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## Science gives greater knowledge of gliders

COVER STORY P3



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# Scientific trials aim to garner a greater knowledge of greater gliders

## VicForests discounts misleading claims about threats to marsupial

VICFORESTS has responded to what it says are misleading claims about scientific trials the state-owned business is conducting in the East Gippsland to build knowledge of the habitat requirements of the greater glider.

It is believed there are more than 100,000 gliders spread through Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria.

A media report alleged the research project may cause the death of gliders.

VicForests has developed a scientific trial, the East Gippsland Greater Glider Project, to be carried out in existing approved timber harvest sites to build knowledge of the glider's habitat requirements.

VicForests says no new forest or coupes are being used to conduct the research; additional surveys and measurements are being carried out in existing approved timber harvest sites.

It says the research surveys do not put greater gliders at any threat.



**VicForests research... investigating added protection for species, including greater gliders.**

The core of the research is to undertake low-intensity harvesting, retaining 40%-80% of the forest, to evaluate gliders' response to varying harvesting levels.

"This could help guide future harvest planning to optimise the retention of greater glider habitat and usage and return of gliders post-harvest," says VicForests.

Anecdotally, greater gliders, which glide up to 100 m, have been observed returning to regrowth and retained habitat patches after harvest.

The research occurs in coupes that are already

approved for harvesting and comply with Code of Practice for Timber Harvest.

Further, an additional aspect of the research is to investigate added protections for species, including greater gliders, by trialling lower intensity burns that minimise canopy scorching

The wildlife and small institutions animal ethics committee within the



**OPTIMISING  
RETENTION OF  
GLIDER HABITAT**

Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources (DEDJTR) has approved VicForests' application for conducting surveys for threatened species for this research. VicForests also obtained a Wildlife Research Permit from the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning to undertake surveys.

VicForests wants to learn about how to create optimal conditions for greater gliders after timber harvesting.

The research projects, still in their infancy, are designed to produce evidence to support protection of glider populations during and after timber harvest.

In East Gippsland, if a threshold density of greater gliders is found in an intended coupe, VicForests identifies and preserves 100 ha of the glider's best habitat.

In other parts of Victoria, there is currently no prescription, but a government

Cont P 3



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# Greek tragedy warning bell for government on bushfires

THE federal and state governments must learn from the Greek fire tragedy before Australia experiences another Black Saturday bushfire.

That's the stark warning from the Institute of Foresters of Australia.

"We have experienced similar tragedies to the unfortunate Greek community," national president Bob Gordon said.

"We have some understanding of what they are feeling at present and our hearts reach out to them in their time of sorrow."

Mr Gordon said the IFA stood ready to help if the federal government offered to aid Greece.

"Our members include people with high levels of professional knowledge and experience to guide the Greek authorities towards a better approach to forest fire management," he said.

The fires have killed at least 80 people and injured 187, Greek officials say, with the number of victims set to climb.

After the 2007 Greek fires, 78 people died and more than 110 villages were affected directly by the fire fronts.



**Bob Gordon... threat remains of forest fires burning into our cities.**

Gavriil Xanthopoulos from Greece's National Agricultural Research Foundation warned that unless the management of fires in Greece changed then similar tragedies would unfold.

"Sadly, he was right. A similar number of people have died again this month," Bob Gordon said.

He notes similarities between ineffective fire management in Greece and the path being followed by Australian politicians and fire agency leaders.

**"IT MAKES SENSE TO USE PEOPLE WHO UNDERSTAND FOREST FIRES"**

"The two most disastrous fires, in the past 60 years, have occurred since Greece removed forest fire suppression responsibilities from the Forest Service and handed them to the Hellenic Fire Service (the para-military organisation that carries the responsibility for urban firefighting) in 1998.

"It makes sense to use people who understand the rural and forest environment for forest fire suppression. That includes foresters working with locals who understand the bush and fire behaviour.

"We will have fewer catastrophic forest fires if we properly manage the forested estate on both public and private land."

Mr Gordon said relying on an ever-increasing number of aircraft did not make economic sense.

The Victorian Bushfire Royal Commissioners recommended extensive fuel reduction burning to manage forest fuels in the mountainous forests, far away from urban settlements.

"Failure to do so will lead to forest fires burning into our cities like they did in Canberra in 2003," Mr Gordon said.

critically endangered species, such as the Leadbeaters' possum.

VicForests harvests about 3000 ha of forest a year, which is around 0.05% of the state's native forests.

**On the cover: foresters monitor great glider habitats among mountain ash forests at Powelltown in scientific research trials. Photo VicForests**

From P 2

prescription is in development and will soon be released for public comment.

Until the government finalises the prescription for greater gliders, VicForests has applied its own voluntary protections above and beyond the requirements of the Code of Practice for Timber Harvest, by protecting glider habitat in coupes (unless unsafe).

In the Strathbogies where there are substantial known populations, VicForests has voluntarily retained more than 60% of the forest in a coupe and 98% of the habitat trees.

Since 2016, the greater glider has been listed as vulnerable under federal legislation and as threatened under state legislation since 2017. The glider's vulnerable status is not as high as some endangered species or



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# Labor's forestry carbon pledge a game-changer for timber industry

FEDERAL Labor's commitment this week to review the Carbon Farming Initiative (CFI) methodologies for plantations and farm forestry, with the aim of enabling industry to fully participate in the carbon market, was a game-changer that had the potential to incentivise new plantings in key forestry regions and create tens of thousands of jobs, AFPA CEO Ross Hampton said.

Shadow Agriculture and Forestry Minister Joel Fitzgibbon said a future Labor government would review the water rule restrictions with the aim to remove the existing rules in both the plantations and farm

forestry Carbon Farming Initiative methodologies. This would ensure the forestry sector could compete on a level playing field and play a bigger role in a lower carbon future.

"With the right policy settings, Australia can reverse a decade-long decline in the nation's plantation area, which is constraining Australia's forest industries from reaching their full potential at a time of record global demand for renewable forest products," Ross Hampton said.

He said that with the federal government's \$20 million funding allocation in the 2018-19 Budget to progress a national forestry



Joel Fitzgibbon... reviewing water rule restrictions.

industry plan that would be unveiled in September, there was bipartisan momentum to grow Australia's annual \$24 billion forest products industries.

"Mr Fitzgibbon's commitment comes on top of his recent pledge to deliver a 'comprehensive strategic plan' for forestry; it has opened the door for bipartisanship on growing Australia's plantation estate and giving farmers a

new revenue stream," Mr Hampton said.

"I urge the government to seize this opportunity and remove these barriers as soon as possible."

As AFPA's recent publication 18 by 2030: Forest industries help tackle Australia's climate change challenge showed, renewable forest industries can make a massive contribution to Australia's emissions reduction target as well as create tens of thousands of new regional jobs.

Removing these barriers will make an immediate difference in major timber processing regions where the current CFI restrictions restrict new plantings, such as Tumut and Oberon in NSW, Mount Gambier in South Australia, Colac in Victoria, and Southeast Queensland.

## A day to celebrate our renewable forest sector

NATIONAL Forestry Planting Day (August 1) was an opportunity to highlight the sustainable practices of the forestry sector, the federal minister responsible for forestry Senator Anne Ruston said.

The day celebrates forestry's environmental contribution where more than 70 million trees are planted each year.

"Today we renew Australia's commitment to a high-tech, carbon positive, renewable forestry future," Senator Ruston

said yesterday.

"The forestry sector annually plants 70 million trees, benefiting the environment and underpinning the 70,000 direct jobs and many thousands of others that rely on the industry."

Senator Ruston said the Turnbull Government continued to deliver its own commitments to the sector.

"We are getting on with the job of delivering the \$20 million National Forest Industries Plan," she said.



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# AKD buys CHH timber business in industry investment growth strategy

## Processing one million cubic metres of sawlogs across all mills

INTEGRATED Australian forestry and timber processing company Associated Kiln Driers has signed an agreement with Carter Holt Harvey to acquire all of the shares of Carter Holt Harvey Timber Pty Ltd.

The company owns CHH's NSW sawmilling business. The major assets comprise the Tumut sawmill and Gilmore treatment facility in Tumut, a 50% interest in the Highland Pine Products joint venture in Oberon and a distribution centre in Berkeley Vale.

Tumut processes about 565,000 cub m of sawlogs and produces a range of predominantly structural products primarily for supply in NSW. The Gilmore treatment facility is a value-adding site located in close proximity to the Tumut sawmill.

Highland Pine processes about 600,000 cub m of sawlog, producing a range of timber products.

AKD currently processes



*Innovation and growth... chairman of the Australian Forest Products Association Greg McCormack (right) presents the inaugural Innovation in Business Award to AKD Softwoods CEO Shane Vicary at the AFPA dinner in Canberra last year.*

more than 1 million cub m of sawlog across its mills in Colac and Yarram in Victoria and Caboolture in Queensland and has more than 600 employees.

AKD CEO Shane Vicary said the acquisition represented an excellent fit with the company's existing operations in Victoria and Queensland.

"We are very enthusiastic about the acquisition and look forward to working with the

existing CHHT employees and providing all AKD employees with enhanced opportunities across the wider AKD group as a result of this transaction," Mr Vicary said.

"The acquisition enhances our ability to efficiently

**“EXCELLENT FIT WITH EXISTING OPERATIONS”**

service both existing and new customers and we look forward to building strong relationships with all suppliers to the NSW operations."


The acquisition continues AKD's approach of growth through strategic acquisition and capital investment and further highlights AKD's propensity to invest in the industry over the long term.

Completion of the transaction is expected to occur in the fourth quarter of 2018.

AKD acquired the CHH sawmill at Caboolture, north of Brisbane, in March.

The operation processes about 215,000 cub m of sawlog into a range of timber products for Queensland and northern NSW markets.

AKD Softwoods is a privately-owned company with a proud history of 60 years in the forest industry, serving local and international markets through sustainable forestry practices.




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# Chile hot to supply greater supply of structural softwood to Australia

CAN Australian importers and wholesalers expect to see increased supplies of structural softwood, engineered wood products and plywood from Chile?

That question was included in recent discussions with high-level Chilean representatives.

Already Chile is Australia's major supplier of a wide range of radiata pine-based timber products. However, the general manager of the Australian Timber Importers Federation John Halkett says Chile could do more.

"Chilean timber products are world-class in terms of technology, treatment and processing, and have supplanted the earlier



**Taking timber trade...** Humberto Molina, consul-general of Chile, Patricio Powell, Chilean ambassador, Paula Moreno, trade commissioner ProChile, and John Halkett, general manager ATIF.

dominance of New Zealand radiata pine products in the Australian market – and more is needed."

Mr Halkett noted that the present challenging supply

constraints associated with structural softwood lines for the domestic building and construction industry, especially for some frame and truss manufacturers.

"So discussions have been held with the Chilean ambassador and other senior Chilean representatives to explore possibilities for Australian importers to strengthen their interaction

with Chilean suppliers aimed at additional volumes of graded and treated structural softwood, and also some engineered wood product lines," he said.

Mr Halkett said there was considerable merit in seeking to strengthen existing relationships with Chilean structural softwood and engineer wood suppliers.

He also advised Chilean representatives of the changes to the National Construction Code related to mid-rise building construction that provide opportunities for massive panel and more traditional frame and truss construction, and the potential this might offer to the Chilean timber industry.

The meeting resolved to continue to work through ProChile, and with major Chilean forest companies to investigate prospects for expanded trade with Australia.

ProChile is in charge of promoting exports of products and services within the Chilean Ministry of Foreign Affairs and has a network of more than 50 offices worldwide, with 15 export centres in Chile.

**“CHILEAN  
TIMBER  
TECHNOLOGY  
WORLD-CLASS**

## PNG round log exports to cease by 2020, says PM

PAPUA New Guinea will put a complete ban on round log exports by year 2020 "so that we keep the jobs in our country," the Prime Minister Peter O'Neill has announced.

In a statement to parliament last week, he said: "We will not be issuing timber permits for round log

exports by 2020. We want to get the timber companies to go into downstream processing; the fixed product can be exported overseas."

"That is well in line and there is a good understanding in the industry and government about how we develop our forestry industry."



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## 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.forestsafty.events](http://www.forestsafty.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/)

**13: Gala Queensland Timber Industry Awards evening**  
– Rydges South Bank, Brisbane. Hosted by TABMA Queensland, 6:30 - 11:30 pm. Dress formal. Contact Alicia Oelkers on (07) 07 3456 76065 or email [Alicia@tabma.com.au](mailto:Alicia@tabma.com.au)

**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](mailto:info@vafi.org.au)

**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.** Contact (02) 9277 3100 or visit [www.tabma.com.au](http://www.tabma.com.au)

**26: Green Triangle Timber Industry Awards – The Barn, Mount Gambier.** Nominations close 17 August, Green Triangle Timber Industry Awards dinner 26 October. For further information contact Prue Younger, event manager +64 (21) 2765484.

For more information 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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## 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 is 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/)

[china/2018-china-global-wood-trade-conference/](http://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/)

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)  
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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: [pdonosou@uach.cl](mailto:pdonosou@uach.cl)

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



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

With the support of the Australian and South Australian governments, the Mt Gambier 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 include: developing new products in relation to composites, extractives and bioenergy; improving workplace innovation, safety and efficiency; enhancing tree growing including forest health and genetic gain; maximising precision management and applying new technologies; improving the forestry social licence; and identifying opportunities with robotics, automation and artificial intelligence.

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 Friday 7 September 2018 and should be lodged via email to [funding.sa@nifpi.org.au](mailto:funding.sa@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 Mt Gambier hub of the National Institute for Forest Products Innovation is a joint venture between the Australian Government, the South Australian Government and the forest and wood products industry with the goal of growing forestry into the future.



**NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR FOREST PRODUCTS INNOVATION MT GAMBIER**



# The rise of the machines

## Robotic wood-working systems at AWISA give view to the future

IT could either be the stuff of a horror sci-fi movie or the dream of a better tomorrow, but either way the robots are coming and they will be able to think, too!

As evidenced at the recent AWISA 2018 in Sydney, robotic systems, together with artificial intelligence software, are now firmly established as an integral part of the cabinet-making industry.

Australia is certain to follow overseas trends. The Frankfurt-based International Federation of Robotics (IFR) estimates that 9900 robots were installed in central and eastern Europe in 2017, up 28% from the year before.

The IFR projects a 21% compound annual growth rate in robot installations in the region by the end of this decade.

Homag automation specialise Hartmut Schrage and Homag's Australasian managing director Ross Campbell are both enthusiastic about the opportunities robotic development and artificial intelligence are able to offer industrial-scale cabinet making and joinery industries.

"Already robots are more than capable of carrying out heavy repeatable tasks, especially in Australia where labour is hard to find and, basically, few people are interested," Mr Campbell said.

There is now an emphasis on statutory robots doing repetitive materials handling and processing tasks.

"However, the next generation of robots are likely to include humanoid design – that is, robots that move independently and undertake more complex tasks," Mr



**Enthusiastic about automation...** Hartmut Schrage, Homag automation specialist, and Ross Campbell, Homag's Australasian managing director.

Campbell said.

"Also, robots will have artificial intelligence capabilities. They will be able to learn and undertake increasingly complex tasks. So we will see robotics pushing the boundaries and being completely integrated with CNC machine manufacturing, resulting in systems connectivity, improved production and greater precision."

**“ROBOTICS PUSHING BOUNDARIES ON CNC MANUFACTURE**

Already robots are able to carry out some complex construction tasks. A new construction method developed by Swiss engineers is using robotic arms to fabricate and assemble the wooden parts of buildings so geometrically complex they would previously have been virtually impossible to construct.

The researchers from science, technology, engineering and mathematics university ETH Zurich say their Spatial Timber Assembly (STA)

method enables development of longer-lasting, robust buildings much more complex in design than is possible using traditional wooden construction methods. That presents architects with the

option of using timber-based material to develop an even greater range of buildings.

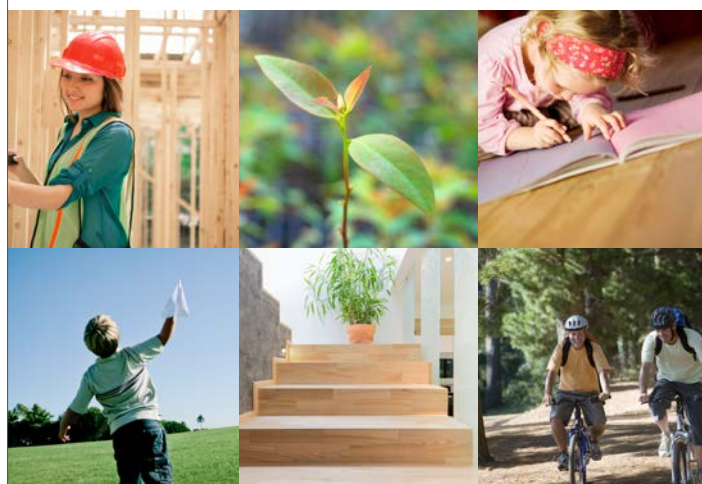
The researchers began by developing a computer-based design program to calculate the exact shapes, positions and angles of all parts necessary to create a geometric structure, highly rigid, and with solid load-bearing capabilities.

Using this program, designers simply need to decide on the shapes needed, and the STA program will make all necessary calculations.

Researchers went on to develop an algorithm that enables precise positioning of all parts using specially

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## The united voice for Australia's forest industries



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From P 9

designed and built robotic arms. This algorithm continually calculates the arms' motions throughout every stage of construction until each part has been precisely placed.

The Austrian industrial company Hirtenberger has spent millions of euros automating two production units at the factory to meet surging demand from the likes of BMW, Mercedes, Volkswagen and Audi. And it's not alone as companies across Eastern Europe ramp up investment in automation to cope with a labour shortage that started after the 2008 financial crisis, and after curbs were lifted in 2011 on worker flows to richer countries in the European Union.

While policy makers and



**Taking over... the next generation of robots is likely to include humanoid design, that is, robots that move independently and undertake more complex tasks.**

economists in many parts of the world worry about the potential social negatives of robots displacing humans, in Europe automation is seen as a godsend for companies that want to avoid losing market share.

Even where companies pay attractive wages this doesn't

appear to be enough to persuade young people to take up associated jobs, or to make

**“ROBOTIC ARMS  
GIVE PRECISE  
POSITIONING  
OF ALL PARTS**

up for demographic trends that indicate a shrinking, aging population.

Economists warn the labour shortage could have a crippling effect on some of Europe's economies before the end of this decade. Companies in developed economies, including in Germany, the Netherlands, France and Britain, are already complaining about the scarcity of workers.

So work hard and hang onto your job – the robots and artificial intelligence will be coming to your workplace sooner or later. They promise real benefits in terms of productivity, cost efficiencies and labour savings.

However, Homag's Ross Campbell reckons managing directors will still be needed at the helm – at least while he is around!

## CLT timber call a new forest management strategy

THE Washington state legislature has called on the Washington State Building Code Council to adopt rules for CLT timber use when building residential and commercial buildings.

The move represents ongoing efforts to bring CLT into mainstream use for residential and commercial

construction, which would create commercial value for the small-diameter trees that are contributing to poor forestland health in the state.

For state and federal officials, as well as private stakeholders, that change could hasten restoration work by making tree thinning a profitable endeavour rather

than a costly project requiring government funding.


The potential CLT offer was articulated by US Forest Service chief Vicki Christiansen at the 2018 Pacific NorthWest Economic Region Summit in Spokane on July 24.

“We can use new opportunities for forest


product delivery to help us to improve forest conditions, while also creating jobs and sustaining rural communities,” she said.

“We can implement these new practices by working together and being a good neighbour.”

(The Lens News)



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# \$4m 'hub' funding program aims at growing state's forest industries

A \$4 MILLION joint funding program aimed at growing South Australia's forest and forest products industry is officially open for applications.

Federal Assistant Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources Senator Anne Ruston and South Australian Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development Tim Whetstone have released guidelines for the Mount Gambier National Institute for Forest Products Innovation fund.

Researchers with projects to grow Australia's forest and forest products industry are encouraged to apply for funding of between \$50,000 and \$500,000.

Senator Ruston is



**Tim Whetstone... opportunities to boost research and development in the forest and forest products industry.**

encouraging innovative applications to continue growing the plantation forest and forest products industry.

"The fund is aimed to seize upon opportunities to harness the potential of our forestry assets, and maximise the contribution of the industry

to our regional and national economies," she said.

"The fact that one of the National Institute for Forest Products Innovation hubs is located at Mount Gambier demonstrates the importance of South Australia and the Green Triangle to Australia's

forest and forest products industry."

Tim Whetstone said the fund would provide important opportunities to boost research and development in the forest and forest products industry.

"Priority areas for funding in the plantation forest and forest products industry include the development of new products, innovative, safe and efficient workplaces, and precision management; as well as tree growing, and robotics, automation and artificial intelligence."

Applications for funding close on September 7. Visit [www.nifpi.org.au](http://www.nifpi.org.au) for guidelines.

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# Koala occupancy rates in NSW forests: evidence is something to bellow about!

A MAJOR new study that records forest sounds has found evidence for up to 10 times the rate of koala occupancy in NSW's northeast forests than previously estimated.

The NSW Department of Primary Industries project, which focused on the marsupial's response to timber harvesting, involved more than 14,500 hours of audio recorded over three years to measure the bellows of male koalas.

DPI principal research scientist Dr Brad Law said the new technique involved SongMeter devices being installed at 171 sites in the northeast, in many state forests, national parks



*Sweet sounds... Dr Brad Law with the SongMeter audio recording technology.*

and reserves.

"Koalas are surprisingly difficult to detect; they are cryptic animals especially in tall forests, yet their bellows echo through the forest at night during the spring mating season, making this new survey method particularly effective," he said.

The study region spanned

more than 1.7 million ha of mapped koala habitat – from the ranges and tablelands of northeast NSW to the Hunter River in the south and the Queensland border in the north.

Sites were located in the public forests of the coast and ranges, but avoided previously cleared valleys and private land surrounding

towns where koalas are known to be declining due to urbanisation.

Over three breeding seasons, researchers found that 65% of survey sites on average were occupied by at least one male koala (in the small zone surrounding each SongMeter).

"We found that occupancy was influenced by elevation, cover of important browse trees, site productivity and extent of wildfire in the last 10 years," Brad Law said.

"Interestingly, past timber harvesting did not influence koala occupancy. There was no difference in results between heavily harvested, lightly harvested and old growth sites.

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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)

## Key Dates 2018

18 June  
17 August  
September  
26 October

Nominations Open  
Nominations Close  
Judging Process  
**GREEN TRIANGLE  
TIMBER INDUSTRY AWARDS**

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# Komatsu leader in steep terrain harvesting

## Utilising both track and wheel machines from USA, Japan and Sweden

KOMATSU Forest Australia has developed and expanded its range of forest machines to become a leader in steep terrain harvesting.

Its close relationship with Timberpro Inc in the development of the TL765 tail-swing levelling track machine has become a big success in the Australasian market. Notably, its ability to be a utility carrier in tough conditions and offering several boom options to meet all applications has been a real and widely appreciated benefit.

Komatsu Forest Australia has a long-term partnership with Electrical and Machinery Services in New Zealand which has carried extensive PC Series excavator



**Timberpro  
TL765... master  
of steep terrain  
log harvesting**

conversions for Komatsu Forest to meet forest requirements in New Zealand and in Australia.

Lately, Electrical and Machinery Services has developed the Harvestline and Tractionline – two unique products for steep slopes. Komatsu Forest is a dealer for these products in Australia.

In addition, Komatsu Forest Australia is supported by

Komatsu Forest Sweden with the development of its own wheel machines by recently releasing its eight-wheel drive harvester, the Komatsu 931XC and the industry-leading winch mounted Komatsu 931 harvester and Komatsu 975 forwarder.

Also, Komatsu has worked closely with Timberpro in developing the TL765 tail-swing carrier. Since its introduction to the market it

has been refined to handle all types of attachments for tough conditions.

The Timberpro TL765 can be supplied with feller/shovel, harvester and feller-buncher boom sets enabling many attachments options including the Waratah 624C and 625C, Komatsu 398/283, KF750 and 800, Woodsman 750 and FH1350, Satco 630E/Heel, and Woodstar FD750.

A game changer for steep terrain log harvesting, the Timberpro TL765 has three key features: levelling – front 22 deg, rear 8 deg, and side 20 deg; independent Rexroth GFT 8190 track drives developing 484 kN of tractive effort; hydrostatic swing incorporates dual Rexroth motors with 608 kN of swing torque.

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# World's tallest timber tower tops out with sustainable PEFC wood

## Pairing sustainable building with engineered wood solutions

INTERNATIONAL property and infrastructure group Lendlease has reached structural completion of the world's tallest and largest engineered timber office building at 25 King on the \$2.9 billion renewal development at Brisbane showgrounds in Bowen Hills.

The \$140 million nine-storey building involves 3097 individual timber elements, including 33 timber columns on each floor and 52 beams.

More than 5970 cub m of timber – equivalent of 3402 spruce pine trees – was used in the construction. All the timber was sourced from PEFC-certified forests and



*At the top... conferring at the 25 King Street site are, from left, Matthew Miller, regional manager Queensland commercial, Lendlease, Tony Orazio, general manager (Queensland and Northern Territory) Lendlease Building, Michelle Wooldridge, project director, Brisbane Showgrounds, Lendlease, Quentin Jackson, associate sustainable design leader, Aurecon, Philip Vivian, director, Bates Smart, and Peter Turner, client director property, Aurecon.*

has a verified Environmental Product Declaration (EPD).

Sustainable and certified

timber, paired with engineered wood solutions, was the

driving force behind Lendlease

delivering the world's largest timber office building by gross floor area.

The 25 King project is on track for completion later this year.

Responsible Wood, the governing body in Australia for the Program for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC),

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From P 15

congratulated Lendlease on its ground-breaking achievement. CEO Simon Dorries contributed to some relevant questions put to the developer about its preference for sustainable and certified engineered wood products.

### What kind of timber was used and why was it selected?

From the structure's basement and ground level, it transitions to cross laminated timber (CLT) slabs/soffits, lift core and fire stair, coupled with glue laminated beams, columns and bracing. The timber structure continues until it reaches the level 10 plant room, which is structured in steel.

The timber is from PEFC-certified spruce trees, an exceptionally fast-growing species in Austria. The CLT is made by spruce sheets stacked on top of each



**Lendlease has reached structural completion of the world's tallest engineered timber office building.**

other at 90 deg. angles and glued together under high pressure to create large sized cross laminated panels (2.95 x 17.5m). The LVL has high-strength thin veneers oriented in the same direction and glued together for strengthening penetrations within the glulam beams.

It is a pre-fabricated building system delivering sustainability, safety and commercial benefits over

conventional delivery methods.

### What makes the building's design and specifications special and unique?

The building features exposed timber structures, creating a contemporary and creative studio environment, providing tenants with health and wellbeing benefits with a warm, clean and natural environment.

### Why the use of timber for the project and what are the benefits?

Engineered timber offers design versatility, rapid and efficient installation, reduced waste, fire protection, lighter weight (compared to concrete), and improved thermal performance and energy efficiency. It significantly reduces the carbon footprint of the building and the sustainably-sourced timber is a fast-growing renewable resource.

There is a growing body of evidence internationally demonstrating that connection to nature, biophilic design and wood is associated with improved physical and mental wellbeing.

The use of wood and biophilic design in the Australian indoor workplace has clear benefits for both the employee and the organisation. The positive connection people have with

wood as a natural material has the effect of increasing workplace satisfaction and wellbeing.

Those in workplaces with a higher proportion of wood feel more connected to nature and rate their working environment far more positively. These people have lower stress levels, higher concentration and improved overall mood.

The application of wood visual surfaces indoors is one way to reduce stress and promote health in building occupants.

### Will the building require treatment/maintenance over time?

The timber does not need additional treatment as it is located in the building within a controlled environment.

**"INCREASING  
WORKPLACE  
SATISFACTION  
AND WELLBEING**

### What are the energy efficiency stats for the project?

The building is targeting a 6-star Green Star rating, 5-star NABERS Energy rating, WELL Core & Shell rating, and meets A-Grade rating in accordance with the Property Council of Australia.

**Note:** Austria's forests cover about 4 million ha, almost half of the country's federal territory. Most of the forests are privately owned and are managed by forest farmers on a small-scale basis. Forest areas are divided into nine regions – all certified by PEFC.

Responsible Wood is the governing body for PEFC in Australia. More than 8 million ha of forests is now certified providing sustainable building materials to architects, builders and retailers, and timber and paper products to craftsmen and all Australians.

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# Certified river red gum returns historic wharf to its former glory

## Koondrook project gains swathe of architectural awards

WHY re-build a wharf that was pulled down in the 1950s?

This was the first question Sydney-based architect Terroir asked in reviewing Gannawarra Shire Council's brief.

The council and local community in northern Victoria had actually been considering the project for many years in the hope that revitalising this focal point of the local history might, in some way, help reinvigorate a community suffering from a downturn in the local agro-economy.

It was worth the wait.



*A river flows... the award winning Koondrook Wharf, re-constructed from magnificent river red gums.*

The new Koondrook Wharf, opened in 2016, recently picked up three Victorian Architecture Awards

including the Regional Prize Architecture Award, Urban Design Architecture Award and Small Projects

Architecture Award. The wharf has also been shortlisted for the 2018 World Architecture Festival Awards, to be held in Amsterdam in November.

And what better resource for the wharf's timber construction – red gum (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*), the most widely distributed eucalyptus species in Australia that lines the Murray River and most of its length.

This striking red gum timber is not only a renewable resource it was harvested from state forests (VicForests) within 4 km of the site, minimising the

Cont P 18

## NATIONAL TIMBER INDUSTRY DINNER



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From P 17

impacts of transporting materials over long distances by road. VicForests' operations are certified by Responsible Wood ensuring best practice in sustainable forest management.

Some 98% of Australia's commercial forests are certified by Responsible Wood.

The timber was supplied by Arbuthnot Sawmills, a family company established on its present site at Koondrook by Alexander (Sandy) Arbuthnot in 1889, only 200 m from the wharf. It was air dried, minimising the energy used in kiln-drying.

Terroir's Scott Balmforth describes the project as "more than just a wharf: it is a place to experience, not only providing a greater connection between the township and the Murray River but exemplifying this unique location and showcasing local history".

Gannawarra Shire Council had three objectives – to stimulate tourism through the provision of mooring for houseboats, paddle steamers

**“VISIONARY DESIGN BLENDS FORM AND FUNCTION**

and private boats; to create a community asset that connects the township to the river, extending the adjacent Apex public park so it could host public and private events; and to celebrate the local area's history and honour the national heritage significance of the Murray River region.

The wharf was constructed in 1881 at a time when the town of Koondrook was known for boat building and as a freight centre for the movement of local farm produce as a key part of the river, rail and road network.

The wharf also made Koondrook an important trading stop for riverboat journeys. It was finally decommissioned in the 1950s.

While remaining mindful of this important history, Terroir has delivered a visionary design which blends form and function and showcases the quality of local materials, especially the magnificent Murray River red gum, which is the main material for both the decking and the structure itself and reinforces the connection between riverbank and river.



1

**1/ Supplier... the Arbuthnot Sawmills, a family company established 1889, provided the red gum timbers for the reconstruction of Gannawarra Shire Council's Koondrook Wharf in regional Victoria.**

**2/ Polished performance... red river gum dining table.**



2

Constructed alongside the original wharf, which is marked by a set of memorial piers, the new wharf facility allows visitors to walk the 28-metre ramp down onto a floating pontoon positioned within the river, to gain a new perspective of the Murray.

The pontoon has an operable ramp enabling boat access, regardless of the water level and is also suited to recreational pursuits such as canoeing and fishing. Viewing platforms weave through the existing Murray River red gum trees and feature red gum decking laid

lengthways to create the effect of the timber 'coming in' from the river – a subtle reference to the logs that were once unloaded from paddle steamers for the nearby sawmill.

This red gum timber is also central to art works that tell the story of the Aboriginal inhabitants of the area and are strategically placed along pathways, framing key vantage points across the river.

A standout feature is the old tram turntable at the wharf's entrance, which has been resurfaced with a red gum, slate and basalt mural by Aboriginal artists Glenn Romanis and Aunty Esther Kirby.

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## HEAD OFFICE

Timber & Forestry enews  
PO Box 69, Potts Point, NSW 1335,  
Australia  
Phone | +61 (0) 417 421 187

## PUBLISHERS

John Halkett | +61 (0) 417 421 187  
johnh@timberandforestryenews.com  
Dennis Neilson | +64 (0) 7 349 2764  
dennisn@timberandforestryenews.com

## MANAGING EDITOR

Jim Bowden | +61 (0) 401 312 087

## ADVERTISING

John Halkett | +61 (0) 417 421 187  
johnh@timberandforestryenews.com  
Jim Bowden | +61 (0) 401 312 087  
cancon@bigpond.net.au

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# Commodore Calais is a well-bred leader in the growing herd of SUVs

HOW about a Brangus burger, I suggested to Miss Suzie Two-Shoes.

That's a beefed-up Bos indicus-Bos taurus hybrid, so it should be lean and delicious, I spruiked, drawing on my many years among cattle.

"But how do you know it's a Bongus in the bun, inquired the 11-year-old god-daughter who always asks for every detail about everything.

A good point. These days every restaurant, café, take-away, or soup kitchen puts up a sign: "Best Angus beef or best Wagu steak". Best Bos burger?

With all the Herefords, Shorthorns, Devons, Brahman, Charolais and the rest chewing the cud all over Australia, surely some of them would make the cut on a humble burger.

The black Angus – or Aberdeen Angus to be politically correct – is Scottish and the UK's most popular native beef breed. The black or red Wagu is Japanese, genetically developed from the early beasts of burden; the Australian version is grain fed, and in WA's Margaret River region often has red wine added to its feed.

So, economy there. No need to order a bottle of Moss Wood cab-sav – it's already been served in the filet mignon!

So if you see a few red bulls staggering in a paddock they've probably been on the plonk.

Suzie Two-Shoes returned to one of her favourite games – recording car makes and their number plates in a little



**Valued property... the Commodore Calais 2.0T diesel FWD pulls up at Crofton's Retreat.**

pink book, while I cogitated over motor car breeds and Suzie's mum and dad enjoyed the comfort of heated back seats in our Holden Calais Tourer.

As we entered the gates of Crofton's Retreat in Nimbin Valley, 30 km north of a Lismore in northern NSW, for a night's stay, we were welcomed by a herd of ... Brangus bulls. They were casting amorous eyes at some Italian Piedmontese heifers over the fence.

Now to the breeding of the Calais. It always went that if you wanted a Commodore, but needed something just a bit more upmarket, you'd go for a Calais. It's much the same, except the Commodores (bred in Australia) are coming from Germany.

While the 'buy-Australian' aspect is no longer an incentive for the German-built Commodore, Holden says that progress in other areas over the previous model should sustain the

**“IMPROVED VALUE, PERFORMANCE AND SAFETY”**

## MOTERING



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Commodore's allure.

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A fresh 3.6-litre V6 engine – putting power to all four wheels – combined with a new nine-speed auto, Twinster all-wheel drive grip and some good cladding give this German Opel crossover a combination of style and substance.

There are two models in the line-up, the \$45,990 Calais 2.0T and the high-specification and more expensive \$53,990 Calais-V.

Like the rest of the new generation ZB Commodores, the Calais is well equipped – 18 in. alloy wheels and safety gear that includes

autonomous emergency braking, lane-keep assist, forward collision alert, side blind zone alert, rear cross traffic alert, parking assist, a reversing camera, front and rear parking sensors and cruise control.

The cabin features leather seat trim, wireless phone charging, an 8-in. colour touch-screen with Apple CarPlay and Android Auto smartphone projection, satellite-navigation, digital radio and a hands-free power tailgate.

There are six airbags and a maximum five-star ANCAP rating.

Upgrade to the Calais-V and you get 20-in. wheels, adaptive LED Matrix headlights, a 360-deg. camera, a panoramic sunroof, a head-up display, Bose premium audio, a massaging driver's seat with power-adjustable bolsters, ventilated front seats, heated rear seats and flappy paddles for the auto.

This sporty spiritual successor to the VFII Commodore SV6 has every chance of being most popular model in the reconstituted Commodore range.

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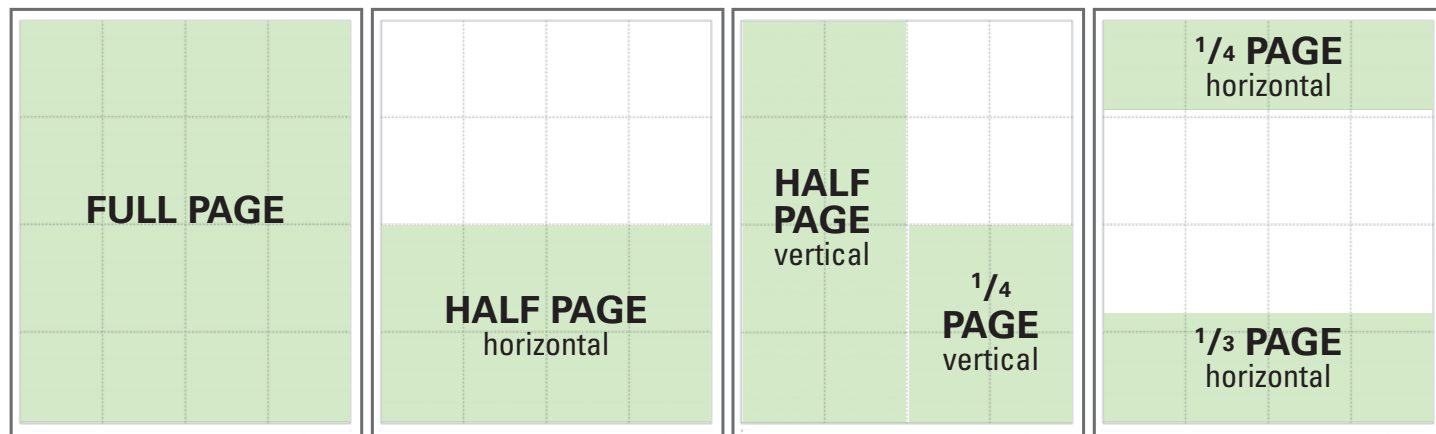
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