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NZ wood manufacturing matters: ‘it’s time for urgent game change’

Serious, long-term repercussions across the manufacturing sector feared

‘WOOD manufacturing matters – especially in the regions’ was the theme of the Wood Processors and Manufacturers Association’s one-day conference in Christchurch this month.

One of its aims was to develop strategies for the future in the face of highly-inflated log export prices.

While high prices were good for forest owners in the short term, the WPMA is concerned that this will bring serious, long-term repercussions across the NZ manufacturing sector and the communities that depend upon it for jobs.

Senior economist and trade expert John Ballingall of Sense Partners acknowledged these challenges, warning that a large distortion between theoretical and observed export prices of logs speaks for itself.

He suggests it will be up to the New Zealand government to decide what regulatory actions must be taken to



John Ballingall



Andy Glenie



Doug Ducker



Jon Tanner

remedy the situation.

“While this situation is bad for manufacturers of wood products, exports of radiata pine logs, especially to China, have been fetching record prices,” he said.

“In that country, evidence suggests our logs are effectively subsidised into their market and this will have the effect of skewing log prices upwards here.”

Andy Glenie of Glenie Legal Ltd, which specialises in commercial dispute resolution and regulatory law in New Zealand, acknowledged that overcoming the industry’s challenges from overseas

subsidies under existing free trade agreements is not working and gave several examples of how domestic wood processors may be able to use NZ competition law to protect themselves.

“Current inflated prices have occurred even though we have free trade agreements suggesting the agreements are being broken or at least ‘massaged’,” agreed WPMA board

member Doug Ducker.

“We believe that wood processing and manufacturing is a major driver of economic growth in a carbon-constrained world, and a significant feature of New Zealand’s diverse and high-value export profile of the future,” he told delegates.

“However, with competitors not always sticking to the rules we need new thinking to underpin growth across all manufacturing sectors.”

Mr Ducker supported the view of Winston Peters (Deputy Prime Minister and Leader of New Zealand First)

“OVERSEAS SUBSIDIES UNDER FREE TRADE ARE NOT WORKING”

Cont P 3



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From P 2

that New Zealand is too small to do anything other than insist on fair play in international trade.

“Logs also take energy, fibre and jobs offshore when they’re exported,” Mr Ducker said. “New thinking on trade must underpin future growth.”

Conference speakers from major manufacturers and exporters in the dairy, food and engineering sectors shared their own expertise in facing similar challenges, allowing delegates to consider what is happening in other important manufacturing sectors.

WPMA CEO Jon Tanner



New Zealand manufacturing... new thinking needed to underpin growth across all sectors. Photo: Red Stag Timber

referred to a NZ Wood Council 2016 report that clearly showed how New Zealand’s international competitors have been shifting the trade goalposts.

“This has decimated the

local manufacturing base,” he said. “It is a matter of urgency that New Zealand Inc. pulls all policy levers necessary to enable manufacturers to compete fairly.”

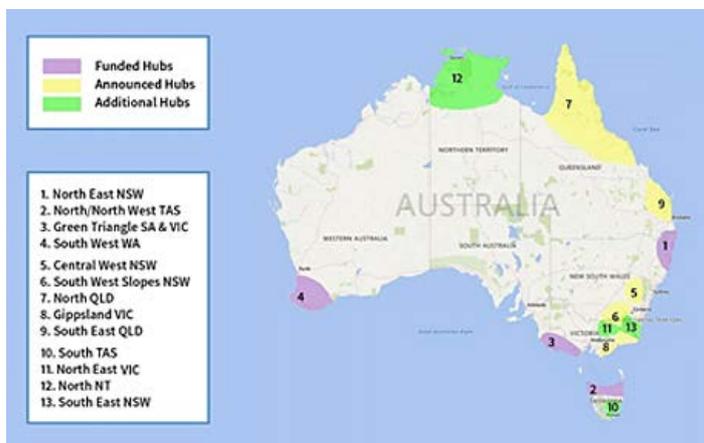
13 regional forest hubs needed to reach one billion trees goal

A MAJOR call of the Australian Forest Products Association’s Growing Your Future Federal Election Campaign is for political parties to commit \$13 million for 13 individual regional forest industry hubs around Australia.

“Following many years of policy research and advocacy and in consultation with industry stakeholders, AFPA has mapped out the 13 key forestry regions that should be formalised as hubs,” CEO Ross Hampton said.

“In February, Prime Minister Scott Morrison announced nine of those hubs, with funding only committed to four of them,” Mr Hampton said.

“AFPA is urging all political parties to fund the 13 hubs to ensure an adequate future timber supply in Australia, with funding of \$1 million each over four years. Without adequate funding for all 13



AFPA presentation of the shading area of the hub regions. Hub boundaries are to be determined by each individual hub.

hubs, industry will not be able to deliver on the federal government’s goal of one billion new plantation trees by 2030.”

The \$1 million over four years for each hub will support a steering committee to analyse constraints that affect the productivity and efficiency of the forestry sector and help to unlock growth.

This could include

identifying opportunities for future investment in infrastructure and technology, mapping potential land availability for plantations, engaging with farmers to establish farm forestry plantings, meeting with private native forest owners and indigenous communities and supporting business cases for investment in new infrastructure such as roads, bridges, ports and telecommunications.



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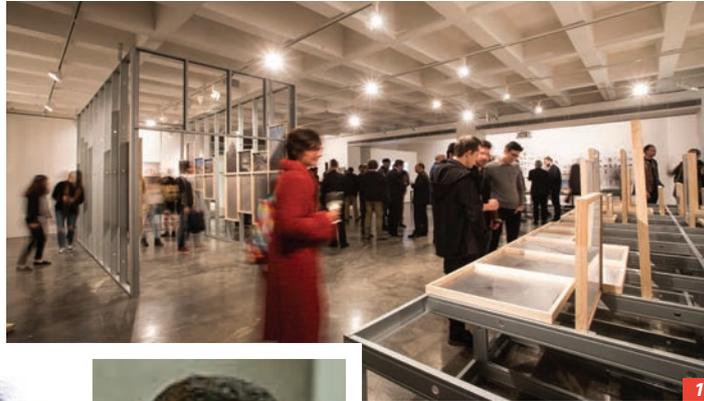
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An industry-led program managed by ForestWorks

EWPAAs 'partners' with university at architectural student presentation

THE Engineered Wood Products Association of Australasia was welcomed as an 'industry partner' at the University of Sydney's School of Architecture, Design and Planning following a recent structured lecture to students by EWPAAs CEO Dave Gover.

Introduced by university lecturer Daniel Ryan, EWPAAs CEO Mr Gover presented to more than 80 first and second-year Master of Architectural Science students on emerging opportunities for engineered wood, high



performance buildings and sustainable design.

1/ Innovation... Sydney University's School of Architecture, Design and Planning has an active events program that sees visiting scholars and practitioners involved in public talks, exhibitions and symposiums.

1/ Dave Gover... diverse range of skills and products are critical in today's built environment.

2/ Daniel Ryan... striving for intellectual excellence and evidence-based research.

Building case studies were supported with samples of plywood, LVL, particleboard and MDF along with information on a range of new mass timber applications.

"As Australia's top-ranked school in the field of architecture and the built environment, we strive for intellectual excellence, creative thinking and evidence-based research," Daniel Ryan said.

School studies centred on answering global challenges on urbanisation and sustainability – "foundations of a healthy and productive way of life and future".

"We conduct research in architectural design innovation, robotic fabrication and sustainable prefabrication in industrialised buildings, working alongside our industry and university partners."

Dave Gover said in today's complex and growing city and regional communities,

architects needed to be equipped with a diverse range of skills and products that would enable them to tackle social, environmental, commercial and aesthetic concerns critical to the built environment.

The school says architects design the buildings in which we live, work and play so the breadth and variety of work they undertake – from small-scale domestic projects to large commercial buildings and even the planning of entire cities – is already vast and opportunities are growing.

The school's fraternity of lecturers and administrators believe urban design over the last century has gradually emerged as a distinct field in response to the need for architects and urban and regional planners to communicate efficiently.

There was also a need for better design skills at urban scales: streets, street blocks, town centres, city districts, new suburbs and cross-city infrastructure.

The School of Architecture, Design and Planning has a dynamic community of scholars across architectural theory and history, architectural sciences, urbanism and design, with internationally renowned resources in laboratories such as the IEQ Lab, Urban Housing Lab, and Design Lab.

Contact School of Architecture, Design and Planning, University of Sydney, on (02) 9514 2000. Visit www.sydney.edu.au/architecture

Contact EWPAAs on (07) 3250 3700. Email: Clair.Borg@ewp.asn.au. Visit www.ewp.asn.au



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Laminex has keys to unlock future of particleboard factory at Gympie

LAMINEX Australia has unveiled an innovative business partnership to enable expansion of its southeast Queensland manufacturing operations, while also securing 42 local jobs in Gympie by taking over the operation of a particleboard plant destined for closure.

A long-standing Australian manufacturer and trusted name in quality products and design, Laminex Australia has assumed control of the former Carter Holt Harvey particleboard plant in Gympie, which in February was confirmed it would close imminently under its prior owners.

A member of the Fletcher Building Group, Laminex Australia will lease the manufacturing site from the Corbet family, which has taken ownership of the facility including surrounding land adjacent to the plant. Both business decisions will

“ INNOVATIVE BUSINESS PARTNERSHIP ”

collectively achieve the benefit of ongoing sustainable land use, a continuation of local timber processing in Gympie and keeping dozens of regional manufacturing jobs at the site.

Laminex's Gympie Monkland manufacturing plant which is now operational will conduct continuous timber processing, producing particleboard flooring to specifically support growing demand for this product in Queensland and other markets.

The company has offered 42 positions, many of which were former Carter Holt Harvey employees and contractors at the site, and the ready-to-go workforce has been inducted into Laminex's operations.

Laminex Australia will undertake new regional manufacturing activity and with support through the Queensland government's Jobs and Regional Growth Fund will maintain dozens of direct jobs that would have been lost.

Executive general manager Justin Burgess welcomed the targeted support provided by the Queensland Department



Justin Burgess... great step forward for the Gympie region.

of State Development for the Gympie operations. He said Gympie Monkland, its sixth Australian manufacturing site, would operate alongside Laminex's Gympie Toolara plant, which processes medium density fibreboards.

He said both sites had a combined workforce of up to 300 people making Laminex Australia a top three employer across the entire Gympie, Wide Bay and Burnett region.

"This a great step forward for the Gympie region and an exciting leap for the Laminex team," Justin Burgess said.

"It also importantly delivers a future expanded

manufacturing footprint for us in southeast Queensland and is a catalyst to pursue synergies and drive future growth."

He said manufacturing today was a top two industry in the greater Gympie region and he viewed the decision to take over operating the previous Carter Holt Harvey site, with its skilled local workforce and the ready-made distribution channels, as a strategically sound decision.

"The facts are Australian manufacturers can prosper and partner in growth with the right approach, operational know-how and backing," he said.

"We continue to invest in manufacturing in Australia and we will work together across our Gympie Toolara and now Gympie Monkland sites to identify growth in sustainable, efficient and safe production outcomes.

"Laminex Australia acknowledges the foresight of the Corbet family, Queensland Rail, the Gympie Regional Council and the Queensland government."

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PEFC family shares experiences at 2019 Geneva members meeting

Release of new international chain-of-custody standard

THE PEFC International family converged on Geneva, Switzerland, this month to discuss key issues and share experiences as part of the 2019 Members Meeting.

Running from April 10 to 12, the meeting provided PEFC members with an ideal opportunity to discuss global impacts on forest certification, emerging trends in forest management and chain of custody for forest products.

For Ben Gunneberg, CEO of PEFC (Program for the Endorsement of Forest Certification), innovation both within the forests and in chain of custody was a key feature throughout the meeting.



Australasian update... Jason Ross addresses the PEFC Members Meeting in Geneva.

“It’s great to see innovation and inspiration in the many projects of our members,” Mr Gunneberg said.

Among key discussions included the release of the new PEFC International chain-of-custody standard which is

set to be released for further comment later this year.

Representing Responsible Wood, Australia’s largest and most diverse forest certification scheme, marketing and communications officer Jason Ross briefed PEFC members on the development of Responsible Wood in the Australasian market place.

“Responsible Wood has international endorsement and has mutual recognition within the PEFC International family,” Mr Ross said.

“This endorsement is critical as it provides importers and exporters with the opportunity to demonstrate timber legality domestically and globally,” he said.

Responsible Wood is in the process of developing a new standard for sustainable forest management, set to be a truly trans-Tasman joint Australian and New Zealand standard.

“The new standard represents a new watermark for sustainable forest management across the Australasian region,” Mr Ross said.

Reflecting on the Responsible Wood brand, Mr Ross was buoyed by the

response from representatives across the PEFC International family.

“Responsible Wood, the brand, had strong, positive feedback across the PEFC International family.”

Mr Ross added: “Responsible Wood continues to push the case for sustainable forest management, especially in the timber, construction and paper sectors.”

PEFC Italy presented ‘Tree Talker’, a project led in collaboration with the Euro-Mediterranean Centre on Climate Change.

Supported by the 2018 Collaboration Fund, Tree Talker is a small-scale network that, through sensors tied to the tree trunks, monitors the health, growth and water exchanges of trees, and their response to human and climatic factors.

The technology enables forest owners to act faster and adapt their forest management practises in response to changes within their forests.

New technology to engage smallholders was presented by Tom Martin from the American Tree Farm System, a PEFC national member in the US. WoodsCamp, a free, web-based tool, connects small holders with foresters and suggests conservation opportunities for their land.

On the cover: Antonio Brunori, national secretary of PEFC Italy (left), presents Ben Gunneberg, CEO of PEFC International, with a PEFC certified shirt at the PEFC Members Meeting in Geneva.

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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

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. 6:30pm

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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

US companies implicated in illegal timber trade from West Africa

AN illegal timber trade supply chain stretching from Chinese companies operating out of two countries in West Africa to major hardware stores located throughout the US has been uncovered.

A four-year investigation by the Washington, DC.-based

Environmental Investigation Agency uncovered claims of evidence of illegal behavior by the Chinese-owned Deji Group. They include concessions obtained through bribery, over-harvesting of trees, and tax evasion.

One exchange related in the report between EIA undercover investigators and a DG representative explains how suitcases filled with about \$172,000 was handed to a minister for the Republic of Congo's government on more than one occasion.

Records obtained by the EIA also suggest that, in Gabon, DG affiliate SICOFOR overharvested an estimated 15,000 trees between 2013 and 2016, of which more than one-third were species listed as either vulnerable or endangered by the IUCN.

John Gay ‘a sawmiller sadly missed’

CONTROVERSIAL and long-standing former managing director of timber company Gunns, John Gay, has died aged 75.

Mr Gay joined Gunns in 1975, managing its Waverley and Summerhill mills. A decade later he was managing director of the publicly-listed company.

Under his direction, Gunns exploded onto world markets in 2000, with takeovers of the state’s biggest woodchip company North Forest Products and Boral’s forestry division. It doubled the size of the company and made it



John Gay... a great Tasmanian.

one of the largest hardwood sawmillers in the southern hemisphere.

In 1986, Mr Gay took on the top job as chief executive where he remained until his resignation in 2010. It came after years of controversy surrounding plans announced in 2004 for a Tamar Valley pulp mill and Mr Gay attracted criticism along the way

Mr Gay was born into a third-generation sawmilling family in Deloraine in 1943. After attending boarding school in Hobart, he went to work at his father’s sawmill at the age of 15 and was operating his own mills at Oatlands and Bridgewater by the age of 21.

Former Tasmanian premier Robin Gray said his friend of 54 years had been a

great Tasmanian and great sawmiller who would be missed.

“He made a great contribution to our state, and a great contribution to northern Tasmania,” he said.

Mr Gray said he had never met a man who cared more for his community.

“John was an outstanding Tasmanian,” he said.

“He probably, of all the northern Tasmanians in recent years, made the greatest contribution.

“He had been battling cancer for the past 12 years, but he was a fighter and he fought off the disease.

“He was determined to go on, to keep working and to keep contributing.”

Mr Gay is survived by his wife Erica and two children.

“HE MADE A GREAT CONTRIBUTION TO TASMANIA”



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InTech 2019 signalled Weinig's shift to a new level in Australasia

WEINIG'S recent InTech 2019 in Sydney provided the opportunity for the company to open its doors and unveil its new showroom with more than 1000 sq m of specialised and innovative equipment, including machinery models never seen before in Australia.

InTech showcased a wide range of solid wood processing machines, all with the latest Weinig technological advances. The event also featured live demonstrations and the ability to chat to product experts and connect with key industry partners.

Managing director Neil Forbes said that as Australasia's major solid wood processing machinery and technology provider, Weinig's InTech 2019 was an opportunity to demonstrate the company's comprehensive machinery range and support capability.

"InTech reaffirms our pre-eminent position as the solid wood processing experts," Mr Forbes said. "A mix of live demonstrations and practical



Catching up with Neil Forbes (centre) at Weinig's successful InTech 2019 are Marco Macri and Justin Marci from Metric Joinery in Sydney.

information has shaped the thinking behind the design and agenda for InTech 2019."

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

and other large, integrated value-adding processing operations.

In addition to confirming Weinig's status as a world leader in solid wood processing and its long standing reputation

“SHOWCASING MACHINES NEVER SEEN IN AUSTRALIA”

for German design, manufacturing and engineering excellence, Weinig Australia's inaugural InTech 2019 also signalled Weinig's shift to a new level in Australasia.

Mr Forbes said InTech 2019 proved to be an outstanding opportunity for existing and prospective clients to come and talk to Germany-based technicians and see machines in full operational mode.

"The response to InTech was terrific with people attending from every state," he said. "Plus we had fantastic support from our Weinig technical and specialist machinery colleagues from Germany."

Mr Forbes added: "So we have been able to talk to father and son window manufacturers operating stand-alone machines, to some of Australia's largest wood processing companies increasingly moving in the direction of fully integrated automated wood processing systems."

Cont P 11



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From P 10

Hannover-based product unit jointing technology specialist Dirk Bartens stressed the enormous benefits that optimising machinery was capable of bringing to solid wood processing. In particular he pointed to Weinig's finger jointing machinery, capable of speeds of up to 180 m a minute and able to make significant improvements to recovery, grade quality and value.

"Generally it is fair to say the log sizes



1

1/ Weinig's Hannover-based product unit jointing technology specialist Dirk Bartens... finger-jointing machinery making significant improvement to recovery, grade quality and value.
2/ InTech showcased a large range of solid wood processing machines, all with the latest Weinig technological advancements operating live.

and quality are continuing to decline and timber grade quality is reducing, so finger jointing is a solution to removing visual and strength defects and utilising material that would otherwise finish up in the waste bin – improving recovery and adding value," Mr Bartens said.

InTech 2019 also featured German-themed catering with bratwurst, bread rolls, pretzels, German beer and more.



2

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Komatsu future-proof factory one of largest investments in Sweden

KOMATSU Forest is implementing one of the largest investments in industrial Sweden, building a 'future-proof' factory in large format with a focus on sustainable production.

Komatsu Forest, one of the world's leading manufacturers of forest machines with sales all over the world, is wholly owned by the Japanese company Komatsu Ltd.

Now Komatsu Forest has made one of its biggest investments ever at Umeå in northeast Sweden.

"The forest industry is an industry for the future," says Martin Årlestig, factory manager at Komatsu Forest.

"The next decade will see new, innovative and climate-smart products produced from wood fibre. We want to invest in the future and see that the best conditions for us to do so are in Umeå."

Komatsu Forest has both headquarters and manufacturing in Umeå, where about 530 of the company Umeå employees are located. The new factory will be built on the industrial area Klockarbäcken in the outskirts of the city following a thorough feasibility study to assess the entire project, including construction and transfer of operations while keeping the high productivity levels intact.

FOUNDATION FOR THE NEXT GENERATION OF FOREST MACHINES



1/ Komatsu Forest... big investment in northeast Sweden.
2/ Martin Årlestig... customers will experience higher flexibility and shorter lead time.

The start of construction is estimated to be in May with the finished factory likely to be inaugurated in 2021. The factory will be something of a unique landmark with its nearly 40,000 sq m divided into production area on two floors and an associated office building on six floors.

"We will build a future-proof factory, where we can lay the foundation for the next generation of forest machines," Martin Årlestig said.

"In the new premises, we will accommodate both production and development. We are investing in a factory that not only meets our needs here and now, but also gives us room to grow for the future."



The factory is one of the largest investments in industrial Sweden and will have a strong focus on sustainability and IoT. It will be carbon neutral in its production, which is achieved through efficient energy supply with solar panels, modern building techniques and geo-energy.

The location at Klockarbäcken in Umeå is also an important factor; proximity to the railway means that an increased share of the

company's goods can be transported by rail.

As for IoT, Komatsu Forest will take a step towards the fourth-generation industry, where the company's manufacturing process will be connected.

"This means many advantages, including that we can monitor quality, availability and safety in detail and that customers will experience higher flexibility and shorter lead time," Martin Årlestig said.

"The ambition is also that the new factory will further strengthen the region's position as a leader in the field of forest technology.

"We are convinced that the initiative will yield regional, national and international footprints in several areas."

Contact Komatsu Australia customer support centre on 1300 566 287 or info@komatsu.com.au

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There's strength in numbers ... but are you there to be counted?

I HAVE taken sage advice – I am giving politics a wide berth this month!

But I do want to say something, which is, I guess, related to politics, and that is to comment about the old story of there being strength in numbers. Certainly it is true when it comes to influencing the public policy debate and getting into the ear of politicians and the wider community.

Let's be honest – the forest industry just hasn't been all that good at playing the strength-in-numbers game. So, not surprisingly, we have often been outnumbered, out-flanked and out-gunned by anti-forestry interests and subsequently politicians who want to do us harm.

On the harvest and haul contractors front, in my humble opinion, we haven't helped our cause. And this despite the reality that our national industry body – the Australian Forest Contractors Association – has worked hard to get a seat around important policy and decision-making tables, and taken strong advocacy positions on issues critical to the survival of forest contracting businesses.

Disappointingly, many contractors are not members of AFCA. Not being a member of such industry bodies means that

“A NETWORK OF PEOPLE IN THE SAME GAME WITH THE SAME SORTS OF ISSUES



In there fighting... AFCA deserves your support.

the strength-in-numbers argument falls short and associations have fewer resources and authority to prosecute the case for members, in this case forest and haulage contractors.

Think about it for a moment – all contractors pay their machinery insurance, workers compensation, tax and other changes related to their day-to-day work efforts, but arguably the greatest risk to staying in business – continuing access to forest and trees – is efficiently unfunded, left on a wing-and-a-prayer, and at the mercy of anti-forestry activists and easily swayed politicians.

The AFCA was established in 2002 to look after the interests of harvesting and haulage contractors because, at the time, it was felt that there was a need to establish a national body to be an advocate for the long-term commercial viability and welfare of forest contracting companies.

As the AFCA information

TRUNK LINES



With CHERYL FORREST

says: The strength of what we have been able to do is to create a national network of people in the same game with the same issues. Whilst the style, and machine mix of harvest and haul differs greatly, the crux of why we do what we do and the ideology of how we harvest and haul is very similar.

In my opinion, the AFCA has been remarkably effective in establishing a business network for contractors, and already in its relatively short history achieved a number of significant milestones, including obtaining and

maintaining positions on a number of federal government committees and councils and other bodies set up to manage the industry.

Such membership and influence has enabled the AFCA to have constructive input into the future policy and direction of many of the country's major timber industry activities and initiatives.

Also AFCA is the organiser of AUSTimber 2020 to be held at Traralgon, Vic, from March 30 to April 4 next year. It will be the biggest forestry event of the year across Australasia, and billed as a premiere international forestry show. Check out the AUSTimber 2020 website at: www.afca.asn.au/Austimber2020. Timber&Forestry enews will be there with bells on – I am hoping to make it as well ... hint – hint.

What I am trying to get across to you here is the valuable, essential role AFCA plays in endeavouring to keep contractors in business. They haven't and won't win every fight, but they are on your side and that is more than you can say for a whole range of other interest groups.

So my advice to you is that associations play a valuable and hard-won role and deserve your support. If you are not a member of the AFCA or another forest and timber association you need to help the cause and yourself and join – you know it makes sense!

Catch you next month.

Cheryl.

Labor's pledge to scrap CFI water barriers will drive plantation growth

FEDERAL Labor has made an election commitment to remove artificial Carbon Farming Initiative barriers that are holding back new plantations and future timber supply.

AFPA CEO Ross Hampton welcomed federal Labor's commitment to remove regulatory barriers that excluded plantation and farm forestry from the carbon market, which had severely restricted new forestry plantings from going ahead.

"A Shorten Labor government will get rid of the water rule," the Shadow Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Joel Fitzgibbon said. "It makes no sense, and we'll do it as quickly as we possibly can,"

Mr Hampton said the announcement is a game-changer for Australia's renewable forest products industries and gave industry the best chance of achieving the 400,000 ha of new plantation and farm forestry projects needed over the next decade to grow jobs and keep up with demand for renewable Australian forest products.

"There has been a decade-long decline in plantation area in Australia and the removal of these restrictions would make a difference in Australia's major growing and processing regions," he said.

"By enabling farmers and plantation managers to receive carbon payments for new tree plantings, we are reducing Australia's carbon footprint and growing our forest resource to create jobs in regional Australia and secure the future of our forest product manufacturers. It's a 'win-win' for Australia."

Mr Hampton urged the Coalition government to match Labor's commitment and provide bipartisan support for renewable forest industries and achieve the government's own target of supporting the planting of one billion new plantation trees in Australia by 2030.

"The ball is now in the Coalition's court to match the removal of the water

“GAME-CHANGER FOR RENEWABLE FOREST PRODUCTS



Ross Hampton... best chance of achieving the 400,000 ha of new plantation and farm forestry projects.

rule, to guarantee that these artificial restrictions cease, whichever side of politics wins government on May 18," he said.

"The removal of the water rule is a major policy on the

path to creating 20,000 new jobs across the full value chain of forest industries."

Last week, AFPA launched 'Growing Your Future' a campaign to support forest industries nationally with '10 Actions for Growth'. The water rule removal delivers one of the association's key policy asks to ensure more trees get planted "in the right places at the right scale."

AFPA will be marking the major parties and publishing score cards against its '10 Actions for Growth' in the lead up to the May 18 election.

More 'Growing Your Future' campaign information can be found at www.growingyourfuture.com.au

Timelines drawn for RW standard

A HISTORIC trans-Tasman forestry standard is a step closer with the Gold Coast set to host the first standards committee meeting on May 16 and 17.

In response to unprecedented interest from New Zealand stakeholders, Responsible Wood CEO Simon Dorries confirmed that a healthy balance of

Australian and NZ interests will be represented on the committee.

The new standard will be developed as a fully recognised joint Australia-NZ standard, accepted by PEFC International and meeting the system requirements for a fully-fledged JAS-ANZ accredited sustainable forest management system.



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Grafton, Walcha forestry staff polish their skills for planting future homes

GRAFTON and Walcha Forestry Corporation of NSW staff have been busy updating their planting assessment skills in preparation for on boarding of the seasonal planting workforce.

The 2019 planting season will see more than nine million seedlings planted between May and September. Correct planting is an essential step in the plantation life-cycle.

“The training was all about setting a consistent, clear and concise interpretation of the planting standard,”



Planting future homes... the NSW Forestry Corporation team of Michael Stackman, Dianne Greene, Bradden Jackson, Karen Morrow, Jason Mann, Scott Butler, Vince Bolton, Warren Chawner, Nick Rudder, Adam Craik, Ivan Gorman, Shane Mcauley, Robin Withey, and Bruce Brand.

the Forestry Corporation’s plantation improvement manager Phil Green said.

“Having a correct and shared understanding of the planting standard required of contractors is pivotal to getting the right

result upfront when the tiny seedlings are planted,” Mr Green said.

“Correct planting sets them on the right course to grow into the range of forest products harvested over the following 30-plus year

lifespan of the plantation.

“The seedlings we plant today will grow into the trees that are going to build the new houses, home extensions and backyard fences 35 years from now so this is one of the most important times in our plantation cycle.”

Forestry Corporation’s softwood plantations division manages Australia’s largest softwood plantation estate, responsible for more than 230,000 ha of pine plantations across New South Wales.

Combined, these plantations produce enough timber to construct a quarter of the homes built in Australia each year.

“CORRECT PLANTING SETS THEM ON THE RIGHT COURSE”

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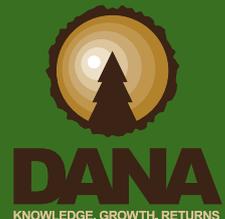
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Charities to gain from specialised timbers displays across Australia

COMMUNITY charities will benefit from a novel project to set up 'mini-showrooms' of specialised timbers across Australia.

"The samples of a wide variety of 'fancy timbers' displayed at a number of St Vincent de Paul Society stores – and soon at Salvation Army, Red Cross and Lifeline outlets – essentially are on the way to selling wood for schools, Men's Sheds and hobby wood turners as an addition to their donations of furniture and clothes," said Bill Philip, a recognised expert in specialised timbers for more than 50 years, who launched the project in Brisbane last month.

His Brisbane-based Responsible Timber Company, established in 1990, presented 'club life membership' cards to inaugural donors at the launch of The Responsible Wood Shop on March 19.

Mr Philip's project involves setting up 1.5 sq m stands in the 645 St Vinnie's stores across Australia, then repeat the concept through the Red Cross, Lifeline, and other like organisations.

"I would like to expand the scope of the project by attracting architects, building contractors and home builders and renovators to the sample displays – without having a 'pushy salesman' looking over their shoulders," he said.

"Everybody, be they donating goods or buying goods donated by others, will be helping to raise needy funds for a charity 'op-shop' at one time or another."

St Vinnies outlets in Australia have more than 60,000 members and



1/ First life member of the The Responsible Wood Shop Glen Kinross OAM (centre) with Bill Philip (left) and Jonathan Cauldwell, international All Blacks Rugby Union player, who came looking for some willow to make a cricket bat.

2/ Charity boost... specialised timber stands placed at St Vinnie stores in Brisbane.

blackbean, silver ash, white beech, milky pine, rosewood, kwila, pencil cedar, taun and kauri

He gained wide experience in Fiji and other South Pacific regions, predicting Fijian and PNG timbers would become major sources for exotic woods as local indigenous species became more difficult to obtain.

Inaugural donors of \$100 each to St Vinnies at the Brisbane launch included Glen Kinross OAM, former president Rotary International, Ruth Kinross, Pars Ram Punj of Pars Ram Brothers/Stone Galleria, and William and Mary Barkerm, wood collectors.

“EXPANDING THE SCOPE OF PROJECT TO ARCHITECTS AND BUILDERS

Donations were also received from Graeme Ferrow, Timbeck Architectural (who donated blank wood), Skene Finlayson, Finlaysons Timber and Hardware (re-sawing), Analie Sinclair of Mister Kwila, Michael Kennedy, Kennedys Timbers, Earl Murray, Proveneer Pty Ltd (who donated timber veneers), Edward Matthei of (Matthei Timbers and Lasermark (engraving).

The Responsible Wood Company continued spreading the idea of the project at last month's Timber, Tools and Artisan Show in Brisbane.

At the show, a group of Jerusalem wood carvers from Bethlehem looking for Australian olive wood, were attracted to the show display.

Bill Philip was also able to display a table made from PNG rosewood (*Pterocarpus indicus*) by noted wood craftsman the late Robert Dunlop. The table was made at the wood show in 1982 from a single piece of unseasoned 650 mm x 55 mm x 3.6 m wood using hand-cut Japanese tenon joints cut to hold the table together without screws or glue.

"These had shrunk evenly over 37 years and all joints are still tight as a drum," Mr Philip said.

Robert Dunlop went on to build the major furniture items at New Parliament House Canberra, as well as countless bespoke items all over the world.

St Peter Chanel Catholic Church at Chaprowe Road, The Gap, still has a huge Dunlop carving of Jesus behind the main altar.

– JIM BOWDEN

VicForests introduces amendment to timber release plan on harvests

STATE enterprise VicForests this week introduced the Timber Release Plan amendment following the Victorian government's release of the Allocation Order.

VicForests CEO Nathan Trushell said the TRP provided detail on which coupes would potentially be harvested – subject to forest protection surveys, operational assessment and stakeholder consultation.

“The release of the AO and TRP amendments are vital components to VicForests’ planning and operations processes,” Mr Trushell said.

He said the release of the TRP and the AO would give more certainty to the forestry industry and communities throughout the state.

The Victorian government also announced a new plantation program across Gippsland from this winter, including hundreds of hectares of crown land in the Latrobe Valley. VicForests looks forward to having a key role

“NEW PLANTATION PROGRAM ACROSS GIPPSLAND



1/ **VicForests is committed to the highest standard of regeneration.**
 2/ **Nathan Trushell... vital components to VicForests’ planning and operations processes.**

in working with the state government on the program.

VicForests appreciates the important role it plays in protecting and conserving state forests and timber reserves, and commitment to work towards a long-term goal of sustainable harvesting and regeneration practices, which will deliver for both the needs of the timber industry

and the requirements of the environment.

VicForests is continuing its work towards achieving the Forest Stewardship Council Controlled Wood Standard by 2020, which promotes sustainable forest management to complement Responsible Wood certification already in place.

There is 7.1 million ha of public forests across Victoria, about 94% of which is protected in parks, reserves or is unsuitable for native timber harvesting.

VicForests harvests around 3000 ha a year, or 0.04% of that area – nominally equivalent to four trees in 10,000.

High Conservation Values (HCVs) are protected through rigorous conservation practices including exclusion zones for threatened species and buffer zones to prevent encroachment on rainforest areas.

VicForests protects any Leadbeater possum or colonies through a 12.6-ha timber harvest exclusion zone, equivalent to about six Melbourne Cricket Ground fields. This protection has been consulted and agreed upon with a wide range of independent scientists, regulators and environment groups.

It also applies greater gliders protection zones, throughout East Gippsland, of 100 ha in areas where more than 10 gliders are found in a 1 km line.

The company is committed to the highest standard of regeneration replanting all areas that are harvested and replanting areas with the same trees that were there previously.

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