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ISSUE 534 | October 25, 2018



GLT digital program wins Stanton trophy

COVER STORY P5



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Malaysia 'muscles up' on tropical hardwoods

SPECIAL REVIEW



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‘Tariff wars’ worry Malaysia, but full speed ahead on value-adding Aussie hardwoods figure in flooring as output goes through the roof

JIM BOWDEN

MALAYSIA harbours fears that escalating trade tensions between the US and China might see the Republic dump plywood on the Japanese market, currently Malaysia’s largest customer.

While manufacturers of furniture, wood-based panels plywood and mouldings may benefit from the diversion of investment and demand from the two countries, there is the potential that excess Chinese timber products could be dumped into export markets that Malaysia currently supplies

“There is also the potential risk of China-made wooden products and furniture flooding the Malaysian market, which affects companies focusing on domestic sales,” says



Boomerang... Francis Raj of Malaysian flooring company BKB (right), and Andrew Kong, MTC corporate communications manger, look over NSW sawn blackbutt timber to be processed into high-value flooring for the Australian market.

Malaysian Timber Council chairman Datuk Low.

With Malaysia’s open economic policy, Mr Low has

urged stronger trade relations with China and the US, focusing on attracting foreign direct investment.

However, despite the ‘tariff trade wars’, Malaysia is expected to achieve its \$A8.4 billion export target by 2020 under a revised national timber industry policy. To achieve this, Mr Low says Asia will be the focus region for Malaysia’s exports of timber and timber products in the next few years.

In August, the Malaysian Timber Industry Board revealed the sector contributed \$A7.8 billion in export earnings last year, up 4.8% from 2016.

Malaysia’s timber exports to developed countries such as Japan, the US, Europe and Australia, meanwhile, are also expected to increase due to strong demand for Malaysian engineered wood products that meet global certification standards and market specifications.

Mr Low says most timber operators view the timber industry as a sunset industry,

Cont P 3

“MTC A BRIDGE BETWEEN LOCAL INDUSTRY AND IMPORTING COUNTRIES”



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From P 2

given the diminishing raw materials available in Malaysia. Moreover, Primary Industries Minister Teresa Kok has stated her commitment to maintaining the country's forest cover at 50% at least.

"With diminishing log supply from our natural forests owing to the reduction in annual coupe for sustainability and bio-conservation, MTC plays a crucial role in assisting the timber-processing industry in augmenting the supply of raw materials," Mr Low said.

MTC acts as a bridge between timber companies in Malaysia and importers from other countries to match the needs of customers to suppliers, and to facilitate exports. MTC has offices in London, the UK, Dubai, the United Arab Emirates, and Guangzhou, China, and more recently, has added Bangalore, India, to the list.

Malaysia currently exports timber products to more than 160 countries, promoting value-added timber products, especially interior-decor products such as flooring, wall panelling, doors, skirtings, mouldings and furniture.

Key issues are market access, labour and entry to financial facilities for small and medium businesses.

Moving forward, Datuk Low says the industry is focusing more on downstream processing to lift the value of the timber industry as a whole.

Meanwhile, on an MTC-organised Malaysian familiarisation program for foreign journalists last week, editor Jim Bowden noted a tremendous uplift in European wood engineering technology since his last visit about 10 years ago.

Swiss-built kilns and gluing and treatment methods and



Colour-coded... Lim Kim Lee and Chareen Cheen explain the variety of FSC-certified products produced at Finess Mouldings. Based in Selangor, Malaysia, the company has just commissioned its sixth factory giving a combined production area of 48,000 sq m, with a staff of more than 400. Machinery is regularly serviced by principal suppliers from Germany, Singapore and Italy. Since 1998, the company has developed into Malaysia's largest producer of timber picture frame mouldings and was the first Malaysian manufacturer to gain ISO 9001 status.

German wood processing and finger-jointing machines are value-adding timber products at a remarkable rate.

One of Malaysia's largest flooring manufacturers, BKB Hevea at Ipoh on Peninsular Malaysia, imports sawn timber from Europe, the US and Australia.

“ AUSTRALIAN BLACKBUTT AND SPOTTED GUM IN DEMAND

This includes 30,000 sq m a month of sawn spotted gum and blackbutt bought directly from sawmills in NSW and Queensland, which in turn is shipped back to Melbourne and Sydney as a multi-layered 'sandwich' product with hardwood and softwood veneer surfacing, a core layer of pine, and a gluing and

bonding process that includes wood preservatives – all completed on one machine.

In fact, the company has been trading with Australia for more than 20 years, also buying jarrah and Tasmanian oak in smaller volumes.

Interestingly, BKB CEO Francis Raj says he has found little interest in Europe for his Australian hardwood flooring products.

"They prefer the oaks, so we are more than pleased with the acceptance of our flooring in Japan and Australia," he said.

BKB runs a bank of 24 ABB Kent automated water-bath kilns built in Zurich with capacity for 960 tonnes, taking moisture content on Australian species down to 6%.

• More reports on the MTC Malaysian familiarisation program over future issues of Timber&Forestry enews.



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Big turnaround for Tasmanian forestry

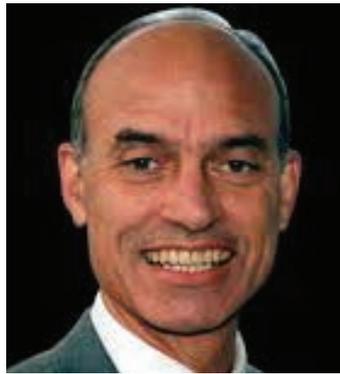
"A GREAT effort by the whole Sustainable Timber Tasmanian team," remarked chairman Rob de Fégely after the release this week of the annual report.

The reports of both STT and Private Forests Tasmania, released by the Minister for Resources Guy Barnett, paint a picture of a growing, sustainable industry.

SST has announced a healthy statutory profit including an underlying profit of \$6 million – a \$20 million turnaround from last year's underlying result. This is the first operating profit reported by the public forest manager since 2008-09.

STT has now retired all debt, as well as delivering a \$15 million special dividend to the state government.

"This is the first time in a



Guy Barnett... public forest manager free of debt.

decade that the public forest manager has been debt free," Mr Barnett said.

"This result reflects a more efficient operating model following the restructure, improved prices for products, and increased sales volumes."

In accordance with standard accounting practices, the profit result

was not directly impacted by the \$60 million sale of forestry rights to 29,000 ha of hardwood plantations, which was treated as a non-operating asset sale.

In further good news, the Private Forests Tasmania annual report shows the total private forest harvest rose for the sixth consecutive year, with a 9% increase to 4.25 million tonnes.

"While these are positive results, the government is aware that challenges remain in rebuilding the forestry industry," Mr Barnett said.

"The Hodgman Liberal government has been working hard to turn things around since the Labor-Green disaster, and we are committed to ensuring the industry continues to grow."

Increasing CGT 'not on' says HIA economist

"WITH house prices falling and building activity in decline this is not the appropriate time in the housing cycle to increase capital gains tax," stays Housing Industry Association principal economist Tim Reardon.

Federal Opposition Leader Bill Shorten wants to change negative gearing and the capital gains tax discount if Labor wins the next federal election.

"Increasing the tax on housing will result in less investment in housing, fewer houses being built and inevitably a worsening of the affordability challenge," Mr Reardon said.

"We cannot tax our way out of the housing affordability problem. The solution is less tax on housing and less government distortions on the market, not more."

According to modelling undertaken by the CIE, on behalf of the HIA, an increase in CGT would result in a \$1 billion reduction in revenue to state governments, increase



Tim Reardon... we cannot tax our way out of the housing affordability problem.

the cost of renting and exacerbate the housing affordability challenge

"The analysis shows that increasing CGT would generate a revenue gain for the federal government of \$0.5bn a year which would be dwarfed by stamp duty tax losses to the states in excess of \$1bna year," Mr Reardon said.

The CIE also concludes that increasing the tax on rental homes may initially benefit 'first home buyers' but over time this gain will be lost as rental costs rise leading to higher home prices, that will once again force first home buyers out of the market.





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BIM digital program for GLT wins coveted Responsible Wood award

A WORLD-first building information modelling program used by Hyne Timber on their glue laminated timber (GLT) range for the design and construction industry has won the coveted Richard Stanton Award for Excellence in 2018.

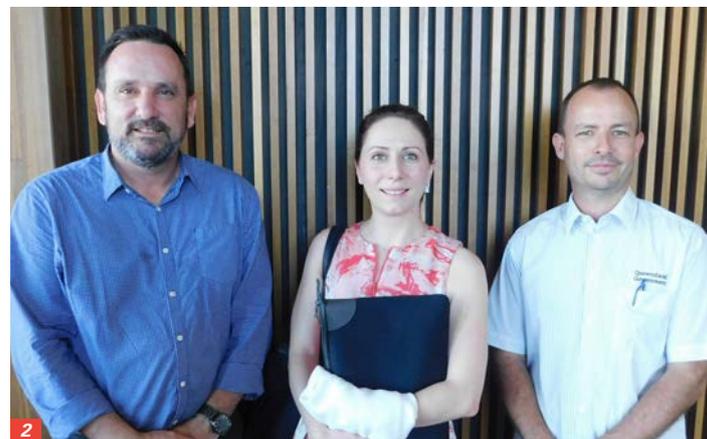
The award and trophy, presented in Brisbane at the annual general meeting of Responsible Wood on Tuesday, recognises the life of a man who was devoted to the forest industry in Australia and internationally.

• On the cover, Liliane Kao, Hyne digital marketing specialist, accepts the award on behalf of the Hyne Timber Marketing Team, from Simon Dorries, CEO Responsible Wood, and chairman Dr Hans Drielsma, AM.

Hyne Timber's building information modelling (BIM) is a state-of-the-art modelling

software that allows the company to use digital representations of physical and functional characteristics of timber to model physical assets, using the IT software to map out projects in order to provide assistance to decision makers on projects.

A key advantage of the software, BIM provides ongoing storage of information relating to



maintenance, certification and warranties to assist with ongoing asset management post construction.

No company anywhere in the world has developed



1/ Conferring at the Responsible Wood AGM... David West, group manager stewardship, HQPlantations, Willie van Niekerk, general manager, Green Triangle, OneFortyOne Plantations (new director), Alison Carmichael, executive manager, Skills Impact, Katie Fowden, director, and Dr Hans Drielsma AM, chairman.

2/ Ready for a tour of the UQ Tall Timber Hub facility... Nathan Trushell, CEO, Vicforests (Responsible Wood director), Natalie Heazlewood, policy manager, Australian Forest Products Association, and Dr Robbie McGavin, manager, DAF Salisbury Research Facility.

a BIM system for GLT that meets AS/NZS BIM standards

Identifying an opportunity, the Hyne Timber Marketing Team, in coordination with the UQ Centre for Future Timbers, has developed a

BIM system for the state government's Maryborough Fire Station project, where Hyne Timber is the project proponent featuring

Cont P 6

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Stag-erring \$20m building venture will reveal potential of timber construction

ROTORUA-based Red Stag is about to embark on several building projects to showcase the potential of timber as a construction material in large-scale building projects.

New Zealand's largest sawmiller, Red Stag employs 300 people with an annual turnover of \$220 million.

The building projects come ahead of plans to build a \$35 million CLT plant near its Whakarewarewa plant at Rotorua to be operating in 2019 and producing laminated panels up to 16.5 m in length and 4.9 m wide.

The first project will be five-level apartments at Clearwater Resort on the northern outskirts of Christchurch using CLT and



Red Stag... innovation in timber building construction

other panel products.

The Ministry of Primary Industry through its Primary Growth Partnership is covering about 8% of the \$20 million Clearwater project.

The government was already building three-storey

timber structures in Auckland as part of Housing New Zealand projects, managing director of Red Stag wood solutions Jason Cordes said.

Red Stag is also planning to expand its truss and frame operation located in Hamilton Airport's industrial park which produces frames and trusses, floor cassettes and wall panels – designs which bring floor and wall construction

together in components to speed up construction.

Mr Cordes said the New Zealand industry was on the verge of providing large-scale laminated timber construction.

"The opportunities offered in large-scale timber construction have already been demonstrated overseas," he said.

"In Christchurch we will showcase good architecture, good engineering and the best in acoustic properties and fire-resistance. We will make the whole process transparent so everyone can see how it is done and how economically viable timber can be."

According to Mr Cordes, timber construction has advantages over concrete and steel, including speed of construction, ease of transport, relative lightness, and earthquake and fire resilience.

The united voice for Australia's forest industries



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From P 5

Responsible Wood certified timber.

The BIM software has been used in the extensive stakeholder engagement to communicate with the community about the project.

The software is a potential game-changer for timber application across all projects, specifically in the commercial sector.

The Responsible Wood AGM, held at the UQ Centre for Future Timbers, re-elected Dr Hans Drielsma AM, as chairman and introduced new directors Willie van Niekerk general manager, Green Triangle, OneFortyOne

Plantations, and Patrizia Torelli, CEO Australasian Furnishing Association.

Retiring directors are Colin Fitzpatrick, CEO, TABMA Australia, David West, group manager stewardship HQPlantations, and Alison Carmichael, executive manager, Skills Impact

Continuing as directors on the board are Craig Smith, national divisional assistant secretary, CFMEU (manufacturing division), Nathan Trushell, CEO, Vicforests, Mark Thomson, architect, Eco-Effective Solutions, Katie Fowden, strategic relations manager, Hyne Timber, and Judy Alexander, managing director, Foresa Consulting.

OCTOBER

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.

Four day native forest management workshop series.

13-14: SESSION 1 – Private Forestry Service Qld's forest management workshop – 672 Beenham Valley Rd, Queensland. 8am-3pm. Contact Bronwyn Lloyd on (07 5483 6535 or email pfsq@bigpond.com Sponsored by DAF through private native forest extension program.

27-28: SESSION 2 –Private Forestry Service Qld's forest management workshop – 672 Beenham Valley Rd, Queensland. 8am-3pm. Contact Bronwyn Lloyd on (07 5483 6535 or email pfsq@bigpond.com Sponsored by DAF through private native forest extension program.

27: Australian Timber Importers Federation Board (ATIF) meeting and AGM –

Gunnerson 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

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

Congress aims to investigate the contribution of planted forests to green development in the context of global changes. Topics will include the sustainability of planted forests in the context of changing climates and the future role of planted forests in bio-resources sustainability, environmental protection and green development.

See: www.efiatlantic.efi.int/portal/events/

Email: christophe.orazio@efi.int

NOVEMBER

5-10: 54th Session of the International Tropical Timber Council and Sessions of the Associated Committees – Yokohama, Kanagawa, Japan.

ITTO Secretariat. See: www.itto.int/workshop_detail

Email: itto@itto.int

Tel: +81-45-223-1110

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

12-17: 2nd DANA 2-day Central America and Andes Forestry Sector Investment Conference – Cancun Mexico.

With 2-day optional pre-conference field trip to teak and eucalyptus plantations; a large modern MDF mill in Villahermosa region; and a 2- day optional post-conference tour to Mayan archaeological and recreational sites. For further information: www.danaevents.co.nz/2018mexico/

12-18: XI International Workshop on Uneven-aged Silviculture: Challenges for increasing adaptability – Valdivia, Chile.

Uneven-aged silviculture is attracting increased interest due to its positive effects upon carbon sequestration, biodiversity, landscapes, and in its ability to

provide a range of goods and services from managed forest ecosystems. Do uneven-aged forests have better options for adaptation to these future changes?

See: www.uas.uach.cl/2018

Email: 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/

MAY

8-11: World Conference on forests for Public Health – Athens, Greece.

For further information see: www.fph2019.org

20-23: A Century of National Forest Inventories: Informing Past, Present and Future Decisions – Oslo, Norway.

For further information see: www.nibio.pameldingssystem.no/nfi100years

• Please send any events listings to John Halkett via email: johnh@timberandforestryenews.com

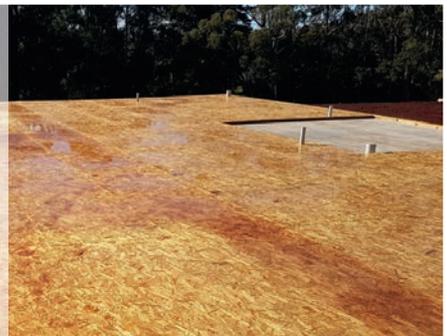
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Karl Kny appointed interim CEO at Hancock Queensland Plantations

FORMER chief operating officer of Hancock Forest Management New Zealand Karl Kny has taken the position of interim CEO of HQ Plantations, based in Brisbane, following the resignation of Brian Farmer.

Mr Farmer was appointed HQP CEO in November 2010 after five years as chief executive of ForestrySA. He is a graduate forester from ANU and has worked in forest operations, marketing and management in NSW, Tasmania, South Australia and Queensland.

He will continue a link with the forestry industry through a directorship at Forest and Wood Products Australia and as a trustee of the J.W. Gottstein educational fund.



Brian Farmer



Karl Kny



Stephen Ryan

Karl Kny retired as CEO HVP Plantations in June last year, with the position given to Stephen Ryan, who was chief financial officer since 2007. Prior to this, Mr

Ryan held operational and executive roles across the forestry, agricultural and retail sectors in Australia and the US.

HVP's chief financial officer role has also been filled, with Josie Pane joining the executive team.

Mr Kny has more than 20 years' experience in operations, acquisitions,

planning and finance. He has worked for several large forest products and paper companies in Australasia and has international experience in southeast Asia and Europe.

Previously, Mr Kny worked as general manager, corporate development for Amcor and was a consulting expert for Macquarie Bank, where he advised on acquisitions and valuations in the forestry, pulp and paper sector.

Mr Farmer said he would be considering industry consultancy options. In the meantime, along with his wife, his energies will be spent renovating his home on the Sunshine Coast.

– JIM BOWDEN.

“MACQUARIE BANK CONSULTANT ON VALUATIONS IN FOREST, PULP AND PAPER SECTORS”

Forest Products Week in US promotes use of mass timber

THE US Forest Service this week is celebrating National Forest Products Week and says it's an opportunity to promote CLT

The week highlights how vital forests are to America's well-being and national prosperity and this is recognised each year by a Presidential proclamation. The Forest Service works year round to create new opportunities for wood products that contribute to diversified rural economies and support sustainable forest management.

“By supporting forest products markets, we have the opportunity to create safer communities by reducing

wildfire risk, supporting rural economic development, and contributing to a more sustainable building sector,” a spokesman said.

The Forest Service is working to develop the US market for CLT and other mass timber technologies.

The International Code Council is examining whether or not tall wood buildings up to 18 storeys will be included in the 2021 international building code. A final decision will be made later this year.

The state of Oregon has already adopted the proposed provisions for the International Code Council under its statewide alternate method.



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The sun and opportunity rise in the East for Malaysian industry

More muscular approach to global supply of tropical wood

JIM BOWDEN

“REMEMBER... the sun rises in the East ...”

The significance of this Chinese idiom used by MTC CEO Richard Yu was not lost on the 250 delegates, mostly from ASEAN countries, who gathered in Kuala Lumpur last week for the inaugural Malaysian Timber Conference.

As the world’s largest exporter of certified tropical hardwood logs and sawn timber and a major producer of tropical plywood, veneer and mouldings, Malaysia has adapted a more muscular approach to globalisation in recent years, supplying products to more than 160 countries.

Export earnings in 2017



International journalists meet with Malaysian officials in Kuala Lumpur before departing on a six-day study of the country’s in-forest operations and wood manufacturing centres... seated, from left, Zulkepli And Rani, director, licensing and enforcement, Malaysian Timber Industry Board, Noraihan Abdul Rahman, corporate communications acting director, MTC, Richard Yu, MTC CEO, Yong Teng Koon, CEO, Malaysian Timber Certification Council, and MD Yusoff Ismail, deputy director, licensing and enforcement, MTIB. Standing are invited members of the MTC media familiarisation program, from left, Liu QuianWei, China Green Times, Su JinLing, secretary-general, International Wood Culture Society, California, USA, Jim Bowden, managing editor, Timber&Forestry enews, Brisbane, Candace King, senior writer, Timber IQ, Johannesburg, South Africa, Marleen van Herwijnen, chief editor, HoutWereld Magazine, Amsterdam, Holland, and Joseph O’Donnell, director, government and public affairs. International Wood Products Association, Washington DC.

“ IDENTIFYING NEW SOURCES OF RAW MATERIAL SINCE 1993

were \$A7.8 billion as Malaysia positions to meet the World Bank prediction that global demand for timber will quadruple by 2050.

Nine speakers from the UK, Italy, Switzerland, Finland and Malaysia addressed the full scope of challenges faced in Asia by the timber industry on

the theme Towards a Better Tomorrow; all agreed the tariff wars would be temporary

Cont P 11



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From P 10

and that with increasing middle-class populations and greater disposable incomes, particularly in China and India, there was no reason to expect a slowing in the record demand for timber and paper products.

MTC recently opened a regional office in Bangalore in a move to tap more trade opportunities in India.

Also, the conference agreed certification and legality would remain the two core advantages for Malaysia in an expanding wood fibre sector.

Malaysia remains the biggest Asian investor in tree planting. Since 2005, the government has initiated the Forest Plantation Development Program to ensure sustained timber supply for downstream business such as flooring, mouldings, veneers and furniture making.

The country targets to establish 375,000 ha of forest plantations by 2020, achieved by planting 25,000 ha of good timber species every year for 15 years.

The crux of KL conference presentations centred on the global economic outlook, timber demand and supply worldwide, the need for certification which proves that timbers are extracted in a sustainable and legal manner, embracing technology in relation to IR4.0 ('the 4th industrial revolution') and the commercialisation of research findings.

The conference was



1/ Visiting a log checking station at Bukit Kina, Peninsular Malaysia... journalists Su JinLing, International Wood Culture Society, Liu QianWei, China Green Times, and Marleen van Herwijnen, HoutWereld Magazine, Amsterdam, with study tour leader Andrew Kong, manager, MTC corporate communications. Felled logs are inspected by State Forestry Department officials for payment of royalty, legality and chain of custody and hammer branding before transit from one sawmill to another.



2/ Malaysia has a target to establish 375,000 ha of forest plantations by 2020, achieved by planting 25,000 ha of good timber species every year for 15 years. Certification and legality are core advantages for the country's forests as it expands exports of value-added products to global markets.

area. Of this, 14.6 million ha is designated permanent reserved forest, the remaining 20% being state land or national parks.

MTC chairman Dato Low said Malaysian manufacturers must understand the life cycles of their products to help maximise profitability.

"As time goes by, our products must also change and be in line with current market trends," Mr Low said.

"Therefore, it is important for us to change our mindset and be innovative in creating a steady stream of new products for the market."

Mr Low said there was a pertinent need for succession planning within each company so that the younger generation viewed the timber industry as attractive and viable.

"Manufacturers also need real-time market intelligence, technological upgrade and raw material supply solutions," he said.

No sooner had the last delegate departed the Meridien Hotel, than MTC officials were laying the ground for the inaugural Malaysian Wood Products and Machinery Exhibition in 2019.

expertly organised by the Malaysian Timber Council, which has been encouraging members to identify new sources of raw material supply since 1993.

Business missions have been mounted in Laos, Cambodia, Thailand, China, Canada, Indonesia, Brazil, and New Zealand.

To further augment the supply of raw materials, MTC has set up an overseas suppliers-Malaysian importers and manufacturers exchange program, a platform for business-matching sessions between Malaysian importers and manufacturers and overseas suppliers.

Six suppliers from Chile and two from Canada have participated in the exchange program, providing raw materials ranging from hardwood and softwood sawn timber to decorative veneer. More than 60 representatives

of 42 Malaysian companies have joined the program.

In the conference opening sessions, Malaysian Minister for Primary Industries Puab Teresa Kok said timber producers must maintain their position in the global market and face up to challenges by employing innovative, sustainable and market-driven solutions.

“INDUSTRY MUST UNDERSTAND LIFE CYCLES OF ITS PRODUCTS”

She said Malaysia's commitment to maintaining forest cover at above 50% – pledged at the 1992 Rio Earth Summit – would ensure the industry remained sustainable in the long-term.

Forests cover more than 18.48 million ha in Malaysia, making up 56% of the land

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PEFC chair: ‘We are entering an industrial new age for wood

“WE are entering a new age for timber, a new industrial revolution for timber.”

Addressing the Malaysian Timber Conference in Kuala Lumpur last week, Peter Latham, UK-based chairman of PEFC International, added: “This isn’t just a climate-positive story of using a renewable crop, a crop that can still lock in the carbon when at the end of its use, but also one in which certification can demonstrate how we look after our forests, how we cooperate with indigenous people, how we protect worker’s rights, and so much more.”

Mr Latham’s address ‘Certification: Opening or Closing Doors to Global Markets for Tropical Hardwood’ focused on global supply and demand for forest certification and certified timber, its associated challenges and trends, and the outlook and opportunities for forest certification.

“In terms of global fibre consumption, tropical hardwood is a small part, but it is at the top of the pyramid, it is the prestige product,” Mr Latham said.

“Demonstrating that it is legal and sustainable is a necessity, a necessity that ensures that the product that we value and love is given a true value in the market place.”

The Malaysian Timber Certification Scheme was the first tropical timber certification scheme in the Asia-Pacific region to be endorsed by PEFC.

The forest area under MTCS/PEFC certification

totals 4.46 million ha, with 13 forest management units (FMUs) covering 4.35 million ha of natural forest.

Forests cover more than 18.48 million ha in Malaysia, making up 56% of the land area. Of this, over 14.6 million ha are permanent reserved forest, the remaining 20% state land and alienated forests or national parks, wildlife and bird sanctuaries.



2

The MTCS was developed by the Malaysian Timber Certification Council, which started in 2001 as a voluntary national timber certification system and comprises two components – forest management certification and chain-of-custody certification.

Presenting a global timber trade overview, Dr Ed Pepke, senior market and policy analyst, European Forest Institute, suggested to delegates they “grow the markets before growing the wood”.

“We must guarantee today’s wood products meet consumer needs and develop new products as alternatives to products from non-renewable materials.”

Dr Pepke cautioned on the Chinese market.

“Every producer, tropical or



7

1/ Malaysia’s Minister for Primary Industries Puan Teresa Kok is introduced to YuMi, the world’s first truly collaborative robot, at the MTC Timber Conference. Looking on, from left, are Wong Tuck, chairman, Malaysian Timber Industry Board, MTC CEO Richard Yu, MTC chairman Dato Low, and Laurent Maillefer, vice-president and head of robotics, ABB Malaysia, who was a conference speaker.

2/ Conferring in Kuala Lumpur... Peter Latham, chairman of PEFC International, Alexis Chan, market promotion director, MTC, and Jim Bowden, editor, Timber&Forestry e-news.

not, will look to the Chinese market for growth and there is no doubt that the opportunities are good,” he said.

“But China already has a huge plantation stock. It is working hard to improve the productivity of these plantations and at the same time is investing heavily in new plantations.

“The challenge for both hardwood and softwood producers will really begin when China invests in new capacity for producing manufactured boards such as oriented strand board,

“TROPICAL HARDWOOD IS AT THE TOP OF THE PYRAMID

laminated veneer lumber and high-end fibre boards to absorb the plantation timbers and provide a substitute for imports.”

On certification, Dr Pepke said the EU’s Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) action plan, established in 2003, had changed the dynamics of forest and wood products licensing.

Although as of mid-2018 only one country had achieved FLEGT licensing, the prospect of more, coupled with the EUTR requirements, has raised the bar for international certification systems.

Indonesia began issuing FLEGT licences to verified legal timber products exported to the EU in 2016.

All hands on deck: certified wood transforms Sydney harbour wharf

Architect's use of timber captures rich maritime history

ONCE a wharf bustling with ferries, colliers, passenger and cargo steamers, tugs, tall sailing ships and merchant ships servicing the adjacent market wharf, Sydney's King Street Wharf is today a busy refuge for city workers, residents and tourists seeking a place to eat and drink with magical harbour views.

Surprisingly, this view had been largely ignored in the former incarnation of the All Hands Brewery House resulting in a space that was disconnected from the waterfront terrace. This was the first challenge Maddison Architects set out to resolve when re-designing the interior of the popular bar and brewery.

The second challenge was how to feature the industrial elements of the space such as large brewing tanks while maintaining a warm and welcoming atmosphere for patrons. Timber was employed to resolve this challenge and so successfully, that the project has just been announced winner of Responsible Wood's Australian Certified Timber Award in the Australian Timber Design Awards.

Maddison Architects has drawn on the location's



materials is something that should be included in every project. Responsible Wood certified timbers are important in this project as they are produced from a renewable resource and are independently inspected.

"On top of this, certified timber has consistency in its quality and is aesthetic which is important to any project."

Timber was an important material to the overall aesthetic of this harbour-side project and also brought a warmth and texture to this busy venue. Timber was used in a number of ways with hardwood ply linings used in the ceilings, wall and bar tops. Large timber hardwood 'planks' are also featured on the wall cladding, vertical partitions, bar fronts and battens.

With so much timber on display, the importance of certification again came into play with Drew adding: "Certified timber provides peace of mind as the quality, grain, texture and colour can be guaranteed and relied upon. Consistent appearance and performance were crucial aspects of this design."

• A special feature on the Australian Timber Design Awards will appear in next week's Timber&Forestry enews.



1/ All Hands Brewery House... winner of the Australian Certified Timber category in the Australian Timber Design Awards.

2/ Jason Ross, marketing and communications officer, Responsible Wood (left) presents Drew Carling of Maddison Architects with the 2018 TDA Australian Certified Timber Award for All Hands Brewing House at Sydney's King Street Wharf.

rich maritime history in its use of timber in the brewery, employing solid timber 'planking' treatments reminiscent of traditional boat-building techniques. Naval engineering has also inspired much of the detailing which plays with the idea of vessels being inverted. Placed within an otherwise cold and harsh material palette, timber has provided a warmth and texture while remaining true to the maritime location and factory-like nature of the functioning brewery.

Keen to fulfil a commitment to using environmentally sustainable materials, the Australian timber featured in

the project was Responsible Wood certified and included Big River Armourply hardwood which satisfied Responsible Wood's AS 4707 standard relating to chain of custody and Vic Ash Good Wood which was sourced from a 100% regrowth forest which also had Responsible Wood accreditation in line with AS 4708 relating to forest practices.

Architect Drew Carling argues: "Sustainability and the careful selection of

“ COMMITMENT TO USE SUSTAINABLE MATERIALS ”

PR performer Prue inspired by front-line workers in NZ forestry

Driving force behind Green Triangle awards in Mount Gambier

MICHAEL SMITH

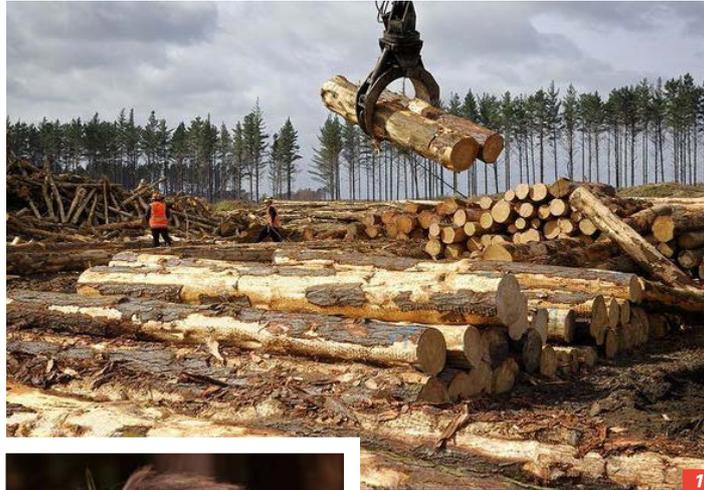
PRUE Younger, CEO of the NZ Forest Industry Contractors Association and director of Public Impressions Ltd, is perhaps best known in industry circles for almost single-handedly creating and refining the template for regional forestry awards in New Zealand.

She freely admits to being highly organised, motivated and confident in her ability to get things done. It's no surprise, given that she manages the awards for Eastland and Northland, and will soon be doing the same for Nelson-Marlborough and Hawkes Bay.

Prue's initial move into forestry began a decade ago, wearing her event management hat and running the national FITEC awards. That would inspire her to develop and fine-tune regional awards for the Eastland Wood Council – an event her company is still running nine years later.

She brought valuable skills and experience to the sector from her work in land-based industries – “10 years in marketing and public relations for the wine industry, and working as a facilitator for eco2000, a forward-thinking organisation involved in sustainable land practices.”

Prue is a food technologist by trade, working for a food processing company Cedenco for 13 years, ending up as international marketing and technical manager for its



1/ NZ Forest Industry Contractors Association... increased contact with members and sponsors.

2/ Prue Younger... energised by a desire to give back.

Photo: Stephen Jones Photography.

It was the ideal opportunity to progress to a more challenging national role – and to broaden her industry contacts in combination with her awards management work.

The association was looking for fresh ideas, a more professional outlook and increased contact with its members and sponsors.

“I had a month to establish a new brand, website and marketing material,” she said. “And, needing to get out and about, I made a number of trips around the country, which were exceptionally positive.”

“ OPPORTUNITY TO PROGRESS A MORE CHALLENGING NATIONAL ROLE ”

Those visits reinforced her admiration for the frontline workforce. “If you have ever been on a skid site in a howling gale and torrential rain, and seen them still working, you’ll realise it’s not easy.”

Prue is also energised by a desire to give back – serving on a number of boards related to business and the wider community.

“I offer a practical approach to governance and have realistic expectations,” she said. “It’s about making sure others can gain some value from your hard work and your established skills base.”

Her promotional successes have been noted across the Tasman and will see her awards concept introduced to the Australian industry in the form of the Green Triangle Timber Industry Awards this week.

“Mick Theobald of OneFortyOne Plantations attended the first year of our Northland event and took the idea back to Mount Gambier, suggesting they needed something similar,” Prue recalled.

“Given that we often tend to undersell our industry, they are expecting to achieve the same key objectives – to attract skilled employees to the region; to upskill and lift the standards of the existing forestry workforce; and to create healthy competition among industry players and celebrate their work.”

Politicians pledge support for forests

Plans for industry's future presented at VAFI awards

SUPPORT for the Victorian forestry industry, now and into the future, was the consensus as representatives from the governing Victorian ALP, the Victorian Nationals and the Victorian Shooters and Fishers Party laid bare their plans for the state's forest sector at the VAFI awards in Melbourne last week.

Receiving rare apolitical support, Philip Dalidakis, the Minister for Small Business, Innovation and Trade, Peter Walsh, Opposition spokesman on agriculture and forestry, and Daniel Young, spokesman for the Shooters and Fishers Party, all reiterated the importance of sourcing timber and timber-based products from Victorian



VAFI CEO Tim Johnson presents the Special Recognition Award to Emma Gall, planning and stewardship officer, HVP Plantations.

processors and forests.

According to Jason Ross, who attended the awards on behalf of Responsible Wood, certification plays an important role in supporting the timber and forestry industry in Victoria.

The Responsible Wood and / or Australian Forestry Standard logo is the ultimate validation, the only brands

that ensure timber or paper sold to consumers is sourced from Australian forests, processed through a local saw mill or pulp mill and supports Australian jobs.

Supporting the Responsible Wood message, VAFI CEO Tim Johnson said the 2018 industry awards recognised the outstanding work by businesses in the timber and forest industry; they were

examples of how the industry was working to ensure it has a bright future.

"The work that goes on each year by those in the industry is second to none and I am always amazed by the high calibre of entries we get for the awards," Mr Johnson said.

"It is fitting to see the hard work of VAFI members recognised appropriately," he said.

Among 2018 VAFI Award receipts, Responsible Wood scheme holders featured prominently with HVP Plantations planning and stewardship officer Emma Gall taking out the Special Recognition Award for Individual Excellence in Forestry.

 An advertisement for ASL (Aspen Saw Limited) featuring a large, detailed image of a saw blade with a serrated edge. The blade is set against a dark background. The text is overlaid on the blade graphic.

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Managing changing landscapes

Planting for the future at HQ Plantations on the Sunshine Coast

MANAGING forests in changing landscapes was on display as HQPlantations took Responsible Wood’s Jason Ross on a tour of their 22,000 ha southern pine plantation at Beerburrum on Queensland’s Sunshine Coast.

With more than 340,000 ha of forest under management from southeast Queensland to the Atherton Tableland, HQPlantations is the largest plantation grower in the state.

On the tour, Michelle McAndrew, Barry Darko and Stephanie Hunt discussed the importance of practicing sustainable forest management to protect environmental values for future generations – the principle underpinning of



Forest visit... Michelle McAndrew, senior sustainability specialist (centre) and Stephanie Hunt, community engagement manager talk Responsible Wood with Jason Ross (left).

HQPlantations’ annual forest stewardship plan.

The plan highlights HQP’s contributions to managing landscapes, soil, water, biodiversity, cultural heritage, pollution, waste management and carbon sequestration. It also outlines the company’s commitment to AS 4708 – Sustainable Forest Management, a key component of

the Responsible Wood Certification Scheme (RWCS).

Beerburrum operations manager Barry Darko explained that renewable southern pine plantation management revolves around a 26 to 28-year rotation lifecycle of harvesting, replanting, forest maintenance and fire protection ongoing throughout the estate

to ensure long term sustainability is maintained.

Managing a sustainable plantation is about more than just growing and harvesting trees. With the Beerburrum plantation surrounded by encroaching urban sprawl, community engagement coordinator Stephanie Hunt described some of the challenges faced by HQP when it comes to managing the impacts of public access on privately-managed plantations in state forests.

“More than four million people live within day-tripping range of our Beerburrum plantation, which is becoming increasingly popular for recreation and presents considerable challenges for our team,” Stephanie said.

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Symbolic trees more sustainable with forest management practice

SOME of the state's senior foresters are heaving a sigh after a dedication speech on Queensland's Fraser Island by Prince Harry that included: "Put simply, without trees and forests we don't survive. It is a symbiotic relationship and one that so many people still fail to realise."

Fresh from the Invictus Games, the Duke and Duchess of Sussex were on the island this week to unveil a plaque for the dedication of the forests to the Queen's Commonwealth Canopy initiative, a network of forest conservation projects across commonwealth countries.

Although agreeing with Prince Harry's quote, the foresters wondered if he had been told that after the 1990 Fitzgerald Commission of Inquiry into the Conservation, Management and Use of Fraser Island, the island and its forests were closed and handed over as a "pristine World Heritage Register". And this after a century of sustainable timber harvesting

In 1918, NSW timber merchant Harold McKenzie of Sydney bought the rights to log 4000 ha of land for 10 years and immediately began



Prince Harry... dedication to forests.

building the first and only timber mill on Fraser Island.

McKenzie Ltd was responsible for the mill, a jetty and a number of steam locomotives and tracks servicing its logging areas.

By 1925, most of the island was set aside as state forest and when the McKenzie operation was no longer economically viable, Harry McKenzie sold out and the State Forest Service bought at auction a steam locomotive, tramlines and the jetty. The service continued to operate the steam tramways until 1935.

The Forest Service promoted the quality and regeneration of timbers

through selective logging and the saving of superior seed trees. Trial plantings of various species and experiments regarding regeneration, burning, clearing and soil enrichment techniques were carried out with varying degrees of success.

Those seeds have become some of the magnificent trees that were inspected by Prince Harry on Monday.

During the 1980s, the Labour state government came under increasing

pressure from conservation groups to halt logging on Fraser Island – but more than likely the opposition to managed forests was a result of earlier green concerns about sand mining operations. They batched them together and shut them down.

Prince Harry said the Queen's canopy project was committed to raising awareness of the value of native forest and to saving them for future generations.

We hope that the Prince is also aware that the best way to save forests is to work the forests under a sustainable management plan that includes certification.

There's also the threat of wild fires on the island, now that roads used by foresters to monitor the health and safety of the trees have been closed for more than 25 years.

I remember a news report in 1957 that said Fraser was 'alight from stem to stern', eventually contained by foresters and firefighters having access to the forests by way of maintained forest roads.

It could happen again.
– JIM BOWDEN.

“ COMMITTED TO RAISING AWARENESS OF THE VALUE OF NATIVE FORESTS

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