

FABIANS ELECTED TO PROVINCIAL BRANCH OF THE SAIF

Two FABIans were re-elected to the executive committee of the Gauteng branch of the Southern African Institute of Forestry (SAIF). The announcement was made at the branch's Annual General Meeting at the University of Pretoria's Plant Sciences Auditorium on 2 June. Outgoing chairperson Dr. Steve Verryn announced Dr. Brett Hurley's election as the Gauteng branch's new Chairperson, with Izette Greyling serving another term in the committee. Lee Raath-Brownie, Prof. Paxie Chirwa, Dr. Stuart Christie and Churchill Mkwalo make up the rest of the branch's executive committee.



The SAIF is a professional association of forestry-related experts that delivers a professional service to the industry. Its mission is to assist members to achieve excellence in the practice of forestry, promote growth and sustainability in the industry as well as being custodians of a sensitive environment.

Four FABIans were among six presenters at the meeting who rose to the challenge of PechaKucha style talks on forestry matters. Regarded as an “art of concise presentations”, PechaKucha is a presentation style designed to simplify technical and complex concepts for lay audiences. Presenters are limited to 20 visual slides – which can feature images or graphs – and they have exactly 20 seconds to explain each slide (which is on an automatic timer).

George Dowse of Hans Merensky's presentation was titled “Breeding Eucalyptus sawtimber”, Kassahun Maru of UP discussed “The importance of agroforestry in Ethiopia”, Izette Greyling presented “Field extension: Linking industry to world class research”, Darryl Herron presented “Plant clinics in the Anthropocene”, Tayo Adenigba's presented her talk “Can we use mating factors to manage pitch canker?” and Danielle Roodt discussed “Plant genetics and evolution”.