



VIC FIELD TRIP: TREES & TIMBER SHOWCASE TOUR

SEPTEMBER 2025

Proudly hosted by **Radial Timber Australia** and **Heartwood Unlimited**, and generously supported by the **Forestry Australia Growers Reserve Fund**, the recent Trees & Timber Showcase Tour brought together around 45 participants, including Forestry Australia members and industry representatives from forestry, building, construction, and timber wholesaling.

The tour offered a unique insight into sustainable hardwood plantation management and innovative timber processing, highlighting efforts towards a circular economy in the timber industry.

The tour was conducted in two parts, with participants alternating between sites and joining for lunch in the middle of the day.

The first stop was a Heartwood Unlimited plantation, featuring durable eucalypt species planted in 2012 and 2016, including mixed-species compartments.

Visitors observed long-term planning and care in growing high-quality timber, and learned about the integration of agriculture into forestry systems, including the use of goats for weed control. New technology demonstrations included a skid steer with harvest shears and stump spray for cost-effective thinning of small stems.

(cont.)



Image One: Group amongst 8yr old spotted gum and silvertop ash plantation.



Image Two: Skid steer with harvesting shears and built in stump spray unit used for thinning demonstration.



Image Three: Natural edge weatherboard farm shed in front of 13 yr old yellow stringybark plantation with integrated grazing.

At the Radial Timber Mill, participants explored processes that maximise value from every log and reduce waste. Demonstrations included radial sawing for sawlog products, a spindleless lathe producing veneer for engineered wood, and a pyrolysis-based bioenergy system generating electricity, biochar, and wood vinegar from residues. These innovations exemplify the company's commitment to a circular economy.

Throughout the day, attendees engaged in discussions on sustainability challenges, timber industry opportunities, and plantation management strategies. Feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with participants expressing surprise and appreciation for the extensive work involved in growing and processing durable hardwoods, and interest in contributing to future initiatives.

The tour ran smoothly, supported by cooperative weather and efficient logistics, and successfully highlighted the potential of sustainably managed hardwood plantations combined with innovative processing to meet future industry needs.



Image Four: Trial engineered shiplap using yellow stringybark veneer.



Image Five: Sawlog wedges back sawn into different width boards and screening products ready for moulding.