

2024 Forestry Australia Symposium

'Healthy and resilient forests for our future'

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

With thanks to the confirmed 2024 Symposium Sponsors:

Major Sponsors





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Other Sponsors & Exhibitors



*Please note this program is subject to change.


Time	Tuesday 29 October		
07.00	Registration desk opens Arrival tea & coffee		
08.30 – 10.10	<p>Opening and Plenary Session #1 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		
10.40 – 11.15	<p>Plenary Session #2</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</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>Refining timber harvesting and reservation approaches to maximise biodiversity outcomes A/Prof Sue Baker, <i>University of Tasmania</i></p>		<p>Proudly supported by</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
13.30 – 14.50	<p>Session 2: Threats to healthy and resilient forests</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
15.25 – 15.30	<p>Plenary Session 4</p> <p>Richard Stanton Award <i>Presented by Responsible Wood</i></p>
15.30 – 16.45	<p>Session 3: Aboriginal forest management and caring for Country</p> <p>Caring for Country Angeline Pool, <i>Wadawurrung Corporation</i></p>


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	<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
18.00 – 20.00	<p>Welcome Reception & Trade Exhibition</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Proudly supported by</i></p> 

Time	Wednesday 30 October	
08.00	Registration desk opens Arrival tea & coffee	
	Concurrent Sessions	
09.00 – 09.20	<p>Concurrent 1 Biodiversity</p> <p>Land biodiversity to support habitat for critically endangered species Dr Elizabeth Pryde, <i>Greening Australia</i></p>	<p>Concurrent 2 Healthy forests, diverse, inclusive and healthy people</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	<p>Nature Repair Markets Speaker to be confirmed</p>	<p>In the eyes of beholders: how worldview influences definition of healthy forests Rebecca Ford, <i>University of Melbourne</i></p>

10.20	Morning refreshments & trade exhibition	
10.50 – 11.10	<p>Concurrent 3 Technology, Innovation & Latest Research</p> <p><i>Proudly supported by</i></p>  <p>AI camera technology for bushfire detection Mike Lawson, <i>SFMES</i></p>	<p>Concurrent 4 Carbon methods and active management</p> <p><i>Proudly supported by</i></p>  <p>Towards full carbon accounting for forests Rob Waterworth, <i>FLINTpro</i></p>
11.10 – 11.30	<p>Browsing management in a changing landscape: a global analysis of non-lethal mammal browsing control James Grimsdale, <i>University of Tasmania</i></p>	<p>Opportunities for Forestry in the ACCU Scheme Dr Fabiano Ximenes, <i>Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, NSW</i></p>
11.30 – 11.50	<p>Is loss of forest research capacity a furphy? Dr Jim O’Hehir, <i>Forestry Centre of Excellence, University of South Australia</i></p>	<p>Carbon Farming for healthy forests Zoe Ryan, <i>Climate Friendly</i></p>
11.50 – 12.10	<p>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></p>	<p>Native regrowth thinning in Tasmania Michael Schofield, <i>Midway Tasmania</i></p>
12.10	Lunch & trade exhibition	
13.10 – 13.30	<p>Concurrent 5 Healthy forests, healthy farms and agricultural landscapes</p> <p>Strategies for healthy and resilient agroforestry landscapes Rowan Reid, <i>Bambra Agroforestry Farm</i></p>	<p>Concurrent 6 Forestry, art, history & creativity</p> <p>Play in Nature – cultivating connection fostering healthy people Daniel Burton, <i>Educated by Nature</i></p>
13.30 – 13.50	<p>Productivity and carbon benefits of integrating trees into farming systems Dr Rachelle Meyer, <i>Trees on Farms Project</i></p>	<p>Forests as medicine Kerry Wailes, <i>forester and natural health practitioner</i></p>
13.50 – 14.10	<p>Creating landscapes which are both productive and ecologically resilient Krista Patterson-Majoer, <i>Cassinia Environmental</i></p>	<p>Forestry imagery & how people respond Mike Ryan, <i>Senior Project Officer, Forest Ecology</i></p>
14.10 – 14.30	<p>Recent Advances in Queensland’s Silvopastoral Systems Dr Nahuel Pachas, <i>Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries</i></p>	<p>The importance of people and their stories Mike Bleby, <i>freelance forester</i></p>

14.30	Afternoon refreshments & trade exhibition	
15.00 – 16.30	<p>Closing Plenary Session</p> <p>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></p> <p>FINAL REMARKS AND WRAP UP Jacquie Martin, <i>Forestry Australia</i> Dr Bill Jackson, <i>Acting President, Forestry Australia</i></p>	
18.30 – 22.00	<p>SYMPOSIUM DINNER Sovereign Hill</p>	<p><i>Proudly supported by</i></p> 

Thursday 31 October – Field Trips

8:00 – 16:30	<p>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.</p> <p>Field Trip #2: Forest gardening and caring for country This field trip will be hosted by DJAARA, The Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation to introduce participants to Galkgalk Dhelkunya ("to care for/to heal, many trees") Forest Gardening Strategy. "The term 'Forest Gardening' communicates how Dja Dja Wurrung People interact with the environment – it's a contemporary approach to caring for Country that is deeply rooted in traditional knowledge and practice. It is the response to threats such as land clearing, climate change, biodiversity loss and species extinction. The field trip will include a presentation on the philosophy and practice of the Galk-galk Dhelkunya (Forest Gardening, which aims to heal forest Country through application of traditional knowledge in partnership with other agencies and organisations.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Please note: This is a half day field trip (returning by lunch) and is limited to 20 people.</p>
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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.

Field Trip #6: 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.