

2024 Understanding Forest Science Course Preliminary Program – released 12 June 2024

General Information for participants

All field trips are largely outdoors and you will be issued with personal protection for the course. To meet the safety requirements of the sites we will be visiting on field trips it is **compulsory** to wear clothes with:

- Long sleeve tops
- Proper long trousers (note that leggings and track pants are not acceptable)
- A hat for sun protection
- Covered in flat boots

Optional – obviously use your common sense but we suggest being prepared with lightweight wet weather gear and to bring extra layers if it is forecast to be cool.

Course dress code – for those wondering we simply suggest that you dress to suit each day's activities, overall we suggest informal but workplace appropriate attire with most people are representatives of a company.

Celebration Dinner – most people like to dress up a bit, however the dinner is not formal.

Contact - Helen Murray The Gottstein Trust course director ph.: 0419-991-424 or email team@gottsteintrust.org

Day 1 - Sunday 28th July Travel and registration then welcome dinner	
Venue - ground floor Mantra Mooloolaba	
From 5.15pm to 6pm	Registration. Grab your name tag and final program, meet the course team who'll be with you all week: Helen Murray, course director, and Imogen Wilkes-Bowes the course associate. Collect your PPE for the week's field trips. ** Must bring fully enclosed boots for field trips.
6 - 8pm	Welcome dinner - casual The Pavilion Restaurant (at street level entrance to the Mantra) Mooloolaba QLD The official welcome with a short briefing about the week ahead. It is a perfect opportunity for participants to meet one another and you will be asked to introduce yourself.

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Day 2 - Monday 29th July Presentation sessions with guest speakers Ground floor Mantra Mooloolaba

MORNING From 8.30am	Welcome and acknowledgement of Country	
	The Gottstein Trust – capacity building opportunities for individuals.	Helen Murray Course Director The Gottstein Trust Principal Kurrumbene Projects & Advocacy
	Forestry 101	Professor Mark Brown Director Forest Research Institute University of Sunshine Coast
	Forests - soil & water supply	Dr Tim Smith Director Forestry and Biosciences RD&E Horticulture & Forestry Science Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (Qld)
	Managing softwood plantations	Steve Walker Chief Operating Officer HQPlantations Gottstein Fellow
Lunch, morning tea and afternoon teas are provided		
AFTERNOON	Biosecurity	Dr Helen Nahrung Senior Research Fellow Forest Research Institute University Sunshine Coast
	Forestry on farms a snapshot (hardwood plantations, private native forestry)	Kaara Shaw Principal/co-founder Forest Land Management
	Forest Biodiversity	Suzette Weeding General Manager Conservation and Land Management Sustainable Timber Tasmania Chair The Gottstein Trust
Dinner – own arrangements. There are loads of restaurants varying from casual to upmarket almost at the door.		

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Day 3 - Tuesday 30th July Northern Field Trip

Kindly supported by Private Forestry Services Queensland, HQPlantations, University of the Sunshine Coast and the Department of Agriculture & Fisheries - Forestry

8 am Gather for boarding coach for field trip day.

Departure 8.15 sharp

Please note that you must wear the correct attire or you cannot participate. You must have completed an online Visiting Plantations Induction (we will provide the link prior to the course)

This northern field trip visits a set of varied and interesting forest sites which are located generally in the Gympie region, north of Mooloolaba. This is some of the truly heartland timber country in south-east Queensland.

It's your day so do participate and ask questions as we go along.

Weather permitting the day's highlights we have planned are:

- visit a hardwood plantation where Gympie Messmate is grown on privately owned land. This native tree species, with durable wood properties, is able to be used for many applications from poles to cardboard. Our tour host is David Menzies, Executive Officer of Private Forest Services Qld. Discussions may include – the critical infrastructure of roads, site protection & fire risk management, firefighting, harvest planning & logistics, site preparation for planting, planting, silviculture, weed and pest management/ biosecurity practices, et al.
- tour the HQPlantations pine nursery at Toolara, our tour is a staff member who is an expert in this arena. Find out what it takes to breed and establish healthy seedlings that can be used for the large scale annual replanting requirement of the Southern Pine and Hoop Pine forest estates. You will also be informed on some of the science, goals and mechanics of tree breeding for the forest estates.
- visit a substantial spotted gum progeny research trial – we will be accompanied by the expert himself chief researcher Associate Professor David Lee, University of the Sunshine Coast. Spotted Gum is a highly sought-after native hardwood species. It is highly valued by the flooring industry and it is suited to a range of uses including decks and cladding.

A bonus if time permits - on the return trip we aim to drive you by an HQPlantations Araucaria cunninghamii (Hoop Pine) plantation. Genetics expert Associate Professor David Lee will be on hand to provide commentary.

It's a two-hour coach trip home so you can sit back and relax in the comfortable coach.

Sustenance - *Morning tea and lunch supplied for planned picnic stops and comfort stops will be made.*

Approx. 6.45pm Arrive back at Mantra Mooloolaba

Dinner – own arrangements

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**Day 4
Wednesday 31st July
Presentation sessions with guest speakers
Ground floor Mantra Mooloolaba**

MORNING From 8.30am	Management of Natural (native) Forests	Dean Kearney Manager, Environment and Sustainability Hardwoods Division Forestry Corporation of NSW
	Managing hardwood plantations	Braden Jenkin Principal Sylva Systems Pty Ltd Gottstein Fellow
	Tree species – overview of genetics for wood quality and better plantation productivity	Ass/Prof David Lee Plant Genetics Forest Research Institute University Sunshine Coast
Lunch, morning tea and afternoon teas are provided		
AFTERNOON	Technology case study: High-tech forest surveillance and monitoring. (The Gottstein Trust Fellowship Project “Solar Induced Fluorescence (SIF): assessing a new means to measure dynamic forest productivity over large areas “)	Dr Will Woodgate Amplify Lecturer School of the Environment University of Queensland Gottstein Fellow
	Advances in fauna monitoring & habitat protection (case study on koalas)	Dr Brad Law Principal Research Scientist NSW Department of Primary Industries – Forestry Adjunct Fellow Queensland University of Technology
	Towards net zero - carbon equation of trees, forests, wood products	Dr Fabiano Ximenes Senior Research Scientist NSW Department of Primary Industries – Forestry
	Developing and implementing a First Nations Engagement Framework for Queensland’s largest plantation forest grower	Stephanie Hunt Stakeholder Engagement Manager HQPlantations
Dinner – own arrangements.		

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Day 5

Thursday 1st August

Southern Field Trip

Kindly hosted by HQPlantations at various sites in their forest estate, Beerburrum,

8 am

Gather for boarding

8.15 am sharp

Departure

Please note that you must wear the correct attire or you cannot participate. You must have completed an online Visiting Plantation Induction (we will provide the link prior to the course commencement)

This field trip is focussed on the HQPlantations softwood estate which grows the Southern Pine species. It is an important source of timber for the construction sector.

Tour around the Beerburrum forest region which is located south of Mooloolaba towards Brisbane. Visit various Southern Pine plantation sites – we'll be accompanied by company personnel ready to highlight the points of interest. We may also be able to visit one of several small hardwood plantations which also belong to HQP Plantations.

We will hear from the forest management personnel and you have the opportunity to ask questions of them all.

Among the many things that may come up are:

- fire prevention and risk management; firefighting practices
- sustainable forest certification practices
- pre harvest process of marking up the forest
- harvesting regulations and planning
- harvesting systems and processes, compliance,
- use of technology in plantation management and harvesting
- forest health, forest management, biosecurity
- fauna protection – the role of ecologists in the field, et al.

Sustenance - Morning tea and lunch supplied for planned picnic stops and comfort stops will be made.

Approx. 4 pm arrive back at Mantra Mooloolaba

7 - 10 pm

Course Celebration Dinner

Dinner will be hosted by chair of the Gottstein Trust, Suzette Weeding.

Mooloolaba Surf Lifesaving Club (private room)

5 minute walk from the Mantra Mooloolaba.

We will gather to celebrate on this final evening at the major social event of the week. Some course speakers and industry guests will also join with participants and the course team.

Dinner speaker

Professor Mark Brown

Topic: New kid on the block - the University of Sunshine Coast research hub of Australian Forest and Wood Innovations.

Dress code – smart casual dinner attire.

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**Day 6
Friday 2nd August
Final presentation sessions
Ground floor Mantra Mooloolaba**

<p>MORNING From 8.30am (morning tea will be provided)</p>	<p>Certification – the system for verification of sustainable forestry management practices.</p>	<p>Suzette Weeding Certified organisation Sustainable Timber Tasmania</p> <p>Ross Garsden Auditor – certifying body BSI Australia NZ</p> <p>Jonathan Tibbits Certification system Responsible Wood (PEFC)</p>
	<p>Final 3 – A better future</p> <p>In this trilogy 3 industry leaders will share their views on major issues for Australia’s production forests. These promise to be thought provoking presentations. You have the chance to put your questions to each speaker.</p>	
	<p>Future facing R,D &E Priorities and impacts of Forest & Wood Products Australia’s forest research, development and extension.</p>	<p>Jodie Mason Head of Forest Research Forest & Wood Products Australia Gottstein Fellow</p>
	<p>Australian forests, policy and politics. A better future - how is it possible?</p>	<p>Rob de Fegely, AM Chair Sustainable Timber Tasmania Director Margules Groome</p>
	<p>Holistic Horizons – the view from northern Australia. What is the future role of forests and forest products in a net zero carbon emissions future?</p>	<p>Mick Stephens CEO Timber Queensland Gottstein Fellow</p>
<p>11.40 am</p>	<p>Course close.</p>	<p>Helen Murray</p>
<p>Light refreshments will be available for those not departing immediately to the airport.</p>		