

The Institute of Foresters of Australia

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Foresters announce new President



The Institute of Foresters of Australia (IFA) today announced that David Wettenhall RPF, of Albany Western Australia as its new President.

David was appointed unanimously by the IFA Board of Directors at their recent meeting held in Coonawarra, South Australia. Executive Officer of the Institute, Cassandra Spencer said that David's appointment creates valuable opportunities to build enduring benefits for Australia's foresters.

"The Institute of Foresters represents members in all aspects of forestry in Australia. Whilst continuing to support and advocating for common sense approaches to Australian production forests, this is also a pivotal time for the Institute to reinforce its position in non-production forested landscape management discussions. This is a new future for forestry and one that the IFA wants to embrace" She said.

In accepting his appointment, David commented that "A key issue for the IFA is to promote to the public the value of forest assets and the need for professional forest management. Forests have enormous and complex values in 'green futures' such as biomass energy, low energy construction materials, carbon sequestration and storage as well as ongoing values in the conservation of biodiversity, water and timber production while supporting and protecting communities in and around forests."

David graduated in forestry from the Australian National University in 1975 and he has recently completed a Masters of Forest Ecosystem Science at the University of Melbourne. He has been an active member of the IFA throughout his career. He has also been a strong advocate for private and farm forestry.

David takes over from Dr Peter Volker who has recently completed his sixth year's service as Institute President. The IFA Board of Directors and new President are committed to continuing the progress of Dr Volker who has worked tirelessly to increase the profile of the IFA in the public and political arena and to foster credibility in the voice of IFA members.

David Wettenhall said "Peter Volker provided inspirational leadership for the IFA through difficult times for the profession and the forest dependent industries and communities. We thank Peter for his enormous contribution to the profession and science based management of forests in Australia. I hope to continue his efforts to improve forest policy development."

David's early career included employment in the Tasmanian woodchip industry and then growing poplars for match splints in Victoria and New South Wales. From 1985 to 1997 he was employed by an integrated softwood pulp/plywood and sawmill in North East Victoria. In the latter period of this term he led the development of a hardwood plantation programme and was Environment Manager for the mill site. In 1997 he took up a position with Integrated Tree Cropping in Albany, WA as General Manager – Operations.

David established 'Plantall Forestry Consultants' in 1999 which provides freelance forestry services to forestry enterprises in WA.

Enquiries can be made directly to David Wettenhall, President:
0407 944 998.

For further information about the IFA, contact Cassandra Spencer,
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Image right: David Wettenhall, President Institute of Foresters of
Australia

