



Tasmanian Forests and Forest Products Network ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

6:00pm 10 September 2021— Albert Hall, Launceston/ Microsoft Teams

MINUTES

Present:

40 attendees present + three via Microsoft Teams (no proxies). List available on request.

The AGM declared open at 6:00pm.

1. Welcome (TFFPN Board Chair, Steve Whiteley)

2. Apologies:

Rob de Fegely

3. Confirm Minutes of the 2020 AGM

The Minutes of the 2020 AGM were moved and accepted by the meeting.

4. Chair Report

Welcome to the Tasmanian Forests and Forest Products Network – the Network – Annual Report 20-21.

In our last Annual Report, The Network reported on a year of unparalleled events and challenges for the forest industry in Tasmania. The Network provided a range of support services to members in response to a number of significant challenges including a worldwide pandemic, COVID-19.

We worked closely with members to identify concerns, coordinate responses and provide timely, accurate and consistent information.

The following Annual Report for the financial year ending 30th June 2021, certainly highlights how resilient and adaptive the Tasmanian forest industry can be as this reporting period continued to be one of unparalleled events and challenges. It has been a difficult time for many—with global market instability, response to and continuing recovery from natural disasters including bushfires, plus, continued response to the COVID -19 pandemic.

As we move into this reporting period, the Board continued to achieve its strategic priorities contained in the TFFPN Strategic Purpose 2020 to

- *Facilitate communication within the forest industry on issues of common interest*
- *Facilitate collaboration and working together to achieve collective goals*
- *Be an influencer to build pride within the industry and the community*

- Partner with all relevant organizations to improve the forestry brand and social license

We did this through activities including

- Continued significant growth of members -
- Ensuring financial sustainability
- Engaging key industry stakeholders
- Building industry wide unity and common purpose
- Partnering across the value chain to work on areas of common interest (Working Groups)
- Actively engaging with 'grass roots' workers
- Developing meaningful conversation with the community to build trust

Of particular note this year is our concentration on projects to assist the Tasmanian forest industry build a contemporary, robust, skills-based workforce for the future. Recent reports, including 'A Strategic Growth Plan for the Tasmanian forests, fine timber and wood fibre industry (2017)', and our own Tasmania Forestry Hub: Culture, Training and Skills Assessment Report (2020) have highlighted the risk that exists within the forest industry to plan and strategically develop a future workforce that meets market, environment and community expectations.

Tasmania's forest sector aspires to be a high-quality high technology industry employing more highly skilled workers. A strong and vibrant forest management and forest products sector can contribute to a more resilient and financially secure Tasmanian society

Major workforce related projects for the Network have included

- The development of the Tasmanian Forest Industry Workforce Development Plan
- Women in Leadership Scholarships Plan
- Secured funding to develop a Diversity Action Plan for the Forest Sector.

The Network will work with members and partners over the next financial year to promote the diversity of employment and training opportunities within the sector. We will deliver on opportunities for women to develop their leadership and corporate governance skills, as well as develop an Action Plan to ensure diversity in the workforce.

Member networking and community engagement opportunities increased this year as the Network facilitated collaboration and working together opportunities

In October 2020 the Network hosted the Tasmanian Forest Industry Virtual forum 'Forests of the Future – Planning for Tomorrow Today' that was very well attended online across the state.

As the industry was coming out of the worst of COVID-19 restrictions, the Forum discussed resilience, recovery and looking forward. It also explored supply chain issues, essential worker support, infrastructure and resourcing.

Another first was the Forest Industry Conference Dinner held under COVID-19 guidelines. A dinner was simultaneously held in Hobart, Launceston, and Burnie. Video links ensured a feeling of industry wide camaraderie across the state.

Other member engagement opportunities, for members by members included:

- AGFEST – The Forest Industry Site was extremely successful with representation from across the industry showcasing innovation, products and services.

- *Member Networking Breakfasts – the opportunity for informal networking has been well received by members. With monthly breakfast introduced in Hobart and Launceston*
- *Site visits – working with members to showcase innovation*
- *Working groups – a number of Working Groups were formed of appropriately skilled members and other stakeholders to respond to emerging issues*

During this reporting period it was a significant year for the work of the Tasmania Regional Forestry Hub. Comprehensive assessment reports in priority areas allowed the Hub to develop strategic priorities and key activities with a view to enabling Tasmania to contribute towards the national strategic goals, contained in the National Forest Industry Plan. Please see separate Tasmania Forestry Hub report for details. I thank the Hub Steering Committee for their continued support and excellent work.

I thank our very important financial partners and supporters who ensure the Network continues as a financially sustainable organization. We grew our number of financial partners during this financial year as we continue to broaden our reach and increase industry support

We grew the number of members significantly during this period and the Network strives to reach ambitious targets of members across the industry to connect and support members.

I thank our Board Directors who continue to provide excellent strategic guidance and high-level governance, including Bryan Hayes, Andrew Morgan, Tim Bates, Tony Stonjek, Julianne O'Reilly-Wapstra and Brodie Frost.

None of the success of the Network over the past year would be possible without our hardworking small team of Therese Taylor, Convenor; Naomi Will, Manager Communication (until January 2021); Romany Brodribb Manager Communication and Member Services (commence February 2021) and Monika Winston GM Tasmania Forestry Hub.

The TFFPN will continue to deliver on its strategic intent in the next financial period to deliver on its strategic priorities, increase membership, and support members to increase the profitability, sustainability and social license of the Tasmanian forest industry in a rapidly changing economic landscape.

5. Convenor Report

The 20-21 year has been a very successful period for the Network as we continued to grow its role as a central communication hub for the forest industry in Tasmania to ensure employees and industry are well informed, engaged and supported.

While the Tasmanian forest industry continued to maintain an active supply chain during the COVID-19 crisis, it also experienced significant negative impacts arising from the crisis. The impacts have been felt across the sector during global lockdown restrictions and are expected to flow on for some time. This very much shaped the way the Network communicated and supported partners and members across the supply chain.

We continued to recognise the mental health impacts on workers during this year, and expanded our support in this area. This included ongoing referral information and better coordination with mental health service agencies.

During this reporting period the Network has increased its profile and influence by undertaking significant projects and activities and through its collaborative way of working has enabled project outcomes, connections and communication to occur that have benefitted the whole of the industry.

Of particular priority for the Network was working with industry leaders and members to assist in fostering a positive, safe workplace culture and an industry that embraces sustainability and diversity.

This workplace culture will cultivate professional and personal development, nurture physical and mental safety at work, support diversity, and celebrate achievements and foster leadership on all levels.

We did through the development of major projects, including:

- *A Tasmanian Forest Workforce Development Plan. This is the first such Plan for the forest industry in Tasmania. The Plan identifies current and future skills needs to ensure systems are in place to set the industry up for success in the future. The Plan outlines workforce development goals, strategies, and targeted actions to attract, train and retain people with the skills necessary to capitalise on Tasmania's opportunity to be a world leader in producing and manufacturing sustainable and innovative wood and fibre products.*
- *Women In Leadership Scholarships. This project will strengthen pathways and facilitate leadership development for women across all sectors of the forest industry*
- *Diversity Action Plan. This Plan will drive diversity in the workforce including growing the numbers of women and underrepresented groups in the workforce.*

The Network showed flexibility and agility as we adjusted member events in line with COVID-19 guidelines.

Our Forest industry Annual Forum went on line and was well supported by members across the state and by industry. The industry dinner was held simultaneously stateside in three venues and was a great success.

We formed a number of Network Working Groups of appropriately skilled members and others to respond to priority issues, including –

- *AGFEST- a headliner event for the Network this year where we facilitate the Tasmanian Forest Industry site showcasing innovation, products and services. An opportunity to increase community understanding of the modern forest industry.*
- *Facilitating communication within the forest industry on issues of common interest, including facilitating webinars and regional events.*
- *Facilitating collaboration and working together to achieve collective goals, including Monthly Forest Industry Breakfasts.*
- *Partner with government, other organisations and communities to improve outcomes for the industry, including strategic communication plans, industry promotion.*

The Network has made significant progress regarding the implementation of the Tasmania Regional Forestry Hub. Assessment Reports have been completed in the 4 identified priority areas and a Roadmap developed sign posting the way forward for implementation of recommendations. See full report from GM Hub Monika Winston. The Network thanks The Regional Forestry Hub Steering Committee for their dedicated commitment to the Hub.

I thank members for their ongoing support of the Network. Membership numbers rose significantly during this year, and we will continue to have ambitious targets for member numbers.

We continue to adjust and customise our services and communication channels to fit member needs

A key objective of the Network is to remain a financially viable organisation. I wish to thank the Partners and Supporters of the Network for so generously supporting its work through your financial contributions. The Network works closely with Partners and Supporters to develop a mutually beneficial relationship and looks forward to growing our number of Partners in the next reporting period.

I also thank Naomi Will Manager Communication her invaluable assistance (until Jan 2021). I welcome Romany Brodribb (Feb 2021) Manager Communications and Member Services. Thanks also to Tammy Price of SFM for providing in kind financial assistance to the Network.

I thank the members who participated in the Working Groups for their time, expertise and innovation to ensure we achieve the best outcome for the sector across the many subject areas.

I thank the Network Board of Steve Whiteley (Chair), Bryan Hayes (Deputy Chair), Andrew Morgan (Treasurer), Tony Stonjek, Tim Bates, Julianne O'Reilly Wapstra and Brodie Frost for their support, strategic guidance, stewardship and unfailing belief in the future of the Network.

I look forward to working with you, the members, in the coming year to grow the membership, capability, capacity, financial sustainability, and influence of the Network for the benefit of the forest industry in Tasmania.

Motion:

'That the Chair and Convenor Report be taken as read and accepted.'

The reports were taken as read and accepted by the meeting.

6. Treasurer Report

Financial Report for 2020-21

Financial Report available on request (currently on website: <https://www.tffpn.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/TFFPN-Annual-Report-2020-21-Website.pdf>)

Motion: 'That the financial statement prepared by WLF be accepted.'

Moved: Andrew Morgan

Seconded: Bryan Hayes

The Chair recorded a vote of thanks on behalf of the membership to Tammy Price from SFM who continues to provide in kind financial support to the Network.

7. Appointment of Auditors:

Motion: 'That WLF be appointed auditors for TFFPN for the financial year 2021-22.'

Moved: Steve Whiteley

Seconded: Therese Taylor

8. Appointment of Directors

Chair: The TFFPN Board called for nominations for one (1) vacant Director position. Four (4) nominations were received for those vacancies.

The elected Director by online poll (closing at 6:15pm) was declared as Francis Richardson.

Francis Richardson: Grateful for the opportunity and looks forward to working with the Board.

Tony Stonjek (outgoing Board Director) congratulated Francis and acknowledged the Board and Network.

Chair thanked Tony for his valued service to the Board.

Network Convenor acknowledged all Tony has contributed to the Network as a Director and thanked him for his service and continued support.

AGM declared closed at 6.30pm.

Completion of the TFFPN's Workforce Development Plan for the forest industry announced and a two-page summary provided to attendees.

Papers available on request:

- Attendance List
- Apologies
- Audited Financial Statements 2019-20
- Annual Report
- Bios of Director candidates
- Poll results for election of Board Director