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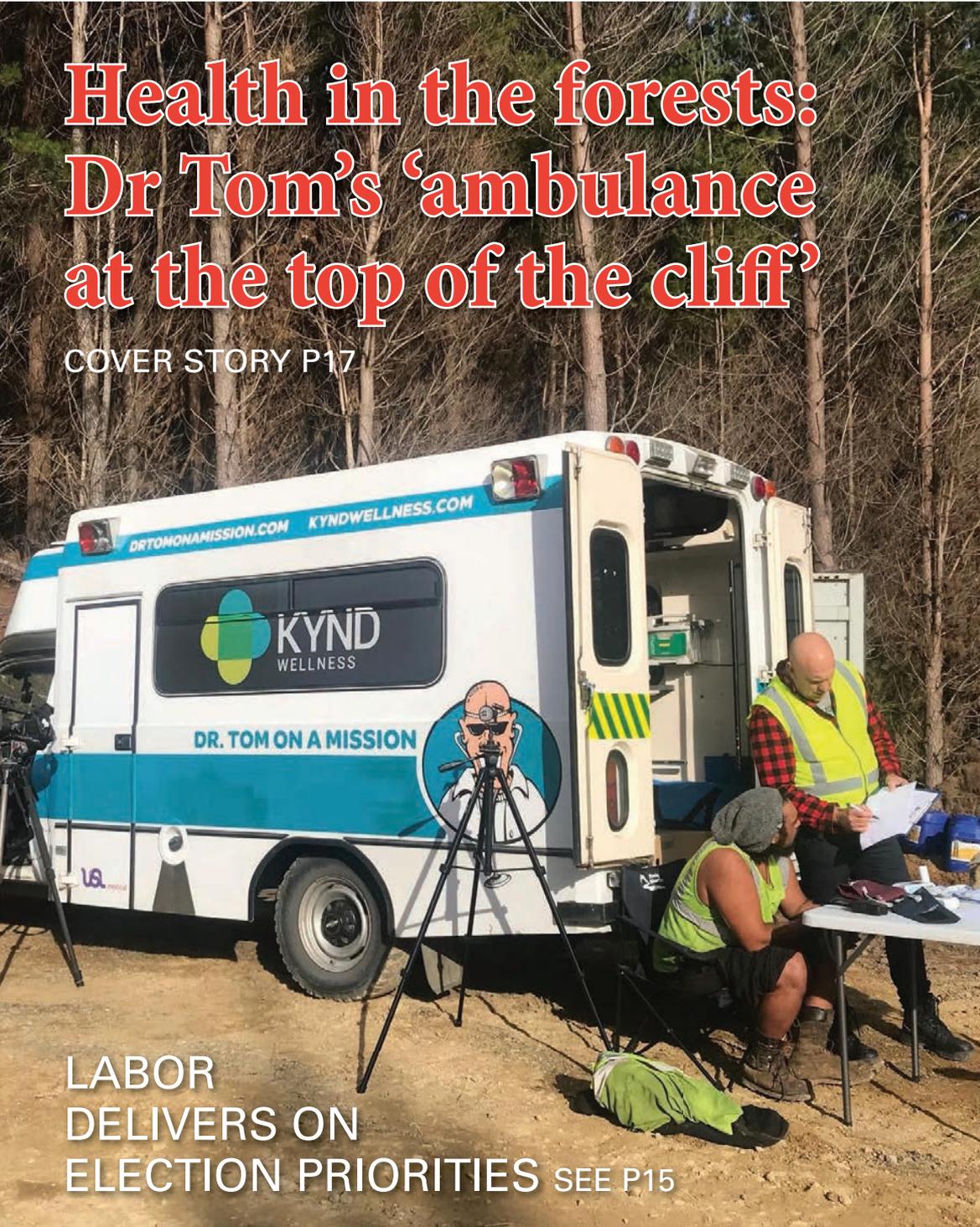
ISSUE 557 | May 2, 2019

# timber & FORESTRY *e*news

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## Health in the forests: Dr Tom's 'ambulance at the top of the cliff'

COVER STORY P17



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# SA regional councils call for an independent inquiry on resource

## Concerns raw log exports are limiting supply to manufacturers

LOCAL government leaders in six regional councils based in South Australia's southeast 'timber belt' have called on the federal government to initiate an independent inquiry into the forest plantation industry.

"The central aim of the inquiry would be to establish and maintain a balanced and sustainable marketplace that supports both the export and domestic timber supply chains," the Mayor of Mount Gambier Lynette Martin OAM said.

Six district council mayors have launched a targeted media campaign – #aussietimberjobsfirst – ahead of the federal election on May 18.

They represent the Limestone Coast district councils of Mount Gambler, Grant, Kingston, Naracoorte

**“VALUE ADDING OPPORTUNITIES ARE BEING LOST**



**Lynette Martin... central aim to maintain a balanced and sustainable marketplace that supports both the export and domestic timber supply chains.**

Lucindale, Robe and Wattle Range.

The councils, including those in western Victoria, have expressed concerns about the future of sourcing local timber for processing in the region amid growing uncertainty of domestic supply.

Historically, timber processing has been a significant employer in South Australia's southeast, offering a range of job opportunities while also supporting a robust and extensive supply chain and in turn, contributing strongly to local economies.

Industry commentators say much of the industry has been privatised and subsequently commercialised which they believe has significantly altered the sector's focus.

They say the export of both raw log and chipped timber have reached worrying levels with no value adding opportunities for local processing or opportunity to grow and expand.

Now, with the industry at a critical juncture, the councils and industry stakeholders have formed the view that a fully integrated and

strategic media relations and communications plan will be a sounding board to identify and formalise key messages.

"The inquiry should consider all aspects of the industry and the vital role it plays in the national economy," Lynette Martin said.

"It should specifically consider opportunities to amend or develop government policy that stimulates the provision of a sustainable domestic supply chain that will in turn

Cont P 3

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**Plantations... manufacturers concerned about reduced access to a valuable resource.**

From P 2

accelerate investment in local production and capture a greater proportion of the value chain within the Australian economy.

“The inquiry should also consider how the government’s current plan to plant a billion trees to fight climate change could be leveraged to incentivise domestic supply and encourage greater industry collaboration.”

The main thrust of the submission by the district councils is a call for an independent parliamentary inquiry into the Australian timber industry.

It says that for more than a

century the region has been one of the nation’s largest forestry producers and timber processors, providing secure employment and thriving local economies.

“Unfortunately, many of these jobs are now at risk because exports of Australian fibre are limiting supply to the local timber industry and the potential for it to grow,” the submission asserts.

“In the last decade,

**“ 1 BILLION TREE PLAN COULD ENCOURAGE INDUSTRY COLLABORATION**

most of South Australia’s forest plantations have been privatised. These formerly government-owned plantations are not old growth forests; rather they were specifically planted to sustain Australia’s timber production and manufacturing industry.

“Since privatisation, a significant proportion of this fibre is being exported and the local industry is finding it difficult to access much of this valuable resource.”

Recent figures show the timber production industry in the Limestone Coast region contributes some \$300 million to GRP and sustains about 2500 jobs.

• Tony Pasin’s view, Page 4

## Builders back \$60m apprentice subsidy

THE \$60 million expansion of the Apprentice Wage Subsidy for rural and regional Australia announced by the Prime Minister is strongly supported by Master Builders Australia.

“The doubling in the number of participants from around 1600 to around 3200 is good news for the thousands of building and construction businesses that are creating economic growth in rural and regional communities around the country,” CEO of Master Builders Australia



**Denita Wawn... skills need.**

Denita Wawn said.

“Master Builders has been calling on all parties at this election to commit to measures to boost the skilled workforce to fill the secure and rewarding career opportunities in our industry,” she said.

“So it’s good to see the government building on its budget commitment to fund 80,000 new apprenticeships in areas of skill need such as building and construction.”

Mrs Wawn said building and construction was the nation’s second largest industry and biggest provider of full time jobs.

“Our thousands of members in rural and regional Australia welcome measures that help them build business success and stronger local economies,” she said.



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\*Australian Forest Contractors Association (AFCA)



An industry-led program managed by ForestWorks

# ‘We must do a lot more to take handbrake off timber processing’

INDUSTRY and government must do a lot more to take the handbrake off the timber processing industry, Mount Gambier-based Tony Pasin, Liberal MP for Barker, said in an address to parliament in Canberra.

He said in addition to advocating for the National Forest Industries Plan to include measures to expand forestry estates, urgent measures were needed to increase access by domestic log processors to domestic log supply – “in short, Aussie logs for Aussie timber mills. Without this, not only will Australian sawmills be unable to expand and thereby employ more Australians but the jobs of those already in



**Tony Pasin... local processors pressed for more export product.**

the sector will be in jeopardy.”

He remarked: “With some of the world’s best forestry plantations, we import \$2 billion more in wood products than we export. We can do better than this. We need to

do better than this.”

Mr Pasin said the processing industry in forestry regions, such as those in Barker, enjoyed strong prospects for growth. “But its growth is limited by the lack of access to domestic log supply – not because we don’t have access to that resource but because we are exporting that resource in the form of raw logs directly to overseas processors”

He said exports in the Green Triangle last year alone totalled more than 1.7 million cubic tonnes, which equated to close to 50% of exports nationally.

“The forest industry contributes a whopping \$22.2 billion of economic activity each year to the economy and employs more than 64,000 Australians in the forest, logging and

processing sectors,” Mr Pasin said.

“Nationally, the green triangle forms an important part of that industrial effort, but at a local level, to communities in the southeast of South Australia, the industry plays a seminal role in supporting economic activity and jobs,” he said.

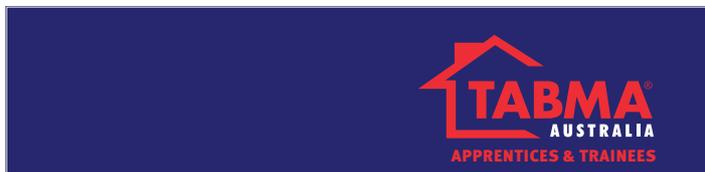
“Indeed, it’s estimated that the local timber-processing industry in Mount Gambier alone employs more than 1500 people directly and many more indirectly. This equates to around 10% of the total employment of the town.”

Mr Pasin added: “The economic contribution that this industry made in the 2016-17 financial year in that same community was around \$198 million in gross regional product, which in itself represents around 12%.

“Some commenters have opined that manufacturing in this country is dead. That’s simply untrue. Manufacturing is thriving, as burgeoning Asian markets seek more and more of our quality food and fibre.

“Australian processed timber, like Australian manufactured foods, is in strong demand. Local processors tell me that they are constantly fielding requests for more export product. That would mean more Aussie jobs.

“To be quite frank, this is not an industry we can afford to ignore nationally or locally. Its importance cannot be overstated, particularly in my home town of Mount Gambier.”



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**“TO BE QUITE FRANK, THIS IS NOT AN INDUSTRY WE CAN AFFORD TO IGNORE”**

# New appointments to enhance AFPA's policy, political stance

TWO women – an agricultural economist and an agricultural scientist with a Master's degree in land use planning – have joined the board of the Australian Forest Products Association.

Diana Gibbs is an economist with post-graduate qualifications in environmental studies and is chair of the Regional Development Australia Riverina committee.

Stacey Gardiner, who was appointed general manager of the Australian Forest Contractors Association in March 2015, previously worked within the agricultural sector and in land use planning in the public sector. She holds a Bachelor of Agricultural Science.

AFPA chair Greg McCormack remarked: "The appointments will enhance

“ALL OF US  
NEED TO  
WORK HARD  
TO MAXIMISE  
OPPORTUNITY



**Diana Gibbs**

the capacity of the AFPA board as we move into a new political and policy operating environment.

"No matter which party wins the coming federal election, an ambitious plantations growth target and AFPAs regional forest industry hubs concept will continue to be rolled out.

"All of us need to work hard to maximise the opportunities which this change will bring. Diana and Stacey will provide perspectives in this space which will be highly valuable."

Diana Gibbs is the principal partner in a consulting practice based on resource economic analyses and



**Stacey Gardiner**

strategic planning, with clients throughout Australia, Africa, Asia, and the Middle East.

A partner in a mixed farming enterprise in southwest New South Wales, she is also executive director of Riverina Wool Growers, a grower-owned company manufacturing pure wool fashion accessories which are sold throughout Australia and overseas under the Diana Gibbs label.

Ms Gibbs is currently using her skills and experience in regional economics and community development on the Regional Development Australia Riverina committee.

Until February 2016, she was a board member of the Murray Darling Basin Authority working to implement the Basin Plan to maximise triple bottom line outcomes for regional communities.

She has been working with the Tumut/Tumbarumba based Softwoods Working Group to provide economic modelling supporting the case for plantations growth in that part of NSW.

She is a graduate of the Australian Rural Leadership Program and in 2004 graduated from the Australian Institute of Company Directors course receiving an order of merit.

In her previous roles, Stacey Gardiner has been responsible for policy development and fostering relationships with a focus on building new communities.

Ms Gardiner's previous experience was at the Victorian Farmers Federation and she has held senior roles in local government

*Cont P 6*

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# 8 in 10 Braddon voters say forestry important for Tasmanian economy

NEW polling shows eight in 10 voters in the marginal Tasmanian electorate of Braddon believe forest industries are either "important" or "very important" to the state's economy.

The second poll in a month conducted for the Australian Forest Products Association shows voters overwhelmingly want political parties to back in-forest industries in the federal election (called for May 18).

**VOTERS BACK A STRONG NATIVE TIMBER INDUSTRY**



Gavin Pearce



Justine Keay



Phill Parsons

Liberal candidate Gavin Pearce had 51% of the two-party preferred vote and Labor MHR Justine Keay 49%, according to the uComms poll taken on April 29 for AFPA.

The poll found Mr Pearce had 38.2% of the primary vote, which was actually less than the 39.3% Liberal candidate Brett Whiteley polled against Ms Keay before

losing last year's Braddon by-election.

Ms Keay was on 33.5% of primary votes, down from 37% in the by-election.

The Greens' Phill Parsons was on 6.3%, more than 50% ahead of the 4% the Greens polled in the by-election

Braddon takes in the northwest corner of Tasmania, covering forest and timber operations, mining towns, key farming regions and King Island.

Like most of Tasmania, Braddon was safe Labor country until the decline of traditional manufacturing and the rise of the environmental

movement in the 1970s and 1980s. In recent years, it has become a marginal electorate, with the Liberal Party successfully positioning itself as the champion of traditional industries and the jobs that depended on them.

"Thousands of people across Tasmania draw a living from these renewable and sustainable industries and it's important that their futures are secured by commitments from federal political parties," AFPA CEO Ross Hampton said.

Key poll results also showed eight in 10 voters believe Australia should have a strong native timber industry to create quality timber products.

"This election, the 120,000 Australians who work across the full value chain of forest industries will be looking closely at which political parties offer the best plan for their futures," Mr Hampton said.

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an **afpa** campaign  
AUSTRALIAN FOREST PRODUCTS ASSOCIATION

From P 5

with a focus on building strong partnerships with stakeholders and advocating on behalf of members.

She has an affinity with regional and rural communities given that she grew up in one and has an appreciation of the economic contributions that rural industries provide to support communities.

**AN AFFINITY WITH REGIONAL AND RURAL COMMUNITIES**

Ms Gardiner believes that improved collaboration between all AFCA stakeholders is the key to delivering the best outcomes for members, and will achieve the greatest impact to ensure the industry is safe, creates new employment opportunities and growth into the future.

Ms Gardiner's previous experience was at the Victorian Farmers Federation and she held senior roles in local government with a focus on building strong partnerships with stakeholders and advocating on behalf of members.

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

**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](mailto:ptec2019@civil.uq.edu.au) Visit [www.civil.uq.edu.au/ptec-2019](http://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](http://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](mailto:inbox@timberdesignawards.com.au)

**26: 2019 Timber Queensland Industry Gala Evening (Casino Night) – The Tote Room, Eagle Farm Racecourse, Ascot, QLD Australia.** 6:30pm. Hosted by TABMA Queensland. For bookings contact (07) 3456 7065. Mob: 0418 449 031. Email: [Alicia@tabma.com.au](mailto:Alicia@tabma.com.au) [www.tabma.com.au](http://www.tabma.com.au)

**NOVEMBER**

**1: Green Triangle Timber Industry Awards 2019 – Mt Gambier, South Australia, Australia.** The second GTTIA forestry awards for the region will recognise and celebrate outstanding foresters, companies, service providers and forest managers. Nominations open June 17 and close August 16. Gala dinner November 1. Further information and sponsorship opportunities visit [www.gttia.com](http://www.gttia.com) or contact Prue Younger +64 21 2765 484. Email: [prue@publicimpressions.co.nz](mailto:prue@publicimpressions.co.nz)



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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](mailto:conferences@risi.com) Tel: Europe: +32.2.536.0748 or US and international: +1.866.271.8525. Visit [www.risi.com/invest](http://www.risi.com/invest)

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

**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](mailto:Rod.Stirling@fpinnovations.ca) Visit [www.irg50.com](http://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](http://www.nibio.pameldingssystem.no/nfi100years)

**JUNE**

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

and processing of wood products, and selected agri- and aqua- export oriented operations. For further information and to register see: [www.danaevents.co.nz/2019ecuador/](http://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/](http://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](http://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 FPInnovations (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](mailto:acantin@convention.qc.ca), 418 564-1312; Marjolaine Dugas, Director of Communications, FPInnovations, [dugas@fpinnovations.ca](mailto:dugas@fpinnovations.ca), 514 782-4595

**29 SEPT-25 OCT: XXV IUFRO World Congress – Curitiba, Brazil.** For further information see: [www.iufro2019.com](http://www.iufro2019.com)

**NOVEMBER**

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

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

## Dive in Canada, Sweden, Russia exports to Japan

CANADA has decreased 25-27% year-on-year lumber exports to Japan in the first quarter of 2019 to 318,600 cub m with export value down 20.95% to \$135.1 million.

Also, lumber exports from Sweden to Japan have fallen 14.93% to 180,000 cub m

and from Finland a drop of 7.84% to 227,500 cub m. Japan's imports from Russia fell 5.51% to 212,500 cub m. Total lumber imports to Japan decreased 11.78% to 1.3 million cub m in the first quarter.

Meanwhile, Canada

increased its lumber exports to China in January-February by 65% to 906,000 cub m, according to Woodstat. Ukraine has become the fourth largest supplier of lumber to China, beating exports from Sweden, Germany, Chile and the US.

Softwood lumber imports in China during January-February, mostly pine, totalled 3.82 million cub m (+16% compared to 2018). Imports of pine increased by 8% during January-February, while spruce imports increased by 26%.

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Malaysian Furniture Council (MFC)



The Timber Exporters' Association of Malaysia (TEAM)



Association of Malaysian Bumiputra Timber & Furniture Entrepreneurs (PEKA)



American Hardwood Export Council



FrenchTimber

# Master wood craftsman to mentor students in Nelson studio program

CALLING wood lovers. How would you like to spend six weeks working on your own project under the mentorship of Canadian designer maker and legendary master tutor Michael Fortune?

Linda Nathan, editor of Wood Review, says this exciting opportunity exists in New Zealand next year.

“And best of all,” she adds, “applications are now open for a scholarship to cover the full course cost for one participant.”

This weekend, May 4 and 5, is a big one for woodworkers in Queensland with both the Maleny Wood Expo and Lost Trades Fair in Toowoomba featuring master artisans and traditional tradesmen and women with hundreds of combined years of training who will demonstrate and share their skills and talent for heritage trades.

Michael Fortune has an international reputation for his contemporary furniture which features in public and private collections and embassies around the world. His creativity and technical



*Canadian wood artisan Michael Fortune... international reputation for contemporary furniture design.*

expertise are legendary – in particular his genius at jigmaking. As a master tutor he is sought after and has taught workshops in Australia and New Zealand.

In January next year, Michael returns to the Centre for Fine Woodworking in Nelson, NZ, for a six-week Artist in Residency and Open Studio Program where he will

work on his own new designs as well as mentor a group of students who are developing their own new ideas.

The program runs from January 13 to February 21.

The open studio program is open to emerging and established furniture makers and woodworkers and former students who are looking to reach the next level whether that be for professional or personal growth.

Potential attendees must submit a project outline along with their application. Early expressions of interest are encouraged as places are

strictly limited.

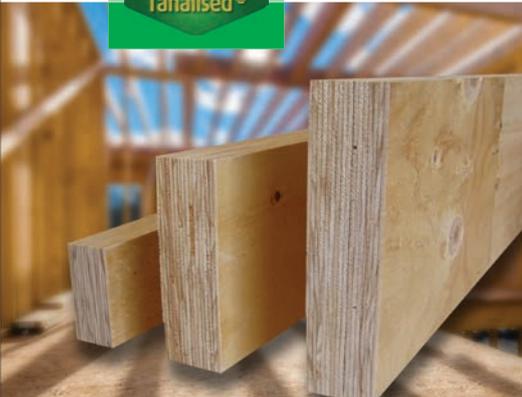
Also, the Centre for Fine Woodworking is offering an open studio scholarship opportunity to cover the full course fee of \$NZ5500 for one participant to attend the six-week open studio program. The scholarship is open to New Zealand and international participants.

For more information and details on how to apply for the residency program and scholarship award email [cfwoodwork@gmail.com](mailto:cfwoodwork@gmail.com) or phone +64 03 5452674. Also visit [www.cfw.co.nz/course\\_m5.html](http://www.cfw.co.nz/course_m5.html)

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# Littleproud's sad stance on carbon a blow to plantations and farm forestry

## Minister's statement 'perplexing and enormously disappointing'

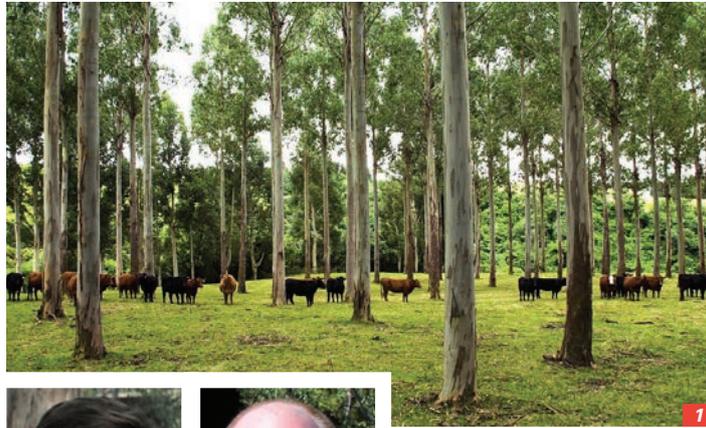
FEDERAL Agriculture Minister David Littleproud's attack on plantation and farm forestry this week, in which he ruled out changes to the Emissions Reduction Fund regulations to allow plantations and farm forestry to fully participate, will come as a great disappointment to the 120,000 people who work across the full value chain of forest industries in rural and regional Australia

Australian Forest Products Association CEO Ross Hampton added: "In an interview with the ABC North Coast, Minister Littleproud completely misrepresented our industry's ambition, which is to reverse the decline in the plantation estate and stimulate modest growth of our sustainable timber resource, especially via farm forestry, and help tackle climate change by allowing forestry to store carbon and access the Coalition government's ERF.

Mr Hampton said the government was well aware that Australia had a serious shortage of production trees to supply a growing population with the sustainable timber needed for housing and other uses.

"We are already importing about \$2 billion worth of timber products every year," he said.

"We congratulated Minister Littleproud last year when he released the government's National Forest Industries Plan which committed to the planting of one billion new trees. We were delighted the



plan committed to review the regulatory barriers 'to enable forestry to fully participate in the ERF'.

"Following advice from the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources, Assistant Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources Senator Richard Colbeck wrote to the Environment Minister Melissa Price urging her to remove the artificial rainfall barriers in the ERF, included in the original design of the scheme by the Gillard Labor government, which currently exclude plantation and farm forestry.

"It is therefore both perplexing and enormously disappointing that the minister has made these statements which not only rule out the needed changes but also seeks to divide forestry and farming."

Mr Hampton said AFPA had been working closely with the National Farmers Federation, which had included this policy position

in its election campaign.

"We were determined to strike the right balance in this next growth phase to ensure that we avoid some of the issues which arose in the rollout of previous schemes," he said. "We are determined that farmers will be able to access carbon payments which will encourage them to allocate a modest proportion of their land to trees, gaining a 'win, win, win' outcome.

"They would be paid carbon credits, see an uplift in their primary production and finally be paid for their renewable timber products when the trees are fully grown."

- 1/ **Farm forestry ... farmers must be able to access carbon payments to encourage them to allocate a modest proportion of their land to trees.**
- 2/ **David Littleproud... seeking to divide farming and forestry.**
- 3/ **Ross Hampton... determined to strike the right balance.**

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# Sawn softwood timber imports climb

AUSTRALIA'S imports of sawn softwood lifted to 917,505 cub m over the year-ended January, rising 48.2% on 2018.

Although there is evidence of a downturn in demand and imports, the record levels of annual imports have been stable over the last few months. On a monthly basis, imports in January 2019 totalled 70,274 cub m, down just 1.5% on January 2018. Imports are more stable than the market situation might suggest.

Roughly, every three years, imports have grown to a new peak, before plateauing and subsequently declining.

**“GROWTH IN IMPORTS IS FILLING A SUPPLY GAP**



The current record cycle is observably different to the two previous peaks – imports grew faster and in the last three months (November 2018-January 2019) and have, on an annualised basis, been very stable.

Industry participants have also pointed to another difference in this latest peak. The growth in imports was largely orderly and rational, filling a supply gap and need. That does not mean,

especially in mid 2018, that imports were not impacted by some more opportunistic behaviours, but it does appear that substantial stock inventories in supply in late 2018 are being managed in a more orderly manner than has traditionally been the case. For instance, there does not appear to have been any substantial discounting to clear inventories, or additional and wide-scale spikes in imports.

The first and unavoidable point to note is that imports grew very strongly, as previously described, over the year-ended January 2019, but the really large increase of note is in imports of the dressed radiata product.

Over the year, imports grew a massive 101.2% to 353,964 cub m, supplemented by non-radiata softwood species, which saw imports rise 76.4% to 155,321 cub m. Combined, imports of these two grades of essentially similar products totalled 509,285 cub m, a rise of 92.9% on the prior year and accounting for 55.7% of total sawn softwood imports.

That substantial lift in imports underscores the shortfall in dressed structural timber in Australia.

(Based on: FWPA statistics count, March 2019).

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# Wood: positive attributes and we increase the number of positives!

## Using more timber will benefit the environment more so than other materials

I CAN'T remember when I first heard the term but it was a long time ago. Chemophobia literally means a fear of chemistry and is an irrational attitude that all chemicals are harmful and that all so-called natural substances are good and healthy.

No doubt, you the reader will be familiar with a bloke called Paracelsus who was a Swiss scientist. He has also been called the father of toxicology. Paracelsus in his time (1493-1541) wrote that "Everything is poison, there is poison in everything. Only the dose makes the thing not a poison."

Dihydrogen monoxide (water) is probably one of the nastiest chemicals of all and has been linked to the death and injury of many people throughout the years. So it is all about 'spin' and how the information is presented.

In the wood protection industry, we work with chemicals and like most things, the treated product is perfectly safe as long as it is used properly. Consider

**“INDUSTRY SEEMS TO HAVE A HARD TIME GETTING ITS MESSAGE ACROSS**



**Chemophobia.. an irrational attitude.**

the words I just used ... we do not work in a chemical industry. We work in a wood protection industry.

Looking at the 'bigger picture', if we do our job properly, then the treated product won't prematurely fail in service, and this means that another tree does not have to be cut down to replace the product that has gone rotten or has been eaten by termites.

I have often wondered why the timber industry has such a hard time getting its environmental credentials across to John (or Jane) Citizen. Timber has a lot of positive environmental attributes and what we do as wood protectionists is increase the number

environment more so than using other materials.

This leads me to another message I heard somewhere along the line: "If it takes 20 blows to break a rock, it doesn't mean that the first 19 were a waste of time."

I guess we just have to continue to sell the message and hope that information, science and data will carry the day.

\*\*\* \*\*

MEANWHILE, the 50th annual meeting of the International Research Group on Wood Protection gets under way on May 12 in Quebec City, Canada, when delegates from all over the globe confront more than 200 papers and presentations.

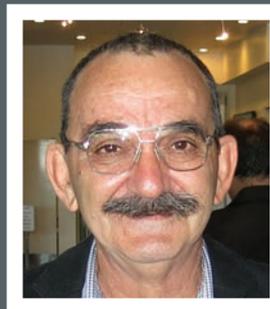
We wish them the best – the IRG membership is a structured group of like-minded scientists and technologists focused on generating knowledge of the science of wood deterioration, and novel solutions to provide sustainably and environmentally responsible products for the protection of wood-based materials.

We eagerly await feedback from our own representative at the meeting Dr Harry Greaves, chairman of the TPAA technical committee.

of positives.

Preaching to the converted I know, but as climate change factors and CO2 reduction

### JACK'S RANT



**With JACK NORTON**  
Secretary, TPAA

assumes growing importance in building design, wood offers an ideal cost-effective solution. Using more wood will actually benefit the

# Labor delivers on key forest industries election priorities

## Commitment to RFAs and it's hands off native forests

THE Australian Forest Products Association has welcomed federal Labor's policy package announced in Tasmania yesterday (Wednesday) by Shadow Minister for Agriculture and Forestry Joel Fitzgibbon, which agrees to several AFPA policy priorities to grow renewable forest industries.

AFPA CEO Ross Hampton, said there were three key commitments which should be noted.

"A Labor government would provide \$13 million to fund 13 regional forest industry hubs (this includes the \$4 million for four hubs already committed by the Coalition government).

"AFPA has asked for hubs to allow the future growth of forest industries to take place in strategic regions to maximise efficiency and productivity. To ensure that each of the 13 regional hubs are able to quickly begin the work of identifying barriers and opportunities for growth and innovation, we expect each hub to receive \$1 million over four years and Labor is yet to specify this," Mr Hampton said.

ALP has now matched the Coalition in backing a growth target of an increase of 400,000 ha of plantations by 2030.

Mr Hampton said it should

“ALLOWING FORESTRY TO PARTICIPATE IN CARBON MARKETS

be noted that there was 375 million ha of rural land in Australia and plantations currently occupied 1.9 million ha.

"The growth we need to supply timber for our homes and businesses would take that to 2.3 million ha," he said.

"A second key promise from Labor is to promote the sustainable growth of the plantation estate by allowing forestry to participate in carbon markets, alongside environmental plantings and farm forestry.

"This requires the removal of the regulatory water rule barriers, which AFPA has been advocating for four years, which Labor has now committed to.

"Thirdly, Labor has now agreed to AFPA's demand to support regional forest agreements and commit to no more lockups of native forestry.

"There is 125 million ha of native forests in Australia, of which 5.5 million ha is multi-use forest, and of that multi-use forest, a tiny percentage is harvested and regenerated each year. Native forestry is 100% sustainable and the ALP has, in this document, recognised that."

Labor has also delivered on several other fronts which are in line with AFPA's 10 Actions for Growth, such as:

- Addressing skills shortages in forest industries.
- Considering an increased role for bioenergy and biomass.
- Establishing a cross



Joel Fitzgibbon...support for sustainable growth of plantation estate.

departmental team to work with forest industries on trade issues.

- Reverting the name of the Department of Agriculture

and Water Resources back to the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry and appointing a minister specifically for agriculture, forestry and fisheries.

Labor has failed so far to deliver against industry requests for \$40 million for the National Institute for Forest Products Innovation) across a national network of centres, including extended funding for the existing centres in Launceston and Mount Gambier, and has also not committed funding to support forestry-specific community education programs.

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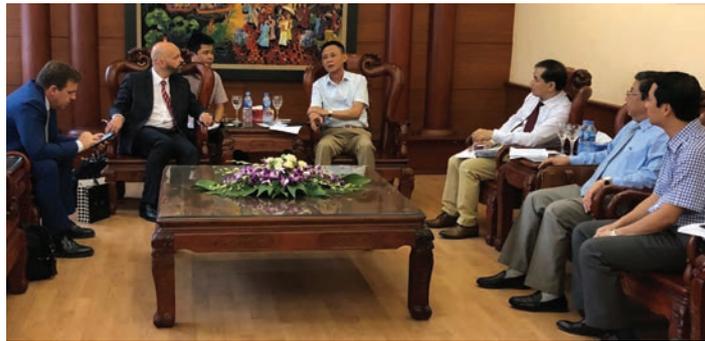
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# Vietnam advances forest certification

GLOBAL forest certification leader PEFC International and the Vietnamese government have celebrated the establishment of a forest certification office in Hanoi.

This was officially recognised at a sustainable forest management workshop in the southeast Asian country's capital on April 26 attended by PEFC CEO and secretary-general Ben Gunneberg and Vietnam's Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development Ha Cong Tuan.

Vietnam's forest management strategy is to establish, manage, protect, develop and sustainably use 16.2 million ha of land planned for forestry by 2020 and at least 30% of the respective production forest area.



**All in the family... PEFC International's Ben Gunneberg (centre left) confers with Vietnam government and forestry officials in Hanoi.**

About 2 million ha of forest must be certified for sustainable forest management.

"In the future, the National Forest Certification System will work in close cooperation with national and international agencies and organisations, especially forest owners, wood and forest product processors," Deputy General-Director

of the Vietnam Forestry Administration Cao Chi Cong said.

Vietnam's wood and forest product processing export industry has expanded to more than 120 countries, with an average growth rate of 28% a year.

**“EXPORTS EXPAND TO 120 COUNTRIES**

In 2018, the export value of the sector reached \$US9.38 billion exceeding a target of \$US 7.8 billion set for the years 2006-2020.

"However, the sector faces big challenges from export markets now demanding guarantees on the legality and origin of wood products and that they meet international standards for sustainable forest management." Mr Cong said.

PEFC has been assisting the Vietnam forest sector in addressing a number of challenges, including the development of forest certification and chain-of-custody programs.

Ben Gunneberg gave further assurances stating Vietnam had become the 50th member of the PEFC International family.

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# Dr Tom's wellness mission: Great trees, but we don't spend money on growing great people

**MICHAEL SMITH**

AFTER more than 25 years working in the New Zealand Ministry of Health's emergency department, Dr Tom Mulholland decided too many Kiwis were becoming ill from preventable diseases.

He set out to become the 'ambulance at the top of the cliff', by turning a retro Chevy ambulance into a pop-up medical clinic testing people around New Zealand for pre-diabetes, blood pressure, cholesterol and talking about smoking.

Dr Tom is dedicated to improving workforce health and safety. Given that he started his working life as a forestry trainee, he has a particular empathy for people hard at work in our production forests.

"I spent a year in the Lake Taupo forest, mainly working in silviculture, in 1980. Even though it was nearly 40 years ago, I remember vividly the photos we were shown (in our training) of chainsaw injuries and fatalities," Dr Tom said.

"We were told forestry was the second most dangerous occupation in New Zealand with one in 643 workers losing their lives.

"There wasn't much protection around chemical exposure when spraying for diseases such as Dothistroma needle blight ... and firefighting was pretty risky

**“INABILITY TO GRASP THE= FULL MEANING OF THEIR CONDITION**



**Dr Tom Mulholland...**  
**began his working life as a forestry trainee.**  
Photo: Stuff Co. NZ

in those days too. There was no 'high vis' apart from your helmet."

Dr Tom has travelled the length and breadth of New Zealand in a series of roadshows to gauge the health of the forestry workforce.

"We have done a lot of work with Fiona Ewing from the Forest Industry Safety Council [FISC] and Prue Younger from the Forest Industry Contractors Association [FICA], as well as attending forestry conferences and testing crews such as NFA Holdings in Southland," he said.

"Forestry is close to home for me; I'll take almost any opportunity I get to help out. We are working with industry players, including the Forest Growers Levy Trust Inc., to get accurate data that measures and manages risk."

Dr Tom's distinctive retro Chevy ambulance is a familiar sight in the backblocks and on the backroads of both islands.

He says the vehicle has a stretcher and a bench for testing. "We have a resus

kit and a defibrillator plus suction if we need it. And there are machines to test for cholesterol, HbA1c [diabetes], lung function, blood pressure, sight, blood lipids, weight and BMI."

On his country-wide travels over the past few years, Dr Tom found evidence of some really serious pathology – "people with undiagnosed type 2 diabetes, dangerously high blood pressure, anxiety and depression. So I put it to them: high blood pressure could be what stops your dad, mum, brother or sister coming home from work because they have died of a heart attack. If your co-worker has uncontrolled or undiagnosed diabetes they may not see the risk and eventually cause you harm. If your mate is going through custody battles over his children then he may roll a machine.

"I was diagnosing all these conditions and giving people sheets of paper to take home, which they would often lose [a reflection of an inability to grasp the full meaning of their condition/s]. So I decided

to create an app [KYND] to store this important data for these people, and which could also provide some short explanations of what each condition is and how to help them."

The KYND app poses a series of questions "to provide employees with scores for their physical (body), mental (mind) and social (life) health". It also connects with other health providers and gives the industry real-time data to make informed decisions.

As Dr Tom says: "It makes no sense to me that we spend so much on resources to grow great trees but we don't spend the money on growing great people. If you don't measure well-being, you can't manage it."

• *The second part of Dr Tom Mulholland's comments on the health of New Zealand's forestry workforce will appear in next week's edition of Timber & Forestry enews).*

**On the cover: Dr Tom Mulholland on the road... if you don't measure well-being, you can't manage it.**

# Donated timber shines a new light on 150-year-old Grafton church building

THE 150-year-old Connect Presbyterian Church in South Grafton is better able to serve the community thanks to north coast hardwood timber donated by Boral Timber and Forestry Corporation of NSW.

The timber is part of the Community Timber Partnerships Project and saw the aging church floor replaced.

“This renovation will benefit the Connect Church community and the many groups that use the building,”

church elder Colin Lang said.

“We are very grateful to access the donated timber – the beautiful north coast flooded gum hardwood looks amazing and we have been able to achieve something outside our budget,” he said.

“The original church was almost certainly built with locally sourced native



1/ Thanks flood in... Connect Presbyterian Church elder Colin Lang says the community is grateful for the timber donations that will restore the 150-year-old South Grafton church.

2/ Flooded gum (*Eucalyptus grandis*).



hardwood, and we are thrilled to remain consistent to the building’s history.

Timber Partnerships, formed by the Forestry Corporation of NSW, Boral Timber and Planet Ark to salvage around 1000 cub m of flooring and decking products impacted by the Murwillumbah floods in 2017.

“We’re excited to have played a part in creating an asset the Grafton community

will use and enjoy for decades to come,” Forestry Corporation’s Partnerships coordinator Jodee Sparrow said.

“When we heard about such a large volume of timber being written off, in some cases for damage as minor as water staining, we were determined to salvage it for local community projects,” she said.

The Community Timber Partnerships Project is endorsed by Planet Ark, under their Make it Wood program ([www.makeitwood.org](http://www.makeitwood.org)).

A fast growing eucalypt, flooded gum is one of the leading species used in the Forests Corporation hardwood plantation program. Research programs are focused on maximising the value from the young plantation trees and ensuring their protection from pests and disease. The rough bark stocking at the base of the tree contrasts with the clean white trunk, giving the impression of the debris line from a recent flood – hence the name.

**“FEEDBACK ON THE RENOVATION HAS BEEN AMAZING”**

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