



Media Release

9 January 2017

VicForests welcome new Biodiversity Conservation Research Manager

Tim McBride, wildlife conservation expert, has recently joined VicForests as the new Biodiversity Conservation Research Manager.

Tim has been working in the forestry industry for more than 22 years with a strong focus in forest ecology and wildlife conservation.

He is looking forward to using his knowledge to further develop conservation plans that balance the protection of the environment and animals with sustainable forestry.

"I'm looking to create more flexible plans to meet the needs of both the native timber industry and the protection of species and their habitat," Tim said

"VicForests are committed to ensuring sustainability. They aim for long-term environmental, economic and industry-wide sustainability and I want to be a part of that.

"In my role, I hope to further improve existing conservation plans and work with industry stakeholders to help change some perceptions other organisations have of VicForests," he said.

Tim is looking forward to contributing towards the many research projects that VicForests is involved with and work closely with the educational institutions leading them.

"The results from the Leadbeater's Possum surveys, Hollows Development project and Regrowth Retention Harvesting trials are very encouraging.

"I have already began meeting with fellow academics and experts in this field and hope to build long-term relationships and share knowledge and learnings with them during my time here.

"I am planning on being with VicForests for a long time," he said.

Tim has joined VicForests after many years researching forest ecology and wildlife conservation across the west coast of America working predominantly with Port Blakely Tree Farms and Hancock Natural Resource Group during his career.

He recently moved to Victoria with his Australian wife to develop his skills in a new environment.

"I spent a lot of time researching amphibians by looking into drivers of population trends and what their preferred habitat looks like," he said.

"I hope to help VicForests better understand the habitat requirements of Victoria's threatened species including possums, gliders and owls as well as other lesser knowns species such as frogs and toads.



Media Release

"I also hope to gain a deeper understanding of Australian eco-systems and learn more about Victoria's native species," he said.

Tim will manage the Research and Development across all regions VicForests operates in.

-ends-



Image: Tim McBride, VicForests Biodiversity Conservation Research Manager