



## Media Release

### World Forestry Day (200307)

The National President of the Institute of Foresters of Australia (IFA) calls on all Australians to celebrate World Forestry Day on 21<sup>st</sup> March.

Dr Volker said, "World Forestry Day has particular relevance this year as it comes at the end of a long and exhausting fire season which still may not be over. The Institute is proud of the role that professional foresters and their colleagues have played in responding to the emergency situations in our forests and communities."

"This World Forestry Day should be a celebration of the contribution of professional foresters to the understanding of the unique characteristics of Australia's native forests and the role of fire in their management." Recent discussion of fire management in Australia has vindicated the stance that the IFA has taken on fire management.

The IFA is concerned about the changing face of forest management in Australia, where professional foresters appear to have diminishing roles in upper level management of State Forest agencies. This has been reflected in less attention being paid to long term fire management planning and control issues and a focus on emergency response and direct attack. "Recent catastrophic and large scale fires have been more difficult to control due to lack of preparation and a reluctance to spend money on less spectacular, sometimes controversial, but nevertheless effective control burning operations" Dr Volker said.

Dr Volker will be celebrating World Forestry Day in Western Australia with local IFA members where he will present Mr Jack Bradshaw with the NW Jolly Medal, the Institute's highest Award. Mr Bradshaw has had a long career in Western Australia as a forester and a first class scientist. He has made a great contribution to forest management in WA. He continues to provide inspiration to a new generation of forest scientists.

Foresters in Australia commemorate World Forestry Day each year. "Most of Australia's forests are managed by women and men who have studied at university. Forest management involves a balance between the social, environmental and economic interests of communities. Resolving these interests is not easy, but foresters do it in a competent and professional manner." Dr Volker said.

"There is now a national scheme to provide for quality assurance of forester's skills, knowledge and expertise under the Registered Professional Forester scheme. The RPF scheme encourages continuing professional development to ensure graduates remain up to date" Dr Volker said.

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

Further information

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