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COVER STORY
P19

INDUSTRY LEADERS: THE FUTURE CHALLENGE



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FWPA regional forums centre on forest leadership challenges

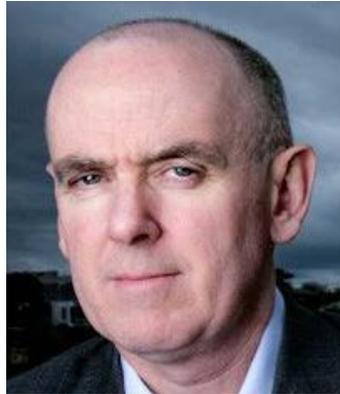
A HIGH-LEVEL forest leadership program addressing challenges in the sector from an international and national political context will run over four state regions in February, March and April.

Organised by the Australian Rural Leadership Foundation and Leadership Victoria and convened by FWPA, the program will involve residency sessions, a flexible intra-learning session and a combined groups session.

The program is designed for higher level discussions and participant engagement on forest sector issues relating to key market research, market insights and outlook, and industry statistics and benchmarking from both a global and domestic aspect.

FWPA believes the forest leadership program will develop a deeper understanding of the value of relationships as participants address wider sector/industry issues and an understanding of the value chain.

The program aims to 'unpack' issues facing



Paul Higgins... a critical edge.

the industry, specifically the lack of collaboration and connection between organisations, developing ideas for an industry-based initiative project regarding challenges in the forest sector.

Participants will undertake strategy mapping on the 'potential' future of the industry.

Guest contributors include Paul Higgins, who established Emergent Futures Pty Ltd as a consulting company combining his long experience in business with training as a futurist to assist organisations and individuals in the creation of strategy.



Christine Kotur... leadership issues.

Mr Higgins, who holds a Masters Degree in Strategic Foresight, believes the application of foresight tools to the strategy process can give organisations a critical edge in a fast-moving modern world.

“UNPACKING ISSUES FACING THE INDUSTRY”

Guest presenter Christine Kotur is Leadership Victoria's leader in residence, a role that is raising the profile and importance of emerging leadership issues and development across all sectors in Australia.

She is a highly regarded designer of and contributor to leadership programs and is well known for her support for people in organisations and in communities leading complex, difficult and often unwelcome changes.

Ms Kotur has facilitated consultations for two royal commissions, the 2009 bushfires commission and the 2015 commission into family violence.

The proposed dates and locations for the leadership program sessions are being negotiated with FWPA with preference given to a resort located regionally and within 50 km of a town.

Participants would arrive at the location in the late afternoon the day before each program session. Provisional dates and locations are:

Southwest Western Australia (possibly Bunbury or Margaret River), March 5-8; Mount Gambier, SA, March 19-22; NSW Upper Murray (possibly Albury), April 9-12; and Melbourne, June 4-8.

Inquiries can be directed to FWPA on (03) 9927 3200 or email ric.sinclair@fwpa.



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Key industry asks: towards a national forest industries plan

THE hard-fought-for National Forest Industries Plan, a major blueprint for the sector across the country, will be delivered in the second half of this year.

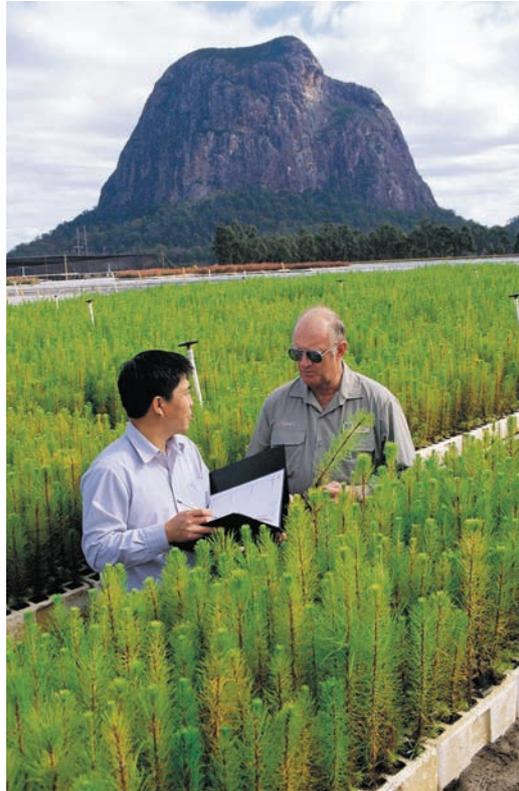
AFPA has now officially launched its 'Key Industry Asks' document to ensure the federal government seriously considers the needs of forest industries into the future. It's been more than 20 years since the last major commonwealth plan for forestry with the 1997 Vision 2020 Plantations document and prior to that the 1992 National Forest Statement.

Requests in the AFPA document include:

- Deliver more plantation trees. Urgent policy measures are needed to ensure more trees are planted in the right places. In 1997, federal and state governments agreed that by 2020 Australia needed 3 million ha of plantations. Today there are only 2 million ha, with no new plantations established for about five years. We need 300,000 ha of new softwood plantations and 100,000 ha of new farm forestry plantings.

- Ensure a sustainable native forest estate, Australia has the highest environmental standards with native forest harvesting, with only a tiny fraction harvested each year. It is then replanted or regenerated. Future Regional Forest Agreements need to ensure no net loss in timber supply. \$2 million is needed to assess the economic contribution of native forestry and \$7 million for a new centre to conduct studies into key forest dwelling species.

- Unleash a biofutures



Deliver more trees... we need 300,000 ha of new softwood plantations.

revolution. Unlike many countries, Australia is yet to realise its full potential using forest industries for biomaterials, bioenergy and for emission reduction. Australia needs to employ measures including establishing a national biofutures industry development fund, a national biofutures commercialisation fund as well as an innovation hub and developed methodologies for wood products under the Emissions Reduction Fund.

- Renew research capability. Investment in forest industries research has plummeted over the past decade and AFPA is calling for \$16 million

“OVER 20 YEARS SINCE THE LAST MAJOR PLAN FOR FORESTRY

to extend the investment at the Mount Gambier and Launceston nodes of the National Institute for Forest Products Innovation. The cap on government matching voluntary industry contributions to Forest and Wood Products Australia should be removed and the total cap of 0.5% of the sector's gross value of production reinstated.

- Fast-track infrastructure and cut red tape. AFPA is calling for a range of measures which include, but are not limited to, studies for infrastructure requirements, improved product safety standards and encouragement of green building and wood encouragement policies through the national forestry ministers meeting.

AFPA's 'Key Industry Asks' is available at www.ausfpa.com.au



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Changes in responsibilities for forestry at federal and state level

INDUSTRY has welcomed the new federal cabinet, but focus on the national forest industries plan is needed (see P3).

CEO Ross Hampton said AFPA was looking forward to working with the new team for the benefit of our sustainable forest industries.

Chinchilla (Qld) MP David Littleproud, who has forged a career in agribusiness, takes the Agriculture and Water Resources portfolio. Former minister Barnaby Joyce moves to Infrastructure.

Mr Hampton said industry looked forward to a continued strong relationship with Assistant Minister for Agriculture and Water



David Littleproud



Mark Furner



Tony Perrett

Resources Senator Anne Ruston.

In the November 25 Queensland election, returned Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk chose former union official Mark Furner as Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries.

He takes responsibility for forestry and Queensland's

\$20 billion agricultural sector.

Forests and fisheries has a regional voice in the Queensland Opposition, with the LNP naming Gympie MP Tony Perrett

“QUEENSLAND RETAINS TITLE OF 'FORESTRY'”

as Shadow Minister.

He has been the LNP member for Gympie in the Queensland Legislative Assembly since 2015 and is the son of former Borbidge ministry Primary Industries Minister Trevor Perrett. LNP leader Deb Frecklington was the former Shadow Minister for Agriculture, Forests and Fisheries, and kept 'forestry' in the title, which is noticeably absent again in the Palaszczuk ministry.

Mr Perrett was one of 18 LNP members named in the Shadow Cabinet.

Ms Frecklington said the new cabinet was the first step in the LNP pushing "the reset button".

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FEBRUARY

5-9: Gottstein Trust wood science course – Fenner School of Environment and Society, Australian National University.
 Contact Gottstein Secretariat on (02) 6153 3044.
 Email: gottsteinsecretary@gmail.com or apply online at www.forestry.org.au/external-events/gottstein-wood-science-course

MARCH

6-7: ABARES Outlook 2018 – ‘Creating Value in an increasingly Connected World’ – National Convention Centre, 31 Constitution Avenue, Canberra. Australia’s premier information and networking forum for the agriculture and economics sectors. Join delegates from across agricultural industries to hear from leading national and international speakers. Early bird rate if registered before Christmas. Visit www.agriculture.gov.au/abares

21: All-industry lunch – Brisbane. Celebrating United Nations International Day of Forests. Time, venue program to be advised.

APRIL

18-20: Timber Queensland’s 2nd Biennial State Conference – Royal International Convention Centre, Brisbane. ‘Doing Timber Business

in Queensland: Room to Grow’. Visit www.doingtimberbusinessinql.com

JUNE

18-19: FRAME 2018 conference and exhibition – Park Hyatt Melbourne. Focus on timber offsite construction, expanding local and global markets for timber buildings and the digital future ahead in design, manufacture and construction of timber frame multi-residential and mass timber commercial buildings. Current initiatives with cloud-based digital platforms by both the construction and manufacturing industries, combined with new data technologies have the power to change the future of the built environment by creating smarter and more efficient processes for construction of sustainable and cost-efficient timber buildings. Delegate tours will visit a range of timber frame and mass timber construction sites, panelised prefabrication plants and recently completed buildings that are outstanding examples of timber construction. Contact Kevin Ezard, conference director, Frame Australia. Mob: 0419 538 638. Email: kevin@frameaustralia.com Visit www.frameaustralia.com

20-21: FIEA Woodflow 2018 – Melbourne, Australia.

26-27: FIEA Woodflow 2018 – Rotorua, NZ.

The objective, with 30-40% of delivered log costs being contributed by transport, is to improve efficiencies through the wood supply chain. It builds on the success of the HarvestTECH 2017 event. Unique opportunity to learn about innovations being developed and employed to assist in harvest and transport planning, logistics and operations. Visit www.woodflow.events

JULY

12-14: Tlnaugural International Furniture Show Australia – International Convention Centre, Sydney. Presentations by Australian retailers and wholesalers and opportunity to deal directly with global furniture manufacturers from countries such as China, India, Vietnam, Malaysia, Indonesia, Philippines and Pakistan. Excellent platform for Australian manufacturers to reach out to buyers from within Australia and New Zealand. Contact Australasian Furnishing Association at compliance@australianfurniture.org.au

AUGUST

8: FIEA Forest Industry Safety and Technology 2018 – Rotorua, NZ.

15: FIEA Forest Industry Safety and Technology 2018 – Melbourne, Australia. Covering updates and developments in forest industry safety, as well as providing a

space for sharing ideas on how people, culture, technologies and systems are used to improve the safety of workers. Visit www.forestsafety.events

SEPTEMBER

11-12: FIEA WoodTech 2018 – Melbourne, Australia.

18-19: FIEA Woodtech 2018 – Rotorua, NZ. Drymill scanning, wood machining, timber manufacturing. Includes timber scanning and optimisation, timber gluing and laminating, finger-jointing, cross cutting, timber machining, kiln drying and timber finishing technologies. Visit www.woodtech.events

OCTOBER

19th Australian Timber Design Awards in Sydney. Full details to confirm. Entries open February 12 and close July 6. Judging period July 16-20. People’s Choice voting July 23-August 17. Awards gala dinner mid-October. Visit www.timberawards.com.au

NOVEMBER

4-5: FIEA ForestTech 2018 – Rotorua, NZ.

20-21: FIEA ForestTech 2018 – Melbourne, Australia. FIEA annual technology event for forest resource managers, remote sensing and GIS specialists and inventory foresters from throughout Australia and New Zealand. Visit www.foresttech.events



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Building products fit-for-purpose remains key objective for EWPAA

DAVE GOVER

THE year 2017 was a busy one for the industry with opportunities for timber continuing to emerge around the world.

It was a year of strong demand, with Australian demand continuing to outstrip supply, and opportunity and demand for timber construction growing globally.

Domestic demand points squarely to the need for more forests being available. Growing global demand means that the way in which timber is used needs to continue to improve in efficiency.

The continuing need for higher-density living and medium-rise structures requires ongoing research and development. Australia's standards for testing timber connections was last reviewed in 2001. Almost two decades later, mid-rise structures present different connection challenges, including the need for seismic design, and new connector materials that are now available.



Dave Gover lectures at the University of Queensland's School of Architecture – part of an on-going national EWPAA education program on engineered wood systems and products for students at universities and TAFE colleges.

To ensure that mid-rise construction can continue to develop as an efficient building system, connection test methods need to be refined.

Lateral stability is a second consideration in medium-rise construction, and is an opportunity for structural panel products such as plywood and particleboard. These products have been used as flooring and in other structural applications in Australia for many years, and have potential to provide stability in mid-rise timber framed solutions.

Beyond finding technical solutions for mid-rise timber

framing, there is a need to address the logistics. As well as driving research into connectors and lateral stability, developing solutions that bridge the gap between product and building, both off-site and on, will be a key to the success of mid-rise construction in Australia.

With the Australian government committed to reducing carbon, and with

40% of carbon emissions being from the built environment, specifiers are interested in ways to have superior environmental performance recognised. This has led to increased interest in green certification schemes.

Where imported building rating systems are used to do this, their reliance on overseas standards can become a barrier to the use of Australian products. The EWPAA will be working to ensure that some of the emerging building rating tools recognise Australian standards as a means of

“DEBATE ON NON-COMPLIANT PRODUCTS WILL CONTINUE THROUGH 2018”

Cont P 7

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From P 6

demonstrating performance of building products.

2017 saw a number of milestones in the area of product compliance. Images and stories of the Grenfell Tower fire in June 2017 brought the importance of product conformity to the forefront for designers, builders, and policy makers. Queensland implemented legislation to combat non-conforming products, including responsibilities on manufacturers and installers. New South Wales also implemented new legislation, but took a very different approach to that of Queensland.

One of the foundation objectives of the EWPA



Traceability becomes more important when off-site construction is utilised.

has been to ensure that building products are fit-for-purpose and the Australian built environment isn't compromised by non-conforming product. The debate on non-conforming product will continue throughout 2018, and

EWPA will be working with policy makers and industry associations representing other building materials to encourage effective building regulation.

Green building auditors often want to know the

origins of products, and building regulation is aided by traceability. Traceability becomes more important when off-site construction is utilised. The EWPA will be working with other industry associations to encourage greater traceability, and more transparent product credentials through the supply chain.

The issues of mid-rise construction, prefabrication, green certification, product compliance and product traceability will contribute to demand for quality, fit-for-purpose timber products and specifiers looking for new, more efficient uses of timber throughout 2018.

• *Dave Gover is CEO of the Engineered Wood Products Association of Australasia.*

Partnership a sign Canada still has a few options

FORESTRY and manufacturing industries, seafood, mining and agriculture are set to get a boost as Canada joins 10 other countries to form the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP).

Labelled by US President Donald Trump as a "job killer", the TPP was resurrected by the remaining Pacific Rim

countries who persevered for months to weed out the deal's thorny issues, mostly behind closed doors. Trump abandoned the deal one year ago.

"While the loss of the US from the trade pact marks a major diminishing of the scope of TPP, the deal is still sizeable enough to send a message to those at the table in North American Free Trade

Agreement talks," says Daniel Schwanen, vice-president of research at the C.D. Howe Institute.

"It's still a very significant part of the world economy – it's not the 40% it would have been with the US in there – but to me it's a major coup almost in terms of the timing amid NAFTA negotiations."

Dr Schwanen said it was a sign that Canada did

have options.

"We'll never not depend on the US market, but they depend on us as well," he said.

Business associations praised the deal as potentially rolling back tariffs between Canada and its Pacific trading partners, while trade experts said it could potentially reduce administrative costs for exporters.

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Top Lonza position for Angelo Hrastov

Graeme Rees retires after long service to timber preservation

MELBOURNE-based Angelo Hrastov will take over as regional director for Lonza Wood Protection Asia Pacific following the retirement of long-serving managing director Graeme Rees.

Mr Hrastov has been with the group for 22 years and has had a series of roles in account management and customer support, general management and most recently as the sales and business manager for Lonza Wood Protection Asia Pacific.

Graeme Rees, originally from Gore in the far south of New Zealand, has had a long and distinguished career in the wood protection industry starting more than 30 years

ago with Hickson Timber Impregnation as manager of the Matura roundwood treating plant.

In 1986, he transferred to Auckland to take up the role of marketing manager for Hickson Timber Preservatives and was instrumental in the restructuring of the Hickson's New Zealand business into separate preservative supply and wood treatment operations and subsequently the formation of the Koppers-Hickson Timber Protection joint venture company in 1989.

Mr Rees transferred to Brisbane in 1997 as the marketing manager for Koppers-Hickson Timber Protection in Australia. In



Angelo Hrastov



Graeme Rees

2000, with the acquisition of Hickson by US-based Arch Chemicals, he became the general manager for the renamed Koppers Arch Wood Protection company in Australia.

Moving forward, when Arch Chemicals bought out the Koppers share of Koppers Arch to become Arch Wood Protection in 2007, Mr Rees became the regional managing director for the Asia Pacific region from the start of 2008.

The next change was the acquisition of Arch Chemicals by the Swiss-based Lonza Group in 2011 and again Mr Rees was heavily involved in the local aspects of the integration of the Asia Pacific wood protection business with the new owners. Most recently, he again took a key role in a transformative stage of the business with the acquisition and integration of New Plymouth based Zelam in 2015.

Ontario releases tall wood building construction reference

A TECHNICAL resource for tall wood building construction aims to help applicants, reviewers and designers meet Ontario Building Code requirements for wood

structures above six storeys.

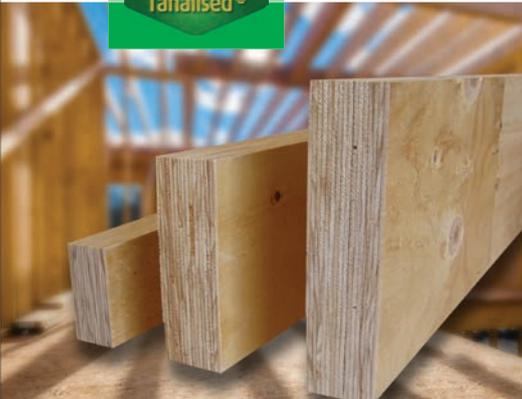
It includes two sections: fire safety and structural design. Users can learn about the types of wood

products, challenges of wood construction, fire prevention and an overview of 'alternative solutions' provisions under the Ontario Building Code.

Each section offers information on methods of analysis and design and expected performance requirements.



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Macca 'turns' in 44 years of service at Hyne

AFTER 44 years with Hyne Timber, John (Macca) McDonald has signed off for the last time.

However, with an ongoing love of timber, his 'timber turning' pen hobby will now take precedence as he retires at the age of 60.

"Macca was a valued member of the Hyne team, a hard-working and incredibly organised mentor for the warehouse and customer service staff," CEO Jon Kleinschmidt said.

"Macca has been with the business for more than 44 years and I've enjoyed working closely with him, especially during our time building and growing the Tuan mill."

Macca commenced with Hyne at its old hardwood manufacturing plant in Maryborough in 1973.



Pen friend... John (Macca) McDonald calls it a day at Hyne Timber.

When the new flagship softwood manufacturing plant opened at Tuan in 1986, Macca transferred as the production manager.

Faced with a new, large empty warehouse, Macca, supported by fifth generation James Hyne, set it up with the various products. Six semi-trailer trucks back then was a

busy day. Today, the mill has anywhere around 200 trucks a day on site.

He later took on the role of

“ INCREDIBLY ORGANISED MENTOR FOR SERVICE STAFF ”

customer service manager, still looking after production planning. He was based at Tuan for 28 years before moving to the Sunshine Coast and the company's Kunda Park distribution centre.

As a hobby, Macca turns timber pens. He takes personal and corporate orders from all over the world.



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'I'm back to give a deserved bouquet'

Ross and AFPA team working hard for the good of forestry sector

WELL, well, I'm back, but don't call me Pauline!

You probably don't remember, but after a stint as a casual columnist in T&F enews a few years ago I had to take a rain check. I couldn't keep up the discipline – I do have a day job you know!

So it was back to the bush, skidders and co-workers, both men and women, who have made forestry their career choice.

Big Jimmy Bowden enticed me with a \$9.95 (I think) bottle of savvy blanc and a Chinese take-away – he knows the way to a girl's heart – so here I am again.

To get a better balance of day and night jobs this time it's going to be a column each month. This is something I will be able to manage, and relish. With the timber industry now enjoying improved times, my day

job and that of others has become a bit more frantic – you know the story, you work where the money is. Hopefully, we won't run out of trees. Start planting trees somebody, please!

I will, as before, give my view on the state-of-affairs in the forest and timber industries. I should know something about it – I have been at the coal face – or should I say plantation face? – for a good few years.

Probably a good starting point to get off on the right foot would be to congratulate the new publishers of enews. Along with editor Jim, they have huge experience in the sector on both sides of the Tasman.

In addition to my reappearance – a star move of course – they have some exciting ideas to expand this important weekly intelligence



P-l-e-a-s-e plant more trees.

briefing for those of us who work with trees and timber across Australia, New Zealand, and beyond. I believe a target is to see weekly readership climb past 20,000. So get involved ... it's your weekly update on industry affairs. Send in a story, check out the low advertising rates.

I'd like to open also with a bouquet – to Ross Hampton and the staff at the Australian Forest Products Association.

They have and continue to do great work on behalf of the collective industry – dinners at Parliament House attended by the PM and

constantly putting forestry issues in front of the pollies – even if Ross is (affectionately) referred to around the Canberra corridors of power as 'insistent'.

So well done Mr Hampton.

If your company isn't a member of AFPA, I strongly urge you to consider it. The AFPA team is working on our collective behalves. You know the story – more shoulders make the heavy lifting easier. I am sure they would be happy to send you an application form.

Catch you next time.

Yours,
Cheryl.

Touch wood: the Wishing Tree and the language of the trees

THE expression 'touch wood' seems to have been first associated with Sydney's famous Wishing Tree.

This and other tree-related metaphors are now commonly in daily use. We turn over a new leaf and branch out, ideas blossom and bear fruit. Though our momentum is sapped, our resolve remains deep-rooted, and yet there are times when we can't see the forest for the trees.

The expression touch wood seems to have

originated in Sydney's Botanic Gardens. The gardens are an important part of Australia's tree heritage and Australia's oldest scientific institution. Established during the reign of King George III, the gardens were granted the royal epithet in 1959 by his great-great-great-great-granddaughter Queen Elizabeth.

Sydney's Botanic Gardens are part of the Domain established by Governor Phillip in 1792.

Arguably the most notable

tree to have grown in the gardens was the Wishing Tree, a Norfolk Island pine planted in 1815. The tree is reputed to have come from Norfolk Island in a tub and was first planted in the Old Government House garden.

The tree was removed in 1945 when old age and decay threatened to topple it. Souvenirs were made from its wood and sold to help disabled soldiers returning from World War 2.

In earlier times people believed that spirits lived

in trees and would not pass certain 'sacred' trees without stroking their bark to appease the tree spirits and sometimes making a wish.

Thus the idea of 'wishing trees' and the expression 'touch wood'.

So the Australian derived expression touch wood and other tree related metaphors continue to enrich the modern English language, even though most have their origins in eightieth and ninetieth centuries.

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Events duo to run biggest forest show

AusTimber 2020 plan set for March launch

THE Australian Forest Contractors Association has announced the appointment of a new AUSTimber2020 event coordinator.

Business partners Brooke Adams and Kristen Smith will be responsible for the delivery of the biggest forestry show in Australasia, to be held in the Gippsland from Monday, March 30 to Saturday April 4.

They have a combined 30 years' experience in the events industry. Each has worked with several high-profile non-profit organisations and they have extensive experience coordinating a diverse range of national and international events.

Brooke and Kristen are passionate about creating a vibrant and engaging program, bringing the forestry community together and ensuring the event has something to offer all those interested in the forest industry.

General manager Stacey Gardiner said the Australian Forest Contractors Association was excited to have engaged an experienced events team with great enthusiasm and ideas.

"I look forward to working with them to grow AUSTimber2020," she said.

"They have hit the ground running and will be meeting



Stacey Gardiner... coordinators have hit the ground running.

with the AUSTimber steering committee very soon to share ideas and take planning of the event forward."

With the event just over two years away, an AUSTimber2020 launch will be held in about eight weeks.

The launch will be held on the Flynn Site in Latrobe Valley on Monday, March 26 so Brooke and Kristen are

focusing their initial energy on finalising arrangements,

They expect to make further announcements shortly giving details of the launch program.

An event like no other, AUSTimber is unique; it provides a venue for forest contractors and managers, industry stakeholders and the wider public, to see forest-harvesting equipment from multiple suppliers operated side-by-side in real-life working conditions.

The event provides the opportunity to learn about the forest, fibre and wood products industry – in a working plantation.

AUSTimber2020 will run over six days and will include field trips, site visits and two days of exhibition and demonstration field days.



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Designing in wood to ‘build out’ bushfires

Ad campaign pushes the Aussie standard

WITH the bushfire season reaching its most dangerous level, the thoughts of many Australians are turning to designing and building to minimise the risk of damage to homes in exposed areas.

While many imagine that doing so might preclude the use of wood, this it is not the case.

Designing to ‘build out’ bushfires requires minimising the risk of ember, radiant heat and even flame damage. With appropriate design decisions, attractive timber homes can be built, using sustainably sourced wood and wood products both inside and out.

“Understanding what is

required for each BAL is actually quite straightforward,” says Boris Iskra, an engineer and national manager of codes and standards at FWPA.

“In Australia, the standard AS 3959–2009 construction of buildings in bushfire-prone areas has the benefit of many years of scientific development and provides an extensive guide to building homes to minimise risk for different levels of bushfire vulnerability,” Mr Iskra said.

“RANGE OF RESOURCES TO HELP OWNERS AND BUILDERS



Boris Iskra... standard benefits from many years of scientific development.

Through the WoodSolutions website, FWPA provides a range of resources to help owners, designers and builders enjoy the aesthetic, functional and environmental benefits of wood in BAL locations, while meeting the requirements of the Australian standard.

These free resources,

which are referred to in media advertisements (see example at bottom of page), include a comprehensive free design guide, Building with Timber in Bushfire-prone Areas, a calculator that allows people to estimate the BAL of their site and an expert advice service through which people can seek answers to their bushfire design-related questions.

“I encourage people to go to the web address in the advertisement – naturallybetter.com.au/BAL – and look at the resources,” Mr Iskra said.

“It would be a great pity if people missed out on gaining all the advantages of wood just because they didn’t have the information about how to use it in ways that comply with the Australian standard.”

Community input invited on regional forest agreements

REGIONAL communities are encouraged to have their say on the renewal of NSW regional forest Agreements covering the northeast, Eden and southern regions of the state.

DPI group director forestry policy, research and development Nick Milham said the NSW and federal

governments were seeking community input through drop-in sessions, and a consultation and submission process.

“Governments are encouraging all stakeholders to have their say on what shape the RFAs should take and how we can improve the sustainable management

of our native forests,” Mr Milham said.

“The governments are working closely with all parties to get the balance right in the long-term management of our forest resources, and consultation is integral to this process.

DPI is hosting six drop-

in sessions throughout February at Lismore, February 6, Coffs Harbour, February 7, Bulahdelah, February 8, Eden, February 13, Batemans Bay, February 14, and Tumut, February 15.

Visit www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/forestry/regional-framework

Build with wood in bushfire-prone areas?

There's nothing quite like the beauty, practicality and environmental advantages of wood – and if you're building subject to a BAL (Bushfire Attack Level) rating, you can still enjoy them. How? It's explained in the WoodSolutions Design Guide, *Building with Timber in Bushfire-prone Areas*. **Head to our website today to find out more and download your free copy.**

Woody the Woodbot knows that you can use timber frames under all BAL levels

www.naturallybetter.com.au/BAL

Yes you can!

WOOD
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Juken NZ proposes LVL shut-down

Japan housing downturn, imports hit Gisborne profits

JUKEN NZ Ltd, a wood processor for more than 20 years, has proposed shutting down its Gisborne LVL plant.

JNL general manager Dave Hilliard said there had been a significant drop in demand in Japan for plywood and other building products in the past few years because of a declining housing market.

“This has caused parts of the New Zealand processing business to operate at a loss,” he said.

“The Japanese housing market has been in decline and future demand for these products is not expected to improve because of the ageing population in Japan.”

Mr Hilliard said the company was also “increasingly unable to



Gisborne proposal... jobs at risk.

compete” against large-scale wood processing plants from China and South America.

JNL is a subsidiary of Japan-based parent company WoodOne Ltd, a major international housing materials and componentry company, which has invested more than \$NZ700 million in

the NZ industry.

Union officials say up to 100 Gisborne jobs could go as JNL begins consulting on a proposal to nearly halve its work force.

First Union president Robert Reid said companies did not make such proposals

unless they were serious about them.

The mill at Matawhero opened in 1994 and employs around 200 full time employees. It mainly processes timber for the Japanese market.

(Stuff)

Veteran AFL umpire to lead building watchdog

THE Turnbull government has chosen a veteran AFL umpire to take on one of the nation's most difficult industrial relations jobs, policing the construction and building industry.

Workplace Minister Craig Laundy has announced

Stephen McBurney as the new building watchdog, more than three months after former commissioner of the Australian Building and Construction Commission Nigel Hadgkiss was forced to resign for contravening the Fair Work Act.

Mr McBurney will begin a five-year term on February 6 and has a proven track record as a former legal assistant commissioner at the ABCC, where he had responsibility for compliance powers.

Master Builders Australia CEO Denikta Wawn said

the ABCC was an agency of great importance to the nation's building and construction industry and the appointment of a permanent commissioner would boost to industry confidence.



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Indonesia has carrot to end illegal logging, now it needs a stick

INDONESIA, one of the most heavily-forested nations, has a system of incentives in place to discourage illegal logging, but is that enough?

The country's illegal logging problem has deep roots; the World Resources Institute says 219 million cu m of unreported or illegally-sourced timber was supplied from 1991 to 2014. This is equal to more than 2.3 million ha of deforestation, an area 32 times the size of Singapore. It also cost the country \$6.5-9 billion in uncollected non-tax revenues between 2003-2014, more than a quarter of the country's infrastructure

budget for 2018.

While the government has taken steps to crack down on illegal logging, it's clear that ending illicit activity in the country's forests will require a more concerted effort, says the WRI.

Indonesia established the Timber Legality Assurance System (TLAS) in 2009, mandating that all operators in the timber supply chain

BOUNDARIES OF TIMBER OPERATIONS OFTEN UNCLEAR



Jungle jitters... Indonesia's Papua province has allegedly received illegally cut timber from pristine forest and violated supply-chain regulations.

harvest from sustainably managed forests. And in 2016, the country issued its first Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) timber export licences.

The FLEGT licences complement the TLAS by providing an economic incentive to producers, providing their shipments a 'green lane' into the European Union, a major timber market, and exempting them from the

due diligence procedures non-licensed EU timber imports must follow.

The licences are a major carrot, as they allow Indonesian exporters to enjoy a competitive advantage in the EU market.

Indonesia exported \$1.08 billion worth of wood to the EU by October of 2017, far surpassing exports in 2015 (\$ 872.2 million) and 2016 (\$868.8 million).



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Forests helping to cool the climate

Carbon storehouses stave off global warming

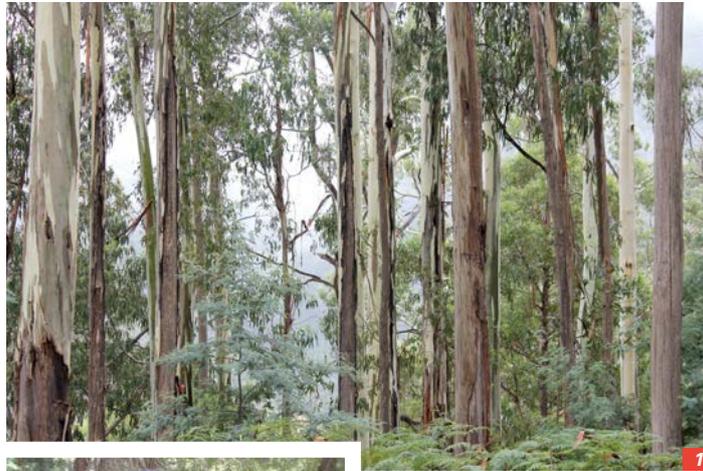
A NEW study published in Nature Communications concludes that forests may have an even greater cooling effect on climate than thought.

Further, that without them, the world may be heating up more quickly than anticipated.

As major carbon storehouses, forests have the power to influence the climate. So much so that the protection and expansion of forests is a key part of the Paris Agreement, which seeks to lower greenhouse gas emissions and stave off the worst effects of global warming.

Living vegetation emits gases that can react and combine with other gases in the atmosphere. Some of these, called biogenic volatile organic compounds (BVOCs), affect the formation of other compounds like aerosol, ozone and methane, the presence of which influences atmospheric temperature.

An international team of researchers led by the University of Leeds in the UK looked at these reactive compounds to see what kind of a temperature changes they induce. To do this, they simulated boreal, temperate



1/ **Mountain ash forests in Victoria... emitting gases that have a cooling effect on the climate.**

2/ **Dominick Spracklen... overall cooling effect.**

and tropical forest conditions and calculated different warming and cooling effects through sophisticated modeling.

While trees emit gases that can warm the atmosphere, such as ozone and methane gases, university professor Dominick Spracklen says the research team found that the cooling impacts of gases outweigh the warming

compared to temperate and boreal forests.

As forests are cleared, emissions of these cooling reactive gases are reduced. The researchers estimate the loss of this function may contribute 14% towards global warming caused by deforestation.

According to the researchers, the study is the first thorough analysis of the climatic impact of non-carbon dioxide reactive gases emitted by forests and how these impacts are affected by human-caused land-use change.

“Most previous assessments of the climate impacts of deforestation have focused on the amount of carbon dioxide that would be emitted, or changes to the way the land-surface exchanges energy and water with the atmosphere,” lead study author Catherine Scott said.

“But as well as taking in carbon dioxide and giving out oxygen, trees emit other gases that take part in complicated chemical reactions in the atmosphere and there are implications from reducing these gases.”

impacts.

“Which means reactive gases given out by forests have an overall cooling effect on our climate,” Spracklen said.

The study found warming and cooling effects related to the emissions of reactive gases are most closely balanced in tropical forests

“FORESTS HAVE POWER TO INFLUENCE THE CLIMATE”

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Qld builder among fastest growth companies

SUNSHINE Coast builder Devcon has been named in the Australian Financial Review Fast 100 list for two years in a row, now ranking as the 13th fastest growing company in Australia and the fastest growing builder in Queensland in 2017.

With a significant housing and construction boom under way, Devcon's business model is to build smart yet affordable housing to meet the increasing demand.

Company sales professional Peter Schiller said buyer trends for new builds were changing and like all industries the focus was to deliver the right customer solutions,

Devcon procures materials in bulk quantities to maintain pricing affordable.

Local retailer Sunshine



True blue... Russell Maher, Peter Schiller and Peter Tregaskis at a Devcon construction site at Buderim on the Sunshine Coast.

Mitre 10 is supplying orders for treated timber for frames processed by Hyne Timber at Maryborough – a carbon-neutral process.

Hyne's T2 Blue termite-resistant framing is the preferred timber for all Devcon projects.

Hyne distributes T2 Blue framing throughout the eastern seaboard, south

“DELIVERING THE RIGHT CUSTOMER SOLUTIONS”

of the Tropic of Capricorn (Rockhampton). It comes with a fully transferrable, 25-year termite guarantee and is CodeMark certified.

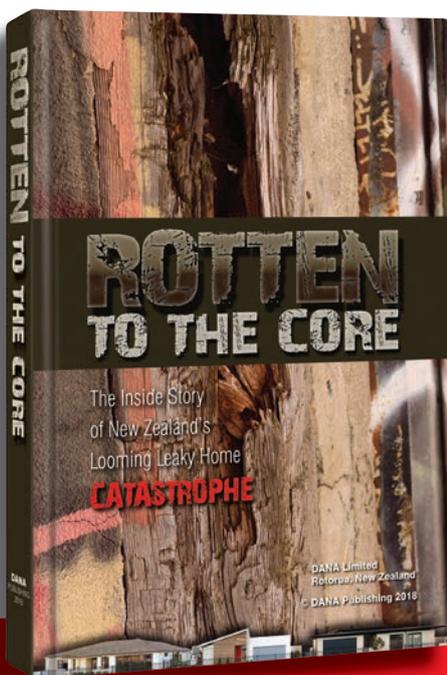
Hyne Timber customer manager Peter Tregaskis says you can't go and replace the structure of a home so it is important builders get it right the first time.

“Buying a new home is one of the most important financial commitments people make in their lives so it makes sense for it to be protected,” he said.

“It's great to see builders such as Devcon recognising this as a value proposition for their buyers and investors and something which they can actively market, gaining further trust in terms of quality.

ROTTEN TO THE CORE

The Inside Story of New Zealand's Looming Leaky Home **CATASTROPHE**



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- Was it preventable?
- Who tried to stop the Rot?
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- What cost — \$30 Billion or \$100 Billion? You decide.



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The ROBOTS are coming ...

Forest sector prepares for remote-control technology

MANY exciting developments in remote-controlled and autonomous machinery lie ahead for the forest industry and robotic technology will become common.

This is the opinion of Professor Rien Visser, School of Forestry, University of Canterbury, Christchurch, NZ, who addressed an FWPA workshop on robotic forestry systems in Melbourne in early December.

Should the Australian forest sector invest in research and extension related to robotic forestry systems? If so, what should be the focus of investment?

These questions were discussed across four sub-groups at the workshop and they elicited a very high level of agreement about the need to invest in robotic systems research.

But, unsurprisingly, there was a wide range of views about the priorities and level of investment required.

Overall, the groups agreed that investment in automation will deliver value through labour cost savings and improved safety, and will help address the potential

skills shortage. There is also a view that the investment would help the sector to be viewed as innovative and technologically sophisticated.

One group summarised the benefits into three categories:

- Social - the industry has an ageing workforce and it will be important to introduce new technologies that attract a new generation of workers.

- OH&S - there were 987 injured in harvesting operations in New Zealand over the last five years. The sooner we get people out of the way of trees and equipment the better.

- Environmental – potential for reduced compaction and ability to spot koalas and other wildlife using image sensing.

Given the complexity of the topic area, the groups identified pathways or focal areas for the Australian and NZ sector. There was a general view that any move



I'll be back... robots helping forest management.

forward in this space should include the equipment manufacturers and not to start from scratch – work with other researchers and players to leverage in forestry specific elements, including international activities.

It was agreed that the sector should focus on its own areas of specialised interest such as silviculture (planting, pruning) and harvesting operations, especially in log forwarding.

Professor Visser has been

commissioned to undertake an international scan of the current state of robotic systems in the forestry sector.

Drones, or unmanned aerial vehicles, are also benefiting forest management, capturing low-elevation imagery. Drones flying over hazards is not only safer, but more cost effective and time efficient. They are able cover distances a lot more quickly than humans with estimates the technology is 300% more productive than a traditional ground surveying crew.

Meanwhile, China-based Rex Sham, co-founder and chief scientist at Insight Robotics, is using his ingenious, WALL-E-like fire-detecting robots to “save the planet.” An automated early warning system combines a high-precision, pan-tilt robot with thermal imaging sensors and advanced artificial intelligence vision technology. In tests, the Guangdong Academy of Forestry has recorded a 100% detection rate in multiple field trials and deployments.

On the cover... Drones capture low-elevation imagery in the forest.

“AUTOMATION ADDRESSES THE POTENTIAL SKILLS SHORTAGE”

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Picanto a ripsnorter hatch that punches above its weight on city or country roads

PICANTO? Italian word?

No. The closest we got was Picante, a Spanish adjective to describe something 'spicy' or something that has a 'sting' to it.

Well, the new Kia Picanto certainly has a sting in its tail, a little ripsnorter city car with a 'spiced' up engine that punches well above its weight – just 976 kg.

Many car makers often choose model names that have no literal meaning in any language so they can sell the car in any world market without having to change the name.

Fashion-conscious Peter Schreyer, Kia's German-born chief designer who contributed to the shape and style of the Audi TT, maintained Picanto's iconic tiger nose grille in the 2017 S model, a 'face' that has been around for a decade.

Schreyer is known for wearing all-black clothing, black French Philippe Starck eyeglasses and for a "competitive, inventive and analytic" nature, which is reflected in most of the Kia range of cars.

With the new-generation Picanto comes high expectations, and Schreyer brings a revised exterior design, new technology, more features and an updated cabin, while the drive-train remains unchanged.

The single specification Picanto S has a 1.25-litre four cylinder petrol engine teamed with either a four-speed automatic transmission or a five-speed manual. Our test car was the automatic variant with a \$15,690 driveway price.



1/ *Kia Picanto S...new technology, more features.*

2/ *In the cabin...the front is spacious for the driver and passenger.*

Kia's cheapest car comes with five doors as standard, but you can choose between two petrol engines and you can even have an automatic gearbox.

The new design – 3595 mm long, 1595mm wide and 1485 mm tall – gives the Picanto an easy turning radius of just 4.7 m – great for quick (legal) U-turns and for squeezing into the smallest parking space. But watch the nose clearance on those kerbs – it's only 141 mm.

Exterior features include electric and heated wing mirrors dusk sensing auto headlights and rear fog lights. Safety is assured with

anti-lock braking system, electronic stability control, vehicle stability management, hill-start assist control, seat belt reminders on all positions, rear-view camera with guidelines and rear parking sensors.

The Picanto has one of the bigger boots in the city car class, and can cope with a weekly shopping load far better than most. The space itself is deep rather than

particularly long, and there's a high load lip to negotiate

Passive safety includes front and passenger airbags and front side and curtain airbags.

An infotainment system, delivered by way of a 7 in. touch screen with Apple CarPlay and Android Auto and Bluetooth connectivity adds to Picanto's appeal.

The front is spacious for the driver and passenger with generous space in the second row. Five of us enjoyed a comfortable ride to the NSW Tweed Valley. There's also three headrests, three seatbelts and ISOFIX child-seat anchors.

In-car storage is taken care of by a large glovebox, plus bottle holders in the doors and a selection of open trays for phones and keys.

Our Brisbane-Tweed round country trip returned around 6 litres/100 km. Claimed combined fuel consumption is 5.8 litres/100 km and 7.9 litres/100 km city driving so our 295 km Brisbane-Mount Warning round trip via the M1 was on the money and we had many steep roads to climb.

So what else? Well, there's Kia's unbeatable seven-year, unlimited kilometre warranty. With yearly/ 15,000 km service intervals (averaging about \$300) the value represents a very tempting offer.

Style: micro hatchback; price: \$14,190 (plus on-road costs); engine/trans: 62kW/122Nm 1.25 four-cylinder petrol, five-speed manual; warranty: seven years/unlimited kilometres.

“KIA'S NEW HATCH COMES WITH HIGH EXPECTATIONS”

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Skills/Abilities

- Possession of an Engineering (mechatronics preferred) degree or equivalent qualification in a field relevant to the position.
- Experience in materials science, product performance testing, engineered wood products, composite product manufacture, forest product industry is desirable.
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For further information about this position contact Rob McGavin

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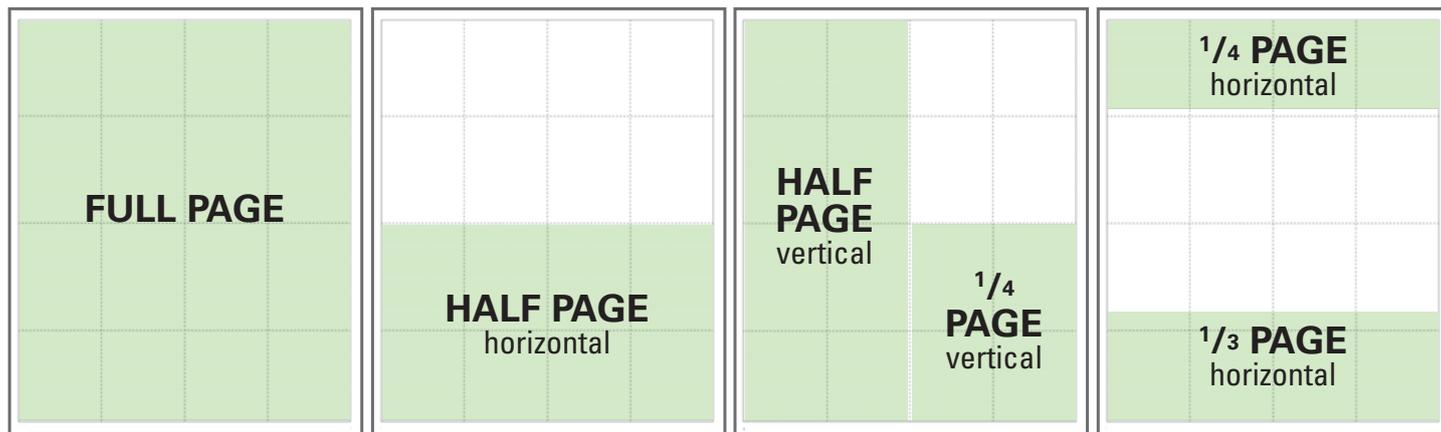
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DEADLINES

Display ads: Book by 10am Wednesday prior to publication

Supply artwork: Thursday 12 noon prior to publication. jpg or pdf to our specifications with no crop marks or bleed.

Job seek ad content: Book and supply text copy by 4pm Thursday prior to publication

TERMS

New clients invoiced on booking. Existing clients 14 days.

WHO TO CONTACT

Press releases: e: news@timberandforestryenews.com | **Ad bookings:** e: advertising@timberandforestryenews.com

Accounts: e: kylie@rbgprivate.com | **Free subscription:** www.timberandforestryenews.com