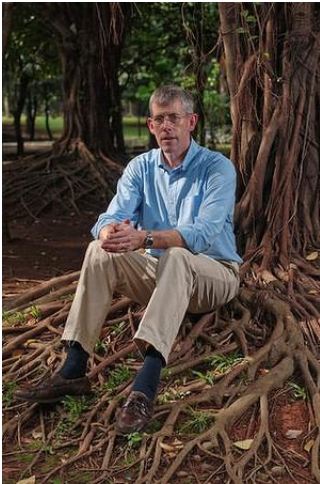**Poynton, Scott** (from Sydney Morning Herald March 29, 2014)

Poynton is a scientist, a forester, a rational man. He and the employees of his non-profit organisation, The Forest Trust, analyse and delve into the supply chains of the world's biggest retailers and commodity producers to reveal the environmental and social damage done by their products. Then he shows them how to do business differently.

For a 15-year-old Poynton, a chance encounter with the ABC's *Science Show* in 1979 started it all. His childhood had been tough. He was raised in Cranbourne on Melbourne's south-east fringe. From the age of six, he brought cash to the family by catching tadpoles to sell in the local pet shop for $1 a jar. When he was nine, Poynton's mother left, taking Poynton's older brother with her. He did not see her for 25 years and has not spoken to his brother in decades.

Poynton's father worked hard but could not hold down a steady job, and they moved between various towns in Victoria and NSW, often pursued by debt collectors. When the *Science Show* came on the radio that day in May, 1979, Poynton and his father were living in the hamlet of Ripplebrook, south-east of Melbourne.

Poynton graduated from high school with enough marks but not enough money for forestry school, so he worked for two years as a lab technician at the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research in Melbourne. In 1984 he started studying at the Australian National University's forestry department.

Poynton worked for Forestry Tasmania after graduating, then won a scholarship to Oxford for his master's degree. He landed a job in Vietnam, working on a project to find the best way to reforest a 150,000 hectare wasteland in the Mekong Delta.

in 1999, he was hired by the Danish outdoor furniture giant ScanCom, which agreed to try to clean up their supply chain.

Poynton started working with APP (Asia Pulp & Paper) in 2011.