




Forest Education
Foundation

The stories behind our trees

YEAR IN REVIEW

2023



The Forest Education Foundation acknowledges the traditional custodians of Lutruwita/ Tasmania, the Palawa and Pakana peoples. We recognise forests are an essential part of our environment, our identity, and the deep connection Palawa and Pakana peoples have with country.

We proudly acknowledge the continuous cultural traditions, knowledge and people that have shaped our forest country. Through education we respect the opportunity to contribute to students' developing an understanding of, and respect for, the value of First Nations peoples' knowledge, culture, and language as they become stewards of the forest, today and into the future.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR AND MANAGER

The Annual Review this year focuses on the period January through to December 2023. This provides a review of the Forest Education Foundations (FEF) activities and achievements in alignment with the school calendar year.

In February of this year, we welcomed Emily Nash to the FEF teaching team. As an experienced educator, Emily has provided invaluable input into reviewing FEF teaching and learning resources to accurately reflect changes to the Australian Curriculum. In combining her Primary teaching skills and experiences with Kate Battishall's Secondary teaching and FEF experience we have continued to maintain our educational currency across all levels of teaching, Primary to Senior Secondary. This has been reflected in the growing diversity of our programs and the continued high level of engagement we have with schools, teachers, and students across the education sector.

A target for this year was to consolidate new Secondary programs implemented during 2022 and grow opportunities through industry engagement and partnerships. We are pleased to report this has been achieved and interest continues to grow in the key areas of Agriculture, Geography and Science, with links to career education opportunities within the focused curriculum areas.

During this period we have updated the Foundation's *Strategic Plan (2023-2026)* and reviewed and published the 2nd edition of the Tasmanian Forest Education Plan - providing a framework for embedding forest education in schools through illustrating how forest literacy can be integrated across the curriculum through teaching and learning. The implementation of the Foundation's Communication Strategy, developed in 2022, has been very well received across the key industry and education audience groups, helping to increase our professional presence.

Industry engagement in, and support for the development and delivery of FEF programs continues to be encouraging. The Foundation has maintained strong support from the core funding partners, Sustainable Timber Tasmania and the Tasmanian Forest Products Association. Along with increased core funding and an ongoing commitment through the State Government we have secured additional financial support through formalised agreements with Private Forests Tasmania and the Forest Practices Authority. As well as providing security for the Foundation moving forward this also increases our ability to build on the established partnerships with industry and grow the collaborative approaches for engagement across the forest industries and education in Tasmania.

Through FEF activities, School communities throughout Tasmania can engage in educational programs that explore natural and managed forest environments, agricultural landscapes and the services and resources these systems provide our society. By sharing this knowledge with students, we enable them to become active citizens, contributing towards the future sustainability of our landscapes and renewable resources.

The Directors and teaching staff of the Foundation acknowledge the support of the forest and forest industries sector and look forward to continuing the collaborative approaches to the work of the FEF into the future.

Steve Luttrell
Independent Chair



Darcy Vickers
Manager/Teacher



OUR PURPOSE

Inspire Tasmanian educators and learners to explore the stories behind our trees.

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ABOUT US

WHO ARE WE

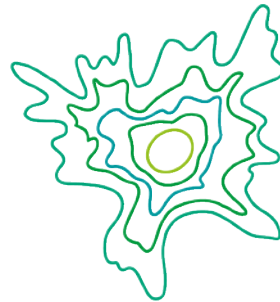
The Forest Education Foundation (FEF) is a not-for-profit educational institution based in Tasmania. It was established as a joint initiative between Sustainable Timber Tasmania and the Tasmanian Forest Products Association.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Encourage and support teachers to explore forest education opportunities aligned to the curriculum, from Primary to Senior Secondary.

Support teachers and students to understand the relationships between people, forests and trees in managed forest environments and agricultural landscapes.

Provide engaging experiences that explore connections between managed landscapes, natural resources, and future career opportunities.



qualified
TEACHERS

real
EXPERIENCES

industry
CONNECTIONS

OUR MISSION

Provide authentic educational experiences that develop knowledge about sustainable interactions with forest environments and the resources and services they provide, for today and future generations.

CURRENT BOARD MEMBERS AND STAFF

Independent Chair Steve Luttrell

Deputy Chair Suzette Weeding
Sustainable Timber Tasmania

Treasurer Tammy Price
Tasmanian Forest Products Association (SFM Forest Products)

Director Dion McKenzie
Sustainable Timber Tasmania

Director Nick Steel
Tasmanian Forest Products Association

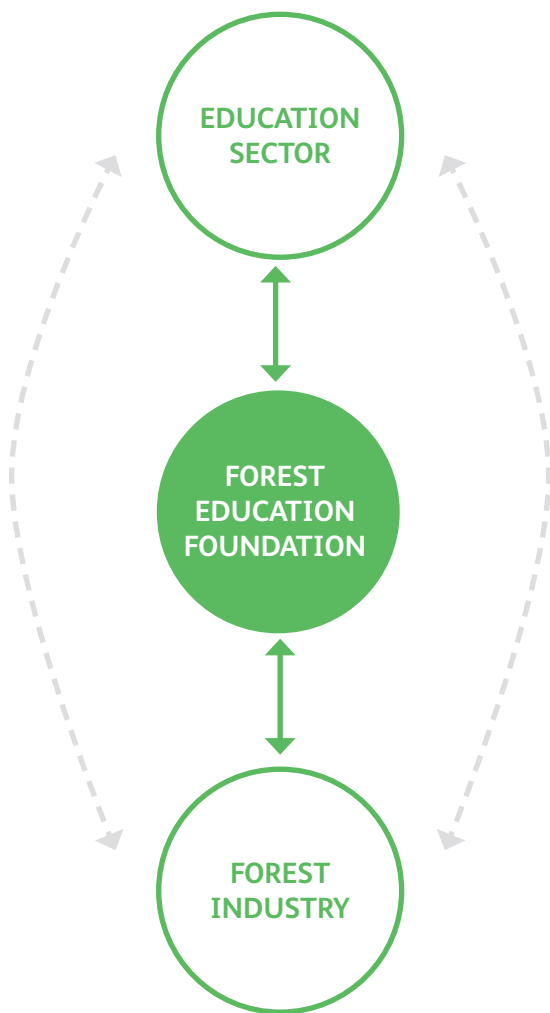
Public Officer & Secretary Darcy Vickers
Forest Education Foundation

Manager/Teacher Darcy Vickers

Teachers Kate Battishall & Emily Nash

WHAT WE DO

The FEF, with the support of industry networks, provides schools and communities throughout Tasmania with access to educational resources and experiences designed to engage students in learning about all things forests!

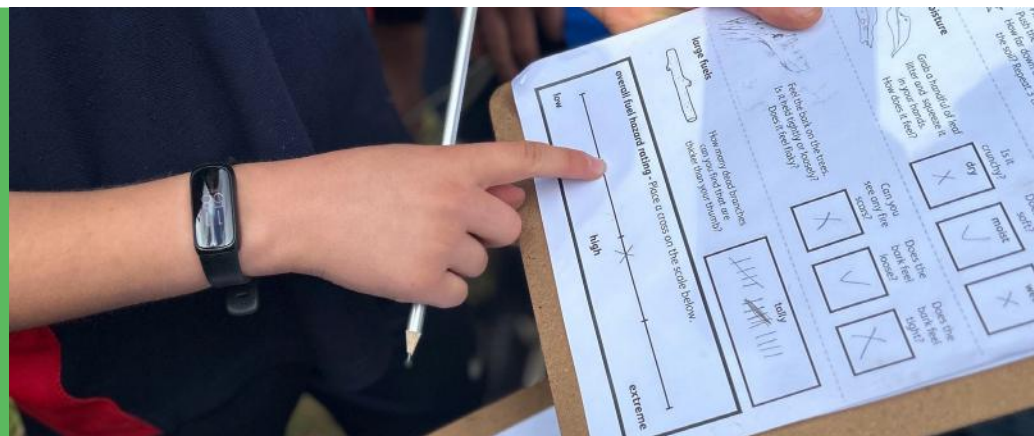


KEY OBJECTIVES

Provide students throughout Tasmania with quality, hands-on educational experiences



Engage teachers with forest literacy through effective teaching and learning practices



Facilitate industry engagement with education communities



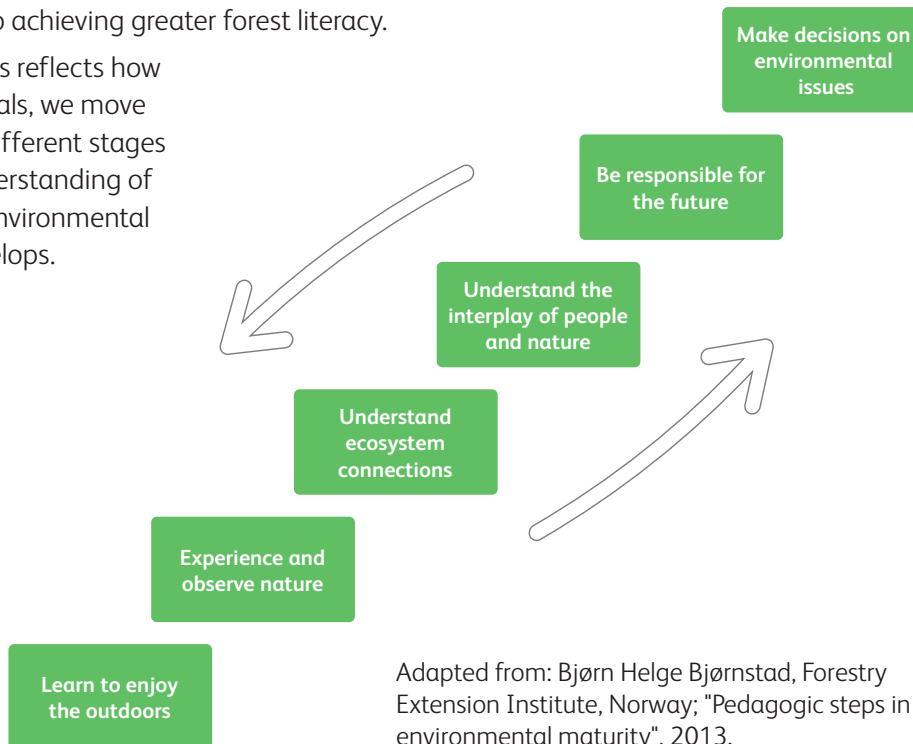
TASMANIAN FOREST EDUCATION PLAN

The *Tasmanian Forest Education Plan* is a framework for supporting Forest Education in Tasmania, for Prep to Year 12 students. It was developed in collaboration with experts and specialists from across the education sector and forest industries. The framework is founded on environmental education theories that scaffold education for sustainability and outlines the knowledge and skills that support the development of forest literate students in Tasmania.

ENVIRONMENTAL MATURITY MODEL

The *Environmental Maturity Model* is one of the key conceptual models within the plan. It demonstrates a pathway to achieving greater forest literacy.

This model reflects how as individuals, we move between different stages as our understanding of different environmental issues develops.



REVISION OF THE PLAN - 2023

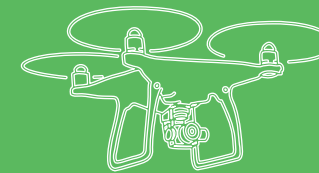
The *Tasmanian Forest Education Plan* has been updated in 2023 to reflect changes to the Australian Curriculum, as well as the changing nature of teaching and best practice approaches.

The modified plan provides a greater depth of curriculum exploration, including the addition of relevant inquiry skills and cross-curriculum priorities: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Histories and Cultures, and; Sustainability.

The FEF models all teaching and learning programs around 4 key questions, which complement the *Environmental Maturity Model* outlined in the *Tasmanian Forest Education Plan*. These questions act as a scaffolding tool, helping students to progress from a fundamental awareness to a deeper understanding of forests and our connections to them.



CONNECTING TO THE CURRICULUM

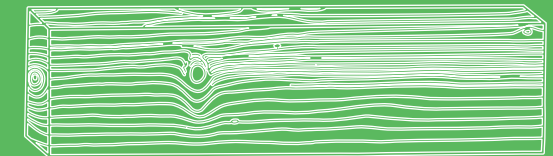


GEOGRAPHY

- Land management
- Sustainability

SCIENCE

- Ecosystems
- Climate change



DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGIES

- Wood products and innovation

AGRICULTURE

- Trees on Farms
- Carbon
- Resources





YEAR IN NUMBERS

2023 CALENDAR YEAR

4371

PEOPLE INTERACTED DIRECTLY
WITH OUR PROGRAMS AND
RESOURCES

144

TOTAL
TEACHING
SESSIONS

WHAT DID WE TEACH

INTEGRATED PROGRAMS

- SCIENCE
- GEOGRAPHY
- AGRICULTURE



PRIMARY
(P-6)



SECONDARY
(7-12)

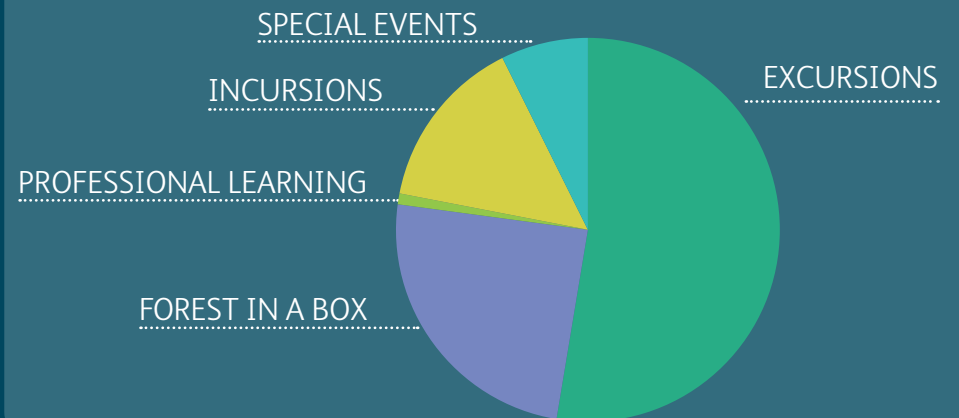
..... SCIENCE

..... GEOGRAPHY

..... AGRICULTURE



PROGRAMS



PRIMARY PROGRAMS

OVER

1000

STUDENTS USED FOREST
IN A BOX

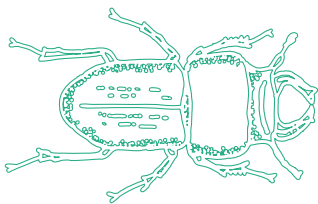
90

TOTAL
TEACHING
SESSIONS

9

NEW AND
UPDATED
PROGRAMS

An update to the Australian Curriculum (Version 9) necessitated a review of the FEF's programs and resources for the Primary Years. While we retained high engagement through our Science programs, time was also afforded to extending our Upper Primary programs into the Geography (HASS) space. This has supported our connection with Years 5 and 6, with many reaching out to book FEF experiences for 2024. Along with delivering programs we also updated many of our resources to reflect Version 9 updates to the content and inquiry skills.



ROYAL TASMANIAN BOTANICAL GARDENS – IMAGINE, DISCOVER, CREATE

The FEF integrated Upper Primary Science and Geography through a new *RTBG - Managing Environments* program. This program is engaging, hands-on and focused on building student knowledge of how people manage different environments while learning more about Tassie's unique native flora.

Using FEF's *Forest in a Box – Design and Make* kit, students apply their new knowledge of plant adaptations and management of different environments to create a new feature for the Eucalypt Woodland area of the Gardens.

Through interactions with this wood-based resource we are also able to explore the role of forest products in the design of innovative structures in our communities.



EXCURSION PROGRAMS

Prep - Year 2

Forests Alive (Incursion)

Year 3/4

Ecosystem Explorers (Science)

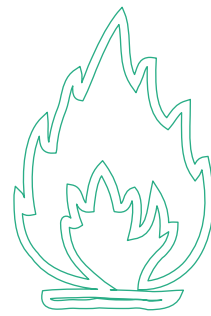
Year 5/6

Adaptation Adventure (Science)

Year 5/6

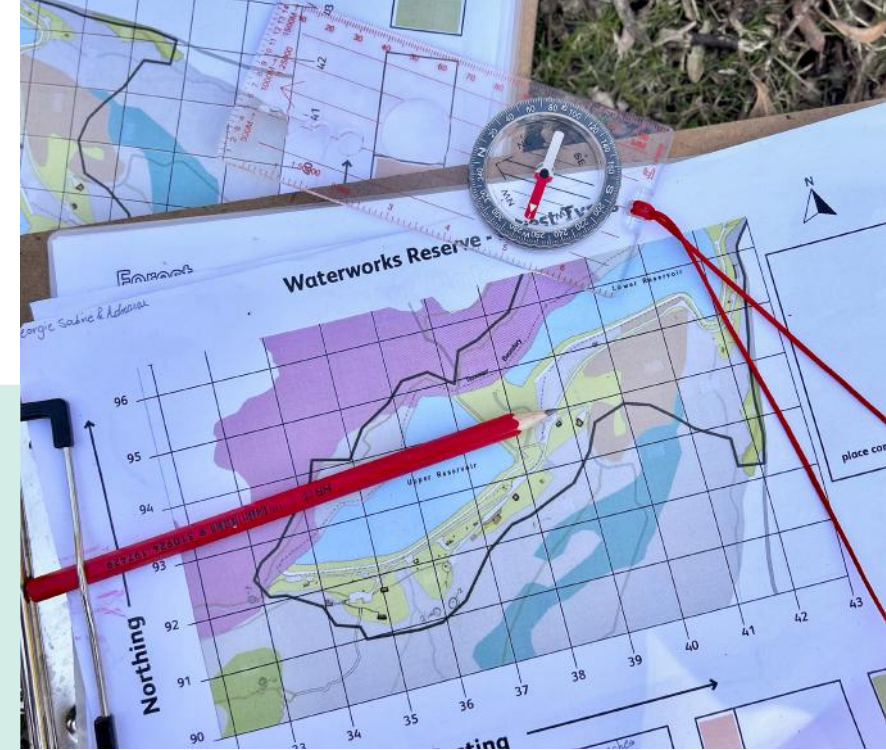
Fire and Forests (Geography)





Mapping Skills

Our Year 5/6 programs incorporate mapping to guide investigations into forest types and their management. Students love being hands-on and practising fieldwork skills, particularly learning how to use a compass.



ARE ALL BUSH FIRES DISASTERS?

This is a question explored through the FEF's new *Fire and Forests* program, delivered to Year 5/6 classes across the State. Directly addressing the Geography content of the Australian Curriculum - *The management of Australian environments (Year 5)* - this program is quickly grabbing the attention of Tasmanian teachers, with positive feedback from educators and students who participated in the program's trial in 2023.

Through this program, students consider the role of fire in the regeneration of Tasmanian forests, challenging their perception of fire as no more than a catastrophic event. The program introduces students to the science and practices involved in using fire as a management tool.

To build understanding, students;

- Locate evidence of fire activity and build an understanding of fire behavior.
- Assess fuel load across wet and dry forest types.
- Plan for a hypothetical controlled burn to manage a local site with consideration of urban areas and special natural values.



Bringing the Forest to the Students

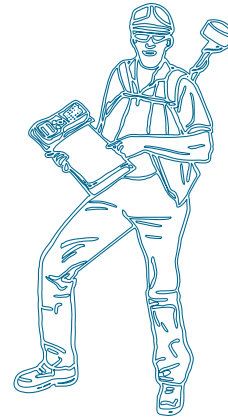
A growing challenge in connecting with schools is the rising costs of student transport. The FEF have adapted our Year 1/2 *Forests Alive* program to suit an incursion model, allowing us to bring the forest to students who otherwise might miss out. Here students are collaboratively using woody and natural forest pieces to represent the key parts of a tree.

SECONDARY PROGRAMS

51 TOTAL
TEACHING
SESSIONS

15 GEOGRAPHY
PROGRAMS
FACILITATED

The Forest Education Foundation continues to forge inroads into the Secondary teaching space, with strong connections to the Science, Geography and Design and Technologies (Food and Fibre) curriculum. In the 2023 school year, the majority of schools across Tasmania have implemented version 9 of the Australian Curriculum. This has seen our Year 9 Science program - *Forest Ecology* move to Year 7. The Geography curriculum, particularly in Year 10, still provides strong links to explore forest education. There is also continuing opportunities in the Food and Fibre (Design and Technologies) space, exploring trees on farms.



EXCURSION PROGRAMS

Year 7

Forest Food Webs and Classification (Science)

Year 9

Forest Biomes (Geography)

Year 10

Forest Management (Geography)

Year 7-12

Trees on Farms (Agriculture)

Year 11/12

Environmental Science and Geography



OPENING DOORS TO FORESTRY

In partnership with industry the FEF helped to facilitate a career focused program for students on the North-West coast. The Year 10 students, who are undertaking the integrated *Packages of Learning* learning pathway, had the opportunity to visit the Forico Surrey Hills Mill and an active harvesting coupe, UTAS Burnie campus and Britton Timbers Veneer Mill. What really made this experience so unique was the passionate people along the way, sharing their *stories behind our trees* and enabling students to gain an insight into the diversity of careers within the forest industry.

For industry these site visits provide opportunities to 'remove the barrier between perception and reality' of employment in the Tasmanian forest industry (Paul Sturzaker, Forico).

Teachers remarked that these industry visits are a favourite for the students - 'Someone always ends up enquiring about the Cadetships' (Donna Scott, Marist Regional College).

TREES...MORE THAN JUST PLANTING

The FEF continues to work closely with Agricultural teachers across the State to deliver the *Trees on Farms* program. This program, which has been supported by industry partnerships, enables students to gain knowledge about the ways trees can be integrated into farms for a range of benefits. The program provides an opportunity for students to learn in an engaging environment about the planning, planting and ongoing management required to successfully grow trees for the future.



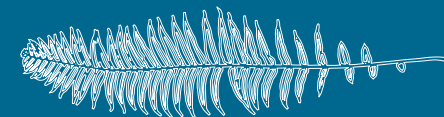
WHAT DOES SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT LOOK LIKE?

The Geography curriculum continues to provide rich opportunities to use forests as a context for teaching and learning. It was a big year for the FEF, with the development and delivery of a Geography field work program for the whole cohort of Year 10 students at St Patricks College, Launceston. The program provided students with the opportunity to explore how forests are managed to meet the diverse needs of society.

The students were given the task of preparing an Environmental Management Plan for Hollybank Reserve, with consideration given to the socio-cultural, economic and environmental values of the site. A range of geographical inquiry skills were employed to collect data on the natural forest systems to better understand the impacts people have on these environments (both positive and negative).

Exploring Ecosystem Services

Sustainability is a key thread woven into all FEF programs. To help students understand this concept, particularly in the context of forests, we utilise a hands-on activity to assess the value of the ecosystem services provided by forests.



EDUCATION & INDUSTRY NETWORKS

UNIVERSITY OF
TASMANIA

TASMANIAN
GEOGRAPHY
TEACHERS
ASSOCIATION

REVITALISING
SCHOOL FARMS

TASMANIAN
FOREST AND
FOREST PRODUCTS
NETWORK

FORESTRY
AUSTRALIA

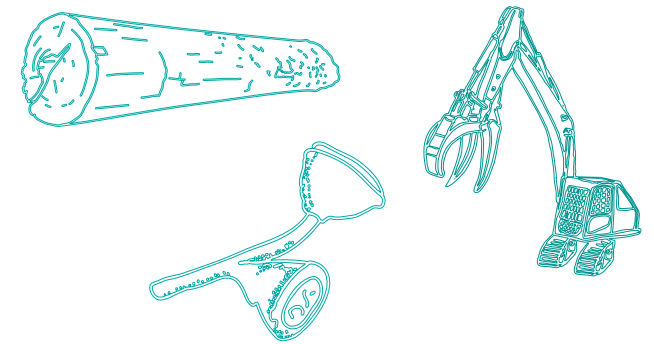
THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA PRE-SERVICE TEACHER PROGRAMS

A key contributor to FEF maintaining educational credibility is the continuation of our programs supporting the University of Tasmania's education students on their pathway to a career in teaching.

Our program content includes:

- Sharing experiences as classroom and outdoor educators.
- Strategies for student engagement and management.
- Planning using the revised Australian Curriculum.
- Facilitating industry engagement in the development of learning opportunities.

The revised 2nd edition of the *Tasmanian Forest Education Plan* will be a significant resource for engaging with and supporting these students into 2024.



FEF and FPA Collaboration at FOBI

Another successful year collaborating with the Forest Practices Authority at the *Festival of Bright Ideas*. The festival is a great opportunity to share with the general public how our forests are managed sustainably.



SHELTERBELT COMES TO LIFE AT HAGLEY

The FEF helped to co-ordinate a significant project this year at the Hagley Farm School Agricultural Learning Centre; the planting of a shelterbelt on the school farm site. The shelterbelt is part of an integrated suite of learning opportunities on the site that explore the important role trees play in the agricultural landscape.

The success of the project is thanks to the support from various organisations across the Forest Industries in Tasmania; Forico, ActivAcre, Private Forests Tasmania (PFT) and Sustainable Timber Tasmania (STT), who assisted with the planning, preparation, growing and planting of the trees.



STT Nursery & Seed Centre - Schools Tree Day

A local primary school were given the special chance to visit the STT nursery in Perth as part of the 2023 Schools Tree Day initiative, in collaboration with STT. Students marveled at the sheer volume of seedlings the nursery grows and found out about the important role the Seed Centre plays in forest regeneration.



Agfest with the TFFPN

The FEF participated in the TFFPN Agfest Forest Industries site in 2023, hosting an interactive forest display demonstrating the diversity of forest landscapes in Tasmania. The event provided the FEF with the opportunity to expand industry networks, as well as engage with the wider community about forests and natural resources.

LOOKING FORWARD TO 2024



Forest in a Box Updates

Current Kits:

- If I Were a Tree (Prep to Year 2)
- Forest Interconnections (Year 3/4)
- Adaptation Adventure (Year 5/6)
- Design and Make (Year 3 to Year 10)

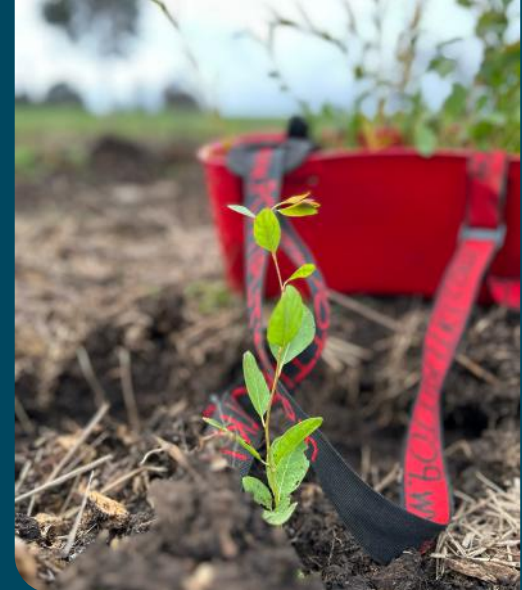
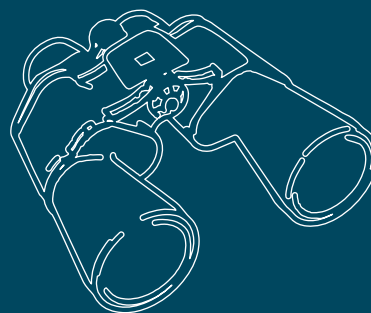
All FIB kits have been updated according to the new Australian Curriculum, Version 9. Teacher guides have been thoroughly reviewed and improved to reflect

curriculum, and opportunities for the development of new supporting resources were identified. The production of a *Forest Inquiry Cube*, a wooden tree life cycle and material printed maps of Tasmania is tabled for early 2024.

New Resource: The Forest Inquiry Cube

A new woody resource is in the works! The Forest Inquiry Cube has been designed to represent multiple values of Tasmanian forests, from natural values and conservation, to renewable resources and innovation, through to recreation and enjoyment.

This resource will be included in the *Forest in a Box* kits as provocation tools that introduce teachers and their classes to the diverse values of Tasmanian forests. Students will interact with the visuals on each side of the cube as they discuss what they see, explain how they connect, share what they know, and consider the local, national and global importance of trees and forest landscapes. Also, there's a secret inside...



Exeter School Farm - Shelterbelt Coming 2024!

Staff of Exeter High School, Private Forests Tasmania and the FEF are collaborating in the design and planting of a much needed shelterbelt for their farm site in August of 2024. This shelterbelt will celebrate the amazing benefits of trees on farms and become an ongoing, hands-on learning opportunity for students of Exeter High School and the wider community. This project will be a celebration of the amazing collaborations with the Forest Industries in Tasmania.



Content Revision - College and Secondary Programs

The continual review and improvement of teaching resources and program content will continue through into 2024, with a particular focus on College Environmental Science. An integral part of this process will be working with specialists across the Forest Industry to ensure currency of content. Another key focus in the Secondary area is the review of the *Trees on Farms* teaching resource. In collaboration with PFT, the FEF are looking to create a more dynamic, interactive suite of resources to support this important program area.



Connect with the FEF

The success of the FEF is thanks to the ongoing support of the Forest Industries in Tasmania. We value the authentic and enriching experiences students have when given the chance to meet face to face with members of industry. Whether it is sharing knowledge, hosting a site visit or helping the FEF to develop resources, these interactions can have a significant impact on the outcomes of forest education experiences.

Reach out to the FEF if you are interested in sharing '*The Stories Behind Our Trees*'.

info@forest-education.com





About FEF

The Forest Education Foundation Inc. (FEF) is a not-for-profit educational institution staffed by qualified and experienced teachers. The Foundation provides learning

experiences for teachers and students throughout Tasmania.

For more information on all our programs, visit our website:

www.forest-education.com

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