



# **Understanding Forest Science 2024**

**Sunday 28 July to  
Friday 2 August**

Mooloolaba, Queensland

[www.gottsteintrust.org](http://www.gottsteintrust.org)



## Bill Gottstein

The Gottstein Trust Fund was formed in 1971 by Australia's forestry products industry leaders and the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) to honour the late Bill (Joseph William) Gottstein.

Bill was an esteemed forest products research scientist with the CSIRO. His talent and character meant he was known and respected internationally.

In March 1971, possibly at the peak of his powers, he was struck by a ricocheting tree and died instantly when photographing a felling operation. It was shortly before he was due to return home to Brisbane from a Papua New Guinea trip. Shockwaves went through the industry and research community.

The Trust Fund is a living legacy to Bill. It ensures the influence of this innovative and exceptional man goes on.

## About the Gottstein Trust

The Joseph William Gottstein Memorial Trust Fund is known as The Gottstein Trust. This unique national educational trust exists to support the advancement of the forestry products industry. It provides opportunities for people to expand their knowledge and networks.

Grants are made available to individuals each year. These are Gottstein Fellowships (most entail an overseas study tour), Scholarships and Skill Development grants. The Trust also runs short courses and field trips each year.

Funds are raised entirely through industry donations, event revenue and investment income. In the first 52 years to 2023, 159 Fellowships were granted, with over \$1.5 million awarded to a total of 205 individuals to pursue special projects, study or undertake skill development.

The Gottstein Trust is currently governed by six trustees and the chair is Suzette Weeding. Kurrumbene Projects & Advocacy is engaged to manage operations and develop and deliver courses.

## Sponsored Student and Early Career Places

We are delighted to collaborate with organisations which fund places in Gottstein courses to support and encourage young people interested in the ultimate renewable timber industry.

### Gottstein Course Cullity Scholar

Wesbeam has sponsored a Gottstein Scholarship recipient, now graduated from university. This generous support honours Thomas Cullity, a co-founder of the Gottstein Trust and his son Denis Cullity who was an original trustee.

### Steve Stevenson Memorial Trust Fund

This valued collaboration sees one sponsored place awarded to a university student on each Gottstein course. This opportunity rotates to a different university each year and, over time, students from across Australia will have access to apply for this unique opportunity.

## Day 1 – Sunday 28 July

### Arrival, registration and welcome dinner

from 5:15 pm	<b>Registration</b> Ground Floor, Mantra Mooloolaba 7 Venning St Mooloolaba	<b>Helen Murray</b> Course Director Principal, Kurrumbene Projects & Advocacy  <b>Imogen Wilkes-Bowes</b> Course Associate
6:00 pm	<b>Welcome dinner – casual</b> The Pavilion, on hotel side of The Esplanade, in front of the Mantra venue	<b>Official welcome with a briefing about the week ahead. Meet the other participants.</b>

## Day 2 – Monday 29 July

### Presentations

Ground floor, Mantra Mooloolaba

8:45 am	<b>Acknowledgement of Country Introduction to The Gottstein Trust – capacity building opportunities for individuals</b>	<b>Helen Murray</b> Course Director Principal Kurrumbene Projects & Advocacy
9:00 am	<b>Forestry 101</b>	<b>Professor Mark Brown</b> Director Forest Research Institute University of the Sunshine Coast
10:00 am	<b>Forests – soil &amp; water supply</b>	<b>Dr Tim Smith</b> Director Forestry & Biosciences Research, Development & Extension – Horticulture & Forestry Science Queensland Department of Agriculture & Fisheries Adjunct Professor, University of the Sunshine Coast
11:00 am	Morning tea	
11:30 am	<b>Managing softwood plantations</b>	<b>Steve Walker</b> Chief Operating Officer HQPlantations Gottstein Fellow
12:30 pm	Lunch	
1:15 pm	<b>Biosecurity</b>	<b>Dr Helen Nahrung</b> Senior Research Fellow Forest Research Institute University of the Sunshine Coast
2:10 pm	<b>Forestry on farms – a snapshot</b>	<b>Kaara Shaw</b> Co-founder Forest Land Management
3:00 pm	Afternoon tea	
3:30 pm	<b>Forest biodiversity</b>	<b>Suzette Weeding</b> General Manager Conservation & Land Management Sustainable Timber Tasmania Chair, The Gottstein Trust
4:30 pm	Close	

Dinner – own arrangements. There are many restaurants varying from casual to more upmarket almost at the door. If you prefer a quiet night in your hotel apartment supermarkets are nearby for self-catering.

## Northern Field Trip

7:50 am Gather for boarding coach

**Please note** you must wear the specified form of clothing to meet the compulsory personal protective equipment requirements of the sites we visit, or you cannot participate. You must have also completed an online Visiting Plantations Safety Induction.

8:00 am Coach departs

This field trip will visit a set of varied and interesting forest sites located in the wider Gympie region, north of Mooloolaba. We will be in true heartland timber country of south-east Queensland. Weather permitting the day's planned highlights 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.
- Tour the HQPlantations pine nursery at Toolara. Find out what it takes to breed and establish healthy seedlings used for the large scale annual replanting requirement of the Southern Pine and *Araucaria cunninghamii* (hoop pine) forest estates. Also hear about some of the science, goals and mechanics of tree breeding for HQP 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.

If time permits, on the return trip we may drive by an HQP *Araucaria cunninghamii* (hoop pine) plantation. Genetics expert Associate Professor David Lee will be on board 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.

Approximately 7 pm arrive back at Mantra Mooloolaba

Dinner – own arrangements

## Day 4 – Wednesday 31 July

### Presentations Ground floor, Mantra Mooloolaba, 7 Venning St, Mooloolaba

8:30 am	Managing natural (native) forests	<b>Dean Kearney</b> Manager, Environment and Sustainability Hardwoods Division Forestry Corporation of NSW
9:30 am	Managing hardwood plantations	<b>Braden Jenkin</b> Principal Sylva Systems Pty Ltd Gottstein Fellow
10:30 am	Morning tea	
11:00 am	Tree species – overview of genetics for wood quality and better plantation productivity	<b>Associate Professor David Lee</b> Plant Genetics Forest Research Institute University of the Sunshine Coast
12:00 pm	High-technology forest surveillance and monitoring case study: Gottstein Fellowship Project: <i>Solar Induced Fluorescence (SIF): assessing a new means to measure dynamic forest productivity over large areas</i>	<b>Dr Will Woodgate</b> Amplify Research Fellow School of the Environment University of Queensland Gottstein Fellow
12:50 pm	Lunch	
1:50 pm	Advances in fauna monitoring & habitat protection (case study on koalas)	<b>Dr Brad Law</b> Principal Research Scientist Forest Science Unit NSW Department of Primary Industries Adjunct Fellow Queensland University of Technology
2:50 pm	Afternoon tea	
3:15 pm	Towards net zero – carbon equation of trees, forests, wood products	<b>Dr Fabiano Ximenes</b> Senior Research Scientist Forest Science Unit NSW Department of Primary Industries
4:15 pm	Developing and implementing a First Nations Engagement Framework for Queensland's largest plantation forest grower	<b>Stephanie Hunt</b> Stakeholder Engagement Manager HQPlantations
5:00 pm	Close	
Dinner – own arrangements		

**Southern Field Trip**

8:00 am Gather for boarding coach

***Please note** you must wear the specified form of clothing to meet the compulsory personal protective equipment requirements of the sites we visit, or you cannot participate. You must have also completed an online Visiting Plantations Safety Induction.*

8:15 am Coach departs

This field trip is focussed on the softwood plantation estate of HQPlantations 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. Time and weather permitting, we may also visit one of several small HQP hardwood plantations.

Visit a native forest site at Beerwah State Forest, where our host will be the Queensland Department of Department of Agriculture and Fisheries – Forestry team.

We will hear from forest management personnel and we encourage you to make the most of this opportunity to ask them questions as the day rolls along.

Among the myriad of 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

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

Approximately 4 pm arrive back at Mantra Mooloolaba

**Evening Course Celebration Dinner**

Gather together with industry guests and some course speakers to celebrate on this final evening.

*Host:* Suzette Weeding, Chair of the Gottstein Trust

*Venue:* Mooloolaba Surf Lifesaving Club (private event room), 1 The Esplanade, Mooloolaba. This is a 5 minute walk from the Mantra course venue.

*Time:* 7 – 10 pm

*Dinner speaker:* Professor Mark Brown

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

*Dress code:* smart casual dinner attire.

### Presentations

Ground floor, Mantra Mooloolaba, 7 Venning St, Mooloolaba

8:30 am	<b>Certification – the system for verification of sustainable forestry management practices</b>	
	A certified organisation	Sustainable Timber Tasmania Suzette Weeding General Manager Conservation & Land Management
	An auditor – certifying body	BSI ANZ Ross Garsden Technical Specialist – Forest Management
	A certification system	Responsible Wood (PEFC) Jonathon Tibbits Marketing & Communications Manager
<b>A better future – what, why, how</b>		
<i>This final trilogy of speakers are three industry leaders invited to share their views on the future for Australia's forests.</i>		
9:20 am	<b>Future facing research, development &amp; extension</b>	Jodie Mason
	What are the priorities and impacts of Forest & Wood Products Australia's forest research, development and extension?	Head of Forest Research Forest & Wood Products Australia Gottstein Fellow
10:00 am	Morning tea	
10:30 am	<b>Australian forests, policy and politics. A better future – how is it possible?</b>	Rob de Fegely, AM
	What needs to change to ensure a better future such that our country has security of access to Australian grown timber at the same time as having well-protected forests and associated ecosystems?	Chair Sustainable Timber Tasmania
11:10 am	<b>Holistic horizons</b>	Mick Stephens
	The holistic role of forests in a net zero carbon emissions future – a northern Australia view.	Chief Executive Officer Timber Queensland Gottstein Fellow
11:50 pm	Close of course	

## Acknowledgments

Delivery of this course entails collaboration with many people within the forests and forest products sector. We appreciate every contribution made by individuals and organisations and we thank them.

We hope that all course participants find this week to be a valuable learning experience, and enjoy being among others who share their interest in forests, and the vital role played by forests.

A heartfelt thank you goes to each of the session presenters. All have generously made time in busy schedules to contribute – some traveling long distances. Sharing their expertise enables the transfer of knowledge to others.

We extend sincere thanks to Professor Mark Brown and his colleagues from the Forest Research Institute of the University of the Sunshine Coast for their substantial contribution. Likewise we greatly appreciate the willing help of the following people and their colleagues to plan and deliver the field trip program: David Menzies, Private Forest Services Queensland; Stephanie Hunt, HQPlantations; Leanne Sommer, Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries – Forestry, and Associate Professor David Lee, University of the Sunshine Coast. Thank you also to Timber Queensland for the encouragement to bring the program to Queensland.

The Gottstein Trustees thank Kurrumbene Projects & Advocacy for developing the program and making it all happen – the team members are Judy Pearce, Imogen Wilkes-Bowes and Helen Murray. Likewise, that team appreciates the support of Suzette Weeding, Chair of The Gottstein Trust and are delighted she's able to attend.

# Gottstein Trust Industry Appeal Donors

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Dr Kevin Harding