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## Milling logs sustainably

COVER STORY P10



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# Coalition sides with industry on rejection of Great National Park

THE state Opposition says it will not establish the proposed Great National Park in Victoria should it win government in November.

Victorian Association of Forest Industries CEO Tim Johnston said the commitment by Opposition Leader Matthew Guy this week was a positive step for the timber and forestry industry.

“We look forward to detailed policy platforms from the Coalition,” he said.

“I am encouraged to see that the Coalition is clear on their policy towards the proposed GFNP, which if established would have devastating consequences for the industry, and a direct impact socially and economically for all of Victoria.

The timber and forestry industry brings in more than \$7.3 billion in sales and service income and employs

**“WAITING FOR DETAILED POLICY”**



**Matthew Guy... rejects state's national park proposal.**

some 20,000 workers directly, with thousands more employed through flow on activity.

“We need security and certainty and we hope that this commitment will be one of many made to secure the future of the timber and forestry industry in Victoria,” Mr Johnston said.

“The industry is committed to working constructively with all stakeholders, including NGOs and governments to maintain the balance between environmental considerations and the sustainable industry in Victoria.”

Mr Johnston said forestry,



**Tim Johnston... positive step for the timber and forest industry.**

tourism and many other small industries ensured a resilient and vibrant future for communities and all Victorians.

Some 94% of the state forest is already unavailable or unsuitable for timber harvesting. Currently timber harvesting occurs in just 0.04% of the forest annually and harvested timber is replanted the following year.

Meanwhile, under a Liberal plan, almost 300,000 plots of land in Melbourne's fringe areas would be released to tackle housing affordability.

Matthew Guy has also promised to financially penalise authorities that

are causing unreasonable delays in the delivery of greenfield land estates, in an announcement that has been described as ‘music to the development industry's ears’.

Despite spending years repeatedly criticising the trajectory of Melbourne's population growth, Mr Guy announced plans to fast-track the release of 290,000 residential lots in the western, northern and south-eastern growth corridors by mid-2020.

He said greater land supply would drive price competition in the land market.

**“INDUSTRY MUST HAVE SECURITY AND CERTAINTY”**

If the Coalition wins the election, it will also establish a new dispute resolution process at the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal in a bid to cut times and costs involved in planning applications and title timeframes.



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# Vietnam takes advantage of Japan plywood famine

CONCERNS are mounting in Japan's timber trade over a shortage of hardwood plywood and escalating costs of imports, especially from Vietnam.

Export prices for Vietnamese eucalyptus plywood have been gradually climbing since flood rains damaged some veneer plants, says the Yokohama-based International Tropical Timber Organisation

Export prices are now more than \$US320 cub m as manufacturers shift to more profitable US markets so the supply for Japan is getting tight.

Japan's shortage of veneer reflects delayed shipments of contracted volumes. While export prices are climbing, the yen is getting weaker and arrived yen costs are higher.

ITTO says the market prices in Japan need to be revised higher to cover the cost but the market in July was inactive and August was a vacation month.

Demand is firm and there are some orders of non-JAS plywood used for engineering works for restoration of the flood damaged Hiroshima and Okayama regions.

Vietnam's first MDF plant has been completed by Korea's Dongwha Enterprise and Vietnam Rubber Group in a joint venture. The VRG Dongwha Joint Stock Company has an annual production capacity of 558,000 cub m and is the largest MDF plant in Asia, shipping its first cargo to Japan in August.

The plant has one press for thick MDF of monthly



**Explosive growth... Dongwha's massive MDF plant north of Ho Chi Minh City.**

production of 31,500 cub m and one press for thin MDF of monthly production of 15,000 cub m. For the Japan shipment, the trial product was 2.5 mm thick 4x6 raw materials of rubber wood, acacia, Vietnamese pine

**VIETNAM'S  
MDF PLANT HAS  
CAPACITY FOR  
558,000 CUB M**

and cashew nut.

With economic growth, the southeast Asian country's domestic demand for MDF has grown explosively.

With growing US demand for furniture, the plant is increasing the manufacture of furniture components to US standards, which represents about 70% of market. It also exports to southeast Asian countries, India and the Middle East.

## China wood trade totalled \$80bn in first half of 2018

CHINA'S first half 2018 wood products data from China Customs shows trade totalled \$US80.97 billion, up 9% from the same period of 2017.

But ITTO says this was a slower growth than in the first half of 2017. Total value of exports in the first half rose 6% to \$US39.1 billion.

China's traders accelerated their wood product exports to beat the introduction of

tariffs by the US. The value of imports of wood products rose 13% to \$US41.9 billion in the first half of 2017, down 9% year on year.

The value of imports of wood products rose 13% to US\$41.9 billion in the first half of 2017, down 9% year on year. Overall, the pace of China's wood products imports was slower in the first half of 2018.



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# Penetrating evidence clears JNL of allegations on failed treatment

LONG-established engineered wood manufacturer Juken New Zealand has been exonerated by the Commerce Commission over allegations that its J-Frame product had failed timber treatment standards.

The commission asserted there was no substance to the allegations that J-Frame timber samples submitted to the SCION andASUREQuality testing did not have a retention level and/or a penetration pattern which were representative of the product being offered for sale in the market.

The allegations against JNL were made by Red Stag Timber.



J-Frame is a structural laminated veneer lumber (LVL) product manufactured from 100% renewable radiata pine plantations and independently certified to AS/NZS4357 (Structural LVL).

After investigation into



- 1/ *J-Frame... cleared as a reliable straight and durable product.*
- 2/ *Gordon Wilmshurst... not a single report of in-service failure.*

and marketing manager Gordon Wilmshurst said.

"We have not had a single report of in-service failure of J-Frame in over 10 years in New Zealand," he said.

The Scion research trial confirmed that J-Frame showed no signs of decay after 12 months of exposure to brown rot fungi in hot and humid conditions; and that the product resists decay as effectively as boron-treated H1.2 solid wood.

“SCION TESTS CONSISTENT WITH PRODUCT’S CODEMARK CERTIFICATION”

Mr Wilmshurst said importantly, the Scion research results were consistent with J-Frame’s Codemark certification that specified building work be designed in accordance with NZS 3604:2011 or specifically engineered in accordance with NZS 3603:1993 and where hazard class H1.2 or less applied.

the claims under the Fair Trading Act, the Commerce Commission considered there was insufficient evidence to substantiate the allegations made, or to show that there has been a breach of the Act.

"We're disappointed that J-Frame, an innovative product, with an unblemished track record, had these claims made against it," JNL sales

## Timber for future homes

THE NSW Forestry Corporation has finished planting nearly 3000 ha of pine plantations in the south west slopes region.

Silviculture manager, Roger Davies said the seedlings would be harvested as timber in around 35 years.

"It's exciting to think the

work we are doing today will provide the building blocks for the homes of our children and grandchildren," Mr Davies said.

This year the corporation planted more than 3.2 million seedlings around Moss Vale, Tumut and Tumbarumba.



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# Red Stag Waipa 'super mill' wins EECA award for energy efficiency

## Renewable waste process cuts annual power bill by \$1m

A ROTORUA-based 'super mill' generating its own electricity in amounts sufficient to power an entire town has won the Large Energy User Award announced last week by the New Zealand Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority.

Red Stag Timber Company, which annually processes more than one million tonnes of logs at its Waipa mill, is using its waste wood as renewable fuel rather than trucking it as fill and paying for its disposal – avoiding an annual power bill of up to \$1 million in the process.

The EECA 2018 Business Awards recognise New Zealand's leaders in energy and emissions reductions from the public and private sectors. They celebrate businesses, organisations and individuals who have demonstrated excellence and innovation in energy efficiency, renewable energy and emissions reduction.

The Large Energy User



**Powerful Initiative...** Red Stag Timber Company's energy use recognised in New Zealand business awards.

category was open to businesses with a large annual energy spend and high annual emissions. It recognises organisations that have completed a successful energy efficiency, emissions reduction or renewable energy initiative as part of a comprehensive energy and/or emissions management strategy.

Although Red Stag is one

of the largest of its kind in the world using the power for its own purposes, the 7.5 megawatts of electricity produced is equivalent to the amount needed to power 7000 households, according

“ 6100 TONNES  
REDUCTION  
IN EMISSIONS  
EVERY YEAR

to company's operations manager of energy and site services Shane Batchelor.

With the average New Zealand home containing 2.7 people this would be enough for a town of about 19,000 such as the North Island's Whakatane. At the same time, by using its waste wood as fuel instead of purchasing electricity, Red

Cont P 6

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From P 5

Stag is expecting to reduce carbon emissions by 6100 tonnes every year, an amount equivalent to taking more than 2200 cars off the road.

Mr Batchelor says the multi-million dollar “carbon-neutral” energy management project – made possible by the site’s biomass-powered turbines – will lead to an annual \$1 million of power savings for the company. Because the new process is generating more electricity than the plant needs at some off-peak times and on weekends, it is selling its surplus back to the national grid.

“We should be able to turn that \$1 million loss into income of about \$500,000 a year,” Mr Batchelor said.

The bio-fuel project, which supplies the electricity and thermal energy to kiln dry timber, has been supported



**Switched on... EECA account manager Amber Williams with Red Stag operations manager of energy and site services Shane Batchelor**  
Photo: NZ Herald

by the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority. The EECA, which funded a feasibility study into the opportunity, says Red Stag’s second biomass-powered turbine could really close the loop on their waste-to-energy program and define the company’s independent status as an energy-efficient and low-carbon business.

More than 40 entries were

received in five categories for this year’s EECA Business Awards, which were judged by the University of Waikato. As well as large businesses, the short-list included local councils, a university, district health boards and a thermal

hot pool.

Judge Dr James Neale of the University of Waikato’s engineering energy research centre, says the judging panel was impressed by the steps taken to introduce clever and long-term emissions reduction plans.

“The entries we reviewed show the thought and leadership that organisations are committing to reducing their environmental impact and improving their profit margins or effectiveness through energy efficiency,” he said.

“The projects are creative and demonstrate Kiwi ingenuity that can be picked up and replicated by other businesses.”

Red Stag Timber Company was also highly commended in the Energy and Emissions Reduction Project Award for individuals, project teams or organisations that have developed and implemented a successful, comprehensive energy management and/or emissions reduction project.

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## Timber trucks deliver goods to ‘drought angels’ in NSW

NORMALLY the trucks leaving OneFortyOne’s Jubilee Highway Sawmill at Mount Gambier, SA, are loaded with crates of timber for building houses.

However, the sawmill team has recently dispatched two crates of donated goods to help farming families in drought-stricken NSW.

OFO’s Maree Little led the employee donation drive, reaching out to the charity ‘Drought Angels’, and put together a list of items that were desperately needed.

“The call was put out to the OFO teams at the mill and the forests for donations,

and I was overwhelmed by everyone’s support,” Maree said.

“It has been a really humbling experience to see my colleagues jump on board in such a big way.”

The donated goods left the Jubilee Highway Sawmill on a Linfox Mount Gambier truck heading to Victoria where “Need for Feed-Disaster Relief” will deliver the donations.

Need for Feed is a Lions Club project that has been supporting communities and farmers affected by fire, drought and flood relief since 2006.

**OCTOBER**

**Four day native forest management workshop series.**

**9-10: SESSION 1 – Private Forestry Service Qld’s forest management workshop – Tony Salisbury’s property at Rathdowney in southeast Queensland.**

9am-3pm. Contact Bronwyn Lloyd on (07) 5483 6535 or email pfsq@bigpond.com Sponsored by DAF through private native forest extension program.

**23-24: SESSION 2 –Private Forestry Service Qld’s forest management workshop – Tony Salisbury’s property at Rathdowney in southeast Queensland.**

9am-3pm. Contact Bronwyn Lloyd on (07) 5483 6535 or email pfsq@bigpond.com Sponsored by DAF through private native forest extension program.

**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 or 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

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

**19th Australian Timber Design Awards in Sydney.** Full details 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

**26: TABMA national industry dinner – Hyatt Regency**

**Hotel, Sydney.** Contact (02) 9277 3100 or visit 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

**NOVEMBER**

**2: AFPA members’ forum and chamber meetings – East Hotel, Canberra.** For further information see: www.ausfpa.com.au/

**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

**2: AFPA final members’ dinner for 2018 – Manuka Oval (Bradman Room), Griffith, Canberra.** 6-10pm. Tel: 02 6285 3833. Note: Quote TAFP84 if you make a reservation at East Hotel for a discount.

**27: Australian Timber Importers Federation Board (ATIF) meeting and AGM – Gunnensen Board Room, Melbourne.** For further information contact John Halkett by email: john.halkett@bigpond.com or mob 0417 421 187

**MARCH 2019**

**2: AFPA board meeting and members’ dinner – Canberra.** 6pm.

**8: AFPA members’ forum and chamber meetings – Canberra.**

**JUNE**

**19: AFPA board meeting and members’ dinner – Canberra.** 6pm.

**20: AFPA members’ forum and chamber meetings – Canberra.**



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**OCTOBER**

**11-13: 24th Annual meeting of the American Loggers Council – Seaside, Oregon, USA.** Held on behalf of the American Loggers Council and the Associated Oregon Loggers, Inc. For further information see: <http://www.amloggers.com/>

**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.ozio@efi.int](mailto:christophe.ozio@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

**8-9: 28th Global Forum on Forest Governance – Chatham House, London.** Annual two-day event, previously known as the Illegal Logging Update & Stakeholder Consultation Meeting, will include sessions on conflict timber, the latest isotope technology to trace timber supply chains and updates on the Voluntary Partnership Agreements. For further information contact: Melissa MacEwen, Chatham House, Programme Coordinator, Energy, Environment and Resources, +44 (0)20 7314 3639 or [mmacewen@chathamhouse.org](mailto:mmacewen@chathamhouse.org)

**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: [pdonos@uach.cl](mailto:pdonos@uach.cl)

**JANUARY 2019**

**24: Mapping the Course: Timberland, Forest Products Processing, and Fiber Issues for 2019 – Vancouver, Washington, USA.** The conference and optional workshop will provide an in-depth analysis on forest products market challenges, opportunities, and threats for 2019 in the North American West Coast timberland region. For further information see:

<https://westernforestry.org/upcoming-conferences/mapping-the-course-timberland-forest-products-processing-and-fiber-issues-for-2019>

**MARCH**

**19-21: International Mass Timber Conference – Portland, Oregon.** The largest gathering of cross-laminated timber and other mass timber experts in the world, with a special focus on manufacturing and mid-to high-rise construction. Over 1,200 experts from 22 countries attended in 2018. The conference will explore the supply chain for cross-laminated timber (CLT), nail-laminated timber, glulam beams and panels, mass plywood panels, dowel-laminated timber, and laminated veneer lumber; and the opportunities and obstacles for mass timber in global manufacturing and construction. See: [www.masstimberconference.com/](http://www.masstimberconference.com/)

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



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# Environmental bio-security chief to head strong resources network

THE Department of Agriculture and Water Resources has appointed Ian Thompson as Australia's inaugural chief environmental biosecurity officer.

The federal government announced the establishment of the role within the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources on June 29, which includes an ongoing annual project fund of \$825,000.

Secretary of the department Daryl Quinlivan said Mr Thompson had extensive experience and understanding in this area, and upheld the strong networks and relationships in the environment and natural resources management community required for

success.

"The CEBO will be the primary representative and adviser to the federal government on all matters relating to Australia's environmental biosecurity risks," Mr Quinlivan said

Mr Thompson was previously the first assistant secretary of the sustainable agriculture, forestry and fisheries division within the department, which included responsibility for the National Landcare Program, along with community and Indigenous engagement.

"A dedicated office will be established to support the CEBO and to oversee the delivery of an \$825,000 a year project fund to drive investment in building



**Ian Thompson... to strengthening engagement with communities.**

environmental biosecurity capability and capacity," Mr Quinlivan said.

Mr Thompson will work to strengthen engagement with community and environmental groups, including their role in biosecurity and how they can contribute to the national

biosecurity system.

Mr Thompson's first public appearance as the CEBO will be at the Environmental Biosecurity Roundtable on October 9 in Brisbane.

Key objectives of the new role are to:

- Enhance understanding and oversight of environmental biosecurity risks.
- Perform a national policy, engagement and leadership role.
- Ensure that Australia's environmental and community biosecurity risks are better defined and prioritised.
- Improve the maturity of Australia's environmental biosecurity preparedness, surveillance and response capacity.




**The 19th Australian Timber Design Awards  
Presentation Dinner at  
THE STAR SYDNEY**

**Who are the 2018 winners?**

All category winners including the 'Grand Prix' winner will be announced during the 19th Awards Presentation Evening. So come and join us for the evening to find out the winning entries, network with industry enthusiasts, professionals and peers.

**Details**

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Date: Tuesday 16th October 2018  
Venue: The Star, 80 Pyrmont St, Pyrmont  
Start: 6:30pm pre-dinner drinks and canapes  
Dinner: 7pm

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# Long hours, faith in product and good machinery pay off for Craig

RECOGNISED as one of Tasmania's finest furniture craftsmen, Hobart-based fourth generation woodworker Craig Howard turns sustainably-sourced timber into hand-made furniture.

The Craig Howard & Son family business produces all elements of wood furniture from large corporate desks and boardroom tables to chairs, bookcases, bedroom furniture, coffee tables and vanities.

"Woodworking is something that's in my blood," says Craig.

Established in 1986, the company specialises in Tasmanian timbers including Huon pine, kingbilly pine, celery-top pine, blackwood, blackheart sassafras and myrtle.

All timber is sourced through Sustainable Timber Tasmania and certified to the Responsible Wood standard for environmental, social, and economic sustainability.

"We are extremely cautious about the environment and sustainability since most species take more than 200



**Craig Howard... turning love of wood into a thriving family business with the help of his Wood-Mizer LT15 sawmill.**

years for a good log to grow," Craig said.

The family uses a personal band sawmill to process purchased logs into woodworking material. A Wood-Mizer LT15 sawmill has allowed the business to hand-select timber for specific projects based on colour grain, yield, and unique characteristics.

"Having our own sawmill gives us an advantage as we can select matching boards for individual jobs," explains Craig.

"I remember making blackwood furniture for a whole house. It came from one log and the

colour matched beautifully. This would not have been achievable any other way."

Purchased in 2007, Craig cites the sawmill as a welcome improvement from his homemade bandsaw.

"Its ease of use from blade changing, tensioning, accuracy in thickness with the dial rise and fall has been a real pleasure to use and has allowed us to create the furniture based around the logs we mill."

Over the past decade, the Wood-Mizer mill has sawn hundreds of cubic meters of logs into high-quality boards to be sold or worked into

customised furniture. The family's client base is 70% professionals and "30% mum and dads with a disposable income".

After milling logs into workable board thicknesses, they are stacked in a drying shed for at least one full year to reduce moisture content slowly, then they are transferred to a kiln to dry to about 6-8% final moisture content which is required for furniture making.

The company has also developed a ground-breaking new product called Tassie thick veneer which is sold to architects, designers, and furniture makers in 2 x 4 mm to 4 mm pieces.

Made from solid Tasmanian timber, the veneer can be used as wall dividers, ceiling panels, or even flooring, and provides many advantages to traditional, thinner veneer products.

**On the cover: Craig Howard and his Wood-Mizer sawmill combine to meet a ready market for fine furniture.**



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TIMBER & FORESTRY E-NEWS | ISSUE 531 | October 4, 2018



# Architects, wood suppliers pitch in to complete Timber House re-build

THE exciting refurbishment of the Brisbane office premises of Timber Queensland and Responsible Wood is well under way with completion expected in just a few months.

Affectionately known as Timber House, the premises are also shared by the manager of the Forest and Wood Products Australia Forest Learning Education Program, making it quite a focus of the industry in Queensland.

Not only is the refurbishment undergoing 'project level' certification under the Responsible Wood Project Certification Scheme, it is also being strongly linked to the growing interest in biophilic or 'nature-inspired

design' through the use of timber and other natural elements such as sunlight in building design to create a healthier and happy workplace.

Timber Queensland CEO Mick Stephens said: "The opportunity arose for us to take advantage of an empty lease on the first floor of the building and incorporate biophilic design principles.

"Not only was the intention to design a more practical and flowing floor-plan, we wanted to make sure we showcased the use of beautiful timber products as much as possible from our members and valued partners."

The new fit-out will include a fine representation of



**Mick Stephens... response from industry has been fantastic.**

hardwood and softwood products.

"Following early design advice from architects, the response from industry has been fantastic with a suite of commitments for donated timber materials including flooring, cladding, wall partitions, furniture, mouldings and internal posts and beams," Mr Stephens said.

To date, there has been a wide cross-section of support

from timber suppliers such as the Parkside Group, Hyne Timber, Finlaysons, Kennedy's Timbers, Hurfords Wholesale, Boral Timber, PNG Forest Products, Austral Plywoods, Carter Holt Harvey, DTM Timbers and Branch 95.

Other commitments have included prefabrication services with Kennedys Timbers, flooring preparation and installation with Scribed Flooring and Timberoo, warehousing with Bretts Timber, and support from other material suppliers such as Mapei for high quality adhesives, Rothoblaas for timber connectors and a commitment from Whittle Waxes for timber floor finishes.

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# Stacking timber in tight spaces

IT is a reality that today's timber businesses have to handle an increasing product range often in tight spaces.

Also, there is now often a need to separate certified and non-certified products and handle a growing range of sophisticated, complex timber building products. So space and narrow aisles are a common reality of modern timber supply chain businesses.

Today in sawmills, timber yards and warehouses Combilift forklifts are a very visible part of the industry. Combilift's range of machines include battery and combustion multi-directional forklifts designed to handle long loads in tight, confined, timber warehouses and yards.

Managing director Martin McVicar said Combilift's



**More than 40,000 units produced... Combilift now has machines operating as far afield as the Arctic Circle, Tasmania and Argentina.**

capacity to offer narrow-aisle, high-lift, multi-directional timber product handling equipment was an essential ingredient in modern timber businesses.

"Combilift offers the most extensive range of specialist multi-directional and customised handling solutions for the timber industry from any one single manufacturer," he said.

"Whether handling long

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"With more than 40,000 machines produced so far we continue to set industry standards for quality and innovation. We are proud to say that we now have Combilift machines to destinations as far afield as the Arctic Circle, Tasmania and

Argentina."

Today Combilift Australia has a national after-sales support network, including branches in every state, as well as a mobile fleet of fully-trained and accredited technicians who can complete on-site servicing and repairs. In addition to servicing, a full range of genuine spare parts is available.

Combilift's country manager Chris Littlewood said in Australia timber warehouse conditions the Combi C-Series offered multi-directional capacity ensuring sideways travel with long loads.

"The Combi C-Series is able to negotiate tight corners with ease, can pass through doorways and manoeuvre safely around obstacles," he said.

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# Global city greening experts gather at biggest urban forestry congress

VANCOUVER has hosted the largest international conference on urban forestry ever held, when more than 700 global urban greening experts assembled for the International Urban Forestry Congress this week.

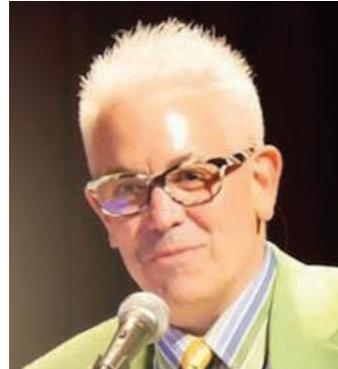
Trees and green spaces are crucial components of cities and towns. However, most cities are still losing trees and green spaces due to climate change, invasive pests, development, and densification.

**“CITIES ARE USING A WIDER RANGE OF TREES**

Under the title ‘The Urban Forest – Diverse in Nature’, IUFC 2018 focused on the importance of diversity in terms of using a wider range of trees (and other species) to make cities more ‘climate proof’. The unique three-day event included a variety of keynote speaking sessions, Tree Academy classes and workshops, field trips and a tree climbing competition.

“Tree Canada has been proud to co-host the Canadian Urban Forest Conference every two years since 1993,” says Mike Rosen, president of Tree Canada.

“Over those years we have marvelled at the growth in interest in urban forests to



**Dr John Gathright... therapeutic tree climbing.**

the point whereby here we are this week with a number of partners helping deliver perhaps the largest urban forest conference ever.”

International speakers included Prof. Chris Baines, one of the UK’s leading independent

environmentalists and an award-winning writer and broadcaster, Dr John Gathright, founder of Tree Climbing Japan, and Jeremy Barrell, director of Barrell Tree Consultancy.

Canadian-born John Gathright introduced his fascinating work with what he calls ‘therapeutic tree climbing’ in Japan. Jeremy Barrell, one of Britain’s most influential voices on planning and legal tree management practices, addressed ways of maintaining trees during development processes, and the need to educate politicians about good tree care.

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**Mark Footer, Footersville Structural Timber Solutions**



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# I talk to the trees, but they don't listen to me ... or do they?

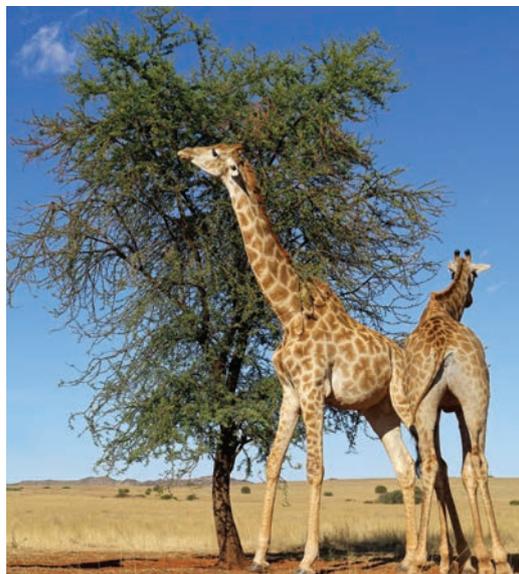
THIS column Talking Trees begs the question do trees talk? Or perhaps more specifically do they communicate with each other?

According to the dictionary definition, language is what people use when talking to each other.

But do trees communicate with each other? If so how? They definitely do not produce sounds, so there's nothing to hear. It turns out trees have a completely different way of communicating – they use scent.

Scent as a means of communication? The concept is not totally unfamiliar to us. Why else would we use deodorants and perfumes? Scientists believe pheromones in sweat are a decisive factor when we choose our partners. So, it seems fair to say that we possess a secret language of scent, and trees have demonstrated they do as well.

For example, giraffes on the African savannah feeding on umbrella thorn acacias, move around quickly. It takes the acacias mere minutes to start pumping toxic substances into their leaves to rid themselves of these large herbivores. The giraffes



**Sending messages... umbrella thorn acacia trees pump toxic substances into their leaves to rid themselves of browsing giraffes.**

get the message and move on to other trees. But they don't move on to trees close by, they walk past a few trees and resumed their meal only when they have moved about 100 m or so away.

The reason for this behaviour is that the acacia trees that were being eaten give off a warning gas (specifically, ethylene) that signals to neighbouring trees that a crisis is at hand. Immediately, all the forewarned trees also start to pump toxins into their leaves to prepare themselves.

However, the giraffes are wise to this game and therefore move farther away to a part of the savannah where they can find trees that were oblivious to what is

**TALKING TREES**

**With JOHN HALKETT**  
Sponsored by  
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going on, or else they move upwind where they could find acacias close by that have no idea the giraffes are present.

In addition, the tree leaf tissue sends out electrical signals, just as human tissue does when it is hurt.

However, the signal is not transmitted in milliseconds, as are human signals, instead, the tree signal travels at the slow speed of a centimetre a minute. Accordingly, it takes an hour or so before defensive compounds reach the leaves to spoil a meal of a resident pest or herbivores meal.

A tree is not a forest. On its own, a tree cannot establish a consistent local climate and is at the mercy of wind and weather. But together, many trees create an ecosystem that moderates extremes of heat and cold, stores a quantity of water, and generates a great deal of humidity.

What and how much information is exchanged between trees is a subject that is only just beginning to be researched. For instance, the magazine Nature reports that scientist Suzanne Simard has discovered that different tree species are in contact with one another, even when they regard each other as competitors.

So talk to a tree next time you are in a forest, it may answer you back. In the song, Robert Goulet says "I talk to the trees. But they don't listen to me."

But do they ?



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# Certified cypress a robust choice for hotel on historic site in Hobart

## If these walls could talk ... but waterfront showpiece holds no secrets

THE expression 'if these walls could talk' could well apply to the new Macq 01 Hotel on Hobart's waterfront.

However, there is little about the outward appearance of this stylish contemporary 114-suite hotel to suggest its location's dark past, although the interiors feature quirky images of the colourful characters who once eked out a living here.

On closer inspection, there are details introduced by architects Circa Morris Nunn that reflect the pier's robust, functional construction such as the visually-heavy timber framing of the building.

The integration of the new



*On the waterfront... timber is an important contextual cue to the working nature of this Hobart port.*  
Photo: Stu Gibson

hotel with its neighbouring heritage buildings has been held up by Hobart community groups as a leading example of how old and new can co-exist in this historic location.

As well as solving challenge

of seamlessly blending old and new, timber was selected as the preferred material for cladding and decking to deal with the weight-bearing limitations of existing concrete wharf piles

which previously supported a single-storey shed. Timber cladding and decking around a steel frame was a lightweight solution which

Cont P 19

## Conference & Field Trip | **DANA 2018 AUSTRALIA** | Conference & Field Trip

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From P 18

in no way compromised on quality and appeared more in-keeping with the historic waterfront location.

White cypress with Responsible Wood accreditation was selected for its robust characteristics and ability to 'grey-off' and age gracefully in a marine environment. Timber was selected for the decking and for a large central vertical atrium that runs through the central space on each level of the hotel providing an opening for natural daylight from above. Externally and internally it is timber which defines the hotel's character.

Circa Morris Nunn director Robert Morris Nunn explains the importance of specifying certified timber:

"Circa Morris Nunn has a proud history of innovative timber use. As the value of timber as a sustainable



**Reliable choice... white cypress was used for the cladding of the skin, balconies and ground floor decking of the stylish Macq01 Hotel on Hobart's waterfront.** Photo: Adam Gibson

construction material becomes more widely known it is important for us, as architects, to take responsibility and only specify certified timbers. This is particularly the case in Tasmania where forest practices are at the forefront of public consciousness.

"Public buildings, or those commercial buildings with a public interface such as

Macq01, are increasingly being constructed using timber and chain of custody is a critical component of this public awareness."

**“FINE EXAMPLE (IN TIMBER) OF HOW OLD AND NEW CAN CO-EXIST**

Using timber from Hurford Wholesale, a timber mill certified by Responsible Wood, the architects enjoyed assurance that timber was not only of optimum quality but was sourced from a forest exercising best practice in sustainability.

Harnessing the architectural spirit of the surrounding pier buildings, Macq01 is a shining example of how timber can be used to link old and new visually while recognising the critical importance of best practice in sustainable forestry.

And it pays tribute to the past without compromising our forests' future.

Macq 01 has been short listed as a finalist in the 19th Australian Timber Design Awards hosted in Sydney on October 16 and will compete in the Australian Certified Timber category sponsored by Responsible Wood.

## NATIONAL TIMBER INDUSTRY DINNER

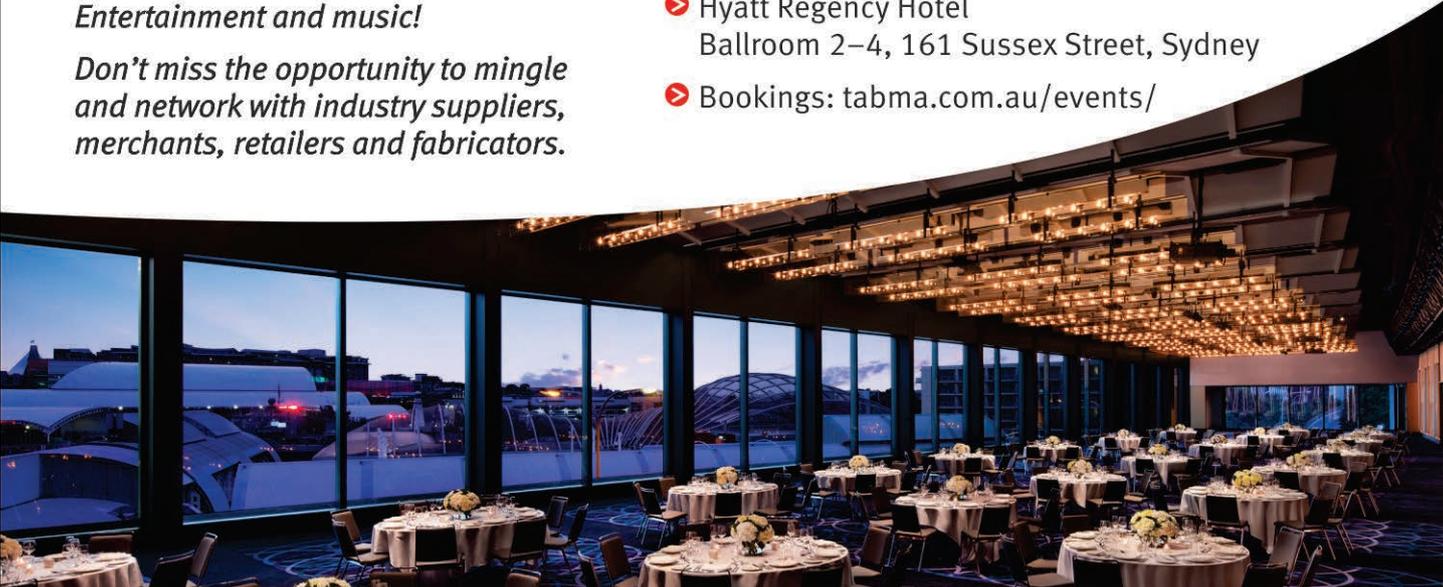


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# Canada-Australia: long, affectionate relationship with forests and timber

## Oregon, western red cedar remain as central components of construction

AUSTRALIA has enjoyed a long, strong history and affinity with Canadian timber.

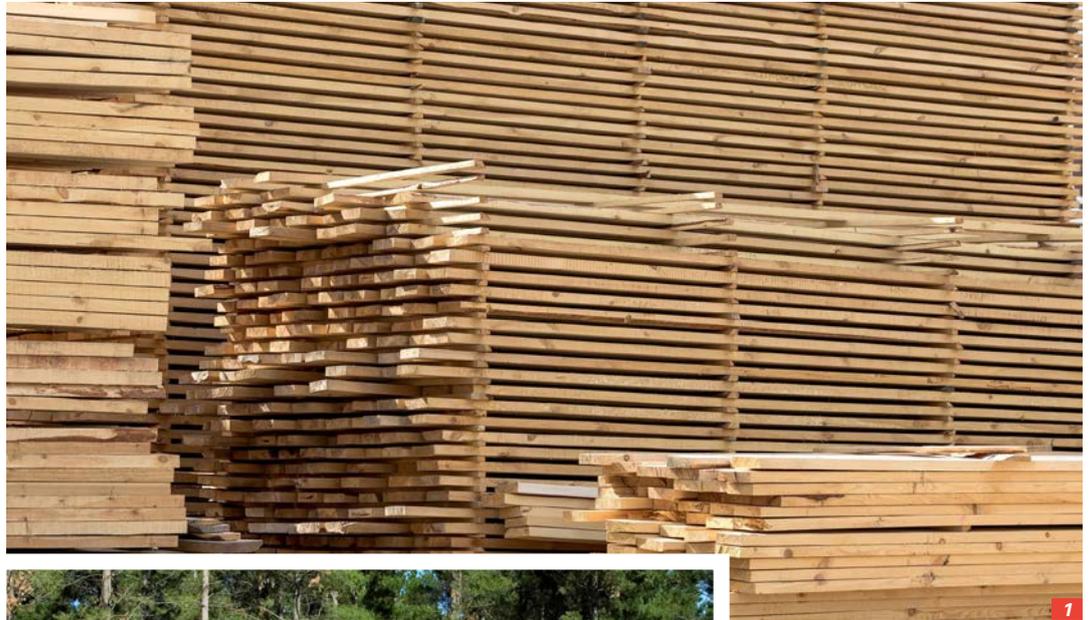
Early in the development of the former British penal colony centred on Sydney, the shores around the inner Black Wattle Bay were busy receiving, warehousing and trading shipments of Canadian Oregon timber.

Today the timber industry has vacated the inner city environs to make way for the city-dwelling cafe latte set and moved out to the western fringes. Also, large heavy cross-section Oregon beams are no longer in vogue for industrial and residential construction.

Also of course early forestry activity in both New Zealand and Australia was greatly assisted by expertise and practical on-the-ground help from Canadian foresters who's legacy is still evident from Kaingaroa Forest, in the central North Island of New Zealand to the pine plantations of South Australia and New South Wales.

Early sawmilling technical assistance, especially when initial efforts to process radiata pine were disappointing and timber was thought to be okay for apple boxes but little else, benefited from Canadian practical know-how.

So the early affectionate bounds established between Australasian forestry and timber novices and seasoned Canadian folk remains strong, and is perhaps a positive signal for continuing to work to strengthen timber trade



**1/ Canadian timbers stack up... Australia has enjoyed a long, strong history and affinity with North American lumber.**  
**2/ Radiata pine in South Australia... early forestry activity in both Australia and New Zealand was greatly assisted by expertise and practical on-the-ground help from Canadian foresters.**

into the future.

Oregon timber and western red cedar have continued to be central components of the Australia's construction and building scene although fashion trends, stringent bush fire regulations and product innovation continue to drive changes to demand and have necessitated an appropriate supply-side response.

Today in Australia as elsewhere engineered wood products and the mid-rise wooden building phenomena have seen solid

timber products replaced by products such as LVL, CLT and other engineered wood products. Tightened building codes related to bush fire risk in Australia have disadvantaged western red cedar, once a very popular home cladding. This coupled with manufactured

**“FORESTRY IN NZ AND AUSTRALIA OWE MUCH TO CANADA'S HELP ON THE GROUND**

imports from China have also adversely impacted WRC plantation shutter, blind slats and window and door domestic manufacturing.

Still, with population growth across Australia, continuing buoyant housing and commercial construction demand, coupled with flat domestic supply capacity, opportunities abound for the changing Canadian timber product sector.

Next week we will look at the changing nature of Canadian timber products and the future prospects for Canadian imports into Australia, based on an interview with BC Wood's chief executive Brian Hawrysh.

## JOB SEEK



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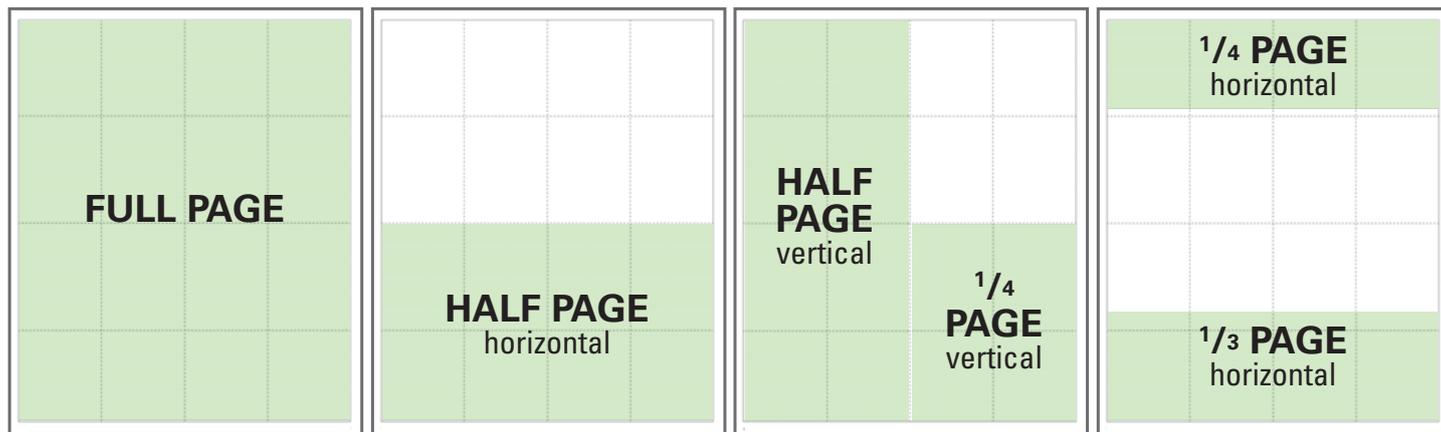
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