

FOREST PRACTICES AWARDS



2024



FPA
FOREST PRACTICES AUTHORITY

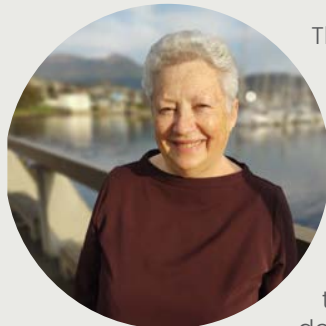
Tasmania's independent forest regulator administering
the Forest Practices Act

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MESSAGE FROM PAM ALLAN, CHAIR OF THE FPA BOARD



The Board of the Forest Practices Authority has long recognised that there are people working in forestry in Tasmania who display excellence in applying the forest practices system in their particular field of work. This is why we started the Forest Practices Awards in 2007, to publicly acknowledge a few of these inspirational people. We are now delivering our seventh award ceremony.

The forest practices system is based on continual improvement and cooperation between all parties. It's the high standard achieved by those who implement the forest practices system which enables this co-operation and continual improvement.

The Directors of the Board congratulate the nominees, not only on their outstanding professional achievements, but also on the manner in which that work has, and will continue to, contribute to the ongoing achievement of sustainable management of forests in Tasmania.

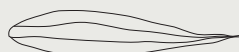
I would like to emphasise the significance of being nominated as it shows that your peers really value your achievements. We had a really strong field of nominations this year – double that of last time – and the Awards Committee had a difficult time deciding on the winners. So, I want to congratulate EVERY SINGLE nominee and thank them ALL for your contributions to the forest practices system.

I also want to thank the Awards Committee: Kim Creak from the Board, Anne Chuter as CFPO, Heath Blair from Reliance Forest Fibre and the FPO Reference Group, Ann La Sala from Forico and the Forest Practices Advisory Committee and Chris Grove and Laurel Trebilco from the FPA staff.

The information about the nominees in this booklet uses the words of the nominees and may not necessarily reflect FPA opinion.



The FPA acknowledges the palawa people as the original owners and continuing custodians of lutruwita/Tasmania and recognises their skill and care in managing the land for many thousands of years. We pay our respects to elders – past and present.



Front page image credit: Forico

Back page image credit: collage of nominee photos, supplied in nominations

All photos by FPA unless otherwise stated.

RECENTLY APPOINTED FPO

This award recognises excellence in recently appointed FPOs (in the last 5 years), either as an FPO Inspecting or FPO Planning.

Liam Beattie, Technical Forest Services (TFS)

Liam was nominated by his manager, Clive Woolridge.

Liam achieved FPO appointment in October of 2022 after excelling in the FPO Training Course and has become a great asset to TFS and more importantly to the broader forestry community. He is a valued Senior Team member at TFS and is focused on delivering exceptionally high-quality work without seeking any external recognition.

He has grown unbelievably quickly over the last 7 years since graduating from UTAS and he excels in everything he has put his hand to, such as:

- managing EOI processes, harvesting and FPP obligations on private properties
 - running large and complex GIS systems for clients
 - contributing to very large National inventory programmes
 - capturing and analysing enormous amounts of in-field data flow
 - researching and implementing high-level technical equipment deployed into field operations nationally
 - delivering internal training and auditing of staff, both locally and nationally.
- managing planning operations of private properties, overseeing all FPP requirements



Liam on the FPO Training Course in 2020.

Airon Denwer-Ripper, Midway Tasmania



Airon in his natural habitat. Photo by Midway Tasmania.

Airon was nominated by his colleagues Clint Webb and Tiffani Sanford.

Airon was a great contributor to the 2020 FPO Training Course and was appointed as an FPO in February 2022. Bringing a diverse experience in harvesting, safety, supervising and planning, he instils confidence in the Midway Tasmania harvesting contractor crews under his management by encouraging good decision making through knowledge transfer.

An example of this is how Airon actively works with the harvesting crews to provide them with resources and

authority to identify and protect any previously unidentified threatened vegetation communities within a coupe.

He championed a new contractor guide to assist in identifying *Eucalyptus ovata*, *E. brookeriana* and *E. globulus*. The guide is contractor-friendly by taking account of how contractors see the species from their machinery, and their base knowledge.

Over the past two years Airon has always been interested in learning more and happy to mentor others by sharing his knowledge of harvesting and planning components of the *Forest Practices Code*.

PREPARATION OF FOREST PRACTICES PLANS

This award is for Planning FPOs and is judged on consistency, clarity, high quality, freedom from errors and innovation or excellence in dealing with complex or challenging issues for one or more plans.

Dan Ryan, Reliance Forest Fibre



Dan on the recent 'devils in plantations' field day, which RFF organised for plantation foresters, FPA Biodiversity staff and other government specialists

Dan was nominated by Mitch Raspin, Reliance Forest Fibre.

Dan has consistently excelled in preparing forest practises plans since he was appointed an FPO in 2001. He became an FPO Planning in the same year, an unusual achievement.

Dan has prepared and certified numerous complex plantation and native forest FPPs. These plans have required thorough and diligent planning for many forest values, for example Karst features found in limestone areas.

A prime example of Dan's thorough planning is the FPP he is currently working on. A detailed field survey was conducted, involving visits and advice from FPA's earth

scientists, resulting in the discovery and mapping of many new karst features that will be managed through the next rotation of harvesting and plantation establishment. Notably, Dan discovered a significant cave that the FPA's Adrian Slee then explored and documented, as you can read about in the July 2023 issue of Forest Practices News.

Dan utilises his impressive knowledge of the forest practices system to navigate the complexities of planning FPPs that identify and manage special values, while also achieving excellent operational outcomes. He is valued as a mentor and is respected by colleagues, auditors and FPA specialists.

Amy Robertson, Independent Forester



Amy presenting about visual landscape management on the FPO Training Course 2023.

Amy was nominated by Caleb Elcock, Elcock Pure Tasmanian Honey.

Since she was appointed as an FPO Planning in 2006, Amy has prepared FPPs to an exceptionally high standard, demonstrating expert knowledge about forestry and the relevant systems and legislation. Much of the system is bound in legalese, but Amy communicates the rationale involved in her FPPs with clarity.

While preparing an FPP for me (Caleb), Amy maximised sustainable forest practices, while minimising any environmental impacts my commercial beekeeping and

other forest practices would have on native timber resource.

The FPP's validity was challenged and scrutinised but Amy was confident in her fastidious record keeping and adherence to the legal requirements and the challenge was found to be 'not justified and factually incorrect'. This case proves Amy's professional ability to produce a sound FPP and provides a model FPP for the community and local authorities. In my case, I now have an FPP with clear instruction on how I can operate a productive and responsible enterprise within the forest practices system.

Jason Bolch, SFM

Jason was nominated by Andrew Morgan, SFM

Jason is known for his exceptional expertise in preparing FPPs and has been an FPO Planning since 2004. With over two decades of experience in the industry, Jason has been a key part of the SFM team for more than 10 years.

His experience in preparing FPPs is demonstrated by his ability to navigate and resolve complex issues within the planning process. His meticulous approach to the preparation process reflects his deep understanding of the *Forest Practices Code*, and he is diligent in ensuring that every

plan is fully compliant and up to standard.

Well known for his ability to communicate effectively, Jason' approach is grounded in respect and collaboration, which has earned him the trust and confidence of those he works with.

Well known for his ability to communicate effectively, Jason' approach is grounded in respect and collaboration, which has earned him the trust and confidence of those he works with. Beyond his technical skills, Jason is recognised for sharing his knowledge with others.



Jason leading the FPO discussion session at the FPO Refresher Course 2024.

Simon McNamara, Forico

Simon was nominated by Mark 'Fred' Pearce, Forico

Simon started as a Planning Forester with Forico in 2017 after gaining experience in Forestry Tasmania and in South Africa. He became an FPO Planning in 2018. He is highly regarded within Forico and the FPO community for consistently preparing FPPs to an extremely high standard.

An example of this is the recent complex FPP to harvest 19ha of 35-year-old pines, some adjacent to a significant Tasmanian Aboriginal chert quarry at Parawee. The trees adjacent to the quarry required removal as they posed a significant safety hazard to the Aboriginal community who access the reserve. Simon coordinated negotiations with the local Aboriginal community and Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania and arranged a Ministerial 'permit to disturb' which allows for potential artefact disturbance.

Simon translated the conditions of the AHT permit into FPP prescriptions and was involved in developing the harvest methodology. Harvesting was carried out by a combination of mechanical and manual felling with a team of arborists that were on site to winch heavy leaning mature pine trees away from the sensitive areas. Simon supervised the operation to ensure compliance with the FPP and the permit conditions and the outcome was minimal artefact disturbance and no native vegetation disturbance within the quarry reserve.



Simon conducting special species assessments and harvesting adjacent to the Aboriginal quarry. Photos by Forico.

NATURAL AND CULTURAL SPECIAL VALUES MANAGEMENT

This award applies to individuals, groups or businesses showing innovative identification, planning and management of natural and cultural special values. Judging of this award takes into account the number and complexity of special values, innovation of planning and positive management outcomes.

Dan Ryan, Reliance Forest Fibre



Selfie from Dan in the forest.

Dan was nominated by Justin Baily, BAILEAF, and Peter McIntosh, FPA.

Dan's exceptional contributions, both in operational supervision and in planning, are evident in his work which demonstrates a deep commitment to identifying, assessing, and pragmatically managing special, natural and cultural forest values.

Dan's commitment to 'getting things right' through exemplary fieldwork and a willingness to consult has been demonstrated in his plans for numerous coupes. For example, care to protect streams in highly erodible soils in the southern forests, protection of caves and karst in the Florentine valley, and his care to ensure

minimal disturbance of known Tasmanian Aboriginal sites during harvest of plantations in the Tea Tree Rivulet catchment near Buckland. These examples involved complex issues relating to soils and erosion and machinery access, karst protection and revegetation policy, and preservation of Aboriginal cultural heritage, which were resolved with assistance from FPA specialists.

Dan fosters a collaborative approach that emphasises rigorous on-site investigation and historical research. He is a dedicated mentor who generously shares his expertise with contractors, FPOs, and early-career foresters alike, fostering a culture of continuous improvement at all levels.

John Tabor, Western Tiers Consulting



John marking the edge of the harvesting area in a coupe. Photo from John Tabor.

John was nominated by Hafwen Pearce and Peter McIntosh, FPA.

John became an FPO Planning in 2011 and is one of the rare FPOs with quarry planning delegations. He is the Consulting Forester in his own company after gaining experience with a variety of industry companies as a planning forester.

He has prepared over 100 high quality and complex FPPs in native forest, plantation and quarry operations. These prescribe management actions that achieve good environmental outcomes while balancing complicated operational and special forest values issues. Evidence of this

ability can be seen in his recent impressive score of 100% in an FPA Planning Audit.

John consistently seeks FPA advice and his eye for detail is combined with a great capacity for understatement, which has become proverbial in the FPA. For example, when we were informed that 'there are a couple of large boulders you might like to look at' we knew that John had found something highly significant – in this case it was evidence for an ancient glacial moraine.

His notifications to the FPA are always accompanied by excellent field notes, good maps and photographs.

Lyell Dean, Reliance Forest Fibre

Lyell was nominated by Kat Cresswell, Reliance Forest Fibre.

Lyell has shown outstanding leadership in the Wedge-Tailed Eagle Nest Search Program, coordinating this new joint initiative with Reliance Forest Fibre, Forico and Timberlands Pacific.

In previous years, forest management companies conducted their own searches independently and did not share the results. It was common for pilots to report having searched the same area for a different forest manager just the week before. Lyell reached out to a group of forest managers and persuaded them to conduct a trial to improve the coordination and recording of the 2024 searches.

Under his leadership, the trial was successful in terms of financial savings, data collection, and industry collaboration. The team conducted 8 flights covering 17,010 hectares, resulting in the discovery of 22 new nests, now



included in the Natural Values Atlas. This addition is invaluable for ongoing conservation efforts and will significantly enhance future forest practice management.

The pre-operational WTE nest search program achieved remarkable results, setting a new standard as a template for future collaborative conservation efforts.

Lyell in the forest and with some of the Wedge-Tailed Eagle Nest Search Program. Photos from RFF.



Timberlands Pacific

Timberlands Pacific was nominated by Peter Williams, Timberlands Pacific.

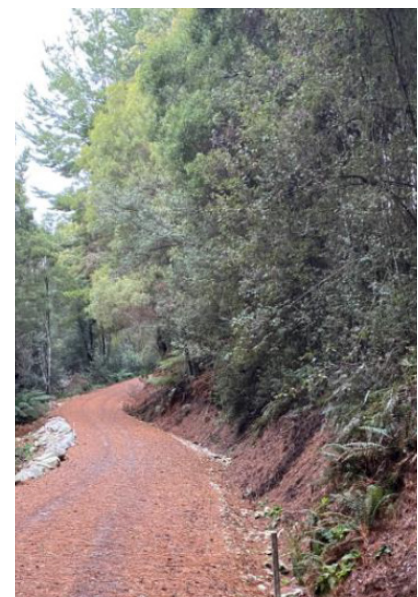
A major rainfall event that produced record rainfall of over 200 mm over 3 days in October 2022 caused significant landslips within the *Pinus radiata* Wilmot forest block plantations, west of Lake Barrington.

Inspections showed evidence of 5 new landslides and some old landslips on the landslide-prone hillside. The largest new landslide had a 40 m wide steep backwall approximately 10 m tall, and a runout that is 380 m long and approximately 90 m wide.

The initial response was to let the major landslide settle and eliminate further erosion through directing culvert outflows away from this site and placing rock-fill below the culvert outlets.

Once the site was evaluated, batter slope stabilisation and soil removal were required. To stabilise the soil, the landslide was planted in winter 2023 with of *Eucalyptus obliqua* and *Acacia melanoxylon* seedlings.

Over a 3-month period, the road was rebuilt and drainage improved across the 5 kilometres of road network, enabling harvesting and cartage to occur over the summer of 2023–24.



Jason leading the FPO discussion session at the FPO Refresher Course 2024.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOREST OPERATIONS

This award applies to Inspecting FPOs and field supervisors. It is judged for special diligence in inspection and management of forest practices issues in the forest, resulting in the achievement of excellence.

Justin Baily, BAILEAF

Justin was nominated by Caleb Elcock, of Elcock Pure Tasmanian Honey.

Justin, in yellow, during a discussion on the recent Wildlife Habitat Clumps Course.



Justin, and FPO since September 2018, assessed works conducted under an FPP prepared and certified by another FPO in order

to issue a final Certificate of Compliance for the operation. He provided additional advice and support to suggest possible pathways for the long-term management of the land.

His forward thinking will no doubt ensure that sustainable forest operations can continue long into the future. For example, he recommended supplementary planting of species that would improve the apiary.

In addition, he noticed improvements which could be made in the placement of felled logs in order to reduce fire hazards and provided advice about how to achieve this.

Matt Quarrier, Sustainable Timber Tasmania



Matt taking a break from supervising the harvesting crew.

Matt was nominated by STT.

Matt has worked at STT as a Forest Officer Harvesting for 6 years, where he oversees the inspection and supervision of harvesting and haulage operations across southern Tasmania, most often in the Huon Valley.

He has proactively developed strong relationships with the harvesting contractor crews he supervises and has invested time and care to enhance safety culture and compliance with the *Forest Practices Code*.

Passionate about identifying high value forest products, Matt works collaboratively with his contractor crews to optimise the value of each forest operation. Examples include:

- supporting forest contractors to identify and harvest nearly 80% of the Koppers hydro pole supply across Tasmania
- supervising a salvage operation for boat grade Celery top pine that required special approval from the FPA
- sourcing trees with suitable length and diameter for use in a historic bridge restoration at Tunbridge (see July 2023 issue of *Forest Practices News*).
- working closely with an artist to harvest tree bark, burnt wood and a stump suitable for an Aboriginal art display at MONA in 2022.

Committed to continual improvement, Matt has recently completed the FPO Training course and is working on his Certificate IV in Forest Operations.

CONDUCT OF FOREST OPERATIONS

This award applies to both contractors and businesses, including forest industry companies and private landowners. It is judged on consistently good performance in regard to forest practices.

Matt Templar, Tempcor Contracting

Matt was nominated by Stuart Becker, Forico .

Matt started working in the bush part time at the age of 13 and at the age of 16 he was working full-time with his father's bush crew. After 12 years he started his own forestry business.

Matt delivers exemplary results on challenging and sensitive sites to achieve great cultural and environmental outcomes. Key to this is his ability to adapt to emerging challenges while engaging with forestry stakeholders and public.

A great example of Matt's work are the operations he has

undertaken on the Forico Surrey Hills Estate as a subcontractor to Orana Enterprises.

A great example of Matt's work are the operations he has undertaken on the Forico Surrey Hills Estate as a subcontractor to Orana Enterprises. One of these operations was adjacent to the Aboriginal quarry in the Surrey Hills, the same one that Simon McNamara was nominated for. Matt designed an operation which exceeded the permit conditions and requirements, preventing any disturbance of artefacts.

He is an example of the best of Tasmania's forest contractors

in an ever changing and challenging environment where sustainability, transparency, accountability and adaptability are the required skillsets for continuing forest management.



Matt and machine. Photo by Forico.

Leigh Cooper, Orana Enterprises

Leigh was nominated by Callan Smith, Forico

Leigh Cooper has been working in forestry for more than 20 years. Currently working as a Forwarder and Restoration machine operator, he has a wealth of experience, knowledge and skill across all aspects of the forest industry.

An example of his forwarding and landing creation work at PT101H was of outstanding quality and typical of Leigh, and his forward thinking and hard work regarding a white bellied sea eagle exclusion zone on the same block ensured a positive and productive outcome occurred, with no disruption to the eagle.

He is passionate about what he does, and conscious of ensuring a positive outcome occurs wherever he is involved. His attitude and approach to forest operations could be promoted as the benchmark for all.

A great example of Leigh's impressive log stacking skills.



CONDUCT OF FOREST OPERATIONS (CONTINUED)

Brent Hampson, Casegrande Lumber



Brent and examples of this work. Photos by Forico.

Brent was nominated by Roseanne Champion, Forico.

Brent, or Pistol as he is known to most people, has worked in the forest industry for 30 years. He has worked for Casegrande for the last 15 years on both native forest and plantations and is currently the Bush Boss of a plantation clear fall crew in the NW of TAS. He has experience operating all forestry machines but found operating a forwarder was his passion.

Brent stands out for consistently supervising his crew to high standards and his willingness to tackle challenging coupes and tasks. Proactive in his management, his experience enables him to foresee difficulties and initiate solutions to avoid problems

An example of his work was when Brent's crew was chosen to harvest a coupe selected for a biomass trial in Summer 2024. He embraced this challenge

and led his crew through the challenges that the trial brought up. The final stage of the trial was to forward the harvest residue to the roadside. Brent was able to use his experience, knowledge and initiative to suggest methods and ways of operating the machinery to get the desired outcome. The neatness and efficiency of his work was noted within Forico and was used as a benchmark for other contractors completing the same trials.

Fire Foresight (see following nomination)



From left: Axis fire cameras at Moaners Hill and Tower Hill. Infrastructure from tower. Fire detection at Mt Horror - initial and 3 minutes later. Photos from Indicium.

INNOVATION IN FOREST PRACTICES

This award recognises innovation and improved environmental outcomes through new tools or methods to improve forest practices or research, advice, and services to forestry.

Rob Vernon, Indicium Dynamics, and Jye Hill, STT

Rob and Jye nominated by themselves.

Sustainable Timber Tasmania (STT), supported by technology partner Indicium Dynamics, has improved early forest fire detection through Fire Foresight.

Fire Foresight uses AI to analyse and monitor extensive areas for early signs of bushfires, improving response times and accuracy compared to traditional methods. The AI-driven cameras, which collectively monitor approximately 4,900 square kilometres, have successfully identified over 1,500 fires to date. For example, in February 2024



From left: Mike Ross, Indicium Founder & Chief Technology Officer, and Jye Hill, STT.

the AI system detected a fire nearly 3 hours before traditional methods.

The AI technology developed through this collaboration will be released under a Creative Commons license, which will cut

the adoption costs elsewhere. This move is expected to encourage widespread uptake, reducing the risk of significant fire damage and safeguarding forests' commercial and ecological values around Australia.

Nic Challis, STT

Nic was nominated by STT.

Nic, a Senior Forest Officer with Sustainable Timber Tasmania (STT), has developed an innovative approach to managing approximately 1,300 ha of wattle-dominated regrowth forests through her work on the North-east Wattle Regrowth Silviculture project. These forests presented challenges for established silvicultural systems.

Nic used a combination of cutting-edge technology and rigorous field analysis to assess and map the 1,300 ha of wattle regrowth, delineating them into 4 distinct silvicultural regimes. Post-harvest assessments in trial coupes determined the effectiveness of these silvicultural regimes.

Nic carrying out fieldwork with old and new technology.

As well as enhanced mapping and data management, the key outcomes were the creation of a new cost-effective silviculture system for 'Potential Sawlog Retention - Wattle Removal', which will be reflected in the updated Silvicultural Technical Bulletin #2. This new system aligns with the *Forest Practices Code* requirements and is designed to maximise future sawlog resources.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

This award recognises any individual, business unit or organisation that proactively engages with diverse communities, resulting in improved public understanding and support for the forest practices system

MONA Team

The MONA Team of Kirsha Kaechele, Magdalena Lane,



Visiting native forest regrowth thinning on a MONA and Midway Tasmania-organised field trip. Photo from Midway Tasmania.

Marissa Tremain, Loren Kronemyer and Sylvia Elphinstone, was nominated by Michael Schofield, of Midway Tasmania.

MONA hosted the Forest Economic Congress in November 2023 in Hobart with 120 delegates from across economics, industry, ecology, and community to consider the true value of forests. This was followed by a three-day MONA sponsored event in Launceston with around 30 delegates.

Forest industry delegates Dwayne Kerrison, Graeme and Sylvia Elphinstone and MONA staff followed up these events with multiple visits to Midway

Tasmania operations on public and private land. MONA then sponsored a three-day field trip for 30 people investigating forest management.

The nominators consider that the ideas, energy and genuine enquiry of the MONA team to lead and partner in community engagement is an outstanding example of excellence in community engagement. Their generosity in organising people and events have showcased responsible 'nature positive' forestry, brought together a range of stakeholders, and championed environmental values, all the while challenging ideas and having fun!

Orana 3, Orana Enterprises

The Orana 3 crew were nominated by Callan Smith, Forico.

This is a group nomination, as the outcome was a team effort. Orana 3 is one of two plantation clearfall harvesting operations working for Forico in the north-west. The crew members are Luke Czylok, Leigh Cooper, Jaime Diprose, Josh Horwick, and Steve Martin.

Forico and the crew worked with the Inland Fisheries Service (IFS) recently to maintain access for anglers during harvest operations at a plantation coupe on the western shore of Talbotts Lagoon.

The harvesting activities were planned during the closed season between the end of April and late July to minimise

potential impact on access for anglers.

The crew worked collaboratively alongside Forico and the IFS to ensure a highly positive outcome for all parties. The multiple IFS access tracks remained untouched, as if there had been no harvesting operation conducted around them.



The Inland Fisheries webpage about the harvesting and an example of Orana harvesting.

The Inland Fisheries Service said, 'Our organisation and the recreational users of the trout fishery at Talbotts Lagoon are very thankful for the Orana 3 team both in terms of the consultation and planning of your harvesting operations and the efforts that were made through the harvest.'



Communications and Engagement Team, STT

The STT Communications and Engagement Team were nominated by Suzette Weeding, STT.

The Communications & Engagement Team at Sustainable Timber Tasmania (STT) implements a proactive strategy, which has enhanced understanding of forestry practices and the forest management system among local communities.

Engagement takes place with a diverse range of stakeholders and communities, including schools, apiary groups, special species advocates, tourism operators, contractors, customers, commercial forest users, environmental NGOs, and the broader forest industry.

A good example is Schools Tree Day, which provides students and teachers with a hands-on experience in planting trees and gaining a deeper understanding of forest ecosystems and Tasmania's forest practices

system. During July and August 2024, STT and the Forest Education Foundation worked with over 2,000 Tasmanian students and donated 3,500 native shrub and seedlings to 60 schools state-wide.

Another example is the commitment to two-way engagement with the Maydena community, which not only addressed stakeholder concerns but also fostered positive relationships. Over the course of 2 years, a controversial coupe

at Maydena was successfully harvested and regenerated. During this period, STT also undertook upgrades and maintenance of a forestry road adjacent to mountain bike tracks that enhanced an international biking event.

The ability to balance these complex and often competing interests demonstrates STT's commitment to sustainable forestry practices and effective stakeholder management.



STT with school kids taking part in School Trees Day.

Forest Practices Awards 2024 Committee



Kim Creak, FPA Board



Anne Chuter, Chief Forest Practices Officer



Heath Blair, Reliance Forest Fibre and FPO Reference Group



Ann La Sala, Forico and Forest Practices Advisory Council



Chris Grove and Laurel Trebilco, FPA staff

