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Room to grow timber business in Queensland

COVER STORY P2

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AND HARDWOOD
PLANTATIONS
OPPORTUNITIES



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Queensland forest industry: a bright, enthusiastic future

Doing timber business in Queensland highlights opportunities

IN addressing the 160 delegates at the Timber Queensland conference last week, chief executive Mick Stevens was optimistic and enthusiastic about the future prospects for forest-based industries in Queensland.

At its second biennial conference Mick reaffirmed that Timber Queensland was working on the development of a new timber industry plan in partnership with the Queensland government to help guide and deliver on the opportunities for industry expansion over the next decade.

The makeup of such a plan was a particular focus of discussions at the Doing Timber Business in Queensland: Room to Grow conference.

In opening the conference

**“NEW TIMBER
INDUSTRY PLAN
UNDER
DEVELOPMENT**



Mark Furer, Queensland Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Mick Stevens open the second biennial Timber Queensland conference.

Mick stressed the central attributes of the forest industry in Queensland as being: “jobs, regional growth, renewable, carbon friendly, innovative and value added.”

He said it was becoming apparent that the state of Queensland offered perhaps the greatest opportunities for forest-based industry

expansion in the country.

“The opportunities for growth are significant and reflect the extent and diversity of the state’s timber industry, that can draw upon existing and future potential resources from softwood plantations, crown forest resources, indigenous forestry development, farm

forestry and private native forest management.”

Mick said that in addition to the 350,000 hectares of world class plantations throughout the state, both softwood and hardwood managed by HQPlantations and producing about 2.5

Cont P 3



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From P 2

million cubic metres of logs annually, Queensland was characterised by a diverse forest resource.

"This diversity is reinforced by the capacity to supply 285,000 cubic metres of hardwoods and 120,000 cubic metres of cypress pine a year. So, diversity across the regions and with privately-owned native forest an important key for future development."

He added that it was also becoming widely acknowledged that the management of native hardwood forests, particularly on private land and the value-added processing of hardwood timber products is perhaps the biggest latent opportunity in the state.

Mick said that a modest, readily achievable increase in productivity across just a third of the privately-owned native forest of 1-2 cubic metres a year could generate 50,000 to 125,000 cubic metres of additional sawlogs a year.

"Of enormous potential in Queensland is the prospect of improving the productivity and utilisation of this privately-owned hardwood forest resource, coupled with the prospect of hardwood plantation expansion across northern Australia," he said.

"Certainly, significant challenges exist related to logistics, climatic conditions, technical tree growing and transport, but the opportunity to work collaboratively with indigenous land owners and others to expand hardwood plantations across northern Australia is a huge and exciting opportunity not available elsewhere in the country."

Mick confirmed that the forest-based industry has



Benjamin Francis, winner of the SmartForests18 award is congratulated by Mick Stephens, CEO of Timber Queensland.

received wide recognition from the state's Premier down. Such recognition of the importance of the industry to the state and its growth potential was reinforced by the opening address at Timber Queensland's conference by the new Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries, Mark Furner.

**“CONFERENCE
FOCUS ON
OPPORTUNITIES
FOR INDUSTRY
GROWTH**

"Indeed, a major focus of the conference is on the opportunities for industry growth, given the demand for timber as a renewable and carbon friendly material and its innovative use in the emerging markets of mid-rise and high-rise construction," Mick said.

"What we have in Queensland is essentially a supply chain challenge, in terms of tapping into opportunities for resource expansion through higher volumes and wood quality in our major resource regions, as well as through technical

innovation and increased product yield and recovery.

"In 2018, its time for a renewed focus on resource development and manufacturing competitiveness, including through better resource security, energy savings, infrastructure, value adding initiatives and training capability," he said.

"This is fully consistent with the Palaszczuk Government's election commitment to secure future supplies and create additional value from the timber industry. We look forward to working with Minister Furner and his Parliamentary colleagues in implementing this policy agenda and generating new investment.

"Particular actions that can help drive these changes include our proposal for a decade long \$10 million Farm Forestry development initiative and call for a new forestry harvesting and haulage training centre in Maryborough, amongst other measures," Mick said.

More pics on P4.

• **Further coverage of the Timber Queensland conference in next week's issue**

Cont P 4



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From P 3



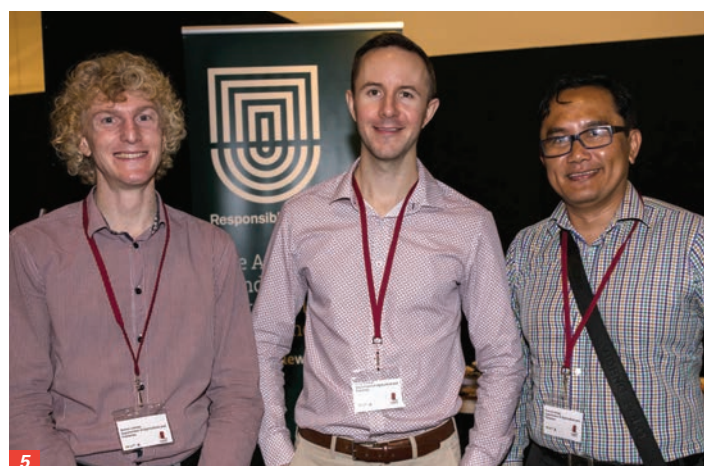
- 1/ Colin Taverner of CHH LVL operations catches up with Queensland timber industry identity Tim Evans.
- 2/ Curly Tatnell, DTM Timber with Margo Bryce, Branch95... promoting the virtues of Far North Queensland Timber.
- 3/ John Halkett, co-publisher of Timber & Forestry enews shares a moment with Steve Worley, Group Manager, Marketing HQPlantations.
- 4/ Ross Rippingdale of Ripple Building Consultants chats with Bruce Waltisbuhl from AustSafe Super.
- 5/ Departmental safety... Simon James, Cory Scherer and Francis Anog, all from the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries.
- 6/ Mark Blackberry and Dirk Koeppen from the Sunchip Group comparing notes with Denelle Hodges, ABC Training and Consultancy.



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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. Contact Kevin Ezard, Frame Australia conference director, on 0419 538 638. Email: kevin@frameaustralia.com Visit www.frameaustralia.com

20: AFPA Parliamentary Friends of Forestry and Forest Industries Dinner – Mural Hall, Parliament House, Canberra. 6pm. Contact: (02) 6285 3833.

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

20-22: WoodSolutions tour for building professionals – Melbourne, Wodonga, Sydney. The tour commences in Melbourne, travelling by

coach to Wodonga to see XLAM's CLT plant. Following this, flights to Sydney have been arranged as well as overnight accommodation, if required. The tour continues June 21 and 22 inspecting many buildings currently being constructed or recently completed in and around Sydney. Buildings range from CLT timber apartments, offices, schools and community halls as well as a laminated veneer lumber industrial shed and a 6-storey timber-framed apartment building. Contact (02) 8920 0446 or info@tdansw.asn.au

JULY

4-7: AWISA 2018 – ICC Sydney Exhibition Centre, Darling Harbour Sydney.

Australia's largest ever exhibition of woodworking technology and design at Sydney's exciting new multi-level venue. Machinery, tooling, software, materials, fittings and services for the wood and panel processing industries.

Visit www.awisa.com

12-14: Inaugural 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

2-5: IFA and AFG conference

– *University House, Australian National University.* Titled 'Forests for healthy cities, farms and people'. Title 'Forests for healthy cities, farms and people'. It will be preceded by AFG's pre-conference tour from Friday, August 31, to Sunday, September 2. Contact: (02) 6153 3044 or visit www.forestry.org.au

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

18-19: FIEA Woodech 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

1-3: NZ forest-wood conference and optional field trip – Wairakei Resort, Taupo. Theme: 'Does the NZ industry have to be world class to compete in the world?' One-and-half day conference, followed by one-and-half field Trip with nine Central North Island industry and industry-related site visits. Pre-conference afternoon / dinner cruise on Lake Taupo. Contact Julie Bell admin@dana.co.nz or visit www.danaevents.co.nz/2018taupo/

10-12: Australian forest-wood processing conference and optional field trip – Hotel Grand Chancellor, Launceston. One-and-half day conference, one-and-half day field Trip. Contact Julie Bell admin@dana.co.nz or www.danaevents.co.nz/2018tas/

19: Victorian Association of Forest Industries annual dinner – RACV Club, Melbourne. Tickets available from VAFI in July. Contact VAFI on (03) 9611 9000 or info@vafi.org.au

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



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MAY

1-2: 5th annual RISI-DANA International Forest Investment Conference

– *New York City*. See: www.risi.com/invest
Email: conferences@risi.com
Tel: + 866.271.8525, + 32.2.536.0748

8-10: Fifth Session of the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Forest Genetic Resources – Italy, FAO HQ, Rome.

Consider the situation and issues related to forest genetic resources, to advise and make recommendations, and to consider the progress made in implementing the work program. See: www.fao.org/forestry/86904/en/
Email: FO-ITWG-FGR@fao.org

21-25: International Conference on Ozone and Plant Ecosystems

– *Florence, Italy*. This conference will allow all experts in the interactions between ozone and plant ecosystems to meet and discuss the state of the art and the strategies for continuous improvements. See: www.conference2018.wixsite.com/ozoneandplants
Email: ozoneandplants2018@gmail.com

JUNE

3-9: 3rd DANA China wood industry tour – China.

Manzhouli on Russia-China

border, and Chongqing port and wood processing site visits, and to Chengdu Panda Breeding Centre. For further information, see: www.danaevents.co.nz
Email: admin@dana.co.nz
Tel: + 647 3492764
Skype: [admin.dana1](https://www.skype.com/user/admin.dana1)

SEPTEMBER

16-17: 8th China Global Wood Trade Conference and Tour – Chongqing, China.

FEA Canada and China Timber & Wood Products Distribution Association. This will be the fourth joint-conference that both groups have been collaborated. The 2018 event is expected to set record attendance levels. See: www.woodmarkets.com/conference/conferences-china/2018-china-global-wood-trade-conference/

17-21: RISI Tenth International Woodfibre Trade Conference – Durban, South Africa.

See: www.events.risiinfo.com/wood-fiber/
Email: conferences@risi.com
Tel: + 866.271.8525, + 32.2.536.0748

17-21: Managing Eucalyptus plantations under global changes – Le Corum, Montpellier, France IUFRO.

Improving resource use efficiency in eucalypt plantations. See: www.iufro.org and www.cirad.fr

25-26: FSC Asia Pacific Business Forum 2018 – Mumbai, India.

Email: info@au.fsc.org

OCTOBER

18-20: Timber Legality Research Symposium – University of Copenhagen, Copenhagen, Denmark.

To be held in association with the Forests & Livelihoods: Assessment, Research, and Engagement network. See: www.globaltimbertrackingnetwork.org/event/timber-legality-research-symposium
Email: cph@ifro.ku.dk

23-27: 4th International Congress on Planted Forests – Nanning, Guangxi, China.

Congress aims to investigate the contribution of planted forests to green development in the context of global changes. Topics will include the sustainability of planted forests in the context of changing climates and the future role of planted forests in bio-resources sustainability, environmental protection and green development. See: www.efiatlantic.efi.int/portal/events/
Email: christophe.orazio@efi.int

NOVEMBER

5-10: 54th Session of the International Tropical Timber Council and Sessions of the Associated Committees

– *Yokohama, Kanagawa, Japan*. ITTO Secretariat. See: www.itto.int/workshop_detail
Email: itto@itto.int
Tel: +81-45-223-1110

12-17: 2nd DANA 2-day Central America and Andes Forestry Sector Investment Conference – Cancun Mexico. With 2-day optional pre-conference field trip to teak and eucalyptus plantations; a large modern MDF mill in Villahermosa region; and a 2-day optional post-conference tour to Mayan archaeological and recreational sites. For further information: www.danaevents.co.nz/2018mexico/

12-18: XI International Workshop on Uneven-aged Silviculture: Challenges for increasing adaptability

– *Valdivia, Chile*. Uneven-aged silviculture is attracting increased interest due to its positive effects upon carbon sequestration, biodiversity, landscapes, and in its ability to provide a range of goods and services from managed forest ecosystems. Do uneven-aged forests have better options for adaptation to these future changes? See: www.uas.uach.cl/2018
Email: pdonosu@uach.cl

• Please send any events listings to johnh@timberandforestryenews.com



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Anne Ruston



Jacki Schirmer



Prof. Kate Auty



Fiona Simson



Kenneth Er



Kathryn Williams



Dr Graham Farquhar

Exciting line-up of speakers announced for combined conference

IN what is likely to be a major drawcard for prospective attendees, lead speakers for the combined Canberra forest conference to be hosted by the Institute of Foresters - Australian Forest Growers, have just been announced.

An exciting line-up of speakers for the 2018 Joint Institute of Foresters - Australian Forest Growers conference: Forests for healthy cities, farms and people to be held at University House, ANU, Canberra on 2-5 September 2018 has been confirmed.

Speakers will address the major conference themes which are:

1. The increasing importance of urban forests in our growing cities.



**INSTITUTE OF FORESTERS
OF AUSTRALIA**

2. The continuing importance of trees on farms for productive and sustainable rural landscapes.

3. Our increasing understanding of the links between healthy tree-scapes and healthy people.

Speakers confirmed to date to address the joint conference are:

- **Senator Anne Ruston**, Assistant Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources.

- **Jacki Schirmer**, Associate Professor at the University of Canberra.

- **Professor Kate Auty**, ACT Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment.

- **Fiona Simson**, President

**“LINE-UP OF
INSPIRING
GUEST
SPEAKERS**




of the National Farmers' Federation.

- **Kenneth Er**, Chief Executive Officer of Singapore National Parks Board.

- **Kathryn Williams**, Associate Professor in environmental psychology at the University of Melbourne.

- **Dr Graham Farquhar**, Distinguished Professor at ANU and 2018 Senior Australian of the Year




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Queensland minister sees standout opportunities for forestry

Timber industry has important contribution to make

THE timber industry in Queensland is a standout in the state confirmed the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries, Mark Furner in delivering the opening address at the Timber Queensland conference Doing Timber Business in Queensland: Room to Grow.

He said the forest industry was an integral part of Queensland's history and a major source of jobs and income across the state.

"I firmly believe that the timber industry has an important contribution to make to the success of our state, both now and into the future."

He said the conference's theme of 'Room to grow' lines up with our Premier, Annastacia Palaszczuk's view of Queensland – a state, and economy, full of growth potential.

"We've seen it every day of the last fortnight at the Commonwealth Games.

Thousands of visitors from Queensland, interstate and abroad have seen our sights and experienced our renowned hospitality."

Mr Furner highlighted the broader benefits to Queensland's manufacturing industries from Queensland's successful bid for the Land 400 military vehicle contract.

"The Rheinmetall Defence Australia project is expected to deliver 450 advanced manufacturing and engineering jobs for Queenslanders and pump \$1 billion into the state's economy in the first 10 years," he said.

He stated that regional centres will benefit from the opportunity to bid for key manufacturing and service contracts and from a military vehicle centre of excellence.

Mr Furner confirmed that the forest and timber industry is and will continue to make an important contribution to the economy of the state.

"I congratulate Associated Kiln Dried Softwoods for



Mark Furner, Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries... outlined opportunities for industry in conference opening address.

recently purchasing the Carter Holt Harvey sawmill at Caboolture. I trust that this will be a very successful venture. I also congratulate the OJI Paper Company who recently opened a new cardboard manufacturing plant at Yatala," he said.

Mr Furner stressed that the forest industry needed to sell its conservation and stewardship credentials as an asset – while acknowledging industry's role as a regional employer.


He endorsed a recent Forest and Wood Products Australia report that provides a useful estimate of the sector's performance.

"According to the report, timber growing and primary processing sectors of the Queensland forest and timber industry directly employ around 3,300 people and generate an estimated value of \$685 million a year for the Queensland economy."


"There are another 5,100 people employed in businesses undertaking secondary processing or adding additional value to wood products in Queensland beyond the primary processing stage. In addition, the Queensland forest and timber industry also generates a further 3,300 indirect jobs in other sectors that provide the industry with a range of products and services."

Addressing native forests issues, Mr Furner said he was committed to promoting the

Cont P.9



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From P 8

future of timber production in state-owned native forests.

"This issue was included in my ministerial charter letter from the Premier. I will be working to develop appropriate policy settings in consultation with my ministerial colleagues and industry and I encourage you to raise your views with me and my staff, as well as with Mick Stevens and Timber Queensland."

Mr Furner confirmed that Queensland has recently raised the issue of native log exporting at recent meetings of forestry ministers from across Australia and New Zealand given concerns about the potential adverse impact of these exports on the local timber processing sector.

"But it's a challenging issue and no doubt will continue to be debated by different interests in the sector."

The minister said he was keen to learn about industry progress. "I want to hear about your success stories as well, and promote industry leadership – whether it's delivering jobs, new products or new markets. As your minister, I want to be an advocate for your industry within government."

He said he wanted to ensure that government policy is providing the forest and timber industry with certainty for investment and innovation.

Mr Furner went on to provide conference delegated with an update on some relevant and major government initiatives. He detailed the Buy Queensland initiative launched by the Queensland Government in 2017. He said Buy Queensland is focusing on using the government's procurement spend to support local jobs and businesses.

"This approach adds



1

emphasis to non-price criteria in recognition of local enterprises, depending on the tender.

These criteria include emphasis on local jobs and supply chains, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander engagement, the use of local contractors, manufacturers, and apprentices," the minister said.

"We will prioritise the use of truly local suppliers that maintain a workforce whose usual place of residency is within a 125kilometres radius of where the good or service is to be supplied."

The minister also noted that some councils have also adopted a 'Wood First' policy. "To give you an idea of the scope of the program, I am advised that the Government's spend on building, construction and maintenance – not including roads – was \$3.1 billion in 2016-17."

He went on to also detail the Advance Queensland program. "This is a \$518 million initiative to diversify Queensland's economy, create the jobs of the future and build Queensland's reputation as a global innovation and investment destination."

Mr Furner concluded in complementing the forestry



2

research being undertaken by DAF to support the industry.

"Over the past six years the Queensland government has collaborated with your industry through Timber Queensland,

1/ **Substantial additional wood processing and value adding manufacturing growth in Queensland.**

2/ **Engineered timber roofing structure... local suppliers and 'Wood First' policies highlighted.**

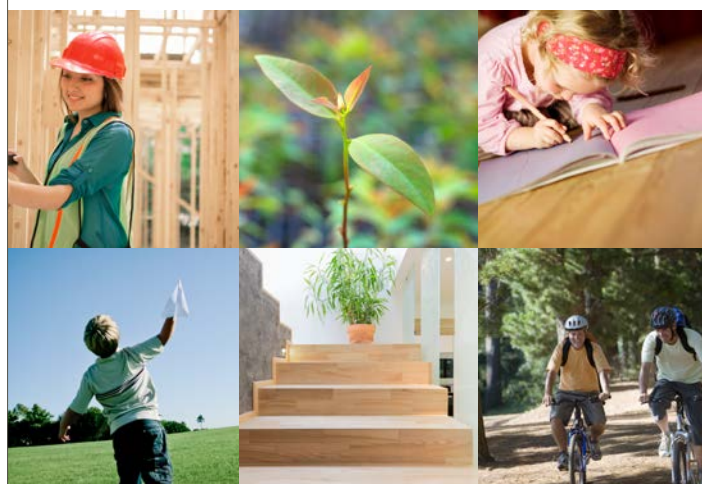
and I want to congratulate the forest and timber industry on working with the Queensland Government to support and deliver these important achievements.

"DAF is celebrating 100 years of wood product research in 2018, and I congratulate the staff on this milestone.

"I reaffirm my commitment to work with you to deliver good outcomes for the industry and for communities it supports," the minister concluded.

On the cover: Young teak plantation in northern Queensland... a government commitment to promoting the future of timber production in state-owned native forests.

The united voice for Australia's forest industries



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TABMA advanced training programs an opportunity for frame, truss sector

TABMA Training has announced that NSW State Training Services through Smart and Skilled funding have allocated a budget for existing worker funding at the Certificate IV level in four qualifications.

The qualifications are:

- BSB42015 Certificate IV in Leadership and Management.
- BSB40615 Certificate IV in Business Sales.
- FWP40416 Certificate IV in Timber Truss and Frame Design.
- FWP40316 Certificate IV in Timber Truss and Frame Manufacture.

TABMA CEO Colin Fitzpatrick said the programs were for existing workers



1/ **TABMA scholarships... inspiring frame and truss workers.**
2/ **Colin Fitzpatrick... exciting opportunity to develop industry skills.**

(subject to eligibility criteria) who would like to commence their studies by June 30.

New South Wales, Mr Fitzpatrick said.

"As a commitment to encouraging all aspiring supervisors and team leaders, plant supervisors and estimators and detailers to enrol in the programs, the TABMA group is offering four scholarships that will cover the employer / student contribution fees for each program," Mr Fitzpatrick said.

TABMA GROUP IS OFFERING 4 SCHOLARSHIPS



"This is an exciting opportunity to further develop the management, sales and frame and truss skill sets of existing workers in our industry."

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Exporting a rare tree-t for Canada celebration

A WOLLEMI pine, a living fossil and one of the world's oldest and rarest tree species, has been bequeathed to the Canadian people as a gift to mark 150 years since the Canadian Confederation in 1867.

The Wollemi pine was thought to be extinct, until it was rediscovered in New South Wales in 1994 – previously known only through 90 to 200 million year old fossils.

Dr Marion Healy, head

of plant biosecurity at the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources, congratulated the people of Canada on reaching this milestone and highlighted the behind-the-scenes work that allowed the pine to travel safely around the world.

"This tree spent the first seven years of its life at the Australian National Botanic Gardens in Canberra where it grew to a height of 2 m – only a fraction of its potential height of 40 m," Dr Healy said.

Crosscutting accuracy for leading frame and truss manufacturer

ICONIC Sydney timber industry company Belmont Timber has improved its frame and truss manufacturing operation with the addition of a Holtec chainsaw-based crosscut system to its sophisticated, automated machinery armoury.

Belmont Timber managing director Gary Walker says their Holtec crosscut chainsaw does whole packs at a time to a precision of a millimetre.

“Real advantages are its precision to tiny tolerances that allowed us to utilise 2.4 metre lengths, rather than the 2.7 lengths we had to use before.”

“So, a significant saving on timber purchasing costs, less waste and now our crosscut station is operated by a single person, rather than two needed to operate our old crosscut machine.”

There is no doubt that sawmills and timber yards are where the opportunity begins for value adding and cost savings. It is in this area that Holtec offer solutions that improve quality, operating efficiency and a better bottom line.

From mobile chainsaws to CNC-controlled crosscut stations – for over 35 years Holtec chainsaw-based crosscut systems have been renowned around the world for precision and reliability.

Holtec manager in New Zealand, Peter Cooper, also with responsibilities for Australia, confirms that the company has experienced service technicians available both sides of the Tasman to



John Rogers and Gary Walker with operator Steve Fry (rear)... show off their Holtec chainsaw crosscut station.

supply and install equipment. “After commissioning they also provide comprehensive training for operators.”

Holtec offers a diverse range of chainsaw-based systems from the handy, precise and useable everywhere – Holtec mobile chainsaws that should be present at any sawmill or timber yard for executing clean cuts and first rough length cutting.

“You are able to increase the quality of your packages so easily and reliably. Holtec offers the correct chain for each application. A perfect cut every time for finished timber, logs, paper, gypsum plates, chipboard, plastic material, firewood and graphite rods,” says Peter.

Located in Sydney’s western suburb of Fairfield long established Belmont Timber is a traditional and highly respected company in the timber industry. They have a diverse business practice but specialise in precision

cut-to-length products for their in-house frame and truss manufacturing line, reputed to be one of the best in NSW.

In August 2017 Belmont Timber took delivery of their Holtec positioning crosscut station. Operations manager John Rogers says Holtec technicians arranged the transport, installed and commissioned the system, and also provided operator training and any backup needed.”

“HOLTEC SAW EXCEEDED EXPECTATIONS”

He said the Holtec saw had well-and-truly exceeded their expectations. “We have much improved product quality, less waste to dispose of that amounts to savings in terms of timber purchase and operating labour costs.”

“Yes, we are very happy with the machine and support

from Holtec,” adds Gary Walker.

Holtec’s Peter Cooper says that positioning crosscut saws allow stationary timber packs to be cut to the required length – to the millimetre. “This system is well proven with more than 5000 working worldwide. This and other Holtec systems are well proved to increase productivity, cutting precision and lower labour costs.”

Some key features of the system installed at Belmont Timber include a cutting accuracy of a millimetre; even cutting force distribution for perfect cross-sections; safe, easy operation; ability for positioning and cutting function manually, hydraulically and electrically; systems lengths up to 21 metres and waste evacuation system.

There isn’t space here to cover all the Holtec product range so have a look at the complete range of crosscut products at: www.holtec.org

Forecasting, where robust analysis meets instinct and experience

Production scheduling, inventory control, delivery lead times need planning

FORECASTING can be seen as part of the commercial “black arts” where robust analysis meets instinct and experience. Economists deal with this by referencing time-frames which are well over the horizon. This generated the famous quote from John Maynard Keynes that ‘in the long run we will all be dead’.

But businesses don’t have that luxury. Production scheduling, inventory control, delivery lead times all require planning which in turn requires an understanding of demand in the here and now.

The FWPA data aggregation program is aimed at improving company’s access to more timely and accurate information to assist operational and investment decision making. The aggregating through a confidential on-line portal of individual company data means practical information is available in such areas as monthly sales by product segment, productivity and safety. These more detailed data sets complement the work undertaken at the national level by ABARES.

As the program becomes more established the data sets become more stable and enable more complex analysis and modelling. A good example reflecting this partnership with ABARES is the quarterly forecasts for softwood timber sales.

Based on the softwood

FOCUS ON FORESTS



By JIM HOUGHTON

confidence level. The full report on the January forecasts can be found at www.fwpa.com.au/statistics-count-newsletter

This type of analytical work has been expanded to look at the price elasticities of demand for locally produced structural pine in relation to imports and also steel. This ABARES report will be published shortly and

products. These findings provide insight into practical operational decisions and the effect in terms of the substitution in the market between products.

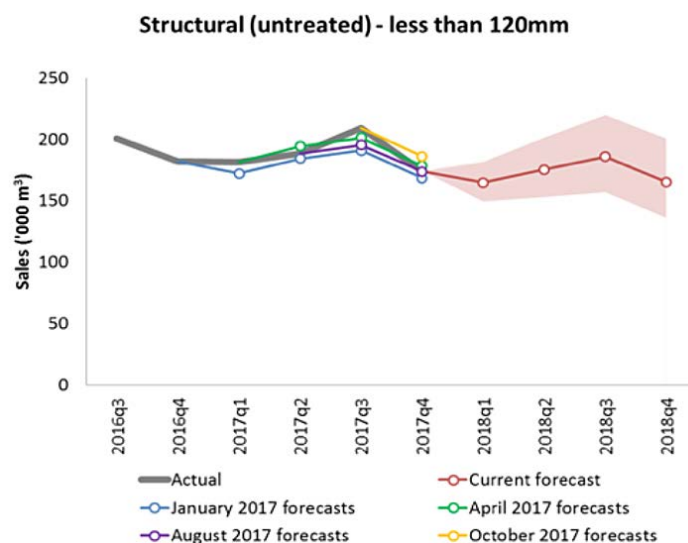
The Holy Grail in forecasting is of course being able to identify the turning points (downturns and upturns) in the business cycle. This is where the interconnections in the economy come to bear. The big driver for our industry is obviously housing approvals which is where the pipeline of construction activity starts.

So the big money question is what influences the approvals? Assessing the data which might influence approvals is the type of project being considered within the next 3 year industry/ABARES work program. A draft program has been prepared for industry consideration through an FWPA interest group.

If you want to get involved please contact Jim Houghton direct and he will provide you with a registration link for the interest group.

• *Jim Houghton is statistics and economics manager at Forest and Wood Products Australia.*

SOFTWOOD TIMBER SALES



Forecasting is being able to identify turning points in the business cycle.

timber sales data series which covers some 90% of Australia’s monthly softwood sales ABARES have developed a rolling 4 quarter outlook. For the technically interested the methodology can be found at www.agriculture.gov.au/abares

The forecasts commenced in late 2016 and the rolling results compared to actual (grey line as seen in the graph) have been reliable falling within the 95%

attempts to quantify the impact that a 1% change in price of domestically produced structural timber will have on overall demand as well as imports and other

“BIG DRIVER FOR TIMBER SALES STARTS WITH INFLUENCES ON HOUSING APPROVALS

Let's stop logging truck rollovers

Rollovers and collisions with third parties a significant concern for industry

MOVES to strengthen log haulage safety was the theme of a presentation delivered by Australian Forest Contractors Association (AFCA) general manager Stacy Gardiner and chairman Adan Taylor at the Timber Queensland Doing Timber Business in Queensland: Room to Grow conference in Brisbane.

Stacey said all parties in the log transport supply chain have a responsibility to proactively manage risk and ensure safety, rather than only reacting after something happens.

It is clear that across Australia the heavy vehicle industry plays a critical role in delivering Australia's increasing freight task and continues to support the nation's economic growth and prosperity.

However, with this increasing workload come added challenges for transport operators and all parties in the supply chain, as well as additional expenses and competition, and demanding schedules and regulatory requirements.

Stacy Gardiner reaffirmed that as these industry demands grow, so too does the potential for hazards that create risk which can result in harm or loss to all parties in the transport supply chain and the wider community.

"These hazards can also lead to serious damage to property and impact the day-to-day operation and reputation of the business."

"Heavy vehicle crashes and fatalities frequently make it into the national television news bulletins. Spectacular log

truck rollovers and collisions have featured and do little for the reputation of the wider industry. Such accidents cause public alarm and often point to driver fatigue, poor truck maintenance and non-compliance with road safety regulations," she said.

The National Heavy Vehicle Regulator (NHVR) has developed new framework which encourages industry groups to work with them to develop voluntary registered codes of practice applicable to specific industry circumstances. The NHVR released an introduction and guidelines in January 2017 to support those industry sectors wishing to undertake the development of a specific code of practice.

The AFCA has taken the lead role in developing a code of practice for the forest industry sector. "We have a responsibility to ensure the supply chain; particularly log haulage is conducted in a safe and efficient manner," Stacey said.

"Given the importance of safety to our industry, and the risk associated with log transport it is important for industry to consider and agree on national best practice



Adan Taylor and Stacy Gardiner... leading action of logging truck safety code of practice.

approach for log haulage and provide guidance on the steps. Our overall objective is to improve and support safety outcomes and drive best practice in log haulage."

Stacy advised that she expected that the log haulage code of practice will identify and assess the risks along the supply chain for log haulage and establish standards and procedures to mitigate these risks

"The log haulage code of practice will specifically cover the haulage of logs and specifically consider risks relating to loading, log restraint, rollover prevention and unloading and safe driving practices." This means that it will also consider all those within the supply chain that have a role to play including, landowners, forest managers, harvesters, transport companies, processors and port operators."

The Australian Forest Products Association is providing funding for half of the project and Forest and

Wood Products Australia will be providing additional funding to support the code of practice preparation project.

Risk assessment workshops held in November and December 2017 provided additional insight into the different types of incident events, as well as their frequency and severity. Risk to be detailed and mitigated in the code of practice will be:

- Partial loss of load
- Loss of control of logs during loading and unloading
- Loss of debris
- Manual handling
- Rollover and/or full loss of load
- Third party collision and crashes
- Loss of control of the vehicle
- Load shift

Stacey advised that the incidence of logging truck rollovers was a significant concern for the industry, as were collisions with third parties. She also identified vehicle maintenance standards, equipment design and maintenance, inadequate driver training, load restraints and social licence was matters to be address on detail in the draft code.

For additional information about the preparation of the forest sector code of practice and background info see the AFCA website at www.afca.asn.au/log-haulage-cop



Spectacular log truck rollovers and collisions do little for the reputation of the wider industry.

Teak furniture and so much more

DON'T let the angelic blue eyes and blonde hair appearance fool you – with her diverse, hard-won and successful business background this lady is as tough-as-teak.

Multilingual, international citizen Helle Albertsen is the managing director of Cotswold Furniture in Australia. Helle has internationally renowned credentials in furniture design and manufacturing, plus business and diplomatic skills. She sits in an almost unequalled position in Australia's top end, booming furniture and interior design industry. She has pushed the Cotswold teak furniture and Vincent Sheppard labels on to centre stage, but still has ambitious plans for further expansion.



Helle has an unbelievable personal curriculum vitae. Born in Greenland, schooled in Nigeria until the age of 13 where her Danish father worked as an engineer. Then spending time at the age of 17 working on the kibbutz in Israel, then in the United Kingdom. Tertiary educated in business administration in Denmark, her initial foray

into the furniture industry happen in London where she worked at the top end of furniture design and sales. Further honing her business and diplomatic skills she also spends so time working for the Danish Embassy in London.

Her first encounter with then Burma was in 1994. "I loved it!" So, with husband

1/ Cotswold teak furniture on display in the new Alexandria showroom in Sydney.

2/ Vincent Sheppard and Cotswold Furniture showrooms now located in interior design hubs in Sydney and Brisbane to service interior designers and landscape architects.

Richard they set up a factory making furniture and other products out of teak.

Because of her background and skills, she also had a stint working for the Danish Embassy in Jakarta in 1997.

Cont P 15

Conference & Field Trip | 2018 DANA NZ Forest / Wood Products

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From P 14

She returned to Yangon in 1999 – back into the furniture business manufacturing a range of teak furniture for German, United Kingdom and other international customers, including Cotswold.

In July 2014 Helle moved to Indonesia where she was the managing director of the Vincent Sheppard furniture factory employing a workforce of 380. Having negotiated a collaborative business relationship between Belgium-based Vincent Sheppard and Cotswold Furniture, Helle came to Australia in 2016 where she set about establishing a strong business presence in the high-quality end of the furniture trade.

She opened the new Cotswold Furniture showroom in Alexandria, Sydney in January 2017, and the new Brisbane showroom



Helle Albertsen,
managing
director of
Vincent
Sheppard labels
and Cotswold
Teak Furniture.

in Fortitude Valley, Brisbane in August 2017. These two showrooms are located in interior design hubs, and although about half of her sales are to retail customers, Helle pays significant attention to interior designers and landscape architect clients.

“Our Cotswold teak furniture collection, as well as the Vincent Sheppard range and Made in the Shade umbrellas are now all on display in our showrooms,” said Helle.

Teak is one of the world’s most recognised

and renowned timbers – exceptionally durable, stable, strong and attractive. In the 1930’s well known English architect and industrial designer Oliver Bernard said of teak. “The characteristics of teak are of infinite variety that if I were compelled to reply on one timber for everything, teak would be my choice.”

Founded in 1981 Cotswold Furniture has been a leader in the furniture industry ever since. Helle said Cotswold Furniture services Australia with high quality, durable and outstanding crafted furniture.

“In addition to our retail customers we have a long and productive relationship with our commercial clients.”

“Our superior quality teak outdoor collection is made from A Grade Burmese teak. The fine workmanship and attention to detail ensure that this range can withstand the harsh Australian climate and is ideal in courtyards, gardens and public spaces,” she said.

Helle is thorough in ensuring that diligence guidelines and procedures in place for all Cotswold and Vincent Sheppard imported furniture lines subject to the requirements of the Australian illegal logging regulation. She is also moving to ensure, that as far as possible, her timber sourcing used in the manufacture of wooden furniture is third party certified. So expect this tough-as-teak lady to make a real impact on Australia’s top end furniture industry.

Snap to it. Photo contest will be forest experience.

Responsible Wood is again promoting a nation-wide photo contest, aimed at further raising awareness of the importance of sustainable forest management and certification. The contest theme – ‘experience forests, experience PEFC’ – enables participants to submit photos that fit this theme. This could embrace many topics, from forest landscapes to individual trees and plants, from harvesters to families hiking in the woods, from indigenous people to rural village life, from wooden buildings to photos of PEFC/Responsible Wood-labelled products.

The winning Australian entry in the PEFC contest will receive a \$500 gift voucher. The competition runs from Earth Day (April 22) to World Environment Day (June 5) and closes on June 5.

Responsible Wood opens the contest this month. Entries can be submitted electronically or by postal mail. All photos will remain with Responsible Wood for future use and promotion of Australian forest management.

Entries (any number) can be uploaded to Instagram **#RW2018PhotoContest** or emailed to PEFC Photo Contest at sdorries@responsiblewood.org.au or post to Responsible Wood, PO Box 786, New Farm, Qld 4005. Tel: (07) 3359 1758.



**Responsible
Wood**





Henry Li



David Brand



Gaston Mauvenzin



Bekezela Ncube



Erin Robers



Paul McMahon

RISI-DANA timber investment talks set to launch in New York

Global networking conference now on horizon

THE Fifth Annual Forest Investment Conference dealing with the global timber investment landscape, regional comparisons, trends and opportunities is approaching. It will be held in New York City from 1-2 May 2018 and co hosted by RISI and DANA.

Again, RISI and DANA have combined forces to bring together the most compelling conference for the financial community and those engaged in tracking companies and assets or who own and manage timberlands.

The Investment conference will broaden its horizons this year focusing not just on the North American investment trends and opportunities, but on the global forest products and timberland investment market. The two-day conference will take an in-depth look at timberland investments around the globe and how these opportunities will unfold in the near future.

The conference is designed for executives and senior managers who want to gain a clear understanding of key segments of



the forest products industry investments and opportunities.

The conference will appeal to TIMOs and REITs; pension fund managers; private family offices; private landowners; hedge fund managers; endowment fund managers; forest management companies and forest products producers

“CONFERENCE TO COVER EXTENSIVE VIEW OF TIMBERLAND INVESTMENT LANDSCAPE”

This upcoming conference is thought to be the best one yet with an extensive global view of the timberland investment landscape, shared by leaders and experts from around the world. Speakers and their topic include:

- **Henry Li:** China Forestry Group CEO and Managing Director
An Integrated Approach to Securing China's Future Timber Supply
- **David Brand:** New Forests, CEO
Timberland Investment in Environmental Markets: Forests as a Climate Solution?
- **Gaston Mauvenzin:**

Proteak, CEO
Teak Investment in Latin America

• **Bekezela Ncube:** Criterion Africa Partners, Principal
Forestry Assets in Sub-Saharan Africa

• **Erin Robert, JP Morgan Chase:** Head of Capital Strategies, Sustainable Finance
Conservation Investments and Institutional Investors

• **Paul McMahon:** SLM Partners, Managing Partner
Sustainable Forestry in Ireland

For further information see www.events.risiinfo.com/investment-conference/

Penalties! End of 'soft' period for illegal logging prohibition rulings

STEPHEN MITCHELL

THE end of the Illegal Logging Prohibition Regulations soft start period has focused the attention of timber importers and domestic processors.

From January 1, the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources now has the option of fining businesses that are not complying with the detailed due diligence steps up to \$63,000 for each breach.

Penalties for negligently importing regulated timber products or processing logs that have been illegally logged are up to five years' imprisonment and/or up to a \$105,000 fine for an individual, and \$525,000 for a corporation.

After working with many business, here are a few tips for to make life easier:

- Approving new suppliers: It is essential you amend any standard operating procedures for approving new suppliers of timber or logs and new product or logs from existing suppliers. This is so the person responsible for timber due diligence can undertake a risk assessment on the new supplier and the new product before an order



is made or logs received.

- Imports from Indonesia and Malaysia:

For imports from Indonesia and Malaysia, set up simple check lists for shipping clerks to check the V-legal certificates or export permits for each and every consignment of timber. This is to ensure it is correctly accompanied by documents detailed in the Indonesian or Malaysian Country Specific Guideline.

- Due diligence on imports from China – supply chain map:

Nearly every factory in

your product. Follow up with site visits by your buyers or quality control people to verify specific sourcing claims is also a handy tool for due diligence. Get them to take some photos as evidence.

- Consider FSC and PEFC controlled wood

1/ Compliance... the end of the illegal logging prohibition regulations soft start period has focused the attention of timber importers and domestic processors.

2/ Stephen Mitchell... a few tips to make life easier for importers and domestic processors.

China manufacturing wood products appears to be FSC CoC certified. If you aren't buying certified product this can be a real distraction in getting to the bottom of where the wood in your products is sourced. Drawing a basic supply chain map (it doesn't have to be fancy) can really help understand who supplies the timber, plywood, or veneer or other wood product going into

sources:

If you are FSC or PEFC chain of custody certified but can't justify the purchase of 100% or mixed FSC or PEFC products, then consider purchasing FSC or PEFC 'controlled wood'.

Controlled wood is wood that has been assessed by supplier under their due diligence system as negligible risk of being illegally logged.

But the downside is you can't claim the product as FSC or PEFC certified to end users.

For a free initial consultation call (02) 8006 8850 or 0432 860 100. Alternatively email steve@smassociates.com.au or subscribe to the newsletter at www.smassociates.com.au

- Stephen Mitchell is principal of Stephen Mitchell Associates in Sydney.

“CONSIDER FSC OR PEFC CONTROLLED WOOD SOURCES”

Singapore's concrete and steel supertrees

KNOWN for doing things on a grand scale, the stylish city of Singapore has created the ultimate green space, but with a difference. Its city forest, built from concrete and steel is nonetheless a celebration of trees, and now the city's distinguishing tourist attraction.

The city's futuristic Supertree Grove of 18 Supertrees has become shorthand for Singapore itself, in much the same way that the Eiffel Tower says Paris.

Each Supertree consists of a trunk core made of reinforced concrete wrapped with a steel frame. Panels on the trunks are planted with of a 'living skin'.

With 'trunks' enveloped by more than 160,000 tropical plants from 200 species and varieties of climbers, ferns, orchids and bromeliads, the supertrees are not only an avant-garde landmark, they are also environmental engines for the gardens, harvesting solar energy and rainwater. In designing the supertrees landscape architects were inspired by Western Australia's Valley of the Giants. The magical forest in the 1997 Japanese film Princess Mononoke also played a role.



Singapore's 18 Supertrees have become shorthand for Singapore itself, in much the same way that the Eiffel Tower says Paris.

The Supertrees range from 25 to 50 metres tall. Curving between two of them is a 128 metre long aerial walkway that recreates the feeling of looking around from the height of a rainforest canopy.

With its two glass conservatories popping out from the foliage like a pair of giant mechanical turtles, entering the 54 hectare

urban oasis that is the Bay South area of Singapore's Gardens by the Bay seems like stepping into Pandora, the verdant wonderland depicted in James Cameron's epic Avatar.

The Supertrees have different planting schemes in various colours ranging from warm tones like reds, browns, orange and yellows, to cooler hues like silver and

pink. Plants were chosen based on their suitability for vertical planting, being lightweight and hardy, soil-less, ease of maintenance, suitability for Singapore's climate, and of high visual interest.

Read other tree stories in John Halkett's blog Talking Trees at www.talkingtrees.com.au

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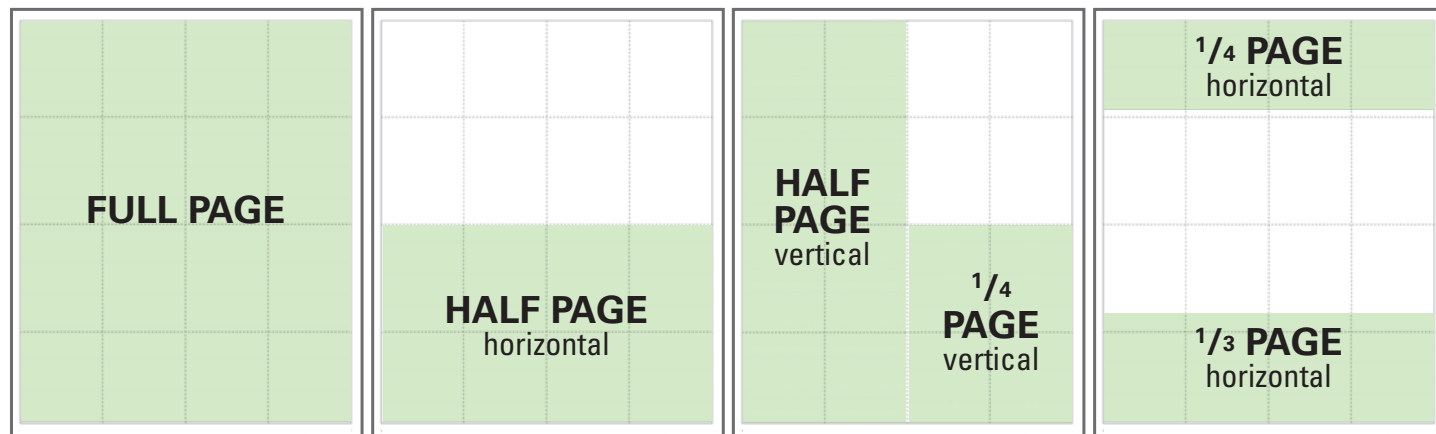
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