



MEDIA RELEASE

Mr Mark Edwards - ACT Forester of the Year 2008 (26/3/2008)

The Institute of Foresters of Australia ACT Division is proud to announce the winner of the first ACT Forester of the Year Award – Mr Mark Edwards.

The Award was presented to Mr Edwards at the Division's annual World Forestry Day dinner on 19 March 2008. World Forestry Day occurs across the globe every year to celebrate sustainable forest management and the interaction of people and forests.

Mr Edwards has made a significant contribution to Australian forestry, in particular the development and highly successful implementation of the Australian Forestry Standard and the establishment of Australian Forestry Standard Limited.

Accepting the Award Mr Edwards said "the peer recognition embodied in this award means a great deal to me. I find 'being a Forester' is much more than a job title but is a profession that you have in your blood and this is my take home message to the many ANU students who attended the World Forestry Day celebration."

"Mark reflects the principles of the IFA in his work – advancing and protecting the cause of forestry by supporting the sector to embrace and promote sustainable forestry" said Mr Phil Pritchard, chair of the ACT Division.

Mr Pritchard acknowledged the support provided by Mr Robert Newman OAM who has donated funds to support the award for 2008-10.

"I am delighted that Mark has accepted the inaugural ACT Forester of the Year Award" said Mr Newman OAM following the presentation. "Mark has made a critical national contribution that typifies the ACT as a national centre of forestry - embracing forestry management, communication, research, education and policy development."

The ACT Forester of the Year Award has been established to help foster IFA members contribution to forestry – whether it be within the ACT, the surrounding region and nationally. The Award includes \$1000 which recipients are encouraged to use to further their professional development.

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More Information

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IFA website: www.forestry.org.au

Background:

Australian Forestry Standard Limited is a not-for-profit public company registered in July 2003. The company owns the standard development functions and manages the elements of the [Australian Forest Certification Scheme](#). Now over 8 million hectares of timber production forest and plantation in Australia are certified under the AFCS.