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COVER STORY P15



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Global contest among architects in rebuild of Notre Dame's spiral

CULTURAL architects in Europe are contemplating the possibility of using modern mass timber engineering practices – such as CLT and glulam – to help rebuild Notre Dame's medieval beams that were engulfed in flames this week.

The fire that blazed inside the iconic 850-year-old cathedral in central Paris was able to spread so quickly due to the building's height, stone exterior and difficulty in accessing the towering wood ceiling beams.

The spire and part of the roof collapsed after a fire broke out. The cathedral had been undergoing intense restoration work which the fire service said could be linked to the blaze.

Before its collapse, the spire stretched almost 100 m high and was made of 500 tonnes of wood and 250 tonnes of lead.



1/ Notre Dame... this gravity-defying Gothic cathedral survived centuries of France's turbulent past. It emerged in the 19th century from near ruin, thanks to a massive restoration project.

2/ Edouard Philippe... global competition among architects to help rebuild iconic cathedral.

3/ David Elstone... Canada lumber producers willing to help in cathedral rebuild.



French Prime Minister has announced an international architects' competition to rebuild the spire of the Notre Dame Cathedral.

Edouard Philippe revealed the bold new future plans for the famous church after a special Cabinet meeting held by French President Emmanuel Macron, focusing

The spire was also special for another reason. Sitting at its top was a rooster, containing three relics – a parcel of the Holy Crown of Thorns, a relic of Saint Denis and one of Saint Genevieve.

The spire and its relics were said to serve as a "spiritual lightning rod" in Paris, protecting "all those who work for the praise of God".

As a starting point, the

Cont P 3

FRANCE NO LONGER HAS TREES BIG ENOUGH TO REPLACE BEAMS



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Challenge for engineered wood... fire engulfs Notre Dame Cathedral in central Paris.

From P 2

on the reconstruction of the cathedral.

Mr Philippe said the global competition would aim at "giving Notre Dame a spire adapted to technologies and challenges of our times."

A French cultural heritage expert says France no longer has trees big enough to replace ancient wooden beams that burned in the Notre Dame fire.

Dr Bertrand de Feydeau, vice-president of preservation group Fondation du Patrimoine, said the timber beams that went up in flames were built more than 800 years ago from primal forests.

He says the cathedral's roof cannot be rebuilt exactly as it was before the fire because "we don't, at the moment, have trees on our territory of the size that were cut in the 13th century."

As the world absorbs the

magnitude of devastation, architects and engineers anticipate a decades-long restoration process replete with unprecedented challenges. Designers will need to navigate complicated structural issues and delicate preservation debates to satisfy an array of stakeholders.

They will all be asking the same question: How do you revive an 850-year-old icon? The church's medieval roof structure, mostly made of oak, has been lost.

Dr Feydeau says the restoration work will have to use new technologies to rebuild the roof.

Meanwhile, Canada is on the front foot again. David

“THE OLDEST TREES AREN'T ALWAYS THE LARGEST ONES

Elstone, executive director of British Columbia-based Truck Loggers Association, said his province would not have suitable oak, but if architects required soft wood timber Canada could help.

"We probably have a tree that would suit the needs of the architects that are trying to rebuild Notre Dame," he said.

"We grow large strong trees that you cannot find in other areas."

The oldest trees aren't always the largest ones when measuring a tree's age in centuries, Elstone explained.

Only 4% of Europe's remaining woodland is primary forest, with none larger than 500 sq km outside of Russia or Northern Europe.

A combined 800 million euros have already been pledged by a number of companies and business tycoons to help rebuild the Unesco World Heritage site.

Chinese log imports continue to climb

CHINA is continuously exploring new sources of softwood logs around the world. Minor log exporters, such as Japan, Poland, Chile and South Africa all expanded their shipments to China in 2018, reports the WRQ.

Of the major log supplying countries, only Russia and

Canada reduced their exports to China, while New Zealand, the US and Uruguay all increased their shipments year-over-year. Log imports to China reached another record high in 2018, with New Zealand supplying 44% of the volume, reports the WRQ.

China had another record year of softwood log imports in 2018, when more than 40 million cub m of logs landed at Chinese ports. This was the third consecutive year of year-over-year increases, with 2018 volumes being up 37% from 2015.



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AFPA launches 'growing your future' federal election campaign

THE Australian Forest Products Association this week launched 'Growing Your Future', a federal election campaign targeted at planting more timber production trees in the right places and securing the future of native forest industries.

CEO Ross Hampton said AFPA had developed '10 Actions for Growth' – policy requests totalling more than \$80 million, designed at securing the long-term needs of Australia's forest industries across the full value chain.

"This suite of policies is designed to unleash growth across forest industries, from the businesses that grow and manage trees, to the processors of timber, pulp



Prime Minister Scott Morrison has announced Australians will go to the polls on May 18. Opinion polls are pointing to the Liberal-National coalition losing power to Labor leader Bill Shorten's team after six years in office. But Mr Morrison said there was much at stake at the election and only the coalition could deliver a strong economy and the dividends of that.

and paper manufacturers and emerging businesses in the bioenergy space," Mr Hampton said.

"Australia's forest industries

are responsible for 120,000 jobs across the full value chain, and are worth \$24 billion to the Australian economy annually. It's vital that politicians, candidates and political parties take notice of what our industries need. This applies especially to candidates in electorates where forest industries are prominent in the economy.

because we recognise how vital forest industries are to Tasmanians and the state's economy. A poll conducted earlier this week for AFPA, shows eight in 10 voters in the electorate of Bass regard forest industries as either very important or important to the economy.

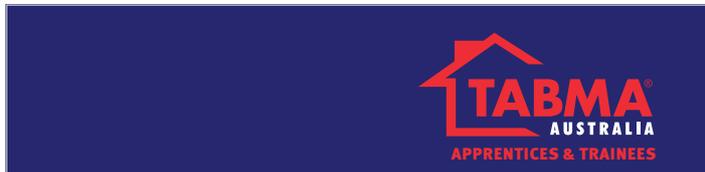
"However, the Growing Your Future campaign is a national one, with billboards, advertising and advocacy across the country. It will also include a forest industries debate, in Launceston on May 1.

"I look forward to spending the next four and half weeks speaking to candidates, MPs and political parties, and convincing them to support our policies for growth," Mr Hampton concluded.

10 ACTIONS FOR INDUSTRY GROWTH

"AFPA has developed electorate briefs, providing a snapshot of industries in individual electorates across Australia.

"We are launching this campaign in Tasmania



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Please Note

Due to Easter break and Anzac Day public holiday next Thursday, next week's issue of Timber and Forestry Enews **will be published NEXT FRIDAY, 26 April**. We wish you all a happy and safe Easter.



Hyne puts trust in Tumbarumba Men's Shed community activities

The 2019 Hyne Community Trust grants will be opening on 1 June for applications.

As we approach this next round, we take a look back at past recipients and how grants continue to benefit the Tumbarumba region today.

Granted almost \$27,000 in Trust funds and with continued support by way of timber supply, the Tumbarumba Men's Shed officially opened in 2012.

Inaugural President and active member, Graham Derrett says the Men's Shed is part of the community, for the community,

"We are regularly commissioned to help out the Tumbarumba region, whether it's table tops for the Tumbarumba Show, frames for the Photographic Club or odd jobs for St Vincent's, to name a few.

"We open on Monday and Tuesday mornings and we are actively encouraging more members to join. Anyone interested should come down for a meet and greet on one of these mornings between 9.30am and 12noon.



Janet Anderson, Gerald Hall and Graham Derrett at the Tumbarumba Mens Shed.

"It's a great way to stay busy, learning new skills while spending time with the other members and delivering back to the community.

"Occasionally we will simply have a tools down, social morning, play some cards and have a coffee," Mr Derrett said.

THE Tumbarumba Men's Shed currently has 14 members with room to grow. There is an annual \$40 membership fee to assist with covering the operating costs.

Gerry Hall, Secretary of the Men's Shed said the support

of the Hyne Community Trust and the continued supply of timber remained instrumental in the Shed's ongoing operations.

"We needed financial support to assist with establishing the shed and purchasing equipment. Donations of timber assisted us to build a mezzanine storage area and the meeting room and amenities wall framing. Hyne Timber also donated a band saw," he said.

"We happily take seconds or offcuts from the Mill and other sources. We can use this timber to make toys and

other items which we sell at street stalls to assist us to fund other costs of operating such as power.

"While much of our work is timber, we also have welders. We recently made the handrails for an elderly resident's stairs before the frost comes.

"It is good to provide a service and we all enjoy helping out where we can."

Anyone wanting to join the Tumbarumba Men's Shed or find out more can either call in on a Monday or Tuesday morning after 9.30am, or contact Gerry Hall on 0427 254 250.

The Hyne Community Trust was established in Tumbarumba in 2007.

Hyne Community Trust Directors, Janet Anderson and Katie Fowden called into the Men's Shed for an update on progress, membership and community activities.

Trust Director, Janet Anderson said it is always reassuring that the grants are awarded well with funds continuing to benefit the community.

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PEFC chair Peter Latham appointed to Forestry Commission in England

PEFC International chair Peter Latham Bahas has been appointed a non-executive commissioner to the Forestry Commission in England.

Ben Gunneberg, CEO, PEFC International announced: "Peter's wide-ranging expertise in all aspects of the international timber trade, combined with his skills in leading and achieving multi-stakeholder consensus at global level, will be of significant benefit to Forestry Commission in its mission of protecting, expanding and promoting the sustainable management of woodlands."

Appointed by the British Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Mr Latham will hold the positions



Peter Latham... new driving force at British Forestry Commission

for three years.

The Forestry Commission is a non-ministerial government department that protects and increases the value of woodlands and conducts forest research across the UK, with a focus on England.

By promoting the interests of forestry and developing afforestation, the FC commissioners are key to ensuring a strong, sustainable future for forestry in the UK.

"It is an exciting time to be joining the Forestry Commission England, with challenging targets to grow sustainably managed woodland cover and with the opportunities provided by a changing land management grant regime," Peter Latham said.

“IT'S AN EXCITING TIME TO BE JOINING THE COMMISSION”

Mr Latham was director and chairman of PEFC UK before he joined the PEFC International Board in 2011, becoming the chairman in 2016. For 44 years, he worked for James Latham PLC, a family business which he joined in the 7th generation in 1973, serving the company as chairman from 2006 to 2017.

He has been chairman of the Timber Trade Federation's environmental committee, director of Association Technique Internationale des

Bois Tropicaux (ATIBT) and a trustee of the Council of the Commonwealth Forestry Association.

Mr Latham was awarded the Order of the British Empire for his services to the wood industry in the UK in 2012 and the TTJ Lifetime Achievement Award in 2018.

Speaking at the Malaysian Timber Conference in Kuala Lumpur last October, Mr Latham told delegates they were entering a new age for timber, a new industrial revolution for timber.

"This isn't just a climate positive story of using a renewable crop, a crop that can still lock in the carbon when at the end of its use, but also one in which certification can demonstrate how we look after our forests, how we cooperate with indigenous people, how we protect worker's rights, and so much more."

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

Since the first James Latham began importing hardwoods into Liverpool in 1757, the company has, under the continuing management and direction of the Latham family, developed into a leading importer and distributor of wood-based sheet materials (panel products), joinery quality softwood and hardwood and hardwood flooring.

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MAY

10: Silvopastoral Field Day – 2485 Monduran Road, Monduran, Australia. 9.00am-1.00pm. Please come suitably dressed with a high-vis shirt and closed in footwear as you will be in an active operation. For further information contact Contact John McNamara at Parkside Timber on 0418 719 113 or Sean Ryan (PFSQ) on 0428 457 322. Bronwyn Lloyd can be contacted on (07) 5483 6535.

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: www.danaevents.co.nz/2019ecuador

[danaevents.co.nz/2019ecuador](http://www.danaevents.co.nz/2019ecuador)

17-18: Frame Australia – Crown Promenade Melbourne, Australia. A dedicated conference and exhibition will allow delegates to fully understand the exciting developments in the Timber Offsite Construction space. The conference will feature prominent local and global experts, with topics exclusively devoted to timber and mass wood building construction. It will be the only event that will enable delegates to appreciate the world-wide transformation that is taking place and how building costs are being lowered. At the Frame Australia exhibition, booth sizes will be larger at no extra cost, with booths two to three times the previous floor area without any change in pricing from 2018. Visit www.frameaustralia.com

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

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

JULY

10-12: 5th Pacific Timber Engineering Conference (PTEC 2019) – Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre, Merivale and Glenelg streets, South Brisbane, Australia. A forum for both young and experienced academics, practitioners, researchers, and research students in the Asia-Pacific region and elsewhere in the world to share the latest developments in research and application of timber in construction. What the industry is achieving using timber in construction will also be showcased. The conference will bring a more practitioner focus that will complement the World Conference on Timber Engineering (WCTE) in 2020. Call for abstracts. Inquiries to conference secretariat, School of Civil Engineering, The University of Queensland. Tel: +61 7 344 31360. Email: ptec2019@civil.uq.edu.au Visit www.civil.uq.edu.au/ptec-2019

22-23: 2019 DANA Australian Forest Industry Conference and Field Trip – Pullman King Georges Square, Brisbane, Australia. To

include one and a half day conference on Monday July 22 and the morning of Tuesday July 23 with 20 international and Australasian speakers confirmed, to be followed by half day field trip on the afternoon of July 23. For further information and to register see: www.danaevents.co.nz/2019brisbane

OCTOBER

18: 2019 TABMA National Awards Dinner – Doltone House, Hyde Park, Sydney, Australia. Hosted by TABMA Queensland, 6:30 - 11:30 pm. Dress formal.

The 20th Australian Timber Design Awards presentation dinner – Melbourne, Australia. Entries open February 11 and close June 28. Peoples' Choice voting August to September. Sponsorship options available. Contact 0420 232 253 or email inbox@timberdesignawards.com.au

26: 2019 Timber Queensland Industry Gala Evening – The Tote Room, Eagle Farm Racecourse, Ascot, QLD Australia. Casino Night.

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MAY

5-7: American Wood Protection Association (AWPA) 115th annual meeting – Loews Royal Pacific Resort Orlando, Florida, USA. Tel: 205-733-4077. AWPA is responsible for promulgating global voluntary wood preservation standards.

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 Hadrian's 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 Tel: Europe: +32.2.536.0748 or US and international: +1.866.271.8525. Visit www.risi.com/invest

8-11: World Conference on forests for Public Health – Athens, Greece. For further information see: www.fph2019.org

12-16: IRG50 (International Research Group on Wood Protection) – Fairmont Chateau Frontenac Hotel, Quebec City, Canada. The IRG-WP is the leading global organisation for the dissemination of scientific information on wood protection technologies. Email Rod.Stirling@fpinnovations.ca Visit www.irg50.com for registration details.

20-23: A Century of National Forest Inventories: Informing Past, Present and Future Decisions – Oslo, Norway. For further information see: www.nibio.pameldingssystem.no/nfi100years

JUNE

16-21: 2019 DANA Ecuador Forestry and Agri-/Aqua-business Investment Tour – Ecuador. This event will introduce potential investors to the forestry and agri- and aqua- business; as well as the commercial, financial, political, and economical aspects of investments in Ecuador. Included will

be field visits to operating forests, manufacturing, and processing of wood products, and selected agri- and aqua- export oriented operations. For further information and to register see: www.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: www.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: www.waset.org/conference/2019/09/zurich/ICATEA

SEPT/OCT

30 SEPT-4 OCT: Second World Congress on Mid- and High-rise Wood Buildings

Woodrise 2019 – Québec City Convention Centre, Québec City, Canada.

Theme: Building our cities for future generations jointly organized by FPIInnovations (Canada) and Institut technologique FCBA (France) will bring together wood construction stakeholders, decision-makers, and professionals to share their knowledge and strengths in order to position wood as a leading construction material for tomorrow's sustainable cities. For further information: Ann Cantin, Director, Communications and Marketing, Québec City Convention Centre, acantin@convention.qc.ca, 418 564-1312; Marjolaine Dugas, Director of Communications, FPIInnovations, marjolaine.dugas@fpinnovations.ca, 514 782-4595

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

NOVEMBER

19-21: Malaysian Wood Expo 2019 – Putra World Trade Centre, Kuala Lumpur. Email: info@malaysianwoodexpo.com.my or visit www.malaysianwoodexpo.com.my

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

Aussie brand dives into cellulosic fibre

NAIA, the new wood pulp-derived cellulosic fibre from US chemical and fibre producer Eastman, has been incorporated into Australian swimwear brand JETS' latest collection.

The fibre, which has been awarded PEFC and FSC

chain-of-custody certification and is also certified as 'bio-based' under the USDA BioPreferred program, is said to have been selected by JETS for its perceived sustainability edge of rival materials.

To showcase the innovative

potential of sustainably produced forest fibres, PEFC's recent Forests for Fashion Initiative participated in the largest global meeting on the environment: the Fourth United Nations Environment Assembly.

From March 10-15, an

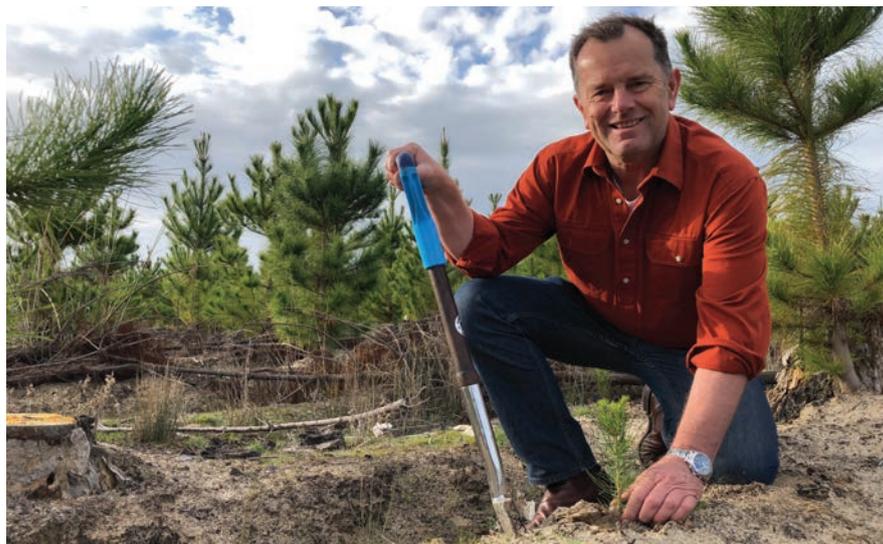
exhibit of stunning and innovative clothes made by young designers using forest-derived materials were on display at the Sustainable Innovation Expo, where more than 40 organisations and companies showcased innovative solutions to environmental challenges.

FIAC advice on track for SA

THE Marshall Liberal government has delivered on a key election commitment to forest industries and their communities by establishing the Forest Industry Advisory Council for South Australia.

The first meeting of the council was held last week at Mount Gambier. Mount Gambier local Wendy Fennell will chair the 11-member council.

“I asked the council to provide me with its recommendations about how to grow the entire forestry sector by the end of the year,” the Minister for Primary



Tim Whetstone... a group with intellectual fire power.

Industries and Regional Development Tim Whetstone said.

“The intellectual firepower of this group is dynamic; they are international, national and local leaders in their fields.

“The group includes the

full value chain from forest owners, forest managers, harvest and haulage, small timber manufacturers, large timber manufacturers, timber biomass to farm forestry.”

At the first meeting, members discussed initial key themes which will be built

on in future advice, including preserving and expanding the existing forestry estate; growing the domestic manufacturing sector; reinforcing the positive future of the sector; attracting new people to the sector; and upskilling existing staff.

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Why CONSTRUCTION is right for DISRUPTION

What the building industry needs is a change. Can an industry that is traditionally slow to adopt new technologies and materials pick up the pace quickly enough to provide the housing needed?

There are many innovative new technologies like offsite construction that are already used by housing markets in many parts of the world. The looming housing shortage is creating the perfect conditions for disruptive innovation in the building industry.

There are a lot of reasons why the construction industry is reticent to change. From lagging building codes to a lack of market acceptance, there are many barriers which keep home builds on-site. If they can move off-site, home building can be automated, more consistent, resistant to weather interruptions with a far more streamlined building process that could cut costs significantly.

The investment in construction industry technology has increased,



Frame Australia event)... tackling offsite construction for housing utilising fully panelised walls.

showing that the industry is ripe for change. With the technology in place to improve processes and save costs, it's only a matter of time before developers see the value of offsite construction.

The labour shortage coupled with the increase in demand combined with a reduction in skilled workers has seen construction companies struggling to meet deadlines. There simply aren't enough workers to bridge the gap.

Millennials will be the first generation to earn less

disposable income than their parents and they will be looking to cheaper entry-level homes as they enter the market. By automating the building process in factories, builders will be able to ensure speed, precision and reduced build times.

Millennial buyers are also more concerned about their carbon footprint. Offsite

“OUR MILLENNIAL BUYERS MORE CONCERNED ABOUT CARBON FOOTPRINT

builds use less materials and transport as crew members aren't travelling to the site every day. With less waste and less impact on the environment, prefab construction is more appealing to the younger home owners.

Many are predicting that the tipping point that moves home construction out of the driveway and into the factory is almost here. The success of these methods can already be seen in other countries around the world.

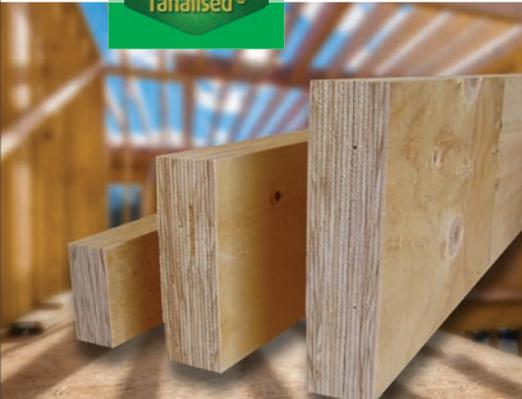
The construction industry has not changed much over the last four decades, but there is simply too much waste, too much environmental impact and too few workers to sustain current practices for much longer.

This global dilemma will be discussed at the Frame Australia event 'Timber Offsite Construction' on Monday and Tuesday 17-18 June at Crown Promenade Melbourne.

For details visit the website www.frameaustralia.com



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Malaysian Panel+Products Manufacturers' Association (MPMA)



Malaysian Wood Moulding & Joinery Council (MWMJC)



Malaysian Furniture Council (MFC)



The Timber Exporters' Association of Malaysia (TEAM)



Association of Malaysian Bumiputra Timber & Furniture Entrepreneurs (PEKA)

Uplift in downstream wood processing industry in PNG

Joint project by Melbourne University, ACIAR

The Sustainable and Renewable Forest Products Group at the University of Melbourne recently completed the final review of a project “Enhancing Value Added Wood Processing in Papua New Guinea” funded by the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR).

Led by Professor Barbara Ozarska, the ambitious project aimed to assist the PNG Government in the development of domestic value-added wood processing through:

- Enhancing the knowledge of wood properties and



Prof Barbara Ozarska with PNG researchers visiting Carjo Furniture during their training on advanced wood processing methods in Melbourne. The visit was hosted by Mr Joe Mimo, manager of Carjo Furniture.

processing characteristics of PNG timbers;

- Identifying and evaluating

interventions for enhanced value-added processing systems;

- Estimating the potential contribution and distribution of economic impacts to national and local economies from enhanced value-added wood processing;
- Enhancing the capacity of Government, institutional support bodies, industry partners and landowners to implement value-added wood processing policies, strategies and practices.

The Forestry Sector in Papua New Guinea has developed from a small domestic processing industry in the 1950s to a large log export-oriented industry. The Government now wants to use its forest resources to generate additional opportunities for economic growth, employment and increased value-added processing of harvested logs. The domestic market's demand for wood products is growing due to the rapid development of Papua New

Guinean industries based on extracting natural resources. However, many research and structural challenges, constraints and opportunities at Government, industry, community, and landowner levels need to be addressed to develop competitive value-added wood industries. Technical knowledge and capacity about efficient processing of different native timber species into a broader range of wood products have been generally low. Therefore, research and development were needed to achieve Papua New Guinea's policy goal.

To achieve that, an exhaustive testing program has been conducted as part of the ACIAR project, to assess the mechanical properties, bondability, and other processing characteristics of various timber species to successfully produce value-added products for PNG and export markets.



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From P 12

The forest cover in PNG is large and diverse, including more than 2,000 tree species, but knowledge of the current timber resource is scarce with only 20% being utilized in one way or another for commercial use. Therefore, we developed a comprehensive testing program to assess different properties and characteristics of 26 commercial and lesser-known PNG species from secondary and plantation forests, explained Dr Benoit Belleville, wood engineer and research fellow at the University of Melbourne who was leading the testing program.

The data will allow extending the current database and creating a database for lesser-known species from secondary forest and plantations forests to provide recommendations



Dr Benoit Belleville provides training for PNG researchers on testing wood properties.

on best applications for the selected species based on their properties and characteristics. This project helps to increase the contribution that utilization of forest resources in PNG makes to national and local economies, including landowners and processors, through the development of domestic value-added wood processing methods. The testing of PNG timbers

provides data that will be of great value to both the timber industry and the scientific community. The results will be particularly important to the companies which are involved in manufacturing value-added solid wood products and engineered wood products where such knowledge is a pivotal part of the manufacturing process.

This project has set a new standard and accumulated

some very good and documented data. Such data is vital to the PNG private sector and Government in promoting our products and implementing policies to phase out log export, said Bob Tate, Executive Director of PNG Forest Industries Association.

The project partners were: The University of Melbourne (the leading organisation), PNG Forestry Authority (the project country coordinator), PNG Forest Industries Association, PNG University of Technology, PNG Forest Research Institute and Timber and Forestry Training College.

More information about the project and results can be found at: www.ecosystemforest.unimelb.edu.au/research/research-themes/ecosystem-and-landscape-management/sustainable-and-renewable-forest-products#research

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A Melbourne icon gains a companion: Parliament of Victoria members' wing

The question of extending Melbourne's iconic Parliament House building to accommodate 102 new offices for parliamentarians and their staff without blocking any views from the existing building and compromising its considerable heritage value was the challenge faced by architects Peter Elliott Architecture and Urban Design.

While the original 1856 parliament house building was a grand and extraordinarily impressive building, the architects seemed more interested in reflecting the power and wealth of the gold rush than accommodating working parliamentarians. No offices were included in the original design and in the 1970's a temporary, demountable structure nicknamed the "chook shed" was erected. Intended to stand for only five years, it remained in place for over 40 years until its recent demolition.

While the façade of the historic Parliament House looks down over Spring Street, the rear of the building enjoys views over historic gardens and on to St Patrick's Cathedral, particularly from the popular dining terrace. To ensure this famous outlook remained unimpeded the new building is embedded within the landscape behind the existing building, ensuring views are uninterrupted and achieving architect Peter Elliott's aim of what he calls "companion architecture" – where a new building must not compete with the old, but become part of the surrounding landscape.



Members of the Victorian Parliament can now enjoy going to work in this new addition to a grand icon.

Any risk that the "embedded" building might feel in any way subterranean has been minimised by a central courtyard bathing the offices in natural light as well as a warm, natural interior material palette including Goodwood Victorian Ash from Australian Sustainable Hardwoods (ASH) which was used in the ceiling battens, "waffle" style walling, joinery, doors and windows. Favoured for its high quality, beautiful colour, consistent grain, straightness, predictability, strength and ready availability, Victorian Ash is a popular timber choice for high-profile public buildings.

ASH Victorian Sales and Marketing Manager Daniel Wright explains: "Now home to Victorian parliamentarians and their staff, this new building represents Victoria the best way it can - using local materials of the highest quality." This high quality also provides the best of both worlds – the grain and textural

interest of timber with the benefit of consistency which is imperative when using a single timber throughout an interior. The use of Victorian Ash throughout the interior delivers a continuous flow of design and marries with the building's natural setting beneath a rooftop which was designed as an Australian native "meadow" by landscape architect Paul Thompson.

**“RIGOROUS
COMMITMENT TO
SUSTAINABLE
DESIGN**

A rigorous commitment to environmentally sustainable design was also very much part of the design brief for this new building which was designed to a 5 Star Green Star Design and As Built and interiors equivalency. The fact that the Goodwood Victorian Ash from ASH has Responsible Wood certification

provides the architects the assurance that this timber has been certified by Responsible Wood to Australian Standard 4707 relating to chain of custody and ensuring the timber originated from a forest which is managed in accordance with the stringent requirements of Responsible Wood certification.

Beyond the specification of materials, the members' annexe building also meets sustainability objectives by incorporating a fully accessible intensive green roof. Cooling and heating are provided by a unique geo-exchange system comprising a network of boreholes, allowing all equipment to be concealed within the building shell and eliminating the need for a gas supply for heating.

No longer confined to a chook shed, the members of the Victorian Parliament can now look forward to going to work in this clever new companion to a grand old Melbourne icon.

Forest thinning field day focuses on harvesting for bio-fuels and veneers

A SMALL harvest to demonstrate general forest thinning through to the harvesting of biofuel and small rotary veneers used by the spindleless lathes will be a feature of a field day at Monduram in Queensland's Callide Valley next month.

"These new technologies are guaranteed to be part of the forestry industry into the future," said Bronwyn Lloyd of Private Forestry Service Queensland which is organising the day on May 10.

CONVERTING VEGETATION TO CERTIFIED PRIVATE FOREST

"A chopper-roller will be working in thinning an overstocked regrowth forest and we don't often have that happening at field days," Bronwyn said.

There will be an inspection of the harvest yield at the dump and a demonstration on measuring and grading used as per the specifications for all products.

John McNamara, CEO, Parkside Timber, will be there to talk to landowners about the company's new developments and facilities.

The purpose of the day is to convert 5 ha of vegetation into a certified private native forest and active pastoral land, increasing income from \$0/ha to more than \$250/



John McNamara... talk to landowners.

with a certified native forest suitable for grazing.

Contact John McNamara at Parkside Timber on 0418 719 113 or Sean Ryan (PFSQ) on 0428 457 322.

Bronwyn Lloyd can be contacted on (07) 5483 6535.

ha each year on average. Machines will be in action thinning the site between 9 am and 1 pm producing logs for poles, sawlogs, peelers and woodchips and ending up

On the cover: Discussing sawlog specifications and values at a Private Forestry Service Queensland field day at Monto in Queensland's Callide Valley.

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Offsite construction program shapes as the best in event's 21-year history

THE program for the Timber Offsite Construction 2019 conference and exhibition promises to be the most impressive in the event's 21-year history.

Now released in full, the expanded line-up over the two days brings together the most prominent global and local experts discussing the latest technologies and most pressing topics for the mass wood sector.

The event will take place on June 17 and 18 at Melbourne's Crown Promenade. The increased interest in the sector has also led to the conference move to a new, larger venue comfortably accommodating the expected 400 attendees, a record for the event.

Conference director Kevin Ezard said the conference and exhibition had developed a strong reputation among building design and construction professionals.

"Timber Offsite Construction is a national event with a global forum," he said. "It is the only Australian event exclusively devoted to offsite timber construction and mass wood systems."



David Chandler



Ralph Belperio



Duncan Mayes



George Konstandakos

Mr Ezard said the program included some of the world's leading experts, along with highly respected local specialists; providing an overview on the pathway for offsite construction, building case studies and workshops on key topics.

Monday's speaker presentations will include topics outlining how offsite systems are used to achieve improved productivity, quality, safety and sustainability for residential and commercial buildings. Speakers include:

- David Chandler OAM, Adjunct Professor, Centre for Smart Modern Construction at Western Sydney University (What will the Australian construction industry look like by 2030?).
- Ralph Belperio, built

environment leader, Aurecon (How we will be constructing buildings in the future).

- Duncan Mayes, EGM innovation and emerging business, Timberlink Australia (Wood products are the sustainable solution).

- George Konstandakos, head of DesignMake, Lendlease (The future for commercial buildings using mass wood systems).

Tuesday morning panel sessions will focus on several outstanding building projects utilising offsite timber construction systems, with key participants including

developers, architects, engineers, builders, fabricators, and building materials suppliers.

In addition to the impressive line-up, exhibitors from across the globe will display the latest products and systems for offsite timber construction and mass wood systems.

SmartStruct Solutions (a division of Tilling Timber) is again the principal partner following its successful involvement last year, and WoodSolutions is the principle supporter of the event.

For more information, or to register for the Timber Offsite Construction conference and exhibition (early bird save \$100), visit www.frameaustralia.com

“STRONG REPUTATION AMONG BUILDING PROFESSIONALS”

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Quercus suber more than just wine bottle stoppers

Cork oak, *Quercus suber* a medium-sized, evergreen tree is the primary source of cork for wine bottle stoppers and other uses. It is native to southwest Europe and northwest Africa. It grows to up to 20 metres, although it is typically more stunted in its native environment.

Cork oaks commonly live more than 200 years. Cork harvesting is done entirely without machinery. The European cork industry produces 340,000 tonnes of cork a year, with a value of €1.5 billion and employs 30,000 people.

The cork is used to make a wide range of products in addition to wine bottle stoppers, including insulation panels, floor and wall tiles and sound-proofing in the car industry, as well as for handicrafts and artistic uses such as cork paper used in printing, book covering, clothing manufacture, cork maroquinerie and other products. Cork is also used in making cricket balls, badminton shuttlecocks and handles of fishing rods.

Cork is also used for fridge insulation, engine gaskets, cork tiles, fishing nets, shoe heels, bulletin boards, woodwind instruments and model trains.

Cork oak trees do best in



moist maritime environments with hot summers, typical of the lower slopes of hills around the western Mediterranean. From the Atlantic coast to Italy and from Algeria to Tunisia, cork forests cover about 26,000 square kilometres although more than half of the world's cork comes from Portugal, with most of the rest from Spain.

According to Pliny the Elder, Roman woman of his day appreciated the insulation and lightness of cork-soled sandals as much as the extra height it gave them. In fact, having evolved to protect trees from fire, cork's thermal insulation is so good that it has been used to shield the fuel tanks on NASA's space shuttles.

The bark of cork oak is adapted to defend trees from fungi and microbes and is exceptionally impermeable

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even to air, and almost completely inert. No other untreated, naturally occurring plant product can remain unchanged in contact with so many substances. It is resistant to water, petrol, oil, and of course alcohol. Its cells can withstand extreme compression while retaining their springiness – perfect



1/ **Cork oak, the primary source of cork for wine bottle stoppers and other uses, is native to southwest Europe and northwest Africa.**

2/ **100 year-old cork oak plantation at the northern end of the National Arboretum in Canberra.**

for squeezing tightly into the neck of a wine bottle. As a bonus, when cork is cut lots of microscopic cups are formed, and those myriad tiny vacuums prevent corks from slipping from smooth glass bottle necks.

The cork oak is rare in being so willing to regenerate its bark, which can be harvested once the tree is about 20 years old and then repeatedly about every decade. The bark is stripped from the trunk in late spring up to a height of about 2.5 metres and from sections of larger branches.

Australia has an interesting cork oak connection. At the northern end of the National Arboretum in Canberra is a 100 year-old cork oak plantation established many years before the National



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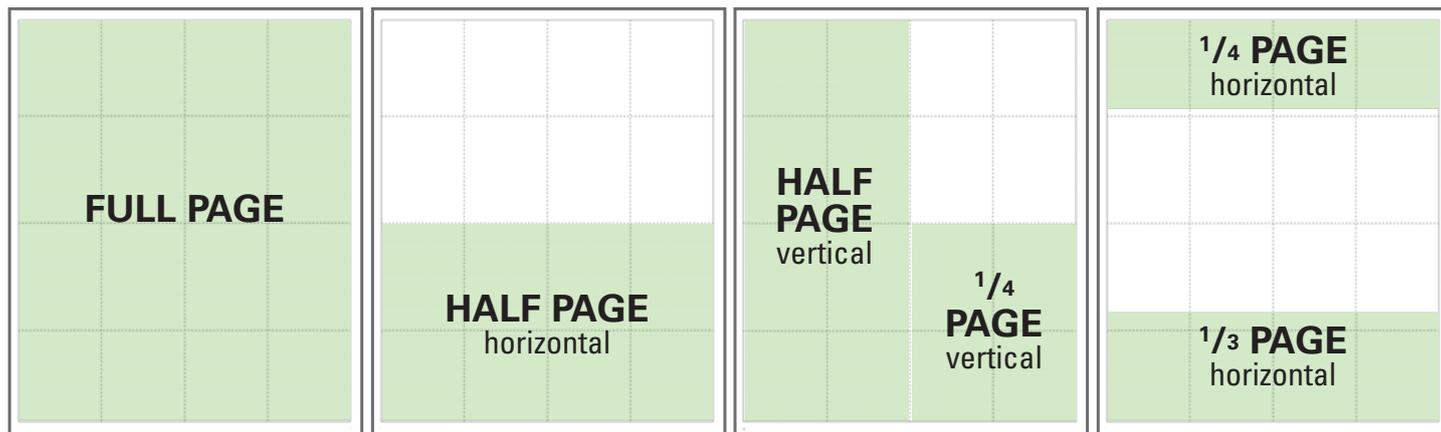
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