

Conference Tour - 20 February 2008

	Bus 1.	Bus 2.	Bus 3.	Bus 4.	Bus 5.
	Forest Management	Forest Management	Biology/CWD	Biology/CWD	Forest utilisation
8:00	Depart Hobart	Depart Hobart	Depart Hobart	Depart Hobart	Depart Hobart
	Yellow	Blue	Green	Black	Red
	Bus host:	Bus host:	Bus host:	Bus host:	Bus host:
	Sean Riley	Fred Duncan	Neil Davidson	Marie Yee	Peter Pepper
9:00					
9:15				Log decay	Huon Wood Centre
9:30	Warra LTER	Big Tree Reserve	Big Tree Reserve		
9:45					
10:00	Huon pine walk	Warra LTER			
10:15		Huon pine walk	Warra SST		
10:30					
10:45		Airwalk	Warra LTER		
11:00	Warra SST		Huon pine walk	Warra SST	Warra LTER
11:15					Huon pine walk
11:30		Warra 11 lookout			
11:45			Lunch		Airwalk
12:00				Lunch	
12:15					Lunch
12:30	Lunch				
12:45		Lunch	Airwalk	Warra LTER	
13:00				Huon pine walk	Warra SST
13:15	Warra 11 lookout				
13:30			Log decay	Airwalk	
13:45		Warra SST			
14:00					
14:15				Big Tree Reserve	Big Tree Reserve
14:30					
14:45	Big Tree Reserve				
15:00	(time permitting)				

Location: Big Tree Reserve

All buses

The Arve Big Tree (a *Eucalyptus regnans*) is one of the largest trees in the Southern forests.

Topics: Wet eucalypt forest ecology, stand management and biodiversity conservation

Hosts: Steve Read, Amy Robertson and Tim Leaman.

Steve will outline wet eucalypt forest ecology.

Amy will outline the different types of forest stands (in terms of structure, time since last disturbance, floristics) and their spatial distribution in the southern forests, and the implications for the design and conduct of forest harvesting operations in these areas.

Tim will discuss management of natural and cultural values (or special values) at the coupe level. He will cover threatened species research and how it influences the identification and management of species and their habitats during coupe planning. Case studies to be discussed on the day include Giant Trees, the Wedge-tailed Eagle, the Mt Mangana Stag Beetle and the Swift Parrot.

Steve Read is Chief Scientist with the Division of Forest Research and Development at Forestry Tasmania and Chairman of the Conference Committee. Amy Robertson is the planning coordinator with the Huon District, Forestry Tasmania. Tim Leaman is a conservation planner with Forestry Tasmania.

Location: Warra Long Term Ecological Research (LTER) Site

All buses

At the western end of Huon river bridge at Tahune. Whilst at this site delegates will be able to view the world-famous Huon pine in its natural setting, and walk the Airwalk, which takes you through the eucalypt canopy and above the rainforest understorey, and to a lookout above the junction of the Huon and Picton rivers.

Topic: Long-term multi-disciplinary experiments

Hosts: Michael (Mick) Brown and Fred Swanson

Mick will discuss the rationale behind the establishment of LTER sites generally and the history of the Warra LTER site. Fred will talk about the history of, and recent developments, at the H.J. Andrews LTER site in Oregon, USA, and will compare the Australian and American use of LTER sites.

Michael Brown is a consultant conservation ecologist and Honorary Research Associate at the University of Tasmania and was previously Senior Botanist with Tasmanian National Parks and Wildlife Service and Chief Scientist, Forestry Tasmania.

Fred Swanson is the co-principal investigator at the H.J. Andrews LTER site. His current interests include geomorphology, physical disturbances, research-management-policy links, ecological effects of Mount St Helens eruptions, and collaboration of ecologists and nature writers.

Topic: Towards ecological silviculture

Host: Mark Neyland.

Mark will introduce delegates to the Silvicultural Systems Trial (SST), when and why the SST was established, safety and productivity of the trial, issues that arose during the establishment and key results. Delegates will get an opportunity to view most of the coupes in the trial, and to discuss the relative merits of each of the silvicultural systems applied in the trial.

Mark Neyland is the principal research scientist in Native Forests branch with Forestry Tasmania. He has been studying Tasmania's ecology for 27 years.

Topic: Variable retention silviculture

Host: Robyn Scott

Robyn will discuss the development of variable retention harvesting in the Pacific Northwest and its subsequent development for use in Tasmania. Variable retention was first used in Tasmania at the Warra SST, but in the last few years its use has been extended across Tasmania.

Robyn Scott completed her MSc on windthrow following variable retention harvesting at the University of British Columbia with Dr Steve Mitchell, and is continuing that collaboration as she works towards a PhD with the CRC for Forestry on the silviculture of variable retention harvesting here in Tasmania, whilst also employed by Forestry Tasmania as the variable retention silviculture research officer.

Topic: The biodiversity implications of variable retention

Host: Sue Baker

Warra SST research has found that birds, bryophytes, and beetles all respond positively to retaining elements of the old-growth forest after harvesting. Although edge-affected, the retained aggregates provide habitat for many species of vascular plant, bryophyte, bird and beetle. Biodiversity monitoring in recently harvested and burnt aggregated retention coupes statewide is comparing biodiversity metrics in aggregates to unlogged control forest.

Sue Baker is a research scientist with Forestry Tasmania. She is currently investigating how old-growth biodiversity responds to variable retention silviculture, with focus on beetles, vascular plants, habitat tree availability and rainforest health.

Topic: Biology of old-growth forests

Hosts: Simon Grove and Pep Turner

Simon's presentation will cover some of the research undertaken at Warra aimed at understanding the biodiversity and dynamics of dead wood in a forest management context.

Pep will discuss fire and forest relationships. The southern forests are fire-derived and dynamic, and to understand them wildfire chronosequence plots, embedded in an experimental forest landscape, are being established to conduct landscape-level ecological research focusing on forest structure and biodiversity.

Location: Warra Silvicultural Systems Trial (SST) Stop 1

All buses

Location: Warra Silvicultural Systems Trial (SST) Stop 2

All buses

Location: Log decay site

Buses 3 and 4

Location: Warra 11 lookout, Warra Road
Buses 1 and 2

Simon Grove is FT's conservation biologist and contributes to the CRC for Forestry Biodiversity Project. While his professional remit is broad, he has a particular interest in researching and promoting what he calls 'deadwoodology'. Perpetua (Pep) Turner is a Bushfire CRC-funded Postdoctoral Research Fellow (School of Plant Science, UTas) based at Forestry Tasmania.

From this site delegates can see the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area (WHA), extensive and intensive forest management, the Southwood integrated processing facility, agricultural districts and distant views of the summit of Mt Wellington.

Topic: Old-growth forest management regimes

Hosts: John Hickey and Jayne Balmer

John will discuss the history of the lower Weld Valley, Forestry Tasmania's 'forestry in the landscape' approach (showing a decrease in forest intensity from east to west), the effects of clearfell, burn and sow treatments on vascular plants, and the motivation to explore alternative silvicultural systems for use in tall wet forests.

Jayne will discuss the history of the reserve system in Tasmania, the comprehensiveness, adequacy and representativeness of the reserve network for the protection of Tasmania's forests, the international and national significance of the WHA with particular reference to the forests, and the management of the WHA with a particular focus on forest and fire management.

John Hickey has worked in Tasmanian forestry for three decades and now manages the Planning Branch of Forestry Tasmania. He has previously been a principal research scientist with Forestry Tasmania and has studied the ecology and silviculture of wet forests. Jayne Balmer is a Senior Ecologist with the Vegetation Conservation Section of Tasmania's Department of Primary Industries and Water, and has worked for more than 20 years as the WHA botanist.

Location: Huon Wood Centre
Bus 5 only

Topic: Intensive management

Host: Murray Kirkwood

The Huon Wood Centre takes timber predominantly from the forests that surround older forest elements (that is, it uses regrowth timber). Management of the whole forest landscape or estate is therefore necessary, not just the older forest elements in that landscape.

The facility comprises a state-of-the-art regrowth sawmill, a merchandising yard and a peeling plant that prepares sheets for later assembly into plywood and flooring materials. Delegates will have the opportunity to view each of these operations in action.

Murray Kirkwood has worked for Forestry Tasmania in a variety of roles for nearly 10 years. He is presently the Manager of the Huon merchandising yard.