of our business philosophy. We believe in open and transparent communication with our clients, fostering trust through every interaction. Our commitment to honesty extends to our pricing, project timelines, and deliverables, ensuring a relationship built on trust.

Resource Assessment – Our experts conduct thorough assessments of forest resources to ensure our clients have the best information available at their fingertips.

Quality Assurance – We maintain the highest quality standards in all aspects of our services ensuring clients receive top-tier results.

Research Trial Establishment – Specializing in the implementation, and monitoring of forestry research trials, contributing to advancements in the industry.

Fire Fighting and Burning – Fire management, suppression, controlled burning techniques, aiding in the preservation of forests and minimizing wildfire risks.

Technology – We embrace cutting-edge technology (Hovermap, Resitool, Drones) incorporating Geographic Information Systems (GIS), remote sensing, and data analytics to enhance the precision and efficiency of our operations.

Dedicated to exceeding client expectations. We take pride in delivering high-quality, cost-effective solutions that align with sustainable practices. Our unwavering commitment to client satisfaction has forged enduring partnerships with a wide array of clients, including commercial forestry enterprises, private landowners, and government agencies. We acknowledge the vital role forests play in mitigating climate change and preserving biodiversity. We are deeply committed to sustainable practices that balance economic growth with ecological conservation. When you choose Technical Forest Services, you choose excellence in forestry solutions, innovative technology, and a partner dedicated to sustainable practices.

create experiences that promote both human well-being and forest vitality. Together, we will explore how playful engagement in natural settings can shape resilient ecosystems, advocate for diverse land stewardship, and ensure a future where both people and forests can flourish.

Presenter

Daniel is the CEO and co-founder of Educated by Nature, a world leader in play-based nature education since its establishment in 2014. Daniel has a background as a qualified primary school teacher, education consultant, rites of passage facilitator and passionate nature connection mentor.

Daniel's passion for nature and commitment to holistic education shines through in his work. He combines current research with practical examples, drawing on a lifetime of learning and experience to provide comprehensive programs and transformative experiences for educators, parents, and children alike. Through Educated by Nature, Daniel continues to advocate for the importance of play and outdoor learning, empowering individuals to explore, discover, and thrive in nature's classroom.

FORESTS AS MEDICINE



Kerry Wailes

Forester and natural health practitioner

Abstract

As a child, Kerry recalls being drawn to forests as special places. She became a Forester and had many forest adventures in her 20's and 30's.

During this time, Kerry developed a love affair with *Melaleuca alternifolia* (Tea Tree) essential oil. It opened her eyes to the healing potential of Australian plants and she was keen to learn more. She found more information about Australian bush foods and medicines (and was known to experiment!)

Kerry qualified as a Clinical Aromatherapist in 2013 and now plays with more than 130 essential oils. However, surprisingly few of these oils come from Australian plants. Given that our forests were the apothecaries of the Indigenous peoples, it is likely that a vast, largely untapped resource awaits exploration.

An aspect of Forests as Medicine that has come to light more recently is Shinrin Yoku. This Japanese practice literally translates as 'Forest Bathing.' More than just a pleasant stroll in the bush, it involves sensory immersion, slowing down and mindfulness practices.

In Australia, this practice is better known as 'Forest Therapy'. Research has indicated multiple physical, mental and emotional benefits for participants.

Kerry's husband, Tony Fitzgerald, has been a ranger at Kinglake National Park (KNP) for the past 29 years. He is a qualified Forest Therapy Guide and has been facilitating 'Mindfulness Walks' in KNP for a number of years.

Together, Tony and Kerry offer the opportunity for participants to experience a Forest Therapy session on the Woowookarung Regional Park Field Trip.

Presenter

Kerry obtained a Bachelor of Forest Science Degree (Uni of Melbourne) in 1988. She worked as a Forester in the Mountain Ash forests of Toolangi and Noojee.

Kerry took a position as Tree Victoria Project Officer at Hamilton, Vic, assisting farmers to plant trees on their farms. She then became the City of Whittlesea's first Conservation Officer, from 1992-96.

From 1996, Kerry switched focus to natural healing arts. She became a Yoga Teacher, Massage Therapist, Clinical Aromatherapist and Emotional Freedom Technique practitioner and facilitator.

Kerry has a keen interest in the potential of our forests and plants to heal people.

FORESTRY IMAGERY & HOW PEOPLE RESPOND



Mike Ryan

Senior Project Officer, Forest Ecology

Abstract

Early Colonial artwork can provide a helpful insight into the nature and structure of the forests of South-Eastern Australia before the changes

that occurred following European Colonisation. I explored this early artwork to understand what was the nature of our wet forests, damp forests, dry forests and riparian forests.

To assess accuracy of early paintings I re-visited many of the sites depicted, found original sketches to compare the final painting with the original sketch, and in many cases I found and photographed the original locations. This allowed comparing the species depicted, the topography and whether they were an accurate reproduction of the landscape or were elements exaggerated or a fabrication. The results showed that most were accurate, some were exaggerated, and a few were fabricated.

Importantly this artwork can help answer a number of questions: What was the nature and the structure of the forests prior to European's disruption to traditional custodian management? What did these painting show of traditional custodian management? How was fire depicted? What did artwork show about how people valued forests and how is that changing with time?

SPEAKERS AND ABSTRACTS

Finally how can this early artwork assist in contemporary management and especially restoring over-cleared parts of the landscape?

Presenter

Michael is now a Forest Ecologist with DEECA. He was the former Forest Scientist for VicForests where his key areas were native forest silviculture especially how to adapt silviculture to meet other land management objectives for water, wildlife or wildfire management. He did a Forestry Degree at Melbourne University then after working as a forester in Regional Victoria and then for the Commonwealth on RFAs he did his Masters of Forestry at ANU where his thesis was on whether Early Colonial Artwork provided an accurate guide to the forests and woodlands of South Eastern Australia.

THE IMPORTANCE OF PEOPLE AND THEIR STORIES



Mike Bleby

Freelance forester

Abstract

“Forestry is not about trees, it’s about people”. It was the FAO Forester Jack Westoby who famously said these words and those with a long career in Forestry know the truth of

that sentiment. Although he was referring to how trees and forests serve the needs of society, his quote is very fitting when considering the stories that grow to become forest history. It’s the interactions with people that are retained as memories, and it’s these stories that add to the social narratives of the forestry profession. Working lives and the bush are full of characters - forest workers, fallers, contractors, sawmillers, environmentalists. It’s through people that goals are achieved and the interesting part, is the journey.

The challenge is to capture and set down more of the stories in the professional memory so they are not lost.

Presenter

Michael graduated in Forestry from ANU in 1970 and worked in SA Radiata Pine industry for 40 years, in the South East, the mid-north of SA and the Mt Lofty Ranges. His career spanned all aspects of forest operations. He was District Forester at Mt Crawford and at Mt Burr during the extensive replanting of the 1983 Ash Wednesday fire area. Subsequently he worked in Operations Development, Harvesting and Sales, in the Green Triangle. After retiring he lectured in Forest Operations for Southern Cross University, served on the SE Natural Resources Board, and is a writer of Forestry memoirs.

PANEL: WHAT IS A HEALTHY FOREST?

PANELLISTS



Dr Tegan Brown

Fire researcher and member of Forestry Australia’s Forest Fire Management Committee

Tegan is a land manager and researcher working at the intersection of research, policy and implementation. Starting

her career as a Science Graduate with the Victorian government, Tegan has worked across a range of land and fire management areas including bushfire planning and recovery, forest policy and climate fire research. Tegan currently works as a Research Scientist with the Country Fire Authority (CFA) in Victoria.

Tegan completed a PhD at The University of Melbourne in 2022, and then a post-doctoral research fellowship at the US Forest Service’s Missoula Fire Lab, where she focused on physiology-based approaches to estimating flammability in living vegetation. Tegan is a forest firefighter and works in incident management as a Mapping Officer and trainee Fire Behaviour Analyst.



Rachael Cavanagh

Balun Budjabin Consultancy

Rachael is a Minyungbal mibbiny from the Yugambah Nation of Northern NSW and South east QLD. Rachael has a graduate in Health and a post graduate diploma in Natural and Cultural resource

management. Bringing over a decade of senior executive experience in partnership building, strategic planning, community consultation and policy development; extensive networks across all levels of government, community and business; a demonstrated ability to build collaborative vision; as well as strong cultural foundations.

At Rachael’s essence, she is a mother, a carer, and valued community member. Professionally Rachael is a facilitator, broker and connector. Her foundations lie in building relationships, trust and rapport before business.

Rachael’s work is underpinned by her longstanding, genuine and meaningful relationships within First Nations communities across Australia and internationally. These collaborations within First

Nations communities have increased genuine investment and awareness of the important role that First Nations Women and communities hold within the Environment and Climate sectors.

Rachael believes First Nations people are the greatest asset to our Country, especially in the current global climate. Rachael is committed to creating genuine relationships with communities to help support them as world leaders in Whole of Country.



Prof Lori Daniels

Department of Forest and Conservation Services, Forest Services Centre, Canada

Lori Daniels is the inaugural Koerner Chair of the Centre for Wildfire Coexistence and directs the Tree-Ring Lab at

UBC. Lori investigates the impacts of natural and human disturbances and climate change on forests. With her research team, she has on-going projects on wildfires, forest dynamics, and social-ecological resilience to climate change across British Columbia. Her enduring partnerships with local, provincial, and national governments, environmental organisations, forest management companies, community forests, and First Nations ensure her scientific advances are translated to active conservation, restoration and management. She is among the 150 Canadian Scientists recognised in 2017 for research shaping new frontiers and making our world a better place (#150Scientists). She was received the 2019 Canadian Institute of Forestry Scientific Achievement Award, 2022 Distinguished Career Award in Biogeography from Association of American Geographers, and 2023 Distinguished Leader in Research Award from the Association of Fire Ecologists.

Director General of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). During his 13 years with the IUCN, he helped establish the organisation's overall strategy and worked on a wide range of conservation issues in Africa, Asia, the Pacific and Latin America. Earlier in his career he worked on community forestry in Nepal and forest and fire management in New South Wales. His PhD focused on community forestry in Nepal.



Dr Michelle Freeman

President, Forestry Australia (currently on maternity leave)

Dr Michelle Freeman is a forester with a passion for native forest management. She has a double degree in Science (Ecology) and Forestry, and a PhD from the University of

Melbourne. Her PhD was in partnership with CSIRO Darwin looking at savanna fire and tree dynamics of northern Australia, as part of the Tiwi Carbon Study. She has worked in timber harvesting operations, planning, forest fire management and regulation in Victoria and NSW and is currently a forest science and management consultant.

Michelle is currently on maternity leave from her position as President of Forestry Australia. She is a Commissioner for International Agricultural Research; between 2014 – 2017 served as an Independent Council Member on the Federal Governments' Forest Industry Advisory Council and is a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.



Dr Bill Jackson

Acting President, Forestry Australia

Bill Jackson is an adjunct Professor with the Tropical Forest and People Research Centre of the University of the Sunshine Coast and an independent consultant with over 40 years' experience in

forest conservation and management, protected area management and community development.

Bill was the chief author for the Australia State of Environment Report 2016, and he held the positions of Chief Executive of Parks Victoria and Director of National Parks from late 2010 until mid-2015. Prior to his appointment to Parks Victoria, he was Deputy

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