



Bringing expert partners together in emergency management



**LAND MANAGERS
CHAPTER**

Management of Fire in our Forest and Rural Landscape

CONFERENCE 2025

Rebuilding connections to improve outcomes

Canterbury University
Haere-Roa Conference Centre

Opening: 3.00pm 9 July
Closing: 2.00pm 11 July 2025

INFORMATION PACK



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INTRODUCTION

ABOUT TĀNGATA MATATAU

Tāngata Matatau Incorporated brings together individuals, organisations, and agencies associated with fire services, land management, industry and commerce, emergency services and emergency management, drawing on the collective skill base of the membership to provide constructive, influential and expert advice, to shape desired outcomes for the sector.

As a collective body of expert individuals and organisations, Tāngata Matatau does this by working with members to carry out the following purposes:

- Engage constructively with relevant government agencies and other organisations to provide strategic leadership, and an independent perspective, that represents the interests of the members.
- Provide strategic input into Sector policy and law, standards and Codes of Practice, training and research.
- Facilitate sector coordination and engagement, where useful to unite Members (and/or Chapters of Tāngata Matatau) to advance a common need in areas of common interest to members.
- Lead and facilitate sector training, professional development and research.
- To do all other things as are incidental or conducive to the attainment of any of the above purposes.

WHAT WE DO

We are an Association of allied individuals, organisations, and agencies that offer a strong collective voice and important integrative functions by undertaking key peak body roles, including:

- Leveraging partnerships and providing networking opportunities for Association Members to ensure we remain connected.
- Research, policy development, and advice to government and the emergency management sector.
- Advocacy and representation to government and other decision-makers.
- Information dissemination within the sector and to the community.
- Sector consultation and coordination within our sector.
- Sector capacity building to enable better service delivery and functioning of community organisations.

Ehara taku toa i te toa takitahi, engari kē he toa takitini

**My success should not be bestowed onto me alone,
it was not individual success but the success of a collective**

CONFERENCE STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS



Dear Conference Attendees,

On behalf of the Steering Committee, I am pleased to welcome you to the Tāngata Matatau Management of Fire in the Forest and Rural Landscape Conference 2025. We are honoured to host this gathering of dedicated professionals and passionate individuals involved in the management of fire within our forest and rural landscapes.

This conference builds on and replaces the annual gathering of forest and rural stakeholder representatives who previously attended the Forest and Rural Fire Association of New Zealand Conferences before 2017.

The conference theme, “Rebuilding the Connections with a Focus on Improving the Outcomes”, reflects our commitment to fostering innovation, collaboration, and meaningful discussions that drive progress. Over the two and half days of this conference, you will have the opportunity to engage with thought-provoking keynotes and panel sessions and connect with peers from around New Zealand and overseas.

I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to our speakers, funding supporters, and exhibitors who have made this conference possible. The Conference Steering Committee members have also worked tirelessly to bring this event to life. Their dedication has ensured that this conference is informative and an inspiring experience for all.

As we embark on this journey together, I encourage you to take full advantage of everything this conference has to offer. Ask questions, exchange ideas, and build relationships that will last far beyond this event.

Once again, welcome to the Management of Fire in the Forest and Rural Landscape Conference 2025 Conference. We are excited to share this experience with you and look forward to a successful and enriching conference!

Best regards,

Murray Dudfield
Chair

Conference Steering Committee

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- Murray Dudfield – *Chair*
- Alan Thompson
- Kevin Ihaka
- Robert Schooderwoerd
- Morgana Te Pauae
- Evan Rarere
- Paul Devlin
- Jamie Kunzli
- Bill Butzbach
- Brendon Christensen
- Tim Mitchell

CONFERENCE 2025

Management of Fire in our Forest and Rural Landscape

Dates

Wednesday 9th – Friday 11th July 2025

Location

Haere-Roa, University of Canterbury, 90 Ilam Road, Ilam, Christchurch

Theme

Rebuilding the Connections with a Focus on Improving the Outcomes

This conference will have a focus similar to the annual Forest and Rural Fires Association NZ (FRFANZ) Conference. With the FRANZ Conference last held in 2016, it's timely that nine years later, those members working and managing the different activities relating to the management of fire in our forest and rural landscape can return to an annual forum for up-to-date information, gaining new knowledge, and networking with their peers once again.

This conference will provide an independent platform showcasing new and emerging insights and challenges at a political level along with keynote speakers and sector leaders on topics including:

- sharing international and New Zealand forest fire case studies
- an introduction to the FAO Global Forest Fire Management Hub
- forest fire protection challenges
- role of contractors
- training
- climate
- the contribution of volunteer firefighters
- aviation management
- fire services funding
- key performance measures, and
- stakeholder engagement.

Conference participants will also be involved in a workshop to consider the critical future actions required by Tāngata Matatau to ensure our forest and rural landscape are effectively protected from unwanted fires.

As well as learning about the latest thinking, it is also an opportunity to catch up and network with your colleagues and industry peers.



INTERNATIONAL SPEAKERS

GORDY SACHS

CHIEF, ALL HAZARD & INTERNATIONAL FIRE SUPPORT

National ESF #4 Coordinator

US Forest Service Fire & Aviation Management



Gordy Sachs has been with the U.S. Forest Service Fire & Aviation Management for 18 years and currently serves as Chief of the All Hazard and International Fire Support program. Gordy also serves as Chair of the International Liaison Committee and is a member of several other

national and international committees. Gordy has 27 years of structure fire service experience, including over ten years as a Chief Fire Officer. He has a Masters of Public Administration and is a graduate of the National Fire Academy's Executive Fire Officer Program.

DR. TIAGO OLIVEIRA ^{PhD}

CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

Portuguese Agency for Integrated Rural Fire Management (Lisbon, Portugal)



Tiago Oliveira is a PhD and Forest Engineer with 30 years of experience in national and international activities specialised in the topics of wildland fire risk management and governance.

- Appointed by the Portuguese Prime Minister, in the aftermath of the 2017 wildfire season, to lead the creation of the Integrated Rural Fire Management System in Portugal.
- Chairman of the Board of the Portuguese Agency for Integrated Rural Fire Management since January 2019 (<https://www.agif.pt/en>).
- Chaired the Organizing Committee of the 8th International Wildland Fire Congress (wildfire2023) and is, since September, a member of the Board of Directors of the International Association of Wildland Fire (www.iawfonline.org).
- Former Head of the Department of Innovation and Forestry Development (2016-2017) at The Navigator Company.

- Head of Forest Protection, responsible for fire prevention and suppression operational programs and R&D project, from 2008 to 2016.
- Operations and research experience grounded on 25 wildfire seasons as risk manager, incident commander, aerial coordinator, hotshot crew or regular wildland firefighter.
- Assistant Lecturer at MedFor Master (2013-2017) and advisor of the XV and XVII Portuguese Governments (2004).
- Head of Inventory and GIS unit (1998-2003) and Assistant Research (1994-1998) at National Geographic Agency.

Besides several communications and papers, Tiago developed his personal and professional skills in strategy, planning, risk analysis, forest investment, change management, communication, project management, natural resource survey, GIS and remote sensing.

INTERNATIONAL SPEAKERS

DR. LARA STEIL PhD

FORESTRY OFFICER (FIRE MANAGEMENT)

Forestry Division, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)



Lara Steil has been serving as a Forestry Officer for Integrated Fire Management at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) since July 2022. She has a degree in Biology Science, a Masters in Biotechnology, and a PhD in Sanitation. Before joining FAO, Lara was the coordinator of the interagency department at the National Center for Wildfire Prevention and Suppression in Brazil (Prevfogo/Ibama) from 2005 to May 2022.

With 18 years of experience in fire management, she has been promoting national and international

cooperation and developing activities related to integrated fire management with indigenous and rural communities, while also advocating for equity, diversity, and inclusion.

Lara has been involved with the paradigm shift from zero fire to integrated fire management by contributing to the development of public policies.

At FAO, she is currently working on national and regional projects on integrated fire management and developing the Global Fire Management Hub (the Fire Hub).

DR. GAVRIIL XANTHOPOULOS PhD

RESEARCH DIRECTOR

Hellenic Agricultural Organization “Dimitra”
Institute of Mediterranean Forest Ecosystems
Terma Alkmanos (Athens, Greece)



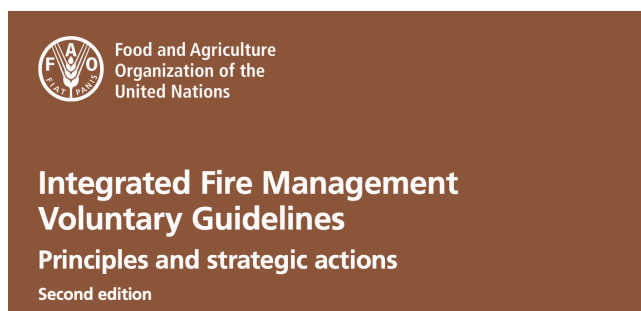
Dr. Gavriil Xanthopoulos holds a B.Sc. degree in Forestry from the Aristotelian University of Thessaloniki, Greece, and M.Sc. and Ph.D. degrees in Forestry with specialisation in Forest Fire Science from the University of Montana, U.S.A.

He has been active in European forest fire research for more than 30 years. He has extensive experience in forest fire management training and post-graduate university teaching and has produced numerous scientific publications.

Throughout his career he has focused on horizontal integration of scientific knowledge in the field and transfer to the operational world.

He currently serves as research director and is head of the Forest Fire Laboratory at the Institute of Mediterranean Forest Ecosystems of the Hellenic Agricultural Organization “Dimitra”.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS



The first edition of **Fire Management: Voluntary Guidelines - Principles and strategic actions** set out a framework of legally non-binding principles and internationally accepted strategic actions that addressed multiple dimensions of fire management at all levels.

Since 2006, FAO has adopted the more holistic integrated fire management (IFM) approach that is centred on five key elements: (1) review and analysis; (2) risk reduction; (3) readiness; (4) response; and (5) recovery. Integrated fire management integrates economic, sociocultural and environmental aspects crucial for fire management. It draws on good practices around the world by stakeholders at all levels, including Indigenous Peoples and local community experience and expertise. Fire science has also evolved since 2006, particularly with respect to the many influences of climate change.

This second edition of the guidelines reflects the IFM concept, including through its revised title (hereafter, “IFM Voluntary Guidelines”). It refines principles 3 (“traditional uses of fire”) and 4 (“protecting lives and assets”) to reflect issues of equity and inclusion, particularly related to Indigenous Peoples and other local knowledge holders. Principle 8 in the first edition has been split into two principles in the current edition, “Legislation” and “Policy”. The second edition also provides updated terminology and references throughout.

A copy of the second edition of the FOA Integrated Fire Management Voluntary Guidelines - Principles and strategic actions is available at the web link:

<https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/8265bd81-3ee0-4acd-8662-1ad14121c785/content>

Landscape Fire Governance Framework 2023

With over 300 million hectares burned annually, Landscape Fires are assuming increasingly extreme characteristics and causing more severe impacts on populations and ecosystems. They are a local problem with global consequences.

Fires are a synthesis of the context, and as such, they arise from socio-economic dynamics mediated by public policies and economic incentives that determine land use and occupation, as well as our use of fire, and social dynamics. The diversity of causes, their systemic nature, and a growing number of stakeholders with different visions and solutions require that the simpler dichotomy of prevention and response gives way to a more robust framework capable of addressing complexity and uncertainty.

To better prepare societies to achieve sustainable development goals and ensure lower losses to fire, the technical and scientific community at the 8th International Wildland Fire Conference in Porto in 2023, endorsed a fire governance model (Landscape Fire Governance Framework) that brings governments, businesses, academia, and members of civil society together in balanced and technically supported solutions.

This framework presents the guidelines for the development of this model as is available at the following link:

<https://nzif.org.nz/assets/Fire/2023-8th-IWFC-Landscape-Fire-Governance-Framework.pdf>

PROGRAMME

CONFERENCE 2025

Management of Fire in our Forest and Rural Landscape

Dates

9th – 11th July 2025, Christchurch

Location

Haere-Roa, University of Canterbury, 90 Ilam Road, Ilam, Christchurch

Theme

Rebuilding the Connections with a Focus on Improving the Outcomes



DAY ONE | 9 JULY 2025

Master of Ceremonies: Murray Dudfield

Session 1	3.00pm	Opening Welcome	Peter Dunne, Tāngata Matatau Chair
Session 2	3.15pm	Governance Panel Focus topic: <i>Have the 2017 reforms delivered better fire outcomes for our forest and rural stakeholders?</i> Followed by a Q&A session.	Session chaired by Sean McBride - Juken NZ <ul style="list-style-type: none">Hon. Brooke van Velden - Minister of Internal AffairsRebecca Keoghan - Fire and Emergency NZ ChairPaul James - Department of Internal Affairs Chief ExecutiveKerry Gregory - Fire and Emergency NZ Chief Executive, National Commander
Session 3	4.15pm	Keynote Speaker – Gordy Sachs, US Forest Service (via Zoom) Focus topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>The January 2025 LA wildfires.</i><i>The USA Federal, State & Local Authority structure for the management of fire in the forest and rural landscape</i><i>The work of the North America Fire Management Working Group</i><i>Improving the Outcomes</i><i>Coordination, collaboration, and cooperation between partnerships is a key to success.</i>	Session chaired by Murray Dudfield
EVENT	5.00pm - 7.30pm	ICE BREAKER FUNCTION in the Exhibition Area	

Session 4	8.15am	Keynote Speaker: Lara Steil FAO (via Zoom) Focus topic: <i>Role and functions of the FAO Global Forest Fire Management Hub with a focus on improving outcomes.</i> Followed by a Q&A session.	Session chaired by Sam Keenan - Te Urua Rakau/NZ Forest Service
Session 5	9.00am	Forestry Panel Focus topic: <i>What risks and concerns are impacting the fire protection of our plantation forests?</i> Followed by a Q&A session.	Session chaired by Rob Schoonderwoerd - Rayonier Matariki Forests <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jarron McInnes - Manulife Investment Management Steve Chandler - Tasman Pine Forests Alan Coyle - NZ Farm Forestry Association
BREAK	10.00am	MORNING TEA in the Exhibition Area	
Session 6	10.30am	Forest Fire Contractor Panel Focus topic: <i>What role can contractors play in the management of fire in our forest and rural landscape?</i> Followed by a Q&A session.	Session chaired by Kevin Ihaka - Forest Protection Services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evan Rarere - Timberlands Warren Heslip - Heslip Forestry Contracting Steph Rotarangi - Fire and Emergency NZ
Session 7	11.30am	Qualification and Training Delivery Panel <i>NZQA Unit Standards Qualifications and its place for our forest and rural fire managers and firefighters.</i> Followed by a Q&A session.	Session chaired by Ian Reade - Rural Fire Network <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kevin Ihaka - Forest Protection Services Kevin Dyer - Fire and Emergency NZ Fiona Hennessy - Te Uru Rakau/NZ Forest Service Phil Nisbet - Fire Rescue & Fire Response Ltd
BREAK	12.30pm	LUNCH in the Exhibition Area	
Session 8	1.15pm	Keynote Speaker: Tiago Oliveira Chairman of the Board of Directors AGIF Portugal Focus topic: <i>Portugal's journey over the past decade in the management of fire in the forest and rural landscape.</i>	Session chaired by Murray Dudfield
Session 9	2.00pm	Rural Fire Research Update	Session chaired by Russell Dale - NZ Institute of Forestry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grant Pearce - Fire and Emergency NZ Brendon Christensen - Dept. of Conservation Shana Cross - SCION
BREAK	3.00pm	AFTERNOON TEA in the Exhibition Area	
Session 10	3.30pm	Volunteer Firefighters and their contribution to landscape wildfires Focus topic: <i>What is the role of volunteer firefighters in preventing and managing landscape fires? What challenges do volunteer firefighters face when responding to landscape fires?</i> Followed by a Q&A session.	Session chaired by Bill Butzbach - UFBA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gary Morgan - Victoria, Australia Howard Cole - UFBA Tom Thomson - UFBA Ryley Webster - Fire and Emergency NZ
Session 11	4.30pm	Aviation Resource Management Panel Focus topic: <i>How can we get the best outcomes from the increasing spending on the use of aircraft during wildfires?</i> Followed by a Q&A session.	Session chaired by Alan Thompson <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stephen Bishop - Fire and Emergency NZ Scott McKenzie - Aviation Industry Assn. Peter Houston - Manulife Investment Management Paul Devlin - Christchurch City Council
EVENT	5.30pm - 7.30pm	NETWORKING SESSION in Exhibition Area	

DAY THREE | 11 JULY 2025

Master of Ceremonies: Bill Butzbach

Session 12	8.15am	Keynote Speaker: Gavriil Xanthopoulos - Greece Institute of Mediterranean Forest Ecosystems of the Hellenic Agricultural Organization (via Zoom) Focus topic: <i>Suppression Versus Prevention</i>	Session chaired by Kevin Ihaka - Forest Protection Services
Session 13	9.00am	Partnership Engagement Panel Focus topic: <i>What are the key elements to developing a successful partnership with key stakeholders in our forest and rural landscape?</i> Followed by a Q&A session.	Session chaired by Steph Rotarangi - Fire and Emergency NZ <ul style="list-style-type: none">• David Birkett - Federated Farmers of NZ• Shaun Truelock - OneFortyOne• Jo Macpherson - Dept. of Conservation• Piki Thomas - Fire and Emergency NZ
BREAK	10.00am	MORNING TEA in the Exhibition Area	
Session 14	10.30am	The cost impacts for fire services to New Zealanders <i>Lower Taxes / Less Waste / More Accountability</i>	Session chaired by Kevin Ihaka - Forest Protection Services <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Jordan Williams - Executive Director & Co-founder, Taxpayers Union
Session 15	11.15am	Three Forest and Rural Fire Management Case Studies <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Tanagoio & Tikokino Wildfires 2020 Observations</i>• <i>Wetland Wildfire Losses</i>	Session chaired by Brendan Gould - NZ Forest Owner Association <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Trevor Mitchell - Woodlands Fire Advisors• Brendon Christensen - Dept. of Conservation
BREAK	12.00pm	LUNCH in the Exhibition Area	
Session 16	12.45pm	Workshop <i>What are the agreed <u>Tāngata Matatau</u> outcomes from this Conference?</i>	Session co-chaired by Murray Dudfield, Bill Butzbach, Kevin Ihaka and Alan Thompson
Session 17	2.00pm	CLOSING REMARKS	

REGISTRATION

Registrations are open on the Tāngata Matatau website from Monday 24th March 2025.

- The early bird conference fee is \$350 plus GST.
- The standard Conference fee after 1 June is \$400 plus GST.
- For credit card transactions, an additional 3% will be charged to the payer at the time of booking.

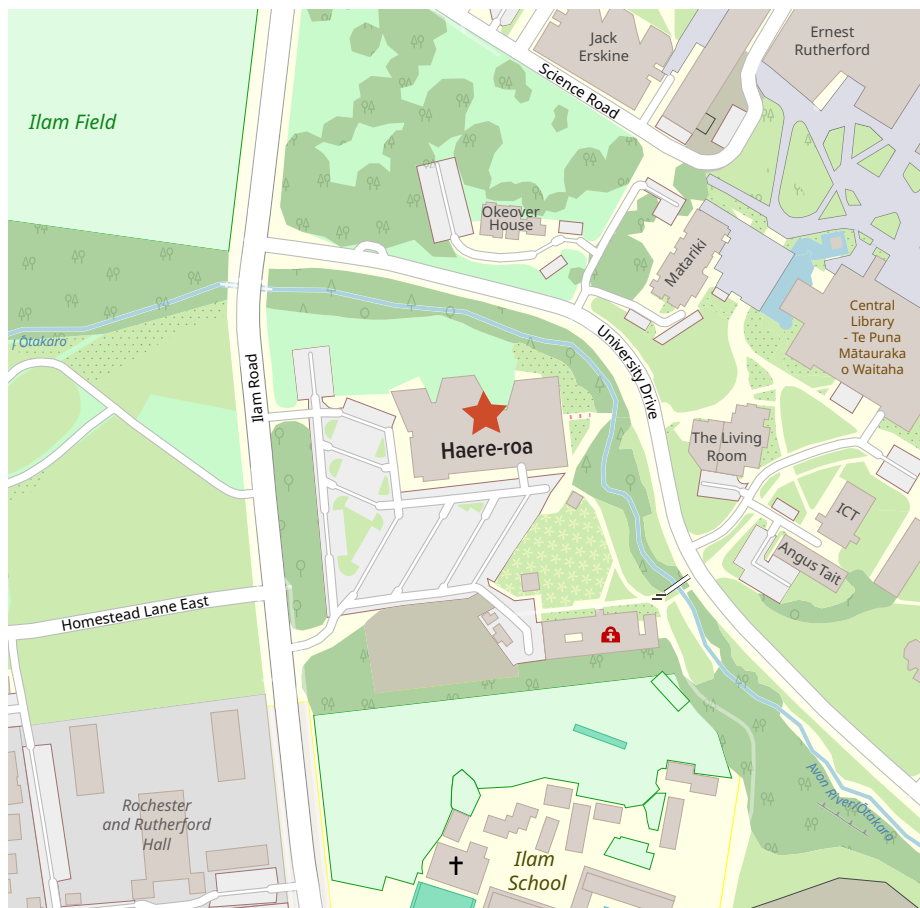
Scan the QR code or visit the Tāngata Matatau website to register now
<http://www.tangatamatatau.org/conference-2025.html>



www.tangatamatatau.org

LOCATION

Haere-roa, University of Canterbury, 90 Ilam Road, Ilam, Christchurch 8041



ACCOMMODATION

Delegates are responsible for making their own travel and accommodation arrangements. A range of accommodation is available on Riccarton Road. For those without transport, this is a ten-minute walk from the conference venue.

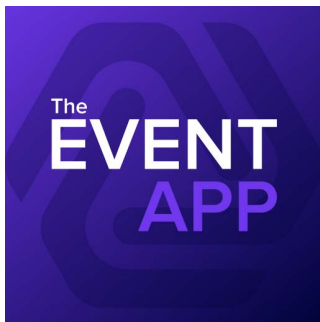


CONFERENCE APP

CONFERENCE APP

For the duration of the conference, delegates will have access to the Events Air App which includes all the programme and speaker information.

Access and download links to the app will be emailed to registered delegates one week prior. The app is available on all smartphones.



Q&A SESSIONS

All Q&A sessions will be managed through the Slido website to help us capture questions for presenting to the panel.

We recommend that delegates bring a portable smart device (phone, tablet, iPad) with them so they can easily access the Slido platform.

The Slido details will be available in the conference app for registered delegates.

