**Australian Forest Growers Conference 2016**

**DESTINATION:** Launceston, Tasmania  
**WHEN:** 23-26 October 2016  
**DELEGATES:** 198 registered delegates plus 33 landholder tour hosts and supporting industry representatives  
**VENUES:** Hotel Grand Chancellor Launceston, Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery, Boathouse on Northbank

Tasmania’s second largest city Launceston, was the perfect location for this biennial conference. The three-day program of around 40 ‘hands-on’ speakers together with field tours and social functions, provided delegates with an unrivalled opportunity to network and meet the speakers, industry representatives and trade exhibitors. Delegates shared ‘tree growing’ experiences and learned about practical developments and innovative research.

**THE PROGRAM:**

The ease of accessing all parts of Tasmania made the five-day pre-conference tour an excellent opportunity for delegates to visit leading forestry enterprises and tourist icons across the state.

Delegates enjoyed an official welcome function at Australia’s largest, and arguably finest, regional museum the Queen Victoria Museum & Art Gallery (QVMAG). It was an opportunity for delegates and guests to meet and mix over fine Tasmanian food and wine before embarking on a further three days of conferencing, including 54 industry speakers and presentations, eight field and specialist tours and workshops.

**WHY TASMANIA:**

Tasmania was chosen as the host destination because of the quality of the conference facilities in Launceston, the high likelihood of forest industry sponsorship and support, and the national interest in Tasmania’s forest industry. This biennial conference was last held in Launceston in 2006.

“**Business Events Tasmania proactively assisted the conference organisers from the start and were very helpful, especially with the selection of the conference venue. We felt very well-supported and nothing was too much trouble. I recommend BET to anyone as a conference starting point. Over 12 months of planning went into this event and all service providers were very helpful and keen to see that the event was successful.”**  
- Arthur Lyons, Private Forests Tasmania, Conference Convenor
EVENT HIGHLIGHTS:

1. The welcome function was held at the impressive Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery, a short distance from the main conferencing venue.

2. The five-day pre-conference tour and the individual day tours were excellent. The quality transportation providers made touring Tasmania’s best forestry enterprises effortless.

3. The conference dinner at Hotel Grand Chancellor Launceston showcased impressive food and beverages, accompanied by excellent service. The informative and well-conducted dinner program concluded with the national award presentations.

SPECIAL TOUCHES:

Delegates loved the catering, highlighting the fresh local produce provided by Hotel Grand Chancellor Launceston and external caterers. Tasmania’s premier wine growing region allowed delegates to sample and enjoy some of the world’s best cool-climate wines, including award-winning Josef Chromy Wines.

The exhibition booths provided by Weeding Hire were ideal and were ‘walk-in-walk-out’ - a breeze for the exhibitors.

“For more, please visit businesseventstasmania.com.au

― Special thanks to Hotel Grand Chancellor Launceston who really worked hard to make the conference a success, as did QVMAG with respect to the welcome function and McDermott’s Coaches.”

- Arthur Lyons, Private Forests Tasmania, Conference Convenor