

Lindsay, Alex (from the Forester March 2013)

Alex Lindsay graduated from the Australian National University in 1995 with a double degree in forestry and soil science, and was awarded the inaugural Jacobs Medal for excellence in field studies. Alex commenced his forestry career with North Forest Products in Tasmania, at a time when they were Australia's largest eucalypt tree farmer. In 2000 Alex moved to Queensland, where he spent three years in the Gladstone region, managing the establishment and maintenance of sub-tropical eucalypt plantations for Great Southern Plantations. Alex then joined DPI Forestry, and managed native forest harvesting operations in the Roma district, the largest cypress-producing region in Australia.

In late 2005 Alex was offered the position of Research Forester with Great Southern on Melville Island, in the Northern Territory. In this role Alex established over a hundred trials examining all aspects of *Acacia mangium* silviculture, nutrition and genetics; managed the collection of inventory, foliar sampling, climate and land evaluation data; and witnessed first-hand the development of the largest plantation forestry estate in tropical Australia. Alex's personal highlight was working with the Tiwi Islanders, the traditional owners of Melville Island, and seeing the positive transformation in the indigenous communities that came with forestry employment and investment.

The demise of Great Southern in 2009 provided an opportunity for Alex to undertake an Honours project at Charles Darwin University. He was awarded First Class Honours for his thesis examining the effect of fire on microbial biomass in Top End soils. Alex then moved back east, securing an employment contract with the Queensland government forestry research group in Mareeba. Alex is still involved with forestry research, working on publications in collaboration with his former colleagues, and examining options for further study. In late 2012 Alex established a business which he runs in his spare time, offering a forestry advisory service for tree growers across North Queensland.