

Monday 17 May 2010

Attention chiefs of staff, news directors

CRC cultivates healthy forestry debates

On Monday 17 May 2010, thirty CRC for Forestry PhD and Masters students will have the rare opportunity to argue some of the hottest topics in forestry and air their concerns with four senior forestry professionals and academics.

Students nominated the following issues as being of particular concern to them:

- harvesting and management of old-growth forests
- using forests for carbon storage
- whether plantations of *Eucalyptus nitens* could poison human water supplies
- land-use change and impacts of plantation expansion
- why forestry is a controversial industry in some countries and not others.

Conventional science education rarely addresses these controversies directly, and students will benefit from the opportunity to consider different points of view.

“Much of the public debate around forestry issues is clouded by misinformation and conflicting agendas. We think it important that the next generation of researchers can come to their own conclusions on these controversial issues based on evidence and informed debate,” says CRC for Forestry CEO, Professor Gordon Duff.

This ‘Forestry Q & A’ will be hosted by the CRC for Forestry, Australia’s national collaborative forestry research organisation, as part of a professional development program for thirty of its early-career researchers at the Esplanade Hotel Fremantle, WA on 17 to 18 May 2010. The students will then join more than 100 forest industry research professionals at the CRC’s Annual Science Meeting (18 to 20 May).

For **further information** about the CRC for Forestry, our Annual Science Meeting or to organise interviews with our students or CEO, Professor Gordon Duff, please contact the CRC’s Communications Manager **Dr Prue Loney** on 0410 489 107.