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Building research links at PTEC 2019

COVER STORY PAGE 2

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Prof. Kitipornchai



Dilum Fernando



Hose Torero



Craig Gibbons



Frank Lam



Minjuan He

Global leaders in timber construction build on research links at PTEC 2019

Delegates, presenters from 10 countries gather in Brisbane

SOME of the world's biggest names in timber construction will gather in Brisbane in July for the 5th Pacific Timber Engineering Conference (PTEC 2019).

Organised by the Australian Research Council Future Timber Hub, together with the UQ School of Civil Engineering, PTEC 2019 will bring young and experienced academics together with practitioners, researchers and developers to share the latest global developments in research and application of timber in construction.

The conference at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre from July

10 to 12 features world-renowned experts from multiple fields and concerns regarding timber construction, from fire safety to logistics.

The conference committee expects more than 100 delegates will take advantage of the early-bird registration rate that ends on May 31.

Participants from more than 10 countries including New Zealand, the UK, USA, Canada, China, Finland, Chile, Japan and South Korea will join a large Australian contingent at the conference.

PTEC 2019 aims to not only bring new information in the field to participants, but to foster a sense of common

cause between different parts of the timber construction industry, from engineers and manufacturers to designers and builders.

The conference will be chaired by Prof. Sritawat Kitipornchai from the UQ School of Civil Engineering whose pioneering of structural engineering research has drawn accolades worldwide. He is only the fifth Australian elected to the elite European Academy of Science and Arts.

Associate Professor Dilum Fernando from the UQ School of Civil Engineering, a leading voice in the conference organising committee, comments: "We have a wide range of topics that we are going to cover, but I think I am to pick some of the most exciting topics, those would be the fire safety of timber buildings, engineered timber products, the construction of timber buildings – especially automation in construction – and sustainability."

Key speakers include Professor Frank Lam from the University of British Columbia, who will be talking

“GLOBAL EXPERTS FROM MULTIPLE FIELDS

Cont P.3



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From P 2

about building design and construction, and Professor Mantuan He from China, who will present on timber structures."

China and Canada have both seen their timber industries take up new construction methods and advanced materials in recent years. Offering faster build times and much lighter structures compared to steel and concrete, timber is an attractive option, and there are lessons to be learned from the international experiences.

"In China there is a lot of push towards precast volumetric construction," says Prof. Fernando, "where they build the whole units and then come and install them. There is quite an interest in these pod technologies, especially in Melbourne."

International experiences aren't identical and don't translate linearly to Australia. Yet, as Prof. Fernando says, "There's quite a lot that's common irrespective of wherever you go in terms of the construction. But then there are certain technologies that vary in their availability from country to country, for example, the regulatory requirements, the traditional construction techniques, the material availability..."

"How those countries overcame those constraints are very important lessons to learn. And also, how did these new technologies perform against their conventional construction technologies?"

One strong recent development in timber nationally and internationally is the increase in automation.

Engineered timber product and mass timber construction often require extremely precise fabrication, which has



Building material of the future... PTEC 2019 will bring young and experienced academics together with practitioners, researchers and developers.

led to an increased reliance on automation for at least parts of the manufacturing process.

"The next part of it is how do we make the assembly process on site automated?" Prof. Fernando asks. While skilled builders are important, so is the need to lower the risk to workers on high and mid-rise construction and to optimise efficiencies.

"I think there is probably a long way to go in this," he says, "but the path towards bringing in this technology has already started with work done in Germany.

“ INCREASED RELIANCE ON AUTOMATION

"In terms of the fabrication side of the precast elements, there is already construction with CNC machines and using robot arms. I know that in Australia Hine Timber has invested a lot in terms of moving into this digital fabrication space. That shows how much the industry is thinking about moving in this direction."

This need to work with industry is central to the work being done at PTEC 2019.

Keynote speakers at PTEC 2019 include Prof. Jose L.

Torero, Head of University College London Department of Civil, Environmental, Geomatics and Environmental Engineering; Dr Craig Gibbons, ARUP fellow and principal, Buildings Australasia; Prof. Frank Lam, senior chair professor, wood building design and construction, University of British Columbia, Canada; Prof. Mantuan He, department of structural Engineering, Tongio University, China; Anna Charalambous, project manager, Lendlease DesignMake; and Ben Owen, senior construction manager, Lendlease Building, ACT.

Sponsorship and exhibitor positions are still open for the conference (see the end of story for details), and a reception and banquet dinner will form part of the event.

For details on PTEC 2019 visit www.civil.uq.edu.au/5th-pacific-timber-engineering-conference-ptec-2019

• Timber&Forestry enews will provide updates on the conference over future issues.

On the cover: The 18-storey Brock Commons building at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, Canada, was completed in less than 70 days using CLT and prefabricated components.



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Govt rolls out penalty notices on illegal logging regulations

Furniture industry adds to warning calls on timber imports

DUE diligence specialist Stephen Mitchell has been engaged by the Australasian Furniture Association to guide members through illegal logging prohibition regulations as the federal government toughens actions now the 'soft start compliance' period has ended.

The government has begun issuing penalty notices for breaches of the regulations and the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources has so far audited more than 600 timber businesses, including many furniture importers – audits that will be ongoing across 2019.

"Many importers are complying with the regulations," Stephen Mitchell said. "But it's no surprise that many others have little or no understanding of them."

"Considering the regulation has been in place since 2012, it boggles the mind the risk these businesses are taking, not to mention lost business opportunities."

In one recent case, a penalty notice for \$12,600 was served on a Queensland-based importer – a warning shot to all importers of timber and paper products, including furniture, gift and homewares, components



Stephen Mitchell... penalty risks are high for timber importers.

excuse for non-compliance."

Mr Mitchell, who is providing training on these tools, said there were key points to consider to minimise the risk of heavy penalties. These included a written due diligence system that includes the mandatory elements; asking the right questions; assessing the risk (and documenting it); and mitigating the risk if it isn't low-risk timber.

All of the tools, services and advice are available from the AFA dedicated website.

For more information visit <https://afaddt.australianfurniture.org.au>

The Australasian Furnishing Association is the peak industry body for the furniture sector supply chain. Collectively the industry employs more than 250,000 Australians.

The trade in illegal timber products – those harvested and exported in contravention of the law of the producer country – is entangled in corruption, conflict, insecure land rights and poor governance.

Illegal harvesting of timber accounts for roughly 5-90% of forest activities in major producing countries within the Amazon Basin, central Africa and southeast Asia – a trade estimated to be worth from \$30 billion to \$100 billion annually.

Dismantling this extensive illegal enterprise would help promote biodiversity conservation, climate mitigation, human rights and sustainable development.

and 'hidden' items.

"If a company imports any timber-based furniture (particleboard, MDF or timber-framed sofas) and does not have a due diligence system for assessing the legality of the timber – and its source – then that's a very high risk," Mr Mitchell said.

Mr Mitchell said compliance was not difficult.

"As an example, if you are importing furniture from Malaysia and Indonesia, gathering the required information and assessing the risk of illegal logged wood is straightforward," he said.

"Due diligence on imports from China can be more difficult, but with the guidance provided by federal regulators and the government-approved tools developed by Australasian Furnishing Association, there is no

“IT BOGGLES THE MIND THE RISKS THESE BUSINESSES ARE TAKING





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Key forums to focus on growth of forest industry in northern Australia

NORTHERN Australia forestry industry stakeholders are encouraged to register for a series of free consultation forums to have their say on future actions for industry growth in the region.

The forums, to be held in Cairns, Nhulunbuy, Darwin and Karratha in June and July, are part of the Cooperative Research Centre for Developing Northern Australia (CRCNA) project to identify the extent and growth of commercially productive resources including native, plantation and farm forests.

Timber Queensland is lead participant in the project. CEO Mick Stephens said the project was reviewing key strategic documents and regulatory frameworks in the Northern Territory, Western Australia and Queensland.

"We are seeking input from industry players, representatives of indigenous communities and other rural stakeholders, regional business groups, government agencies and academic institutions," he said.

Forum participants will



Challenges and opportunities... growing northern Australia's forestry and forestry products industry. Photo: NT News

be invited to provide input into initial findings of a literature review of strategic documents.

In March this year, the Minister for Resources and Northern Australia Senator Matt Canavan announced a \$209,300 CRCNA research collaboration with Timber Queensland, the Northern Territory Department of Primary Industry and Resources, the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries and the University of the Sunshine Coast.

The 10-month project will also work with several

key industry stakeholders including the Forest Products Commission Western Australia, Plantation Management Partners, Midway, HQPlantations, Simms Group, DTMTimber/Branch 95, Quintis Ltd and Alpha Santanol, to deliver a comprehensive overview of the current challenges and opportunities facing the industry.

The project team seeks to develop longer term relationships with forum attendees to seek further input on the final report and future actions for policy, R & D

and investment decisions.

The forums are open to anyone engaged in or wanting to be engaged in the forestry and forest products industry, but specifically forest owners and managers; harvesting contractors; processors; land councils; associations and peak industry bodies; and government representatives.

Details:

Cairns – Tuesday, June 11, 10 am-12.30pm at Rydges Plaza Cairns, 50 Grafton Street, Cairns City.

Nhulunbuy – Wednesday, June 12, 10 am-12.30 pm at Gulf Room, Walkabout Lodge, 12 Westal Street, Nhulunbuy.

Darwin – Thursday, June 13, 10 am-12.30pm at the Northern Australia Development office boardroom Development House, 76 The Esplanade, Darwin.

Karratha – Wednesday, July 10, 1.30 pm-3pm, at Karratha International Hotel, corner Hillview and Millstream Roads, Karratha.

• **Forum details see events, P 7.**

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NZ, China agreement paves way for trade boost in forest products

AN arrangement signed by New Zealand and China has paved the way for future forestry cooperation and boosting bilateral trade.

The arrangement was signed in Wellington by NZ Forestry Minister Shane Jones and Zhang Jianlong, the Administrator of China's National Forestry and Grasslands Administration.

"The updated arrangement supports and strengthens links between government, industry and research institutes in New Zealand and China," Mr Jones said. "It provides a framework to address matters such as sustainability, wood processing and utilisation, and trade and investment.



Shane Jones... encouraging increased trade in value-added forest products.



Strengthening links between governments... Zhang Jianlong, Administrator of China's National Forestry and Grasslands Administration.

The forestry sector is an important and growing part of New Zealand's bilateral trade with China, with export revenue topping \$3.2 billion in the year ending 2018.

"Much of this growth has come from increased Chinese demand for New Zealand forestry products, supporting both continued high prices and record export volumes," Mr Jones said.

industry collaboration.

"Signing the updated arrangement is a testament to the huge amount of goodwill between our two countries, and marks a commitment to continue working together for mutual benefit," Shane Jones said.

"I see a multitude of opportunities for New Zealand and China to cooperate and support our forestry and wood processing industries, in a way that also supports environmental objectives."

He said the wider One Billion Trees goal to plant at least one billion trees by 2028 was an ambitious one, and it would drive regional revitalisation, support Māori to realise the potential of their land, and deliver benefits to our people and our environment.

"Ensuring an end-to-end value chain for our logs and forest products, along with our relationships with trading partners, including China, are an important part of achieving these aspirations," Mr Jones said.

“INDUSTRY INVITED TO JOIN CHINA MISSION

"A number of Chinese companies choose to use wood sourced from New Zealand for their manufacturing, and I'm keen to see how we can grow the relationship further, especially for our respective wood processing industries.

"With my Chinese counterpart, I have agreed that officials will cooperate to encourage increased trade, including in value-added wood products."

NZ government officials will hold talks in China later this year, with industry invited to attend, to help promote government-to-government and industry-to-

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JUNE

11-13: Northern Australia forest industry consultation forums – Cairns (June 11), Nhulunbuy (June 12), Darwin (June 13), Karratha (July 10). Part of the Cooperative Research Centre for Developing Northern Australia (CRCNA) project to identify the extent and growth of commercially productive resources including native, plantation and farm forests. Registration free at sarah@timberqueensland.com.au For further information Contact Clarissa Brandt on 0416 350 328 or email clarissa@timberqueensland.com.au

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 Queensland Timber 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 tabma.com.au Visit: 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 or contact Prue Younger +64 21 2765 484. Email: prue@publicimpressions.co.nz



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MAY

20-23: A Century of National Forest Inventories: Informing Past, Present and Future Decisions – Oslo, Norway. For further information see: www.nibio.pameldingsystem.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 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, 418 564-1312; Marjolaine Dugas, Director of Communications, FPInnovations, 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**

Positive forestry inquiry ‘death knell of Labor’s divisive negative inquiry’

THE Liberal Government in South Australia has successfully delivered a positive forestry inquiry... “despite the negative, divisive approach by the Labor Opposition”

Speaking on Wednesday, the Minister for Primary and Industries and Regional Development Tim Whetstone said this was the death knell for Labor’s divisive negative inquiry.

“The Shadow Minister did not take seriously the concerns of the sector about the negative wording of the inquiry,” Mr Whetstone said.

“The majority of the sector asked for the inquiry to at

least investigate ways for the sector to grow into the future. Labor would not listen.

“When talking to this proposed amendment just over two weeks ago, the Shadow Forestry Minister arrogantly said: ‘I think all of those are very worthy points; however, I am not proposing to alter the terms of reference of the committee’

“The Marshall Liberal government has listened to the sector and after working with the crossbench today (Wednesday), we have delivered a positive forestry inquiry.”

Mr Whetstone said this was not the inquiry as originally proposed by Labor. It was now something the government could support, which acknowledged the concern of many in



Nick McBride... providing a stable investment environment.

the industry.”

Member for MacKillop Nick McBride said he had spoken with forestry sector representatives who identified concerns with Labor’s negative attitude towards the forestry industry.

“I advocated for a more positive approach because I want a select committee that

brings the sector together, not an inquiry that divides the industry,” he said.

“The motion was a ‘win’ for the forestry industry and its future.”

Mr McBride said the government was focused on providing a stable investment environment for the forestry sector and was focused on growing the entire sector, including domestic manufacturing.

“Our government has a strong plan for the forestry sector, with the Forest Industry Advisory Council at its centre,” he said.

“In contrast, at the last election, when asked by the sector, the Labor Party had no plan for forestry at all.”

• **SA audit to focus on domestic log supply contract, Page 18**

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Malaysian Furniture Council (MFC)



The Timber Exporters' Association of Malaysia (TEAM)



Association of Malaysian Bumiputera Timber & Furniture Entrepreneurs (PEKA)



American Hardwood Export Council



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Plan was a painful waiting game: VAFI

WITH the recent announcement of the long-awaited Allocation Order and Timber Release Plan, a short-term reprieve comes after nine months of a painful waiting game, says Victorian Association of Forest Industries CEO Tim Johnston.

“But just how much certainty this short-term plan will bring to the industry, particularly the contractors and sawmill workers on the front line, is still yet to be

“FEDERAL ELECTION ADDS TO UNCERTAINTY”

known,” Mr Johnston said.

“Despite it being nearly three weeks on from the announcement, many in the industry are still confused at the lack of detail provided, and are now attempting to work out exactly what additional coupes can be accessed, and what volume of timber will now actually move through to sawmillers.

“With the winter months fast approaching and supplies in log yards thin at the best, members are still attempting to determine precisely the impact this will have on their short, and long-term future.

“This is a complex industry, and with complexities, and lack of



Tim Johnston... short-term reprieve.

detail, confusion will arise. As an industry association our role is to work on behalf of our members to help move through the difficulties and challenges, and to work with the state government to ensure it understand she

challenges our members face, and to remind them that it is imperative the government delivers a plan that is clear, concise and free of ambiguity.”

Mr Johnston said adding a federal election into the mix only added to this atmosphere of operational uncertainty.

“At VAFI we will continue to work closely with our members, focusing on how we can help manage the often-confusing lines of communication with government. We will continue to demand government transparency as we move into yet another challenging phase of our industry,” he said.

Renewable brand reframes forestry in eyes of the public

FOREST and Wood Products Australia is preparing to launch The Ultimate Renewable, a new brand that offers a universal, positive communications message for the sector to share.

National marketing and communications manager Eileen Newbury says it’s all

about reframing forestry in the eyes of the public.

“The messages underpinning the brand will aim to educate the public that Wood is The Ultimate Renewable resource, as it can be replanted and will continually grow back,” Eileen said.

“By making and reinforcing the association between wood and the word ‘renewable’, we are aiming to encourage the community to embrace forest and wood products across the supply chain.”

FWPA will be encouraging as many industry players

as possible to access The Ultimate Renewable branding via the FWPA and WoodSolutions websites, and incorporate it into their own collateral and communications.

• See FWPA monthly review, Page 12.



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Emerging Australian leaders travel world to discover timber advances

ENGINEERING students from across Australia have been benefiting from exposure to the most up-to-the-minute technical developments and innovations in timber construction from around the globe.

As the latest episode of WoodChat explains, Forest and Wood Products Australia regularly sponsors students to attend the World Conference on Timber Engineering – one of the world’s most prestigious event in timber engineering, engineered wood products and the design of timber structures.

For the last eight years, FWPA funding has allowed outstanding post-graduate students engaging in timber-focused research to apply for financial support for their attendance.

In 2018, eight students were selected and awarded a \$3500 bursary to attend the event in Seoul, South Korea.

Alastair Woodard from FWPA’s WoodSolutions education program, said the initiative accelerated the career paths of emerging leaders among Australian engineering graduate and postgraduate students,

through transfer of knowledge from leading global timber talent.

“We had meetings with each of the students about what they wanted to learn and who they wanted to meet, before introducing them to the relevant international timber experts. Knowing they can call upon these people right throughout their careers makes this such a valuable networking experience,” Mr Woodard said.

“Once back in Australia, the students returned to their universities and gave presentations about what they learned. There has been a great flow-on effect from bringing back their excitement, enthusiasm and knowledge and sharing it with their peers.”

“GREAT FLOW-ON EFFECT FOR STUDENTS”

Kristopher Orlowski, student at the University of Melbourne, said the knowledge gained through his attendance proved invaluable for informing his current research project.



Kristopher Orlowski... knowledge gained invaluable for informing his current research project.

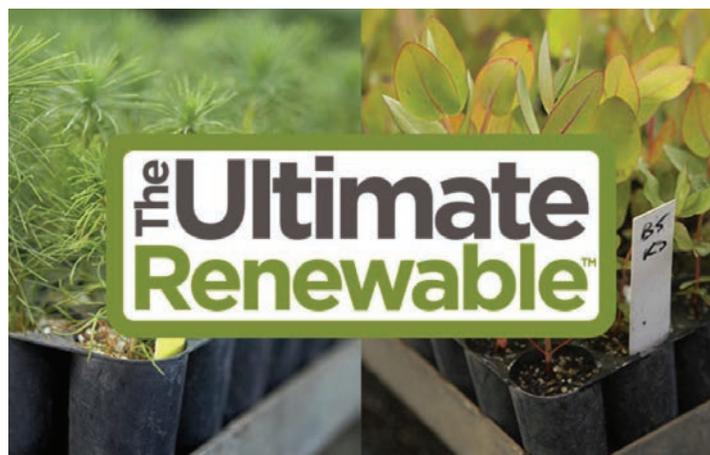
Kristopher is working with an industry partner on the development of a post-tensioned (strengthened or reinforced) timber-based prefabricated panelised structure. The aim of his research is to understand

the limitations and develop solutions to advance the use of this novel form of construction.

“This system was originally developed to tie the structure down to the foundations for construction purposes,” explained Kristopher.

“From the advanced research in this area presented at the conference, I’ve learned you can use this technology as a method of self-centering for earthquake design, which is a benefit we hadn’t considered.

“From a personal perspective, it was valuable to see the way people present their final work, because I’ll be presenting the findings and conclusions of my own thesis soon.”





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The ultimate renewable: reframing forestry in the eyes of the public

AS members of the forestry and wood products industry, we know that certain misconceptions exist regarding our sector.

It's critical to encourage people to think differently and understand the benefits of wood and commercial forestry across the supply chain. Forest and Wood Products Australia (FWPA) has been working with the industry to address exactly that.

We need industry-wide, consistent and united communications around the benefits of forestry.

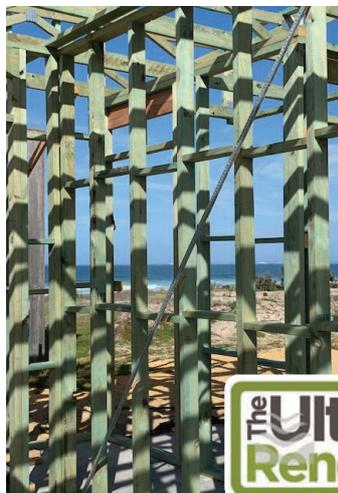
Earlier this year, research consultancy Pollinate was engaged by the Australian Government to host workshops with 70 forestry industry leaders. It was agreed the biggest impact could be made by creating a positive brand the industry can adopt.

Focus groups were also conducted with consumers, exploring attitudes and testing brand concepts to pinpoint the elements that resonated... and soon The Ultimate Renewable™ was born.

The Ultimate Renewable™ provides a universal, positive communications message for the sector to share that builds upon a positive carbon story. It's about reframing forestry by making and reinforcing the



Peter Maddison (host of Grand Designs Australia) filming the consumer advertisement.



The fundamental goals are to drive demand for wood and wood products, attract financial investment and prompt regulatory and educational changes – contributing to growing the forestry industry in Australia and beyond.

FWPA is the central point for The Ultimate Renewable™ brand and we have exciting plans to communicate our messages

to the public, including a consumer television advertising campaign. More details will be announced in the coming weeks and months.

We will also be phasing out Wood. Naturally Better™, originally launched in 2009. Many companies have used this branding on websites, letterheads and office signage – we will support them with migrating to The Ultimate Renewable™.

By banding together, our industry can make a real impact as we work towards changing public perceptions to forestry and the value we bring. We hope you'll join us on this important journey!

Find more information online at the FWPA website www.fwpa.com.au/resources/the-ultimate-renewable

association between wood and the word 'renewable'.

We'll be encouraging as many industry players as possible to access The Ultimate Renewable™ branding via FWPA and WoodSolutions, spreading the brand far and wide for maximum impact.

The messages underpinning the brand aim to educate the public that Wood is The Ultimate Renewable™ resource – it can be replanted and continually grows back.

The brand will promote wood as unique compared to other renewable resources, thanks to the versatility and utility of timber. After all, it's the only renewable resource we can use to build and create – you can't build a

TALKING TIMBER



With Eileen Newbury
National Marketing and
Communications Manager,
FWPA

house from sunlight or wind!

Additional messages we'll communicate under the new brand include:

- Industry commitment to proactively replanting
- Benefits of certified wood for the economy and employment
- Wood continues to store carbon after trees have been cut down.



An industry services company working to grow the forest and wood products market
Visit us at fwpa.com.au

‘Pure label’ among PEFC changes

PEFC International, the world’s largest forest certification system, invites Timber&Forestry enews readers to provide feedback on its chain of custody and PEFC trademark standards.

Proposed changes include expansion of the PEFC Due Diligence System (DDS) and introduction of an all new ‘PEFC pure’ label.

With a deadline of July 9, subscribers have the opportunity to provide comments, feedback and suggestions during the public consultation period; ensuring that the standards meet the needs and expectations of

“SERIES OF PUBLIC WEBINARS



Simon Dorries... significant changes for PEFC certification.

your business.

Commenting on the new draft standards, Responsible Wood CEO Simon Dorries stressed that the standards were still in draft form and encouraged all members, scheme holders and stakeholders to contribute to the public consultation.

“The proposed standards have flagged significant changes for PEFC certification, specifically with respect to DDS, the definition of core sustainability issues as it relates to controversial sources and its impact on uncertified materials,” Mr Dorries said.

‘This is especially relevant

in countries which have weak legislation or law enforcement. PEFC forest certification provides an assurance of sustainability as well as timber legality.”

The new standards have also flagged changes to product groups, credit validity, certificate checking and recording and trademark licensing.

The public will have the opportunity to participate in a series of webinars that will provide more information about the proposed changes. There will be three webinars, the first scheduled for 10 pm on May 19, the second at 7 pm on June 3 and the third scheduled for 7 pm on July 3.

Details about these webinars are provided on the Responsible Wood website www.responsiblewood.org.au

Suddenly, purchasing timber from Indonesia is only a click away.

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Find out more at indonesiantimberexchange.com



Housing downturn: the squeeze is on

THE low number of building approvals in the first three months of 2019 is not a good look.

The Housing Industry Association says with this poor quarter of results, the number of new homes being built has fallen by 15.2% this year and a further decline in activity through this calendar year of around 11% is expected.

After the release of HIA's quarterly economic and industry outlook yesterday, chief economist Tim Reardon says preliminary data suggests the housing market has adjusted from a strong annualised rate of home building of around 220,000 homes a year this time last year, to around 183,000 at the start of 2019.

"We had anticipated that

this correction to new home building would take two years, not six months," he said.

"Market confidence fell away in the later part of 2018 as dwelling prices corrected, adversely impacting all segments of the market. Investors and owner occupiers are delaying purchase decisions and foreign investment has also fallen dramatically due to a range of government restrictions."

Mr Reardon said the most encouraging news for the building industry at the start of 2019 was that a strong national economy would be sufficient to pull the home building industry through the downturn. These hopes fell away as GDP slowed.

"The RBA has repeatedly



Tim Reardon... foreign investment has fallen dramatically.

stated that it is looking for a deterioration in the labour market before it moves to lower interest rates further," he said. "There is a risk that if they wait for this trigger, it might be too late for the home building industry which will adjust employment levels for this lower level of activity"

Unfortunately, a cut to

interest rates in 2019 will not have the same positive impact on new home building as in previous cycles, says Mr Reardon.

"Banks are assessing borrowing capacity against a minimum floor of a 7.25% mortgage rate and for 'interest-only loans to be assessed on a principal and interest basis for the term of the loan," he said

"An easing of the Australian Prudential Regulation Authority's lending restrictions would have a more significant impact on home building and the broader economy, than a further cut to interest rates alone."

Mr Reardon said there was a need to downgrade expectations of the speed of the current downturn in the housing market further.



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www.frameaustralia.com

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Like the Joshua, trees survive almost anywhere on our planet

Forests are feats of architectural and engineering excellence

NO doubt about it ... trees are feats of architectural and engineering excellence that are among nature's greatest achievements.

Trees – and of course forests – are found in all regions on Earth capable of sustaining plant growth.

From the planet's perspective, trees emerged, evolved and adapted long before humanity put in an appearance and will most certainly continue to do so after humans have gone the way of dinosaurs.

Remarkably nature has gifted trees with the ability to survive in extreme weather conditions – from sub-zero temperatures to dry scorching deserts. Trees grow in polar regions in Siberia, Alaska and Canada, where the ground can be frozen down to 10 m.

By contrast in the Mojave desert of California, one of the hottest and driest places on Earth, the 15 m tall, 1000-year-old Joshua tree survives because of its

“REACHING DOWN TO DRAW UP AVAILABLE MOISTURE



Real suckers... thirsty Joshua trees suck up water that lies deep below California's Mojave Desert.

spreading, deep penetrating roots reaching down to suck up any available moisture.

The Mormon pioneers who headed into the American West in the mid-1800s took the Book of Joshua seriously: "Thou shalt follow the way ...", reads one line in the book, "... pointed for thee by the trees".

When they reached the great south western deserts of California they found such a tree, a remarkable giant yucca with its branches raised upward as if in prayer. So the Joshua or 'praying plant' was named.

Native Americans, who have lived in America southwest for generations, identify the Joshua tree

TALKING TREES

With JOHN HALKETT

Sponsored by
Forestry Corporation of NSW

as a valuable resource – harvesting the seeds and flower buds for meals and using the leaves to weave sandals and baskets.

Surviving the rigours of the desert, the Joshua tree can live for hundreds of

years and some specimens survive a thousand years or more. The tallest trees reach about 15 m. New plants can grow from seed, but in some populations, new stems grow from underground rhizomes that spread out around the parent tree.

Different forms of the species are cultivated, including smaller plants native from the eastern part of the species range. These smaller plants grow just two and a half metres tall and branch when about a metre tall.

The Joshua Tree National Monument, east of Palm Springs in California's Mojave Desert, was established in 1936 and covers 2250 sq km of scenic wilderness.

It is thought that trees and forests cover about four billion hectares or about 30% of the world's land surface. However, the importance of forests stretches far beyond their boundaries, because forests help to regulate the planet's climate.

According to the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organisation, forests store nearly 300 billion tonnes of carbon in their living parts – roughly 40 times the annual greenhouse gas emissions from fossil fuels.



The largest manager of commercial plantations and native forests in NSW
Visit us at forestrycorporation.com.au

Green Triangle awards are on again

TIMBER & Forestry Enews is again delighted to be a gold sponsor of the second Green Triangle Timber Industry Awards at Mount Gambier, SA, in November.

The decision to organise the event follows the outstanding success of the inaugural event last year.

Enews co-publisher John Halkett said the 2018 awards function was clearly one of the country's most successful industry events and a testament

“CELEBRATING IMPORTANCE OF THE REGION”



Reid Logging staff... acknowledged for their award-winning performance last year.

to the recognition of the Green Triangle as home to Australia's largest plantation and timber processing industry.

“The awards celebrate the importance of the region and will again reward outstanding foresters, companies, service providers and forest managers,” John said.

Nominations open on June 17 and close on August

16. The gala dinner will be held at Mount Gambier's popular venue The Barn on November 1.

Inaugural awards committee chairman Adrian Flowers said the awards would again benefit the region's timber industry, attracting skilled employees to the region as valued industry players and up-skilling and lifting the

standards of the workforce.

“It also provides an opportunity for the Green Triangle's timber industry to celebrate its skilled professionals and unite industry players,” Mr Flowers added.

Multi-generational logging company Reid

Logging picked up the top accolade at the gala dinner last year – the Green Triangle Timber Industry Supreme Timber Industry Award.

Further information and sponsorship opportunities at www.gttia.com or contact Prue Younger +64 21 2765 484. Email: prue@publicimpressions.co.nz

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- Wood processing and new add value wood products
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What can virtual reality do for agriculture – or the forest sector?

INDUSTRY research and development business Forest and Wood Products Australia has formed an alliance with Meat and Livestock Australia to evaluate opportunities in the virtual reality space for processing operations.

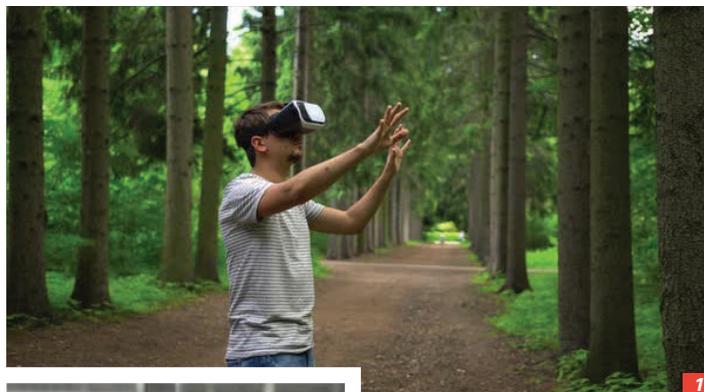
“Sawmills and abattoirs have a lot in common,” says FWPA. Early ‘wins’ are likely to be identified in operations and maintenance.

FWPA is supporting the inaugural Australian Ag Immersive Technology Conference in Melbourne in July to be hosted by the MLA and other R&D corporations.

The conference, trade show and think tank at the Melbourne Exhibition and Conference Centre on July 10 and 11 is designed to investigate augmented and virtual reality, known as mixed reality, for all agriculture sectors and along their supply chains.

MLA general manager, research, development and innovation, Sean Starling, said

“VR SOON AS COMMON AS SMARTPHONES



1/ Mixed reality... predicted to be the next disruptive technology.
2/ Sean Starling... critical that all sectors of rural industry explore potential of VR.

immersive trade show; it will enable solution providers to demonstrate what is possible today and what might be possible in the future.”

The event will culminate in a working session to solicit ideas on how mixed reality solutions can apply to agricultural supply chains and into the future. More than 40 presentations will demonstrate end-use applications of various mixed reality deployments from both agriculture and non-agriculture sectors.

Themes include marketing and consumer messaging; education and training;

manufacturing operations; and engineering, maintenance and safety.

The new technology is already used in machine maintenance training, as well as to test construction drawings, to sell real estate and to create travel experiences.

Finland’s University of Helsinki has designed an app program as a virtual forest where forest owners can walk about their forests in their living room or office using virtual glasses. They can pretend to wield the harvester and chainsaw using two game controllers. They can also test how many logs would be needed to turn a decent profit and what the forest would look like after harvesting.

The application allows them to test how, for example, upper-layer thinning or clear cutting will change the forest or how profitable a thinning is.

Tickets to the Ag Immersive Technology Conference in Melbourne are \$100. For more information and to register, visit www.eventbrite.com.au/e/australian-agriculture-immersive-technology-conference-registration

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Audit of OneFortyOne to focus on domestic log supply contract

THE SA government has announced an independent audit of OneFortyOne Plantations Pty Ltd which will focus on the Plantation Lease Agreement the company has with the state, particularly in relation to domestic sawlog supply.

Auditor BDO Advisory (SA) Pty Ltd has partnered with specialist forest sector advisory firm Indufor on the audit.

The comprehensive audit process follows discussions between the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development Tim Whetstone and the South Australian Timber Processors Association on the concerns of small processors regarding

PROCESSORS CONCERNS ON LEASE TERM COMPLIANCE



1

1/ Valuable resource... audit will focus on plantation lease agreements.

2/ Tim Whetstone... opportunity to reset in a positive way relations between industry and the community."

lease term compliance.

"As I committed to the association last year, the scope of the audit specifically targets the conditions in the lease agreement relevant to those concerns," Mr Whetstone said. "This once-off audit represents an important opportunity to reset in a positive way the relations between industry and the community."

OFO has agreed to fully



2

cooperate with this audit which will be conducted under the ASAE 3100 Standard set by the Auditing and Assurance Standards Board.

Areas to be covered in the audit will include whether OFO has met the following

requirements during 2018:

- Area weighted average clearfall age.
- Tender process for uncontracted sawlog in excess of planned viable domestic supply.
- Sale contract lengths for sawlog exports.
- The amount of sawlog and pullog

exported and if those logs were appropriately classified. In addition, a review of ancillary confidential documents between the state and OFO (including agreements, deeds, contracts or similar) will be undertaken to determine:

- Whether these documents contain any relevant undertakings relating to supply of product to domestic manufacturers not covered by the lease.
- Whether those undertakings, if they exist, have been adhered to for calendar year 2018.

Canadian softwoods help restore Notre Dame

CANADA is offering home-grown softwood lumber to help with the reconstruction of the famed Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris, which was partially destroyed by fire in mid-April.

The action by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has the support of the Forest Products Association of Canada.

Mr Trudeau and restoration project chief architect

Philippe Villeneuve toured the remains of the cathedral on Wednesday. Mr Trudeau said it was an honour to be able to exhibit some of the solidarity Canadians feel toward their French cousins.

Firefighters managed to gain control the blaze after several hours. The main structure and relics were preserved, but the cathedral's roof and its famous spire were destroyed.



Canadian PM Justin Trudeau visits Notre Dame.

New photos from inside the cathedral show the

daunting task ahead to restore the 800-year-old Gothic landmark. Huge mountains of rubble and beams from the charred spire remain where they fell one month after the fire. Giant nets have been installed to catch falling debris and protect workers using robots to remove the rubble, which will be examined by police seeking clues about how the fire began.

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Further enquires to Dr Tim Smith Mobile: 0427 820 894

For further information about this position and details on how to apply, please visit the Queensland Government Smart Jobs and Careers website www.smartjobs.qld.gov.au and use reference **QLD/309852/19**

Applications close Friday, 31 May 2019

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Horizontal • 30mmH x 190mmW

PAGE 1 Front cover module: Contract booking

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