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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Grow Your Own Career: design a learning experience to boost job opportunities!

Adam Faircloth a forest scientist who won the inaugural \$10 000 Kennedy's Timbers Award has encouraged other early to mid-career forest and timber industry workers to apply to Timber Queensland's Growth Scholarship program.

Adam has recently returned from his learning experience, a study tour across Australia and New Zealand to gain insights into perceived challenges, R&D opportunities, and current achievements in the field of vibroacoustic assessment.

"Getting out there and meeting people was very, very helpful. Especially early in my career," said Adam Faircloth.

During a recent presentation outlining the learnings of his study tour Adam said his learning experience has already delivered positive impacts for his career development.

"I made over 40 new industry contacts during my study tour, developed a lot of knowledge about the industry and have lots of excitement for the future," Adam said.

"I've recently started a new position as Principal Technician of the Forest Product Innovation team at the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries and have started the process to enrol in a PhD."

Timber Queensland's Strategic Relations Manager Clarissa Brandt said applications for the 2023 – 2024 scholarship program are now open.

"The idea of applying for a scholarship may seem overwhelming. However, it is a simple and fair process that is equitable for factory workers and foresters alike, in fact for anyone involved in the industry supply chain," said Clarissa.

"The online application form includes questions regarding industry commitment, past education, training and employment and asks applicants to provide a description of their proposed learning project and how it will develop their career in the forest and timber industry," she said.

"We encourage everyone in the industry to promote these scholarships to their staff and colleagues and to apply if you have a great idea and wish to learn more. The future is bright here in Queensland!"

2023 - 2024 Growth Scholarship applications opened on 28 March and close on 30 June. The awards on offer are the Kennedy's Timber Award - \$10 000, HQPlantations Award - \$5000, AKD Award - \$5000 and the DTM Timber Award - \$2500.

Learn more about the Growth Scholarships and see Adam talking about his experience winning a Growth Scholarship Award <u>here</u>.

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