



MEDIA RELEASE

Foresters welcomes Arboretum Research (01/07/2007)

The Chairman of the Institute of Foresters ACT Division, Mr Phil Pritchard, welcomed news that the Australian National University will conduct research and educational activities at the Canberra International Arboretum and Gardens, announced by the ACT Government on Friday.

"Forest education and research has a proud heritage in Canberra through the Australian Forestry School which opened in 1927, the earliest arboreta (Westbourne Woods) and extensive research arboreta in the Brindabella Range" he said.

"Westbourne Woods was established along with Yarralumla Nursery in 1913 by Charles Weston, a famous forester, and was an important part of developing trees for forestry and planting across Canberra.

It is an exciting prospect, almost a century on, for the ANU, a key forestry education and research institution to be partnering with Government in developing the new arboreta's education and research role.

The Institute of Foresters of Australia sees excellence in forestry education as central to the future challenges in managing Australia's forests and woodland ecosystems for timber, improved soils and water management and biodiversity protection.

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Background Information on Australian Forestry School and Westbourne Woods, see:

<http://uncommonlives.naa.gov.au/contents.asp?cID=72&IID=8>