

Heartwood

The art and science of growing trees
for conservation and profit

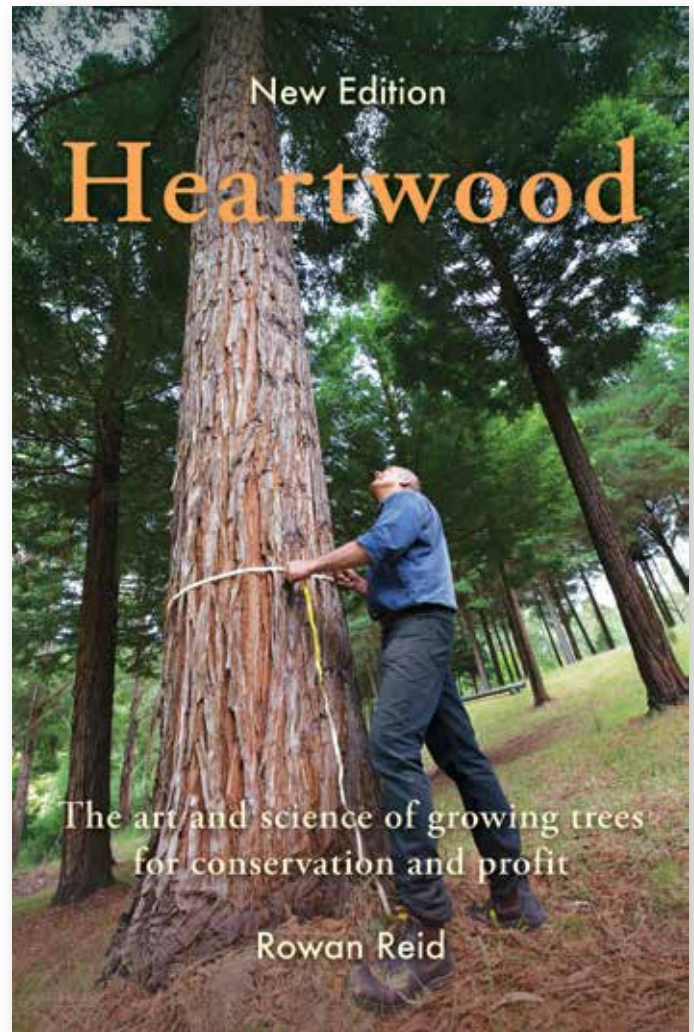
Rowan Reid

Step into the remarkable world of Rowan Reid—forest scientist, passionate tree-grower and owner builder—in this new updated edition of *Heartwood*.

Drawing on more than forty years of hands-on experience, global adventures and practical forest science, Rowan shows how trees grown on family farms can transform landscapes, enrich biodiversity, capture carbon and provide timber for everything from guitars to homes.

Through engaging stories and practical wisdom, *Heartwood* reveals a fresh approach to forestry—one that balances the needs of farmers, communities and nature. Discover how Rowan's journey began with degraded farmland and led to the creation of an ecologically diverse mix of forests and parklands that are now providing an everlasting supply of high-quality timber.

Join the growing movement of landowners weaving trees back into their landscapes, ensuring healthier, more productive, and more beautiful farms for generations to come.



I remember well my visit to Rowan's farm; I left informed and inspired! 'Heartwood' is a compelling read.

— Geraint Richards MVO OBE FICFor
Head Forester to the Duchy of Cornwall and
His Majesty The King

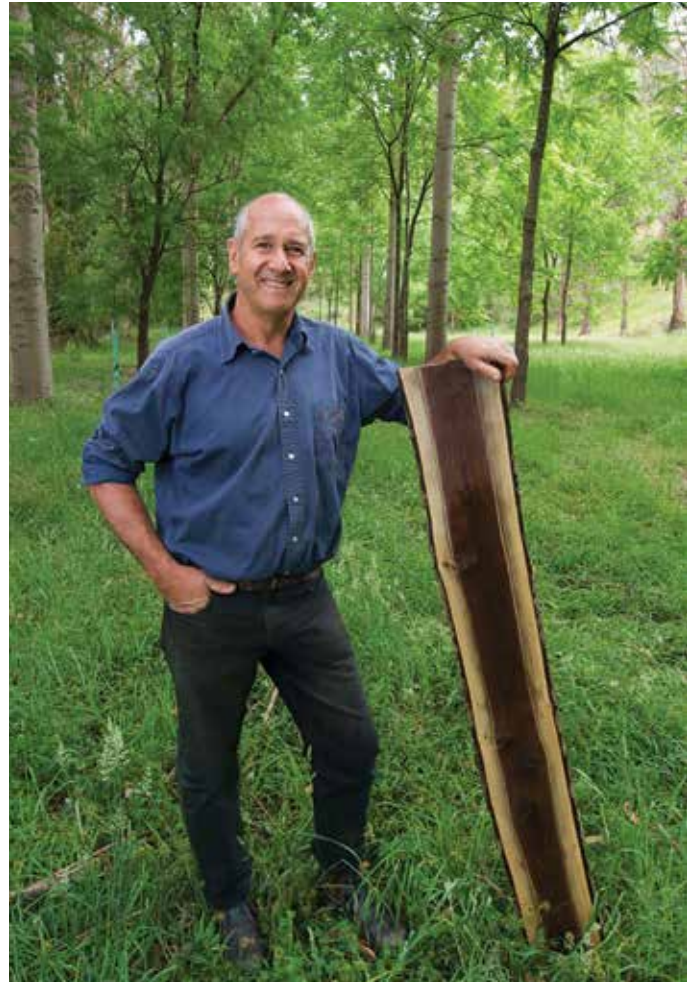
The Author:

Rowan Reid is a pioneering forester whose lifelong dedication to trees began in the coastal eucalypt forests of southern Australia. Armed with multiple qualifications in Forest Science and driven by a vision to transform the way farmers and the wider community think and talk about forestry, Rowan purchased a degraded farm near his childhood playground and set out to demonstrate that growing trees for profit could also be an act of conservation and landscape beautification.

Over the past four decades, Rowan has established his Bambra Agroforestry Farm as a 42-hectare outdoor classroom and living laboratory for his own learning, welcoming more than 10,000 visitors from around the world. Farmers, scientists, students and tree enthusiasts have come to learn from his practical experience, research and commitment to exploring how trees can contribute to the creation of sustainable family farming landscapes.

For Rowan, just planting trees was never enough; almost every tree on the farm is managed to provide multiple values, including timber and other commercial products. Whilst some will take decades to reach maturity, others are now being harvested, milled and dried on the farm. At first, the timber was used for small pieces of furniture or crafts, but since *Heartwood* was first published Rowan and his family have 'grown' an entire house for which almost all the timber came from trees they planted. Replanting, and natural regeneration, will ensure that there is a perpetual forest producing valuable commercial products, enhancing biodiversity, storing carbon, sheltering people and livestock, and creating a beautiful landscape for generations to come.

Since 1991, Rowan has taught a subject in Agroforestry at the University of Melbourne, where now holds a position as Senior Honorary Fellow. With other farmers he was a founding member of the Otway Agroforestry Network (1993) which is the largest landholder group of its type in Australia. Whilst an academic he created the acclaimed Australian Master TreeGrower course in 1996. More than 100 courses have been delivered across Australia and many internationally including in Africa, Timor Leste, Vanuatu and Indonesia. An internationally recognised leader in farmer education and extension and forest management,



Rowan has authored or co-authored nine other books about tree growing including *Agroforestry in Australia and New Zealand* (1985).

Drawing on knowledge gained from his own research and practice, and from working with farmers across Australia and around the world (New Zealand, Africa, Southeast Asia, The Pacific Island, North America, Europe and the United Kingdom) has given Rowan a unique perspective on how governments, industry and the conservation groups can work with farming communities to create landscapes that meet the needs of both landholders and the wider community.

Praise for *Heartwood*

I remember well my visit to Rowan's farm almost a decade ago; I left informed and inspired! Even then, agroforestry was much talked about in the UK but here it was in practice and as a viable business and not simply a hobby. For all those interested in this subject, wherever home is, Heartwood is a compelling read.

— **Geraint Richards MVO OBE FICFor**, Head Forester to the Duchy of Cornwall and His Majesty The King

In Call of the Reed Warbler, I described Rowan Reid as having had a greater impact than almost any other individual on envisioning, catalysing, and laying down a practical path for regenerative agroforestry in Australia. Heartwood clearly shows how his work as a scientist, educator, community leader, practitioner, and author has effectively re-defined the disciplines of agroforestry and farm forestry, cementing their place in the emerging realm of regenerative agriculture.

— **Charles Massey**, author of *Call of the Reed Warbler*

Rowan's farm is the future - more resilient, more productive, more rewarding and more beautiful. And that's what shines through in Heartwood. On the surface, it's a solid how-to guide to growing trees on farms. But below it, it's a book that grew in a rich soil - the soil of Rowan's love for what he does.

— **Patrick Worms**, Senior Science Policy Advisor, CIFOR-ICRAF and former President, International Union of Agroforestry

I first met Rowan in 1983 when he worked with our agroforestry research team at the Forest Research Institute in Rotorua. I later visited his farm in 1991 and have followed his work ever since. There are very few forest growers in the world who, like Rowan, have so passionately and successfully dedicated their working life to establishing an array of tree species then managing them right through to the finished product, as so wonderfully documented in Heartwood.

— **Jeff Tombleson**, Former research scientist, now forest owner and consultant, New Zealand

Rowan Reid's Heartwood might be centred on an Australian family tree farm, but it has meaning for family forest owners around the world. Rowan's passion for planting, tending, harvesting and utilizing trees has driven a life of research and hands-on management. His experience makes the case that conservation and harvesting for profit are not mutually exclusive, but in fact reinforce each other. A highly readable, personal biography of a family tree farm.

— **Dr. John Bliss**, Emeritus Starker Chair in Private and Family Forestry, Oregon State University, USA

I don't get much time to read however this book, a gift from a wonderful friend, is one of the most informative books I've read in years. If you work with Australian Timbers, or simply love trees, you'll learn everything there is to know about the process of growing trees for use in furniture or joinery.

— **Christian Cole**, cabinet and furniture maker, and owner of Christian Cole Furniture, Melbourne

Rowan has a rare gift for making the complex world of forestry and the technical properties of wood feel clear, accessible, and genuinely engaging. His farming heritage, scientific training, and hands-on experience in tree growing and wood processing shine through on every page. He writes with clarity, practicality, and deep respect for the land. If you own property, grow trees, work with wood, or simply want to understand them all better, this book is not just a great read—it's an essential reference.

— **Rob de Fegely AM**, Eminent Australian Forest Scientist

Rowan has this wonderful way of combining the science, theory and practice of tree growing on farms so that it is relevant to farmers. I have watched how he, and his trees, have both inspired and challenged farmers of all types, from all around the world.

— **Andrew Stewart**, Farmer, Bob Hawke Landcare Award winner 2020, Otway Ranges, Victoria