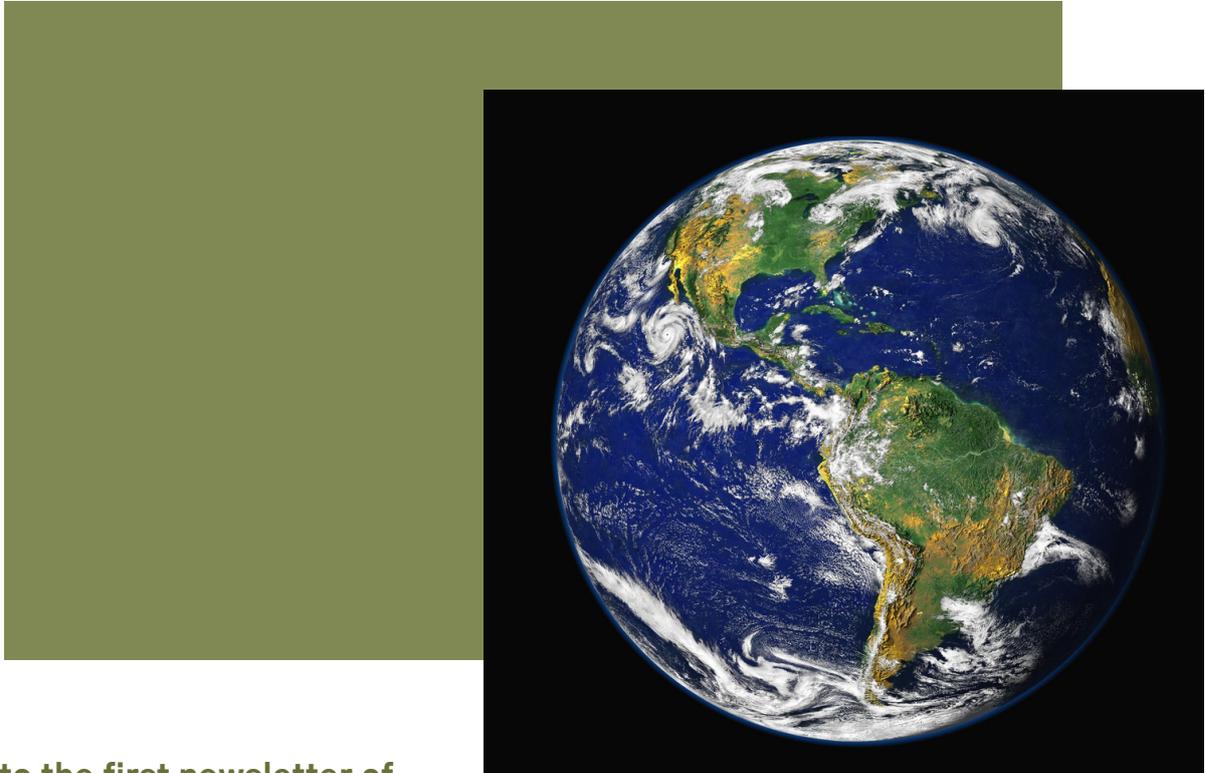


FORESTERS WITHOUT BORDERS AUSTRALIA



Newsletter #1



Welcome to the first newsletter of Foresters Without Borders (FWB) Australia.

We hope that this newsletter helps to keep our stakeholders and partners informed of our activities and promotes linkages among organisations working to improve forest management in the Pacific and Asia.

In this our first edition we introduce the FWB management committee and what we do and report on one of our activities in Vanuatu.

Who we are and what we do

Part of the Institute of Foresters of Australia (IFA), FWB is an independent non-profit organisation open to any professional in forest management.

We work with communities and organisations in need to provide volunteers for technical advice that contributes to sustainable forest management in Australia and overseas, with a focus on the Pacific and Asia.

The FWB management committee

FWB is run by a voluntary committee of forestry professionals chaired by David Wood. David is an IFA Fellow and has been involved in the profession for over fifty years, working as a forester in a diverse range of fields, both in Australia and overseas. Now retired, David volunteers with several organisations in his local community.

He sees the opportunity for knowledge transfer from experienced forestry professionals in Australia to communities managing forests in our neighbouring countries as an important role for Foresters without Borders. Other members of the committee have a wide range of experience in forestry, in Australia and overseas.

How to get involved

There are several ways that you can contribute to FWB:

- Suggest a project. We welcome ideas from interested organisations or individuals.
- Volunteer for a project. Or register your interest in being involved in future activities.
- Make a donation

Get in touch

Our website is currently being re-developed. Interim information can be found on the IFA website at:

www.forestry.org.au/ifa/foresters-without-border

You can also contact us via the IFA LinkedIn page:

www.linkedin.com/company/the-institute-of-foresters-of-australia-ifa

or the IFA Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/InstituteofForestersofAustralia/

Alternatively, you can contact us via email at:
ifafb1@gmail.com

VANUATU Rebuilding Vanuatu Forestry

After cyclone Pam devastated Vanuatu in 2015, IFA members raised funds to help communities re-establish nurseries and tree plantings. Working with the Vanuatu Foresters Association and Department of Forests, FWB has assisted with the purchase of equipment and the planning and establishment of community nurseries on five islands.

These community tree plantings are helping to re-establish natural forest areas damaged in Cyclone Pam as well and to re-establish plantings of important fruit, medicinal and timber species.

The first phase of the project focussed on the rebuilding and re-equipping community nurseries and visits by forest officers to train people in nursery management and tree planting. Thereafter the project continued this work, but also funded the purchase of quality seedling stock for community plantings.

On Mataso Island the distribution of plants was part of a two day program. The first day was dedicated to forestry awareness raising while the second day was a field day where forestry seedlings were distributed and planted. Hands on training was given on how to set up a woodlot and the techniques of planting seedlings to ensure their survival.



Delivery of seedlings to Mataso Island

On the Northern part of Efate and on Nguna Island materials and tools were provided to two nurseries to improve their capacity to raise seedlings. These materials were supplied by a Project partner, Vanuatu Agricultural Supplies who also assisted by managing funds provided by the IFA.

Although some time has passed since the passage of Cyclone Pam in March 2015 this project has demonstrated that patience and appropriate community engagement can provide enduring results.

The Vanuatu Foresters' Association (VFA) engaged four main communities to implement this project, by helping committed farmers and communities to be able to implement the activities. These selected sites were cyclone affected communities in Shefa Province for whom tree growing is an important part of local livelihoods.

The work was done with the support of the Area Council Secretaries network and, importantly, local churches and Chief's Councils. VFA worked alongside the Department of Forests in engaging key forestry farmers in the selected areas.

In the final project report The Vanuatu Foresters' Association has acknowledged the assistance provided by the Institute of Foresters of Australia.

“The assistance provides the basis of rehabilitating the forest resources of the affected communities that depend entirely on forest resources for their livelihood. The support has helped certain forestry farmers to engage in forestry activities and continue to maintain their forestry nurseries.

The Vanuatu Foresters Association has worked alongside the Department of Forests – and will continue to do so in years to come – to implement this project in anticipation that ongoing monitoring and assistance will be provided by the forestry department.”

David Wood, Chair of the FWB Management Committee, commented that “it’s very pleasing to see the completion of this project by FWB and it’s partners and the benefit that it has had for people in Vanuatu, we look forward to continuing to work with our partners and communities to promote sustainable forest management and local livelihoods in Vanuatu and the region”.

Our next newsletter will be released in November – December will report on recent FWB activities in Fiji.



Seedling distribution to the community tree farmers



Nursery tools to be despatched to North Efate nursery