

The Forest Makers



DOCUMENTARY
FEATURE

HUMAN INTEREST
NATURAL HISTORY

PROOF
OF CONCEPT

PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Forest Makers is a global documentary feature film addressing climate change and ecosystem restoration.

With reports of the UN Trillion Tree initiative failing, and climate – change induced disasters increasing, so many of us are overwhelmed and paralysed with despair.

Yet, there is hope. Through the personal and intimate quest of filmmaker and mother Oren Siedler, the film reveals a network of global ‘forest makers’ – remarkable people blending ancient wisdom with innovative approaches and proving environmental salvation is possible.

Celebrating human ingenuity and our deep connection to nature, this solutions – focused documentary provides inspiring proof that individuals can create extraordinary change.





PROOF OF CONCEPT

With a Proof of Concept requested by ABC Australia and CBC Canada, we are seeking funding to produce a compelling 10-minute exemplar clip.

The Proof of Concept will serve as both a fundraising tool and opening sequence for the feature documentary. It will provide evidence of our ability to blend intimate personal narrative with urgent environmental themes while demonstrating the international scope and calibre of stories to come.

Highlighting the distinctive tone, visual style and intimate storytelling approach, it will include the story set up and showcase the key scenes from Australia and Canada that will ultimately appear in the feature documentary.

Proof of Concept Budget:
\$70,000 (see Budget Breakdown)

STORY – THE SET UP

Our Proof of Concept opens with Oren returning to her childhood home – the expansive rainforest property where her mother spent years planting trees over four decades ago.

Together, they visit these now – mature trees, exploring the generational legacy of environmental stewardship that shaped Oren's worldview and drives her urgent search for solutions.



ESTABLISHMENT

An intimate establishing scene then unfolds in her partner Tony Kenway's fine furniture workshop in Byron Shire, Northern Rivers NSW.

Since they met more than 20 years ago, Oren – born with a name that literally means 'tree' – has spent years documenting Tony's remarkable transformation from world – renowned furniture maker to passionate 'forest maker'.

As Oren captures the authenticity of a craftsman who has found his calling as an environmental steward, we witness the intimate connection between two people whose lives have become intertwined with trees in the most unexpected ways.

This personal moment between the couple sets the emotional foundation and establishes the central question that will drive the feature documentary: can individual action truly create meaningful environmental change?



THE AUSTRALIAN STORY

ANDY BAKER

Seeking answers beyond her own backyard, Oren ventures into the field to meet ecologist Andy Baker.

As a white man entrusted with Indigenous cultural burning practices, Andy understands and respects the role of fire in healing landscapes. He takes Oren to witness a cultural burn to demonstrate how collaboration can restore balance to long misunderstood ecosystems.

Andy speaks openly about the honour and responsibility of working alongside Traditional Owners who generously share their ancient knowledge and practices.

Inspired, Oren wonders if Andy knows where else in the world such effective collaboration might exist.



THE CANADIAN STORY

ELI ENNS

This leads Oren across the Pacific to British Columbia to meet Eli Enns, the grandson of a chief of the Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations tribe of Vancouver Island.

Eli reveals a mind shaped by western science and profound Nuu-chah-nulth teachings as he describes co-founding Tribal Parks – Indigenous Protected Areas where ancient wisdom informs cutting-edge conservation.

A world leader in Indigenous-led conservation, Eli is influencing global environmental policy and redefining conservation as a sacred work that comes from a deep, spiritual connection to place and purpose.

Through Oren's intimate lens, we witness how this remarkable cultural ecologist embodies the marriage of intellectual sophistication and ancestral wisdom.



THE MESSAGE

Together, these beautifully crafted sequences demonstrate our approach to warm, personal storytelling while introducing a global network of 'forest makers' that will be presented in the feature documentary.

(For more details see the feature documentary Pitch Deck.)

By revealing these grassroots restorative solutions from around the world and the people who are achieving success, The Forest Makers aims to foster a mindset of stewardship that inspires hope and motivates creative eco-solutions that have a lasting environmental impact.



THE REQUEST

A contribution towards the \$70,000 Proof of Concept production cost.

Budget Breakdown

Above the Line – Producer, Director, Writer, Consultants	\$14,500 (pro rata)
Australian shoot	\$12,200
Canadian Shoot	\$25,000
Post Production	\$12,000
Contingency	\$6,300

Feature documentary estimated budget \$1,500,000.

Finance Plan available upon request.

Why Invest?

We have established interest by broadcasters ABC Australia and CBC Canada in the feature documentary.

Your support will enable us to fulfil these broadcasters' joint request to produce a 10 minute Proof of Concept featuring a story from each commissioning nation.

- Contribution to global environmental stewardship.
- Worldwide market appeal.
- Audience engagement pathway identified.
- Strategic impact campaign designed.
- Tax DGR status secured.



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LINKS

[Trailer](#)

[Feature Pitch Deck](#)

[Documentary Australia Contribution Portal
\(DGR status secured\)](#)

WEBSITE

www.forestmakers.com.au

INSTAGRAM

[@the.forest.makers](#)