



Media Release

WORLD FORESTRY DAY EVERYONE NEEDS FORESTS IN SOME WAY (210302)

March 21 is World Forestry Day and people around the world celebrate the contribution made by forestry to their communities on this day of the autumn or spring equinox.

“Everyone needs forests in some way,” Institute of Foresters of Australia President, Mrs Heather Crompton, said today.

“Forest surroundings are capable of generating personal tranquillity, and passionate opinions,” Heather Crompton said.

“Forests are sources of many products and services. They employ men and women, here in Australia and as well as overseas, in industries ranging from timber to tourism.”

“They provide habitat for wildlife and fuel for bushfires.”

Australian forests include mallee woodlands on the desert fringe; pine and eucalypt plantations; old-growth forests and regrowth; rainforests and mangrove forests; urban forests and street trees; farm windbreaks and agroforestry.

“Australian eucalypts, acacias and casuarinas are now grown all over the world,” Heather Crompton said.

“The world’s poorest people rely on wood from forests for cooking, heating and lighting.”

Foresters in Australia commemorate World Forestry Day each year with support to fellow foresters around the world by publishing a privately funded journal of forest science and management that they also donate to over 100 poorer countries of the world as part of an international library project.

“Most of Australia’s forests are managed by women and men who have studied at university. Professional forestry is a balance between the social, environmental and economic interests of communities”, Heather Crompton said. “There is now a new national scheme to provide for quality assurance of forester’s skills, knowledge and expertise called the Registered Professional Forester scheme.”

The Institute of Foresters of Australia represents more than 1,300 forestry professionals who work in forest research, education, management and operations throughout Australia.