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ISSUE 546 | February 14, 2018

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# Better use of Crown land to help boost Australia's forest resource

## Winning entry proposes a path to filling wood fibre basket

AUSTRALIA is stuck with a seemingly impossible problem when it comes to expanding the nation's plantation estate.

The winning entry in a Timber&Forestry enews contest – held in collaboration with HQ Plantations, FWPA, and Responsible Wood – that asked young minds how the domestic wood fibre supply basket might be filled, has presented a proposal for better utilisation of Crown land to help increase the resource base for the production of timber and wood products across Australia.

Ballarat-based Leon Holt, district and planning forester for community forestry at VicForests, was in Melbourne yesterday to collect his \$1000 first prize in the contest.

"It has long ceased to be acceptable to convert natural



**Winning words...** forester Leon Holt receives his prize – \$1000 and a book set – along with a print of today's Timber&Forestry enews cover, from managing editor Jim Bowden at VicForests offices in Melbourne, while VicForests CEO Nathan Trushell adds his congratulations.

landscapes into production forests, but in recent years cleared agricultural land has also become increasingly inaccessible due to the perceived failure of forestry investment schemes in the past, and the current strength in markets for conventional agricultural products," Leon said.

This means there are no large contiguous areas of productive land available for plantation development, as there has been in the past when the timber and fibre

industry has faced domestic resource shortages.

"Such an impasse is hard to fathom," says Leon, as Australia has one of the highest areas of forested and productive land per capita in the world.

"Nonetheless, without a dramatic change in the political climate, government policy settings, agricultural markets or public interest in forestry, these are the constraints within which our industry must find a solution," he said.

So, Leon asks, if we cannot create large new plantations as we have in the past, through conversion of existing forests, large-scale land acquisition, or through incentivising private investment schemes, what is the pathway forward?

"It seems to be an intractable problem, but there are steps we can take to begin moving in the right direction," he said.

"One possibility may be found in the substantial areas of under-utilised public lands located in jurisdictions across Australia. Unused Crown land includes all areas of public land which have not been set aside in a reserve or a state forest, or allocated to local councils and committees of management for other uses. It includes large areas of cleared land, generally in small parcels scattered around the country. Some are licensed for agricultural use or other applications, but many are not."

Cont P 6

**“STEPS WE CAN TAKE TO MOVE IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION”**



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# NZ firefighters in Tasmania return to battle on home front

NEW Zealand firefighters deployed to help combat the fires in Tasmania have returned to their home country as massive bushfires rage through more than 2500 ha in the South Island, believed to be the country's worst forest fire since 1955.

The blaze, which began six days ago near the city of Nelson, is now threatening the town of Wakefield. A state of emergency has been declared and about 3000 people have fled their homes in the district of Tasman.

Meanwhile, in Tasmania salvage operations are being considered although clear estimates of the fire damage to Tasmania's forestry industry remains unknown.

Fire Services counts a total burn area of around 205,000 ha, about 20% of which in on state public production forest – old growth, regrowth and plantations, some pine but mostly eucalypts – and private forests.

Mild weather and some rain has helped operations as fire fighters still deal with a number of 'hot spots'.

"There is still a lot of work to be done. It is a beast that is sitting calm with the favourable conditions," says Tasmanian Fire Service information officer Peter Middleton.

"We still have lots of bits and pieces of the fire in the landscape; it's not completely over but we're on a better path over the containment."

Three major fires are burning across the state, including the Riveaux River and Gell River fires in Tasmania's southwest and



the Great Pine Tier blaze.

Winds with gusts up to 40km/h are due to cross Tasmania as two cold fronts increase the possibility of rain.

Sustainable Timber Tasmania says the level of impact by the fires is unknown and there's a whole range of burning intensities to consider, so there needs to be an overall assessment of the forest damage before any log salvaging is considered.

Resources Minister Sarah Courtney says the impact of bushfire damage to the Southwood forestry hub in the Huon Valley, where the Ta Ann and Neville Smith Forest Products mills operate and employ dozens of Tasmanians, is of significant concern.

Seven homes and a near-century-old trapper's hut have

- 1/ *War in the air... largest aerial firefight on record in New Zealand.*
- 2/ *Sarah Courtney... damage to Southwood forestry hub of significant concern.*

been destroyed in the fires since December with no loss of life reported.

New Zealand can expect continuing strong winds and officials warn that Sunday could be a "critical danger point" for the fire.

More than 150 firefighters have been battling the blaze on the ground in the Wakefield and Pigeon Valley areas with air support from 23 helicopters and three fixed wing planes, making it the largest aerial firefight on record in New Zealand.

Much of the affected area south of Nelson is under productive forest, but it also has many small farms. Some livestock have been moved to safety as local authorities declared a state of emergency last week.

As the climate changes, the magnitude of fire risk could double as hot, dry and windy conditions take hold.

January was New Zealand's hottest month on record.

– JIM BOWDEN



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# Win for Standards Australia on SAI Global distribution process

‘Arbitration decision exciting step to delivering greater value and access’

STANDARDS Australia has won the right to move beyond exclusive distribution arrangements with SAI Global, which should result in significant cost savings for industry.

Standards Australia floated off SAI into a separate company on the Australian Securities Exchange in 2003 with one of its core profit drivers a licence to publish and sell 6900 standards and regulations applying to a range of industries, known as the PLA. It covered standards applying to thousands of industries including the timber sector.



1/ **Better solutions... delivering greater value and improving access to Australian Standards.**

In June 2015, relations between SAI Global and its former parent Standards Australia hit a new low, with Standards Australia claiming



up to \$1.5 million in disputed royalty payments that it says it should have been paid under part of a broader licence agreement that has been running for the past 12 years.

Australia's contract with SAI Global for the publication, distribution, marketing and sale of Standards Australia's content ended on December 16.

In late December last year, an independent arbitration determined that any extended distribution agreement with SAI Global would be non-exclusive. This allowed Standards Australia to take steps to move beyond the exclusive distribution arrangements that were put in place with SAI Global 15 years ago.

Over the last few months, both entities had been working through the processes in the contract that relate to the option to extend the term.

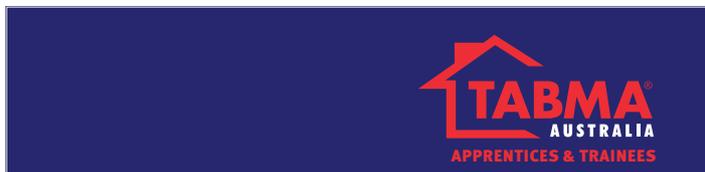
A process is continuing in relation to how the arbitrator's decision will be implemented. Standards Australia is committed to getting to the end of this process as quickly as possible, sometime later this year.

The initial term of Standards

**“OPERATING AN OPEN AND TRANSPARENT PROCESS IS OUR CORE BUSINESS”**

In the meantime, Australian Standards will continue to be distributed through SAI Global.

Standards Australia chairman Richard Brooks



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From P 4

said the arbitration decision was an exciting step towards delivering greater value and improving access to Australian Standards, while building capability and external partnerships to deliver new methods of distribution to end users.

Mr Brooks, a former executive director of the Timber Merchants Association, Victoria, added:

“Improving every aspect of our work – from how we connect with contributors, to how Australian Standards fosters innovation and how we distribute our content – has been a major part of our agenda.

“However, as the world of publishing changes, we must also change to continue our strong, positive contribution to the community and empower those who use our content.”

Standards Australia is exploring additional distribution channels as the first stage of its transition.

The second stage will start with an open process of consultation with stakeholders to understand how the current and future distribution models can deliver easier access for those who use Standards Australia’s content.



**Pivotal role... Standards Australia chairman Richard Brooks and CEO Dr Bronwyn Evans with Kevin Newhouse (centre) winner of a Standards Australia Award presented in Sydney last year for significant contributions to standards for sustainable buildings.**

Standards Australia CEO Bronwyn Evans emphasised the importance of stakeholder engagement as part of the transition.

“Operating an open and transparent process is our core business,” she said.

“This is an opportunity to design a Standards Australia of the future that relies on all interested stakeholders whose support and contribution will be vital in the improvement and innovation in the distribution of Australian standards,” Dr Evans said.

“We strongly believe we can deliver better solutions by working together.”

Industry observers say

standards development in Australia has been stymied for years. They say the new developments will allow additional funding so, hopefully, Standards Australia is equipped to do its job in a better way.

Overall, this can only be good for the industry and for those using technical data who have absorbed excessive fees as high as \$300 for some documents.

Standards Australia will

**“WORKING TOGETHER FOR BETTER SOLUTIONS”**

be providing details on its consultation over the coming months.

Standards Australia is a leading independent, non-governmental, non-profit organisation and is also Australia’s representative on the International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO) and International Electrotechnical Commission.

Under the Closer Economic Relations Agreement, SA maintains a strong working relationship with Standards New Zealand. A formal agreement is in place that sees SA prepare and publish joint standards where appropriate.

– JIM BOWDEN

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# Major role for forestry industry to determine 'economical' plantings

From P 2

Leon says many players would be important to the success of such a scheme – the commonwealth, state, territory and local governments would be key players and the forestry industry would have an essential role in ensuring that small Crown plantings are established only where they are likely to be economical.

Second place winner receiving \$500 was Gabrielle Schiller, 18, of Brisbane, an undergraduate student at the University of Queensland working to complete her degree in communications and arts.

Gabrielle suggested an immediate way of increasing the domestic supply of wood

fibre would be to involve communities and schools in the process.

“The first step is to find areas deemed commercially viable for the harvest of trees,” she said.

“This could involve looking into areas in timber hubs, and harvesting a greater number of trees outside of the



1

“If more trees are harvested in commercially-viable areas around the country, and the communities are involved in the



2

**1/ Gabrielle Schiller... involve schools and communities in the process.**

**2/ A pathway forward... solutions for planting more productive forests in Australia.**

process, it would result in an immediate increase of Australia’s wood supply,” Gabrielle said.

The two placegetters also received a set of books that included the popular ‘Trees that Call Australia Home’.

Both entries made valuable suggestions for plantation expansion that invited closer consideration by the industry.

Abridged versions will be published in future editions of T&F enews

Co-publisher John Halkett said the contest proved a tough ask requiring entrants to suggest how to fill Australia’s wood fibre bucket given the extended period of minimal new plantation establishment and other factors that were adversely impacting on domestic wood and fibre supply.

Mr Halkett said surplus funds from the competition would be donated to the Women in Forests and Timber Network to support the organisation’s wonderful efforts in combating domestic violence.

– JIM BOWDEN

plantations within the hubs.

“Rather than just harvesting a large area in one hub and disturbing the natural habitats of that area, the industry could harvest smaller areas in multiple hubs around the country, for example the Green Triangle and the Riverina.”

Gabrielle said to achieve sustainability, the industry should involve the community in a greater way in the process of replanting. By introducing programs in schools and involving school children in the replanting of the trees in surrounding areas, it would provide the community with education on the issue and promote a sustainable industry in the community.

This would gain the approval of the community and prevent the negativity that could arise against the harvesting of an increased number of trees.

## The united voice for Australia's forest industries



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**FEBRUARY 2019**

**14: Timber Preservers Association of Australia meetings – Melbourne, Australia.** Technical committee will meet 10-30 am-12.15 pm with the TPAA council meeting 3 pm to 5.30 pm. Contact Jack Norton, TPAA secretary, on +61 (0)418 989 398 or email jak.norton@gmail.com. Skype: jak.norton1

**18-22: Gottstein Forest Science Course – Australian National University Canberra, Australia.** Visit www.gottstein.org.au

**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

**5-6: ABARES Outlook 2019 Conference – Canberra, Australia.** Outlook 2019 is focused on the outlook for Australia's agriculture sector and will connect leading national and international speakers with highly motivated and information-seeking delegates at 14 sessions across two days and provide a rich menu of insights, ideas and information relevant to Australian rural sector. Speakers include the Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources David Littleproud (opening address) on March 5; Ross Hampton, CEO, Australian Forest Products Association (the ultimate renewable and social licence) on March 5; and Senator Richard Colbeck, Assistant Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources (ministerial address) on March 6.

**7: AFPA board meeting and members' dinner – Canberra, Australia.** 6pm. Guest speaker Linda Sewell, CEO of Onefortyone Plantations. Dinner ticket inquires to AFPA on (02) 6285 3833 or email

enquiries@ausfpa.com.au

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

**8: Forest Industry Advisory Council (AFIC) meeting – Canberra, Australia**

**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 – Perth, Australia.** 'Taking timber to new heights' – Timber Insight. For additional information contact Greg Meachem Tel: 08 9791 4599; Mob: 0498 121 262, or email: greg@timberinsight.com.au

**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](http://www.frameaustralia.com)

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

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



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**MARCH**

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

**APRIL**

**10-12: Focus on Forestry 2019 – Mpumalanga, South Africa.** For further information see: [www.cmo.co.za](http://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](http://www.risi.com/invest)

**8-11: World Conference on forests for Public Health – Athens, Greece.** For further information see: [www.fph2019.org](http://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](http://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](http://www.iufro2019.com)

**NOVEMBER**

**19-21: Malaysian Wood Expo 2019 – Putra World Trade Centre, Kuala Lumpur.** Email: [info@malaysianwoodexpo.com.my](mailto:info@malaysianwoodexpo.com.my) or visit [www.malaysianwoodexpo.com.my](http://www.malaysianwoodexpo.com.my)

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

# FCS commitment to indigenous peoples from Oceania

FSC Australia and New Zealand convened a meeting of the FSC Permanent Indigenous People's Committee (PIPC) on February 5 and 6 in Turangi, New Zealand.

The meeting brought together members of the PIPC, with indigenous people from Oceania holding an interest in sustainable forestry (see photo).

Principle three of FSC's principles and criteria states that indigenous people's rights must be identified and upheld. The PIPC serves as a permanent mechanism



for engaging indigenous peoples around issues of forest management and FSC certification.

Discussions at the

meeting centres on the work of FSC and certification of responsible forest management; the role and work of the PIPC of FSC

and how PIPC may address issues relevant to the indigenous peoples within Oceania; and nominations for (new) members of the PIPC.

# Weinig Australia muscles up for big InTech 2019 event in Sydney

## German-based technicians contribute to live demonstrations

WEINIG Australia's inaugural InTech 2019 event at its new Wetherill Park 1000 sq m showroom in Sydney from April 3 to 5 will present an outstanding opportunity for existing and prospective clients to come and talk to Germany-based technicians and see machines in full operational mode.

In addition to confirming the company's status



*Neil Forbes... InTech is Weinig Australia's 'big splash' for 2019 with some machines completely new to Australia.*

**“ON SITE SUPPORT FOR BUSINESS PERFORMANCE AND GROWTH**

as a world leader in solid wood processing, InTech 2019 will reinforce Weinig's long-standing reputation for German

design, manufacturing and engineering excellence.

The event will also signal Weinig's shift to a new level in Australasia.

InTech 2019 will be a chance to see Weinig's complete machinery range covering the entire value chain in solid wood processing on display and working live.

Managing director Neil Forbes said Weinig Australia would be stepping up a level in 2019.

“Our inaugural Weinig InTech in April will reaffirm our pre-eminent position as the solid wood processing experts in Australasia,” Mr Forbes said.

“InTech will have plenty of

*Cont P 10*

# THINK WEINIG

## AUSTRALIA INTECH

### 3 - 5 APRIL 2019



### 3 DAYS OF SOLID WOOD PROCESSING IN ACTION

WEINIG Australia is opening the doors and unveiling their new showroom. Take advantage of this exclusive opportunity to see 1,000 square metres of innovative equipment, including models never see in Australia. Over 20 machines will be demonstrated live. This specialised event will showcase a large range of solid wood processing equipment including Planers, Moulders, Grinders, Measuring Systems, Optimising Saws, Rip Saws, Finger Joints and 5 Axis CNC.

REGISTER

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1800 736 460

From P 9

space, an impressive range of machinery working live, in-depth technical expertise, plus onsite support to help 'grow' clients' business performance."

Ranging from entry-level machines to larger, integrated industrial-level machining centres, InTech 2019 will be squarely targeted towards broad, solid wood processing from stand-alone processing, such as windows and doors and wooden furniture, right through to larger industrial high-production wood processing, including sawmill and further large, integrated value-adding processing operations.

Mr Forbes says InTech will be Weinig's 'big splash' for 2019; some machines will be completely new to Australia – "never been seen here before."

Weinig will also have wood processing related companies at InTech covering financing, insurance, software, tooling and other support services to assist visitors.

"We are also very pleased to announce that InTech 2019 will provide us with the opportunity to launch and promote Weinig's Australia's innovation and training centre," Mr Forbes said.



**InTech 2019... chance to see Weinig's complete machinery range covering the entire value chain in solid wood processing on display and working live.**

Mr Forbes said that no matter how large or small a wood processing company might be they were sure to find an appropriate machine or operating system.

"So I invite industry participants to come and explore the Weinig world at InTech 2019," he said.

"No matter whether you are interested in efficient individual machines or complex system concepts, InTech 2019 is designed to cater for your needs."

Weinig Australia is part of the world-wide Weinig Group, synonymous for solutions and the latest in technology to solid timber processors.

The group is the largest manufacturer of machines and systems for solid wood processing and individual specialised companies offer a range of products under the Weinig brand, covering the complete process chain from the raw material to the end product.

Following the integration of the Holz-Her brand in 2010, the Weinig Group also offers

innovative and future-proof solutions for processing wooden composites in its portfolio – as well as the expertise that comes with more than 100 years' experience.

The Weinig group was founded in 1905 with headquarters at Tauberbischofsheim, Germany, and production sites in Germany, Austria, Luxembourg, the US and China and 30 subsidiaries and branches in Europe, America, Asia and Australia.

With more than 2000 employees, the Weinig Group reported a €423 million turnover in 2017.

**“ LAUNCH OF WEINIG'S NEW INNOVATION AND TRAINING CENTRE**



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# 20th timber design awards showcase young rising stars in building design

THE 2019 Australian Timber Design Awards are now open.

The awards, celebrating their 20th year, are distinguished by a proud heritage of innovation and achievement; they promote and encourage outstanding timber design – the best that Australian designers can produce in timber.

The Australian Timber Design Awards are open to builders, designers, architects, engineers and landscapers, in fact, to anyone involved in the design or building of structures that feature timber.

A Rising Star Award is available to students and entrants aged 35 or under.

This competition offers a unique system for building environment professionals



**Freycinet Lodge Coastal Pavilions... winner of the EWPAAsponsored Timber Panels Award at the 2018 Timber Design Awards in Sydney.**

and students to showcase their outstanding application of timber-based design in their built projects. The awards also provide an online showcase system for competition participants.

Winners are featured permanently on the Australian Timber Design website. Runner up to winners and all participant will be acknowledged in the yearly awards e-Book.

Entries opened on February 11 and close on June 28 with judging during July.

Voting for the Peoples' Choice award runs from August to September.

The gala presentation dinner will be held in Melbourne in mid-October.

For further information visit [www.timberdesignawards.com.au](http://www.timberdesignawards.com.au)

Registrations and entry platform at [www.timberdesignawards.awardsplatform.com](http://www.timberdesignawards.awardsplatform.com)

At the 2018 awards, MC Michael Zorbas, group executive, policy and advocacy, Property Council of Australia, remarked that the greater take-up in the commercial award categories was indicative of an increased demand for applied timber within the commercial sector.

Organisers say entries this year suggest nothing is different. It's all about rewarding good design, innovative use of timber and the development of new markets for timber use.

"Therefore, again expect the unexpected," they say.

## Face to face ... with Timber&Forestry enews

INDUSTRY'S most widely read on-line publication Timber&Forestry enews now has its own Facebook page, further expanding its outreach to global readers.

This is another initiative to give the weekly news journal and its readers another platform for the exchange of comments, photographs, opinions and a lot more via the world's biggest social network.

So, in addition to our weekly delivery of more than 15,000 copies (with a total distribution factor of plus 3), we will be posting a variety of material from time-to-time, with the opportunity for others to post items and comments – or whatever



takes their fancy. Should be interesting.

This year T&F enews will continue to increase its distribution and the Facebook page is part of this effort. Closer collaboration with a number of industry entities is also under discussion.

You can follow us at [www.facebook.com/timberandforestryenews](http://www.facebook.com/timberandforestryenews)



**We are celebrating. Exports of New Zealand forest products have topped \$6 billion for the first time.**

About half the value comes from shipments of sawn timber, paper and other processing.

Unlike the dairy industry, which exports nearly all it produces, for forestry, we use a lot in New Zealand. Most of our homes are made from wood.



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# Durability hub holds first pole workshop

THE Centre for Timber Durability and Design Life hosted its first utility pole workshop on February 5 and 6 at the University of the Sunshine Coast Sippy Downs campus.

Almost 60 people representing energy suppliers from across Australia as well as their vendors attended. All were interested in how to get the most out of Australia's transmission and distribution grids to help improve reliability and safety and help keep rates down.

Renewable timber poles represent one of the most valuable uses for a log, and making the most of this resource will be important for growers and processors as they seek to meet utility industry needs. Timber poles also represent one



**Renewable timber poles... one of the most valuable uses for a log.**

of the most efficient and environmentally friendly materials for supporting electrical lines.

The workshop included presentations on pole supply, initial treatment, inspection, remedial treatments, termites, pole fire prevention and worker training. The group also brainstormed about how to work

cooperatively to address common issues. This was the first timber pole workshop held in Australia in almost 12 years, but the positive

**“RESOURCE IMPORTANT FOR GROWERS, PROCESSORS”**

response suggests that it will become a regular occurrence. The presentations are available as pdfs on the Centre for Timber Durability and Design Life website [www.usc.edu.au/timber-durability](http://www.usc.edu.au/timber-durability)

The centre was established with support from the federal government, Forest and Wood Products Australia, University of the Sunshine Coast, University of Queensland and the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries as collaborative partners.

While the centre partners are all Queensland-based, it has a national scope.

The initial support for the centre is for five years, with the expectation of continued support as the centre grows and matures.



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# Responsibility more than just a trust issue at Austral Plywoods

TUCKED away in the side streets of Tennyson, an inner city suburb in Brisbane, Austral Plywood is an institution – a leading supplier of premium grade Australian plywood, with origins dating back to 1925.

Using hoop pine (*Araucaria cunninghamii*) this distinctly native Queensland timber is sourced from HQPlantations, a Responsible Wood certified softwood poducer in southeast Queensland.

Austral Plywood manufactures a wide range of panel products, specialising in marine and appearance grade plywoods with specifiers of plywood for interior application the main target market.

Stocked by wholesalers in Australia and New Zealand, Austral Plywood's targets architects and interior designers and has been involved in a number of notable projects including the Brisbane Supreme and District Courts, Perth Arena and Melbourne Recital Centre.

Indeed, the supply of the hoop pine resource, pruned and harvested, plays an important role in supplying Austral Plywoods with superior grade product for manufacture.

Verifying the origin of superior grade hoop pine at its source, in the forest, is maintained as part of the manufacturing process.

Through Responsible Wood, Austral Plywood provides customers with the highest grade material, ensuring that premium grade hoop pine is available now and into the future.



*Tour of inspection... Responsible Wood directors Willie van Nicker and Mark Thomson make the plywood connection at Austral Plywood with Colleen Swift, production manager.*

Austral Plywood opened its doors for Responsible Wood directors Mark Thomson and Willie van Nicker and Jason Ross, marketing and communications officer, for an inspection of facilities and to meet with staff.

Joint CEOs, brothers Scott and Stuart Matthews, employ more than 50 staff and compete with domestic and imported manufacturers of plywood product.

**“SPECIFIERS MUST ENSURE THE PRODUCT IS PRODUCT SPECIFIED PAA”**

“Competition in the market is strong with imported product competing against local manufacturers,” Stuart Matthews said.

“Responsible Wood certification is an important consideration,” Stuart said.

“While there are other environmental brands, the Responsible Wood ‘trust mark’ is the only logo that verifies that the plywood timber originates from a forest

that meets the Australian standard for sustainable forest management,” says Scott Matthews.

Responsible Wood director and architect Mark Thomson says this distinction is widely

misunderstood by well-meaning specifiers of timber-based products.

“When specifiers and builders source plywood they should ensure the product is ‘product certified PAA’ first and foremost,” he said. “They then must be sure the product is processed and manufactured by an identified organisation that continues the commitment through Responsible Wood chain of custody.”

More than 11.4 million ha of certified forest is now covered as part of the Responsible Wood sustainable forest management certification scheme, making it Australia’s largest and most diverse forest certification program.



Find out more about EWPA certification.

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# Top European softwoods enhance Simmonds Lumber product supply

## Long-term partners in responsible sourcing and distribution

PROGRESSIVE, technically advanced and environmentally aware, Simmonds Lumber's timber product wholesale and distribution chain has a focus on structural softwood products both from imported and domestically sourced lines

Simmonds Lumber is a premier wholesaler of a wide range of timber products for the housing industry, commercial construction, home renovations, and industrial markets.

The Sydney-based company sources its products from Australia, New Zealand, Asia, Europe and North and South America providing customers with the correct timber product solution for their needs.

Spokesperson Jacinta Colley said Simmonds Lumber had placed special emphasis on supply chain innovation, environmental credentials, legality assurance, responsible sourcing and product certification.

**“LARGEST OPERATION OF ITS KIND IN EUROPE”**

“With our acknowledged distribution and service strengths, we are a growing global player in timber and timber-related products,” she said. “We have extensive experience in timber supply sales and distribution.”

Ms Colley said Simmonds

Lumber had worked hard to establish strategic partnerships with two of Europe's leading, most respected and trusted timber product suppliers. These are



the German Ziegler Group and Switzerland-based Swiss Krono Products.

The largest operation of its kind in Europe, the Ziegler Group carries out activities from log harvesting right through to product manufacturing and transport plus logistics. It supplies Simmonds Lumber with top-line structural softwood timber.

The Ziegler Group processed 1.8 million cub m of logs in 2018 and is forecast to process a further 1.9 million cub m in 2019. The group's sawmill is the largest in Europe with state-

**1/ High standard... Ziegler Group's spruce and pine is among the best structural softwood available in the Australian market.**

**2/ Largest sawmill in Europe... Ziegler Group forecasting to process 1.9 million cub m in 2019 with state-of-the-art technology.**

of-the-art technology coupled with world quality logistics operations that enable Ziegler to supply markets all over the world.

Ms Colley said the Ziegler Group's spruce and pine were one of the best structural imported softwoods available in the Australian market. Its importation by Simmonds Lumber is helping to supply the increasing gap between domestic supply capacity,

particularly in the DTL stud and mid-range lines which are required by building and construction activity.

“Simmonds Lumber is a long-term, trusted partner with their extensive experience in timber sales and distribution” Jacinta Colley said.

“Plans are well under way in 2019. We are in advanced discussions with a number of our major supply partners to further grow our opportunities, especially where we can extend our range of high-quality products and services to meet market needs.

“We continue to forge closer and stronger relationships with many of our key customers and key supplies. This will continue to be our focus in 2019.”

Simmonds Lumber has facilities and warehouses in Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne, Auckland and Surabaya, Indonesia.

For further information visit [www.simmondslumber.com.au](http://www.simmondslumber.com.au)

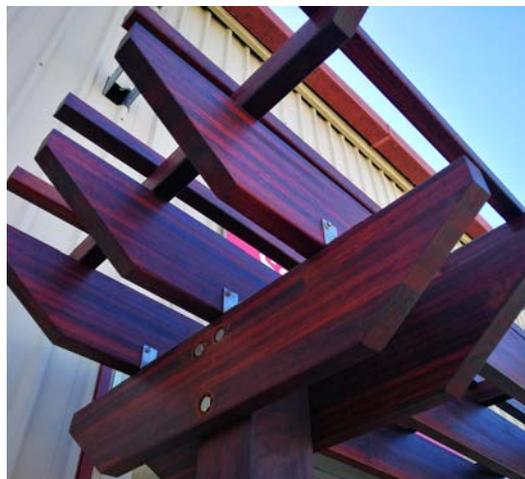


# ... the right choice

The Simmonds Lumber Group is a premier wholesaler of a wide range of timber products for the housing industry, commercial construction, home renovations and industrial markets.

Simmonds Lumber is a growing global player in timber and timber-related products.

With extensive experience in timber sales and distribution and a team of dedicated import/export professionals, Simmonds Lumber is the right choice for wholesale timber.



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# Midway's \$17m shot-in-the arm for Tiwi log, woodchips industry

ONE of Australia's biggest woodchip exporting companies will invest \$17 million into timber plantations on the Tiwi Islands in the Northern Territory.

Midway Ltd took over the management of about 30,000 ha of Acacia mangium trees on the Tiwis last year.

Since 2015, woodchips from that project have been shipped to customers in Asia for making paper, and Midway hoped to see that trade increased.

"This [investment] is really about recapitalising the project to ensure we can increase the volume output, de-risk the business, improve its efficiencies and get the economies of scale," CEO Tony Price said.

"And by doing this comes 20 new jobs and we're committed to maximising employment opportunities for Tiwi people."

Speaking to ABC Rural, Mr Price said the company would be investing in new equipment on the island such as in-field chippers and also new infrastructure at the Melville Port.

He said the port had been



**Tony Price... recapitalising the Tiwi project to ensure increased volumes.**

loading five to six woodchip vessels a year, but Midway's investment would see that increase to eight or nine.

Mr Price said the market fundamentals for woodchips were some of the best his company had ever seen, giving Midway confidence in its Tiwi investment.

"Low prices and low demand have made it really difficult [for the Tiwi plantations] over the last few years, but we're seeing a significant shift in market demand," he said.

"China has become a significant competitor to Japan, which has been our traditional market, so we've got some competition and

[global] supply is tightening.

"So when you get that sort of environment, it helps put the price up and demand is great and I see that continuing for some time".

**“INVESTMENT IN NEW PORT DEVELOPMENT AT MELVILLE**

Mr Price said Midway was still looking to attract an investor for a 'second rotation' on the Tiwis, and believed the current acacia trees would likely be replaced by another species of timber.

"If you look at what's going on in Sumatra, a lot of the big

pulp and paper companies are converting their Acacia mangium to Eucalyptus pellita.

"Based on the trials on the Tiwis, that [species of Eucalyptus] grows quite well on the islands, so if that's what the market wants we'd be looking quite seriously at planting that."

Chairman of Tiwi Plantations Corporation Kim Puruntatameri said the corporation was "delighted" with the investment by Midway.

"The investment by Midway supports the vision of our old leaders, many now sadly passed away, for jobs and income and a commercial economy for Tiwi people." (ABC Rural)

**Funding Round 2:**  
Submission deadline extended due to current fires

## Growing the future of Tasmanian forestry

### \$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. Tasmania funding proposals close on the extended date of Friday 15 March 2019 and should be lodged via email to [funding.tas@nifpi.org.au](mailto:funding.tas@nifpi.org.au) For further information, including a proposal template and briefing document, see [www.nifpi.org.au](http://www.nifpi.org.au)

**About us** The 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.





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# NZ log exports face global demand dip

AMID record returns for New Zealand forestry exporters, the sector is being warned to take notice that the global demand for logs is beginning to trend downwards.

An increased market share for New Zealand's exporters, against declining market share for both Canada and the US, has bolstered the sector's earnings. Export receipts last year were up by \$684 million against 2017.

ASB senior rural economist Nathan Penny says 2018 had been a "fantastic" year for the sector, while 2019 had started where it left off and, in New

Zealand dollar terms, the forestry index was at record levels.

Port Otago is predicting the possibility of yet another record-setting year of log exports, or at least coming close to equalling last year's record.

However, Mr Penny questioned whether prices this year would continue at the same level as 2018.

"We're doubtful," he said.

"Global demand for logs is actually falling, with log import volumes dipping around 2% in three months to November compared to the same three months a year ago."

Mr Penny is anticipating global log demand will fall further, given world economic growth was slowing, particularly in China.



**Nathan Penny... log demand will continue to fall as world economic growth slows.**

"China is the world's largest importer of logs and New Zealand's largest market by a long shot," he said.

For the three months to last November, Mr Penny said New Zealand's market share increased by 4 percentage points to 42%, while the US and Canada's share had fallen

5 percentage points to 15%.

"Unless New Zealand can continue to grab market share from other exporters, it is unlikely to be immune from falling demand, for a second successive year," Mr Penny said.

Meanwhile, Vancouver-based Interfor Corp. says the company has markedly increased lumber shipments from Canada to China as a result of tariffs imposed on its US production.

On a conference call with financial analysts, Barton Bender, vice-president of sales, said Interfor had tried to keep overall lumber shipments to the country constant after China retaliated to US tariffs with its own import tax of up to 25% on some goods.

**“CHINA LARGEST MARKET FOR NZ BY A LONG SHOT**

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# First diesel-powered Lexus hits the marque for luxurious safety

IN August last year we got one of our greatest test car 'jollies' when we rip-snorted around the suburbs in a Lexus coupe CL500, barely able to keep the 5 litre V8 engine and 471 horses from galloping ahead of speed limits.

Discipline ruled, but the next day on a desolate rural road we put the 10-speed automatic transmission into top gear over a country mile. Whoosh.

With a structure mix of lightweight aluminium, carbon-fibre and high-strength steel it can punch 100 km/hour in 4.5 seconds. The price is a knock-out, too – \$220,000 on road.

So it was with less trepidation but just as much glee that we climbed aboard another Lexus a few weeks ago – the LX 450d, the first turbo-diesel ever offered in Australia by Toyota's luxury division.

The LX (aka Luxury Crossover) is the largest and most expensive luxury SUV from Lexus – \$148,364 on road. Like its petrol V8 relation the LX 570, the LX 450d is based on the long-running Toyota 200 Series LandCruiser SUV. It sits on a full-size steel ladder frame (body-on-frame



Lexus 450d... luxury at its best with a stack of safety features.

construction) chassis and gets the same 200kW/650Nm 4.5-litre twin-turbo-diesel V8 engine driving all four wheels permanently via a six-speed automatic transmission.

Embedded within the 4x4 system are a multi-mode control for off-roading, a four-camera terrain monitor that includes an under-car view and five-speed crawl control.

Above and beyond the Sahara, the top-spec LandCruiser, there's adaptive dampers and hydraulic height adjust, electric-assist steering and 20-in. rather than 18-in. wheels.

Inside, extra features include a 12.3-in. multimedia display (9-in. for the Sahara), wireless charging, easy access for seats and steering column, smart

concierge' which allows you to customise your own individual temperature and comfort. It shares with the Sahara four-zone climate control, nine-speaker audio, a cool box and a stack of safety gear – active cruise control, autonomous emergency braking, 10 airbags and blind-spot monitoring with rear cross-traffic alert.

The two also share a 3500 kg braked towing capacity and a full-sized spare tyre located under the floor.

The LX 450d takes out media screens and is only a five-seater – both the LX 570 and Sahara diesel have three rows of seating and eight and seven seats respectively. The 45-litre sub fuel tank has also been dropped, leaving capacity at 93 litres.

Included with the Lexus is a four-year 100,000 km warranty which is par for the course these days.

This big Lexus absorbs most bumps very well, although unloaded it gets a little skittish over abrupt surfaces, even on the softest of its suspension settings (Comfort). This is heightened in the firmer Sport mode, which is better used on a smoother country road.

## MOTORING



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key card, rear sun blinds and a fully upholstered instrument panel and console.

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### HEAD OFFICE

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

### PUBLISHERS

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

### MANAGING EDITOR

Jim Bowden | +61 (0) 401 312 087

### ADVERTISING

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

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**Media releases:** Jim Bowden e: [cancon@bigpond.net.au](mailto:cancon@bigpond.net.au) | **Ad bookings:** e: [advertising@timberandforestryenews.com](mailto:advertising@timberandforestryenews.com)

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