

2024 Forestry Australia Symposium

Tuesday 29 to Thursday 31 October 2024 | Mercure Hotel & Convention Centre, Ballarat, Victoria

With thanks to the confirmed 2024 Symposium Sponsors:

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*Please note this program is subject to change.

Time	Tuesday 29 October	
07.00	Registration desk opens Convention Centre Foyer	
08.30 – 10.10	<p>Opening and Plenary Session #1 Convention Centre Jim Wilson, <i>Symposium Convenor</i> Jacquie Martin, <i>Forestry Australia</i></p> <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> <p>Keynote Speaker 2 Supporting the sustainable future of forestry Adam Fennessy, <i>Secretary, DAFF</i></p>	<p>Proudly supported by</p> 
10.10	Morning refreshments & trade exhibition Conservatory & Victoria Room	
10.40 – 11.15	<p>Plenary Session #2 Convention Centre Chair: Tracy Matthews</p> <p>Keynote Speaker 3 Healthy Forests from a diverse perspective Kirsha Kaechele, <i>Co-owner of MONA & sponsor of Forest Economics Congress</i></p>	
11.15 – 11.45 11.45 – 12.25	<p>Plenary Session #3 Convention Centre Chair: Blair Freeman</p> <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> <p>Session 1: Active forest management producing healthy forests</p>	<p>Proudly supported by</p> 



	<p>Refining timber harvesting and reservation approaches to maximise biodiversity outcomes A/Prof Sue Baker, <i>University of Tasmania</i></p> <p>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
13.30 – 14.50	<p>Session 2: Threats to healthy and resilient forests Convention Centre Chair: Paco Tovar</p> <p>New technology for controlling feral deer in forests: from the SA Feral Deer Eradication program and beyond Myall Tarran, <i>SA dept. Primary Industries and Regions</i></p> <p>Testing tolerance - forest health in the era of megafires Dr Tom Fairman, <i>University of Melbourne</i></p> <p>Linking heat and crown dieback in trees Prof Tim Brodribb, <i>University of Tasmania</i></p> <p>Forest Health Surveillance, why bother? Dr Danielle Wiseman, <i>Plantation Health Collaborative</i></p>
14.50 – 14.55	Major Sponsor Spotlight: Healthy Forests Foundation
14.55	Afternoon refreshments & trade exhibition Conservatory & Victoria Room
15.25 – 15.30	<p>Plenary Session 4 Convention Centre Chair: Prof Rod Keenan</p> <p>Richard Stanton Award Presented by Responsible Wood</p>
15.30 – 16.45	<p>Session 3: Aboriginal forest management and caring for Country</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Proudly supported by</i></p>



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	<p>Caring for Country Angeline Pool, <i>Wadawurrung Corporation</i></p> <p>Indigenous nature repair: Healthy forests, healthy communities and healthy people Rachael Cavanagh, <i>Balun Budjabin Consultancy</i></p> <p>Assessment of Noongar Cultural Values to Inform Forest Management Myles Mitchell and Elder Phillip Ugle</p>
17.00	Forestry Australia Annual General Meeting Convention Centre
18.00 – 20.00	<p>Welcome Reception & Trade Exhibition Conservatory & Victoria Room</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Proudly supported by</p> 

Time	Wednesday 30 October	
08.00	Registration desk opens Convention Centre Foyer	
	Concurrent Sessions	
09.00 – 09.20	<p>Concurrent 1 Convention Centre Biodiversity Chair: Suzette Weeding</p> <p>Forest Resilience under climate change: are we ready for planned adaptation? Dr Elizabeth Pryde, <i>Greening Australia</i></p>	<p>Concurrent 2 Eureka Ballroom Healthy forests, diverse, inclusive and healthy people Chair: Monique Blason</p> <p>Forests and psychological wellbeing Prof Kath Williams, <i>University of Melbourne</i></p>
09.20 – 09.40	<p>Biodiversity monitoring program Chris Slade, <i>Forestry Corp NSW</i></p>	<p>Improving accessibility for people with disabilities in forest reserves in partnership with other agencies Yvette Eglinton, <i>NPWSA and ForestrySA</i></p>
09.40 – 10.00	<p>Standardised approach for monitoring change in vegetation quality David Bennet, <i>PF Olsen</i></p>	<p>Regional Wellbeing Survey Dr Jacki Schirmer, <i>University of Canberra</i></p>

10.00 – 10.20	Nature Repair Markets	In the eyes of beholders: how worldview influences definition of healthy forests <i>Rebecca Ford, University of Melbourne</i>
10.20	Morning refreshments & trade exhibition Conservatory & Victoria Room	
10.50 – 11.10	Concurrent 3 Convention Centre Technology, Innovation & Latest Research Chair: Prof Julianne O'Reilly Wapstra <i>Proudly supported by</i>  AI camera technology for bushfire detection <i>Mike Lawson, SFMES</i>	Concurrent 4 Eureka Ballroom Carbon methods and active management Chair: Liam Costello <i>Proudly supported by</i>  Towards full carbon accounting for forests Rob Waterworth, FLINTpro
11.10 – 11.30	Browsing management in a changing landscape: a global analysis of non-lethal mammal browsing control Jamie Grimsdale, University of Tasmania	Opportunities for Forestry in the ACCU Scheme Dr Fabiano Ximenes, Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, NSW
11.30 – 11.50	Is loss of forest research capacity a furphy? Dr Jim O'Hehir, Forestry Centre of Excellence, University of South Australia	Carbon Farming for healthy forests Zoe Ryan, Climate Friendly
11.50 – 12.10	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	Native regrowth thinning in Tasmania Michael Schofield, Midway Tasmania
12.10	Lunch & trade exhibition Conservatory & Victoria Room	
13.10 – 13.30	Concurrent 5 Convention Centre Healthy forests, healthy farms and agricultural landscapes Chair: Emily Post Strategies for healthy and resilient agroforestry landscapes Rowan Reid, Bambra Agroforestry Farm	Concurrent 6 Eureka Ballroom Forestry, art, history & creativity Chair: David Dore Play in Nature – cultivating connection fostering healthy people Daniel Burton, Educated by Nature
13.30 – 13.50	Productivity and carbon benefits of integrating trees into farming systems Dr Rachelle Meyer, Trees on Farms Project	Forests as medicine Kerry Wailes, forester and natural health practitioner
13.50 – 14.10	Creating landscapes which are both productive and ecologically resilient	Forestry imagery & how people respond Mike Ryan, Senior Project Officer, Forest Ecology

	Krista Patterson-Majoer , <i>Cassinia Environmental</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	
15.00 – 16.30	Closing Plenary Session Convention Centre Chair: Bob Gordon Panel: What is a healthy forest? Dr Tegan Brown , <i>Foerst 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> Michelle Freeman , <i>President, Forestry Australia (currently on maternity leave)</i> FINAL REMARKS AND WRAP UP Jacquie Martin , <i>Forestry Australia</i> Dr Bill Jackson , <i>Acting President, Forestry Australia</i>	
18.30 – 22.00	SYMPOSIUM DINNER Sovereign Hill	<i>Proudly supported by</i> 

Thursday 31 October – Field Trips

8:00 – 16:30	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
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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 the 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.

PPE required: All participants are required to bring their own hi-vis, hard hat and closed toe shoes.

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.

Please note: This is a half day field trip (returning by lunch) and is limited to 20 people.

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 Melbourne University and retired research scientist John Kellas, and visit Barkstead and Bullarto before returning via Daylesford.