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COVER STORY P12



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# Timber trade deficit ‘ridiculous’ as plantations seriously decline

THE federal government’s ‘State of the Forest’ five-yearly report reveals Australia’s tree planting crisis

The authoritative mapping report has shown a serious reduction in the area of forest plantations which has fallen to just 1.95 million ha by 2015, when the last data was available. This was an alarming decline of 44,000 ha over the previous five-yearly reporting period.

“This is exactly what we have been warning,” Australian Forest Products Association CEO Ross Hampton said.

“There is no evidence that this downward trend has reversed in the three years since 2015 and it is my expectation that the next report will paint an even bleaker picture.”

Mr Hampton said the reason was clear.

“There has been no policy to increase, or indeed even maintain, the area of plantation trees for production purposes.

“The only current available policy which might act as a



**Industry crisis... Ross Hampton drives a forceful message about Australia’s declining forest plantations.**

brake on this trend would be for plantations to be able to fully participate in carbon storage policy. But, as yet, the government has not removed the barriers which stand in the way.

“State and federal governments over the last decade have continued to lock away vast areas of natural forest and have reduced the area and volume of timber which our industries can access.

“Industry can only access timber from a modest 5 million ha of the total 132 million ha of native forest across Australia, and of that total only a tiny half a percent a year is harvested.

“Every area cleared is regrown. Over the 20-year life of the last Regional Forest Agreements the natural estate available for forestry decreased by more

**“INDUSTRY CAN ONLY ACCESS TIMBER FROM A MODEST 5M HA**

than 3 million ha. While this has occurred, governments have not put into place mechanisms which will deliver offsetting growth in the plantation estate and it is showing in the statistics.”

Mr Hampton said Australia had a trade deficit in timber products of more than \$2

billion and had reached the ridiculous situation where more than a quarter of the timber needed for house frames was imported.

“It’s time for this to change and it must happen urgently,” he said.

AFPA will be campaigning in regional forest-focused electorates during the upcoming federal election seeking answers to these questions from all political parties.

•The federal government has announced four pilot ‘forest industry hubs’ and five more prospective hubs around Australia and a goal of a billion more trees (See story, P 3).



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# Nine regional forestry hubs ‘kick goals’ for state growth



*Industry’s future in their hands... Prime Minister Scott Morrison, federal minister responsible for forestry Senator Richard Colbeck, and Liberal candidate for Braddon Gavin Pearce visit the Forico nursery in northwest Tasmania.*

Photo: The Mercury

NINE regional forestry hubs will be created across Australia under a federal government plan to boost the industry.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison made the \$12.5 million announcement at the weekend during a visit to Forico’s nursery at Somerset in northwest Tasmania.

“I’m interested in growing more trees and growing more jobs, it’s as simple as that,” the Prime Minister said

Four pilot hubs will be set up in northern Tasmania, New South Wales, Western Australia and across the South Australia and Victoria border.

“It’s a recognition of a region that is strong in forestry, looking at infrastructure needs, employment needs and making sure facilities are in place to grow trees,” Mr Morrison said.

Another five hubs will be created in 2020.

Industry leaders have welcomed the announcement

“One of nine new forestry hubs is great news for the northeast NSW timber

regions,” president of Timber NSW Andrew Hurford said.

“The region will be one of the first four pilot sites attracting a share of the \$12.5 million.

“The NSW Forestry Industry Roadmap target of 150,000 new timber industry jobs in NSW relies on boosting timber supply and fostering innovation in new products and markets for forest products.

**“GROWING MORE TREES AND GROWING MORE JOBS ... IT’S AS SIMPLE AS THAT**

“A forestry hub starts that exciting process.”

Mr Hurford said more than 75% of all sawn timber produced in NSW is used for domestic construction.

“We need these hubs and northeast NSW has the capacity to expand and help reduce that deficit,” he said.

Timber Queensland CEO Mick Stephens said federal funding for new forest industry hubs, including

one in the southeast and another in the state’s north was clear recognition of the industry’s growth potential and the importance of taking a regional approach to solving development blockages.

“The \$3 billion Queensland forest and timber industry supports 25,000 direct and indirect jobs. A focus on regional policies is a positive step forward as the opportunities for growth usually revolve around basic needs such as infrastructure, training and investment facilitation,” Mr Stephens said.

“There is already a well-established industry in southeast Queensland with a diversity of softwood and hardwood processing and value-adding operations. Key regional issues include roading access for B-doubles to improve supply chains, manufacturing costs such as energy and resource security from state-owned land and private forestry.

“In the Far North, there is an equal opportunity to develop and grow a sizeable timber industry.

Cont P 4



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# First live webcast for timber specifiers

TIMBER Queensland's first building-design focused specifier seminar for the year will be accessible for the first time as a live webcast for specifiers outside Brisbane.

The seminar and webcast – 'Timber Buildings: Fire, Wind and Sound' – will be held on March 28 from 1.30 pm to 5 pm at the Victoria Park Golf Club, Herston Road, Herston.

Timber Queensland's communication officer Sarah Porter said the seminar was an opportunity to hear experts discuss how targeted fire, wind load and sound performance requirements in the BCA for timber buildings are achieved.

"This half-day seminar is a 'must' for all building and design professionals considering a timber building design from mid-rise, to

timber frames, and structures with exposed timber elements," Sarah said.

"For the first time, this seminar will be webcast live for regional and rural participants. Anyone residing outside of Brisbane is eligible to register for the webcast and join the event straight from their screen."

Registration details at [www.timberqueensland.com.au/events](http://www.timberqueensland.com.au/events)

A second Timber Queensland event next month is the highly-requested 'Understanding AS1684.2: Australian Residential Timber Framed Construction' small group workshop on March 14 at the Darcey Mitchell Room, Broncos Leagues Club, Red Hill, from 8.30 am to 4.30 pm. Costs \$450 for TQ members and technical

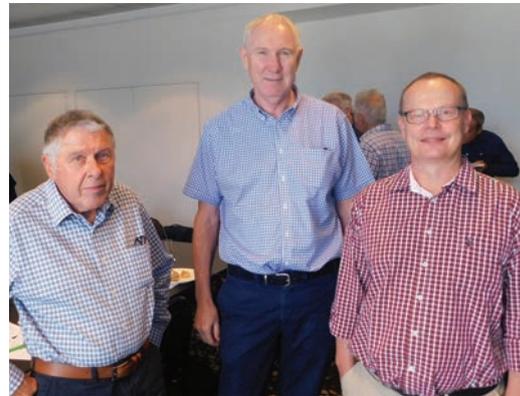
subscribers and \$550 for non-members.

The workshop, limited to 25 participant, is a comprehensive full-day guide to the timber framing code, including practical applications.

Workshop facilitators are standards guru Colin

Mackenzie REPO, who has more than 30 years' experience in timber and wood products design and use and application, and Lex Somerville, a registered builder with 40 years of experience in the construction and building materials industry.

## TPAA groups confer in Melbourne



Conferring in Melbourne last week during meetings of the TPAA council and technical committee are industry consultants Dr Harry Greaves and Dr Laurie Cookson, and Greg Jensen, sales manager Australia for Lanza Wood Protection. See story Page 17.

From P 3

New tree plantings to support existing softwood processing operations, and further development of crown leasehold and private hardwood forests including indigenous forestry are exciting opportunities."

Timber Queensland is already working closely with the state government on a regional training initiative in the southeast and Maryborough region to identify and develop a long-term training capacity for future high-skilled timber workers.

"Some of the levers the federal government can bring to the table to create more jobs and growth in the Queensland timber industry include roading, training and private forestry development initiatives," Mr Stephens said.

"While macroeconomic settings such as national energy policy have a significant impact on input costs, there are options for local initiatives around promotion of bioenergy and waste to energy in the regions.

**GLOBAL DEMAND FOR TIMBER REMAINS UNABATED**

"It is important that all sides of politics support the positive growth prospects for the timber industry which has a strong regional footprint. The global demand for timber products remains unabated and the industry ticks all the boxes when it comes to delivering renewability, carbon friendly outcomes and regional jobs."



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# Forest Corp crews work to contain bushfires, mostly in northern NSW

MAJOR fires raging in northern NSW have been downgraded while another continues to burn out of control, as fire crews work to contain the blazes before forecast hot weather.

This comes on top of bushfires that burnt through wide areas of Tasmania and New Zealand's south island in recent weeks and in Queensland last month.

The major fires in NSW are at Wallangarra, nearby Tabulam, and Tingha Plateau. The Bruxner Highway fire at Tabulam is the only one at 'watch and act' advice level and is considered out of control, having burnt through more than 4200 ha.

A NSW Forestry Corporation spokesperson said resources had been wholly diverted to active firefighting to protect local communities and the impact on state forests hasn't been fully assessed

"We do know that the Tingha fire has burnt around 1500 ha including the Mount Topper plantation and Clive state forest which is native forest," the source said.



*At the ready... firefighters in NSW prepare for battle to save forests.*

"The Mount Topper plantation is around 900 ha, with about 300 ha of established pine plantation and we believe, based on the intensity of the fire that spread through the area, that it has all been burnt.

"We have not been to the plantation to assess the condition as our local staff are helping with firefighting in the surrounding communities but within the next week we hope to get in and assess the condition of the trees within the plantation to determine whether they can be salvaged."

The latest assessment

is that the Wollangarra fire has burnt around 7000 ha of state forest, including parts of Boonoo and Boorook state forests east of Tenterfield. The fire on the Bruxner Highway near Tabulam appears to have also impacted some areas of a joint-venture hardwood plantation.

"We have not yet fully assessed the impact of each of these fires."

While the firefighting

**“FIRES HIT JOINT VENTURE HARDWOOD PLANTATION**

response is being coordinated by the Rural Fire Service, the Forestry Corporation has deployed firefighters and equipment from around the state to assist with efforts and will continue to be heavily involved in fire suppression, monitoring and other firefighting operations as the fires are mopped up over the coming weeks.

Meanwhile, other forest protection areas have sent crews and patrols to fires in Tumut, Bombala, Walcha and Wauchope. None of these fires has grown to significant size and all are under control.

– JIM BOWDEN

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# Climate proofing Australia alliance new front to tackle climate change

REPRESENTATIVES from the agriculture, forestry and ecological restoration industries this week launched an unprecedented cross-sector alliance and collaborative land management approach to Australia's climate change mitigation strategy.

The Climate Proofing Australia (CPA) alliance advocates for a whole-of-landscape approach to tackle climate change aimed at integrating trees and improving soils across the landscape to store carbon, improving biodiversity, generating income for farmers and landholders, and moving towards carbon neutral farming and forestry



**Whole-of-landscape approach...Brendan Foran, Greening Australia CEO, Verity Morgan-Schmidt, Farmers for Climate Action, David Littleproud, Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources, Mark Butler, Shadow Minister for Climate Change and Energy, Anna Campbell, Red Meat Advisory Council, and Ross Hampton, AFPA CEO.**

supply chains by 2030.

"We are calling for public policy and political parties to embrace the significant role our sectors can play in Australia's climate change mitigation strategy," Greening Australia CEO Brendan Foran

said.

"This is supported by a number of Climate Change Authority reports recommending a greater uptake of land and agriculture-based carbon sequestration projects and better recognition of the co-benefits," he said.

"As managers of nearly 50% of the Australian landmass, farmers and other landholders across the food, fibre and conservation sectors play a key role in protecting Australia's natural environment.

"With land-based activities also accounting for around 20% of the country's greenhouse gas emissions, it's no longer viable to ignore a whole-of-landscape approach."

CPA recognises the critical importance of carbon emissions measures, but also suggests a new approach to land management that encourages farmers to earn carbon credits on their land, sequester carbon from the atmosphere and create more habitat for Australia's native plants and animals, while increasing resilience and productivity.

The CPA's key principles are:

- Continuation and enhancement of the Carbon Farming Initiative (CFI) – around which the Emissions Reduction Fund was built – to maximise biodiversity, and food and fibre production benefits alongside the scheme's carbon sequestration objectives.
- Development of new mechanisms and incentives for carbon abatement on land projects that brings together institutional, private and public capital.

Australian Forest Products Association CEO Ross Hampton said the current Emissions Reduction Fund conditions limited the land sector's capacity to generate co-benefits associated with carbon sequestration, such as reinstating wildlife habitat, supporting sustainable agriculture, increasing the plantation forestry estate, and cleaner waters in rivers.

**“A NEW APPROACH TO LAND MANAGEMENT”**

"Removing these barriers in the ERF will not only boost the agriculture, agroforestry and conservation sectors' role in meeting our Paris agreement targets, but also realise these significant co-benefits, including regional economic and social benefits for landholders and surrounding communities through increased productivity and job creation," he said.

## The united voice for Australia's forest industries



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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](mailto:admin@timberqueensland.com.au) for more detailed information.

**MARCH**

**1: Top of the South Forestry Awards – Nelson and Marlborough, New Zealand.** Inaugural awards in fourteen categories to be awarded across individual and companies, with the ultimate award being the Skilled Professional of the Year. The awards will culminate to an evening of celebration, presentations and dinner in Nelson on Friday, June 14 at the Trafalgar Event Centre. For further information see: [www.totsforestry.co.nz](http://www.totsforestry.co.nz) 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](mailto:enquiries@ausfpa.com.au)

**8: Women in Forests and Timber Network breakfast – Brisbane, Australia.** Celebrating International Women's Day. Starts at 8am at Verandah on Racecourse, 30 Racecourse Road, Hamilton. Address by a representative of the Brisbane Domestic Violence Service. RSVP March 6 to Sarah Porter. Email [Sarah@timberqueensland.com.au](mailto:Sarah@timberqueensland.com.au)

**8: AFPA members' forum**

**and chamber meetings – Canberra, Australia.**

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

**14: Climate Change and Future Landscapes – Biodiversity Across the Borders Conference.** – Mt. Helen campus, Federation University Australia, University Drive, Ballarat, Vic. Australia. Hosts Federation University Australia, La Trobe University, Deakin University, Charles Sturt University, University of Melbourne, Parks Victoria and other research partners. No registration fee. Keynote Professor Leslie Hughes, Pro Vice-Chancellor (research integrity and development) and Distinguished Professor of Biology at Macquarie University). Contact (03) 5327 8000 or email [s.florentine@federation.edu.au](mailto:s.florentine@federation.edu.au)

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

**17: Joint seminar and tour by WoodSolutions and Western Sydney University's Centre for Smart Modern Construction – Sydney, Australia.** Presenter Lucy Black, head, business relationships at

the Construction Scotland Innovation Centre (CSIC), which works with industry to develop the very latest in off-site construction. 10.30am to 1.30 pm at Karstens, 111 Harrington Street, Sydney. Cost: \$75 (inc. gst). Morning tea and lunch provided. CPD certificates of attendance available for all professions. 1 formal CPD points available for architects. Contact 0420 232 253 or email [info@tdansw.asn.au](mailto:info@tdansw.asn.au)

**22: Celebrating International Day of Forest – The Ship Inn, Stanley Street, South Brisbane, Australia.** 6.30pm. Guest speaker Timber Queensland CEO Mick Stephens (Opportunities and Challenges for the Timber Industry in Queensland). RSVP by March 11 – email [ifaqlddivision@gmail.com](mailto:ifaqlddivision@gmail.com)

**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](mailto:greg@timberinsight.com.au)



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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: Sixth Annual Forest Investment Conference – London, UK.** Program includes three exclusive opportunities to discover the timberland asset class, with a practical seminar and building visit: and (post-conference) mill visits

to show why wood is an increasingly valuable product. Presented by Fastmarkets RISI and DANA, the event includes one-day mass timber construction seminar with a planned inspection of the MTC buildings in London (May 7); a two-day international forest investment conference (May 8-9) with agribusiness investment presentations; a two-day field trip to Scotland (May 10-11). Highlights of field trip include visits to plantation forests, a large sawmill, wind turbines and a biomass power plant; a field trip (delegates only) seminar on UK and Scottish and comparative UK, US, South and Latin American forest investment economics and returns a visit to a 1900-year-old Roman fort at Hadrians Wall. DANA director Dennis Neilson will be speaking in London about the highlights of a new RISI Review just published 'Russian Timber: A Growing Force in World Trade'. Email [conferences@risi.com](mailto:conferences@risi.com) Tel: Europe: +32.2.536.0748 or US and international: +1.866.271.8525. Visit [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)



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# 3-year re-certification for VicForests

## Latest audit approves Responsible Wood standard

STATE-owned VicForests has announced its successful three-year re-certification under the Responsible Wood standard.

An audit was conducted across the business in December 2018 and recommended VicForests recertification highlighting its thorough workplace and contractor safety standards, contractor management and continued contribution to research.

The Responsible Wood standard is endorsed by the international Program for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC), the largest such system in the world which covers more than 300 million ha of forest, has 49 national members and



*Focus on forests... certification clear endorsement of management systems.*

equates to around two-thirds of the world's total certified forest area.

Under the standard, VicForests' operations are assessed against nine criteria, including its management systems, biodiversity and stakeholder engagement.

General manager corporate affairs Alex Messina said VicForests was proud of its Responsible Wood certification which had been

maintained for more than 10 years.

He said VicForests harvested native timber resources in a sustainable manner which protected local biodiversity and ensured the long-term future of Victoria's forests.

"This is a clear endorsement of VicForests' management systems and protection of biodiversity," he said.

"We go to great lengths to regenerate harvested areas with the same forest type that was there prior to harvesting. What we harvest, we grow back. Our practices are based on a scientific approach to forestry management."

To achieve re-certification, VicForests demonstrated a commitment to revised and adaptive harvesting and regeneration systems which focus on more consistently using greater retention harvesting methods and lower intensity burning; revised high conservation management and responsive stakeholder engagement.

VicForests also announced it was working towards an FSC controlled wood standard by 2020.

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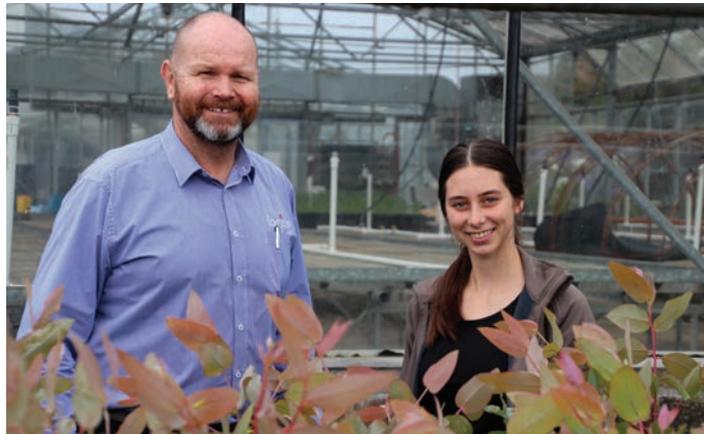
# Arbre's training hub gets 2019 cadet forester careers program under way

THE cadet forester program for the Arbre Forest Industries Training and Careers Hub in Hobart is up and running for 2019.

Sustainable Timber Tasmania and Forico Pty Ltd, Tasmania's largest private forest management company, supported this initiative, with STT taking three students and Forico one student from 16 applications state-wide as Australian schools-based apprentices [A.S.b.A] completing Cert 2 Forest Growing and Management throughout Year 12.

The board of Arbre Hub has made an informed decision to recruit out of schools and colleges around Tasmania and enlist the students through an Australian schools-based apprenticeship.

Arbre Hub director and STT general manager, forest products, Greg Hickey said the recruiting model was a brilliant way to engage with the education system in Tasmania. "Through the promotion of our industry by the Arbre Hub at career days in schools and colleges, we



**Forestry training... new cadet forester with Forico Rosanne Champion discusses planning concepts with Forico senior forester and cadet mentor Stephen Clarke.**

can now actively promote real job opportunity and well laid out career pathways for students interested in outdoor activity and forest stewardship as a career," Mr Hickey said.

Arbre Hub chair and Forico CEO Bryan Hayes said the cadet forester program was a great way to bring young people into the industry through the Australian schools-based apprenticeship program.

"As well, this is a way to get real training into the students with the Cert 2 forest growing and management

package, and then having the opportunity to bring the student into our business on a full time basis at the end of year 12 with a great understanding of our culture, expectations and ongoing upskilling opportunities," Mr Hayes said.

Arbre Hub project manager Colin McCulloch felt that it

was a great achievement for the hub to work alongside Skills Tasmania and the industry in Tasmania as a whole and to be able to give students both a chance to finish their schooling as well as giving them every opportunity to continue in a very rewarding career that could well take them all over the world.

"It just makes promoting our industry so much easier when you can offer an opportunity to students showing interest," Mr McCulloch said.

"And the reaction from the teachers and Education Department leaders has been such a rewarding experience."

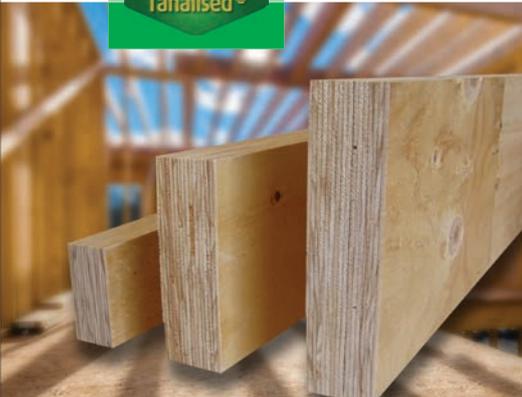
He added: "We have learnt that there is strong interest in careers in the forestry sector, so we will now focus our attention on other structured pathways around forest operations, with already strong interest from our harvest and haulage members looking to participate."

Contact Colin McCulloch on 0418 135 336 or email [colinmcm2@gmail.com](mailto:colinmcm2@gmail.com)

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# Tall timber structures to benefit from new water measuring trials

## New research monitors how fluids move in and out of wood

A TINY device developed in Europe is helping the DAF forest product innovation team in Brisbane understand, in a big way, the effects of water ingress into structures such as tall timber buildings during construction.

“One of the key elements to the challenge of wood drying and preservative treatment is understanding how fluids move in and out of wood,” project manager Dr Rob McGavin said.

This is now made easier with the purchase of a permeameter which adds to the strong capacity of testing equipment housed at the



*Increasing wood's value... Dr Adam Redman, senior research scientist, Chris Fitzgerald, forest products technologist, and DAF Salisbury project manager Dr Rob McGavin with samples used to investigate the benefits of blending termite resistant and non-resistant timbers in various combinations.*



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Salisbury facility.

This device is capable of measuring liquid permeability – a measure of the ability of a porous material to allow fluids to pass through it.

“The permeameter allows fundamental understanding of the impediments to liquid flow as well as quantifying preservative penetration of different preservatives,” Dr McGavin said.

“In addition, characterisation of wood permeability is a critical component of understanding the effects of water ingress into structures such as tall timber buildings during construction when exposed to heavy wetting events.

“Understanding how water moves both in and out of timber elements will allow management strategies to be implemented easing concerns about possible wood decay problems.

However, permeability characterisation also allows for the prediction of the removal of water from wood after such events preventing decay onset and providing consumer confidence.”

**“PREDICTIONS PROVIDE CONSUMER CONFIDENCE”**

Meanwhile, in further wood durability trials, the Salisbury team is investigating the benefits of blending termite resistant and non-resistant timbers in various combinations to provide protection for non-durable components in engineered wood products such as laminated veneer lumber.

The test samples have been exposed to feeding by

Cont P 13

From P 12

*Coptotermes acinaciformis*, one of Australia's most destructive subterranean termites.

Subterranean termites pose a considerable threat to timber buildings and structures throughout Australia. In many cases, timber has to be preservative treated to protect against termite attack in high risk situations.

[The heartwood of white cypress pine (*Callitris glaucophylla*) is known to be resistant to termite and fungal attack due to the presence of anti-feedant extractives in the heartwood; spotted gum (*Corymbia citriodora*) has good natural durability (Class 1 above ground) and has a high resistance to termite attack; hoop pine (*Araucaria glaucophylla*) is not resistant to termite attack and is

considered non-durable].

Relying on natural termite resistance rather than chemical enhancement provides a more environmentally and cost effective solution to protect against an infestation by subterranean termites.

The product testing forms part of a DAF-FWPA and industry project – increasing the value of forest resources through the development of advanced engineered wood products – which will deliver and validate technologies to transform sub-optimum quality logs into high-value engineered wood construction and appearance grade products suitable for Australian and international markets.

Natural termite resistance of these products, if achieved, will be highly regarded from an environmental perspective



**Measuring liquid permeability... Dr Adan Redman operates a permeameter at DAF Salisbury research centre.**

and will be a sought-after product.

DAF Salisbury is currently hosting a trade instructor from the PNG University of Technology's timber and forestry training college who is working on treatment trials with the innovation team.

Moira Spairong, under sponsorship of the ACIAR-funded, QDAF-led project

'Development of Durable Engineered Wood Products in Papua New Guinea and Australia', joined the Salisbury research team this week. She will work with DAF staff conducting research on the effect on timber adhesion of preservative treatments, and the effect of timber adhesives on the penetration of preservative chemicals.

Moira's work will be based on glue-laminated timber, in combination with several preservative chemical and adhesive types. Her study will centre on hoop pine, a common commercial timber species in both PNG and Queensland.

– JIM BOWDEN

**On the cover: Monitoring timber treatment trials at the DAF Salisbury research facility are Dr Rob McGavin, project manager, Rod Vella, senior research technician, and Moira Spairong of the Timber and Forestry Training College, PNG.**



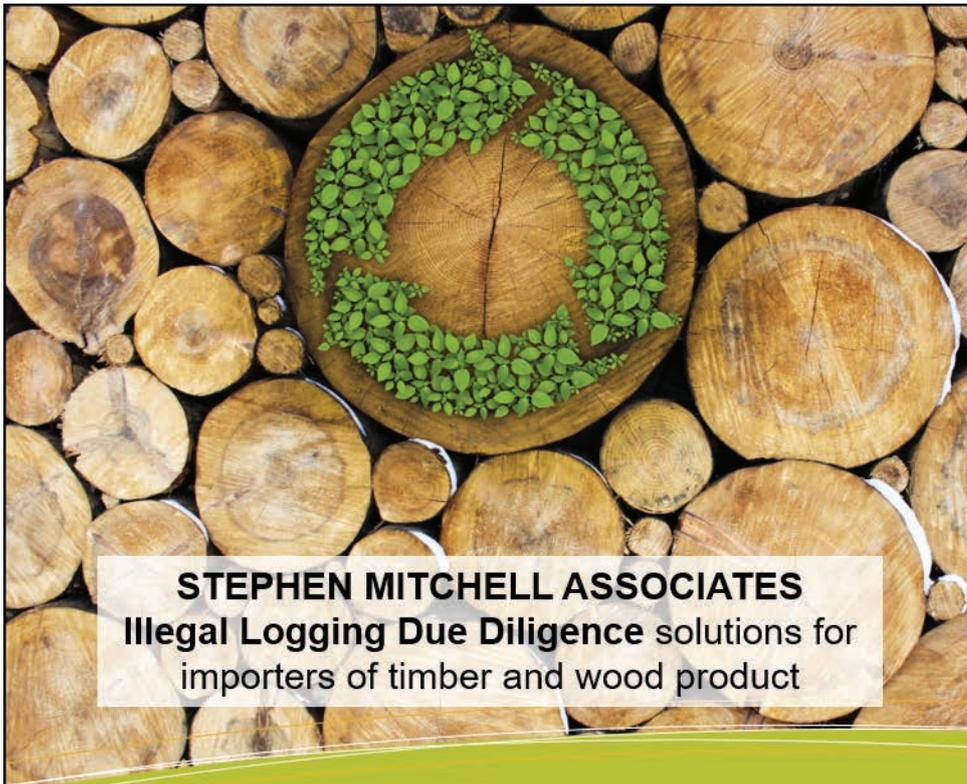
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# In NZ, the ultimate conversion

## Turning a 4000 ha pine forest into regenerating native forest

FURTHER to our report of the ongoing battle to clear the New Zealand landscape of wilding pines comes the Landcare Research-led countrywide survey of farmers/landowners.

It indicates an increasing awareness of the threat posed by wilding conifers to effective land guardianship and management. Interestingly, the survey confirms that many landowners “are still spending their own time

and money managing wild conifers” – and choosing methods “primarily motivated by effectiveness rather than cost”.

And speaking of effectiveness, little can match the Herculean task being undertaken in the northern Hawkes Bay ... that of converting a pine forest of some 4000 ha into regenerating native forest.

The Forest Lifeforce Restoration Trust – an organisation dedicated to the restoration of native flora and fauna – has been gradually taking control of the land in a 12-year hand-back agreement with harvester Matariki Forests. Trust spokesman Peter Heath says the three-year, \$240,000 conversion is

### ACROSS THE DITCH



With MICHAEL SMITH

the largest project of its kind in New Zealand.

The biggest ongoing challenge has been to clear wildings (“which effectively crowd out the slower growing native species”) within an optimum two-year period following the end of each harvest. Heath says

Metsulphuron (plus a wetting agent and penetrant) has been sprayed from the air at variable rates – depending on the age and density of the regenerating pines.

“The kill rate on the regenerating pines was estimated at around 95%, much more successful than the work undertaken over the past four spray operations,” he said.

“The whole concept behind this operation has changed over time. Initially the idea was to apply as little in the way of chemicals as possible so as to maximise native regeneration survival. This has now morphed into an approach where the key

Cont P 16

“LARGEST PROJECT OF ITS KIND IN NEW ZEALAND”

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From P 15

driver of the control work is to kill the regenerating pine trees.”

Heath says the collateral damage on the regenerating native species has to be viewed in the longer-term context.

“If the pines are not killed, the operation has failed – at considerable cost – and the resultant pine forest will



**The landscape of the Maungataniwha Pine Forest (pic 1) will ultimately convert to native forest (pic 2).**  
(Photos: Forest Lifeforce Restoration Trust)

by native species present in the soil.

Native grasses like hookgrass and toetoe begin the conversion process. They are followed by shrubs and small trees, and then cabbage trees, kanuka and native fuchsia – paving the way for larger species like red and silver beech. And, gradually, birds such as the kereru and silvereye play an increasingly important role in seed dispersal.

In the meantime, the trust undertakes an annual drive-about to identify areas that need spraying and manual clearance.

shade out and kill any native regeneration,” he said.

“Promisingly, the mahoe tree and some coprosma species have proved surprisingly resilient to Metsulphuron.

“Given time, even the

bare grassland will become native shrubland, providing there are no pines present. In fact grassland is an ideal nursery for both manuka and kanuka.”

Heath adds that it takes up to a decade to clear logged land of wildings, and to

allow for the entirely natural process of recolonisation

**“GIVEN TIME, BARE GRASSLAND WILL BECOME NATIVE SHRUBLAND”**

**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.



# TPAA keeping DES in the loop

## Proposed waste code and its impact on treated timber waste streams

THE Timber Preservers Association of Australia has been providing industry with technical guidance on the Queensland Department of Environment and Science (DES) rulings on environmental relevant activities (ERA) that have an impact on our industry.

In particular, DES has ruled that the use of anti-sapstain chemicals is a preservation activity, i.e. ERA 46. Clearly, anti-sapstain chemicals are always applied to the surfaces of milled sawn wood to prevent the disfiguring growth of mould and blue staining fungi. Wood preservatives, on the other hand, are applied to processed wood by various means of impregnation for the purpose of increasing its durability and preventing attack by wood destroying biodeteriogens such as decay fungi, wood boring insects and termites.

The difference between surface spraying to control blue stain and vacuum pressure impregnation to prevent decay and termite attack is like chalk and cheese. Furthermore, we argue that anti-sapstain

“DIFFERENT TREATMENTS LIKE CHALK AND CHEESE



1/ **Conferring at a meeting of the TPAA technical committee in Melbourne last week are Bill Leggate, product development manager, Koppers Performance Chemicals, Jack Norton, national secretary, TPAA, Professor Jeff Morrell, director, National Centre for Timber Durability and Design Life, and Scott Porter, account manager, Kop-Coat Wood Protecton Chemicals.**

2/ **Meeting in Melbourne... Shane McFarling, Lonza, Ric White, TimTechChem Australia, Kerry Bloor, TPAA president of Lumber One (NZ), Colin Malcolm, laboratory manager, Independent Verification Services Ltd, Waikato, NZ, and Mark Fortune, general manager, sales and service, TimTechChem International, NZ.**

chemicals are not listed in the timber treatment industry's bible, AS/NZS 1604, and should not be caught up by ERA 46, which references the chemicals listed in Appendix B of the standard. In short, we consider the use of anti-sapstain chemicals to be a DES ERA 47 (timber milling and wood chipping) rather than DES ERA 46 (chemically treating wood).

We are also liaising

main tenet of the regulation is that the chemicals to be regulated in waste streams should be on the DES's own list of potentially hazardous chemicals.

Some of our organic biocides are not listed and should not be regulated as a hazardous waste when they could be present in the likes



### TECHNICAL REPORT



By DR HARRY GREAVES

with the DES and Timber Queensland about the DES proposed end-of-waste code and its potential impacts on treated timber waste streams. The code is not complete or finalised, but a

of off-cuts, shavings and sawdust, etc.

DES may be thinking otherwise, and the TPAA is assisting their thinking, especially pointing out that the modern organic insecticides are delivered in very small quantities to wood-based products and they also break down naturally when disposed of – a distinct environmental plus, compared with the old fashioned insecticides such as the organochlorines and organophosphates.

We will continue to help the DES in their thinking.

# Go for a walk among the trees – it will work wonders for your health

AS if being renewable, storing carbon and contributing to climate change mitigation isn't enough ... well, it's true, trees make you feel better.

It's not stretching the point to say your health and well-being are likely to be improved if you walk among trees.

Increasing urbanisation means that people have less access to nature in their daily lives. Australians on average now spend about 90% of their time indoors. This coincides with reports of increasing obesity and nearly half of Australians experience a mental health conditions during their lifetime.

So there is now some solid research reinforcing the not entirely unexpected connection between wellbeing and nature. Yes, trees are beneficial. Academics at the universities of Melbourne and Tasmania examined 2.2 million messages on Twitter and found that tweets made from parks contained more positive content – and less negativity – than Tweets coming from built-up areas.

Why are people in parks likely to be happier? Because parks help them to recover from the stress and mental strain of living in cities, and provide a place to exercise, meet other people or attend



*In harmony with trees... experiences with nature are linked to a remarkable breadth of positive health outcomes, including improved physical health.*

special events.

There are certainly sound economic reasons why so many Australians are living in big cities, but it seems there are related health and social problems. According to the experts, cities are becoming the epicentres for chronic, non-communicable physical and mental health conditions at the same time.

There is a growing recognition of the crucial role of urban green spaces in helping reduce these health problems.

More than 40 years of research shows that experiences of nature are linked to a remarkable breadth of positive health outcomes, including improved physical health, such as reduced blood pressure and allergies, less deaths from cardio-vascular

more air-conditioning, but this brings more carbon emissions, so a better answer is more infrastructure – 'green infrastructure' such as street trees, green roofs, vegetated surfaces and green walls.

Planting trees in parks, gardens or streets has many benefits; they help cool cities, slow stormwater run-off, filter air pollution, provide habitat for birds and animals, making people happier and encouraging walking.

According to city planners, shading from street trees can lower surrounding temperatures by up to 6 deg. – or up to 20 deg. over roads. Greenery on roofs and walls can naturally cool buildings, lowering demand for air conditioning.

Although scientists have much evidence that trees and other greenery improve our mood and health, they know less about the actual mechanisms by which this occurs. Japanese research, however, suggests that when we walk through forest we breathe in three substances – beneficial bacteria, plant-derived essential oils and negatively-charged ions.

So, the simple act of taking a walk beneath the trees after dinner, rather than staring at a TV screen can work wonders for your health.

## TALKING TREES



With **JOHN HALKETT**

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disease, improved self-perceived general health and improved mental wellbeing.

According to environmental planners at Griffith University, Australian cities are getting hotter, more crowded and noisier, while climate change is bringing more heatwaves.

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# A long drive in golfing comfort in Honda's safe and 'magical' HR-V

"OUT of the way banana-bender."

I 'slipped' into low gear as the source of the tirade pulled her head in and drove off in a cloud of dust towards the Bruxner Highway.

Yes, the jig was up – my number plate identified me as a visitor from the Sunshine State, which in fact, produces more than 95% of Australia's bananas. Too late, though to tell the driver of the fast-disappearing banana-coloured MG F roadster that I was on my way to Murwillumbah.

The town in the NSW Tweed's 'volcano valley' is still lauded by locals as Australia's 'banana capital' because of the wonderful annual festival that celebrates all that's good about this herbaceous fruit – banana floats, a banana queen, banana sandwiches ... and banana wine.



This agricultural writer, covering the 10th festival in 1966, scooped rural media with a story about the launch of the first Aussie banana liqueur and, hopefully, the



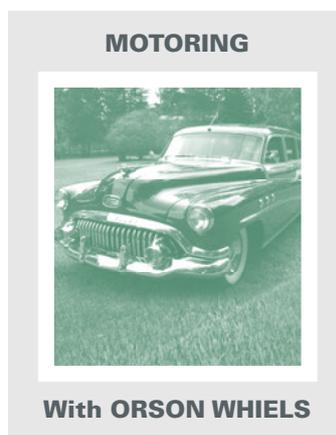
Orson Whiels' latest 'buggy'... the Honda HR-V – a big 'hit' at Murwillumbah golf course.

launch of a big new industry, which didn't happen. A taste test told me why.

So it was with a sense of nostalgia that I took the new Honda HR-V SUV and a happy group of golfers to Murwillumbah, arguably home of one of the finest golf courses in Australia. There's a panoramic view of the towering Mount Warning from every tee. The club's signature hole, known as the Pump House, is the par 5522 m 14th that dog-legs left – like a banana.

"From urban adventures to road trips, the HR-V is as different as you are," says the Japanese car maker's PR.

"It's roomy interior and 'magic seats' ensure



everything and everybody fit right in. Plus, updated design and the sporty new RS model, featuring a honeycomb sports grille, piano black body kit and 18-in. alloys, give it a style all its own."

Liyo, Honda!

They haven't made any

changes under the bonnet with this update – a 1.8L I-VTEC engine generating a punchy 105 kW of power and 172 Nm of pulling power, coupled to Honda's state-of-the-art Earth Dreams CVT.

The sole powertrain configuration for Australia sees the engine paired to a CVT automatic with front-wheel drive. Fuel consumption is officially rated at 6.7L/100 km.

Slotted in between the mid-grade VTi-S and range-topping VTi-LX (where the VTi-L used to sit), the \$31,990 plus on-road costs HR-V RS takes a slightly different aesthetic tone thanks to darkened chrome on the grille and door handles and gloss-black lower body cladding.

Another unchanged element is the clever 'magic seats' system, which can be configured to allow tall items to be carried upright with the rear seat base folded up against the backrest, or long items to pass through with flat-folded front and rear seats. Keep all five seats in place and there's 437 litres of boot space. Fold the rear row and this expands to 1462 litres.

Three sets of golf clubs fitted like a banana in its skin.

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