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## Wood fibre on shopping list!

COVER STORY P9



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# Australia, New Zealand move on a joint trans-Tasman forest standard

AUSTRALIA and New Zealand are closer to developing a joint trans-Tasman standard for forest management following a joint meeting between the boards of Responsible Wood and the New Zealand Forest Certification Association (NZFCA) in Wellington last week.

Responsible Wood and the NZFCA operate PEFC-endorsed sustainable forest management systems in Australia and New Zealand respectively.

A significant outcome of the meeting between Responsible Wood and the New Zealand Forest Certification Association will be the development going forward of a joint Australia-New Zealand standard for Sustainable Forest Management AS/NZS 4708.

“We are confident of getting the right structures in place for the development of a joint standard recognised in both countries,” Responsible Wood CEO Simon Dorries said.

The New Zealand Forest



1/ Inspection... Responsible Wood chair Dr Hans Drielsma, AM (left), and CEO Simon Dorries, look over the operations of Juken New Zealand at the Masterton plywood and LVL facility.

2/ Masterton inspection... Karl Burlington of Juken New Zealand, and Responsible Wood director Mark Thomson.

Standards New Zealand is a business unit within the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment and is New Zealand's leading developer of standards and standards-based solutions, developed in partnership with Standards Australia.

During the meeting, the Responsible Wood board

global forest certification scheme PEFC.

The meeting was also attended by

visited the Masterton plywood and LVL operations of Juken New Zealand, 100 km northeast of Wellington.

JNL operates four wood processing mills employing nearly 900 people and manufactures advanced and innovative wood products

Certification Association is primarily concerned with forest-related certification activities and is the governing body in New Zealand for the

representatives of Standards New Zealand who provided useful feedback and guidance on the joint initiative.

Cont P 3



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# Melbourne's first timber commercial office building will earn a green star

THE wood engineered structure with an end value of \$56 million will join Australia's first multi-storey timber apartment tower and a landmark wooden public library in Melbourne's Docklands urban renewal precinct which has become a focal point for sustainable buildings.

Sydney-based developer AsheMorgan has launched a leasing campaign for tenants to occupy a multi-storey office which will straddle an existing two-level concrete building in The District, a shopping centre next to Footscray Road best known as the location of Melbourne's Star Skywheel.

About two-thirds of the new structure will be made from CLT, which was pioneered for tall structures by diversified developer Lendlease when it constructed the 10-level Forte apartment complex in the Docklands in 2012.

Lendlease has since built another commercial timber office, the six-storey International House Sydney at the gateway to its multi-billion dollar Barangaroo development, and has plans for a second timber office in the same project.

"We are building over an existing structure so having a lightweight material is important for us," AsheMorgan



**Michael Moss... focusing on the sustainability and health impacts.**

founder Michael Moss said.

Mr Moss said both employers and employees were focusing on the sustainability and health impacts of their offices.

"That's becoming an increasingly important factor for employees in choosing where they work," he said.

**“WOODEN BUILDINGS HAVE PROVEN PERFORMANCE**

Wooden buildings had proven performance in both areas, he said.

CBRE Commercial Property's director of office services Anthony Park said the use of CLT would give the office a 5.5-star NABERS and Green Star ratings.

relies heavily on exports with around 70% of production going offshore. Increasingly, the main markets, particularly

**“CONFIDENT OF GETTING RIGHT STRUCTURES IN PLACE**



**Anthony Park... CLT gives office 5.5-star NABERS and Green Star ratings.**

The new building, called Woodwork, will have a ground-floor lobby, retail space and four large upper levels that can be interlinked to create an open plan space of almost 8000 sq m.

It will replace a section of retail shops in The District bordered by Wharf Street, Docklands Drive and Waterfront Way.

AsheMorgan has invested heavily in The District after purchasing the rundown retail precinct, known then as Harbour City, in 2014.

The group's \$250 million revitalisation of the area is an audacious effort to pump the northern end of Docklands which has struggled to attract shoppers and tenants given its distance from the CBD.

(Sydney Morning Herald)

Australia, North America and Asia, are demanding third-party certification as proof of legality of harvest and quality of forest management.

Most of the country's New Zealand exports to are now PEFC members and recognise PEFC certification as meeting their import requirements.



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\*Australian Forest Contractors Association (AFCA)

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From P 2

from selectively-planted, managed and harvested radiata pine sourced from plantation forests in the Northland, East Coast and Wairarapa regions of the North Island.

The New Zealand forest and wood products sector

# Responsible Wood calls for entries in Stanton award for forest management

RESPONSIBLE Wood is calling for nominations in this year's coveted Richard Stanton Memorial Award for Excellence in Forest Management.

This is the fourth year of the award which pays tribute to a man who devoted his life to sustainable forest management in Australia and internationally.

Richard Stanton was CEO and national secretary of Australian Forestry Standard Ltd (now Responsible Wood), and had a number of key roles with the Australian Plantation Products and Paper Industry Council, the Australian Paper Industry Council, Plantation Timber Association of Australia, National Association



**Responsible Wood CEO Simon Dorries (left) and chair Dr Hans Drielsma AM present the 2017 Richard Stanton Memorial Award for Excellence in Forest Management to Lou Coutts, external relations manager for HVP Plantations. The inaugural winner of the award in 2015 Dr Marie Yee, senior conservation planner, Sustainable Timber Tasmania, adds her congratulations.**

of Forest Industries, and State Forests NSW.

Nominations for the award are open to individuals who have contributed

significantly to either forest management or chain-of-custody certification under the Responsible Wood certification program. The award nominees will be those who have contributed to sustainable forest management under AS4708 or chain of custody under AS4707.

The award is open to, but not restricted to, forest owners and managers; chain-of-custody certificate holders; staff of certification bodies; forest scientists and researchers; and designers of products manufactured from sustainable timber.

The award also carries a \$2000 bursary prize.

Applicants for the award will have demonstrated excellence in the following areas:

- A significant and valuable contribution to sustainability.
- Innovation, improvement or excellence in forest management or chain of custody certification.
- A strong commitment to the Responsible Wood certification scheme and sustainable forest management.

- Innovation and improvement in the promotion and marketing of Responsible Wood certified products

The selection of the successful applicant will be made by the Responsible Wood marketing committee and announced at the annual general meeting in Brisbane on October 23. Nominations for the award close on October 5, 2018.

Nominations can be forwarded to: Responsible Wood, PO Box 786, New Farm, Q 4005. Email [sdorries@responsiblewood.org.au](mailto:sdorries@responsiblewood.org.au)

**“FOURTH YEAR OF COVETED FORESTRY PRIZE”**

Previous award winners were:

- 2015: Dr Marie Yee, senior conservation planner, Sustainable Timber Tasmania, who helped develop a system of forest management planning.
- 2016: Mark Leech, a driving force behind Fine Timber Tasmania, a sustainability-focused, non-profit association which represents the specialty timber supply chain.
- 2017: Lou Coutts, external relations manager, HVP Plantations, based at Shelley, Vic, who is moving plantation forestry into new ground for stakeholder management, public access to plantation land, interactive websites, on-line inductions and social media.

Visit [www.responsiblewood.org.au](http://www.responsiblewood.org.au) for more information.

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# \$32m Nelson 'green' airport terminal takes off with LVL timber showpiece

STAGE 1 one of Nelson's new \$32 million airport terminal – created using local LVL timber structures – is on schedule to open for use by airlines and the public by mid-October.

Stage 1 represents 60% of the total project.

The New Zealand venture has been headed by Naylor Love who formed a partnership with Gibbons Construction, Fulton Hogan and a number of Nelson-based subcontractors.

Nelson city is on the eastern shores of Tasman Bay in the South Island.

The terminal is being built about 800 mm higher than the existing terminal, which



**High flyer...** Nelson Airport CEO Rob Evans inside the new \$32 million terminal now under construction.

will offer extra resilience in the event of flooding.

A \$7.5 million, 22-metre high control tower, owned by Airways New Zealand and

adjacent to the new terminal development, is scheduled for completion in August.

As public feedback for the terminal redevelopment

gains momentum, its use of wood as a primary building material has been widely praised for being a tribute and a showpiece for the region.

"Features include Nelson-processed LVL, natural ventilation using solar chimneys and the utilisation of natural light," Nelson Airport chief executive Rob Evans said.

Breaking from the traditional use of concrete and steel, the use of laminated veneer lumber from Nelson Pine Industries will be integral to the structure. The LVL portal legs will be cantilevered

Cont P 6

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# AWISA goes centre stage at convention centre

AWISA 2018 – the exciting showcase for the Australian Woodworking Industry Suppliers Association – is well under way at the new multi-billion dollar International Convention Centre at Sydney’s Darling Harbour.

Running from July 4 to 7, the exhibition is the largest trade show of its type ever held in Australia.

The exhibition halls have space equivalent to six



football fields that can concurrently host up to 30,000 people and three full conventions.

The wood machine sector has gone out of its way to create some really dramatic working displays this year and wider spaces allow for great networking (pictured).

Timber&Forestry enews is covering the event and will provide reports and pictures in upcoming issues.

From P 5

to provide a lateral bracing system, which will allow for unobstructed clear open spaces within the terminal.

Rob Evans said the new design would reflect the beauty of the region.

“This is a very exciting

step in the evolution of Nelson and its role as the gateway to our region,” he said. “Visually, it will be magnificent.”

Nelson Pine Industries Ltd produces NelsonPine LVL and GoldenEdge MDF from radiata pine grown in the

plantation forests of Nelson, The Nelson-Marlborough region is one of New

**“WOOD USED AS PRIMARY BUILDING MATERIAL”**

Zealand’s major forestry areas; 16% of the productive land area is planted in production forests. Nelson Pine has the capacity to process 1 million cub m a year, or 40% of the region’s annual harvest.

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**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](http://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. Contact Australasian Furnishing Association at [compliance@australianfurniture.org.au](mailto: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](http://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](http://www.forestry.org.au)

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

**18-19: FIEA Woodech 2018 – Rotorua, NZ.**

Drymill scanning, wood machining, timber manufacturing. Visit [www.woodtech.events](http://www.woodtech.events)

**OCTOBER**

**1-3: 2018 DANA NZ**

**Forest-Wood Processing Conference & 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](mailto:admin@dana.co.nz) or visit [www.danaevents.co.nz/2018taupo/](http://www.danaevents.co.nz/2018taupo/)

**9-11: 2018 DANA Australian Forest-Wood Processing Conference & 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](mailto:admin@dana.co.nz) or [www.danaevents.co.nz/2018tas/](http://www.danaevents.co.nz/2018tas/)

**19: Victorian Association of Forest Industries annual dinner – RACV Club, Melbourne.**

**19th Australian Timber**

**Design Awards in Sydney.**

Full details TBA. 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](http://www.timberawards.com.au)

**26: TABMA national industry dinner – Hyatt Regency Hotel, Sydney.**

**26: Green Triangle Timber Industry Awards – The Barn, Mount Gambier.**

Contact Prue Younger, event manager 0064 (21) 2765484 for more information or visit [www.gttia.com](http://www.gttia.com)

**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](http://www.foresttech.events)



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**JULY**

**16-20: COFO 23 - World Forest Week – Rome, Italy.**

For further information see [www.fao.org/about/meetings/cofo](http://www.fao.org/about/meetings/cofo)

**SEPTEMBER**

**4-6: 8th World Congress on Biofuels and Bioenergy – Zurich, Switzerland.**

For further information see: [www.biofuels-bioenergy.conferenceseries.com/Europe](http://www.biofuels-bioenergy.conferenceseries.com/Europe)

**6-8: 15th Annual Global Buyers Mission – Whistler, BC, Canada BC.**

Wood event to find new sources of high quality, competitively priced Canadian wood products, while reconnecting with current suppliers and socializing with peers. Contact: Brian Hawrysh CEO, BC Wood at [bhawrysh@bcwood.com](mailto:bhawrysh@bcwood.com) or call 1-604-882-7100. To register, request your access code from [gbm@bcwood.com](mailto:gbm@bcwood.com)

**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 s expected to set record attendance levels. See: [www.woodmarkets.com/conference/conferences-china/2018-china-global-wood-trade-conference/](http://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/](http://www.events.risiinfo.com/wood-fiber/) Email: [conferences@risi.com](mailto: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](http://www.iufro.org) and [www.cirad.fr](http://www.cirad.fr)

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

Email: [info@au.fsc.org](mailto: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](http://www.globaltimbertrackingnetwork.org/event/timber-legality-research-symposium) Email: [cph@ifro.ku.dk](mailto: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/](http://www.efiatlantic.efi.int/portal/events/) Email: [christophe.orazio@efi.int](mailto: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](http://www.itto.int/workshop_detail) Email: [itto@itto.int](mailto:itto@itto.int) Tel: +81-45-223-1110

**12-17: 2nd DANA 2-day**

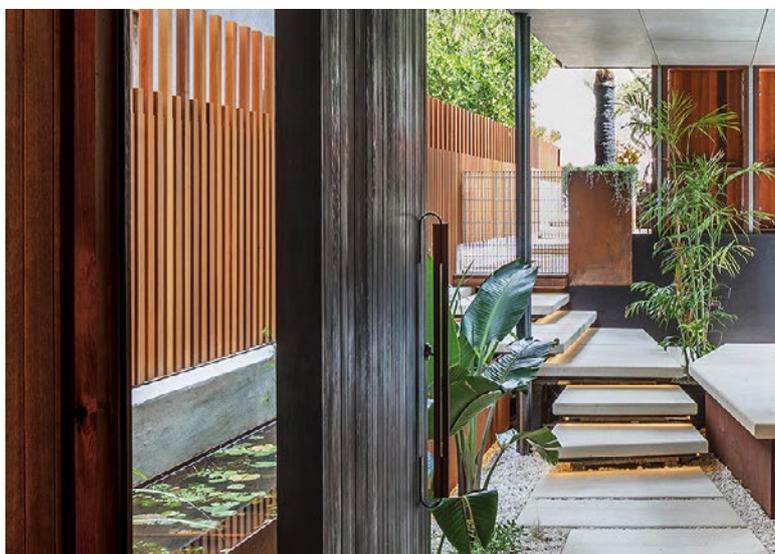
**Central America and Andes Forestry Sector Investment Conference – Cancun Mexico.** With 2-day optional pre-conference field trip to teak and eucalyptus plantations; a large modern MDF mill in Villahermosa region; and a 2- day optional post-conference tour to Mayan archaeological and recreational sites. For further information: [www.danaevents.co.nz/2018mexico/](http://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](http://www.uas.uach.cl/2018) Email: [pdonosu@uach.cl](mailto:pdonosu@uach.cl)

• Please send any events listings to [johnh@timberandforestrynews.com](mailto:johnh@timberandforestrynews.com)



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# It's out of the bag: More paper and less plastic gaining support

## Wood fibre solution a wrap-up on emissions

WOOD fibre is replacing plastic as consumers and supermarkets around the world vote for low-emission paper bags.

A life-cycle study by the UK Environment Agency using global warming potential (GWP), a metric that reflects a product's greenhouse gas emissions across its lifetime, revealed that compostable plastic bags produced the most emissions of the products tested.

Since plastic bags are not biodegradable, their lifetimes are very long, with estimates ranging from 10 years in the wild to 1000 years in a landfill.

A Senate inquiry into Australia's recycling crisis has recommended all single-use plastics – which could potentially include takeaway containers, chip packets and coffee cups with plastic linings – be banned by 2023.

The wide-ranging report also recommends the establishment of a national container deposit scheme as a response to an unfolding crisis in Australian recycling that forced some councils to tip their recycling into landfill.

Recycling is in crisis after China announced it would no longer buy the majority of Australia's recyclable material, starting from this year.

Previously, up to 50% of all Australian recycling was sold to China, because the lack of a domestic market for recyclables could not meet the volume of recycled material created.

New conditions mean China will no longer buy 99%



**Responsive...** schoolgirls Lili and Stella Riveros on holiday with their re-usable Wood Naturally Better cloth bags at Brisbane's Coles super-markets at Toombul.

government's decision to extend its plastic bag ban is another welcome development. Everywhere you look right now, governments in Australia and across the world are either talking about, or enforcing plastic bans."

Mr Hampton said a national approach was needed though for sustainable wood fibre based replacement products such as renewable paper shopping bags or straws. He encouraged governments through the COAG process to encourage a push from single-use plastics to renewable

Cont P 10

of the 1.27 million tonnes that Australia had previously exported there.

The Australian Forest Products Association has welcomed further progress towards a national ban on single-use plastic products, including plastic bags.

**“NATIONAL BAN ON PLASTIC PRODUCTS WELCOMED**

“However, a national approach by the state and federal governments to encourage sustainable wood fibre replacement products is needed,” says CEO Ross Hampton.

“It's great to see recommendations from a senate committee about a banning of single-use plastics in Australia by 2023.

“Likewise, the Victorian

## The united voice for Australia's forest industries



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From P 9

wood fibre products.

“The days of plastic are numbered and jurisdictions across the country would be better placed working in sync together to see changes come through,” Mr Hampton said.

The humble paper bag – the preferred option of shoppers in years gone by – has resurfaced as one option for shoppers in a post-plastic era.

“We’ve come full circle,” says Port Stephens, NSW, Greens treasurer Robyn Williams. “I can remember a time when paper was the only option.”

Members of Port Stephens Greens handed out paper bags to shoppers outside Salamander Bay Woolworths last Sunday when the plastic ban came into effect.

**“THE DAYS OF PLASTIC NUMBERED”**

“I would say 70% of people had remembered and had bags in their trolleys,” Ms Williams said.

“For people who had forgotten, they were happy to take a paper bag from us. It’s just to remind people that



**Initiative... Robyn Williams and Nigel Waters from Port Stephens (NSW) Greens hand out paper bags outside Salamander Bay Coles supermarket.** (Port Stephens Examiner)



**Rex Patrick... paper manufactured right here in Australia.**



**Ross Hampton... push from plastics to renewable wood fibre.**

there are alternatives and while it would have been nice to hand out calico they’re more expensive.”

Major supermarkets like Coles and Woolworths banned the use of plastic bags from July 1.

Meanwhile, the traditional

brown paper bag is making a return to British supermarkets as Morrisons, the fourth largest chain in the UK, has ditched plastic bags for loose fruit and vegetables in stores.

The move is expected to be rolled out by other major supermarkets and is the

latest in a string of changes designed by the grocery chain to eradicate single-use plastics.

And in Canberra, after years of pressure from former senator Nick Xenophon and Centre Alliance senator Rex Patrick, senators, staffers and senate officials will finally get to use Australian-made paper in their parliamentary printers.

Senator Patrick added: “Up until recently, we on the senate side of the parliament were being supplied with Austrian paper. That situation was clearly two letters short of a ream.”

“Thankfully we now have paper that is manufactured right here in Australia.”

The move by the Department of the Senate sees senate members aligned with their House of Representative colleagues.

**On the cover: Jim Bowden, managing editor of Timber&Forestry enews, catches up with Lili, 11, and Stella, 8, Riveros from Wavell Heights in Brisbane at Toombul Shopping Centre this week. The girls were pleased to receive Wood Naturally Better cloth bags, a WoodSolutions initiative. Jim said he had collected scores of the bags and was happy to hand them out at Coles supermarket.**



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# Architects, designers, engineers get creative for NZ timber design awards

MICHAEL SMITH

NZ WOOD'S recent announcement of the stage two finalists for the highly regarded New Zealand Timber Design Awards will soon be followed by the next stage of the judging process when the category winners and supreme winner will be determined.

The awards allow engineers, architects, architectural designers, builders and students to



1

1/ **83 Abel Smith Street...** *maximising the use of a difficult triangular site.* Photo by Andy Spain

2/ **Mount Pleasant Community Centre...** *lightweight yet strong shell design, responding to the demands of an earthquake-prone region.* Photo by Dennis Radermacher

between architects, engineers, fabricators and contractors."

This year's 10 categories include a new award for 'Multi-storey Timber Buildings' – projects of at least three floors where the predominant structural material is wood or a wood-based product. Organisers see the award as a reflection of the increased acceptance of wood, especially engineered wood, as a practical and cost-effective construction material.

Wood Processors and Manufacturers Association

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2

profile their original and creative projects – using a significant amount of locally sourced timber and wood-based products.

Last year's winner of the supreme award, the Cathedral Grammar Junior School in Christchurch, is the ultimate example of creating a shift in industry attitudes.

The building's construction required new milling technology to deliver  $\pm 0.5\text{mm}$  accuracy in cutting the LVL frame elements – including grooves, notches and bolt holes – ready to assemble on site.

Professor of design at the University of Auckland Dr

Andrew Barrie and a member of the project's design/construction team says there was a suspicion that New Zealand was lagging in the timber technology field.

"What was achieved with Cathedral Grammar though, was something of a 'first' for the country and has probably moved local expectations up a step or two," he said. "It was amazing to see the very tight tolerances achieved through close collaboration

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From P 11

technical manager Jeff Parker says timber's light weight and structural integrity came to the fore in the Christchurch rebuild – as reflected in previous awards.

“But now, designers have increasing confidence and are working with other industry partners to produce beautiful structures [nationwide] that can withstand extreme winds or seismic events.”

Other award categories include Excellence in Engineered Wood Products and the revised Wood and Fibre Creativity Award. The latter can involve original and creative uses of wood fibre properties, such as applying chemical or process innovations to form new products. Last year's winner for example, ForestPlus Oils Ltd, is producing high-quality essential oils extracted mainly from offcuts gathered along the access roads of



**St Andrew's College Centennial Chapel (interior)... replaces the original chapel damaged in the Christchurch earthquakes and makes extensive use of salvaged materials.** Photo by Simon Devitt and Sarah Rowlands

managed forests.

Among this year's consistently excellent group of nominees is the Mt Pleasant Community Centre in Christchurch – entered in the Commercial Architectural Excellence and Engineering Innovation categories. Its elegant shell architecture – inspired by the natural world

and shapes contained in the nearby estuary – features cross-banded pine LVL successfully fabricated offsite with minimal tolerances.

And prominent in the



new multi-storey timber buildings category is 83 Abel Smith Street, Wellington, a four-storey timber-framed apartment building noted for its ease of construction on a restricted site, minimal weight and excellent earthquake resistance.

The judging panel for this year's awards comprises an eclectic mix of architects and engineers who bring a wide variety of business experience to the proceedings – from small business development and site management skills to research into wood design/ construction technologies and the environmental benefits of using timber in future urban developments.

The category winners and supreme winner will be announced at a gala awards dinner at the Grand Millennium Hotel in Auckland on September 20.

## Record high prices as world pulp markets strengthen

STRONG pulp markets and record high prices for both softwood and hardwood market pulp resulted in upward price pressures on wood fibre throughout the world in the first quarter of this year, reports the Wood Resource Quarterly.

The global softwood fibre price index was up by 3.4% from the 4Q/17 to the 1Q/18, the second highest quarter-to-quarter increase in seven years. Softwood prices rose in all 20 regions covered by WRQ with the exception of eastern Canada, where chip

prices fell 16% q-o-q (in US dollars).

Hardwood pulp logs saw a more modest price increase than softwood pulp logs, with prices rising the most in Russia, Spain and Finland. The global hardwood fibre

prices reached a three-year high in the 1Q/18 and was 8% higher than in the 1Q/17.

Profit margins continued to improve for pulp companies in the 1Q/18 as pulp prices increased faster than the wood fibre costs.



### \$4 million research funding investment to boost sustainability, jobs and economic benefits in partnership with industry

With the support of the Australian and Tasmanian governments, the Launceston hub of the National Institute for Forest Products Innovation has up to \$4 million available for research grants to grow the future of forestry.

Research projects could be ideas for new and innovative products, solutions which could see Tasmanians get more benefit from existing forestry resources, become more sustainable and safer, grow jobs or create new products and services.

Individual research grants will range from \$50,000-\$500,000 and will be for periods of up to three years in duration. Funding proposals close on 13 July 2018 and should be lodged via email to [funding.tas@nifpi.org.au](mailto:funding.tas@nifpi.org.au). For further information, including a proposal template and briefing document, see [www.nifpi.org.au](http://www.nifpi.org.au)

**About us** The Launceston hub of the National Institute for Forest Products Innovation is a joint venture between the Australian Government, the Tasmanian Government and the forest and wood products industry with the goal of growing forestry into the future.



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**DANA JAPAN FOREST INDUSTRY TOUR #1** 21–25 October  
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**DANA JAPAN FOREST INDUSTRY TOUR #2** 28 October–01 November  
5 day tour centred on Kyushu Island & Tokyo\*\* to visit forests, import and export ports, a pulp mill, a biomass power plant, sawmills (domestic and imported logs) a plywood mill, a CLT plant, Sapporo beer factory, and more.

\*\* Tour details & final costing estimates have been identified & are being finalised (& will be subject to final host approvals).

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Contact Julie Bell at [admin@dana.co.nz](mailto:admin@dana.co.nz)

# New FWPA industry workshop drives strategy on social license

DAVID SIMPSON

BIODIVERSITY, habitat, water, economic and social contributions and more are just some of the factors that affect an industry's social license.

At a recent FWPA Melbourne workshop, 75 forest and wood products industry representatives, ranging from growers and processors to marketers, from around Australia, grappled with these factors



**AFPA CEO Ross Hampton (fourth from left) with FWPA workshop speakers Lain Dare, Robin Murphy, Paul Klymenko, Howard Parry-Husbands, Robyn Leeson, Ric Sinclair, and Jacki Schirmer.**

He also observed that, like many areas of social opinion, an industry's social licence was far easier to lose than improve and that the forestry industry, while respected as a reliable source of information, still had work to do to gain broad social approval for their activities throughout the supply chain.

"An event like this is a step along an evolving path," Mr Sinclair said. "We regularly monitor social attitudes to our industry and its products so that we can be both proactive and reactive to changes in consumer perceptions."

**“ IDENTIFYING COMMON PROBLEMS AND SOLUTIONS**

as they heard from local and international presenters and discussed solutions

Opening the workshop, FWPA managing director

Ric Sinclair pointed out that social licence was not an on or off option; it was both a continuum and multi-dimensional.

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## NATIONAL TIMBER INDUSTRY DINNER

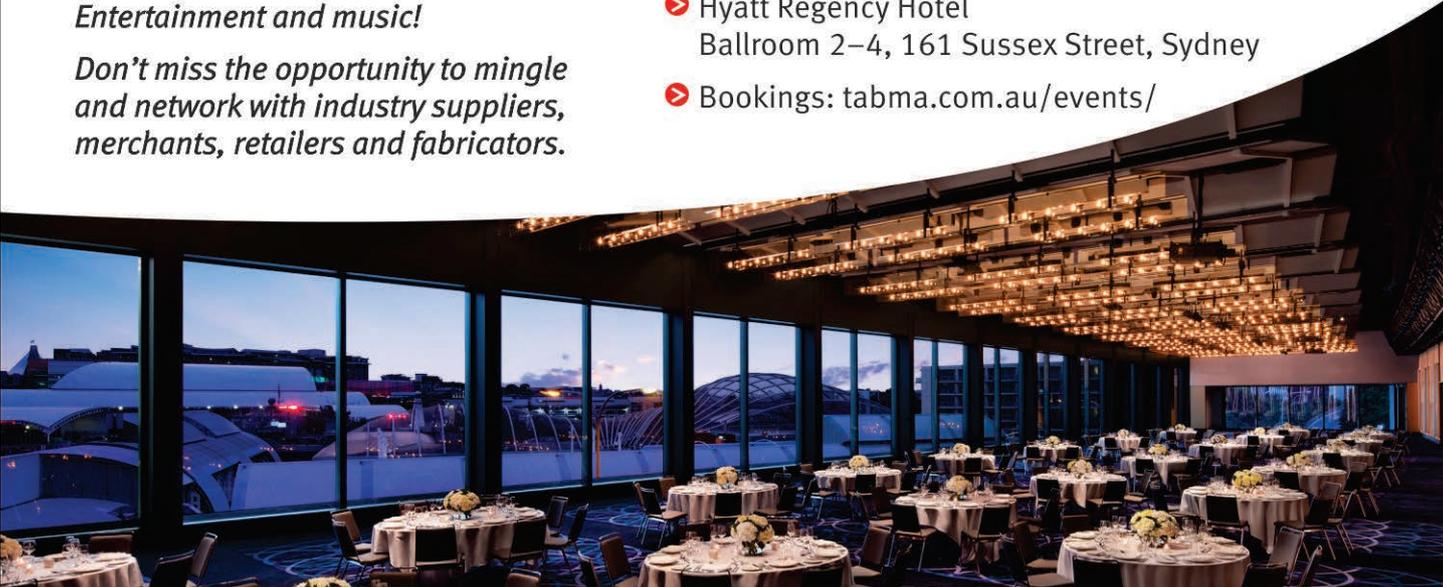


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From P 14

CEO of Planet Ark Paul Klymenko discussed the role of trust in social license. His most powerful point was that “trust is the most expensive thing in the world – it can take years to earn and a matter of seconds to lose”.

As the CEO of an organisation that has 86% brand recognition and is ranked 4th in trustworthiness when reporting environmental issues (behind CSIRO, environmental scientists and friends and family), Paul brought considerable experience to the discussion.

Other presentations from academics, a researcher and a sustainability industry assessor reinforced the message that social license was multi-factorial. An individual’s definition of social license (and sustainability), with regard to the forest and

wood products sector, could depend on a range of factors, including their geographic location, knowledge of the industry, attitude to environmental issues and more.

Observing the event, Dr Samantha Smith, director of consumer engagement company Pinnacle, noted that the industry’s traditionally fragmented structure was impeding agreement on the identification of common problems and the development of effective solutions.

The presentations concluded with Robin Murphy, senior vice-president for marketing and communications at the USA’s Conservation Fund, talking about how NGOs and partners can work together to achieve mutually beneficial goals – an interaction that, some delegates observed, had been happening between

Planet Ark and FWPA for some years.

The presentations were interspersed with workshop sessions, during which the attendees were challenged to suggest answers to questions raised by the preceding presentation.

“A RARE OPPORTUNITY TO REACT WITH OTHERS

Topics covered included improving community engagement, transparency and reporting, common messaging, opportunities and barriers and how to explore and overcome them.

The overwhelming response from the people attending was positive, while recognising that the industry structure was a potential impediment to communicating a united

message to the wider public.

“It was a valuable, and eye-opening event,” said Christine Briggs, general manager marketing at Timberlink

“It provided a rare opportunity to interact with others in the industry supply chain and gain an insight into their perspectives of the issues we all, to various extents, share. We need these sorts of occasions and communications to help us present a united front.”

A discussion group has been established to continue the dialogue and the presentations from the event are also available.

Information about joining the group or viewing the presentations is available from Ric Sinclair at FWPA. Email Ric.Sinclair@fwpa.com.au

• David Simpson is a design, building, resources and environment writer.

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# An evolving supply chain promises new options for tall wood buildings

FOURTEEN code proposals related to new and taller types of mass timber construction have been recommended for approval by the Washington DC-based International Code Council.

The ICC's move is historic. Though mass timber construction isn't new to the building code community, having already been included in the International Building Code (IBC) as Type IV-Heavy Timber, the trend toward considerably taller wood buildings was so clear that the ICC moved in 2015 to keep the IBC relevant in the marketplace by updating the code.

The International Code Council, a membership association dedicated to building safety and fire prevention, develops model-building codes used to construct residential and commercial buildings, including homes and schools. The code council also develops standards related to building construction.

Successful mass timber buildings up to 18 storeys have already been approved by local officials in the UK, Norway and Canada. In the



*Historic... raft of new codes for mass timber buildings.*

US, at least 35 tall mass timber buildings, ranging from seven to 24 storeys are pending approval in 21 different jurisdictions.

At the heart of the committee's proposals are three new kinds of type IV mass timber construction, offering design options well beyond current limits for heavy timber under the code.

By appointing the 'Ad Hoc Committee on Tall Wood Buildings' from the code officials and fire service, regulatory, engineering,

architectural and building materials communities, the ICC launched a two-year process to assess the science of mass timber, to field additional research, and to propose any code changes necessary to ensure the strength and safety of tall mass timber buildings.

**“CODE CHANGES ENSURE STRENGTH AND SAFETY OF TALL BUILDINGS**

When passed by the ICC membership, the updated IBC will define Type IV-A, Type IV-B and Type IV-C 'mass timber' construction with heights ranging to a maximum of 18 storeys. Importantly, each new type of construction has hourly fire resistance ratings more robust than concrete or steel buildings of comparable heights and area.

It's not surprising that the committee's proposals focused on providing reassurance that tall mass timber buildings meet or exceed the standards in the fire code.

The inherent fire resistance of mass timber, where charring in a fire event creates a barrier that protects the inner wood structure, has long been understood.

Indeed, testing by the Underwriters Laboratory, Southwest Research Institute and the National Research Council of Canada has clearly demonstrated how charring of mass timber elements offers a reliable and predictable measure of fire performance.

(With extracts from Building Design + Construction)

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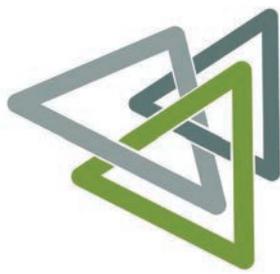
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# GREEN TRIANGLE TIMBER INDUSTRY AWARDS



# NOMINATIONS OPEN

An opportunity exists for you to nominate an industry person or company that deserves to be recognised for their contribution to the forestry industry.

We are seeking suitable candidates that reflect all sectors and work within the Green Triangle region and with this inaugural event, let's make it the success it should be and provide the chance to celebrate the high achievers and players that hold credible status within the industry.

It is important to get involved this year as looking ahead, the opportunity to make it an annual event will be very real. The value proposition for nominees to be finalists and winners will generate industry opportunities and will grow the profile of the region to benefit businesses and industry.

Get involved, nominate today and step up.

Check out our website for nomination category criteria and details [www.gttia.com](http://www.gttia.com)

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# Hi-tech composite panels set to build future for prefab mid-rise

DAVID SIMPSON

SINCE onsite assembly of stick framing evolved into offsite truss and frame manufacturing, industry has been waiting for the next step.

Now, it's closer than ever before, with some big names setting up operations to supply value-added pre-fabricated or composite panels to the Australian construction market.

And they are looking higher than traditional single and two-storey residential projects!

We're all familiar with the prefabricated truss and framing systems that made onsite life easier for carpenters. Now similar situations are occurring for other trades, sparkies and plumbers in particular, as composite prefabricated panels enter the market.

At this stage, they are mostly fitted with ducts through which services can be run, but it doesn't take a crystal ball to predict that putting these panels together will soon be the construction industry's equivalent of 'plug and play'.

One company that's taken an innovative approach to this market is Victoria's Timber Building Systems (TBS). While it's logical to think that a composite panel manufacturer would have their roots in the truss and frame sector, TBS looked further afield to where they saw the greatest expertise in large-scale production-line manufacturing.

The answer was the

automotive sector, which serendipitously for TBS, is rapidly declining in Australia, providing them with a pool of untapped talented workers, familiar with the latest developments in design and manufacture.

TBS operations manager Brian McCarthy explains: "We've recruited heavily from the auto sector; we have designers and manufacturers here that are ex Toyota and



Holden. Our designers are the Holden guys. They design the building in the same way that they designed cars, down to the last nut and bolt, everything, in 3D first.

"During the design phase, we pick up around 90% of the potential manufacturing and installation issues and we adjust the designs accordingly. It's far cheaper to click a mouse than re-manufacture components. Once we've been through that process it then goes to the production line."

It's worth noting at this stage that the digital footprint that the design process has



- 1/ Value-added... pre-fabricated or composite panels entering the Australian construction market.
- 2/ Innovative... greatest expertise in large-scale production-line manufactured structures.

the production line staff and CNC machinery, which is, not surprisingly, based on automotive manufacturing.

"On the line, we have ex Toyota staff and a lot of ex Toyota equipment, mixed with some of the best woodworking machinery from around the world."

At the end of the production line, the finished panels are stacked on A-frames, ready for despatch. But these are no ordinary pre-fab composite panels. These are sophisticated panels designed to provide fast, innovative, cost-saving solutions to the mid-rise residential and commercial markets.

"We were looking at prefabrication opportunities from a broad perspective of projects and roles in which timber is not being used," Brian McCarthy said.

“THE ANSWER WAS THE AUTOMOTIVE SECTOR”

Cont P 17

From P 16

“The journey took us in all sorts of different directions. We started looking at the residential market and thinking about a timber cassette flooring replacement for concrete slabs. That was our first pre-fab component, and it’s been pretty successful. Demand there led us to develop a second-floor cassette system.

“The big step for us was looking up, higher, to three, to five, six, seven, even eight-storey commercial and residential projects, in which timber was never, or at best rarely, used. That’s where we saw the real opportunity.

“So, we developed a proprietary solution, an innovative post-tensioning connection system representing more than a decade of learnings in the prefabricated and modular construction field.”

The TBS patented connection system is integrated into the engineered timber wall panels to provide a cost effective and quick to assemble building system that’s suitable for multi-level commercial, residential, educational and aged-care buildings.

Architects and designers will be delighted to know that the system is enormously flexible, allowing for large-span interiors, double height ceilings and full span glazing. However, to maximise the cost savings, Brian advises that they bring TBS into the project as soon as they possibly can.

“You can get a more

**“COMPLETE  
TIMBER  
BUILDING  
SOLUTION**



**Brian McCarthy... looking at pre-fabrication opportunities from a broad perspective of projects.**

efficient design if developers and the project team come and talk to us at the start,” he said. “We can work with the architect and even if they drop in some mud maps, we might say, ‘Look, if you could just shift that wall 600 mm that way’. Little things like that don’t change the design intent, but they can significantly reduce the cost. That’s one of the benefits of getting us in at the start of a

project.”

There’s one more important aspect of TBS that hasn’t been mentioned. Not only do they design and engineer their composite panel solutions in-house, they also deliver to the site and erect the structure to lock up stage.

Now that’s what you could call a complete timber building solution!

The WoodSolutions Mid-rise Advisory Team, a pilot program, provides free consultancy services in Melbourne and Brisbane can provide more impartial advice about TBS and other prefabricated composite building solutions.

More information about the team and on designing and building with timber systems, is available at WoodSolutions.com.au

• *David Simpson is a design, building, resources and environment writer.*

## Timber-trafficking stockpile disrupting Hong Kong trade

HELD in 50 cargo containers at secure sites, a stockpile of more than 1200 tonnes of seized tropical hardwood attests to the city’s role as a major conduit for timber smugglers on route to China, say news sources in the region.

And while its storage is causing severe financial implications for the city, its size has only continued to grow, as tropical forests around the world are logged to meet demand from the mainland’s multi-billion dollar luxury furniture industry.

Reports say that so far this year, the Customs Department has intercepted four major shipments of rosewood – a label referring to a wide array of

slow-growing, richly-hued hardwood species – and one massive load of red sandalwood, a timber so valuable it’s known as ‘red gold’.

“The sheer amount of confiscated endangered wood – both types are protected under the Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species (CITES) – sets Hong Kong apart,” Environmental Investigation Agency program director Dave Gehl said.

“We can’t think too many other countries around the world that have seized as much rosewood as Hong Kong has,” said Gehl, discussing this year’s busts.

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# Scientists look inside plant cells for the ‘building blocks’ of wood

SCIENTISTS are looking inside plant cells to learn how wood is formed and how that process can help develop materials for the future.

When plants moved from sea to land they faced a problem they hadn't previously encountered. How, when you are now surrounded by air, do you get water up to your leaves?

Plants didn't evolve turbine pumps or Archimedes screws to lift water. Instead they grew tiny straws, called xylem, that use pressure to passively suck water out of the ground and transport it through roots, trunks, and stems to the leaves.

Professor Staffan Persson, a plant cell biologist at the University of Melbourne, says this brings the potential to manipulate the wood formation process and, as a result, develop new

materials with a raft of useful properties.

The process being studied centres on an organic molecule called cellulose which consists of chains of sugars. Though small, it is one of the most abundant organic substances on Earth and is a major building block for wood.

The tiny cellulose factories in plant cells are called cellulose synthase (CESA) enzyme complexes. They are active at the cell surface, and extrude cellulose out into the cell wall.

Slightly different CESA factories make primary and secondary wall cellulose. To understand how a plant switches its cellulose production between the two, the researchers needed to identify which CESAs make primary and secondary wall cellulose.

They added fluorescent tags to the CESAs – red tags for primary cellulose factories and green tags for secondary cellulose factories. They then observed the CESAs using a high-end confocal microscope.



**Professor Staffan Persson... manipulating the wood formation process.**

Wood typically forms deep within the plant tissue making it difficult to see with a microscope. Study co-author Dr Rene Schneider says they overcame this by forcing other plant cells to produce wood, too.

“We use a system where we can induce secondary wall cellulose formation in all cells of a plant,” says Dr Schneider, who was a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Melbourne during this project, and is now based at the Max Planck Institute for Molecular Plant Physiology.

“The system uses a master

regulator, or a transcription factor, that switches on genes in the plant that are specific for wood production.

“By using that transcription factor, you can induce wood formation in any plant cell type you want. So now we can make wood at the surface of the plant, which is much easier to image.”

The switch from primary cell wall production to secondary cell wall production is a fast process, taking just a couple of hours.

The team watched the red and green tagged factories that formed the different cellulose structures and noted that the secondary wall cellulose formed faster than primary wall cellulose.

Professor Persson is part of a team of researchers from the University of Melbourne, the University of British Columbia, the Max Planck Institute and Michigan State University who have published the study in the international science journal, PNAS.

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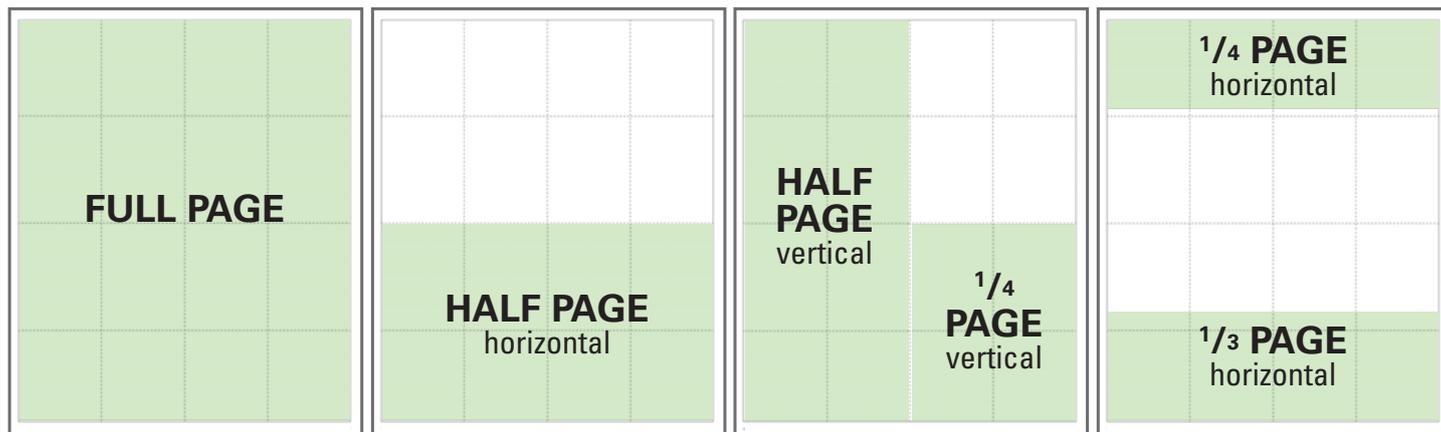
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