



**Institute of Foresters of Australia/Australian Forest Growers
WA Division Annual General Meeting
19 November 2020
On-line meeting**

Meeting commenced at 5.10 pm

Present:

Committee: Lachie McCaw (Chair), Brad Barr, Peter Beatty, John Clarke, John McGrath, Mike Rautenbach, David Wettenhall

Other members: Jacquie Martin (CEO), David Humphreys, Greg Strelein

Apologies:

Frank Batini, Tony Mennen and Cam Schuster attempted to join the meeting but were unable to do so because of technical issues.

Elaine Davison and Bob Hingston tendered formal apologies in advance.

Minutes of last meeting:

L McCaw tabled and summarized minutes of the 2019 AGM held at the Parks and Wildlife office in Manjimup on 10 November 2018. Minutes were accepted (P Beatty/J Clarke) with no actions arising.

Report on WA Division activities:

L McCaw outlined activities over the past year summarising the WA Division contribution to the Institute's annual report now available on the IFA website. The Division has continued to advocate the need for silvicultural treatment of densely stocked regrowth native forest to maintain forest health and resilience in the face of a drying climate. This has included supporting private forest owners in negotiations with environmental regulators, and engaging with the media to raise awareness of the cost and complexity of regulations relating to management of private native forest. A media statement released by the Division resulted in the issues being publicised in a number of regional newspapers in the south-west.

Other advocacy activities included writing to the WA Minister for Forestry expressing concern at the implications of an ad-hoc decision made to suspend timber harvesting operations in two-tiered stands of karri during 2020, and participating in a workshop to identify improved processes for the management of the sandalwood industry.

Members have continued to support the Wellington Discovery Forest and have assisted the Leschenault Timber Industry Club in hosting field tours for teachers to showcase opportunities for environmental education and for skilled employment in the forest and wood products sector. Foresters Wood near Manjimup has continued to be an important project for the WA Division,

providing an excellent opportunity to showcase the diverse benefits that forests and plantations provide to the community. The working bee normally held in late autumn had to be postponed due to travel restrictions arising from the COVID pandemic. A successful field activity was held in September highlighting forest recreation in the expanded Wellington National Park and the expanding pine plantation estate in the eastern Wellington catchment. Many thanks to Mike and Mish Rautenbach for hosting an enjoyable visit to their Pinecrest property at McAlinden.

Sadly, the WA community lost a highly respected forester and long standing member of the IFA with the premature passing of Gavin Ellis in June 2020.

The Committee has met regularly using an on-line meeting platform and has been able to maintain momentum on issues despite the restrictions on face to face meetings imposed by COVID 19. Lachie thanked Committee members for their enthusiasm and commitment and acknowledged Frank Batini for his ongoing advocacy role on behalf of the WA Division in relation to bauxite mining and catchment management issues.

Election of office bearers for 2020/21:

L McCaw completed his second three-year term and stood aside as WA Chair, inviting nominations for the position.

Chair: Brad Barr accepted a nomination by John Clarke, seconded by Peter Beatty.

Secretary: Peter Beatty accepted a nomination by John Clarke, seconded by Brad Barr

Committee members for 2020/21 are: John Clarke, Bob Hingston, David Humphreys, Lachie McCaw, John McGrath, Mike Rautenbach, David Wettenhall

Other business:

Jacque provided an overview of recent activities by the national office including:

- Affirmation of the Strategic Plan
- Results of the membership satisfaction survey
- Discussion of proposed change of name and branding for the organisation
- Positive response to the program of regular webinars
- Budget, and staffing including acknowledgment of support staff Andrea Diem and Naomi Wills
- The planned October 2021 National Conference (Launceston)

Arising from Jacque's report:

David Humphries asked if any breakdown to Division level would be retrievable from the member survey results. Jacque stated it might be possible except that for a small Division confidentiality would be an issue

David W commended the high value and uptake with recent webinars

National Office/Board was progressing a Leadership Skill Grant program for students, through pre-recording topical 45 minute training webinars presented by IFA or other subject experts.

Meeting closed at 6.00 pm.