



Forest Education  
Foundation

The stories behind our trees

# 2025

## Year in Review



**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 First Nations peoples' knowledge, culture, and language.**

## Message from the Chair

Welcome to the Forest Education Foundation (FEF) *2025 Year in Review*. It is very pleasing to report the continued success of the Foundation in supporting the Tasmanian education community.

The successes outlined in this report can be attributed to the experience, knowledge, and enthusiasm of the teaching staff, supported by the FEF Board's strategic direction and positive recognition across government and industry. With this in mind, I would like to sincerely acknowledge and thank Tammy Price and Dion McKenzie who have recently resigned from the Foundation's Board. Tammy, in the role of Treasurer and through her passion and knowledge of the forest industry provided unwavering support for 12 years. Dion, equally passionate, provided support for the teaching team to connect with operational forest management through professional learning, advice on resource development and support for student excursions. Collectively, Tammy and Dion provided valuable input into the strategic direction of the FEF during their time as Board members.

The 2025 calendar year has been a period of consolidation, with program delivery supported by new resources and learning experiences across all levels of schooling. This has resulted in growth across the Primary years in school-based incursion and resource loan programs.

Secondary program participation has been maintained with new resources supporting geography being well received by teachers, as reflected through feedback and continued bookings. Delivery of University of Tasmania pre-service teacher training programs have grown and include collaboration across new resource development initiatives.

A cornerstone to the success of the FEF has always been the level of industry engagement supporting programs. Our core funding partners, Sustainable Timber Tasmania and the Tasmanian Forest Products Association, continue to demonstrate the long-standing commitment which has been central to our achievements. More recently, this commitment has grown to include Private Forests Tasmania and the Forest Practices Authority as additional funding contributors.

As a not-for-profit education provider, we acknowledge this commitment as a reflection of the value the forest industry places on connecting with and contributing to the education of young people across Tasmania.



**Steve Luttrell**  
Independent Chair



FEF Teachers; Kate Battishall, Emily Nash and Darcy Vickers



# Who We Are

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. Additional support is provided through the State Government, Private Forests Tasmania and the Forest Practices Authority.

## 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

# What We Do

## Our 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

## Connecting to Forests through the Curriculum

### Science

- Ecosystems
- Climate change
- Biodiversity

### Geography

- Land management
- Sustainability
- Land use change



### Agriculture

- Trees on farms
- Careers
- Carbon storage

### Design and Technologies

- Wood products and resources
- Design and innovation
- STEM pathways and careers

# Our Reach in numbers

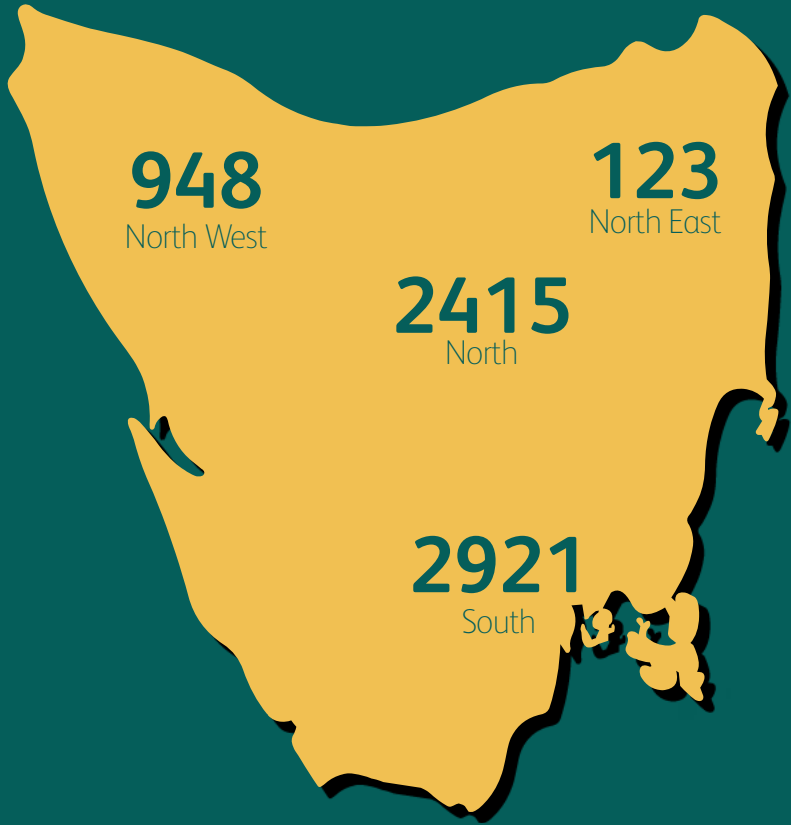
6407

people interacted directly with our programs and resources



- field trips
- school visits
- forest in a box

## around the state



## across the year levels

225 total teaching sessions



Primary (P-2) Primary (3-6) Secondary (7-12)



# 2025 Highlights

2025 has been a strong year for the FEF in terms of overall reach, program diversity and industry collaborations. Please enjoy reading these highlights that reflect the FEF’s 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

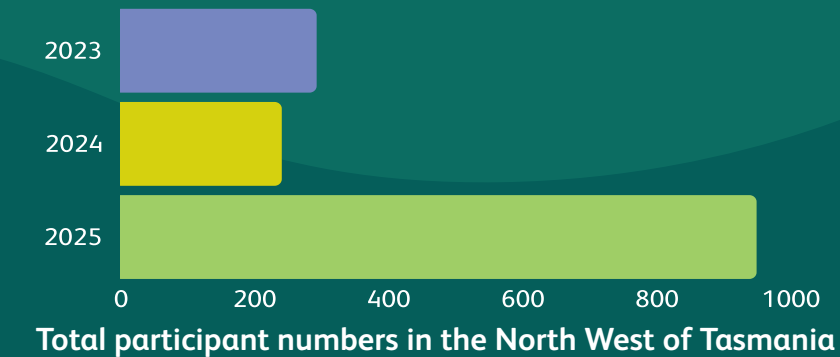


## Growth in the North West Region

In 2025, the FEF extended its reach across Tasmania through a dedicated North West Outreach Program, connecting with Prep to Year 6 students through engaging, curriculum-aligned learning experiences. The program brought forest science and geography to life, inspiring curiosity about local landscapes, ecosystems, and sustainable resource management.

Through hands-on activities students deepened their understanding of how people and forests are interconnected. This, in turn, strengthens the relationship between schools and their surrounding environments and fosters a sense of place and environmental stewardship among young learners.

In addition to existing secondary programs, the FEF achieved significant growth in this region throughout 2025.



## More Trees, Please!

The FEF continues to collaborate with the network of school farms throughout Tasmania to establish tree planting projects, providing students with opportunities to learn about the benefits of trees and forests across agricultural landscapes.

This year the FEF collaborated with Sustainable Timber Tasmania and Private Forests Tasmania to plant 600 shrubs and trees on Bothwell District School farm. This planting supports the food and fibre curriculum and complements existing agricultural programs. Planting configurations included mixed native species shelterbelts and a demonstration radiata pine plantation. Secondary students extended their learning through an excursion to a midlands property, exploring how trees contribute to healthy and productive farms.

Year 10 Agriculture students from Launceston Church Grammar School stepped out of the classroom and into the paddock for a hands-on learning experience about integrating trees into farming landscapes for benefits beyond timber. The practical fieldwork sparked engaging conversations about carbon sequestration, biodiversity, and how strategic planting benefits not only livestock and crops but entire landscapes.

*"The students really enjoyed the hands-on nature of the activities, they got more from learning in the paddock than if I had presented the same material to them in the classroom. They came away with a better understanding of how forestry and agriculture work together - and that there's a place for them in the future of both."*

**Agriculture Teacher - Launceston Church Grammar School**





## University of Tasmania Collaborations

### School of Education

The FEF continued its partnership with the University of Tasmania’s (UTAS) pre-service teacher program, delivering workshops in the North and South. This year the FEF focused on modelling specific field work skills and techniques, including leading groups through data collection methods (quadrats and transects), demonstrating strategies for behaviour management in outdoor settings, and sharing adaptable activities suited to different year levels, learning styles, and abilities. Through this work, the FEF supports future educators in building their confidence in teaching science and geography outdoors, highlighting the power of excursions for inspiring curiosity and connection to place.



### School of Architecture and Design

The FEF continues to foster a strong relationship with the UTAS School of Architecture and Design. The Hagley Agricultural Learning Centre Shelterbelt Learning Space, a key project in 2024, is now complete and complementing the suite of Agroforestry learning experiences at the educational centre. The FEF are also working with the UTAS school engagement team to increase reach to secondary students via the *Forest in a Box - Design and Make* resource, serving as a vehicle to explore STEM pathways and related careers.



## Celebrating Industry Collaborations

Each year, the FEF prioritises meaningful opportunities to connect teachers and students with partners across the forest industry. These rich, hands-on learning experiences are only made possible through positive engagement and collaborative approaches.

In 2025, one highlight of this partnership was the Year 10 Work Readiness program. Students from Marist Regional College connected with Britton Timbers and Forico Pty Ltd to explore the many and varied career pathways within forestry. Following the field trip, several of the industry presenters commented on how rewarding the experience was for the worksite and staff more broadly.

*‘Right from the start the students introduced themselves with confidence and demonstrated genuine interest for the experience. Arriving with personally named high visibility jackets and dressed appropriately makes a very positive first impression and sets the day up for success. Well done to all involved’.*

**Industry Host, Britton Timbers**



Through another program, TasTAFE construction and cabinet-making teachers from the Alanvale Compass participated in a full day tour visiting softwood and hardwood processing sites at Timberlink Australia and Neville Smith Forest Products. The experience enhanced their knowledge of local industries and provided scope for exploring future options for students. The teachers acknowledged the benefits for students in understanding the local industry – but noted the challenge remains in creating space for its inclusion within the curriculum. Needless to say, the industry is fully supportive of future engagement.

Lastly, Exeter High School Year 11/12 Agriculture students ended their year with a trip to plantations in the North East and a softwood processing mill, hosted by Timberlands Pacific and Timberlink Australia. Students were impressed by the diversity of career pathways that directly linked to agriculture. The passion and great communication demonstrated between all staff at each of the sites visited provided a great example of positive workplace culture.



### Science Communication in Action with the FPA

The FEF and Forest Practices Authority collaborated again this year at Agfest and Festival of Bright Ideas. The dynamic, engaging sites were a fantastic opportunity to connect with the public around forests in Tasmania and their management.



Education and Industry at Semaphore Farm

The FEF have been working closely with private land owners, Marian and Malcolm Larner of Semaphore Farm, to deliver educational programs for schools in southern Tasmania.

Setting these programs up for success involved an on-site workshop hosted by the FEF and Malcolm Larner. This workshop was attended by College Geography and Environmental Science teachers, along with industry representatives from Sustainable Timber Tasmania, Forest Practices Authority and Private Forests Tasmania. This was an extremely valuable opportunity to learn from one another and build understanding of forest management and land use change over time.

The collective outcomes of the field day culminated in Year 11/12 geography classes from Guildford Young College and St Michael’s Collegiate coming together for a full-day field trip, exploring Semaphore Farm. During the day students participated in a range of learning activities designed to encourage questioning and deepen understanding of the complexities of land use change and management practices. This provided the foundation for discussions related to the three pillars of sustainability – economic, social and environmental values in the context of tree growing and land management at the farm, community and regional level.



Resources in Action

This year, the FEF focused on implementing our newest resource, the *Inquiry Cubes*, with upper primary students across Tasmania. The resource promotes engagement and critical thinking about the environmental, sociocultural, and economic values of Tasmania’s forests. Teachers praised the *Teacher Guide* as an excellent support tool and reported that The Cubes’ content inspired enthusiasm and meaningful learning in their students.

*I think the most powerful feedback I can give relates to the opinions of my students. They all said that the whole unit of learning... was fantastic. They were engaged and enthusiastic from start to finish.*

**Teacher - Lenah Valley Primary School**

*I thought the cubes were a fantastic resource for my students. They really enjoyed being able to create their tree & easily interchange the structure of it once their knowledge deepened. Tasmanian made too!!*

**Teacher - Fahan School**

Programs in Action



Looking Forward

Plans are well underway for the shelterbelt planting at Scottsdale High School. With the support of Private Forests Tasmania, plans are established and site preparation is scheduled for early next year. This shelterbelt will be a wonderful learning opportunity for students as they actively partake in the planting and ongoing management.

After the success of the regional visits to schools in the North West this year, the FEF are going to continue to offer this experience for schools in other regional areas of Tasmania.

The FEF digital media project is all systems go, with some wonderful footage captured through various field trips in late 2025. The FEF will continue to capture their diverse programs and field sites in the new year and are working with a local media team to develop a suite of video resources.

We look forward to supporting secondary programs in the new year, particularly in agriculture and geography where we have formed strong connections with teachers and the relevant associations. This is a space that allows the FEF to engage with industry and communicate to school groups the key messages of sustainability and innovation in forestry.

FEF Board Members

**Steve Luttrell**  
Independent Chair

**Suzette Weeding**  
Deputy Chair

**Nick Steel**  
Director

**Darcy Vickers**  
Public Officer &  
Secretary

**Tammy Price**  
Treasurer  
(resigned 2025)

**Dion McKenzie**  
Director  
(resigned 2025)

FEF Staff Members

**Darcy Vickers**  
Manager/Teacher

**Emily Nash**  
Teacher

**Kate Battishall**  
Teacher





### 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](http://www.forest-education.com)

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