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EWPA welcomes Senate inquiry advice on non-compliant products

States must increase responsibility in the construction supply chain

RECOMMENDATIONS and the final report by the Senate inquiry into non-conforming building products released last week has been supported by the Engineered Wood Products Association of Australasia

The recommendations centre on increased compliance in all levels of the construction industry, from builders through to architects and engineers, with a view to the recommendations being adopted at a state level across Australia.

The Senate's recommendations include that state governments urgently look to increase responsibility at all levels of the construction supply chain, similar to recent legislation enacted in Queensland.

Non-conforming building products (NCBPs) represent a safety risk to occupants, to neighbours, a financial risk for owners, to insurers and financiers.

EWPA CEO Dave Gover says building products manufacturers have been



Dave Gover... recommendations will influence positive change to the built environment.

campaigning for government awareness of NCBP issues in Australia for several years.

"It is time for more effective regulation, and for meaningful enforcement," he said.

The Senate inquiry also highlighted the importance of third-party certification schemes.

"EWPA and other industry associations have been running third-party certification programs which blend technical expertise with rigorous certification, to ensure products are fit for purpose," Mr Gover said.

"It is our hope that

the Senate inquiry's recommendations will influence positive change to the built environment and ensure that conforming building products are, and continue to be, readily identifiable to Australian builders and specifiers."

The use of wood products is well established in formwork, industrial access and residential applications, and

"IT'S TIME FOR MORE EFFECTIVE LEGISLATION"

they are a growing opportunity in mid-rise construction.

Conforming products certified by the EWPA have been available in Australasian markets for more than 50 years.

Accreditation sends a clear message that your certification or inspection body can be counted on to perform its duties – in an authoritative and impartial way. It flags that you have been approved by an independent third-party as a professional body that acts with integrity when certifying or inspecting for conformity assessment.

EWPA is a member association for manufacturers of engineered and solid timber products across Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea and Fiji. The EWPA coordinates a market development program which includes product testing, product certification, standards and codes development, technical promotion, research and development, market maintenance; as well as education and training.



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Japan delegation talks up Aussie forest industry

A FOREST industries delegation has been in Tokyo this week talking up Australia's reputation as a sustainable, well-regulated and efficient producer with discussions aimed at strengthening market access for wood products in Japan.

Meeting with Japanese industry leaders and government officials, the delegation was led by the Australian Forest Products Association, Responsible Wood and co-convenor of the Australian Parliamentary Friends of Forestry and Forest Products group Tony Pasin MP and included senior representatives of Australian



forestry companies.

"The sustainability and innovation of Australia's forest industries was at the forefront of the delegation's meetings, with extra focus on hardwood exports to Japan's mature pulp and paper and emerging biomass markets," AFPA CEO Ross Hampton said.

"The trip was aimed at forging stronger trade ties and to reinforce Australia's sustainable forest management practices."

• Pictured in Tokyo, standing left to right, Stephen Dadd, executive general manager,

Boral timber division, Steve Whiteley, CEO, Sustainable Timber Tasmania. Stuart West, CEO, WA Forest Products Commission, Simon Dorries, CEO Responsible Wood, Malcolm McComb, chair, Pentarch Group, and Russel Cant, Department of Agriculture and Water Resources counsellor in Tokyo. Seated, from left, Dean Anderson, general manager, hardwood forestry division, Forestry Corporation of NSW, Tony Pasin MP, Koji Makimoto, Japanese Forestry Agency director-general and Greg McCormack, chair, AFPA.

Festive break for Timber&Forestry enews team

THIS 541st edition of Timber&Forestry enews is the last for 2018 as the industry prepares for the festive break. The first issue in 2019 will be delivered on January 17. The publishers, editor and the T&F enews team wish readers and advertisers the very best for a safe and happy Christmas and a peaceful and prosperous New Year.

Joining in the festive cheer, co-publisher John Halkett said he was pleased to report that since new publishers had acquired the publication in January there had been a significant increase its



distribution and across industry sectors both in Australasia and overseas.

• John (left) is pictured celebrating Yuletide in Brisbane with members of the Timber&Forestry enews team Zonya Bird, graphics, and Jim Bowden, managing editor.

John said the much-appreciated advertising

support had enabled wider editorial capacity with columnists and contributors now based in Canberra, Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide and Perth and in New Zealand.

"Plans for 2019 include finalising editorial and distribution relationships with some key industry entities in Australia and New Zealand and rolling out a number other key initiatives during the year," he said.

On the cover: Santa arrives early at Good Wood Street in the Brisbane suburb of Henda in preparation for deliveries on Christmas Eve.



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Certified timber is now essential to satisfy design, building sectors

THE demand for radical change by the United Nations in October this year to limit global warming to a 1.5 deg. global temperature increase requires fundamental change.

A three-week visit of five countries, which included judging at the 2018 World Architecture Festival in Amsterdam and presentations in Geneva to the PEFC general assembly, have convinced Brisbane architect and Responsible Wood director Mark Thomson that fundamental change is well under way.

"The issue now is the speed and uptake of such change," he says.

Two key issues stand. The first is that it is no longer



Mark Thomson... certified timber able to respond to radical changes for a sustainable planet.

palatable or responsible to use materials that are unlikely to be locally recycled, reused, or that don't address life cycle issues, resulting in waste in landfill, anywhere in the world. The second issue is that implemented 'design and construction quality' offers fundamental change to our living and working environments.

"It is well documented that

the design, development and construction sectors, play a significant role in global greenhouse emissions," Mr Thomson says.

"Timber, a building material used by humanity throughout our documented history, can play an increased role in the fundamental change necessary for a sustainable future.

"Certified timber is now necessary to satisfy the design development and construction sectors, to ensure its sourcing is not contributing to global temperature increases.

“ARE WE CHANGING FAST ENOUGH?”

"There are two globally-recognised certification systems – PEFC (Program for the Endorsement of Forest Certification), known as Responsible Wood in Australia, and FSC (Forestry Stewardship Council).

"Strict adherence to the use of certified timber is the only certain way to ensure timber comes from legal and sustainably managed forests."

Mr Thomson says we face big issues, timber in particular "Our consumption of

materials and products that are unable to be economically reused or recycled, has resulted in huge issues for our governing authorities and our community," he says.

"Our local timber industry has many challenges, some which include but are not limited to resource security, 80-year harvest cycles, tax rebates provided to other industries, the green movements' perception of locking up forests, proportionally low timber credits in building rating tools, durability and suitability of common timber finishes, notwithstanding that interior designers often choose timber for colour alone, not for its multiple material advantages."

He says engineered timber products such as CLT, glulam and LVL offer great hope for a (needed) transformation within the Australian environment.

"We have sustainable materials and quality designers able to respond to the radical changes needed for a sustainable planet," he says.

"But we will struggle to halt global temperature rises unless we activate fundamental change and understand that business as usual will not suffice programs such the world architecture festival and timber certification schemes, which provide the drive and the means to deliver the required radical change.

"The question is – are we changing fast enough and are we responding to the important issues?"



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New TPAA president on a mission: 'let's get serious about compliance'

JIM BOWDEN

A CLEAN slate on compliance issues, for both the big player and the smaller operator, was a 'must' if the TPAA and its members were to progress and meet the challenges ahead.

The new president of the Timber Preservers Association of Australia Kerry Bloor – the first Kiwi to take on the role – added: "Firstly, as the peak organisation for timber treaters, we need to convince more plant owners and operators about the value of TPAA membership and the advice the organisation can provide.

"The industry is facing an avalanche of critical issues in the New Year and beyond – health and safety, the wood waste problem, workplace and product compliance,

“INDUSTRY FACING AN AVALANCHE OF CRITICAL ISSUES



Kerry Bloor... let's preserve the wood we are building with now.

exposure levels and the use of chemicals, particularly CCA."

Mr Bloor said TPAA was made up of timber treaters, preservative suppliers, research organisations, and individuals and bodies that had an interest in the production and use of preservative-treated timber, and was the recognised lobby group to represent industry at government level and across a whole range of issues.

A lot of the big treaters are totally compliant, but there

are many smaller treaters who are nowhere near that," Mr Bloor said.

"We produce a safe product, a durable product. The industry is concerned about future domestic wood supply, so let's preserve the wood we are building with now, correctly, totally compliant and totally in sync with national standards and legislation.

"What we don't want is an event down the track that comes back and bites us on the butt. And wouldn't the steel and concrete guys love

that – they'd come down on us like a ton of bricks.

"Take a devil-may-care attitude to compliance and they'll get you, maybe not now, but they will get you.

"And we all lose."


Kerry Bloor and his wife, Jeanette, operate Lumber One Ltd, a custom treatment and primer operation based at Tauranga in the North Island's Bay of Plenty region.

A family business for 19 years, Lumber One has diversified and set up a treatment plant and re-manufacturing facility in Vietnam. The business strategy there is to work with a thriving furniture industry that imports a lot of radiata from New Zealand.

But Kerry Bloor says Lumber One won't be supplying any product back to Australia or New Zealand.

"Furniture manufacturers there see Vietnam as a trading gateway to the US, Europe and Asia," he said.

• Jack's Rant in the TPAA Bulletin, Page 18.




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For Butch Booth, if the wood 'aint responsible forget about it!

TUCKED away in Tasmania's Derwent Valley, Butch Booth has seen it all before.

He's been here for the good times, the bad times – and he will surely bare-witness to the resurgence in the state's timber industry.

A fourth generation sawmiller, Butch has been plying his trade as a hands-on director in charge of the Karanja Timbers sawmill, located on the banks of the Jones River in remote Karanja.

And for Butch it's all about keeping it in the family.

"My father taught me the trade and I've passed on the tricks of the trade to my son who will maintain the



Butch Booth... proud Tasmanian sawmiller.

legacy," Butch said.

"When I started, the valley was full of independent

sawmillers but that's all changed," he declared.

In some ways Karanja Timbers cuts a lonely figure in a once-vibrant timber community. Once known as 'sawmill alley', millers have had to adapt to the changing environment or perish.

"Social consensus is the marketing buzzword but when I think of timber and what it means to communities I think of my sawmill which has been located in the community for more than 60 years," Butch reflected.

"And I think of my neighbouring sawmill down the road which has provided gainful employment opportunities to our local community.

"We've had our knocks

over the years but we're survivors, and with the growing demand for hardwood timber in Tasmania and on the mainland resource security is key."

How right Butch is. Demand for timber is growing both at home and abroad, and Tasmanian hardwood timber is on the lips of every architect, engineer and developer. Think blackwood, Huon pine, myrtle, plantation ash, silver wattle, Tasmanian blue gum and Tassie oak. The list is endless.

Karanja Timbers is one of 30 local Tasmanian licensees that participate in the Fine Timber Tasmania chain-of-custody system.

Managed by Brueckner Leech, the system operates a Responsible Wood chain-of-custody scheme that verifies the origin of Tasmanian hardwood timbers from the forests, through the sawmill to the merchants and retailers.

Along with the Responsible Wood 'trust mark', licensees are invited to use the Fine Timber Tasmania chain of custody logo which verifies the origins of the timber.

For Butch, Responsible Wood certification is a 'must'.

"It's a no-brainer for me. Not only do my clients demand it but the forest certification is essential if we are to maintain the supply of our Tasmanian timbers for many generations to come," Butch added.

– JASON ROSS

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“WE’VE HAD OUR KNOCKS OVER THE YEARS, BUT WE’VE SURVIVED

FEBRUARY 2019

27: Launch of Queensland Parliamentary Friends of Forest & Timber Network – Brisbane, Australia. 6.30-8 pm. Open to all of industry – a landmark event demonstrating to MPs the strength and diversity of the entire industry supply chain. Lock it in! Industry associations will send out invitations to their members. Anyone interested should email admin@timberqueensland.com.au for more detailed information.

MARCH

1: Top of the South Forestry Awards – Nelson and Marlborough, New Zealand. Inaugural awards in fourteen categories to be awarded across individual and companies, with the ultimate award being the Skilled Professional of the Year. The awards will culminate to an evening of celebration, presentations and dinner in Nelson on Friday, June 14 at the Trafalgar Event Centre. For further information see:

www.totsforestry.co.nz or call Prue Younger, Event Manager +64 (21) 2765484

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

8: AFPA members' forum and chamber meetings – Canberra.

17: Women in Forest Industries workshop – Canberra, Australia. More information and registration inquiries to Natalie Heazlewood. Email: natalie.heazlewood@ausfpa.com.au

26-29: AUSPACK Packaging and Processing Week – Melbourne, Australia.

APRIL

1-2: National Sustainability Conference – Brisbane, Australia

4: Built Evolution Conference - 'Taking Timber to new heights' – Crown Resort, Perth, Australia. A conference and exhibition focused on timber multi-storey construction, with leading

international and national speakers presenting on the latest innovation, specification and inspirational projects. Email admin@timberinsight.com.au with expression of interest for exhibition and attendance.

JUNE

17-18: Frame Australia – Crown Promenade Melbourne, Australia. A dedicated conference and exhibition will allow delegates to fully understand the exciting developments in the Timber Offsite Construction space. The conference will feature prominent local and global experts, with topics exclusively devoted to timber and mass wood building construction. It will be the only event that will enable delegates to appreciate the world-wide transformation that is taking place and how building costs are being lowered. At the Frame Australia exhibition, booth sizes will be larger at no extra cost, with booths two to

three times the previous floor area without any change in pricing from 2018. Visit www.frameaustralia.com

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

20: AFPA members' forum and chamber meetings – Canberra.

AUGUST

25-28: The Forest Newsfeed Conference - 'Communicating Forestry in the Connected Age' – Christchurch, NZ. Organised by the New Zealand Institute of Forestry and the Institute of Foresters of Australia. The conference will consider how forests interact with society, explore ways we can best promote the merits of our sector, and discuss changes needed to meet society's expectations. Call for papers by February 28, 2019. Email euan.mason@canterbury.ac.nz or contact NZIFA on 64 4 974 8421 or IFA on 61 2 6153 3044.

Round 2 opens for new forest industry research projects

THE Australian Forest Products Association has welcomed the National Institute for Forest Products Innovation's opening of the second round of project proposals

"Following the recent announcement of the successful recipients in the first round which saw close to \$9 million in funding for 12 projects announced," CEO Ross Hampton said.

"This new round will support many more research and innovation opportunities for Australia's forest industries in order to grow our \$24 billion industry," he said.

The Launceston and Mount Gambier NIFPI centres are both calling for applications for Round 2, which will close on the February 15, 2019.

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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/

APRIL

10-12: Focus on Forestry 2019 – Mpumalanga, South Africa. For further information see: www.cmo.co.za

MAY

7-9: RISI's Sixth Annual Forest Investment Conference – London, UK. A key two day conference that will take an in-depth look at timberland investments around the globe and how

these opportunities will unfold in the near future. For further information see: www.risi.com/invest

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

JULY

8-18: IUFRO Small-scale Forestry Conference – Lake Superior in Duluth, Minnesota, USA. Presentations and field sessions will explore a mix of family-owned, tribal, industrial, and public ownerships with a focus on small-scale forest management. For further information see: <http://iufrossf.umn.edu/>

SEPTEMBER

16-17: ICATEA 2019: 21st International Conference on Advanced Timber Engineering and Applications – Zurich, Switzerland. The conference aims to bring together leading academic scientists, researchers and research scholars to exchange and share their experiences and research results on all aspects of advanced timber engineering and applications. For further information see: <https://waset.org/conference/2019/09/zurich/ICATEA>

SEPT/OCT

29 SEPT-25 OCT: XXV IUFRO World Congress – Curitiba, Brazil. For further information see: www.iufro2019.com

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

Green light for Circa to sell non-toxic bio-based solvent

BIOTECHNOLOGY company Circa Group has received authorisation from the European Chemicals Agency to manufacture or import up to 100 tonnes a year of its bio-based solvent CyreneTM

in the European Union.

A chiral dipolar aprotic solvent, CyreneTM was developed in conjunction with the Green Chemistry Centre of Excellence at the University of York. CyreneTM

is a two-step conversion of waste biomass, produced at Circa's large-scale prototype plant, built in partnership with pulp and paper company Norske Skog in Tasmania.

Solvent regulation is increasingly focused on restricting hazardous chemicals to manage their risk to people animals and the environment.



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Victoria still scores high for housing

THE strength of new home building in Victoria has once again kept it ahead of New South Wales as the number one state on the Scorecard," says the Housing Industry Association's acting principal economist Geordan Murray.

The HIA report presents analysis which ranks each of the eight states and territories, based on the performance of 12 key residential building indicators.

"The buoyant housing markets in Melbourne and Sydney provided a particularly good environment for residential building over recent years, but we are now

"WE ARE IN A NEW PHASE OF THE HOUSING CYCLE"



1/ **Busy... house building in Victoria ahead of all states.**

2/ **Geordan Murray... each of the states has a strength.**



in a new phase of the housing cycle," Mr Murray said.

"The housing market has softened considerably over the second half of 2018 and it will be increasingly challenging for these two states to continue

outperforming," he said.

"Queensland, Tasmania and the ACT all look capable of bumping the big two off the top of the table. Each of these states has a strength – Queensland with renovations, Tasmania with detached

home building and the ACT with multi-unit building.

"To ascend to the top of the table they will need to improve in other areas."

Mr Murray said in the wake of the resources investment boom, the Northern Territory and Western Australia had both been experiencing very challenging conditions for residential building. These two jurisdictions ranked seventh and eighth respectively.

"While conditions in Western Australia appear to have stabilised, albeit at very low levels, the path to a recovery will be a long one," Mr Murray said.

"There are signs of improving conditions in the broader state economy but these are yet to translate into any improvement in residential building."

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HQP staff praised as fierce fires surround state forest plantations

JIM BOWDEN

THE cauldron that was part of central Queensland just 10 days ago has cooled as the Queensland Fire and Emergency Services counts the cost of ravaging bushfires.

State fire commissioner Katarina Carroll says the focus is still on fighting some active fires as the extensive loss of houses, sheds, farm equipment and livestock is calculated.

A few days ago, more than 100 fires were still burning, including a significant fire at Lowmead in Central Queensland, near the site



– a phenomenal occurrence which has astounded fire scientists.

“Rainforests are non-burnable. That’s one of their distinguishing features. So if a rainforest is burning, that’s really significant,” Professor of Pyrogeography and Fire Science at the University of Tasmania David Bowman said.

Over the period, HQPlantations staff and contractors responded to 27 wildfires threatening the plantation estate in southeast, central and north Queensland, often simultaneously.

The most significant impacts were felt in HQPlantations’ northern and central plantations estates, with 10 fires impacting the North Queensland southern pine plantations around Ingham and Cardwell and three fires threatening the Kalpower Araucaria plantations in Central



1/ The perfect storm... like no other fire event in recent memory.
2/ David West... fire suppression activities were completed safely and plantation losses were minimal.

storm of extreme heat and fierce winds, fires erupted across a huge stretch of Queensland. In central and northern Queensland low humidity and dry fuels from preceding drought conditions helped feed the blaze.

The fires were so intense they penetrated rainforests

of the Deepwater blaze that sparked the crisis.


The event was unlike any fire Queensland has faced in recent memory. In a perfect

“WE ARE VERY GRATEFUL FOR THEIR SUPPORT”

Cont P 11



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Ross Hampton elected director of ForestWorks

NEW directors of ForestWorks were elected at the AGM in Melbourne recently.

The annual report was presented by acting Chair Tony Price.

CEO of Australian Forest Products Association Ross Hampton was elected as an employer nominee and

Denise Campbell-Burns, a safety professional engaged in the pulp and paper sector, was re-elected as an employee nominee for a three-year period.

The board thanked outgoing director Mark Nelson for his significant contribution.

Mr Hampton has been AFPA CEO since 2013. He

has a Master's Degree in Public Policy and is a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. He is a member of the International Council of Forest and Paper Associations and a member of the UN FAO Advisory Committee on Sustainable Forest Based Industries

Ms Campbell-Burns

has wide experience in corporate policy and system development, hazard management and fatality investigation.

Key achievements have included development and implementation of risk control standards in the sawmilling sector and fire safety guidelines for sawmills.

From P 10

Queensland.

"All available staff and fire fighting vehicles along with heavy machinery and aerial support were brought to bear on these fires in order to protect local communities, private property and our plantations," HQP group manager stewardship David West said.

As fires in each area were

brought under control, staff and contractors relocated to other regions to supplement or relieve crews, especially in north Queensland where a number of fires were burning at once.

"Additional HQPlantations staff and contractors from southeast Queensland, along with three crews from HVP Plantations in Victoria, flew in to supplement the local teams and assist with fatigue

management as local teams were stood down to rest," Mr West reported.

"We are very grateful for their support, and also the support we received from local QFES and QPWS staff," he said.

Mr West confirmed that the immediate fire threat had now passed with more favourable weather conditions being experienced across the HQPlantations

estate and the prospect of current rains in north Queensland migrating further south over the coming week.

"Despite the widespread nature and scale of these events, HQPlantations fire suppression activities were completed safely and plantation losses were minimal."

Mr West estimated plantation losses were likely to be around 100 ha.



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Fuel management can lower fire risk

THE Queensland timber industry has praised the efforts of the state's fire and emergency services in the recent central Queensland bushfires, while recommending that more action be taken on fuel reduction and preventative management to mitigate future impacts.

Timber Queensland CEO Mick Stephens said the professionalism of the fire and emergency services agencies in responding to these fires had been exceptional.

"We recognise the brave work they do in ensuring public safety and fighting dangerous fires," he said.

"For an industry such as ours, fire management has always been a high priority as fire can not only devastate lives, property and wildlife, it



Controlled burns... helping to fight dangerous fires.

can destroy valuable timber resources.

"Going forward, it is timely to look at some of the longer-term risk factors that are contributing to the impacts and severity of the state's bushfires. One of the biggest is simply the amount of fuel in the landscape in the form of combustible biomass and vegetation."

Mr Stephens said reducing excessive fuel loads could

help reduce the intensity and spread of bushfires; it was commonly practiced in state forests and on private forestry land.

"However, there had been a decline in the amount of fuel-reduction generally in many public native forests

"THERE HAS BEEN A DECLINE IN FUEL REDUCTION"

and woodlands in Australia over the past few decades. This has simply increased the extent and severity of bushfires when weather conditions turn for the worst," he said.


The industry is calling on the state government to ensure adequate resources and policies are directed at promoting longer-term fuel management on public and private land, which can assist in reducing the risks of more intense and large-scale bushfires.

"This can be a win-win for the community and environmental protection as well as for rural-based industries such as forestry and agriculture, and should be an important part of an overall risk mitigation strategy," Mr Stephens said.

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It's Christmas time again – and a chance to recognise forest toilers

WELL, time flies and this is my last column for 2018. No cheap shots please!

I have attracted a bit of commentary from time-to-time throughout this year – I'll call it that – for what I thought have been constructive comments. For instance, in my last column when I wrote about the new national forest plan, launched with much fan-fare at the National Press Club in Canberra in



generational contracting company Reid Logging won the grand prize at the hugely successful inaugural Green Triangle Timber Industry Awards. I know of many similar companies who put it all on the line. They have to borrow



1/ Forests go festive... have a restful and enjoyable holiday break. Catch you again next year.
2/ No surprise... Reid Logging won the grand prize at the Green Triangle Timber Industry Awards.

big time to keep machinery current and productive in a competitive industry.

They worry about repairers and replacement parts, fuel and running costs, insurance and business overheads. They are constantly concerned about the welfare and safety of those who put in a daily effort to keep the show on the road and the business performing. And they just keep on keeping on.

I don't think it's too much to ask major forest growers, wood processors and governments to get their act together and see 2019 as the year, when after a decade of paralysis and a plan that is "just a start", to finally organise themselves to produce a few thousand hectares of new plantings. My Christmas wish!

So thanks – and have a restful and enjoyable holiday break. Let us all be back safe and fired up after Christmas-New Year.

Catch you again in 2019.
Cheryl

TRUNK LINES



With CHERYL FORREST

further initiatives to broaden the reach and appeal of Timber&Forestry enews – so stayed tuned as they say.

I won't finish without expressing my admiration for others in the forest harvesting contraction game – it's a tough gig... pretty much totally family-owned contracting businesses usually with family members involved both in the office and at the work site.

I wasn't surprised the multi-

blanc. I pick the Jelly Fish Restaurant on the Brisbane river front Jimmy. I'll book and you pay!

So enews has just about got through its first year under new management. Besides myself, you would have noticed new columnists and a wider editorial coverage. And from a forest contractor perspective, the ongoing support from Komatsu Forest's Mike Jones, Brenton Yon and the team has been warmly appreciated. As of course has been the addition of David Hazell's Onetrak team and their Tigercat range of skidders and forwarders.

I hear via our publisher and Kings Cross identity John Halkett that 2019 will see

September, I subsequently got; "... but hang-on it is just a start ...", and I am quoting. A start? We have been waiting years for some real action on-the-ground, especially new plantation establishment. So I still reckon we crossed the starting line about a decade ago!

Anyway Christmas looms again. So what is on your holiday agenda? Here, we are likely to finish up with a barbecue or a steak and few of beers in town. A couple of weeks off then back into it for the New Year.

I hope to get up to Brissy to visit family over the break. Our indomitable editor big Jimmy Bowden has promised lunch and a bottle of savy

8 WHEELS DONE RIGHT



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Guitar maker to the stars in tune with sustainable certified timbers

WHAT do jazz and rock legends Wolf Mail, Richard Smith, Steve Balbi and Pat Drummond have in common with Tasmanian guitar maker Mark Gilbert?

They all use his guitars, crafted with pride and passion at Mark Gilbert Guitars in downtown Hobart.

The posters covering the walls of Mark's guitar 'man cave' are a virtual who's who of world-renowned stars of blues, jazz and rock. Greeting you at the entrance is Wolf Mail, a French Canadian blues rock guitarist and singer who has recorded six full-length albums and has performed in more than 25 countries.

He was in town recently to celebrate Mark Gilbert's 60th birthday. The two struck up an unlikely friendship after Wolf played a gig in Tasmania. The relationship developed further after Wolf used Mark's exclusive thylacine guitar, a name associated with the legendary Tasmanian tiger.

Today Wolf plays Mark Gilbert's guitars exclusively and proudly. His weapons of choice are the Mark Gilbert WMI1 signature instrument bearing his name and the Mark Gilbert BC electro-



In the guitar cave... Wolf Mail and Mark Gilbert.

acoustic guitar. BC (as in Before Christ), is testimony to the qualities of Huon pine (*Lagarostrobos franklinii*), the slow growing timber that can grow to be 2500 years old.

Wolf says not only do the guitars look amazing, the sounds are incredible. "It's all in the luthiering," he adds.

"It's incredible, it's all in the timber, and we are fortunate to have some of the finest timbers in the world right here in Tasmania," Mark said.

Wolf Mail was one of the first to appreciate Mark's guitar-making skills and today these skills are

endorsed by guitar players the world over including the acclaimed Richard Smith, the full professor of the Thornton School of Music at the University of Southern California.

According to Mark, Tasmanian blackwood comes from the same family as Koa and is similar to Brazilian rosewood and African blackwood – a superior acoustic composition that

provides superior tone and appearance.

"Brazilian rosewood has now been added to the CITIES treaty and is strictly banned for exportation," Mark said. "Widely used in many of the best acoustic and electronic guitars, it was not properly harvested and can only be used in guitars that predate the 1992 treaty.

"It's a tragedy the timber was not responsibly harvested and now we are at risk of losing the timber species forever."

Therein lay the opportunity for Mark to export his unique guitars around the globe and Responsible Wood certification, through international endorsement by the Program of Endorsement for Forest Certification (PEFC) plays an important role in allowing Mark to export his sounds far and wide.

"Sustainability is crucial," Mark said.

This is why he is a licensee of Fine Timber Tasmania's chain-of-custody system and proudly carries the Responsible Wood 'trust mark'.

– JASON ROSS

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\$2 million research funding investment to boost sustainability, jobs and economic benefits in partnership with industry

With the support of the Australian and Tasmanian governments, the Launceston Centre of the National Institute for Forest Products Innovation has up to \$2 million available for research grants to grow the future of forestry. Individual research grants will range from \$50,000-\$500,000 and will be for periods of up to three years in duration.

Funding proposals close on Friday 15 February 2019 and should be lodged via email to funding.tas@nifpi.org.au. For further information, including a proposal template and briefing document, see www.nifpi.org.au



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



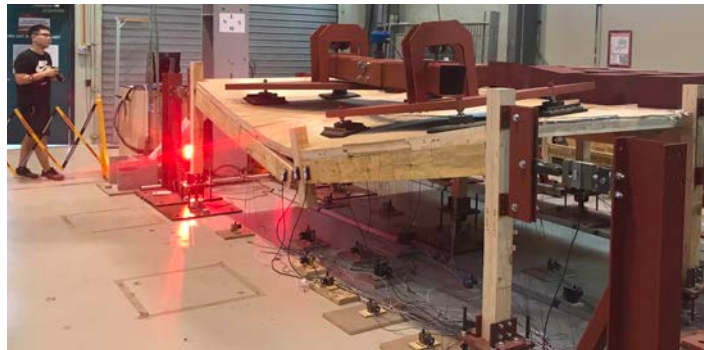
Griffith mass timber tests a world 'first'

IN a world 'first', the behaviour of mass timber buildings to resist the loss of a main structural element has been investigated using high-tech laboratory equipment at Griffith University's Gold Coast campus.

The demonstration, observed by representatives from the state government, Arup and Lendlease, will lead to a better understanding of the behaviour of timber buildings and eventually inform the improvement of current design rules and yield safer buildings.

Associate Professor Benoit Gilbert of Griffith's School

“FULL SCALE TESTS OF TIMBER ELEMENTS



Good behaviour... mass timber tests at Griffith University.

of Engineering and Built Environment is part of the team testing engineered solid wood products, such as LVL, glulam and CLT and their capabilities in collapse resistance.

Reaching timber building heights of five to six storeys has been made possible thanks to products such as these.

Prof. Gilbert said recent changes in legislation

had prompted the rise in popularity for mid-rise buildings internationally.

Griffith University has a well-equipped structural laboratory where full-scale tests of timber elements are being performed and the structural behaviour of mass timber buildings under large deformations is investigated.

A three-year collaborative project investigating the prospect of even taller timber

buildings – or mass timber buildings – has been funded by Griffith, the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, the Queensland government, Arup and Lendlease.

The project will examine the progressive collapse behaviour of mass timber buildings with CLT floors.

Lendlease senior structural engineer Richard Neuhercz said testing robustness was very important with multi-storey buildings, especially when part of a structure was compromised to determine if the rest of the structure will remain stable.

“Testing will help illustrate the way this works. We can learn a lot from these tests, which will help inform and support decisions,” Mr Neuhercz said.

does big mean better?

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R&D vs cash for sport: we have some real issues about priorities

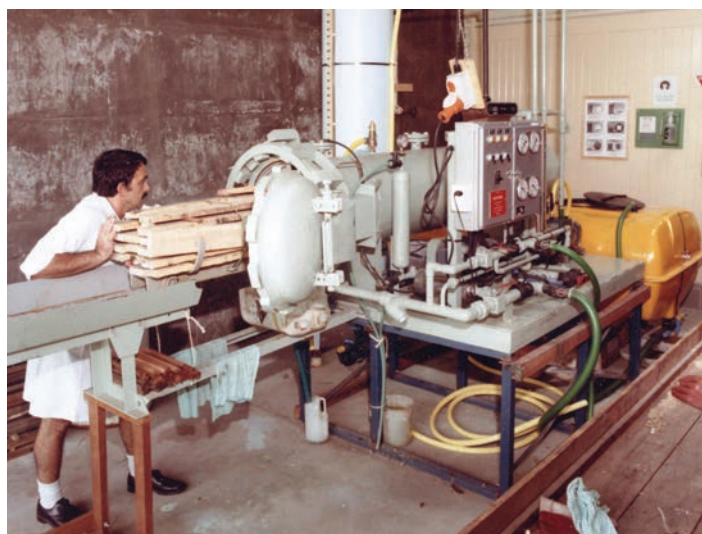
MANY many years ago I trained as a chemist and have always had a liking for science and what it can offer.

I am a regular listener to Robin Williams' Science Show at midday on ABC Radio and a regular lament is the lack of resources that science gets in Australia.

As a percent of GDP, the South Korean government outspends the Australian government 2.95 times. (1.18% compared to 0.4%). The US government spends 0.75% of its GDP on R&D. Using the same measure, South Korea has a total spend (government +) two times more than Australia (4.3% compared to 2.1%) and the US spends 2.7%.

In 2017, Australia had a population of around 25 million compared to 52 million in South Korea and 326 million in the US. Now I know that there are a squillion ways to massage the numbers and there are all sorts of justifications we can put in place but I also know that I spent the vast majority of my working career looking for money and justifying what I reckon was meagre expenditure rather than smashing

“YOU HAVE TO BE IN IT FOR THE LONG HAUL



Contemplating the wonders of science... Jack Norton loads a charge at Brisbane's Salisbury Research Facility in his early days in government R&D.

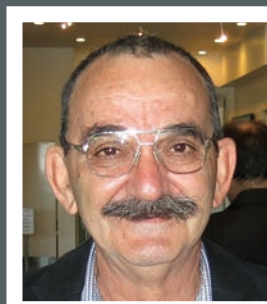
frontiers of science.

As a nation we pride ourselves in 'punching above our weight' but it doesn't seem to be happening when it comes to R&D spending.

Don't get me wrong... we do alright in scientific output, but just imagine what we could achieve if resourcing R&D started approaching that of South Korea or even the US. And not in dollar value of course but as a percent of GDP.

It is hard to compare how much money is spent on sport in this country against the amount spent on R&D, but one interesting statistic I came across was that in 2000-01, the commonwealth, state and local support for sport was measured at \$2 billion. I can't help but

JACK'S RANT



With JACK NORTON
Secretary, TPAA

conclude that as a nation we have an issue with priorities.

One of the biggest problems with funding research into timber durability is that you have to be in it for the long haul. It takes time for timber to deteriorate. For example, in 1997, a trial was established to investigate 'the effect of preservative

penetration in heartwood on the performance of preservative-treated *Pinus radiata* exposed externally above ground'. Resourcing was obtained to prepare and install a scientifically sound trial and covered inspections up to, I think, for five years. It may have been a bit more or less.

Try as he might, the researcher could not raise funding for regular assessments across the years so that we could get our heads around the rate of deterioration in the exposed pieces.

Recently, a couple of us went to have a look at one of the trial sites with the director of the new National Centre for Timber Durability and Design Life. We were hoping to salvage some information from the trial. Unfortunately, a bush fire got there before us. Another great opportunity lost!

Just so that not all is doom and gloom, the good news is that scientists in this country are too pig-headed to give up and will continue to punch above their weight.

Please contact me with any questions, suggestions or issues on 0418 989 398 or fax (07) 3311 5612. Skype: jak.norton1

Compliments of the season to all of you.

Stay tuned!

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New Zealand winning the battle against wind-blown wilding pines

MICHAEL SMITH

AMID the growing concerns expressed about kauri dieback disease and myrtle rust incursions, work continues on eliminating a blot on the New Zealand landscape – wilding pines.

These wind-blown, naturally regenerating exotics spread into shrublands and grasslands, replacing native vegetation, compromising water catchments and reducing land use options.

Some 2 million ha of land is now affected by wilding conifer infestations. According to Crown research institute Scion, of particular concern are the high country regions of the South Island,



A drone drops in... surveying wilding infestations in the Kaweka Ranges, Hawkes Bay.
Photo: Scion

and the Central Plateau and major mountain ranges of the North Island. Other areas at risk include some coastal environments – notably the Marlborough Sounds.

The main offenders are species no longer used in production forestry – notably Corsican pine (*Pinus nigra*), lodgepole or contorta pine (*P. contorta*) and European larch (*Larix decidua*) – but which can still be found in shelterbelts, historic plantings for erosion control, or where dense wilding stands spread by themselves.

Among New Zealand's

Cont P 21

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From P 20

exotic forest plantations, Douglas-fir is prone to producing wildings which can spread and establish in the high country. Fortunately, the mainstay of the forestry industry, radiata pine, is not a major concern as radiata wildings are only found in a few locations, which are easily manageable.

Since 2016, about 60% of affected areas have had control operations in place to remove conifers (but follow-up controls will be needed to fully clear infestations). Rates of spread can vary considerably between species and landscapes, so it is difficult to provide accurate predictions about the affected land area in 10 to 20 years' time. Because of the recent efforts initiated by the National Wilding Conifer Control Program, the spread will be far less than previous estimates of 4-6% a year (land area) if the program continues.

Much of the control work is carried out with herbicide combinations that have been developed by Scion researchers and the Department of Conservation (DOC). These combinations (containing active ingredients such as dicamba, triclopyr and picloram) have proved very effective in killing conifers – with mortality



Under threat... iconic South Island high country. Photo: Scion

rates reaching up to 100% if applied correctly and with good practice standards in place.

The next step is to look at how herbicide rates can be reduced, how mixes can potentially be altered and how to optimise the delivery to reduce costs.

Scion and DOC have also developed a spray gun for use from a helicopter in areas with lower wilding densities and where ground access is difficult and dangerous. With this system, small to large wilding trees that are widely dispersed can be controlled efficiently over large areas.

Investigations into biological control organisms have determined that they need high host densities

to thrive, thus limiting their prospects. There is also the possibility of an economic hit should seed predators aid the spread of pine pitch fungus, were it to take hold in New Zealand's radiata plantations.

More promising is Scion's work on gene-editing technology (CRISPR), in addition to the more traditional GMO technologies. The focus of the research – which is supported by the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment-funded research program Winning Against Wildings

and the Forest Growers Levy Trust – is to 'edit' Douglas-fir such that it does not generate wildings.

Scion has identified the genes that are essential for reproduction that, when edited, will lead to sterile trees.

Meantime, the National Wilding Conifer Control Program continues to support landowners and territorial authorities with financial and planning assistance in the fight to control wildings. There are also many volunteer groups pulling or cutting the conifers ... and a number of wildings-focused trusts have been able to secure funding from other sources to carry out larger-scale control projects.

“GENES WHEN EDITED WILL LEAD TO STERILE TREES

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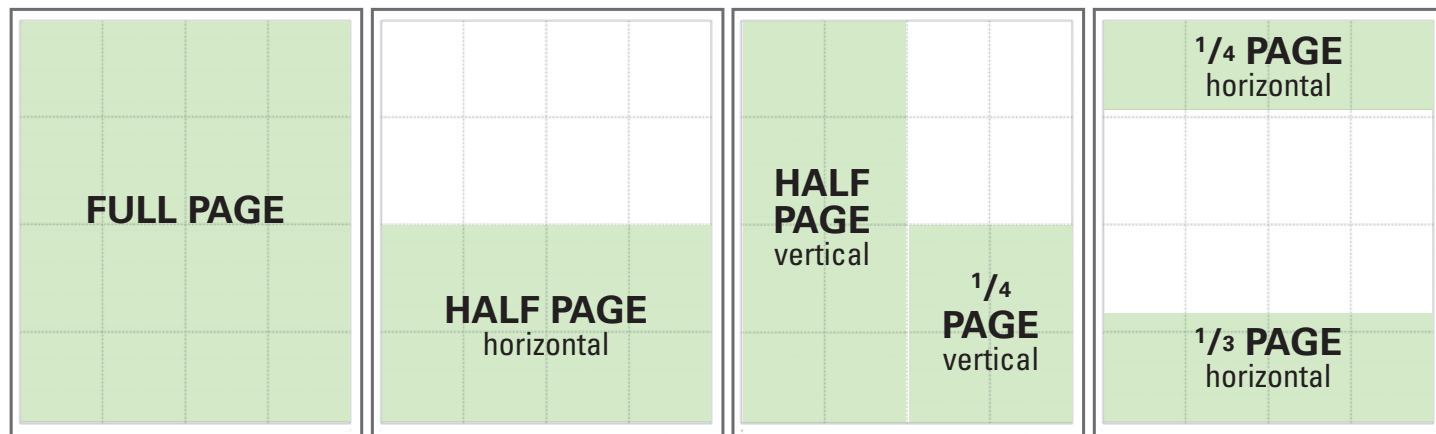
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