

Dear Steve

I would first off like to welcome the release of the Independent Verification Group's assessment of many of the factors central to achieving a successful outcome of the long running peace talks between industry, conservation groups and the Australian and Tasmanian governments.

The reports are voluminous and obviously, I haven't yet had a chance to read them all but I have taken pride in the fact that most of the authors have endorsed the resource analysis and data provided by Forestry Tasmania staff. It is a feather in the cap of John Hickey, Steve Whiteley, Tom Kelley and Mike McLarin, that have spent many of hundreds of hours providing and responding to requests for information. The conclusions regarding resource supply match those that we have previously put on the public record - and that is that some of the resource required by processors will come from both plantations and native forests.

I was also rather pleased that Professor Mackey found that all 572,000 hectares claimed for reserves by eNGOs, including those areas previously harvested and regenerated, had at least one conservation value. One of the measures of sustainable forest practice is to protect values within the coupe and wider landscape during the entire harvest and regeneration process. [Refer to our Job well done TV commercial.](#)

Of course, there will be sections that I don't agree with, but if the industry and conservationists are to reach a long lasting and durable agreement, then we should focus on points of agreement rather than points of difference. Have a look for yourself at a new website created by the Department of Infrastructure Energy and Resource: www.forestsagreement.tas.gov.au

On matters science, congratulations to Research Scientist Sue Baker on being one of three Tasmanian recipients of the **Fulbright Scholarship** announced last week.

Ms Baker has been with Forestry Tasmania for over ten years and her research focuses primarily on evaluating the benefits of retention forestry practices for biodiversity conservation.

[You can read more about her work here.](#)

In other good news, a donation of logs from the north east of Tasmania will assist with the ongoing restoration project for the sail training vessel Lady Nelson.

Forestry Tasmania was able to supply the Tasmanian Sail Training Association with oregon ships' timbers to help maintain the ship. [You can read more about the donation here.](#)

The latest season of Going Bush has now finished but you can still catch up on any episodes you missed at www.goingbush.tv. You can also order your free copy of the series on DVD through the website.

Congratulations to our last round of weekly prize winners:

Gail Evans, Claremont TAS

Annette Pyke, Longford TAS

Pam Cuffe, Chevron Island QLD

Julie Cartwright, Hallett Cove SA

Michael Wilson, Brooklyn Park SA

Stephen Puszka, Moe VIC

Wendy White, Uralba NSW

Kay Martens, Gordon ACT

Lyn Allen, Monterey Keys Drive QLD

Phil & Trish Contencin, Chuwar QLD

We'll be announcing the winner of our major prize, the Ultimate Tasmanian Adventure Holiday, soon.

And lastly, one for the diary:

On Wednesday 28 March, Carbon Scientist Dr Martin Moroni will be presenting the next Forestry Talk ['Carbon substitution, the real carbon value in forest management'](#). Martin will review recent work on forest carbon stocks and suggest that it is the use of forests that will give the best benefits for mitigating climate change. That's 1:00pm at the National Forest Learning Centre, 79 Melville Street, Hobart.

Until next time,
Bob Gordon

Managing Director
Forestry Tasmania

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