N.W. Jolly Medal Winner
Jack Bradshaw

Our highest award

The N.W. Jolly Medal is the Institute’s highest honour. “Awarded as the Institute’s highest and most prestigious honour for outstanding service to the profession of forestry in Australia.”
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Picture cover page: Jack Bradshaw, 2006 NW Jolly Medal recipient - see page 5 for full story.
Welcome to the following new IFA members

A.C.T
Darren Brown
Student Member
Nicholas Firth
Student Member
Richard Laity
Student Member

NSW
Adam Kirby
Student Member
Jacob Lazarus
Voting Member
John Grant
Student Member
Matthew Cox
Student Member
Michael Maher
Student Member
Peter Hansen
Associate Member
Susan Aenishaenslin
Student Member

Qld
Meagan Carroll
Associate Member

Vic.
Daniela Grecea
Associate Member
Kathy Overton
Associate Member
Rohan Gordon
Student Member
Vincent Erasmus
Voting Member

OS
David Driver
Associate Member

W.A.
Sharmane MacRae
Voting Member

The IFA President Dr Peter Volker recently opened an office for use by members when visiting Canberra.

The office is located within the National Office, 1st Floor Building 6, Wilf Crane Crescent, Yarralumla ACT. The new Office has the normal office facilities of computer, fax, copier, phone, etc.

Peter Volker said that the office is convenient for him when visiting Canberra, particularly while he is IFA President. Peter also said that members often visit Canberra and need a place where they can do some work, prepare for meetings generally make the best use of their time, or just call in for a cup of coffee. “We have a room only being used occasionally, so it was decided to make it available to members”. He said

Members visiting Canberra who want to use the office are welcome to inform the National Office by phone: 02 – 6281 3992 or email ifa@forestry.org.au beforehand to ensure that the office is available. Members are encouraged to use this facility when visiting Canberra.

Office in Canberra opens to the members

IFA President Dr Peter Volker RPF and Executive Director Adrian O’Loughlin officially open the new office.
Chinese Society of Foresters welcomed by the Institute

The Institute was pleased to welcome a delegation to Australia from the Chinese Society of Foresters (CSF). The visit was in response to an invitation sent to the CSF by the Institute’s President in 2004, Ian Barnes.

Dick Pegg led an IFA accredited delegation to China in 2004 and the groundwork was done at that time to ensure a continued association between the 2 professional organisations.

The visitors were met in Canberra by the Executive Director of the IFA, Adrian O’Loughlin, and IFA members Tony Bartlett, Dr Russell Haines and Dr John Turnbull.

The Chinese Society of Foresters is the biggest, most important forestry NGO in China with more than 70,000 members, 31 provincial sections and 30 technical committees such as silviculture, resource management, ecology, entomology, pathology, engineering, wood science, forest industry, and urban forest.

The CSF plays an increasingly important role in forestry, environment, education, academic advancement, public awareness and involvement, professional exchanges, strategy and policy making.

The visit to the Institute was arranged through the Australia-Chinese Economic & Technology Connection Centre and the IFA National Office.

Tony Bartlett, General Manager, Forestry Industries with the Australian Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, gave the visitors an overview of Australian Forestry demographics. Dr Russell Hynes spoke about Australian assistance to forestry projects and Dr John Turnbull spoke about his experiences in his forestry work in China.

Unfortunately the very short notice of the visit found some interested members being unavailable due to them being overseas.

The Chinese delegation was headed by Shen Gui, Deputy Secretary-General, Chinese Society of Forestry. A presentation on behalf of the IFA was made to the visitors and their thanks were obvious in their enthusiastic response.

The Chinese delegation comprised:

**Mr Shen Gui**  
Deputy Secretary-General, Chinese Society of Forestry

**Ms Wang Jianzi**  
Executive Vice President, Beijing Forestry Management College

**Ms Liu Weihe**  
Deputy Director-General, State Forestry Administration

**Mr Xiang Anmin**  
Director, Northwest Forestry Inventory and Planning Academy, State Forestry Administration

**Mr Yang Shixuan**  
Senior Engineer, Forestry Management Bureau of Shenlongjia Forest Area, Hubei Province

**Mr Liu Yiting**  
Senior Engineer, Forestry Inventory and Planning Academy of Fujian Province

**Mr Zhang Daping**  
Director, Forestry Bureau of Qinnan District, Qinzhou City, Guangxi Province

**Mr Dong Hailiang**  
Deputy Director, Forestry Bureau of Chengde City, Hebei Province

**Mr Zhang Jianmin**  
Vice President, Forestry Inventory and Planning Academy of Chengde City, Hebei Province

**Top right: Tony Bartlett and Shen Gui**

**Above left: CSF visitors**

**Above right: Dr John Turnbull, Dr Russell Haines, Adrian O’Loughlin and Shen Gui**

The Chinese delegation comprised:

**Mr Shen Gui**  
Deputy Secretary-General, Chinese Society of Forestry

**Ms Wang Jianzi**  
Executive Vice President, Beijing Forestry Management College

**Ms Liu Weihe**  
Deputy Director-General, State Forestry Administration

**Mr Xiang Anmin**  
Director, Northwest Forestry Inventory and Planning Academy, State Forestry Administration
Top Forester wins our highest award

Jack Bradshaw, a Western Australian forester, has been awarded a prestigious national medal for forestry. The President of the Institute of Foresters of Australia (IFA), Dr Peter Volker RPF, made the announcement in a National Media Release recently.

The NW Jolly Medal is the Institute’s highest honour. The award citation reads:

“Awarded as the Institute’s highest and most prestigious honour for outstanding service to the profession of forestry in Australia.”

In making the announcement on behalf of the IFA Board of Directors, Dr Volker said:

“Jack Bradshaw has made a very significant contribution to forestry. He has been widely published in the scientific and popular journals. His work in inventory, planning and silviculture has been innovative and backed by solid science. His work has been widely recognised by his peers and the general community.

Jack Bradshaw has also devoted his efforts to formal and informal education of the community about forestry. In this regard he has also made a significant contribution to the profession of forestry.

The contribution to the IFA through his involvement in administration and leadership in the establishment of the Foresters Wood near Manjimup is very significant and has helped improve the standing of the IFA within the profession and the wider community.”

Jack Bradshaw joined the Institute of Foresters of Australia as a student member in 1961 and was made a Fellow of the Institute in 1993. He commenced his association with forestry at an early age, growing up in the timber mill communities of Mornington and Jarrahwood in the south west of Western Australia.

Jack completed his Diploma of Forestry at the Australian Forestry School (Canberra) in 1963 and graduated from the University of Western Australia with a Bachelor of Science (Forestry) in 1965. Forty years later, Jack Bradshaw is still contributing to forestry through his work as a consultant. However, he now has behind him the legacy of an outstanding contribution to forestry and the profession of forest management. Jack’s contribution can be deemed to be outstanding because it has been sustained for such a considerable time (40 years) and because he has excelled in a range of fields; inventory, planning, native forest silviculture, communication, education and the profession. The NW Jolly Medal award recognises that contribution.

Jack Bradshaw was also awarded the Institute’s Western Australian Forester of the Year award in 2005.

The Medal will be presented at a Dinner in Western Australia early next year.

ANZIF Conference “Growing Forest Values” 3 - 7 June 2007, Coffs Harbour NSW
W.A. Forester of the Year 2006 goes to Peter Beatty

The W.A. Minister for Forests, The Hon. Kim Chance, has announced Peter Beatty as the winner of the W.A. Division Institute of Foresters of Australia’s Forester of the Year Award 2006.

At the Forest Industries Federation of Western Australia’s Annual Dinner Peter Beatty was recognised for his excellent community involvement work ensuring the security of timber communities relying on a viable and sustainable forest industry.

“Mr Beatty’s dedication to the timber industry and its communities exemplified his calm approach to the different and difficult situations that the timber communities find themselves in.” said David Wettenhall, Chairman WA Division, IFA.

Mr Beatty who is employed by the Forest Products Commission, has dedicated his adult life to forest and land management, with a special interest in farm forestry and the communities associated with them. His breadth of experience and networks of professional and community contacts has allowed Mr Beatty to communicate across the full spectrum of the forestry sector.

Mr Beatty is a national director of the Australian Forest Growers, and honorary Secretary of the IFA WA Division. He has been a consistent driving force behind the IFA and the Foresters Wood in Manjimup. He is on the Board of the Manjimup LCDC.

Timber Communities Australia Coordinator, Tish Campbell said “Mr Beatty continually walks the extra mile to ensure the security of timber communities relying on a viable and sustainable industry”.

“Mr Beatty is a most worthy recipient of the WA Forester of the Year Award for 2006” said Ms Campbell.
AGM
15 November 2006, Melbourne Victoria.
(Sponsored by URS Forestry)

Top: David Wettenhall/Pat O'Shaughnessy, Aidan Flanagan/Phil Pritchard, Diana Lloyd/Melissa Syme.

Below: Curly Humphries/Peter Volker/Gerry Cross, Guest speaker David Bennett/Gary Featherston.

Coming Events

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Contact</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11 December 2006</td>
<td>Ecological Society of Australia Conference</td>
<td>University of Western Sydney Parramatta Campus</td>
<td><a href="http://www.ecolsoc.org.au/conferences">www.ecolsoc.org.au/conferences</a></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Plantations - Are they equivalent to native forests?</td>
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<tr>
<td>6 - 7 March 2007</td>
<td>Abare - Outlook 2007</td>
<td>Hyatt Hotel, Canberra</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ebruen@abare.goau">ebruen@abare.goau</a></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Economic forecasting conference</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 - 7 June 2007</td>
<td>ANZIF 2007 Conference,</td>
<td>More information at:</td>
<td><a href="http://www.forestry.org.au">www.forestry.org.au</a></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Coffs Harbour, NSW</td>
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<td>17 - 21 February 2008</td>
<td>“Old Forests, Newmanagement”</td>
<td></td>
<td>Contact: <a href="mailto:mark.neyland@forestrytas.com.au">mark.neyland@forestrytas.com.au</a></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Conservation and use of old-growth forests in the 21st century</td>
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If you have a 'Coming Event' you would like included, please email ifa@forestry.org.au with the details of the event. Alternatively, paid advertising of your event in this newsletter as a full or half page is as easy as contacting the National office on ifa@forestry.org.au or phone 02 6281 3992.
Max Jacobs Award

Two national awards are provided each year in memory of Dr Max Ralph Jacobs.

Dr Jacobs was born in Adelaide on 25 February, 1905 and died in Canberra on 9 October 1979. He was the last of the graduates from the Forestry Department of University of Adelaide in 1925.

He commenced lecturing in Silviculture at the Australian Forestry School, Canberra in 1935 and was principal from 1944-59, following war service in the Royal Australian Engineers. He was appointed Director General of the Forestry and Timber Bureau, Canberra in 1960. He retired in 1970.

Max Jacobs was one of the founders of the Institute of Foresters of Australia. He wrote the first major definitive silviculture book on Eucalypts entitled “The Growth Habits of the Eucalypts”. It was both research and teaching which were at the source of his endeavours and contribution. Dr Jacobs more than any one, influenced to such good effect the development of the profession and professional foresters: it is fitting that these awards are made in his memory.

The Max Jacobs Fund Committee, Chaired by Alan Brown (right) met by Teleconference on 7 November 2006. The Committee was pleased to announce after the meeting, the awarding of 2 grants for 2006 to:

Dr Ross Peacock RPF

For validating models of vegetation change following timber harvesting in East Gippsland, Victoria.

In 1990 a chronosequence of 60 plots was established in East Gippsland lowland, damp and wet forest 2 to 29 years after timber harvesting. Those plots were used to develop a model of vegetation change following timber harvesting as part of a larger suite of field experiments examining vegetation and timber response to harvesting. The proposed project will validate the model of vegetation change published in 1992 and 1995 by re-visiting those same study sites 16 years after they were originally established by the author. Predicted changes from the original successional model will be tested against actual field data.

Matthew Brookhouse

Facilitate a visit to the Swansea University’s tree-ring laboratory. During his visit he will test a wood density assessment technique, called blue reflectance, on two Australian species. The first, Eucalyptus delegatensis, will provide the opportunity to test the technique on eucalypts. The second species, Podocarpus lawrencii, is an alpine conifer that may be affected by climate change. This study would lead to development of tree ring-chronologies comprised of wood density data. Such chronologies would be used to develop historical temperature records of for the Australian Alps, improving our understanding of the impact of climate change on subalpine and alpine forests.

Members of the Max Jacobs Fund Committee are: Alan Brown (Chairman), Ian Bevege, Peter Volker (Ian Barnes sub), Max Day, Peter Kanowski, and Adrian O’Loughlin (Secretary).

The Institute of Foresters of Australia makes an annual contribution of $5,000 to the Fund.
Dr Ryde James retires from ANU Forestry

ANU Forestry’s Senior Lecturer in Plantation Management, Dr Ryde James, retired from paid employment on 30 June, after 14 years leading ANU’s work on plantation forest management. Ryde embodied the best in trans-Tasman forestry; he was one of the last of the many NZ foresters to cross the Tasman for his undergraduate education, and experienced the transition from Australian Forestry School to the ANU in 1965. Ryde spent most of his subsequent NZ-based career at New Zealand’s Forest Research Institute, though – as he recounted in his farewell address - Ryde never forgot the lessons learnt prior to his undergraduate studies in managing an ex-convict silviculture work crew in Kiangoroa Forest. As he commented, these skills would later prove invaluable in managing student field trips.

Ryde’s work at FRI, and his doctoral work at Oxford University, focused on optimising plantation management. He continued this work at ANU, expanding the scope of his work to include plantation eucalypts as well as radiata pine. The most recent focus of this research has been conducted through ANU PhD student Philip Alcorn’s work, jointly with Forests NSW. Ryde also brought his well-honed management skills to bear in overseeing a diverse suite of ACIAR and RIRDC projects, which has led to recent work in PNG and in the supervision of a diverse group of international graduate students.

ANU Forestry students particularly valued Ryde’s professionalism and accessibility, and the strong practical focus of his teaching and research. In addition, his colleagues appreciated his collegiality and highly competent management of a range of administratively demanding tasks. Fortunately, Ryde will continue his association with ANU Forestry as an Emeritus Fellow, joining a distinguished group of such fellows who continue to undertake research and graduate student supervision.

Tasmania again hosts ANU Forestry students

ANU Forestry final year students studying Forest policy and practices continued the tradition of the past few years by visiting Tasmania for the case study component of the course. As in previous years, the students received much-appreciated financial assistance from Forestry Tasmania and Gunns Ltd, and significant in-kind contributions from many Tasmanian forest sector organizations and individuals. Following established practice, the students had prepared for the course through briefings and reading in Canberra, and submitting a pre-field course report.

The five-day program, building on a model established by Ryde James and Brian Turner, comprised one field day addressing each of farm and plantation forestry, high-altitude forest management, management regimes in the Southern forests, and new silviculture and management, and concluding for at Forestry Tasmania and the CRC for Forestry. Along the way, the students met practitioners in each of these realms, timber community and forest industry council members, the Tasmanian Greens forestry spokesperson, and leading researchers. We thank all of our hosts and contributors for the quality of learning experience they offered the ANU students. The post field-course oral and written reports confirmed the outstanding educational value of the field course; many students commented how their understanding and opinions of Tasmanian forestry issues changed as a result of the course. Thanks to all our hosts.
The conference, held in Queanbeyan in August 2006, was 10 years on from the first which set about to influence policy being applied within parks and protected areas in Australia. Whether or not the substantial changes achieved during the past 10 years can be directly attributable to the first conference, there has nevertheless been great change in the management of these areas. This conference provided an opportunity for attendees to “examine and develop governance models that deliver the greatest potential from partnerships across government, the private sector, community groups, and not for profit organizations.” (Tony Charters)

My role was to represent the IFA and its policy on fire management in protected areas.

The delegate list read like a ‘who’s who’ in parks and protected area management and there was a broad representation of the 86 delegates from all States. There was also a good cross representation of government and non-government organizations, and also disciplines involved with or reliant on parks and protected areas. It made for a good policy focussed conference.

Tony Charters, Management Solutions (Qld), put together a packed agenda that included Senator Andrew Bartlett (Chair of the Environment, Communications, Information Technology and the Arts References Committee responsible for the inquiry into Australia’s national parks, conservation reserves and marine protected areas). The Senator stayed for the duration of the first day and was clearly attentive to the presentations.

The first early morning session by Dr Scott Prasser set the scene from the outset targeting the limited resources now available for parks and protected area management, their limited representation and the conflicting governance issues with multiple arrangements in place, department versus legislative controls and a trend towards multiple jurisdictions for agencies. He also saw challenges such as conflicting goals and notions of success. The involvement of an essentially unskilled public sector participating in public-private partnerships without having the appreciation of the needs of the private sector in these partnerships could lead to competing cultures in interest, ideology, roles and authority. There are many changes that have taken place within the public sector and the industry generally and these need to be taken into account as new partnerships are entered into in the future.

Senator Bartlett gave the government perspective acknowledging increasing private sector use of parks and protected areas, allocation of scarce resources to achieve community’s aspirations and noted that conflict was developing as increasing areas are “locked away”. He did espouse best practice fire management engaging scientific principles and Indigenous knowledge.

The Chief Executive, Australian Wildlife Conservancy (AWC), which privately manages approximately 900,000 hectares of selected Australian bushland, flagged that creative measures were required if parks and protected areas were to be managed at all and outlined ongoing negotiations that AWC was having to manage some extensive inland bushland on behalf of the government. This might open the way for future private management by non-government agencies of extensive tracts of government land adjoining privately.
owned and managed parks and protected areas. WAC was also aware of the role and need for prescribed burning within these areas, and also for setting aside areas from planned burning. AWC works with Indigenous communities to set and achieve mutually desirable land management outcomes.

There followed a number of speakers who addressed partnerships and their importance. These included working more closely with UNESCO to establish additional bio-sphere reserves, to encouraging the tourism industry to provide more support to protect the natural values on which they rely and, in the case of the Great Barrier Reef, to have private industry self manage to better protect the very resource on which it depends for its livelihood.

Best practice was also a topic for presentations and the emergence of non-government agencies buying large tracts of land in advance of government introduced a need for awareness for tourism, biodiversity management and Indigenous participation. Of four papers two indicated an awareness of the role of fire in maintaining the biodiversity and tourism values of the land.

Aboriginal Tourism Australia presented an excellent paper on the views of Indigenous communities on partnerships with both government and non-government agencies. Recognition of cultural and artistic values and the strong links that the communities have to the land are considered very important for partners to appreciate. It was also indicated that archaeological tourism was just beginning and that there was ample scope for future partnerships.

The President of the Wildlife Conservancy of Tropical Queensland presented an account of the Mareeba Reserve working model, which provided collective outcomes for partners. The partners involve both a community-based conservation NGO and local government. The reserve has strong links with the tourism and primary industries, an impressive range of government agencies and also several non-government agencies including the Australian Bush Heritage Fund. Cross-transfers of staff enabled deeper understanding of each agencies aspirations from the partnerships. A common theme from the conference was that there was less government funding for management of parks and protected areas. Private resources were stepping up to the mark and increasingly partnerships were sought in order to deliver better management in exchange for access to the resource. Concern was raised about areas of land that were deemed less culturally or visitor attractive and what would be put in place for their future management. Should additional constraints be placed on private partners and how will that affect their performance? Would “icon” areas be loved to death? Would the focus then be redirected to the lesser areas? And who would fund and plan the future protection of these areas?

At the end of the conference there were for me many questions left unanswered. While there had been very good policy discussion during the conference the reality of proper management of parks and protected areas still seemed a long way off.

I wish to thank the IFA Board of Directors and the National Office for enabling me to attend the conference. As with many foresters, land management is a passion, and for me, when it mixes with tourism, I particularly enjoy the interaction.

Disclaimer: These notes are from notes taken at the conference and my recollections of what transpired. My interpretation might differ from the intent of the presenters.

(Alan Briggs MIFA)

Editorial note: The IFA called Expression of Interest of members to attend this Conference as the IFA’s representative. Alan Briggs was subsequently selected.

The IFA is appreciative to have such a well qualified person as its representative. Alan commenced with the National Trust of Australia (WA) in March 2005 and has responsibility for the BushBank and Conservation Covenant programs, and advocacy for natural heritage. Alan was previously the Policy Officer for the Minister for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries. He has 35 years experience in land management through his work with agencies including the Department of Conservation and Land Management and the Forest Products Commission. He has extensive experience in senior management and advisory roles. Alan has also lectured for almost ten years in Sustainable Tourism and Eco-tourism studies at Edith Cowan University.
A Fortunate Profession

By Matt Wallace

I often sit back and consider that working in the forest industry is a fortunate profession. Over the recent years I have had “hands on” opportunities in the industry working for the Queensland government. I have worked in various sectors from managing native hardwood and cypress pine forests in the west, overseeing softwood plantation harvesting operations in the southeast to my current role of providing support and advice to managers of softwood plantations in far-north Queensland.

I consider it important to keep an open mind as to how people approach problems and tasks similar to those that I may encounter in my work.

A recent trip to the Solomon Islands and in particular to the largest sustainable forest company in the country certainly provided me with the opportunity to increase my knowledge of tropical forest management. It also allowed me to brush up on my training skills as I delivered a beginner and intermediate course on GIS to a receptive group of foresters, forest manager and resource assessment staff.

Kolombangara Forest Products Limited is a supplier of FSC certified logs and timber and I was certainly impressed with their operations and the approach they take to all aspects of forest management. The company has a range of species that make up the plantation base. These include *Gmelina arborea*, *Eucalyptus deglupta*, *Tectona grandis* as well as a couple of *Swietenia* species. The company not only produces forest products but also provides power, housing, schooling and a clinic for its 230+ employees and their family, at Ringgi Cove on the island of Kolombangara in the Western Province.

The island is not wholly set aside for plantation establishment, much of the island is custom land where traditional islanders can reside, farm small crops or enjoy the rainforest in its natural state.

Of particular interest to me was the harvesting and I was interested to see how the company approached many of the issues that go hand in hand with logging operations.

The plantation is felled by hand with up to 3 or 4 fellers working at a particular face with another one or two trimming the logs as they are brought in by a skidder to the ramp. In this day and age where mechanical harvesting is the norm, people may say that this is an antiquated way of log production however the company has kept with hand falling for a reason. If a mechanical harvester was brought in possibly seven or more jobs would be made redundant! That is certainly not in the best interest for the community or the company.

I can hear the groans and the question being asked already and I myself asked it too, “what about safety?” It is appealing to see how a cultural shift brings about a different way of thinking. In Australia my experiences have been that although we are a safety conscious society, particular aspects have to be enforced heavily.

What I found in Kolombangara was that although there were some unique safety aspects that still had to be policed, at the harvesting front staff were all to happy to wear all the safety gear such as chainsaw chaps, safety boots, high visibility clothing.
and follow safe working procedures. As I heard one supervisor say to the production crew as they left the depot one day, “Work hard but ensure you have a good day. What’s a good day? A good day is when you have done your best and you come home safe to your family.” Quite poignant I thought.

The rest of my trip included a tour through the workshops at Ringgi Cove and at Poitete, where it is quite common to see a Bedford truck pulled down and rebuilt to again haul logs out of the bush; the nursery where I saw more Eucalypt seedlings than I do in Australia; as well as a trip through the small sawmill which although is not producing high volumes, produces sawn timber for local house repairs and supplies a small domestic market. I can’t say that I had a special tour through the plantation base as you can’t help but pass by compartments each and every day.

I know for many people in the forest industry that trips to places such as I have described are quite common, but for those who have not ventured abroad or even away from their local forests I suggest that you do. You learn new ways of thinking and tackling problems, meet like minded people and ultimately have a ball. Sometimes when we are getting bogged down in some of the issues that pervade our industry we should get back to basics and realise that we are in a fortunate profession.
Narrow interest groups remain active, and prolific, across a wide range of issues, not least being the pulp mill. However, the Tasmanian Division continues to build stronger networks between members and the wider community, and engage in active debate to ensure science underpins debate.

Community concern regarding the integration of MIS funded plantations within the broader agricultural landscape and softwood supply agreements provided a focus for speakers at two IFA functions this year.

Alan Cummine from Australian Forest Growers gave an excellent presentation (in Hobart) on taxation and forestry, while representatives from Rayonier and Norske Skog both gave excellent presentations (in Launceston) on the softwood industry from the grower’s perspective. Discussions at both venues were lively and as a result many myths were busted. Information on taxation provisions for farmers and foresters is available. This information is based on tax law and is not policy documents. Consequently, it is recommended that anyone interested in this topic contact Melissa Syme for a copy of these documents in order to understand how forestry is treated from a tax perspective.

Networking wise the IFA has engaged the Tasmanian Farmers and Grazers Association with a view to establishing natural resource management policy that reflects the interest of all agricultural land managers, to ensure better communication and understanding of the interdependent relationship forestry and agriculture posses.

Much of the IFA activities in Tasmania continue to build on building networks while also ensuring that member are informed on the issues and debates. Apart from the usual suspects that dominate forestry in Tasmania, there has been two issues which have come to the fore recently; plantations agriculture land and MIS and the Tasmanian softwood industry. With some planning and a little bit of coincidence, guest speakers in the recent meetings have focused on both these issues.

After a shaky start, the Divisional Committee will be implementing the Communication and Media Strategy before the end of this year. Members will be informed of specific topics which will be the focus of these strategies during the year. The Committee will promote the science behind each topic and look to members to engage in letter writings to newspapers and other target groups in order to build on the Committees’ work.

I remind members that communication is effective only when you have people communicating. We thank those people who have volunteered to assist with letter writing and we welcome participation by other members who can contribute their knowledgeable and their energy.

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**NSW Division News**

**NSW IFA Division**

IFA activities I last reported to members included organising the ANZIF conference of June 2007. A program and Registration brochure should be ready by Christmas.

**Seminar**

NSW Division held a successful seminar at North Sydney on 22 June 2006 with 25 attendees. Presentations were made by Craig Taylor, Principal, The Fifth Estate Consultancy, on “The current status of the MIS forestry plantation industry” and Adrian Goodwin of Bushlogic on “The Farm Forestry Toolbox”. The presentations were well received which is encouraging for holding future seminars in NSW.

**AGM and Annual Dinner**

The Divisional AGM and annual dinner were held at the ‘Living Room’ Restaurant, 36 Blue Street Sydney on 18 August 2006.

The AGM was well attended (22 members) with good discussions of issues affecting NSW members. Highlights of matters discussed were;

- A resolution was “That the IFA’s NSW...”
Divisional Committee establishes a twelve month target and accompanying strategy to increase the number or Registered Professional Foresters within NSW.

- Certification - Review of the Interim Australian Forestry Standard where conversion of native forests to plantations continues to be a key point of difference in the review process. Responses from NSW IFA members have been overwhelmingly in favour of removing the practice from the Standard. This policy issue is still under consideration.

- At the time of the AGM the NSW Government’s draft code of practice for Private Native Forests was on display. Members felt it was quite inadequate and the NSW Division should make a submission. This has since been done.

The Annual Dinner was also well attended (around 30) with a number of spouses attending. At this function Ian Barnes was presented with the award of Fellow of the Institute, following the Board’s acceptance of the nomination in May 2006. Nick Cameron made the presentation covering highlights of Ian’s career and achievements.

The after dinner presentation by Professor Jerry Vanclay of Southern Cross University was well received and gave a good insight into forestry education today. Jerry also explained how the Mt Gambier course was structured and was pleased at the progress there. The Mt Gambier course was structured to give a good insight into forestry education as experienced by Southern Cross University. Students at SCU come from northern NSW and southern Queensland. The forestry program creates a bonding experience for students which is an important part of a forester’s career. There are very good employment prospects for all graduating foresters.

Since that meeting the NAFI skills audit is to be represented by Dr Ross Florence in the working committee for further development of this code.

Tertiary Forestry Education

The NSW Division’s education committee met with Professor Jerry Vanclay just prior to the AGM on 18 August, who explained the situation in tertiary forestry education as experienced by Southern Cross University at Lismore. Students at SCU come from northern NSW and southern Queensland. The forestry program creates a bonding experience for students which is an important part of a forester’s career. There are very good employment prospects for all graduating foresters.

Policy issues

Private Native Forestry

The NSW Government exhibited a draft code of practice for Private Native Forests in July 2006, after around 2 years of development, with a short period for response. IFA members felt that the code was inadequate, would quarantine a large proportion of private native forest and was too prescriptive. IFA made a submission to Government. The vast majority of the 1500 submissions were critical of the draft code and all sought revisions. The NSW Primary Industries Minister Ian McDonald announced in August that the Code would be reviewed by the Natural Resources Advisory Council of NSW (NRAC), providing for more stakeholder input and re-release in 2007.

NRAC has been examining the Private Native Forestry issue via its Primary Industries and Economic Development Standing Committee and is due to provide a recommendation to the NSW government in December 2006. One proposal being examined is for a new Private Native Forestry Bill to be drafted over the next 18 months, with transitional arrangements using one of the existing mechanisms in the Native Vegetation Act 2003. The key issue will be achieving a satisfactory level of agreement or compromise between the key stakeholder groups.

Baradine, “The Best of Times”

The field day was hosted by FNSW staff with Paul Wells, Don Nicholson, Ross Irvine and Tom Newby giving presentations. The main points covered in the field day were the NSW Government’s decision of May 2005, to transfer around one half of the State Forests in the Brigalow Belt Bioregion South, encompassing the Pilliga, to Community Conservation Reserves, reduce sawmilling to 2 major and one smaller sawmill and to see the impact on the local timber industry and towns. Baradine now has 34% unemployment. Attendees were shown the dismantling of local sawmills and the regrowth forests which were transferred to reserves. A good demonstration of cypress silviculture was also part of the day, including the current program of thinning cypress regeneration. A feature of the Pilliga forests is koalas and we saw two from separate areas. Harvesting does not seem to be a problem for koalas here.

IFA members were keen to hear from the National Parks and Wildlife staff about future management of the areas transferred. Unfortunately the local manager, who is an IFA member, could not attend due to the recent birth of a baby. A revisit is foreshadowed for 5 years to watch developments here.

Baradine Field Weekend

This was held on 28/29 October with around 25 attendees. Most stayed at Camp Cypress, a new feature in Baradine where demountables from the Sydney Olympic Village have been set up in a mature cypress forest on the edge of town. This was ideal accommodation for the weekend with the dining room used for the Saturday dinner and after dinner presentation by Judith Hadfield, local historian and author of the book about Baradine, “The Best of Times”.

Unfortunately a field day planned at Cumberland forest, Pennant Hills on Saturday 11 November 2006 has been postponed due to a shortfall of numbers required.

(Ron Wilson)
ACT Division News
BY Phil Pritchard, ACT DIVISIONAL CHAIR

A Role of plantations in the Cotter Catchment - August 2006

The future role of plantations in the ACT remains a critical issue following the ACT Government’s proposal to phase out plantations in the lower Cotter catchment. The Division provided a submission to Government in August. In summary the key points were as follows:

- Pines will remain a major component of vegetation in parts of the lower Cotter catchment for decades to come.
- Forest cover on the catchment, whether native or exotic needs to be managed to reduce risk of fire and also to control pest species.
- Land unit mapping is essential to guide revegetation.
- The case for managing softwood forests in the catchment on a commercial basis is still strong.

The Division organized a successful forum on this issue which was well attended. A copy of the submission is available on the IFA website.

Inquiry into the ACT as a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve - June 2006

The ACT Government is considering the nomination of the ACT as a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. The Institute provided a submission that provided qualified support for the proposal, recognizing that much of the ACT is forested and effective forest and woodland management is not inconsistent with the objectives of a biosphere reserve. The Institute emphasized that any nomination can and should support the considerations in existing IFA policy, including:

- sustainable management of forests and woodlands for their multiple and diverse uses;
- stakeholder input in the development of strategic forest and woodland management plans;
- strategic forest and woodland planning that is integrated and holistic taking into account the risks and threats to the range of environmental, cultural, social and economic values;
- consideration of values at a landscape level;
- monitoring and review of strategic management plans every five to ten years as well as periodic auditing of the implementation of operational plans;

Amendments to the EPBC Act

The ACT Division also reviewed proposed EPBC Act amendments re impacts on forestry for the national office. The amendments have attracted a great deal of media attention and include a complex and lengthy set of amendments. However, the issues of forestry do not feature and for the present native forestry issues continue to operate under the auspices of Regional Forest Agreement legislation.

ACT International Arboreta

Over the last couple of months there has been considerable media and political debate about the development of the International arboreta, particularly the water requirements of the new arboreta plantings. There has also been discussion of the merits of the arboreta at a time when there is concern with funding for maintenance and replacement of aging urban trees and the rehabilitation of playing fields. This issue is likely to be an ongoing source. While not necessarily an informed debate, it highlights the many challenges facing the ACT in managing an extensive tree estate.

Divisional Activities

AGM and Communications Seminar

In August the Division held its AGM in conjunction with a Communications Seminar. At the AGM Tony Fearnside was presented with an Award for Outstanding Service. Tony’s contribution to both IFA and FACTA and to community education about forestry has been remarkable. Tony has been an active player in forestry in his professional life and remains an innovative and committed contributor to forestry issues in the ACT.

At the Communications Seminar Peter Langdon (Divisional Media Liaison Officer) discussed the media training course organized by the Institute and the key messages from the course. Taylor Bildstein (CRC Forestry communications coordinator) discussed the role of her organization and the key strategies for engaging media and the task of...
establishing the reputation of CRC as information source for the media. Members noted the challenges in working with the media and the difficulties in receiving fair and balanced coverage of forestry issues.

**Other activities**
- ACT Div supports ANU forestry students field trip
- ACT Divisional Secretary and a number of students attended a Field trip to Barradine.

**Forestry activities involving other local organisations**
The ACT is fortunate that there is a significant number of organisations with a focus on forestry issues. For example the Southern Tablelands Farm Forestry Network (STFFN) held a field day in November looking at practical ways of managing Dry Stringybark forests for environmental and commercial benefits. Greening Australia and has an ongoing program of tree propagation, tree planting and weeding field days that are involving community in revegetation projects. The friends of the ACT Arboreta recently held a series of events that included:
- Guided walks to Lindsay Pryor Arboretum
- Guided walks to "Noteworthy trees of Yarralumla"
- A visit to Bendora Arboretum
- The latest in the regular series of monthly guided Westbourne Woods walks featuring local forestry experts

There was also a launch of a new online biography of Charles and Ruth Lane Poole by John Dargavel at National Archives available at ‘uncommonlives.naa.gov.au’. At the launch John Dargavel spoke about Charles Poole, the first Commonwealth forester and Ruth Lane Poole who designed the interior of the Lodge and Government House. The Institute was represented at the Launch.

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**WA Division News**

**BY David Wettenhall, WA. DIVISIONAL CHAIR**

**Divisional News**
The Western Australian Division has continued to be active during the last quarter.

The WA Division prepared a comprehensive submission to the Statutory Review of the Forest Products Commission. The Review Chair, Hon. Adele Farina, MLC addressed the Annual General Meeting of the Division. It was important to IFA members that future governance of the commercial arrangements for public forests be properly structured and managed.

The WA Division supported a member’s complaint to the ABC regarding bias in their Stateline article on logging impacts on native fauna. The ABC replied that it had reviewed the program and did not consider it biased.

Several requests for submissions on National Park Management have been received and draft submissions prepared by members. These have not been finalised.

Policies on Conservation of Australian forests and Forestry as a Primary Industry have been drafted and were considered at the IFA National Policy Forum.

As part of the IFA support for continuing professional development the IFA encouraged participation in the National Carbon Accounting Toolbox expert workshop run by the Association of Consulting Foresters of Australia and delivered by the Australian Greenhouse Office in Launceston during October.

The WA Division congratulates member, Mr Jack Bradshaw, FIFA who was awarded the NW Jolly medal (refer to separate article).

The Division once again sponsored, promoted and executed the WA Forester of the Year Award which was presented to Peter Beatty at the Forest Industries Federation of Western Australia Timber Industry Awards presentations in September (refer to separate article).

The AGM was well attended and we are particularly pleased that a number of forest management students from WA universities attended the AGM.

I take this opportunity to thank my committee and members for their participation and work in preparing submissions and supporting the activities of the Division.
The Victorian Division has made the following achievements during the first quarter of 2006/07 against the directions in the Strategic Plan.

1.1 Promote the Institute and its member’s participation in forestry and natural resources debate.

A submission was made to VEAC on the Goolengook Investigation. Our submission recognised the sustainable nature of the current management and the trade-offs that would be required to protect 700 hectares of old growth forest that was already well represented in the existing reserve system. The Goolengook forest block contains significant areas of regrowth that will be required to meet our future timber needs.

A submission was made to DSE on their draft Framework of Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management. Our submission prepared with the assistance of Ross Garsden raised concerns about the complexity and cost of maintaining the framework and that a simple clear set of indicators would be better and more sustainable.

Mark Poynter, the Victorian Media Liaison Officer, has had success in getting a number of articles in the Age newspaper. His opinion piece on forestry’s role in carbon management created an avalanche of opposing letters. His proactive stance got the facts out ahead of the emotional rhetoric. We also responded to the Sunday Age ‘woodchip or water’ article with references to our letter in the postscript article the following week. Mark also released the Key Issues report which was sent to many journalists and politicians as background for the forestry debate in the lead up to the State election. Mark’s articles can be found on the IFA Media website.

At the July seminar we heard from Lindsay Hesketh, ACF and Anthony Amos, Friends of the Earth, about the future of the forestry debate and the environmental movements take on their relationship with foresters. It was a successful seminar sponsored by the Department of Primary Industries and organised by Zoe Harkin. Further engagement with these groups is planned.

The IFA was represented at a number of occasions including:

- The launch of the LCC/VEAC book on its history titled “As if for a thousand years”.
- The Forests and Water Seminar arranged by the University of Melbourne to report on the findings of recent hydrological research.
- The launch of “Ollies Island” an interactive game for students to learn about the sustainability of primary industries including forestry. The program is jointly sponsored by NAFI.

I was invited to speak at the Future for Victoria’s Forests Forum organised by the Melbourne University Forest Collective and the Law Students Society. The forum was an opportunity to put forward an argument for sustainable use of native forests to a group of law students that probably only hears one side of the story most times. A large group of forestry students also attended and actively participated.

The IFA attended the Forest Stewardship Council Workshop on developing a national standard for forestry. We were ably represented by Zoe Harkin in the social chamber. The green groups announce quietly that they would not oppose the certification of native forest harvesting this time. The CFMEU expressed concerns at the make up of the interim board and walked out on the second day. We will endeavour to play an active role in the development of the standard and will be seeking volunteers to have roles on the Standards Development Committee and the Technical Working Groups.

The IFA is continuing in its role on the Australian Forestry Standard Technical Reference Committee. The last remaining issue to roll the standard over from an interim standard to a final standard is the clearing of native forest for plantations. While everyone agrees that you don’t clear native forest unless you have a good reason the devil is in the detail of what constitutes a sound reason. The compounding impacts on current certified forest owners must also be considered. The results of the good work done by Ross Peacock, Hans Drielsma, Mark Edwards, David Flinn, Dave Cromety and others will be announced shortly.

2.1 Promote high standards of tertiary education in forestry and related natural resource management in Australia.

The August Seminar was organised by Samantha Citroen and sponsored by the University of Melbourne. It provided the forestry students perspective on the future of forestry education and identified some ways that it could be improved. The seminar provided a draft action plan for promoting and improving enrolments in forest education and improving the perception of forestry for students.

3.1 Encourage interaction among members and others engaged in forestry and natural resource management.

The September Seminar was sponsored by Grand Ridge Plantations and provided an opportunity for members in Gippsland to attend a seminar. Simon Gatt spoke on the work done by Grand Ridge was doing to protect the rainforest on its plantation estate and to meet the expectations of stakeholders. The rainforest and some of...
the adjoining plantations have become an election issue with the Labour Government promising to buy the land and make it National Park if re-elected. It is good to see that well managed forest and plantation can achieve such recognition for its conservation values.

The October Seminar was sponsored by VicForests and we heard Cameron Macdonald speak on the transition from licensee based syndicated harvesting to mill door sales harvesting. The move to place the control of harvesting in the hands of the forest grower has been a long hard fought battle around Australia with a good result achieved in Victoria.

3.2 Strengthen Links with like minded organisations.

I had the opportunity to meet with representatives of NAFI. Catherine Murphy and I had a chance to discuss the certification standards and the IFA Media Liaison Officers.

I also meet with Greg Haroldson, NAFI’s Communication Officer at the Ollies Island launch to discuss the role of the IFA as an advocate of good forest science in the media debate.

(Gary Featherston)
Corporate Sponsorship for RPF Applications

By Ken Nethercott RPF

In the light of the very disappointing level of uptake of the RPF Scheme by IFA Members who would be eligible, it is timely to consider steps which could be taken to improve (and maybe save) the situation. One such avenue is Corporate Sponsorship of RPF applications.

A success story in this regard is that of Auspine Limited, where the Company sponsored the applications for RPF status of its entire professional forestry staff. This resulted in all seven professional forestry staff, employed by Auspine at the time, achieving RPF status in July 2004.

Auspine Limited, at the most senior executive level, actively supports the RPF Scheme because it is recognised that the Company and its professional forestry staff will receive very positive benefits from RPF accreditation, viz:-

- The enhancement of Company image and standing within the Forest Based Industry.
- The positive promotion of Forestry as a legitimate and responsible profession.
- It shows the importance that Auspine places on the quality of management of its forestry resources.
- It fosters a high standard of professional conduct, diligence and pride in our professional forestry staff.
- The enhancement of team building, staff morale and a sense of belonging to an elite group.

It presents opportunities to expand the pool of knowledge and experience available to the Company through professional forestry staff undertaking regular professional development activities.

In the experience of Auspine Limited the key success factors in completing the RPF application process were:-

- Acceptance by our professional forestry staff of the group goal to achieve RPF.
- Commitment by the Company to pay (or partly pay) the initial and ongoing costs of RPF registration.
- Commitment by the Company to support staff in undertaking ongoing professional development.
- Introduction of an internal mentoring system whereby forestry staff assisted each other, where necessary, in preparing their applications for RPF status.

We at Auspine Limited found that getting through the RPF application process was not onerous.

In conclusion, given that all Corporate entities have an obligation to commit funds to staff training and development, it seems obvious to promote professional forestry staff development in the IFA’s facilitated professional development scheme.

I encourage all IFA members who are employed by corporate bodies or Government agencies, to approach their Corporate Leaders to direct at least some of their professional development budgets to the RPF application process.
Dr Matthew Wood RPF

The RPF Registration Committee has approved Dr Matthew Wood in the specialist category of Forest Science & Research with expertise in Tree Improvement & Nursery Management.

Dr Wood is employed with Plantations Branch of the Division of Forest Research & Development, Forestry Tasmania. Hobart, Tas.

He has a background in Environmental Science (B.Sc. Hons) and Forestry (M.Sc). He took a post with the Centre for ecology and Hydrology (CEH) in the UK. His work within the team involved assessing the environmental impacts of land-use change associated with agriculture and upland forestry and advising industry groups on how to reduce these impacts.

Dr Wood’s Ph.D. (Forestry/Forest Soils) considered the rate and extent of site and soil disturbance associated with forestry operations, principally harvesting, on key soil groups in the UK uplands. The efficacy of control measures aimed at reducing these impacts were investigated, and recommendations were made to the Forestry Commission (UK) regarding guidelines.

Later, Dr Wood worked in New Zealand involved in (a) an assessment of the rate and extent of site and soil disturbance associated with forestry operations on key soils (b) development of generic indicators of soil sustainability relating to tree growth and (c) provision of decision support to industrial partners.

In New Zealand he also worked for Forest Research New Zealand (now Scion) and was involved with the management of long-term, experimental sites and data collection relating to the Forest Growth and Quality and Forest Sustainability and Risk portfolios.

Now working in Tasmania as a Research Scientist (Silviculture) with Forestry Tasmania Dr Wood is responsible for the development of scientific programs to investigate the silvicultural management of new and established forest plantations, and provides advice to industry. Key research areas include cultivation, regime development (pruning and thinning), wood quality and windthrow, and also, provision of scientific advice for policy development relating to carbon (accounting and sequestration).

Michael Henson RPF

Michael has been approved by the RPF Registration Committee in the category of ‘Forestry Science and research with expertise in Tree Improvement and Nursery Management’.

Michael has worked for ForestryNSW as Tree Improvement Manager since November 2002. Some main achievements include but are not limited to:

- Project development and management of several molecular genetic projects with Australian Universities.
- Development of ACIAR project “Management of silviculture and genetics for improvement of wood quality traits of plantation grown eucalypts for high value end use in China, Vietnam and Australia”

Michael is also Managing Director of eucalyptus.biz Limited – an International forestry consulting company providing technical and strategic support to forestry research institutions and commercial companies.

Michael started his association with Forestry at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew – UK as a Research Assistant in 1991. He has worked on Projects in the United Kingdom, USA, Costa Rica, Indonesia, China and South Africa and of course, in Australia.

Michael is a professional forester with significant practical and managerial experience in the design and implementation of R&D, planning and other developmental and support activities in commercial plantations of fast-growing hardwoods and softwoods in the tropics, sub-tropics and warm temperate zones. Two particular features are a strong background in supporting plantation development at the strategic level and a demonstrable record in fast-tracking new, cost-effective developments into operational practise.
Victoria has another forester, Gary Featherston, who has been approved to join the IFA’s accreditation RPF Scheme.

Gary Featherston has been approved in the category of ‘General Practicing Forester with recognised skills as a Consulting Services and Marketing’.

Gary has extensive knowledge of marketing logs to the Victorian hardwood timber industry and has leadership and discipline to deliver outcomes on time, with budget and specifications. His CV also included a host of other skills that well qualified him for approval.

In 2004 Gary established his own forest consulting firm, Forest Strategy Pty Ltd, and he has undertaken the following projects:

- Strategic market analysis for sawmills purchasing in the VicForests online auction
- Prepared a Sustainable Forest Management Plan for VicForests for accreditation against the Australian Forestry Standard
- Designed an open market system to price and allocate native forest sawlogs for VicForests and designed and conducted sealed bid auctions for surplus sawlogs for VicForests.

Before leaving government Gary was employed in later years in the marketing area of the Victorian department responsible for forestry - although the names of the Department's changed a few times over the years.

A short summary of Gary earlier forestry career is:

- Senior Forester, DNRE, 1993 – 2000
- Senior Forester, Gippsland area, DNRE
- 1985 – 1993 Production Planning Officer – Central Gippsland, DCNR
- 1984 – 1985 Utilisation Forester – Warrigal Region, DCFL
- 1980 – 1984 Research Officer –Forests Commission Victoria

Gary is a Chairman of the Victorian Division of IFA and is a member of the IFA Board of Directors.

From ISFSS Delegation
C/- SRES, ANU Canberra ACT

To: Adrian O'Loughlin
Executive Director
The Institute of Foresters of Australia
PO Box 7002 Yarralumla ACT 2600

Dear Adrian,

On behalf of the Australian delegation of the 34th International Forestry Students’ Symposium (IFSS) in Brazil and Argentina, I am writing to thank you and The Institute of Foresters of Australia for your encouragement and generous support. The theme of the symposium, Forests for Everything, effectively facilitated an amazing educational experience focused on the multiple values, uses, and management of a variety of forests within Latin America.

Enclosed with this letter are a certificate of appreciation and the report of the IFSS, which was compiled by the Australian students. In this report, you will find a summary of the symposium, information concerning our Gold, Silver and Bronze sponsors, an overview of the International Forestry Student Association (IFSA), an account of symposium proceedings, and the reflections of the Australian students who participated. Whilst you read this report, I encourage you to realise the benefit that your kind support has brought to these very fortunate Australian students.

As you may be aware, an issue of increasing relevance to industries associated with forests and forest management in Australia is the continuing decline of students enrolled in degrees associated with forestry, and consequently the small number of annual graduates entering the workforce. With a network of forestry students from throughout Australia, IFSA Oceania has a unique potential to facilitate an increased domestic awareness of The Institute of Foresters of Australia to students, academics, and forest professionals globally. With continued industry support, IFSA Oceania wishes to facilitate student involvement at the ANZIF conference and joint exercises between forestry education institutes. If you wish to discuss this, or any other, matter further, please feel free to contact me on the details below.

Once again, I wish to thank you on behalf of the entire Australian delegation for your time and generous support.

Yours sincerely,

Joseph Henry
Oceania Regional Representative
Greetings from Zhangzhou in Fujian. I have some interesting and very good news to share with you. Last Tuesday (5 September) I received a surprising message from Hunan Province. I have been chosen to receive a 2006 "Xiaoxiang Friendship Award" from the Hunan Government.

The word "XiaoXiang" is a poetic name for Hunan province and the "Xiaoxiang Friendship Award" is the highest prize of Hunan Provincial People's Government to honor foreign experts who make devoted and great contributions to the economic construction and social development of Hunan Province.

In my case, the award is in recognition of the devoted contributions to research and development of cold tolerant eucalypts in Hunan. However, I feel this award really belongs to everyone who was involved in the China-Australia Cold Tolerant Eucalypt Project (1999-2004) - the project has had a huge beneficial impact in Hunan! (Those people include IFA members Steve Midgley (ACT) Peter Volker (Tas), Tom Baker and Jo Sasse (Vic).

Before the Cold Tolerant Eucalypt Project begun in 1999, it is estimated that there were less than 200 ha of eucalypt plantations in Hunan province. Today (September 2006) the area of productive eucalypt plantations is estimated to be more than 42,000 ha; most of these plantations have been established on degraded hill country where previously there were few other viable options for productive crops/landuse.

The award is to be presented by the Vice-Governor of Hunan Province in a ceremony on September 22, which I will attend, in Changsha, Hunan (Changsha is the capital city).

Some facts about Hunan:
Hunan province is located on the south bank of the Yangtse River, with an area of about 210,500 km² and a population of about 65 million people (compare to the state of Victoria in Australia: area = 227,600 km and population 4.4 million), it is major rice-producing area and its claims to fame include being the birthplace of Chairman Mao;

Some details about the award:
Since 1997, under the support of State Administration of Foreign Experts Affairs and the efforts of various sectors, Hunan Province has reputedly introduced/been visited by more than 11,000 foreign experts of all specialties. Those experts enlivened in the fields of industry, agriculture, transportation, finance, education, public health of our province, and have made important contributions to the economic construction and social development of Hunan province. In 2002, in order to commend the outstanding achievements made by the foreign experts in Hunan Province, the Provincial Government decided to establish the Xiaoxiang Friendship Award.

The Xiaoxiang Friendship Award is awarded every two years and honor up to ten experts each time.

best regards
Roger Arnold
email: Roger_arnold@aprilasia.com.cn
alternate email: travellingroger@yahoo.com.au

The President, Dr Peter Volker, recently received a letter from IFA member Roger Arnold who is working in China. Peter and John have agreed to the letter being published for the information of members.
Robin (Rob) Nielsen Snr

Rob Nielsen Snr died in Canberra on October 17, 2006.

Rob took up a Queensland Forestry Department cadetship in 1945, graduating in 1950 from the Australian Forestry School (with Distinction), and from Queensland University. As happened to many new graduates at the time, his first job was running a forest inventory camp. This was followed by a series of appointments to district offices in south-east Queensland dealing with native forests and softwood plantations.

In 1956 Rob moved to head office as officer in charge of the state’s forest inventory. But just three years later he resigned to manage a private radiata pine plantation in the higher altitude border country. This was owned by Hancock and Gore, a major Queensland plywood manufacturer. In 1961 Rob returned to Brisbane as Hancock and Gore’s logging manager – and also to continue to manage the plantation. But circumstances were to change again: the firm had management problems and Rob could see little future with them. He resigned to take up a position with the Snowy Mountains Authority.

Rob was to stay with the Authority from 1964 to 1981 and to become widely known for his work in developing poplar plantations on river flats close to Tumut. Here he was dealing, among other things, with the selection and testing of the most appropriate cultivars (with contributions from Professor Lindsay Pryor and Alan Brown), leasing the plantations for grazing and interplanting with other crops, the sale of thinnings as small logs, chipwood and wood wool, and the marketing of high quality ply logs to major match and plywood companies in several Australian centres.

The business side of Rob’s management role, and a great interest in economic matters, motivated his undertaking an external economics degree through Queensland University. This was completed in 1976.

From 1972, poplar rust was beginning to have a serious impact on the poplar-growing industry throughout New South Wales. In response to this disease and a declining demand for, and increasing importation of matches (the major poplar product at the time), the Snowy Mountains Authority sold the plantations in 1980. Rob moved to Canberra to pursue other interests.

Throughout his career and in retirement, Rob maintained a close association with the Institute of Foresters of Australia. He was, from 1957-1959, Secretary of the Institute Council while located in Queensland, and later held various positions in Divisions and Branches of the Institute in southern NSW and the ACT. He was elected a Fellow of the Institute in 1991 and was, for a number of years, Australian Secretary of the Commonwealth Forestry Association.

Rob was not a man attracted to climbing the rungs of the corporate ladder. Rather he gained satisfaction through remaining close to the land, trees and the forests, and working, as an individual and largely as his own master, to achieve personal and professional goals.

IFA remembers:
DAVID RYAN, THE FORESTER (1941-2006)

Dave commenced his forestry career as a cadet forester with the Forestry Commission of New South Wales in 1959, attending Sydney University and later the Australian Forestry School in Canberra. He graduated with his forestry degree in 1964.

Dave's first career appointment was to the Baradine District where he worked with Cypress Pine and hardwood until 1968. In 1968 and 1969 he was forester in charge of Condobolin District, once again working with Cypress Pine and hardwood. In 1969 he was transferred as District Forester, Bermagui South managing large areas of high quality native forest. In 1973 the Bermagui office transferred to Narooma. In 1981 during the expansion of the woodchip export era at Eden, Dave became Deputy Regional Forester, South East. In 1983 he transferred to Coffs Harbour as Deputy Regional Forester, again being involved with the management of native forest as well as with an expansion phase of softwood plantations in the Casino area.

Dave was promoted to the position of Fire Management Officer for the Forestry Commission in 1990, based at Head Office. When the Forestry Commission was restructured in 1992, and subsequently became State Forests, Dave accepted a voluntary redundancy.

And so began a whole new and successful career as a Forestry Consultant. His business enterprise, Boambee Forestry Services, was located at his home at Boambee. His workload included the complex, detailed planning of harvest operations for Forests NSW and for private property. More latterly he completed a lot of work with Local Government assessing development sites for bushfire risk. In this period he purchased a sizable property in the Dorrigo area where he fattened cattle. This was Dave’s switch off or relaxation, away from forestry issues and work.

Not content to be an ordinary farmer, Dave was an inspirational and supportive treasurer and chairman of Bellinger Landcare and a representative of Bostobrick Landcare Group. He initiated sub-catchment planning in his neighbourhood, based on a major creek running past his property. The Bostobrick Landcare Group implemented their catchment plan over a number of years from a variety of funding sources and expanded its operations onto the Little Murray River. Fencing of the waterways was the most common activity, followed by tree planting and weed control. The group also became involved in the Acid Soils Action Program and provided two trial sites for the monitoring of soil property changes and cattle weight gains as a result of lime application.

Dave has been a member of the Institute of Foresters of Australia since graduation. During the 1980’s and 1990’s the public forest authorities were undergoing extensive review and restructuring, often under hostile and stressful circumstances. Many foresters were unwilling to devote time to Institute affairs. Dave was a prominent and notable exception to this generalisation.

Dave Ryan was instrumental in the establishment of the Southern Branch of the IFA in the early 1980s and served as its inaugural Chairman. In 1991 Dave became the first forester to chair the NSW Division based outside Sydney. In this position Dave served as the NSW representative on the Board of the Institute of Foresters of Australia. Dave continued in this position until 1997 when he became Divisional Secretary.

Dave’s period as Chairman of the NSW Division coincided with sometimes dramatic change and upheaval in forest administration and development in NSW. This demanded an enormous effort by members of the Institute in order to promote an appropriate professional view on these hectic and emotional developments, which saw the dedication of Wilderness Areas and National Parks in pre-emptive moves prior to comprehensive regional assessment, the freezing of timber supplies which were to have been made available under the EIS process and the introduction of legislation dealing with endangered species and vegetation management on private lands. It is a matter of fact that Dave Ryan not only coordinated this large effort by the limited number of willing helpers, but he personally prepared many of the submissions and responses demanded from the Institute during this time.

Within the Institute at a National level Dave pioneered, promoted and assisted introduction of accreditation and continuing professional development of Foresters. He was a member of the first RPF Registration Committee.

During this hectic period Dave was a regular contributor to the IFA newsletter. He sought out through diligent research the core elements of an issue and then promoted the work widely, keeping members informed of diverse topics such as honey.

Continued page 28
Visited a Library Lately?

By Alan Brown

Perhaps not, but a new and valuable facility for those who use web-based library catalogues is the free national library catalogue, Libraries Australia, at http://librariesaustralia.nla.gov.au. Here users can search across the combined catalogues of Australian libraries — national, state, public, university, TAFE and government — with one search. The database lists more than 40 million items. It has evolved over many years, but until this year access was restricted to subscribers — typically libraries.

Libraries Australia can also locate a library that holds the item and help to place a request. Some items are available in full text online. There are also links to Australian and overseas online bookshops.

Sunk without trace?

A feature of forestry literature worldwide is the significant extent of the ‘grey’ literature — one-off reports, papers for conferences the proceedings of which may never be published, departmental documents and so on. Authors may rely on their employers to archive their work, but the many institutional changes seen in the last decade demonstrate how insecure such arrangements can be. Although it is a legal requirement that copies of published documents be lodged with Australian state and national libraries (which will list them in the national catalogue), some material still remains unrecorded and unarchived in this way.

The references listed in contributions to Australian Forestry show how important unpublished literature is in Australian forestry — and a search of the library catalogues frequently reveals that no copies are publically held. Some journals exclude unpublished material, and material not accessible through a public library system, from reference lists. An alternative policy is that such items should be cited only as a last resort, and that it is better to provide the available information — imperfect though it may be — than none at all.

The practical importance of these issues was demonstrated in the proceedings of the Resource Assessment Commission some 15 years ago, when information in unpublished documents was heavily discounted.

My recommendation? Publish as much as you can, promptly, in a refereed journal; if that is not possible, at least ensure that copies of significant papers and reports are lodged with state or national libraries. Apart from anything else, this makes good economic sense — John Turner and Marcia Lambert have estimated that each published research paper reflects work costing $200,000 to $300,000: we can’t afford to ignore the effort that is wasted in unrecorded work.

Changing publishing practice

Most commercial publishers of journals now produce both hard copy and on-line versions (in 2003, 75% of all journals; 83% of those in science, technology and medicine). This has had ramifications far beyond a simple change in presentation. Publishers get much income from ‘selling’ journal access, either through costly subscriptions, or by charging fees for papers online. For example, abstracts of the Kluwer’s journal New Forests are available online and full text articles can be purchased by non-subscribers: a 13-page article on pines in Volume 29 (2005) costs US$30. Such high cost inevitably limits accessibility.

The low cost of electronic distribution has led to the development of ‘big deals’ by major publishers: all their journal titles may be offered to a subscriber in a package. These large subscriptions consume much of library budgets, and are not easily modified. When funds become tight, it is the journals from small publishers or societies, and monograph purchases, which tend to be discontinued. Major publishers are also in an advantageous position regarding inclusion of their products in Current Contents and attracting the accompanying prestige, and they usually enforce tighter controls over Internet copyright, dissemination and pricing than in the traditional print world. For example, if an institution subscribed to a hard copy of a journal, it was free to lend it as it wished, but this is not usual with electronic subscriptions. Continued access to past issues of an electronic journal to which a subscription has been cancelled may not be assured.

The high prices charged by commercial publishers, and the low cost of electronic distribution, have led to attempts to develop electronic journals for free distribution over the internet. The number of these is increasing, but slowly. Electronic archives, however, are increasing more rapidly in number, and are providing some relief from the hold of major publishers. These deserve your active support. An example is the archive maintained by the University of Queensland at http://eprint.uq.edu.au/, while relevant 2005 national discussions are at http://www.humanities.org.au/Events/NSCF/NSCFRT19/NSCFRT19.htm.

In 2005, both the Congress of the International Union of Forestry Research Organisations in Brisbane and a subsequent allied meeting in Oxford considered the nature, significance and consequences of these developments for forestry. Twelve of the papers from those meetings have now been published in a free on-line journal at http://www.istl.org/46-suppl/. Have a look at them!
Moving Forward Together
Synopsis of a presentation given by Tony Bartlett
at the Australian Forest Contractors Association Conference, Wagga Wagga NSW 24 August 2006

Some of the key aspects of the Australian Government’s forest policy include sustainable increases in the area of plantations, maintaining a sustainable supply of native forest timber, facilitating industry innovation and development of value adding processing facilities and the protection of forest industry jobs. With the significant expansion of plantations that has occurred over the last decade, we can expect the annual wood harvest from plantations to increase from the current level of about 8 million m³/yr to about 20 million m³/yr by 2020. Because of the increasing globalisation of all businesses including forestry, if Australian forest industries are to succeed we need to ensure that at every step along the production chain we are operating with best practice and are internationally competitive.

The success of the forest industries is dependent on the symbiotic tripartite relationship between the forest growers, the harvesting and haulage contractors and the processing industries, which can be represented by the “forestry triangle”. For success each component of the relationship needs to be efficient, innovative and profitable, but importantly any one component can not succeed in the long term if one of the other components fails.

Some key issues facing forest contractors include the high capital cost of modern equipment, the high debt to equity ratio of many businesses, reliance on minimum monthly cash flows and the vulnerability to downturns in wood markets and increasing costs of plant and fuel, the difficulty in attracting skilled workers and the ongoing need for vigilance in occupational health and safety programs. It is not unreasonable for forest contractors to expect appropriate returns on their investment and in order to achieve this they need good business management skills and equitable contractual arrangements with the growers or processors.

As the forest industry moves forward over the next decade forest contractors need to be able to seize the emerging opportunities from the significantly increased wood supply. We need to foster innovation, strengthen investment in research and development, improve business management skills, increase productivity, reduce costs and achieve equitable financial returns, improve occupational health and safety outcomes and make forest contracting an occupation of choice for young people in regional areas. Forest contracting businesses need to achieve a more equitable return on investment compared to the processing and growing sectors.

There are very good prospects for the growth of Australian forest industries and successful, efficient contractors are an integral part of a profitable industry. It is vital that we continue to work together in a partnership approach to industry development and improve community perceptions about the forest industries. In doing so we should aim to rebalance the “forestry triangle” to ensure that forest contractors can continue to operate their essential businesses in a sustainable manner.

ANZIF Conference 3 - 7 June 2007
Coffs Harbour NSW
It’s going to be big
**Letter to the Editor**

Dear Editor,

Herewith an opinion on the subject of the registration of a practising forester as put forward by Phil West, Graham Wilkinson and Gerard Stewart in *The Forester* of September 2006.

My training was first in tropical agriculture with the Deventer Agricultural College in the Netherlands. There I obtained in 1945 a diploma in tropical agriculture and at a later date in 1970 the title of Ingenieur. In South Africa I received in 1952 a B.Sc Forestry at the Stellenbosch University and in 1961 a post graduate Diploma in Forestry at the University of Edinburgh, Scotland. Then again in 1964 at the Stellenbosch University, a M.Sc. in Forestry.

During the period from 1953 - 1989 I worked as a professional forester in the services of government and private practices which included work in Swaziland and Zimbabwe. My career in the Government Service in S. Africa included management of State timber plantations and indigenous forests and for 7 years as a lecturer in farm forestry at the Cedara Agricultural College in Natal and at the Saasveld State Forestry College at George. During 1984-1989 I worked part time for the farmer’s corporation in Mosselbay/George and in addition had a private farm forestry contracting business which was based on my own farm.

With the above dual training and experience I feel free to voice my opinion on the letters of Phil West, Graham Wilkinson and Gerald Stewart and I would like to state that I whole heartedly support Phil West for the simple reason that it is quite unnecessary for a professional forester to have an additional registration to practice as a forestry consultant. All that is required is a private, practical agreement between the professional forester and a prospective employer. It would also be to the benefit of land owners, farmers and interested parties to establish timber growing associations and so protect their interests in timber growing and timber sales and also be independent of foresters who want to establish their own timber buying concerns.

H. Wilhelmij  
Retired forester and farmer.

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**Summary of Email Bulletins distributed since previous issue**

- Employers Notice Board: 18 employment opportunities circulated to members
- ACT Submission - Lower Cotter catchment draft management plan
- Article by Frank McKinnell on Aral Sea
- The facts on Victoria’s forests
- FWPRDC Report now available
- Educating our children on Sustainable forestry
- Summer work for students
- IFA represented at FSC workshop
- Pesticide use in Australian forestry plantations marginal

If you are not receiving your weekly email bulletins contact the National Office ifa@forestry.org.au to register your email address.

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**David Ryan from page 25**

Production, forestry and fish in North America, and eucalypt plantations. Dave was well known for his research on the early descriptions of native vegetation and explorers and surveyors and the role of fire on the structure and distribution of this vegetation. He wrote extensively on this hotly debated topic and contributed to an often contrary view to our knowledge of the so-called pre-1750 distribution of forest types.

He was an active member of the Forest History Association.

Dave’s efforts with the IFA were recognised in 1999 when he was elected to the Fellow level of membership of the Institute of Foresters of Australia. In addition to being a very active Member of the IFA, Dave served as Secretary/Treasurer of the Association of Consulting Foresters of Australia for 10 years and participated in the work of the Australian Forest Growers Association. He was also an active member of the Forest History Society. Forestry was a profession Dave loved.

He was a passionate and studious forester; a forester with deep-seated convictions.

There is no doubt that that over many years Dave Ryan has been a doer and that he has been a major player and innovator over a difficult and complex period in forestry affairs in NSW. As succinctly put by a Past President of the Institute of Foresters, Dr Gary Bacon, David Ryan made an immense contribution to forestry “over a full rotation.”
Book review - By Roger Underwood
The Rainforests of Cape York Peninsula by Peter Stanton and David Fell

During the time I was a student at the Australian Forestry School in 1961/2, I was surrounded by Queenslanders, and they were a happy and highly talented group. They included men who later became world-renown forest scientists (Ian Bevege), well-known academics (Don Gilmour and Geoff Stoker), top international consultants (Evan Sheild, John Keating and Bob Thistlethwaite), and bushfire experts (Tom Just). Mostly the Queenslanders were outgoing, confident, gregarious, and sports and party-loving. One stood out in a different way: Peter Stanton. Peter had a quiet reserve and was his own man. Yet he had a lively sense of humour and a steely inner drive which made him both a successful scholar and a tremendous distance runner and swimmer. He became one of my most valued friends, a friendship that has endured for over 40 years.

‘...fire, which might be given more emphasis today, the recommendations still provide an excellent blueprint for Queensland’s national parks agency.’

I realise now that it was the qualities of scholarship and physical toughness that underpinned his success in his professional life, and in particular the work which is the basis for the Cape York rainforests book discussed below. After Peter joined the Queensland forest service he took the unusual step (for those days) of moving into national parks management, and he subsequently became a revered parks manager in north Queensland, and one of the nation’s foremost specialists in rainforest ecology and management.

During the 1970s he almost single-handedly set up the national park reserve system in far north Queensland, and he became a strong proponent for hands-on management, including the use of fire and the need to control weeds, feral animals and illegal operations. He was a great champion of his ranger staff, who hold him in awe to this day.

Needless to say, Peter’s strong-minded approach, his insistence on high standards and his demands for positive management did not always endear him to Head Office, especially after the politicisation of rainforest conservation and the rise of environmentalism. For these reasons, he has never received the official accolades which are his due.

From 1992-4, while still working as a Regional Manager with the NP&W Service, Peter became involved with the Cape York Peninsular Land Use Study. Funded by the Commonwealth and Queensland governments, Peter and botanist David Fell began a comprehensive (and staggeringly impressive) ecological survey and mapping project for the rainforests of Cape York. The Rainforests of Cape York Peninsular describes the methodology and outcomes of this work.

I am by no means a rainforest man, but I know enough about them to appreciate the physical demands of the work, and I know enough about forest inventory to appreciate the way this project was designed and the data collected and analysed. A brief summary does not do it justice, but suffice it to say that the entire region was examined and rainforest areas designated on aerial photographs and then ground-truthed. Rainforests were then stratified into 72 separate forest types, and within these 140 sample plots were established. In each plot the full range of botanical species was identified, and recorded (with type specimens lodged with the State Herbarium) and the soils and geology recorded. The detailed descriptions of each of the 72 forest types are now published and are available on a companion CD. All of this information has subsequently been incorporated into maps developed by the Queensland government.

What makes this publication special to me is that it does not stop short at inventory, site descriptions and botanical analysis – it moves on to a review of the conservation status of the various rainforest types, the need for additional reserves, critical management issues and recommended management actions.

While the early chapters demonstrate the superb field botanical and ecological skills of both Peter Stanton and David Fell, the final chapters reflect Peter’s background and long experience as a hands-on land manager. Although all this was written over ten years ago (the whole study languished for several years before the new Rainforest CRC picked it up and decided to publish it), and there are some management issues, eg fire, which might be given more emphasis today, the recommendations still provide an excellent blueprint for Queensland’s national parks agency. I hope this work gets done. If it does, in years to come the book on which it is based will come to be regarded as a landmark contribution to Australian tropical forest conservation and management.

The Rainforests of Cape York Peninsular (2005) by P Stanton and D Fell is published by the Cooperative Research Centre for Tropical Rainforest Ecology and Management. It is a handsome book, 204 pages with high quality maps and attractive colour plates illustrative of several key rainforest types. It is available from the Rainforest CRC, James Cook University, PO Box 6811, Cairns, Qld 4870.
Global Warming and All that Jazz
By Norman Endacott

A symposium is to be conducted on September 28, 2006 at the RMIT, ostensibly by the Australian Academy of Technical Services & Engineering (Vic. Division). It is supported by a bevy of academics, consultants and representatives of government, all deeply involved and immersed in the Global Warming debate.

The attendance fee is $150; therefore I will not be going. Had it been free I may have gone along, to have some questions answered, and perhaps to throw a couple of stones in the pond.

I note in the programme a couple of foci of attention and discussion, which my commonsense rebels against as a waste of my time. These are:

Focus (A)
Session (2) Emission Trading
Session (3) A National Trading System
Session (4) Issues with a Carbon Price
Focus (B)
Session (7) Bio Sequestration

Focus (A) Carbon Trading

The philosophical principle seems to have been established by the Kyoto protocols and the mountain of discussions since that if one segment of the economic structure (e.g. coal-fired power production) is guilty of emitting excessive quantities of CO2 into the atmosphere, thereby incurring the overall community’s wrath, that particular industry can escape blame and wrath by buying so-called “carbon rights” from some other economic player which keeps itself in the community’s good books by carrying on a business which takes CO2 out of circulation.

This transfer of money seems to validate, justify, excuse, and permit the specified tonnage of CO2 emission per unit time. The logic behind the principle that such money transfers can take the alleged sting out of the huge thermodynamic events which we are told are threatening our future, beggars the imagination. One would think that as long as the smoke stacks continue their business as usual, the old French expression describes the situation adequately: “everything changes, and everything remains the same”.

Those with a suspicious mind would have the notion that the proposed complex quid pro quo web of carbon trading is nothing but a sham solution to the excessive CO2 problem – a means of punishing offenders and rewarding the “good guys”, a mere distraction from the apparently insuperable problem.

Focus (B) Bio– Sequestration

As a retired forester, I am expected to claim that forest managers are the “good guys” who bask in the community’s approval, and have lots of carbon rights to sell to the CO2-producers.

OK, a forest manager is a “good guy”, who inadvertently creates a “carbon sink” when he/she produces a new forest, providing he/she is reforesting or afforesting land which was formerly clear and treeless. But what fate lies in store for that new forest? I suggest 4 alternative scenarios (there may be more):

a) The new plantation (formerly cleared farmland) will be dedicated to woodchip production, by means of an endless (?) sequence of 15 year rotations, with the new carbon regime waxing and waning between zero and a couple of hundred tonnes of carbon accumulation per hectare. The 15 year harvests will be ephemeral events, and inevitably finish up in the CO2 stream. The graphical presentation of carbon levels will resemble a saw-tooth pattern with respect to annual planting accomplishments, or a median level representation of the overall plantation over time. One wonders how the “Carbon Trading Rights” scheme will cope with this situation in its rotation-by-rotation continuance, and also what will happen if and when the enterprise is interrupted or terminated by external problems. Would Carbon Rights be refundable?

b) The new plantation will be dedicated to hardwood sawlog production, managed on a 50 year rotation. There will be upside and downside in relation to carbon rights computations, and to the above woodchip plantations.

(i) There is less likelihood of the enterprise performing to expectations, because of inadequate background research and experience, and the fact that the economic, commercial, and technical odds are loaded against success.

(ii) A proportion of say 20% of the sawn product from the 50 year harvests could reasonably be considered as long-term sequestered carbon.

c) If trusted and tried conifer sawlog plantations were substituted for eucalypts, the chances of success, on 30-35 year rotations, would be enhanced.

d) Perhaps the new plantation will be established purely as a carbon sequestration exercise.

I recall that a green group from NSW and Queensland (Green…..) has been advertising for benevolent citizens to send them cheque for $40, to fund a large-scale tree planting scheme, which will negate much of the CO2 emission which is going on, but more significantly, will ease the consciences of the donors by cancelling out the bad effects of those particular citizens’ prodigal use of petrol in their cars.

Good intentions and noble motives would not ensure success, nor guarantee that statistical targets or economically satisfactory performance would be achieved.

The obvious intention of such a scheme would be to allow that new forest to remain intact and undisturbed for an indefinite, even infinite time. Theoretically, the forest would pass through the youthful, middle-aged, mature, overmature, and senescent stages. What then? What sort of ecological tricks will Nature play? What fire history will that forest be likely to experience? How will the enigmatic Carbon Trading computations deal with these uncertainties?

All the above attempts to cancel out the greenhouse-negative activities of humankind by expanding forests, even if things go according to plan, would seem to have a plateau-like asymptotic CO2-outcome, easily outstripped by uncontrollable factors such as the escalating human population levels of the planet.

If I were to pay my $150 and attended this symposium, and listened to all the wisdom propounded by those experts, who seem to have a vested interest in promoting and prolonging this debate, then I may have some of the above questions answered and my doubts abated. But I doubt it!
About the Institute of Foresters of Australia

The Institute of Foresters of Australia (IFA) has over 1200 members who represent all aspects of the forestry profession. Our members include private and public practitioners engaged in forest and land management, researchers, educators and administrators.

The IFA is:
- an advocate for better forest management in Australia
- an advocate for high professional standards in forestry
- an advocate for the active management of our forests for all values
- a focus for professional development activities, both formal and informal
- a source of information about employment opportunities
- a source of information about developments in the forestry profession and in forestry, in Australia and our region of the world

The IFA has a National Office in Canberra, and Divisions in all States and the ACT.

Membership benefits
The many benefits of being a Member of the IFA include:
- The many benefits of being a Member of the IFA include:
  - email advice of current employment vacancies
  - regular email Bulletin advising members of current events and encouraging an exchange of information in forestry
  - a quarterly newsletter, including news amongst members, letters to the editor, members views and events
  - a quarterly scientific peer reviewed journal – Australian Forestry
  - opportunity for accreditation as a Registered Professional Forester
  - field days focusing on forestry issues
  - a biennial technical conference
  - professional development awards
  - locally based meetings and activities (State divisions and regional branches)
  - the potential to contribute to the advancement of forestry in Australia through submissions and policy statements
  - access to website (with special members only access to some information)
  - a Membership Certificate confirming your professional membership
  - a tax deduction for your membership subscription
  - professional recognition, including honours and awards

Membership Grades
The membership grades of the IFA are:
- Voting Member
- Associate Member
- Student Member

Voting Member (professional level)
You are eligible for Voting membership if you:
1. hold a tertiary degree qualification in forestry together with at least two years appropriate forest management or forest science experience and can demonstrate knowledge of and/or skills in the core subjects of Australian forestry
or
2. hold any other tertiary qualification or other relevant experience acceptable to the Institute together with at least four years appropriate forest management or forest science experience and can demonstrate knowledge of and/or skills in the core subjects of Australian forestry.

Associate Member
You are eligible for Associate membership if you
1. are interested in the objects of the Institute
or
2. are employed and have experience in forestry

Note: Membership is open to all persons who work in forestry and not just professional foresters. Practitioners engaged in many aspects of forestry, nature conservation, resource and land management, research, administration and education are welcome as members.

A member is eligible for a 75% discounted Young Professional rate for the first three years following graduation from his/her first undergraduate forestry or forestry related degree.

Student Member
You are eligible for Student Membership if you are attending as a full time student a formal course of forester related study at any University or tertiary institution.

Voting and Associate Members returning to full-time study may apply for a concession on the standard subscription fee.

Membership subscriptions
Members are welcome to join at any time of the year. Half fee apply for half year or less.

Fees for year 2006-07:
- Voting Member $268
- Associate Member $233
- Young Professional (Associate) $67
- Student Member $40 (free during first financial year)
- Over 65 Retired rate $134

If you work in the forestry industry, your fees would normally be tax deductible.
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ITEM: Silviculture Notes for NSW on CD
Price: $35.00 (including P&H & GST)

ITEM: Growth Habits of the Eucalypts
Price: $32.00 (including P&H & GST)

ITEM: The Foresters
Price: $8.00 (including P&H & GST)

ITEM: History of Australian Forestry School
Price: $10.50 (including P&H & GST)

ITEM: Institute Tie
Price: $18.00 (including P&H & GST)

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