



FFORNE FIELD TRIP

2 MAY 2025

On a beautiful crisp autumn morning, around 25 people gathered at the old bluestone ruins near Willowmavin to participate in the farm forestry field day organised by The Farmed Forests of the North-East (FFORNE) – Forestry Australia.

After a brief welcome and acknowledgement of traditional owners, **Clinton Tepper** from Tree Storey led the group on a three-kilometre circular route through the two adjoining plantations at the site, one planted in 2000 and the other in 2004.

The walk started along the creek flat to view first Southern Mahogany (*Eucalyptus botriodes*), then a Red Gum hybrid (*E. camaldulensis* × *E. grandis*) and adjoining Blue Gum (*E. globulus*), before climbing the slope to inspect Sugar Gum (*E. cladocalyx*), and then climb further to a high point for a lunch break.

Lunch, overlooking the distant Tallarook and Mt Disappointment State Forests and the nearby Mt Piper near Broadford, provided a time to go over the history of the two properties owned by **Nan McNab** and **Alan McNab**.

(cont.)



Discussing the Red Gum hybrid planting (J. Steer)



Discussing site and species selection (S. Noble)



Lunch break overlooking the plantations (S. Noble)

After lunch, the group set off along the ridge and down to the adjoining plantation passing through Red Ironbark (*E. tricarpa*) and Silver Wattle (*Acacia dealbata*), spending time discussing the Blue Gum clear-fell site, then back through Radiata Pine (*Pinus radiata*), River She-oak (*Casuarina cunninghamiana*), before the last stop back along the creek to look at a Blackwood (*Acacia melanoxylon*) planting.

The group comprised some knowledgeable people including **Jack Nicholls**, who provided his experienced comments throughout the day on harvesting and marketing small areas of plantations.

Aided by the beautiful sunny autumn weather, the day went very quickly with lots of discussion on the many varied challenges of farm forestry, including site and species selection, establishment, thinning and harvesting, markets, next rotation, and weed and pest animal control.

A big thank you to our presenter Clinton Tepper from Tree Storey for leading the day, our chief organiser Craig McKay, the two property owners Nan McNab and Alan McNab, and Forestry Australia for coordinating registrations and covering the cost of the portaloo.



Discussing establishment post-harvest (J. Steer)



Group photo of participants (C. McKay)