

Forest Focus

What's happening in 2019?

The FEF has been extremely busy on our return from our US Study Tour. With inspiration and consultation with a range of experts the trip has resulted in new and innovative opportunities for the FEF. Our new year will be a busy one, with the implementation of a new Strategic Plan. The FEF will be launching a range of new programs, projects and resources to support our new direction and we would love your participation to make it all happen.

We have just developed the framework for a new project – Stories Behind our Trees. The new project will present a library of Story Tellers demonstrating a diverse range of people and highlighting the ways they interact with forest landscapes and resources. Stories Behind our Trees will provide a chance for students to understand what forest science, planning and management looks like, as well as innovation in wood, timber production processes and the people that make it all happen. For industry professionals this provides a way to tell their unique stories, encourage a younger generation and share their passion for forests and their role in the future of forest landscapes.

We will be beginning the new year with the hiring of casual facilitators to broaden the FEF's reach, supporting the implementation of forest field days, pre/post visit classroom programs and beyond. Facilitators will also open up opportunities for FEF staff (Hannah and Darcy) to take on different roles (professional learning coordination, industry networking and resource development). If you know anyone who is passionate about forests and communicating this passion to students, please let them know of this opportunity.

The development of a Forest Competency Plan, a conceptual framework, highlighting the importance of forest education, will soon be underway. The Plan will support teachers in implementing forest education and provide an opportunity for industry public engagement. We are looking for interested people, across education and industry to contribute to and review the writing of this Forest Competency Plan.

With the development of our Forest Competency Plan we will launch two new programs. Forest Futures Field Day will involve the participation from Story Tellers guiding interactive hands on experiences in the forest. The program will demonstrate the big picture of forests, land management and explore the different ways that people interact with forest landscapes. Each program will be unique with the participation from different Story Tellers, expressing their story and demonstrating their expertise, from forest ecology and resource management to innovation in wood and design and much more! The FEF is also exploring partnership opportunities to develop a program titled Wooden it be Great! A rotation-based experience for students highlighting the value of wood as a renewable



resource. Students would participate in a range of discovery experiences that explore wood properties, innovation in wood products, daily wood use and forest management.

The FEF has recognised the importance of supporting teachers to take on forest education in their classrooms and beyond. Grants and professional learning for teachers will be offered to address the barriers preventing teachers taking on forest education experiences in their programs. The professional learning programs will communicate messages about forests, wood and land management, as well as teaching approaches and strategies. With the development of our Story Telling model this is also an opportunity for the FEF to connect regional areas with their local industry sector.

It is going to be a busy year and we hope you can be a part of it. Merry Christmas from the FEF!