



## MEDIA RELEASE (17/11/2011)

### Studying forestry in 2012 just got a whole lot better for two young guns

Two lucky students have had their commitment to forestry education rewarded after receiving the news that they are the recipients of forestry scholarships in 2012.

Patrick de Jong and Michael Dent have been named as the recipients of the 2012 undergraduate scholarships issued by the Forestry Scholarship Fund (FSF). Both students are enrolled at Southern Cross University, and undertaking a Bachelor of Forest Science and Management degree.

The recipients show an enduring passion for their chosen discipline. Patrick notes 'I believe I can contribute a perspective to forestry that uses management techniques derived from, and proven in, both man-made and natural ecosystems. I hope, upon the successful completion of my university course to enter the Forestry industry with contemporary techniques on a variety of issues, in particular that of sustainable and multi (land use) forestry.'

Secretary to the Forestry Scholarship Fund Committee, Cassandra Spencer, Chief Executive Officer of the Institute of Foresters of Australia, commented that the quality of the applications received were of exceptionally high standard. 'This year we have seen a number of applicants who show a high level of commitment and passion for Australian forestry as a long term career choice. This is encouraging for the industry as we need to ensure that forestry professionals are available in the future to continue managing Australia's diverse landscapes.'

'The aim of the Forestry Scholarship Fund is to encourage new recruits into forest education. These two guys bring to the industry exactly what it will need in the future. Every industry needs an injection of youth and enthusiasm to drive innovation and change.' She said.

The scholarship fund, established in 2009 and managed by the Institute is supported by industry and is committed to tertiary studies. The scholarships are also an incentive for students who are studying other science disciplines and who are considering a move to forest management.

One example of that change is recipient Michael Dent. Previously enrolled in a Bachelor of Environmental Science degree, Michael chose to make the move to forestry after experiencing firsthand how involved and exciting the industry is. 'Gaining employment in the forest industry gave me incredible insight into the importance of growing trees and forest ecosystems. I am aware that forestry as a career is both challenging and rewarding and having lived on a farm my entire life I love both the conservation and production aspects of forestry. I am interested in sustainability and how forestry can improve the environment.' Michael said.

The Forestry Scholarship Fund also supports post-graduate studies with up to 15 scholarships available in 2012 for participants of the National Forestry Masters Program. Applications for the masters scholarships are due 1<sup>st</sup> December and all interested persons are encouraged to contact their course coordinator to submit an application.

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<sup>1</sup> Southern Cross University offers a four year undergraduate course at both Lismore NSW and Mount Gambier SA campuses. Further information on this can be found at:  
<http://www.scu.edu.au/schools/esm/index.php/13/>