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ISSUE 542 | January 17, 2018

Bright visions in 2019 for industry

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Industry plunges into productive and challenging year of activities

JIM BOWDEN

THE timber industry across all sectors in Australia has plunged into a productive and challenging New Year, setting high and exciting goals for resource security, forest growth, high-tech manufacturing and promotion, while keeping a close eye on political outcomes.

Australians are all but assured to head to the polls for a federal election in May, with the Prime Minister announcing he will deliver the Budget in April.

Also this year, the incumbent LNP Coalition government in NSW confronts the Labor Opposition and its new leader Michael Daley who faces a herculean task at the March 23 poll.

The same elections will see an ever-irritating campaign by the Greens to create a Great National Koala Park that would see 175,000 ha of state forests added to existing protected areas to form a 315,000 ha reserve in the Coffs Harbour hinterland.

Kicking off 2019 on



NSW Premier Gladys Berejiklian absorbs the energy of trees ahead of the state election in March this year.

a positive note, the Queensland Minister for State Development Cameron Dick today (Thursday) watched as a fourth generation of the Hyne timber dynasty Chris Hyne turned the sod on Hyne's glulam plant in Maryborough, scaling up the mass timber construction boom (report next issue).

A key issue for the Queensland industry this

“GLULAM PLANT STARTS 2019 ON POSTIVE NOTE

year is the 1999 South-East Queensland Forests Agreement, which gave a 25-year access to state-owned forests and is scheduled to end in 2024. Timber Queensland is on the case (see P 10).

Another is how Queensland industry addresses the government-regulated waste disposal levy issue, a new strategy to increase recycling and recovery.

Nationally, concerns will grow over massive clearances of native timber for direct shipment to China, with

'cowboy' contractors laughing in the face of state codes of practice.

Only this week, it was reported that more than 1000 tonnes of brigalow (*Acacia harpophylla*) had been illegally pulled out of western Queensland in a few days by China traders. Also, large areas of native lancewood, one of the hardest acacias, are being cleared wholesale to add to the Chinese 'take-away' menu.

Just, but somehow unfair considering the Asian purge of

Cont P 3



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From P 2

native trees, a Queensland-based importer was served with the first infringement notice issued under Australia's illegal logging laws. The notice was issued for ongoing non-compliance with due diligence requirements. The business was fined \$12,600.



Mass timber trend... Hynes CEO Jon Kleinschmidt (left) introduces local MP Bruce Saunders (centre) and Fraser Coast Mayor Cr. George Seymour to the newly-commissioned glulam plant at Maryborough.

The infringement notice reflects the government's implementation of a full compliance model for the illegal logging laws after the 'soft start-compliance period' ended in January last year.

Meanwhile, domestic hardwood supplies will continue to decline as state governments opt for nature reserves over productive forests because of perceived political advantages.

Expect to see new sources of imported hardwoods emerge from countries such as Peru following the commencement of a bilateral trade agreement with Australia and the PNG government's pledge under the Paris climate change agreement to curtail the export of raw logs by 2020.

Also, Brazil remains a big player in the Australian market, winning many permanent customers from Carter Holt Harvey after the 2017 lock-out at the Myrtleford plywood mill in 2017 in a bitter workplace dispute that saw processors

turn to South America to fill orders.

Brazil's Suzano Pulp & Paper acquisitions last year added 656,000 ha of eucalypts to its own 520,000 ha, putting 1,176,000 ha of plantations under a single corporate ownership.

The Australian plywood industry was on edge last week after the announcement that a Sarawak-based conglomerate would build a \$54 million rotary peel veneer and plywood mill in north Tasmania (P 4). But Industry analysts reckon the first priority would be to ship dried rotary veneers back to Sarawak for processing.

On the timber treatment front, the TPAA's industry's bible AS/NZS 1604 Preservative treated wood-based products, should make clear the requirements needed to produce a quality, fit-for-purpose product.

TPAA has worked hard to completely revise this important standard, and the old five-part AS/NSZ 1604 and the four-part AS/NZS 1605 have been merged into a new three-part format.

A meeting of the technical

committee in Melbourne on January 30-31 will address more than 400 comments on the public review draft of the new ASN standard, now titled 'preservative treated wood-based products'.

The Australian Forest Products Association will press on to find more incentives to get more production trees into the ground, including an important focus on farm forestry solutions (P12).

SEQFA DEADLINE CONCERN FOR QLD

A busy FWPA wood promotion program will include testing TV advertisements to communicate the 'ultimate renewable' message, a program to be launched later this year (P 5, 6)

Responsible Wood, after its very successful brand change, will build on its 2018 commitment to become the most recognised and trusted 'green label' for forestry and wood products.

Cont P 19

Cover photo by the 2018 Responsible Wood photo contest winner Robyn MacRae.



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Sarawak group poised to build a \$54m peeler-plywood mill in Tas

JIM BOWDEN

THE Sarawak-based conglomerate Shin Yang is behind a proposal to build a \$54 million rotary peel veneer and plywood mill in the industrial area of Bell Bay in north Tasmania.

Subsidiary Patriarch and Sons in Western Australia has lodged an application with the Environment Protection Authority.

A report in the Launceston Examiner says the site and investment "ticked all the boxes" for the group's ambition.

EPA is now preparing an environmental effects report to take to the directors – with a development application –

after public comment.

Ray Mostogl, a former general manager of Bell Bay Aluminium and inaugural chairman of the soon-to-be rebranded Bell Bay Advanced Manufacturing Zone, said the proposal was a "fantastic example" of what the group had been working on for years.

"To see the new mill come through is exactly what we were hoping to do," Mr Mostogl said.

"From a wealth generation and employment perspective, it ticks all the boxes. It's a fantastic example of a physical result."

By the third phase of



Ling Chiong Ho started his business empire by plying tugboats and then making them. Today his Shin Yang Group – among the Forbes-listed 50 richest companies in Malaysia – builds ships, exports timber and develops property. He derives most of his wealth from listed Sarawak Oil Palms and privately owns tree farms, stone quarries, petrol stations and public buses.

Industry analysts reckon the Shin Yan's first marketing priority would be to ship dried rotary veneers back to its base in Sarawak, rather than get into a 'bun fight' producing plywood for the Australian market.

They suggest Shin Yan may also have gained significant experience with peeling Tasmanian plantation-grown Eucalyptus nitens as a buyer of logs exported from that state.

Experienced Industry consultant and forester Evan Shield told us from his base in Buenos Aires that he was astounded at the high-tech Japanese gear at Shin Yang's plywood mill in Miri, Sarawak, on a visit in 2014.

operation the mill is expected to employ up to 110 people. The first stage would be operational by mid-2019, pending EPA and George Town Council approval.

The mill would source FSC-certified native and plantation hardwoods from public and private suppliers and provide additional opportunities for timber owners to value-add to their resources.

The proposal has been welcomed by Resources Minister Sarah Courtney, the forest industry and George Town Council.

Shin Yang is a huge conglomerate of companies, a dynamic corporation with diversified business activities throughout Asia. The group says it will have 17 million trees in the ground and 1 million ha of forests by the year 2020.

"It was truly something to behold. I was especially impressed by the intensive utilisation (for rotary veneer production) achieved from plantation-grown wood of rather spurious quality by Australian standards," he said.

"Peeler blocks with dimensions no greater than 10 cm. diameter x 1 m length were salvaged for peeling and a magnificent Meinan lathe from Japan peeled these blocks down to a drop-out core diameter of only 10 mm."

Species used included *Paraserianthes falcataria* (called Sengon in Malaysia), which is grown in secondary lowland rainforests. It grows so fast that it is sometimes called the 'miracle tree' and is listed in the Guinness Book of Records as the world's fastest growing tree. On good sites it can attain a height of 7 m in just over a year.



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Making forest sector even greater

Establishing clear goals by individuals and organisations – with appropriate resources – is a way to make it happen

EVERYONE in the forest sector knows what a positive contribution we make to society through a wide range of economic, social and environmental outcomes.

But this knowledge barely radiates beyond the sector's borders.

In promoting the carbon storage benefits of wood, FWPA's campaign in conjunction with Planet Ark and Peter Maddison from Grand Designs Australia, has been extremely successful in improving the acceptance of wood. Sadly, this acceptance of wood does



not automatically translate into improved acceptance of commercial forest growing or to the sector as a whole.

This is the 'slaughterhouse paradox' as coined by a German academic: people like meat (wood) and they like animals (trees), but they just don't want to know about the bit in the middle.

A series of consumer and industry focus groups in 2018 grappled with this challenge and how to reframe the sector.

By **RIC SINCLAIR**



managing director FWPA

The answer: Wood: the Ultimate Renewable (and/ or Trees: the Ultimate

Renewable).

This reframing is intended to address the poor understanding that the sector is responsible for putting trees back in the ground (not just logging them) and that a truly sustainable industry is about growing and using a resource in perpetuity.

Many of the industry's most vocal opponents have

always ignored this fact. Their attention has focused on the removal of the trees (which for many people is a visually and emotionally distressing event) and not on the renewal and growth of the resource. Equally important, these opponents unwittingly (or wilfully) ignore the environmental impact of alternative materials.

FWPA is currently testing TV advertisements to

“A TRULY SUSTAINABLE INDUSTRY IS ABOUT USING A RESOURCE IN PERPETUITY

Cont P 6

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Enabling Sustainability

From P 5

communicate the 'Ultimate Renewable' message that we will launch later this year. In addition, several regions are in the process of developing communication plans that can leverage this message to their key stakeholders.

The challenge is whether the whole industry can work collectively to improve the industry's acceptance by its local community and the broader population. This challenge will become even more pressing in the face of a potential market decline.

Over the last few years, the Australian forest and wood products sector has enjoyed buoyant market conditions on the back of strong housing construction markets, demand from northern Asia for wood fibre and a competitive exchange rate.

These market conditions have translated into improved



Wood and trees... the ultimate renewal.

investment confidence with many companies upgrading production facilities, developing new capacity and exploring new markets.

A number of government initiatives such as capital restraints on interest-only loans, controls on foreign investment and the Royal

Commission are likely to impact on domestic construction and declining property house prices will reduce consumer confidence. To paraphrase a previous federal Treasurer: "This may be market correction we had to have".

Given that a downturn has been on the cards for some time, we can only hope that companies have kept their balance sheets in order to weather the storm.

we need to individually and collectively invest more resources in improving the community's understanding and acceptance of commercial forestry and wood production.

This must be more than a bumper sticker.

It involves everyone, regardless of their position, becoming a champion or ambassador for the sector. It requires genuine listening to the community's concerns and responding appropriately. It requires a continuous focus on the human capacity of the sector, including embracing greater diversity of gender, ethnicity and thinking styles so we better reflect Australian society as a whole.

In short, it requires commitment.

A cornerstone of modern management is the setting of goals and regularly measuring progress.

So if we really want change, and if we really want to make the forest sector even greater, then establishing some clear sector-wide goals that are owned by individuals and organisations with appropriate resources is a way to make it happen.

“A CORNERSTONE OF MODERN MANGEMENT IS THE SETTING OF GOALS

Unfortunately, if history is any guide, the first victims of any corporate cutbacks are usually (in no particular order) corporate affairs, marketing, research, and human resources.

I can recall the advice of a previous general manager who told me during a market downturn: "If you're not making or selling product, then you're not wanted".

If we want to make the forest sector even greater (and who doesn't?), then

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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.na 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

JUNE

16-21: 2019 DANA Ecuador Forestry and Agri-/Aqua-business Investment Tour – Ecuador. This event will introduce potential investors to the forestry and agri- and aqua- business; as well as the commercial, financial, political, and economical aspects of investments in Ecuador. Included will be field visits to operating forests, manufacturing, and processing of wood products, and selected agri- and aqua- export oriented operations. For further information and to register see: <https://danaevents.co.nz/2019ecuador/>

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.

Brazil to restore 20 million ha, plant 1 million trees by 2030

BRAZIL aims to restore 12 million ha of forest by 2030 to partially address the loss natural vegetation on around 20 million ha, especially on the border of the so-called Legal Amazon, the Mata Atlântica forest and Cerrado ecosystem region.

ITTO says to support the government’s aim, a campaign led by the Nature Conservancy (TNC) wants to plant one billion trees in the country. The campaign ‘Restaura Brazil’ aims to generate public interest and seek support from the private sector through partnerships and support from other NGOs and

government agencies.

Meanwhile, Brazilian wood treatment companies will adopt a self-regulation program to provide better services to consumers. The initiative was developed by the Brazilian Association of Wood Preservers in partnership with the Technological Research

Institute and the Totum Institute.

According to the Totum Institute, certification criteria includes legal integrity, quality management, environmental management, labour, health and safety management as well as ethical commitments and social responsibility.



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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

JUNE

16-21: 2019 DANA Ecuador Forestry and Agri-/Aqua-business Investment Tour – Ecuador. This event will introduce potential investors to the forestry and agri- and aqua- business; as well as the commercial, financial, political, and economical aspects of investments in Ecuador. Included will be field visits to operating forests, manufacturing, and processing of wood products, and selected agri- and aqua- export oriented operations. For further information and to register see: <https://danaevents.co.nz/2019ecuador/>

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@timberandforestryenews.com



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New chair, secretariat appointed to JW Gottstein educational trust fund

JIM BOWDEN

A NEW chair and secretariat will guide the Gottstein Memorial Trust Fund through 2019 and beyond.

This follows a re-structure of the Institute of Foresters of Australia, based in Canberra, which took over management of the trust in May 2017.

Well-known industry identities John Simon and Helen Murray have been appointed chair and new secretary respectively. Mr Simon, who is chair of Forest and Wood Products Australia, takes over from Nils Gunnensen following his appointment as managing director of Gunnensen, based in Melbourne (see Page 11).

Mr Simon complimented Mr Gunnensen on his excellent leadership as chairman and as a long-time trustee of the non-profit industry educational fund.

The Joseph William Gottstein Memorial Trust Fund was established in 1971 as a national education trust to promote the development of Australia's forest products industry through the pursuit of excellence in people, processes and products.

Mr Simon said the trust provided financial support to people employed in the industry who wished to further their education, develop new skills and continue contributing to



John Simon

the industry through their professional development.

He said this was primarily achieved through the awarding of fellowships for Australian and international study tours as well as the provision of focused short courses.

More than 100 fellowships had been awarded with many recipients now holding senior positions in the forest and forest products industry.

The Gottstein secretariat will still be based in Canberra and will be the responsibility of Helen Murray's Kurrumbene Projects assisted by former Timber Communities Australia secretary Judy Pearce and Melbourne-based scientist and botanist Jocelyn Carpenter.

Helen Murray has wide experience in project management and consultancy, especially in sectors such as agribusiness, the forest industry, regional development, government and rural health.

Ms Murray said the new Gottstein management team would hit the ground running



Helen Murray

in 2019 promoting the value of Gottstein fellowships and forest and wood science courses.

"We will build on the excellent work put into the trust by IFA's Sarah Paradise

and Kenia Schmitt," she said.

Registrations are now open for this year's Gottstein forest science course to be held at the ANU campus in Canberra from February 18 to 22. More information is available on the Gottstein Trust website www.gottsteintrust.org

Helen Murray can be contacted on 0419 991 424, Judy Pearce on 0417 250 058 and Jocelyn Carpenter on 0407 006 101, or email gottsteinsecretary@gmail.com

Gottstein trustees include John Simon (chairman) Nils Gunnensen, Brian Farmer, Suzette Weeding, James Malone and Jason Wilson.

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SEQFA: dangerous deadline has serious implications for industry

TIME is running out on the 1999 South-East Queensland Forests Agreement which gave the timber industry a 25-year access limit on state-owned forests.

The date has now become a dangerous deadline – 2024 is only five years away and the industry needs clarification for planning purposes.

“The SEQFA extends beyond the Gympie region and has implications for the whole of the native hardwood industry in southeast Queensland,” Timber Queensland CEO Mick Stephens emphasised.

“The value of the industry was also under-reported; it only captured forestry and logging and did not include wood processing and further manufacturing,” he said.

“In the Gympie region alone, the timber industry generates \$400 million in sales each year and while this includes softwood and hardwood processing, it gives an order of the magnitude of the value of the local supply chain.



Room to grow... Mick Stephens addresses a Doing Timber Business in Queensland conference.

“Fundamentally, the industry was a signatory to the SEQFA on the critical premise of the state government developing a substitutable hardwood resource from 2025 onwards.

“However, given the privatisation and sale of the state-owned hardwood plantation resource in 2010, this cannot be relied upon in terms of the agreement. Furthermore, an expert review by GHD in 2015 found that this resource had performed poorly and ‘will not directly replace the native forest resource as currently sourced from State land’.

“There is therefore a political obligation on the state government to make good on its hardwood supply commitments to the timber industry under the SEQFA”

Timber Queensland is advocating to state government that the agreement be extended to allow for ongoing state sawlog supply while the private native forestry sector

“POLITICAL OBLIGATION ON SUPPLY COMMITMENT”

is further developed. This would provide state resource security necessary for investment certainty while more diversified sources of supply are developed.

Mr Stephens said a key opportunity of the SEQFA was the parallel development of private native forestry, which had good potential to provide additional hardwood supply.

“A key challenge is the need for better education and extension with landowners of managing these lands for long-term forestry,” he said. “There is still a lot of work to be done in this area and this will take some time.

“Overall, we believe our position on the SEQFA represents good public policy, consistent with the intent of the agreement, and can provide additional environmental and economic benefits. Building greater awareness and capacity for private forest management can reduce the risks of land clearing for agriculture, for example, with associated soil conservation and reef protection benefits.”



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5th generation takes helm at Gunnersen

MANAGING director of Gunnersen since 2008, Nils Koren has handed over the role to Nils Gunnersen. Mr Koren will remain a company director and part of the Gunnersen evolving story.

Since its inception in 1879, Gunnersen has been managed by family members.

“Now, in 2019 it is time for the fifth generation to take the business forward into an ever-changing market place,” Mr Koren said.

He will continue to be part of the corporate and strategic leadership of the company and also remain as chairman

**“GOING FORWARD
IN AN EVER
CHANGING
INDUSTRY**



**Nils Gunnersen...
carrying on the
tradition.**

of the Australian Timber Importers Federation.

In congratulating Nils Gunnersen on his elevation to the position of managing director of one of the country's most successful, influential and multi-faceted forest industry companies, ATIF general manager John Halkett said Nils Gunnersen had impeccable credentials

for the role, and had served a significant apprenticeship period under Nils Koren.

“That said I am both delighted – and relieved – that Nils will continue as ATIF chairman,” Mr Halkett said.

“Much of the success and influence that ATIF has enjoyed over recent years has been due to Nils' great sense of business practice,

keen understanding of the industry, sharp political antennae and energy.”

He said timber wholesalers and importers had been well served by Mr Koren's leadership and would appreciate the fact that he would continue his leading role as chairman of ATIF.

The history of Gunnersen has been one of growth through product and technological innovation. The family takes pride in the company history, yet balances this with a vision for future growth and prosperity.

Gunnersen employs more than 250 people nationally and overseas. From large commercial fit-outs to kitchen renovations, Gunnersen distributes products for interior and exterior building applications.



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Forest industry in a good space

Opportunities for wood products loom large in 2019

LOOKING back to this time last year, we were heralding 2018 as a year of opportunity for our renewable forest industries in Australia.

We knew that the federal government would deliver a national plan for our industries in the second half of 2018, which materialised, and that both state elections and federal by-elections in South Australia, Tasmania and Victoria and Queensland would bring along challenges and opportunities.

Now, one year on, I can say with absolute confidence that forestry, timber processing, pulp and paper manufacturing, as well as other emerging fibre-based bio-industries are in a better space than 12 months ago.

Trading conditions and demand for our renewable wood and paper products remain at high levels. After years of lobbying from the Australian Forest Products Association, the National Forest Industries Plan delivered in September last year provided direction on several policy fronts including focusing investment in forest industry hubs, getting more production trees in the ground to meet demand, expanding research and development, facilitating farm forestry, carbon incentives under the Emissions Reduction Fund and industry positioning.

The NSW Regional Forest Agreement was renewed in late 2018, giving certainty to those working in the state's value chain, while there have also been very positive signs from the federal Opposition in its approach and attitude



Priorities in 2019... focusing investment in forest industry hubs, getting more production trees in the ground, expanding research and development, facilitating farm forestry, and carbon incentives under the Emissions Reduction Fund.

to forest industries.

There is, however, more to achieve and with the federal and NSW elections on the agenda for the first half of 2019, there are huge opportunities to progress our renewable forest industries even further this year.

Getting the policy settings right on carbon benefits for forestry under the ERF is a big priority for AFPA. The artificial barrier constraining new plantation forestry projects in areas of more than 600 mm of annual rainfall from participating in the ERF, needs to be addressed. So far, the Coalition (through the NFIP) and the federal Opposition have highlighted the need for changing this constraint. This would allow carbon incentives to plant new trees.

Other incentives to get more production trees into the ground also need to be

By **ROSS HAMPTON**



CEO, AFPA

canvassed and put in place, including an important focus on facilitating farm forestry solutions.

We are all aware of the timber shortage Australia will experience in decades to come if we don't plant more production trees now.

“TRADING AND DEMAND FOR WOOD PRODUCTS WILL REMAIN AT HIGH LEVELS

Grasping opportunities in the emerging bio-economy including renewable energy solutions will be a major focus for AFPA to both benefit industry as well as help meet Australia's ambitious climate change targets.

Last year saw the selection of the first round of National Institute for Forest Products Innovation research projects at both the Mount Gambier and Launceston centres, with a second round of research and development funding currently open. Again, the establishment of NIFPI centres are fruits borne of hard work from AFPA and progress on a further two centres, as outlined in the NFIP, will be encouraged along by AFPA in 2019.

AFPA will continue to passionately campaign for and promote the benefits

Cont P 14

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Global softwood lumber trade dips

DECLINING trade of softwood lumber, plummeting lumber prices in the US and slowing wood demand in China were some of the biggest international lumber developments in the third quarter of 2018.

Wood Resource Quarterly says global trade of softwood lumber from January through September 2018 was down 2.5% compared to the same period last year.

China, Japan, the UK and the MENA region reduced their imports, while the US and continental Europe imported more lumber this year than in 2017.

After US lumber imports reached a 10-year high in the second quarter last year, import volumes fell 3.5% to 9.44 million cub m in the 3Q/18, which was still more than 10% over the same quarter in 2017.

WRQ says the trend over the past few years has been that the market share for overseas lumber supply to the US has increased at the expense of Canadian supply. The Canadian share has fallen



from 95% of total imports in 2016 to 91% in 2018.

Lumber prices in the US plummeted during the summer and fall, with major grades falling about 40% from June to November.

Lumber exports from Canada were down in all markets in the 3Q, and the total export volume was down 4.3% q-o-q. Almost 80% of the shipments were destined for the US. During the first nine months of 2018, export volumes to China were 16% lower than the same period last year.

The UK is the world's third

largest importer of softwood lumber, after the US and China. In 2017, the country imported 7.5 million cub m of lumber, the highest level seen since 2007 and up almost 50% from five years ago. Sweden has long been the major supplier, with a market share of about 45%. However, demand for imported lumber to the UK has fallen by 20% during the

first nine months of 2018.

A gloomier outlook by Chinese consumers and a shortage of credits for many provincial governments and state-run firms have contributed to reduced demand for forest products. As a result, total softwood lumber imports to China have slowed in 2018, with volumes in the first nine months falling 11% as compared to the same period in 2017, according to Chinese customs data.

Imports were down from all supplying countries except Russia.

“LUMBER PRICES IN US PLUMMETED DURING THE SUMMER AND FALL”

From P 12

of our renewable forest industries right across the value chain in the lead up to the federal election. At the state level, New South Wales will be important also. While the immediate threat of a Great Forest National Park was staved off at the Victorian election,

“GRASPING OPPORTUNITIES IN BIO-ECONOMY WILL BE A MAJOR FOCUS”



Challenge... planting more production trees.

we need to make sure the consequences of similar proposals for a Great Koala National Park in NSW are heard loud and clear by state politicians in Sydney.

I'm sure 2019 will be full of big policy issues and debates affecting forestry, industry centric issues such as safety and efficiency as well as everyone invested in our sector pushing on to make the best of the year.

AFPA will be there at the centre of it all.

Good luck and here's to a great 2019 for forest industries!

Sean reckons forest certification on private lands is non-negotiable

SOUTHERN Queensland has more than 3 million ha of private native forest but only 8000 ha is certified. The wood message is working, but much of the timber supply is uncertified and detrimental to the Responsible Wood message.

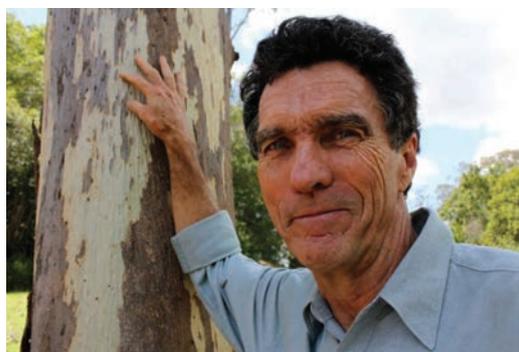
In a special interview, veteran forester Sean Ryan has challenged the forest industry to “practice what it preaches and do more to embrace forest certification”.

“It starts at the doors of government; local, state and federal governments have all failed to embrace the certification message,” Mr. Ryan claims.

As executive officer of the Private Forestry Service Queensland, he speaks with authority and conviction.

Originally one of the 18 private forestry development committees established with support from the federal and state governments, PFSQ is a non-profit organisation covering a broad range of private forestry activities.

PFSQ manages a Responsible Wood forest certification scheme on behalf of private foresters in



Sean Ryan... changes in policy have reinforced the importance of third-party forest certification in government procurement. Photo: ABC Rural

southern Queensland and Northern New South Wales.

“The majority of our forests are a mixture of hardwoods – spotted gum, iron bark and forest red gum – high quality timbers that are used in high-end architectural applications Australia wide,” Mr Ryan said.

“The timber is highly desirable but unless retailers, merchants and saw millers are ready to place a premium on forest certification it becomes difficult to build a commercial case to roll out certification to all private foresters.

“We talk about ‘wood being good’, the ultimate renewable, but without forest certification there is no way to validate the sustainable credentials of the timber at its origin, in the forest.

A forester to the core, Sean

Ryan has seen it all before.

“Despite the existence of favorable and preferential procurement policies, government has been slow in enforcing these policies on the ground,” he said.

A simple example is the new board walk in the much-touted Noosa Biosphere on the Sunshine Coast where the timber decking has been fully imported from the Netherlands, in place of using the local grown and certified product.

Mr Ryan says whether it’s an issue with training or education, government has been reluctant to specify

forest certification on government-funded projects. This has a flow-on effect through the timber and forest supply chain to merchants, sawmillers and to foresters which is highly damaging.

Whether this changes now or in the future remains to be seen. However, recent changes in policy have reinforced the importance of third-party forest certification in government procurement.

Under the terms of the Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act (PFPA 2013) and more recently the AS ISO 24000: 2018 Sustainable Procurement Guidelines the federal and state governments have stated a willingness to preference timber that meets Australian standards.

Where government has been wanting, certain sections of industry have led the renewed interest in timber certification.

Thanks to the development of engineered timbers, specifically CLT, LVL and glue laminated timber, end-specifiers of building

“IT STARTS AT THE DOORS OF GOVERNMENT”

Cont P 16

Funding Round 2

Growing the future of South Australian forestry

\$2.5 million research funding investment to boost sustainability, jobs and economic benefits in partnership with industry

With the support of the Australian and South Australian governments, the Mt Gambier Centre of the National Institute for Forest Products Innovation has up to \$2.5 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.sa@nifpi.org.au. For further information, including a proposal template and briefing document, see www.nifpi.org.au

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



Colourful future in wood décor for NZ radiata

BUILT-IN colour could be the next big export and interior decor industry for New Zealand radiata pine as scientists eye markets for their technology breakthrough.

Crown research institute Scion has developed 'full thickness' colour technology which fixes non-leaching dyes in the sustainably-grown timber, offering an alternative to painting and staining.

Scion wood and fibre science leader Doug Gaunt said the new technology

coloured every fibre in a piece of timber, whereas attempts by others had produced patchy, inconsistent results.

"Not only can we put away the paint brush, but built-in colour means if the wood gets scratched or dented the colour isn't lost," Mr Gaunt said.

"But the big one is if you machine the timber, the colour is still there. It offers flexibility."

The new technology also ticks the sustainability box.



**Doug Gaunt...
throw away
the paint
brush.**

"At the moment a lot of countries import tropical hardwoods which are not from a sustainable source because they really like a colour – rosewood for example. If we could do a rosewood colour

and at a cheaper price we are not cutting down tropical forests."

Built-in colour is also a plus for child toy safety as there's no paint to chew or chip off.

Rotorua-based Scion believes its technology is unique, and when coupled with other improvements such as wood hardening, opens a new value-adding opportunity for New Zealand's soft pine-based wood product industry.

From P 15

materials are being exposed to PEFC and Responsible Wood forest certification through the import and domestic use of timbers for commercial application.

This has exposed more

and more specifiers to forest certification which is flowing through to the timber and forest supply and value chain.

As the only forest certification scheme that meets an Australian standard, the Responsible Wood 'trust mark' provides third party

validation for all timber at the source, in an Australian forest, and through the supply and value chain.

Sean Ryan says Responsible Wood certification is an important verification that separates responsible foresters from

irresponsible foresters.

"Ultimately it is the only scheme that ensures that hardwood sourced from southern Queensland and Northern New South Wales native forests is the ultimate renewable," he says.

– JASON ROSS

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Some belt tightening in 2019 for timber traders – but not too tight

THE year is likely to see domestic timber product demand more muted than in 2018, says Australian Timber Importers Federation general manager John Halkett.

He points to clearly emerging signs of house construction easing in the eastern states with evidence of oversupply of city apartments, accompanied by falling prices for existing homes and lines of credit tightening as banks react to the Royal Commission admonishment.

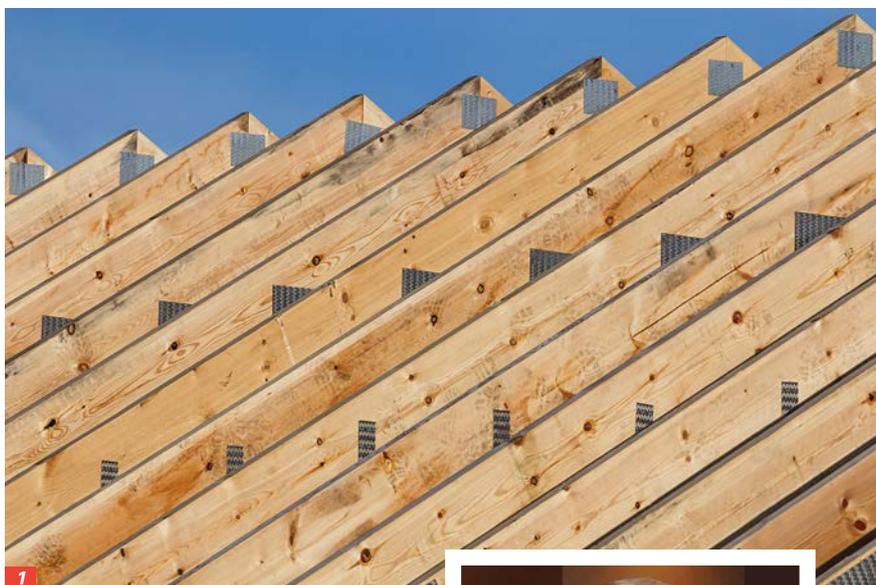
“So even with continuing strong population growth, some belt tightening this year is on the cards,” Mr Halkett said.

“However, with domestic softwood production continuing at below demand levels, expect to see imports, particularly of structural timber and engineered products continue to be buoyant – but not at the remarkable 30%-plus growth rates of 2017-18.”

“SOFTWOOD PRODUCTION FALLS SHORT OF DEMAND

Mr Halkett said that the availability of structural products for frame and truss manufacturing that has been a supply challenge for the industry in recent years should ease in 2019 as demand softens.

“This coupled with new



1

1/ Domestic softwood production... remaining at below-demand levels.

2/ John Halkett... imported CLT will continue to supply much of the demand in the immediate future.

sources of supply, perhaps more notably from Canada following the elimination of the 5% tariff on Canadian timber products that came into effect on December 31.

He says imports of sophisticated timber products are likely to continue to be strong, caused in part by the growing appetite for urban 'infill' and the opportunities presented by mid-rise wooden residential and commercial building construction.

“Notwithstanding the cross laminated timber production from the XLam operation, imported CLT will continue to supply much of the demand in the immediate future.”

Mr Halkett remarked that the supply of hardwood timber products will be an interesting aspect of the market in 2019. He noted that the trend of the substitution of traditional solid hardwood



2

lines by softwood-based engineered products and laminated flooring replacing solid strip flooring will continue to be a feature of the market.

“It is likely that domestic hardwood supplies will continue to decline as a consequence of state governments opting for nature reserves over productive forestry activity because of perceived political advantage,” he said.

“For instance, it has been estimated that if there is a change of government in New South Wales at the upcoming March election, and an incoming Labor government implements its ‘Great Northern Koala Park’, hardwood log supplies from

state forests are likely to be reduced by 40%.

“In that case, expect to see new sources of imported hardwoods emerge from countries such as Peru, following the commencement of a bilateral trade agreement with Australia, and from PNG linked to the PNG government pledge under the Paris climate change agreement to curtail the export of raw logs by 2020.”

Mr Halkett concluded that overall 2019 is likely to be an interesting year for wholesalers as demand declines a few notches and product innovation and substitution continue to be aspects of the trading environment.

He said ATIF would continue to strongly support the wholesaling and importing sector of the industry in the policy and market access arena.

“DOMESTIC HARDWOOD SUPPLY WILL CONTINUE TO DECLINE

“More specifically, 2019 will require ATIF to continue to put effort into matters like biosecurity and quarantine relevant to timber importers; illegal logging-related interaction with the federal government, tariff and other market barriers and a range of market-related issues.”

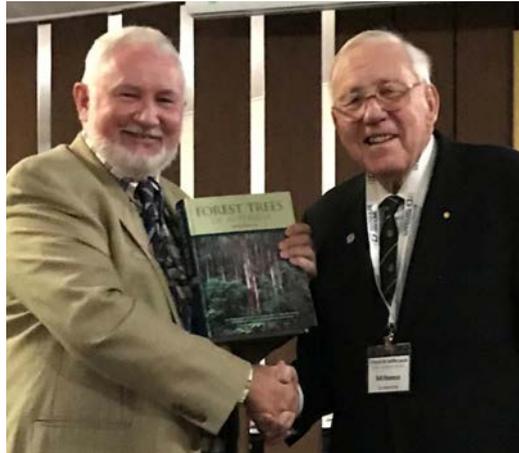
Good on ya, Bob ... the master!

From P 3

Moving in... Nils Gunnersen has taken over the managing director role of NilsKoren at Gunnersen... John Simon and Helen Murray have been appointed new chairman and secretary respectively of the Gottstein educational fund... Tim Woods is acting general manager of ForestWorks after the departure of Diana Lloyd... frame and truss specialist David Little has hit the ground running as new CEO of TABMA... Karl Kny has moved to Brisbane as new CEO of HQPlantations

Moving out... Timber

“ INCENTIVES FOR MORE PRODUCTION FORESTS



Giving as well as receiving... Bob Newman, OAM (right), presents the AFG Founders Award, a book of Forest Trees of Australia, to Dr Kevin Harding, Australian Forest Growers president.

Communities Australia... Sarah Paradice, CEO, Institute of Foresters, who starts this month as CEO, Australian Honey Bee Industry Council... Kenia Schmitt, secretary, Gottstein Trust, who has moved to north Queensland... Geoff Stringer, product development manager at Hyne, who leaves to complete his PhD studies at UQ.

Main events... the historic Parliamentary Friends of the Queensland Forest and Timber Industry Network reception at Parliament House on February 27... Timber Offsite Construction conference and exhibition, Melbourne, June 17-18... countdown to AusTimber 2020 at Traralgon, Vic, March 30-April 14.

International... a new trade association has been created for the forestry and timber industry amid growing fears over the impact of Brexit. Forestry Industries Ireland was launched in Dublin last week with 22 member companies covering the entire forestry chain. Inaugural chair is Brian Murphy, CEO of Eniskillen-based timber processor Balcas in County Fermanagh.

And finishing... a pleasure to recognise respected and devoted forester, Jolly Medal winner, Rugby stalwart and Australian Rugby Choir bass singer Bob Newman, OAM, B.Sc. (For), 90 in July, who has received his Master of Science by Research degree on the subject of Mechanisms for Investing in Private Forestry Plantations in Australia.



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Educators get up close with forest learning

A GROUP of Australian educators today wraps up a series of ForestLearning workshops and field visits in southeast Queensland.

They are attending the AgForce School and Industry Partnership Program's Food, Fibre and Agricultural Educators conference in Brisbane, which provides professional development for teachers and agriculture assistants interested in forestry, agriculture, science and technology. The conference is the largest of its kind held in Queensland, and is an initiative of the AgForce School to Industry Partnership Program.

Hosted by Beth Welden, manager of FWPA's ForestLearning Education Program, a conference group also visited the DAQF wood



Forest education... Dave Menzies, GIS and field officer, Private Forestry Service Queensland, with Beth Welden, manager of the ForestLearning Education Program, explains tree measurement practices to educators visiting Brisbane's Salisbury wood research centre.

science research centre at Salisbury and the forest plantation and processing sites of HQ Plantations at

Ningi and AKD Softwoods at Caboolture, north of Brisbane.

ForestLearning works with Australian educators

and the forest and wood product industry to provide free teaching and learning resources for Australian K-12 classrooms.

The tours provided educators with the opportunity to get up close and personal with the forestry industry, meeting industry representatives from across the sector to discover first-hand the forest and wood product renewable sector.

Forest certification was explored by teachers within presentations by Responsible Wood. Jason Ross outlined the importance of certification in validating the environmental credentials of timber and paper-based products at its origin.

(More reports in future issues).

Forest Science Course

18th to 22nd February 2019
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The Gottstein Trust Forest Science Course provides an understanding of forest management, forestry economics and other forest services.

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<https://forestry.org.au/external-events/2019-gottstein-forest-science-short-course>

For more information about the course and discounts, contact Helen Murray gottsteinsecretary@gmail.com



Celebration clocks 600 years service to forestry and industry

TWELVE members of a celebration group associated with the Australian Timber Industry Stabilisation Conference held in Caloundra on Queensland's Sunshine Coast 37 years ago enjoyed a pre-Christmas lunch at Tattersall's in Brisbane in December.

They were connected to Sunshine AusTIS 82 either as committee members, speakers or delegates and together represent more than 600 years of combined service to the forest and forest products industries.

The celebration in the Wine Room at Tattersalls on December 18 was held on the eve of the vote (in this room) to allow women to become members of the club for the first time in its 150-year history. The ballot passed by just 37 votes with 1405 members in favour and 1368 voting against it.

• Standing, from left, Prof. Dr Gary Bacon (forester and former CEO Queensland Forestry), Jim Bowden (timber journalist), Bill Philip (timber industry), Don Towerton (timber industry), John Eggleton



(timber industry), Tim Evans (timber industry), and Norris Lewis (forester). Seated, from left, Charles Achilles (timber industry), Brian Schaumberg (forester), Harvey Goodchild (timber industry), Dick Pegg (forester), and Tom Ryan (forester and the last in Queensland to hold the title Conservator of Forests).

The Eastern State Stabilisation Conference (ESTIS), which became the Australian Timber Industry Stabilisation Conference, was formed in 1943 as

a joint forestry-industry body which was attended by representatives of the Associated Country Sawmillers of NSW, the Queensland Timber Industry Stabilisation Board and the Queensland, NSW, Victorian and Tasmanian forest services.

The annual conferences were held to reinforce the

close relationships between forestry services and the industry.

Noted forester E.H.F. Swain was the driving force organising the first meeting in Sydney in 1943, which focused on economics, especially systems of stumpage appraisal, mill licensing and imports and on the "reservation and management" of state forests.

In 1959, membership was expanded to include forest services and sawmilling organisations in all five states and territories when the name changed to AusTIS.

“ANNUAL CONFERENCES REINFORCED FOREST-INDUSTRY RELATIONSHIPS”

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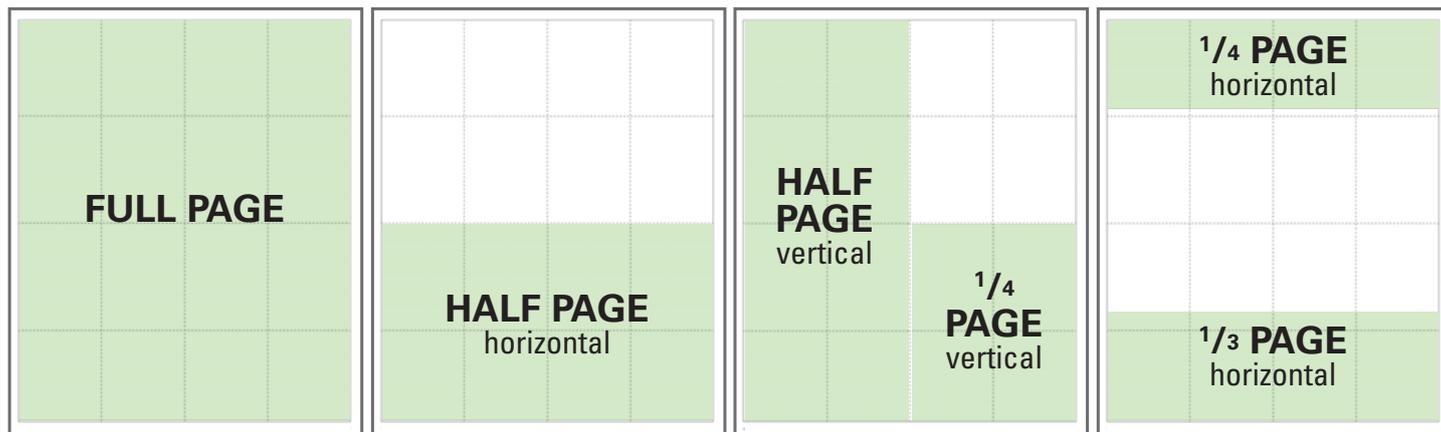
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