

# Restoration of ex-plantation sites for agricultural or biodiversity benefits



**Amount:** \$30,746 (2015 rate) tax free scholarship with possible 6 month extension plus project operational funds

**Location:** Hobart, Tasmania

**Eligibility:** Domestic and International students with First Class or Second Uppers Honours/ Masters or equivalent

**Submission dates for applications are listed on** <http://www.utas.edu.au/arc-forest-value/phd-project-opportunities>

## About the Centre

This research project is part of the ARC Centre for Forest Value. The Training Centre will build the capacity to shift the forestry and wood products sector from a traditional, resource driven, low-technology base to a market-driven, precision-manufacturing focused industry that applies modern technologies and business approaches to the value chain from germplasm to commercial buildings, and from production to restoration plantings.

Learn more at [www.utas.edu.au/arc-forest-value](http://www.utas.edu.au/arc-forest-value)



## Project Overview

This project will provide a genetic, ecological and silvicultural framework to guide establishment and integration of environmental plantings within multi-use production landscapes. It will be embedded in an active program of forest restoration being undertaken by Greening Australia and exploit a unique infrastructure of long-term restoration trials established in Tasmania under two ARC Linkage grants. It will address research on:

1. Establishment and management of environmental plantings, including issues of plant production, site selection and preparation, species and provenance choice, plant establishment (including direct seeding), management of plantings (including drought, frost, browsing and disease risk, and weed control)
2. Monitoring the biodiversity impacts and use of tree plantings
3. Management of offsite effects (e.g. wildling spread and pollen flow) of tree plantings

## **Specific Project**

A proportion of the eucalypt plantation estate has proven to be economically unprofitable due to poor site selection and/or pests and diseases. There is thus increasing interest in focusing production forests on proven productive sites and converting economically unproductive sites to other land-uses such as pasture or (to a lesser extent) native forest. Such conversions are already happening. There is also the potential from a whole-farm planning perspective to obtain other benefits from these plantings by modifications to provide shelter belts for stock or form components of biodiversity corridors for native wildlife. This project will research the various possibilities for conversion and the efficient operational methodologies.

The ARC Industrial Transformation Training Centre for Forest Value is supported from the Australian Research Council's Industrial Transformation Training Centres scheme (project number IC150100004).

To submit an expression of interest or for general information, please contact the Centre for Forest Value at [forest.value@utas.edu.au](mailto:forest.value@utas.edu.au)

For information related to this project please contact Professor Brad Potts [Brad.Potts@utas.edu.au](mailto:Brad.Potts@utas.edu.au) or Professor Mark Hunt [Mark.Hunt@utas.edu.au](mailto:Mark.Hunt@utas.edu.au) for more information.

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## Partner Organisations

