

Gottstein funding campaign under way

THE 2019 funding campaign for the Joseph William Gottstein Memorial Trust was launched at the recent AFPA members' meeting in Canberra.

The national education trust was established in 1971 and recognises eminent CSIRO scientist Bill Gottstein, who lost his life in a forest accident in PNG.

The trust promotes the development of Australia's forest products industry and the Gottstein awards recognise the need for constant improvement through increased knowledge and skills development in furthering the industry.

Trust chair John Simon said the trust had funded more than 100 fellowships and provided overseas study tours.

"Many of these 'fellows' are now in senior positions in the industry," Mr Simon said. "We consider this program to be our industry's equivalent of a Rhodes Scholarship," he said.

The trust also funds scholarships for undergraduate and postgraduate students to further their studies in timber industry related subjects.

The awards are open to students formally enrolled and registered in a bachelor degree, graduate diploma or master degree in forestry, forest science or wood science.

Each year, in conjunction with Australian National University in Canberra, the Gottstein Trust organises a one-week 'crash course' in wood science or forest



John Simon... industry's equivalent of a Rhodes Scholarship.

science. This year more than 30 individuals graduated from the forest science course.

The administration of the Trust is managed by well-known industry identity Helen Murray, with corporate governance through a board of trustees comprising John Simon, Suzette Weeding, Brian Farmer, Nils

Gunnensen, Jason Wilson and James Malone, all of whom give their time on a voluntary basis.

Funding of the activities of the trust is assisted by generous annual contributions from industry.

John Simon said with current low interest rates, the trust had a need to expand the number of patrons and supporters.

"All are acknowledged on the Gottstein website and patrons receive a significant discount for the courses at ANU," he said.

Inquiries about applications and patron and supporter sponsorships should be directed to Helen Murray at gottsteinsecretary@gmail.com or on 0419 991424.