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## LNP election landslide: Growth for a nation

COVER STORY P2

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# Forest industry takes heart from LNP's thumping election victory

## Let's vigorously argue the case for more trees in the ground

THE forest industry and rural industries more generally can take huge comfort from the resounding Coalition election win last Saturday and rejection of Labor's confused policy agenda.

History tells us that Labor governments, both state and federal, have a long antagonistic attitude towards the forestry sector. Again this is evidenced by the current ongoing shilly-shallying about ongoing access to hardwood log supplies in Victoria by the Andrews government.

The support of the federal government for industry's forest industry plan – Growing a Better Australia – A Billion Trees for Jobs and Growth – and its investment ambitions will now be clear and not suffer the sort of equivocation that might have been exerted by Labor with its close and chummy ties to metropolitan greens in inner Melbourne and Sydney.

With climate change concerns now more prominently on the public



*David Little-proud... pleased to have won the booth at Barcardine, the birthplace of the Labor Party.*

radar and in the political agenda, evidenced by the strong showing by independents in the seats of Warrindah and Indi, there is now a solid platform for the forest industry to be well placed to more vigorously argue the case for more trees in the ground and the expansion of the tall wooden building construction initiative.

Hopefully, industry advocates, such as the Australian Forest Products Association, will increase

their efforts and argue for more trees on farms, expanded industrial plantations, and support for additional changes to building codes and standards to assist the expansion of tall wooden buildings and support the great work in this area by Planet Ark through its Make it Wood Campaign.

Given the strong showing in the election of Tasmania it will be good to see Senator Richard Colbeck returned to the forestry portfolio. Richard has a thorough grasp of forest sector issues and has proven to be an enthusiastic and competent supporter of the industry.

PM Scott Morrison and the LNP were returned with a thumping majority and are likely to win 78 seats to further fortify their majority government.

**“INDUSTRY ADVOCATES MUST INCREASE THEIR EFFORTS”**

Cont P 3



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From P 2

The polls were emphatically skewed towards a future Bill Shorten government; 43 consecutive Newspoll results put Labor ahead of the Coalition on a two-party preferred basis.

But none of it mattered last Saturday.

As T&F enews went on line, it was considered likely that Queenslander David Littleproud will be returned as Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources after a convincing win in the seat of Maranoa. His assistant Richard Colbeck is also likely to retain responsibility for forestry.

A good friend of forestry and co-convenor of the Parliamentary Friends of Forestry and Forest Products Labor frontbencher Joel Fitzgibbon suffered a 10% swing against him in the NSW Wales seat of Hunter, which has a large mining community.

**“WELCOME COMMITMENT: NO MORE LOCK-UPS”**

He has urged a change in direction, saying the party has tracked “a bit to the left.”

“The Labor Party must reconnect with its blue-collar base and get back to the centre and be less ambitious in its pace of change,” he said.

In congratulating the Morrison government, AFPA chair Greg McCormack said industry would work proactively and constructively with the LNP.

During the election campaign, the Coalition made a range of promises directed at the forestry industry, and even more directed at the



1/ Senator Richard Colbeck and AFPA chair Greg McCormack hold aloft the forest industry plan.  
2/ Joel Fitzgibbon... friend of forestry.

wider agriculture sector, that will provide benefits for forest industries.

Mr McCormack said the AFPA would begin work immediately with the new government to see the delivery of the government’s commitments. These included the \$500 million Plantation Development Concessional Loans Scheme, funding of five initial regional forest industry hubs (with four to follow next year), development of farm forestry and indigenous forestry strategies, progression of the National Forest Industries Plan, the rollout of at least two more National Institute for Forest Products Innovation nodes in Western Australia and NSW (pending state government agreements) and laws to prevent trespass into agricultural and forestry workplaces.”

He said the Coalition had also made welcome commitments to no more lockups of native forests currently available for sustainable harvest and regeneration and the delivery of rolling 20-year RFAs.

“It was revealed by the Australian Bureau of Agriculture and Resource Economics and Sciences (ABARES) just weeks ago that Australia’s plantation estate area continues to go backwards, losing 12,400 ha in the last year,” Mr McCormack said.

“AFPA will work with the government to reverse this trend, which is also contributing to Australia’s \$2 billion trade deficit in wood products.”

– JOHN HALKETT, JIM BOWDEN

*On the cover: All smiles in Tasmania... Senator Richard Colbeck and Prime Minister Scott Morrison inspect the growth of tree seedlings – and the industry – during a visit to Forico Nursery in Somerset.*  
Photo: AAP



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# Sale last chapter in Gunnersen's 140-year history in timber trade

## Melbourne-based company Global Wood buys family shares

GUNNERSEN family members have announced the sale of Gunnersen Companies Pty Ltd to Melbourne-based Global Wood Pty Ltd.

The sale of company shares, negotiated this week with Global Wood CEO Ian Frankhanel, comes almost to the day 140 years ago when Captain Gunner Gunnersen immigrated to South Australia and established his trading and timber importing business in Adelaide in 1879.

"This has been a difficult decision to make considering the families' long-standing commitment to, and work



**1/ On a new path... Gunnersen group of companies changes hands.**  
**2/ Nils Gunnersen... sale delivers great value to the market..**

in, the business founded by our great grandfather and great, great, grandfather,

relevance to customers and suppliers alike," Mr Gunnersen said.

The current owners and managers (that are family members) are proud of what has been achieved under multi-generations of family stewardship through many business cycles and events over 140 years. They are satisfied that they have, with the loyalty and application of management and staff, built a great business.

Nils Gunnersen said: "Our values and commitment to people, to meeting the needs of customers and to serving the interests of our suppliers has been and will continue to be the great strength in this newly-created entity Global Wood Pty Ltd.

"Post-transaction, Global Wood will stand as the largest, independent wood panels and product wholesaler in Australia and New Zealand. As we know, this independence is enormously valuable. We trust that in taking this next step the new combined business venture will be successful, and we look to watching this success unfold as Ian integrates the businesses and makes it greater than the sum of its parts."

Gunnersen products are retailed through leading hardware stores, timber merchants, plumbing retailers, and kitchen and furniture manufacturers, throughout Australasia.



respectively," Gunnersen managing director Nils Gunnersen said.

"However, having received Ian's offer, considered it, and been reassured by his company's financial strength, his personal energy and commitment to and his ambitions for the combined businesses (Gunnersen Pty Ltd, Australian Forest Products (AFP) Pty Ltd, Crown Timber Australia Pty Ltd and Forest One International Pte Ltd) we see this as a compelling and exciting opportunity that will deliver great value to the market, ensuring the businesses' ongoing

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# Speakers fired up to defend timber at PTEC 19 conference in Brisbane

WORLD leaders in fire research will put the case for low-risk construction timbers such as CLT at the Pacific Timber Engineering Conference in Brisbane in July.

Leading discussions will be Professor Jose Torero, a renowned researcher on the topic and head of the Department of Civil, Environmental and Geomatic Engineering at University College London.

Professor Torero's work at the University of Edinburgh helped show that fires in compartments made of cross-laminated timber can self-extinguish without intervention – results that have been replicated in research at the University of Queensland.

"Professor Jose Torero is one of the top fire experts in the world," says Associate

“CONSTRAINTS BASED ON THE PERCEPTION THAT 'TIMBER BURNS'”



**1/ Resistant... fire tests on a CLT structure.**

**2/ Professor Jose Torero... fires in compartmentalised CLT structures can self-extinguish without intervention.**

Professor Dilum Fernando from the UQ School of Civil Engineering.

Prof. Torero will be joined by Craig Gibbons from Arup, an independent firm of designers, planners and engineers specialising in the built environment, who will be talking about fire aspects



from the practitioner's point of view.

A. Prof. Fernando says one obstacle to increased

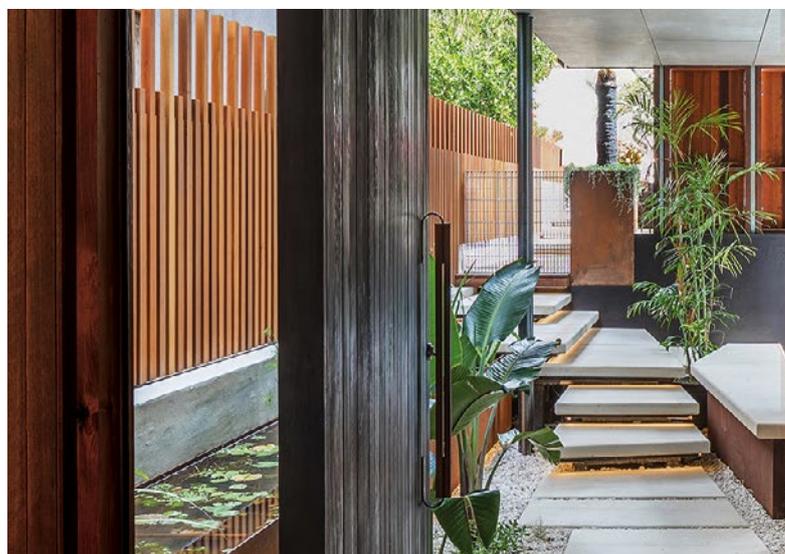
timber use as a construction material in Australia is the perception it's a fire risk – both in the mind of the average lay person and in some of our standards.

"This has led to our use of timber in larger structures going backwards over time," he said.

"The reality for Australia is that in 1913 we built Perry House, now known as the Royal Albert Hotel in Brisbane. That was an eight-storey [now nine, an extra storey was added in 1923] building that was the tallest timber structure in the southern hemisphere at that time.

"Today, most of our timber buildings are one or

Cont P 6



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# Property, housing sector buoyed for growth as new stimulus plan kicks in

AUSTRALIA'S housing market has been buoyed by a stimulus package aimed at winding back lending restrictions and lower interest rates.

The LNP election win is already fuelling economic growth along with tax cuts and increased infrastructure spending.

The country's top financial regulators this week opened up lending to first-home buyers, flagging rate cuts at next month's Reserve Bank meeting.

Under new rules, a household could get about \$60,000 more on a home loan of about \$1 million without any changes in income.



**First home buyers... they could be eligible to purchase on a 5% deposit.**

Last weekend, the Prime Minister announced his party's plans to make the Australian property market more accessible to first home buyers by offering loan guarantees so eligible buyers could purchase their first home with a 5% deposit.

Also, the LNP victory means there will be no change to national property taxes, like

negative gearing and capital gains tax, a big 'win' for the housing industry – and a long way towards helping the sector to recover.

These initiatives are on top of the sector's fastest improvement in affordability in six years

The Housing Industry Association affordability index rose by 2.2% in the March

quarter to post the most significant improvement in affordability since September 2013.

HIA chief economist Tim Reardon said the improvement in housing affordability had been experienced across the country, with the exception only of Tasmania and the ACT, where ongoing house price growth has seen affordability remain static.

With completions of new homes remaining at elevated levels, affordability was poised to continue to improve.

"The improvement in affordability is most significant in east coast capital cities," Mr Reardon said.

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From P 5

two-storey, mainly due to regulatory constraints."

He said those regulatory constraints were based on the perception 'timber burns'.

"However timber burns very slowly and has the ability to self-extinguish," he said.

The Edinburgh and UQ experimenters built compartments using CLT panels and showed they had the ability to self-extinguish once the fuel (furniture, carpets, curtains, etc) in a room is burnt out.

Fernando says the charring layer keeps the burning very slow and, once the fire takes the fuel load out, it allows self-extinguishment, provided the building is properly designed.

"Even in buildings where the timbers don't self-extinguish, the slow burning due to charring means the

building loses its structural capacity more slowly than a steel or concrete building, giving people more time to evacuate."

PTEC 19 will be held at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre from July 10-12 (see notice, Page 13) and features global experts from multiple fields and concerns regarding timber construction, from fire safety to logistics.

Keynote speakers also include Prof. Frank Lam, senior chair professor, wood building design and construction, University of British Columbia, Canada; Prof. Minjuan He, department of structural engineering, Tongji University, China; Anna Charalambous, project manager, Lendlease DesignMake, and Ben Owen, senior construction manager, Lendlease Building, ACT.

**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 Australiaw, 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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**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, [marjolaine.dugas@fpinnovations.ca](mailto:marjolaine.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)**

# BC forest jobs threat as sawmills close

CANADIAN forest industry consultant Wood Markets Group fears more than 12 sawmills will be shuttered in the next 10 years to cope with a shrinking timber supply in British Columbia.

Forestry remains a cornerstone of the province's economy, accounting for 60,000 direct jobs, including one in every four people employed in manufacturing, with 140 mostly rural communities dependent on the industry.

Over the next decade, however, catching up with necessary reductions in the province's timber harvests could put a 2000 to 2500-position dent in employment figures, say analysts.

The massive mountain pine beetle epidemic, a subsequent smaller spruce-beetle infestation and successive record years of forest fires have cumulatively compromised the province's



**Forest jobs on the line... timber harvest decline in British Columbia.**

Interior forests, says analyst Jim Girvan, who wrote the report.

Add to that requirements to set aside forest habitat for the protection of the endangered mountain caribou and Girvan says British Columbia's central regions will be left without enough timber for all sawmills operating in the region, where the province counted 51 as of 2017.

"In the worst-case scenario, 13 mills will close," says Girvan, who is a professional forester and long-time

industry consultant.

"In the best-case scenario, 26 mills will reduce (one shift each). Either way, the impact on lumber production, residual chip production, the impact on employment is the same."

He expects the bite out of timber harvests will start taking hold between now and about 2025 into what the industry is referring to as the mid-term timber supply, and estimates it will take 30-40 years before new growth in forests recover to levels

that will allow an increase in harvests.

The approaching timber supply crunch is the reason government has been putting an emphasis on promoting the use of value-added engineered, mass timber components such as CLT panels and glulam beams that turn dimension lumber into products that can be used in large commercial construction projects.

The Minister of Forests Doug Donaldson says the government will be looking for fresh ideas from companies, communities and First Nations on how to handle the transition to reduced harvests from round-table groups that it has established at the grassroots level in specific timber-supply regions.

Council of Forest Industries CEO Susan Yurkovich says whatever government does, the key thing industry needs is certainty around future timber supply.

# Malaysian trade visit to Design Build

STRENGTHENING timber product trading ties with Australia was the purpose of a visit to Sydney last week by the Malaysian Timber Council.

The visit coincided with Design Build from May 14 to 16 which unites Australia's architecture, building, construction and design communities.

The exhibition provided an opportunity for MTC market promotion executives to meet with key timber and furniture trade associations and timber advocacy entities.

Market promotion director Alexis Chang said Australia continued to be Malaysia's fourth largest export market with a strong emphasis on high quality hardwood timber products and furniture.

"So we are very keen to explore ways we can



**Catching up in Sydney... Malaysian Timber Council market promotion executives Normajjua Nasir and Alexis Chang, and John Halkett ATIF general manager.**

strengthen our trading relationships with Australian companies and trade organisations," Ms Chang said.

Australian Timber Importers Federation general manager John Halkett remarked that discussions included reasons behind the recent decline in volume of traditional tropical

hardwood timber product imports and their substitution in Australia and elsewhere with engineered products generally manufacture from softwoods.

"However, there is likely to be continuing keen interest in high quality Malaysian hardwoods for flooring, decking, windows and door

manufacture, and furniture as domestic hardwood production continues to slide."

The Malaysian Timber Council delegation also promoted the Malaysian Wood Expo to be held from November 19 to 21, which will be covered in Kuala Lumpur by Timber&Forestry enews.

Alexis Chang said trading with ASEAN member countries would lead to a wealth of business possibilities.

"Malaysia, which is the second most competitive economy in the region, is an excellent gateway to the ASEAN markets," she said.

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# Smart ‘tree farms’ offer additional income and promote sustainability

## Monduran native forest field day focuses on silvopasture benefits

MORE than 35 private landholders attended a native forest field day at Monduran on Queensland’s central coast this month to learn more about timber harvesting options and choices.

Hosted by Parkside Timber and Private Forestry Services Queensland (PFSQ), the field day set out to educate landowners on the benefits of sustainable forestry and the importance of ensuring that timber meets Responsible Wood forest certification.

Visitors inspected five hectares of vegetation converted into a certified private native forest that was poised to reap benefits from responsible forestry practices.

Parkside CEO John McNamara said timber harvesting provided



- 1/ **Attentive... private landholders gather at a Monduran for native forest field day.**
- 2/ **John McNamara... happy to work with landholders.**
- 3/ **Sean Ryan... forestry plays an important role.**

landholders with a variety of benefits.

“It’s all about resource diversity, and we are happy to work with landowners to harvest unused timbers on their properties,” he said.

“The benefits for landowners are many – not only as an additional source of income but also providing improved pastoral coverage across the property.”

According PFSQ executive officer Sean Ryan, forestry must play an important role in managing silvopastoral lands for generations to come.

[Silvopasture is the practice of integrating trees, forage, and the grazing of domesticated animals in a mutually beneficial way. It utilises the principles of managed grazing, and it is

one of several distinct forms of agroforestry].

“We talk about smart farms, especially in landcare and land management, but responsible forestry plays an important role in optimising the value of silvopastoral lands,” Mr Ryan said.

The field day demonstrated that removing poor quality trees and leaving healthy actively growing trees was the only real way to improve the long-term value of forests in the timber supply chain.

“And for landowners to maximise their returns, they must manage the forests by three simple rules – retain only healthy quality trees, remove any trees with faults and poor crowns, and maintain optimal stocking rates of around 130 stems per hectare,” Mr Ryan said.

“We must look to innovative ways to achieve this and biofuels and small diameter veneer billets will play an important

Cont P 11

“IT’S ALL ABOUT RESOURCE DIVERSITY”



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# Forest and paper leaders endorse set of sustainability commitments

THE International Council of Forest and Paper Associations has launched its 2019 Sustainability Progress Report and issued a global CEO leadership statement that includes seven key areas that the forestry and forest products sector will collectively tackle for a more sustainable world.

The council says it will continue to deliver progress across its represented regions by promoting sustainable forest management, improving



**Passing the baton... Jane Molony, outgoing ICFPA president congratulates new president Sylvain Lhôte in Vancouver this month.**

reclamation and recycling of wood and paper fibre. This would also include stimulating innovation of manufacturing processes as well as traditional and innovative products through investments.

ICFPA says the sector also has a role to play in water conservation in both forestry and manufacturing while mitigating climate change by preserving and optimising carbon sequestration in

forests and products; reducing greenhouse gas emissions through energy-efficient operations; and using carbon-neutral biomass energy in the manufacturing process.

Globally, the forest products sector will also drive the optimisation of wood and paper-based products and their contribution to the bio-economy by delivering materials that are biodegradable and compostable; working to reduce the environmental footprint of products; and showcasing progress in a transparent manner.

Companies within the sector will also ensure an attractive

Cont P 12

**DRIVING OPTIMISATION OF WOOD AND PAPER PRODUCTS**

From P 10

role in removing the large volumes of previously non merchantable trees that have been left in the stand in the past."

And for Parkside Timber that timber must be certified under the Responsible Wood certification scheme.

"This is a 'must'; unless timbers are covered by forest certification its value diminishes," John McNamara said.

There with the details was Responsible Wood's marketing and communications officer Jason Ross.

**UTILISING AREAS FOR BOTH TIMBER AND GRAZING**

Timber Queensland, the peak state body for the industry, was also represented at the field day and congratulated the efforts of PFSQ and Parkside in promoting greater awareness of the benefits of active private forest management.

"Field days such as this provide first-hand knowledge of the commercial opportunities and land management benefits available to landowners and graziers," CEO Mick Stephens said.

"Not only can good forest management deliver additional income sources from timber, it can provide healthy growing forests with improved environmental outcomes and ground cover.

"This can assist in the utilisation of otherwise under-utilised areas for both timber and grazing."

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From P 11

and inclusive workplace through risk management and interventions that prevent incidents and fatalities; and education and training to ensure all workers maintain and gain skills to thrive at work.

The new leadership statement was endorsed by industry CEOs and representatives from 10 countries at the ICFPA's 9th international CEO Roundtable hosted in Vancouver on May 8.

"The global CEO leadership statement 2.0 builds on our previous statement, whereby our sector has been committed to and made successful progress since 2006," newly-appointed ICFPA president and director-general of the Confederation of European Paper Industries Sylvain Lhôte said.

"Our updated statement reflects changes in the forest



**South Africa's 'tree farms' and the forest product value chain play a pivotal role, at an economic and societal level, in the environment and conservation space.** Photo: ICFPA

products industry and sets the course for collective action."

The ICFPA's sustainability progress report shows progress on nearly all of the sector's performance indicators, using the most recent data available.

"However, performance in some areas is plateauing due to the significant and consistent headway made previously, and which the industry is now maintaining,"

Ms Lhôte said.

Points raised in the report include:

- In terms of promoting sustainable forest management worldwide, the total certified forest area increased by 40 percentage points from the 2000 baseline year, but was down two percentage points from the last report[i].
- Greenhouse gas emissions intensity reduced

by 19.2% from the 2004-2005 baseline year.

- Bio-energy's share in the fuel mix has increased by 11.1 percentage points since 2004-2005.
- Global paper recovery rate for 2017 reached 59.3%[ii], up 12.8% since 2000. On average, recovery rates in ICFPA members' countries or regions are higher than the global rate.
- Energy intensity was down 1.05% on 2004-2005 but up slightly from the previous report due to low energy prices, which have disrupted energy efficiency programs.
- Sulphur dioxide emissions have been reduced by 63.5% since 2004/2005.
- Water use was down 8.3% from the baseline.
- Investment in health and safety interventions saw a 35% reduction in the global recordable incident rate on 2006/2007 baseline.

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# Young Forester Award develops practical skills

THE UK-based Commonwealth Forestry Association has launched the 2020 CFA Young Forester Award in conjunction with the Faculty of Forestry at the University of British Columbia.

The award is part of the association's commitment to supporting the professional development of young foresters. It provides a short-term work placement of three months hosted by the University of British Columbia at Malcolm Knapp Research Forest, between September and December next year, where the successful applicants will be able to develop their practical skills.

The award covers flights, accommodation, local travel, subsistence costs and a small bursary to cover the period of



**Commonwealth award promotes wise management of trees and forests.**

the placement.

CFA executive director Alan Pottinger said the 2020 award would focus on forest wildlife management.

"The two winners will assist in a research project focusing on mammal community dynamics in human-impacted ecosystems which will assist in the development of conservation

strategies for human-wildlife coexistence," he said.

Mr Pottinger said sustainable forest management played a central role in the association's future, which in turn required the training and development of forestry professionals.

Award applicants must be a national of a commonwealth country; hold a forestry

qualification; be able to exhibit a genuine interest in forest wildlife management; be below 35 years of age on January 1, 2020; be able to travel to Canada and apply for a Canadian study permit; hold a valid driving licence.

Applications should be completed and submitted via email to [cfa@cfa-international.org](mailto:cfa@cfa-international.org) by June 15, 2020. This should include an essay of at least 400 words, but no more than 500, explaining why you are applying for the young forester award and a curriculum vitae/resume of no more than two pages. Short-listed candidates will undergo a Skype interview.

For further information on the award and application forms phone +44 (0)1588 672868 or visit [www.cfa-international.org](http://www.cfa-international.org)

## Pacific Timber Engineering Conference (PTEC 2019)

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**Join some of the world's biggest names in timber construction who will gather in Brisbane in July.**

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.

## Register now

Registration includes lunch, morning and afternoon refreshments, the Welcome Reception (Wednesday, 10 July 2019) and Banquet Dinner (Thursday, 11 July 2019).

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# Industry benefits await, but our R&D efforts merit more support

OKAY, so I'm not a scientist, but I have spent a couple of decades at the sharp end of the forest harvesting business, and have been the fortunate beneficiary of some really impressive research effort, so I reckon I am quite at liberty to make some comments in that direction. So, if I may be so bold, here we go!

Yes, I have been around the logging game for some time I am frequently reminded – thank you Duncan – and am aware that in the not-too-distant past trees were felled with chainsaws, logs were cut-to-length using a tape or measuring stick, and branches trimmed off with saw or axe.

Fast forward perhaps three decades, and, lucky me. I'm sitting in a cab on a feller buncher with the heater on. (It gets cold down here in radiata country this time of the year).

So courtesy of some great research, trees are now felled, delimbed and cut-to-length all from the comfort of a cab by just one person – in my case that's me! So no hazardous hand felling, trimming, winch ropes and strops, not to mention various people all running around the place.

So my long-winded point is that all these technical, safety and productivity advances stem from some

**“FWPA RESEARCH DESERVES FUNDING**



*In the lab... research opportunities for medicinal, pharmaceutical and energy products from trees.*

pretty impressive research. Incidentally, in the case of log harvesting, and in league with companies such as Komatsu Forest and Tigercat, research has been carried out in Japan, Scandinavia and Canada. With our modern harvesters and forwarders we have been able to stand on the shoulders of research and development from the northern hemisphere.

But that aside, recent R&D effort in the broad forestry and timber space here in Australia has, in my humble opinion, under the direction of Forest and Wood Products Australia, been very impressive.

At the end of the day what we all want is more timber used in the country's building and construction industries – right? And even more so if we want to make a useful contribution to fewer greenhouse gas emissions and the potential unfortunate impacts of

## TRUNK LINES



**With CHERYL FORREST**

climate change. So more trees and timber, clever engineered wood products, tall wooden buildings and off-site fabrication.

The bottom line to realising such goals is more R&D effort in the wood products end of the business to replicate the mesmerising move from the chainsaw to the feller buncher. Research opportunities, so I am told, could also result in the further development of liquids, chemicals, pharmaceutical and energy products from trees.

We know that rubber, various resins and medicines we now call aspirin and quinine were all derived from trees. I am sure more discoveries await if we put in the necessary research effort. The obvious conclusion is more industry and matched government funding for FWPA's Australia-led research efforts – please.

And good to see that FWPA, like me, now has a regular column in enews. From where I am sitting, they have orchestrated some key R&D and long may it continue!

We might even get to do some research and innovation in logging and related activities, rather than having to leave it to those clever people north of the equator

What do you reckon?

Catch up with you again next month.

**Cheryl**

# The **NEW** Generation...



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# CEO focused on new TABMA strategy

IT will be 'operation handshake' for new TABMA CEO David Little as he unfolds a busy agenda that includes on-site visits to members throughout Australia and rolling out a strategic plan for the association.

"I want to meet as many members as possible to gain feedback on current and future directions of TABMA services," Mr Little said.

He was selected unanimously by the TABMA board following an interim role as CEO during which he undertook a short-term



objective to review the significant commercial operations of TABMA which included the two GTOs (group training organisations) and the RTO (registered training organisation).

His appointment was decided by a recruitment committee consisting of president Peter Hutchison, vice-presidents Brenton Christopher and Gary Walker, and Dee Atkinson, a member of the finance committee. The process was organised and directed by finance manager Cate Peat, who also acted as the staff and



**David Little... full review of TABMA Australia's operations and structure.**

operational representative on the committee.

Mr Little will now undertake a full review of the association's overall structure and operations, which include member services and member representation with a goal to making TABMA a more relevant peak national

body for the pre-fabrication and building materials sector.

Peter Hutchison said the recruitment process was extremely rigorous and robust and included a formal presentation to the committee; a psychometric evaluation; numeracy and literacy testing; and a thorough review of each short listed candidates' experience and referees.

"I congratulate David and thank the recruitment committee members involved for the considerable amount of personal time taken by this process, and separately to Cate Peat for her untiring efforts in managing the process timeframe and more importantly keeping the committee focused," Mr Hutchison said.

**“ROLLING OUT A STRATEGIC PLAN**

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# Round timber construction seen as low-cost answer for wood residues

## New opportunities for forests overstocked with small-diameter trees

A VISITING PhD researcher working at the University of Queensland's Centre for Future Timber Structures believes new technology emerging on round timber construction opens new opportunities for forests overstocked with small-diameter trees – and an economic answer to converting low-cost wood residues into high-value building products.

Aurimas Bukauskas from Maine, USA, and a researcher at Britain's University of Bath, has completed a review paper on the subject in collaboration with colleagues at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology which will be presented during sessions at the Pacific Timber Engineering Conference in Brisbane in July.

"We are particularly interested in the potential for these products to open a high-value structural market for low-value thinnings and peeler cores to address forest sustainability and housing issues," Mr Bukauskas said.

"Forests globally are overstocked with small-diameter trees, putting them at increased risk of disease, insect attack, and destructive high-intensity wildfires," he asserts.

"This overstocking is caused primarily by the low market value of these small-diameter trees, which are generally unsuitable for sawn timber production and yield low prices when sold for biomass fuel, paper, or fibre-based engineered timber products."



**Aurimas Bukauskas... round timber from forest thinnings has exciting potential.**

Considerable research in recent decades has demonstrated the potential for small-diameter trees to be used in minimally processed round segments as structural elements in buildings, bridges, towers, and other infrastructure.

Mr Bukauskas says 'whole timber' construction serves as a low-cost, low-impact building system while providing revenue to forest owners to conduct harvests of low-value trees for sustainable forest management.

Also, the life-cycle impact of whole timber construction has shown to be lower than conventional sawn timber construction at a residential scale, provided the timber is used close to its source

The PTEC 19 presentation reviews developments in whole timber construction, presenting new non-destructive evaluation techniques, digital survey, design and fabrication

methods, new processing technologies, and a diverse range of novel connection types and structural systems.

"Whole timber has exciting potential as an important complement to other timber products in construction globally in the future," Mr Bukauskas said.

**“OPENING HIGH-VALUE STRUCTURAL MARKETS**

Pioneer of round timber construction systems, Wollongong, NSW-based chemist Pat Thornton says the application is very promising for the transfer of small-diameter timbers and waste peeler cores from veneer production to high-volume structural applications.

His company, Loggo Pty Ltd, this year completed successful tests on three different joist/beam samples at the University of

Queensland. Each sample used 2400 mm peeler cores, low-value by-products from the plywood industry.

Both fatigue testing (100,000 cycles) and strength testing were carried out to assess the abilities to carry design loads.

"The tests were comprehensive with calculations based on factored load combinations of 2 kPa for apartments," Mr Thornton said. "They also included dead loads of self-weight plus particleboard floor-over/fire rated ceiling-under loads."

The first effective test was Loggo's multi-log joist which consisted of 90 mm diameter radiata peeler cores using Loggo's patented lengthening system. The joist (234 mm H) proved suitable for installation at 450 mm or 600 mm centres to a span of 4800 mm.

The second effective test on Loggo's B-I-Log with 53 mm diameter Tasmanian oak hardwood peeler cores (joist 312 mm H.) was suitable for installation at 450 mm or 600 mm centres to a span of 4800 mm.

The third test on Loggo's I-log joist consisted of 90 mm dia. lengthened radiata peeler cores. The joist (300 mm H) tested suitable for installation at either 450 mm or 600 mm centres to a span of 3600 mm with further scope for lengthening.

Pat Thornton said when in production these systems would clearly offer a very

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cost-effective alternative to the new incumbents of CLT and other lightweight timber framing and could be used in any floor or ceiling from project homes, re-locatables, commercial and industrial buildings, to multi-level apartment blocks up to eight storeys.

“We envisage a ‘virtual new industry’ for forestry, sawmillers and manufacturers – the processing of forest



**Successful UQ tests... Kenneth Liddell, senior scientific project manager, School of Civil Engineering, University of Queensland (centre), confers with Loggo consulting engineer Peter Blair, project director, Structured Project Management Australia (left) and Loggo principal Pat Thornton.**

**“CALCULATIONS  
BASED ON  
FACTORED LOAD  
COMBINATIONS**

discards using very low-cost machinery,” he said.

“Forest discards might be tree tops from aged timber, industry restricted sizes, or

juvenile timber from forest thinnings.”

Note: The final paper by Aurimas Bukauskas – now published in the Journal of

Construction and Building Materials – can be accessed at the link [www.sciencedirect.com/science/article](http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article) until June 21.  
– **JIM BOWDEN**

## Applications open for NZIF awards valued at \$39,500

APPLICATIONS are open for the awards and scholarships offered by the NZ Institute of Forestry Foundation for 2019. The total value of awards offered is \$39,500.

The awards are:

- Two future forest scholarships for post graduate research of up to \$10,000 each.
- The New Zealand Redwood Company Scholarship of \$5000 for an undergraduate scholarship at the University of Canterbury School Forestry.

- Chavasse Travel Award of up to \$3500 to assist a mid-career person to travel overseas or to bring an overseas person to New Zealand.
- Jon Dey Memorial Award of up to \$3500 to assist research projects in the areas of work study or new technology aimed at improving forest engineering and harvest productivity.
- Otago Southland Award of up to \$3000 to assist a project of relevance to forestry in the Otago/Southland region.

- Mary Sutherland Scholarship of \$1000 for a polytechnic student.
  - University Undergraduate Scholarship of \$1000.
  - Frank Hutchinson postgraduate scholarship of \$1000.
  - Student poster prizes at NZIF conference \$800, \$500 and \$200 first, second and third respectively.
- Further details on the foundation web page at [www.nzif.org.nz](http://www.nzif.org.nz)
- Applications must be received by the foundation

administrator ([foundation@nzif.org.nz](mailto:foundation@nzif.org.nz)) no later than 5 pm on July 17. The awards will be announced at the awards dinner at the joint conference of the NZ Institute of Forestry and Institute of Foresters of Australia to be held in Christchurch from August 25 to 28.

For details of the conference visit [www.nzif.org.nz](http://www.nzif.org.nz).

Inquiries to the Foundation chair. Email: [am.mcewen@xtra.co.nz](mailto:am.mcewen@xtra.co.nz) or phone +64 274 733 262.

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