

**Centenary of National Forestry Education in Australia
Colloquium, 6 October 2026**

The Australian National University
Canberra

The Australian Forestry School (AFS) was established in 1926 at the University of Adelaide, before transferring to Canberra in 1927 as an independent Commonwealth entity until 1965. The AFS was then absorbed into the Australian National University as the Department of Forestry, and that Department was ultimately incorporated into the Fenner School of Environment & Society.

A Colloquium to celebrate the centenary of national forestry education in Australia will be held on 6 October 2026, immediately preceding the 2026 Forestry Australia Symposium.

Outline Program

Venue: The Common Room, University House, 1 Balmain Cres, The Australian National University

Registration: Free but required for catering and logistics

11am - Registration & Coffee

Session 1 - Welcomes and contexts

11.15am-12.15pm

Welcome to Country - Paul House, Ngambri-Kamberri Walgalu and Wiradyuri custodian

Speakers:

- Professor Rebekah Brown, Interim Vice-Chancellor, ANU
- Professor Delene Weber, Adelaide University
- Professor Peter Kanowski, Professor of Forestry, ANU

Lunch

12.15-1.00pm

Session 2 - The past

1.00-1.45pm (Chair - Dr Suzette Searle, President, Wattle Day Association))

Focal question - what should we learn from the past?

Speakers:

- Dr Brian Turner (AFS alumnus & former Reader, ANU Department of Forestry)
- Kim Wells (AFS alumnus)
- Em Assoc Prof Cris Brack (Em Assoc Prof, ANU Department of Forestry & Fenner School of Environment & Society)

Session 3 - The present

2-3.15pm (Chair - Dr Michelle Freeman, President Forestry Australia)

Focal question - how do we best deliver Australian forestry education now?

Prospective Speakers/ Panellists:

- Dr Jamie Grimsdale & Prof Julianne O'Reilly-Wapstra, UTas, on behalf of national Graduate Certificate in Forestry
- Panel & discussion
 - academics, professional & industry partners, students connected with the national Graduate Certificate program

Afternoon tea

3.15-3.45pm

Session 4 - The future

3.45-5.15pm (Chair - Prof Saul Cunningham, Director, Fenner School of Environment & Society)

Focal question - what should be our ambitions for the future of Australian forestry education?

Panellists:

- Ming Hui Choy (ANU); Assoc Prof Austin Himes (U Washington - pre-recorded video); Mick Hansby, TLWC; Em Prof Rod Keenan, Univ Melbourne

5.30-6.30pm - The Jack Westoby Lecture

- Prof Juergen Bausch, Univ of Freiburg - Future Forests and Future Foresters
- Closing remarks - Prof Aaron Quigley, Dean, ANU College of Systems & Society

6.30-7.00pm - Closing drinks