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COVER STORY P10

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Bounce in building post-election as phones ring with timber orders

TIMBER importers and wholesalers across Australia report “the phones are ringing” since the federal election outcome confirming the bounce in residential and commercial building and construction and the ‘overnight’ uplift in orders.

This renewed activity is likely to flow through to improved markets, notably for structural softwood and engineered wood products.

Australian Timber Importers Federation general manager John Halkett says that while, in some instances, timber wholesalers are carrying high levels of inventory because of the abrupt slow-down in building and construction activity in late 2018-early 2019, the demand situation may turn around during the year.

“Supply pressure points may well be structural softwoods, engineered wood products and prefabricated components,” Mr Halkett said.

ATIF will be placing effort in continuing to ensure that imported softwoods from



John Halkett... flow to structural softwoods.

more recently established northern hemisphere suppliers comply with requisite Australian building codes and standards.

The Department of Agriculture and Water Resources has taken a more assertive stance in relation to illegal logging due diligence requirements.

The election result has certainly put some fight back into home buyers who bid strongly at hotly contested auctions across Sydney and Melbourne this week. Real estate agents say many house hunters have been sitting on the fence awaiting the outcome of the election



Graham Wolfe... housing a national priority.

but were now beginning to re-engage with the market.

They say this renewed activity is partly from knowing prices will not be impacted by Labor’s negative gearing reforms, which has encouraged them to bid with confidence. But time will tell whether the renewed confidence would result in a market rebound.

“It is still early days but if the market were to move it

would be up,” they say.

“Housing is a national priority and the appointment of Michael Sukkar as Minister for Housing is recognition of this fact,” HIA’s managing director Graham Wolfe said.

“Placing housing responsibility with the Assistant Treasury properly reflects the \$130 billion contribution that residential building construction makes to the Australian economy and to employment nationwide.”

Meanwhile, big developers like ASX-listed Stockland, which a week ago were anxiously eyeing the housing downturn, are now facing starkly different conditions according to analysts.

Experts predict the re-elected Coalition’s new First Home Buyer Deposit Scheme, proposed changes to the interest rate stress test for borrowers and the RBA’s indication it may lower interest rates would all help underpin the property market.

“A well housed population

“FENCE-SITTERS RE-ENGAGE WITH HOUSING MARKET”

Cont P 3



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Forest industries welcome new government ministers

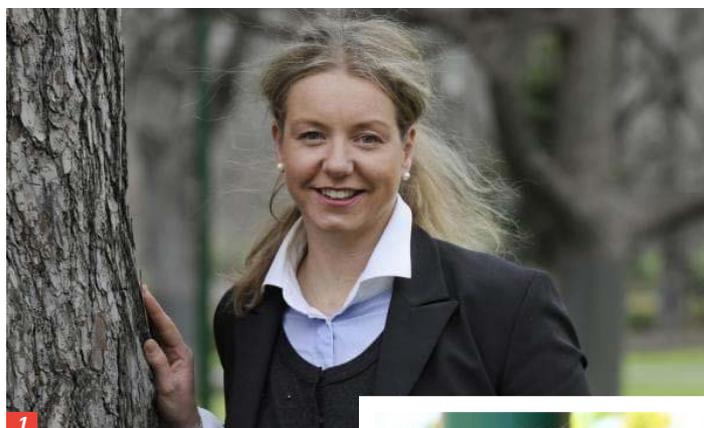
AUSTRALIA'S forest industries have congratulated the new Minister for Agriculture, Victorian Senator Bridget McKenzie, and Assistant Minister with responsibility for forestry, Tasmanian senator Jonathon Duniam.

Australian Forest Products Association CEO Ross Hampton said Prime Minister Morrison's new Cabinet demonstrated a mix of seasoned ministers as well as promotions for some talented backbenchers.

He said both Senator McKenzie – Australia's first woman minister for agriculture – and Senator Duniam had been vocal champions of forest industries.

"We are confident they will be strong advocates for the tens of thousands of regional Australians who make a living from growing, harvesting, replanting, hauling, sawmilling and pulp and paper making, not to mention the tens of thousands more who use our timber in house framing and furniture making," Mr Hampton said.

“SENATORS TO HIT THE GROUND RUNNING



1/ **Bridget McKenzie... first woman minister for agriculture.**
2/ **Jonathon Duniam... new Assistant Minister for Forestry.**



"We are confident senators McKenzie and Duniam will hit the ground running thanks to the strong work done over the last few years by outgoing Minister for Agriculture and Water David Littleproud and Assistant Minister for Forestry Senator Richard Colbeck.

Both launched a major growth plan for national forest industries which contribute \$24 billion to the national economy, pledging a range of measures to deliver over the next 10 years one billion new trees to help secure forest industry jobs into the future.

"The government made significant announcements during the election campaign which will help the industry

move into a new era of growth, especially as we seek to grow the 'right trees, in the right places, at the right scale,'" Mr Hampton said.

"Key to this is focusing on the regional forest industry hubs announced by the government and working closely with farmers to add some trees to their primary production."

Bridget McKenzie, Deputy Leader of the National Party, is the daughter of a dairy farmer and grew up in Benalla

Cont P 5

renters would like to.

"Ensuring timely and cost effective supply of affordable private housing needs strong coordination and delivery across several federal portfolios, state and local governments and industry."

Mr Wolfe said having a

housing minister was the first policy imperative in the HIA's 10-point Home Ownership Matters policy priorities. Providing support for first home buyers to bridge the mortgage deposit gap by side stepping lenders mortgage insurance was the second policy imperative.



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*Australian Forest Contractors Association (AFCA)



An industry-led program managed by ForestWorks

From P 2

is more productive, cohesive and healthy," Graham Wolfe said.

"Independent research shows half of all renters believed they would never afford to buy a home even though more than 90% of

Russians to lift subsidised timber exports to Canada – and Australia

China ‘half-way house’ for wood destined for world markets

RUSSIA plans to significantly increase exports of unprocessed timber and pulp to Canada and the US over the next several years.

Russia’s ministry of industry and trade says the economic crisis and devaluation of the national currency – the ruble – caused by Western sanctions means timber and pulp exports to the domestic market are no longer profitable for local producers. Many have re-directed supplies to North America,



On a fast train to China... Russian timber railed and destined for North American markets.

especially Canada, in recent years.

The range of Russian exports includes plywood and hardwood with a significant part of the exports spruce

pine, as well as pulp as a separate item.

Already significant volumes of Russian structural softwoods and engineered wood products are entering the Australian market – mostly a mix of Baltic pine species that are treated in Australia.

To ensure large-scale export volumes, the Russian government is providing subsidies to wood exporters and is considering reducing existing duties on a wider range of domestic wood products despite the fact that such measures will be contrary to World Trade Organisation obligations.

Russian exports are direct or through third-party countries, such as China, whose government imposed a ban on the felling of forests about 10 years ago over ecology issues.

The legality of some of these timbers arriving in Australia are being checked by authorities.

According to the Russian ministry of industry and trade, the devaluation of the

ruble has led to prices for wood products becoming very attractive for major customers in both Canada and the US, giving a competitive edge to local producers in the North American market.

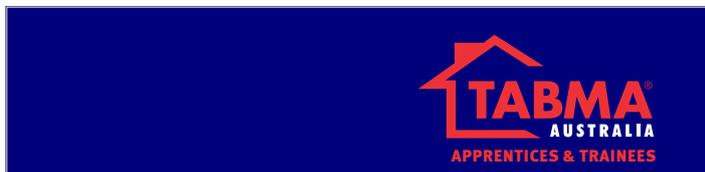
According to data issued by the ministry, total exports of Russian timber to the US in 2018 were valued at about

\$US150 million, and there is a possibility that these figures will grow significantly this year. In the case of pulp, these figures vary in the value range of \$US80-100 million.

“RUSSIAN PRODUCERS CRY TIMBER NO LONGER PROFITABLE”

Annual exports of timber from Russia are estimated at 30 million cub m, the majority of which so far has been exported to the European Union. However, due to the deterioration of relations between Russia and the EU and the current weakness of the euro caused by the stagnation of the EU economy, the majority of Russian timber producers will consider North America and other export markets as one of the priorities for their further development in the years to come.

(With extracts from Pulp&Paper Canada)



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Seminar on economics of mid-rise

NEW to the Australian marketplace, low to mid-rise lightweight timber-framed buildings are one of the most economical ways to build. There are many new products and solutions becoming available to assist this form of construction.

A free seminar in Sydney on June 24, organised by the Timber Development Association and WoodSolutions, will address existing and new products, methods and solutions for this building system.

The seminar, from 12 noon to 5 pm, will be held at the NSW Teachers Federation Conference Centre, 37 Reservoir St, Surry Hills. Afternoon tea will be provided.

The seminar will also discuss the recently



Economic way to build... mid-rise lightweight timber-framed structures.

published 2019 National Construction Code and deemed-to-satisfy changes to fire protected timber, where the range of buildings up to 25 m in height are now not limited.

Products and solutions to be discussed include the range of acoustic floor screeds available, lateral and overturning resistant systems and new textile based fire-

rated wall systems applicable to difficult to install zero lot exterior walls.

Also on the seminar program will be presentations of a new methods to build timber buildings, called post and plate; the moisture and

“NEW PRODUCTS AND METHODS

movement performance in recently built timber-framed buildings; and a case study of an extension to an existing building using a timber based building system.

CPD certificates of attendance are available for all professions; 4 formal CPD points available for architects.

Contact TDA on (02) 8424 3799 or email info@tdansw.asn.au

WoodSolutions is a website dedicated to professionals, companies and individuals involved in design, building design and construction with timber and wood products. Resourced by Forest and Wood Products Australia, WoodSolutions provides national research and development and promotional services to the forest and wood products industry.

From P 3

in north-eastern Victoria. She is the seventh agriculture minister to be appointed in 12 years and will be joined in the 46th parliament by former agriculture ministers David Littleproud, Barnaby Joyce, Joel Fitzgibbon and Tony Burke.

A Queensland Nationals MP, David Littleproud remains in Cabinet as Minister for Water Resources, Drought, Rural Finance, Natural Disaster and Emergency Management.

Tasmanian Jonathon Duniam, 36 is a graduate of Marist Regional College in Burnie and the son of

Waratah-Wynyard deputy mayor Mary Duniam. He will also take on regional tourism and will be the deputy manager of Government Business in the Senate.

Devonport-based Senator Richard Colbeck, previously Assistant Minister for Forestry, has been handed not just one but several fully

fledged portfolios – aged care, youth and sport.

"It is pleasing to see Tasmania's success at the election recognised with a ministry and also the appointment of Senator Duniam as an Assistant Minister," Mr Colbeck said.

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Malaysian Wood Expo a magnet for global wood machine buyers

Stepping stone for business expansion in the ASEAN region

AN inaugural event ... and the organisers are pulling out all the stops to make the Malaysian Wood Expo 2019 a huge success.

The expo – MWE 19 – will be held at the Putra World Trade Centre in Kuala Lumpur from November 19 to 21.

A global wood and woodworking machinery event, MWE aims to bring together international timber-based and woodworking machinery suppliers as well as buyers for trade and networking opportunities.

MWE will also serve as a stepping stone for those who wish to expand their business



Putra World Trade Centre in Kuala Lumpur... venue for Malaysian Wood Expo 2019.

wheelhouse into the ASEAN region, including Malaysia, which is the second most competitive economy in the region.

The expo will be the place where “marketing meets sales” and where key decision-makers secure potentially mega sales.

Opportunities to generate business deals and network also await visitors to MWE.

Here’s why you should exhibit at MWE:

- Showcase your newest products
- Meet key decision-makers who are shaping the timber industry
- Trade with Southeast Asia’s fastest growing economies
- Meet and connect with prospective customers
- Discover new developments in the industry
- Learn what your competitors are doing right
- Speak directly to your target audience
- Forge new and formidable business ventures
- Close deals

Why you should visit MWE:

- Network and generate new business contacts
- Find new opportunities
- Discover business solutions that can help you re-evaluate your operations
- Find information to solve specific problems
- Discover the latest trends and innovations
- Gain an overview of the industry and markets

- Meet quality exhibitors both local and international
- Evaluate your competitors

There are special packages for exhibitors and trade buyers.

MWE is endorsed by the Ministry of Primary Industries Malaysia, the Malaysian Timber Industry Board, Malaysian Wood Industries Association, the Timber Exporters Association of Malaysia, the Malaysian Panel-Products Manufacturers Association, Malaysian Furniture Council, Malaysian Wood Moulding and Joinery Council, the Association of Malaysian Bumiputra Timber and Furniture Entrepreneurs, as well as international industry powerhouses such as the American Hardwood Export Council and French Timber.

The expo is also supported by the Malaysia External Trade Development Corporation.

Jointly organised by the Malaysian Timber Council and the publisher of wood magazines Panels & Furniture Group, MWE 2019 will be the first true coming together of top exhibitors and buyers in southeast Asia.

For more details, please contact info@malaysianwoodexpo.com.my

The united voice for Australia's forest industries



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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 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/

18-19: Family Forest Business Conference 2019 – The Resort at Squaw Creek, Lake Tahoe Olympic Valley, California, USA. Conference will also include a taxation workshop and issues affecting forestland investments. For additional information see: www.flaconference.com

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

17-18: NordGen Forest Conference 2019: Future Forest Health – Early detection and mitigation of invasive pests and diseases in Nordic forests – Hotel Örk, Hveragerði, South Iceland. Conference will focus on threats posed to Nordic forestry and forest plant production by invasive pest species. For further information contact: forest@nordgen.org

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, dugas@fpinnovations.ca, 514 782-4595

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

OCTOBER

6-9: 52nd International Symposium on Forestry Mechanization (FORMEC) and 42nd Council on Forest Engineering (COFE) Annual Meeting – Sopron, Hungary. For further information see: www.formec2019.com

8-10: Timber Expo Birmingham –

Birmingham, UK. Annual trade show covering a breadth of timber applications from timber frame, sawmills, merchants, glulam, SIPs, CLT, fixings and fastenings, timber cladding, doors/windows, mouldings, skirtings and flooring. For further information contact: +44 (0)7956 173351 or www.timber-expo.co.uk

NOVEMBER

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

APRIL 2020

3-5: FORESTlive, Forestry trade fair – Offenburg, Germany. Leading fair covering forestry technology, wood energy and biomass for decision makers in the forestry and agriculture, construction and municipal economy, timber crafts and energy industry. For further information contact: +49 (0)781 922604 or www.messeoffenburg.de

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

New campaign: consumers support certification

FOREST certification is a 'must' for processors, retailers and merchants that sell timber and paper-based products to aware consumers, says Responsible Wood CEO Simon Dorries.

Speaking ahead of the launch of a new 'traceability' campaign, Mr Dorries stressed the importance of PEFC and Responsible Wood certification in demonstrating the sustainable origin of timber.

"In Australia we talk about the ultimate renewable.

PEFC or Responsible Wood certification is an important step in demonstrating the sustainable and legal origin of the timber," he said.

"As the national governing body for PEFC, Responsible Wood has a strong grasp of Australian market conditions.

"Certainly demand for PEFC or Responsible Wood certification is rising among consumers, and there is no question consumers are more environmentally and socially aware when making purchase decisions."

Mr Simon said for processors, retailers or merchants, Responsible Wood could assist in providing information including pathways to achieve certification.

"Whether a company wishes to carry chain of custody or pass on the certification, assistance in the

process is provided," he said.

Last month Responsible Wood partnered with the Australasian Furniture Association to provide technical guidance to AFA members interested in certification.

"Our relationship with the AFA is an example of the steps Responsible Wood is taking to reach out to the industry and educate consumers on the importance of forest certification," Mr Dorries said.

“PATHWAYS TO ACHIEVE CERTIFICATION

Premium timber office will tower above Melbourne city's retail hub

THE Sydney-based General Property Trust is seeking to bring city fringe chic to Melbourne's retail heartland with a 19,400 sq m timber office tower it plans to build on top of the Melbourne Central Mall.

The 10-level office extension, which the GPT Group is calling Frame, will sit on top of the mall that already connects by a covered walkway across Lonsdale Street to the opposing Vicinity Centres-owned Emporium Melbourne and will include green spaces and retail offerings focussing on wellbeing.

"Frame will feature abundant natural light and a warehouse-style environment, with the design of the building aimed to improve the sense of well-being of its occupants," GPT's head of office and logistics Matthew Faddy said.

"It provides a fully integrated office, retail and cultural environment that offers more than just desk space."

MARKETING PITCH IS THAT IT'S A CLT BUILDING

The frame structure of the building with 2000 sq m floorplates will be visible through a glass façade.

The building would give Melbourne its first premium timber office tower along the lines of the Tzannes-designed International House Sydney in Barangaroo, a gamble that paid off for developer



1/ Artist's impression of the GPT Trust Group's, 10-level timber office tower to be built in Melbourne.

2/ Matthew Faddy... building designed to improve a sense of well-being for its occupants.

3/ Neil Masterton... how a workspace can integrate with its surroundings.



Lendlease when it leased the space to Accenture. In Brisbane, Lendlease has built a 10-level CLT tower at the Bowen Hills showgrounds.

GPT is still seeking an anchor tenant for the building that chief executive Bob Johnston last year said would need a pre-commitment of at least 40%, or 8000 sq m to trigger the cross-laminated timber construction of the building that he hoped would start by the end of this year.

"Clearly part of the marketing pitch is that it's a CLT building," Mr Johnston said at the time. "Certain tenants will like that sort of space and be prepared to pay a bit more."

GPT already has preliminary approval for the size and shape of the building and has lodged an application for approval of the detailed design. The company aims for completion in late 2021.

The ARM Architecture-designed building will deliver

a 5 Star NABERS Energy and Water Rating, a 5 Star

Green Star, and WELL Gold Standard.

ARM design director Neil Masterton said the use of timber for office spaces was "intended to appeal to a different type of worker and a different type of company that probably sees the wellbeing of employees as quite at the forefront of things, and the design also showed how a workspace could integrate with its surroundings."

"The roof-top outdoor component is a series of green spaces that are not only for workers but for anyone at all," Mr Masterton said.

(With extracts from Financial Review)



GROWING RECORDS

We are celebrating. Exports of New Zealand forest products have topped \$6 billion for the first time.

About half the value comes from shipments of sawn timber, paper and other processing.

Unlike the dairy industry, which exports nearly all it produces, for forestry, we use a lot in New Zealand. Most of our homes are made from wood.



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Easy-fit hoop pine panel system creates sustainable inner-city oasis

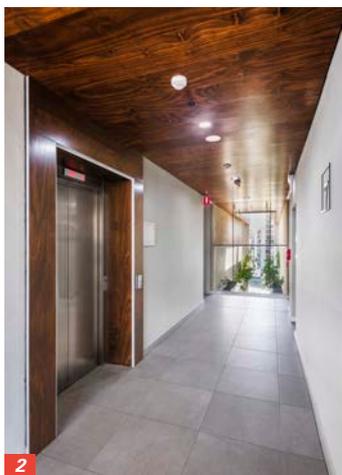
ONCE a bustling hub of industry that included glassworks, tanneries and rope-makers, Sydney's Waterloo, like so many inner-city suburbs around the world, has been experiencing a process of gentrification given its location only 3 km from the CBD.

It is also close to Sydney airport, beaches and universities, with the Sydney Morning Herald dubbing it the "10 minutes-from-everywhere suburb".

With heavy industry long gone, it has evolved to become a desirable location in which to live, offering a rising business district where many old industrial buildings have been transformed to contemporary commercial spaces, cafes and studios for creative industries and technology-

oriented firms.

The development of more green space such as public parks, has been another part of this



2



1

1/ Certification pivotal to business... Austral Plywoods joint CEOs Stuart and Scott Matthews with national sales and marketing manager Lizan Yee.
2/ Connectaply... quick and easy installation for both residential and commercial construction.

process and one such park is Wulaba Park, an expansive green space which boasts one of Sydney's best children's playgrounds and is the central focus of a trio of new apartment buildings which form the 'Emblem' development.

The most recent of these to be completed is the most compact with only 38 apartments, yet it makes a big statement architecturally.

Award-winning Sydney architect Chenchow Little has been applauded for the way this building integrates clever design details including

a roof-top garden canopy that marry this city slicker with its lush parkland setting. This is also achieved through a natural material palette which includes 'spotted gum' detailing on each floor's generous wrap-around balconies.

Because it is used on the balcony ceilings, anyone viewing the building from the ground below can see the timber ceilings and it provides an added warmth to the building's exterior.

“ MAKING BIG ARCHITECTURAL STATEMENT

Austral Plywoods' Connectaply in a 'spotted gum' colour coat was used for the ceilings, soffits and lift well areas. The light weight patented panel system uses only 2400 mm x 28 mm pieces (12.5 mm thick) making installation quick and easy for both residential and commercial construction.

Cont P 11



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Wood building would be world's tallest

IF plans are hammered into reality, Vancouver will see the world's tallest wood residential tower and the largest passive house project in the world ascend over the next two to three years.

Canada-based Delta Land Development, working with Peter Busby of architect Perkins+Will, has outlined a proposal for a mixed-use building that, if approved, would catapult Vancouver's aggressive green building standards ahead by nearly a decade.

British Columbia recently approved mass timber buildings as high as 12 storeys, but Delta's senior vice-president believes the Canada Earth Tower could win approval to push much higher.

"There is no technical roadblock to going higher than 12 storeys," say the



Artist's impression... Canada Earth Tower would be world's tallest wood tower.
Illustration: Perkins+Will

developers, who added that the City of Vancouver appears on board with the proposal.

The building, to stand 30 to 40 storeys high, is designed for about 136 condominium apartments and 34 purpose-built rentals. It will also include four to six storeys of offices and street-level retail that would total about 12,077 sq m of commercial space.

The tower would use British

Columbia-manufactured and processed mass timber, as well as engineered wood such as cross-laminated, glue-laminated and dowel-laminated timber. It would be designed for maximum fire and structural safety, architects say, while lowering greenhouse gas emissions.

Because of the carbon sequestered in mass timber,

the Canada Earth Tower could easily meet the City of Vancouver's plan for all new buildings to be low carbon producers by 2030.

Reinforced concrete would still be required for the elevator cores, stairway silos and foundation of the proposed tower.

On April 16, the city released a "climate emergency response" proposal that calls for new buildings to reduce carbon emissions by 40% from 2018 levels by 2030 and "remove regulatory barriers to mass timber construction."

Vancouver is considered a world leader in tall wood buildings. The 18-storey Brock Commons tower at UBC was the tallest wood building in the world when it was completed in 2017.

From P 10

The product is 100% Queensland hoop pine certified for chain of custody sustainability by Responsible Wood which means it can add proven environmental sustainability to its other benefits.

"Responsible Wood certification is pivotal to our manufacturing business as it not only shows our customers that we follow the right standards from start to finish, it goes hand in hand with the Austral Plywoods' ethos," says national sales and marketing manager Lizan Yee.

"As an Australian manufacturer sourcing logs from plantation resources here in Queensland, having the correct certification is vital," she says. "This is one

of the many reasons our product was selected for a project such as the Emblem Apartments."

The advantage for architects in specifying timber with Responsible Wood certification means they are assured of a product's environmental sustainability by an independent third party and in the case of this project, which aims to, in the words of architect Chenchow Little, "visually extend the look and feel of the park and landscape into the building, extending that connection with the natural environment beyond being purely 'skin deep'."

On the cover: A light weight panel system using certified Queensland hoop pine was used in the construction of a wing of new apartments at Sydney's Wulaba Park.



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American Hardwood Export Council



FrenchTimber

Forest workers living under a cloud

WITH the federal election campaign over and with the Victoria election only six months past – and fixed four-year terms at the state level – we now have an idea what the political landscape looks like for the next three years.

But, continues Tim Johnston, CEO of the Victorian Association of Forest Industries: “What does it mean to the state’s timber and forestry industry landscape?”

“For one, we look forward to a regional forestry hub announcement for Gippsland soon. To date, five hubs have

“LET’S HAVE SOME ONGOING VISION

been funded across the nation – including the Green Triangle – and the federal government has already identified that Gippsland will be home to a hub as well in 2020. Three words: Make it happen.”

Mr Johnston said with a re-elected Morrison government, the National Forest Industries Plan – Growing a Better Australia: A Billion Trees for Jobs and Growth – would provide the big picture national vision and policy agenda for Australian industry.

“Closer to home, however, an ongoing vision and certainty for our industry is required now more than ever,” he said.

“We have again seen the disruptive and damaging activist behaviour of



Tim Johnston... ongoing vision for industry needed now more than ever.

harvesting protests forcing a local contractor and his crew to stop work for more than 11 days. It’s an offence for unlawful protesters to enter a coupe. Laws were amended in 2014 but still little, if any, action appears to be taken to enforce these laws.”

Mr Johnston said that

despite repeated calls to intervene and deploy the necessary compliance officers to remove the protesters, there was no action.

With the Victorian government now reviewing both forest management and regulation, VAFI again calls for a long-term plan that respects all those who work and invest in the timber and forest industry.

“Scores of businesses and thousands of industry workers cannot go on living day to day uncertain of their futures, or their family’s futures,” Mr Johnston said.

“The impact of living under such a cloud has detrimental mental health effects. That issue alone cannot be ignored.”

Pacific Timber Engineering Conference (PTEC 2019)

10–12 July 2019

Brisbane | Queensland | Australia

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).

Early Bird Rate (before 31 May 2019) \$700 AUD per person

Full Rate \$850 AUD per person

Student Rate \$500 AUD or \$350 AUD per person excluding Banquet Dinner

For more information and to register civil.uq.edu.au/ptec-2019

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Toby Hodsdon ARUP | **Professor Frank Lam** University of British Columbia, Canada
Anna Charalambous Lendlease DesignMake | **Professor Minjuan He** Tongji University, China | **Ben Owen** Lendlease Building



New LVL mass wood panel system to debut at offsite construction talks

Exclusive agreement signed for Australia and New Zealand

A NEW mass wood panel system developed in Finland will make its Down Under debut at the Timber Offsite Construction conference and exhibition in Melbourne next month.

SmartStruct, a division of Tilling Timber and the principal partner of the Frame Australia event, will introduce the system – Kerto-RIPA – developed by Metsä Wood, the wood products arm of Finnish pulp and paper



1/ **Kerto Panel System... features strength and rigidity.**
 2/ **Leon Quinn... bringing timber solutions into higher density residential and commercial buildings.**

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group Metsäliitto.

Kerto-RIPA is a large-scale panel system for floors and walls, with superior stability, strength, acoustic and rigidity attributes.

The new LVL system will be offered exclusively by SmartStruct in Australia and New Zealand, marketed as the Kerto Panel System. It will provide a host of benefits for building designers, engineers and construction companies.

National sales and marketing manager at Tilling Timber Leon Quinn said the company was delighted to sign an exclusive agreement with Metsä Wood.

“Our multi-million-dollar investment in the latest European automation, combined with our team of three engineers, 45 designers and two experienced commercial business development managers, demonstrate our commitment



to this construction method in Australia,” Mr Quinn said.

“SmartStruct’s Kerto panels now enable designers, builders and clients to bring timber solutions into higher density residential and commercial buildings.

“Bringing wood into the urban space takes skill, passion and a long-term commitment, and this new offering to the construction industry is a perfect demonstration of this.”

The Kerto Panel system is made up of LVL panels with 20% of veneers bonded cross-wise. This

Cont P 15

From P 14

structure gives the system excellent strength and rigidity; load-bearing capacity and dimensional stability; resistance to distorting, shrinking and twisting; and reduction in moisture-dependent variations

“This is an ideal solution for even the most demanding of structures,” Leon Quinn said.

“Structural gluing is a key feature of the system, allowing for efficiency gains by offering six times more stiffness than screws alone, decreasing timber volume by 30% and reducing timber height by up to 50%. And the system’s cavity supports heat and ventilation, as well as

“TECHNOLOGY COMPLETES RIGOROUS TESTING

providing a space for running services. Easy to fasten, nail and drill, the panels also provide great workability.”

Panels can be used for all roof, floor and wall elements, and will be made available to standard widths of 900 mm, 1200 mm, 1800 mm and 2500 mm, with lengths of up to 12 m.

Well-established in Europe and particularly in Scandinavia, the panel system has undergone progressive and extensive technical development since its introduction in the 1990s.

The technology has been placed under rigorous testing and has earned a European Technical Assessment ETA 07/0029 certification.

Mr Quinn said construction projects making use of SmartStruct’s Kerto Panel system in Australia and New Zealand would also benefit from project advice offered



Kevin Ezard... Frame Australia a national event with a global forum.

by local experts, and from the supply of materials in large volumes wherever required.

Elements were modelled in 3D computer-aided design/manufacturing (CAD/CAM) software by the SmartStruct design team and then exported to computer numerical control (CNC) equipment to prepare components for assembly.

The system takes full advantage of off-site

construction techniques, resulting in less material waste and less work on the construction site, faster installation and pre-fitting of insulation.

The Timber Offsite Construction Conference and Exhibition runs on Monday and Tuesday, June 17 and 18 at Melbourne’s Crown Promenade. The increased interest in the sector has led to the conference moving to a new, larger venue comfortably accommodating the expected 400 attendees, a record for the event.

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

“This is a national event with a global forum,” he said. “It is the only Australian event exclusively devoted to offsite timber construction and mass wood systems.”



The leading forum in Australia for exchange of knowledge on Timber Offsite Construction – and the only event to find out what’s really happening in this space.

The 2019 event will be bigger and better in a new and larger venue for an expanded 2-day program, with world-leading authorities along with local experts providing valuable insight into timber frame and mass wood design, manufacture and construction.

- Speaker sessions on Building the future, Offsite systems, Manufacturing & Construction.
- Panel discussions on outstanding current construction projects in timber and mass wood.
- Workshops on selected topics with specialists for guidance and exchange with delegates.
- Exhibition area displaying latest technologies and construction systems, software, manufacturing equipment, and new building concepts emerging.

Visit the website for full program details and on-line registration
www.frameaustralia.com

Timber Offsite Construction



Frame Australia 2019 Conference & Exhibition
Mon 17 & Tues 18 June
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Brisbane conference panel puts a global focus on forest innovation

Market trends in solid wood production in Australia

ALMOST all arrangements are in place for the 8th annual DANA Australian Forest Industry Conference to be held in Brisbane on July 22 and 23.

“We are delighted with the calibre of Australian and international speakers we have attracted to this year’s meeting, which has the theme of Innovations in the Australian Forest Industry Sector,” DANA director Dennis Neilson said.

An international line-up of speakers will present in a global-regional solid wood products trend session, including:

- Doug Parsonon, senior adviser, Poyry Australia – a global overview of sawmilling industry developments and sawn timber market trends and their implications for Australian producers.
- Andrew Crisp from Poyry in London (and China expert) – recent and predicted Chinese wood import trends, and especially when (and if) China will transition from being a largely softwood log market to importing more processed products, especially sawn timber.

• DANA director Dennis Neilson experience from researching and being the lead author a new RISI USA-published report: Russian Timber: A Growing Force in World Trade. Russian-owned



1/ **Dennis Neilson... high calibre speakers for DANA conference.**
2/ **Climate change... fact or fiction?**

very interesting indeed.

A profile on other international and high-profile Australian speakers will be announced in future editions of Timber&Forestry enews, which is a joint conference partner with Timber Queensland.

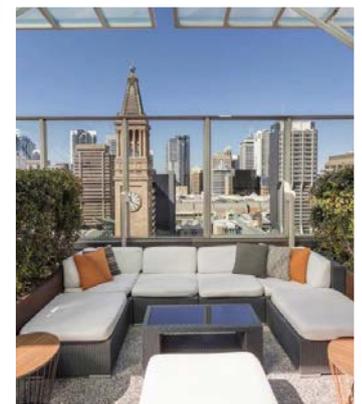
One of two highlights of the half-day post-conference field trip on July 23 will be a



Doug Parsonon

Andrew Crisp

Phil Cottle



The Pullman Hotel in Brisbane's King George Square... venue for the DANA Innovations in the Australian Forest Sector Conference.

Ilm Timber is a major sawn timber importer into Australia (from Germany) and Russian LVL supplier Swedish group MLT Wood also imports LVL into Australia. But how much might Russian direct imports expand?

- LVL London-based Phil Cottle – risk reduction forest insurance strategies to counter the (alleged) climate

change. Phil makes no judgement. Instead he just uses his actuarial experience in probability mathematics to set and re-set forest instance rates.

- New Zealand-based David Buckleigh, for decades a senior forestry and power company executive – Human Induced Climate Change: Fact or Fiction? This will be

visit to Brisbane’s new ‘25 King Street’ mass timber construction building. Host will be Chris Ammundsen, associate, built environment with Aurecon, the responsible structural engineer for the project.

“HIGH CALIBRE LIST OF SPEAKERS”

Hard times for hardwoods in USA

THE US hardwood lumber industry is being devastated by the ongoing Trump-China trade dispute. Domestic mills have suffered sharp declines of export sales, lost jobs and shuttered operations.

The Washington DC-based Hardwood Federation, which represents thousands of sawmillers, manufacturers and wholesale merchants, has urged the US Department of Agriculture secretary Sonny Perdue to embrace the hardwood industry in a new \$US16 billion aid package unveiled this week by Donald Trump for farmers caught in the trade war.

Trump claims China is paying the 25% tariffs he has imposed on \$US200 billion imports which economists agree are paid by businesses and consumers.



Fighting for industry... Dana Cole, executive director, American Hardwood Federation, is pictured at Capitol Hill, Washington DC, with Jim Sitts, timber manager at Columbia Forest Products, North Carolina, North America's largest manufacturer of hardwood plywood and veneers.

"Some of that money will go to the farmers to help them out during a period where trade has been very unfair to them," Trump said.

Hundreds of Hardwood Federation members have heeded the call and are demanding their members of congress take action.

Executive director Dana Cole said the impacts were outside the control of a significant agriculture market and devastating to communities reliant on good paying hardwood jobs

Domestic mills have suffered sharp sales declines in export sales and, in many

cases, completely closed operations – impacts felt up and down the supply chain.

Dana Cole said the domestic hardwood products industry in the US directly supported more than 685,000 jobs in 25,000 facilities generating \$36 billion in annual income. Related industries tied to the supply chain supported an additional 1.1 million jobs and add \$212 billion to the economy.

"For every \$1 million in output of hardwood products, 5.3 jobs are created," she said.

"Over the last three quarters, hardwood exporters lost \$153 million per quarter as a result of the 10% tariffs imposed by China. When the current tariffs increase to 25% we expect to see a steep acceleration of losses."

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Deakin research to reveal the full potential of Australian-made CLT

Better understanding of load bearing capacity of new systems

VICTORIA'S Deakin University has begun an investigation into Australian-made cross laminated timber with the results expected to reveal the full potential of this environmentally-friendly construction material.

The research team, led by associate professor Mahmud Ashraf from Deakin's School of Engineering, will test and analyse the strength limits of CLT, which is mass engineered timber made up of layers laminated together in opposing directions to create an extremely strong product.

Because of the difference in timber species used in CLT production around the world, research is required to verify the relative performance of Australian-made CLT, the range of building applications available and how it can be better utilised to a range of structural applications.

"We want to improve our understanding of the load bearing capacity of this new type of CLT to ensure it is used in the broadest range of applications in the most



Put to the test... Xlam Australia's Dr Paul Kremer and Deakin's associate professor Mahmud Ashraf with samples of CLT being analysed as part of a new Deakin University research project.

efficient way," says Ashraf.

The results of the research say the findings will add to the understanding of the way CLT panels work together as a system and provide engineers and builders with information they need to improve construction methods.

High strength-to-weight ratio means CLT can be used in long spans, allowing for a simplified building structure; the ability to supply prefabricated panels also adds to the potential for

cost savings and eliminating scaffolding in the building process.

While CLT has been in use in Europe for several decades, Australian-made CLT is a relatively new product.

Unlike Europe, Australian CLT is made using different grades of timber lamellas.

“SIMPLIFIED BUILDING STRUCTURE”

XLam Australia supplied Deakin with 3.6 tonnes of mass CLT panels as part of a recent collaboration.

The panels vary in thickness from 105 mm to 145 mm, the most commonly used in mass timber construction.

XLam's head of marketing, strategy and sustainability Dr Paul Kremer says the research work at Deakin will help the industry continue to push the boundaries of what is possible.

"Supporting the work of the Deakin research team will drive innovation which we believe is a worthwhile investment" Dr Kremer said. "We plan to continue our work with Deakin to support further research efforts."

Deakin University, established in 1974, was named after Alfred Deakin, the second Prime Minister of Australia. With more than 40 years of experience as one of Australia's leading tertiary education providers, Deakin has won numerous awards and teaches more than 53,000 students each year.

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HEAD OFFICE

Timber & Forestry e-news
PO Box 69, Potts Point, NSW 1335,
Australia
Phone | +61 (0) 417 421 187

PUBLISHERS

John Halkett | +61 (0) 417 421 187
johnh@timberandforestryenews.com
Dennis Neilson | +64 (0) 7 349 2764
dennisn@timberandforestryenews.com

MANAGING EDITOR

Jim Bowden | +61 (0) 401 312 087

ADVERTISING

John Halkett | +61 (0) 417 421 187
johnh@timberandforestryenews.com
Jim Bowden | +61 (0) 401 312 087
cancon@bigpond.net.au

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Triton teaches a lesson in dual-cab 4x4 safety and competitive pricing

THE fouds on the exotic Phoenix canariensis (Canary Island date palm) swayed in the autumn breeze as we approached the heritage-listed Foundation Building at Gatton College, constructed from surrounding hardwood timbers in 1896.

The history of the campus began in 1897 with the opening of a combined agricultural college and experimental farm which ended a 20-year debate by farmers and politicians on ways to boost the state's agricultural production in Queensland.

Guests at the opening ceremony would have marvelled at the college's metamorphose to a high school, US. Army General Hospital during World War 2, college of advanced education and finally a campus of the University of Queensland.

The Foundation Building was the inspiration of Scots-born architect John Smith Murdoch, a Free Mason who incorporated many masonic motifs into the design of hundreds of buildings which reflected Queensland's timber rural vernacular architecture including the Custom House in Maryborough and Brisbane's Anzac Square.

Gatton College, a bastion of rural learning in the heart of the Lockyer Valley, invited a good 200 km round trip that educated us on the features

“ LIGHT ENGINE ACHIEVES LOW FUEL CONSUMPTION



Mitsubishi Triton... safe and super responsive.

of the 2019 Mitsubishi range-topper GLS Premium.

Biggest change for this year's model is the new 'dynamic shield' front fascia, a mean watch-out-or-else look that incorporates higher-set slimline headlights, a revised lower bumper, more sculpted bonnet and an updated grille with chrome flourishes.

The rear bumper has been streamlined and fits into the bodywork, and the bed sides and tail-lights have been restyled.

The model also features a double-stitched finish on the front seat armrest, knee pads, console lid, brake lever and shifter. The door trims are slightly thicker than the outgoing model.

Second-row passengers have access to a USB outlet and a roof-mounted air vent with four levels of airflow adjustment, while trays have been fitted around the centre console for smartphone or tablet stowage.

Mitsubishi has increased the Thai-built Triton's rigidity and added more sound-proofing and vibration absorption materials to reduce cabin noise levels.

At the heart of this Triton

MOTORING



With ORSON WHEELS

beats the super-responsive 2.4L DOHC MIVEC 16-valve rail intercooled diesel engine. An aluminium cylinder block and strong yet lightweight metals reduce weight; and with a compression ratio of 15.5:1, it's one of the quietest and most efficient diesel engines on the market contributing to better torque and speed power across the whole rev range.

Peak power 133 kW at 3500 rpm joins an impressive 430 Nm at 2500 rpm across both manual and automatic transmission models. The lightweight engine achieves low fuel consumption and CO2 emissions across the range, while also delivering outstanding power and performance.

Double cab models provide ample load capacity with length at 1520 mm, width 1470 mm and depth 475 mm.

Featuring six inner cargo bed hooks and a rear gate with a simple single handle, the extra reinforcement in the construction of the spacious cargo bed makes it even more durable.

Dual-cab utes are going more upmarket – and so are the prices, but Mitsubishi's updated GLS Premium has all the right stuff at a very competitive \$51,990 – a \$3000 higher price tag but one that reflects the multiple changes.

Mitsubishi is close to busting its sales record in Australia. The Japanese maker has been overtaking traditional segment leaders on its way to becoming the fourth best-selling brand in the market year-to-date.

With burgeoning demand for SUVs and light commercial vehicles, Mitsubishi has overtaken Australian stalwarts Holden and Ford on the sales chart.

Celebrating its 40th anniversary this year, the new Triton will eventually be sold in 150 countries.

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