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COVER STORY P2

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New Zealand Budget's lofty aim could transform the forestry sector

\$58m investment reflects critical role government plays in industry

MICHAEL SMITH

THE NZ Coalition government's two years in power have been marked by a more hands-on approach when it comes to forestry. That's not surprising given the common ground established by Labour and New Zealand First in their initial coalition talks.

Both supported creating a stand-alone forestry service to more effectively plan the industry's future, while the One Billion Trees Program and the establishment of the Provincial Growth Fund (for regional economic development) became key elements of the coalition agreement.

Contrast that with the previous National Government's laissez-faire (some would say sink or



New Zealand Forestry Minister Shane Jones, pictured with Red Stag Group CEO Marty Verry on the site of a planned \$20 million CLT factory at Rotorua, says funding from the Budget will transform the forestry sector.

swim) attitude to the sector – typified by a distinct lack of enthusiasm for a nationwide 'wood first policy'.

[New Zealand's first 'Wellbeing Budget' was delivered last week by the Minister of Finance Grant Robertson. As the second budget from Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern's Labour-led Coalition, it signalled important changes to policy

formulation].

From its entry into government in 2008, National oversaw a dramatic decline in wood processing and manufacturing, and a move to the easy way out ... exporting raw logs.

And in 2012, it merged forestry operations/policy into the catch-all Ministry for Primary Industries – "the gateway to government for

all of New Zealand's primary industries". It was ostensibly a move to increase the efficient delivery of services, but turned into a downgrade for forestry's voice as the ministry concentrated on agriculture.

Given that forestry now plays a critical role in government planning –

Cont P 3

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1/ **Government planning... developing the domestic forestry workforce in New Zealand.** Photo: NorTec
 2/ **Some \$49 million will be used to revamp forestry in New Zealand under the auspices of Te Uru Rākau (Forestry New Zealand).**

From P 2

from promoting regional development (through tree planting and developing the domestic forestry workforce) to improving water quality and reducing carbon emissions – the budget allocations were of more than just passing interest to the sector.

Some \$49 million will be used to revamp forestry under the auspices of Te Uru Rākau (Forestry New Zealand), the agency created to focus on “supporting the planting of exotic and indigenous forests, sustainable forestry management, programs such as the Emissions Trading Scheme, and forestry grants”

“FUNDING FOR TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURE

The funding (effectively \$58 million when combined with existing investment) will see “new premises built in

wood in construction and accommodating Te Uru Rākau’s growth,” according to Minister of Forestry Shane Jones.

There is also a continuing commitment (\$20.8 million) to fund new strategic research into kauri dieback – arguably overdue given the current rate of spread and the slow response by local authorities to calls for track and forest closures.

Further, as part of the government’s sustainable future initiatives, there is recognition of the need to control wilding conifer infestations and “protect against future loss of land productivity, loss of land use opportunities, decreased water availability, and increased fire risk”

And the government’s efforts to revitalise rail will eventually bring long-term benefits to forestry.

“Previous governments have taken a hands-off

approach and left rail in a state of managed decline,” says Transport Minister Phil Twyford. Funding will be made available to invest in new wagons and locomotives, track and other supporting infrastructure.

Road-based log haulage has increased following the mothballing of regional lines. But that has come at a cost to local communities in the shape of damage to roads; rates hikes to pay for increased maintenance; more accidents; and dust and noise pollution along logging corridors.

One only needs to look at KiwiRail’s recent announcement to increase the capacity of its log trains operating in the southern North Island (and the likely reduction in truck movements) to realise how an improved regional rail network can benefit forestry.

On the cover: New Zealand Forestry Minister Shane Jones and Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern plant a tree at the launch of Te Uru Rākau in Rotorua. Photo: NZ Herald



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‘A lot of goals can be kicked as one across the three portfolios’

New minister in charge of forestry hits the ground running

JIM BOWDEN

YOUNG, enthusiastic, industrious – and we can add passionate to the virtues of Senator Jonathan (Jono) Duniam, 36, as he takes on the triple task of Assistant Minister for Forestry, Fisheries and Regional Tourism in the re-elected Morrison government.

“A lot of goals can be kicked as one across the three inter-related portfolios,” Liberal Senator Duniam enthused in an interview this week with Timber&Forestry enews ahead of his address to the AFPA members’ dinner in Canberra at Old Parliament



Senator Jonathan Duniam... engaging direct with industry stakeholders the main priority.

House on June 19.

“The PM made it quite clear to me that the three portfolios would work well together across

all communities and economies,” he said.

On forestry issues, Senator Duniam has truly hit the ground running.

A sixth generation Tasmanian with strong family roots in the northwest coast, he is across the challenges the forestry industry faces, not only in his home state but across Australia.

“A GREAT INDUSTRY WITH A LOT OF CHALLENGES

“It’s a great industry with a lot of challenges and a lot of work to be done to make it grow further,” said Senator Duniam who was a senior member of Tasmanian Premier Will Hodgman’s staff during the development of the new Tasmanian Regional Forest Agreement.

The senator said his father, Roy, a retired auto-electrician, worked in the forestry, agriculture and mining sectors and passed on his love for trees and timber. His

mother Dr Mary Duniam is Deputy Mayor of Waratah-Wynyard Council.

“And I must thank my respected predecessor Richard Colbeck for his support. A great teacher and a good man,” the senator said.

Since the election, Senator Duniam has had meetings with relevant parliamentary offices to understand and set industry goal structures – and to get the best out of them.

“We have seen many schemes in the past designed to make an industry grow. Some of them have not gone so well and I want to avoid that,” he said.

After “bureaucratic briefings,” the senator says his first priority will be to engage directly with industry – the stakeholders and the people – and to talk to them in an unfiltered way about the issues that affect them.

“It’s good to talk to those who sit behind desks all day, but frankly, the real stakeholders are the people out there who know these industries, know how important they are and know what makes them tick,” Senator Duniam said.

“Over the next couple of months out in the regions I will sit down with forest industry leaders and discuss how initiatives such as the \$500 million plantation development concessional loans scheme can best be



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Cont P 5

From P 4

structured, and that also includes a lot of Morrison government pledges such as funding of regional forest industry hubs, farm forestry and indigenous forestry strategies and the all-important National Forest Industries Plan.”

One of the senator’s first visits will be to Queensland, “a major stakeholder in the portfolios I administer.”

And he added: “There are a number of Queensland MPs who want me up there post-haste!”

“FIRST PRIORITY WILL BE TO ENGAGE DIRECT WITH INDUSTRY”



Out and about... Senator Jonathan Duniam (left) discusses a mountain bike project in northeast Tasmania with Break O'Day Council mayor Mick Tucker, and the council's general manager John Brown. The council is based at St Helens, the game fishing capital of Tasmania.

Senator Duniam attended Marist Regional College and the University of Tasmania where he studied law, graduating with a Bachelor of Laws and Bachelor of Arts in 2006.

He has experience in small business and worked to

establish a child care centre in Hobart with his wife Anisa and three sons.

“My job is all about listening and fixing problems and securing results for the industries I represent in Canberra,” the senator said.

“That is what my focus will always be, and I will be judged on my deeds, not just my words.”

And an invite: “Call me or Amira (press secretary) any time on forest industry issues. The lines are always open.”

National launch of industry’s The Ultimate Renewable brand

FOREST and Wood Products Australia hosted a launch in Melbourne and Sydney this week of a new industry brand, part of a national consumer advertising campaign next month.

The Ultimate Renewable will promote the sustainability and environmental advantages of the forest and wood products industry, with



Architect Peter Maddison... notable shift in attitudes towards wood among both the media and building industry.

the goal of reframing forestry in the eyes of the public.

The messages underpinning the brand will

aim to educate the public that wood is the ultimate renewable resource, able to be replanted and grow back.

The brand will be further promoted in Brisbane on June 10 at The Treasury, in Hobart on June 13 at The Henry Jones Art Hotel, in Perth on June 25, and in Adelaide on June 26.

• See story, Page 19.

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More than 20 speakers and panelists confirmed for forest innovation talks

MORE than 20 speakers and panelists are confirmed for what will be an especially busy, educational and informative two days at the 8th annual DANA Australian Forest Industry Conference in Brisbane on July 22 and 23.

“We are delighted with the calibre of Australian and international speakers who will address then theme Innovations in the Australian Forest Industry Sector,” DANA director Dennis Neilson said.

Speakers confirmed include:

- Ross Hampton, CEO, Australian Forest products Association (AFPA) who will present on some major issues facing the forestry



Ross Hampton



Ric Sinclair



Adan Taylor



Chris Ammundsen

sector. Canberra-based, he always has his fingers on the Australian political pulse, and of course on major issues facing the industry sector. He is scheduled to speak on Monday morning July 22, immediately after the keynote speaker.

- Ric Sinclair, managing director, Forest and Wood



Conference field trip... 25 King Street mass timber building in Brisbane.

on the key issues that AFCA is facing. As a contractor himself, Adan is perfectly placed to talk on behalf of the hundreds of contractors, and the thousands of contract workers who drive the forestry engine in Australia

Fitting in perfectly with the innovations theme of the conference will be an afternoon field trip on July 23 to the new 25 King Street mass timber high-rise building.

“We are especially delighted that our visit host will be Chris Ammundsen, associate, built environment, at Aurecon, who was the responsible structural engineer for the project,” Dennis Neilson said.

The global engineering and advisory firm occupies four floors, or almost 6500 sq m of office space in the landmark building. Aurecon also provided structural engineering, ESD and building services engineering design to the project.

The superstructure of the 10-storey tower utilises a combination of revolutionary engineered cross laminated timber and glulam – the glulam used for the structural beams and columns, and the CLT for the floors, lift shafts and escape stairs.

Products Australia, who will speak on marketing for a purpose: the opportunities and challenges of promoting the forestry sector. As well as being a major association with members working in every aspect of the wood supply chain, FWPA manages and administers WoodSolutions which addresses the general consumer market, giving people the reasons WHY they should use wood. WoodSolutions target design and building professionals, providing information about HOW to use wood products. Rick will speak on Tuesday morning.

- Adan Taylor, chair, Australian Forest Contractors Association, who will speak

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, marjolaine.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**

VicForests on track to plant 500,000 blue gums

STATE timber company VicForests is on track to establish about 230 ha of hardwood plantation this winter following state government approval of more than 500,000 blue gums to be planted over the next two years.

VicForests staff are busy reviewing harvesting plans following the release of the government's amended timber allocation order and timber release plan.

"Progress is welcome and critical in maintaining

continuity of timber supply to our customers across regional Victoria," CEO Nathan Trushell said.

VicForests has also commenced work on the government's plantation project with preparation works commencing on three sites in the Latrobe Valley.

"We look forward to working with key stakeholders in the successful delivery of the plantation project," Mr Trushell said.

"During summer and



Nathan Trushell... maintaining continuity of timber supply.

autumn months we continued to work with Forest Fire Management Victoria to fight forest fires across the state with our staff and contractors playing a critical role protecting Melbourne's water supply," he said. "Contractors operated bulldozers to construct control

lines during major fires around Melbourne's water catchments and staff removed dangerous trees after fires."

VicForests has also continued our work in preparation for a Forest Stewardship Council controlled wood audit planned for later this year.

"This month we began the second round stakeholder feedback on our harvesting and regeneration and high conservation value management documents," Mr Trushell said.

Calling all biosecurity champions

THE federal Department of Agriculture and Water Resources has released a biosecurity web series – ‘Country–Handle with Care’ – that calls on locals and visitors to do their part to protect Australia from the biosecurity risk of pest and disease.

Speaking at the ECOFiesta in Cairns in north Queensland last Sunday, head of biosecurity Lyn O’Connell said the series featured well-known television personalities who shared the department’s commitment to biosecurity.

“Biosecurity is everyone’s

“WE MUST ALL PLAY PART IN DETECTION



1/ On the lookout for pests... Costa the Garden Gnome and his friends scrapboy and dirtgirl.

2/ Lyn O’Connell... learning to recognise the key threats.



business and now, more than ever, we must all learn to recognise the key threats as they occur and take action to stop them in their tracks,” Ms O’Connell said.

The seven-part web series features biosecurity officers, scientists, and indigenous rangers who work on the frontline to help safeguard

Australia’s environment, plant, animal and human health against pest and disease risks.”

Biosecurity champions are supported by family favourites such Gold Logie nominee Costa Georgiadis, the epic-bearded host of ABC’s Gardening Australia,

and his friends ‘dirtgirl’ and ‘scrapboy’. They also feature horticulturists, farmers, fishers and tourism operators.

“The series tackles a wide range of pest and disease risks, including Asian honey bees, Queensland fruit fly and Asian green mussel, which all pose a significant risk for Australia,” Ms O’Connell said.

“More importantly, it highlights what visitors and locals can do to be better biosecurity aware, such as keeping an eye out and reporting potential biosecurity risks,” she said.

The series and more information on how we can be a biosecurity champion is available on the department’s website at agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity/australia/northern-biosecurity/costa-and-dirtgirl



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School's transformation in CLT a 'first' for Australian architects

Design and construction team will join project panel at Frame

OUR Lady of the Assumption Catholic Primary School in New South Wales has become the first school in Australia to be transformed using cross laminated timber.

The three-storey extension to the school at North Strathfield is a feat of design and construction collaboration, transforming a 1970s concrete building into a creative and supportive space for student wellbeing. A realisation of the school's vision, the design includes highly visible CLT walls, stairs and ceilings using feature grade CLT panels.

During the first stage of works, many of the internal walls were demolished and the façade replaced, working to re-invigorate previously small and dark spaces. Stage two works included construction of an additional level and an impressive four storey atrium entry. The atrium connects all learning areas, a new hall, arts space, balconies and rooftop playgrounds.

Other additions to the school include glulam, CLT



walls and a CLT acoustic ceiling flooring system. The exterior of the existing structure and new additions are clad in a highly-insulated, custom-perforated zinc cladding façade with double glazed, airtight high-performance timber and aluminium windows.

Senior associate at BVN Architects Knut Menden says the project is a model for sustainability through its innovation using engineered timber.

"Using timber in this type of construction provides many benefits," he said. "The process is highly precise, productive and

environmentally friendly and in the long term results in increased energy efficiency for the school."

Mr Menden said part of the impetus to use CLT was the wealth of research supporting timber use in learning spaces. Current research suggested an increase in concentration, productivity and decreased stress levels, promoting wellness and better learning outcomes for students.

Using early contractor involvement (ECI), played a crucial role in the success of the project.

Key members of the design and construction team will join the 2019 Timber Offsite

1/ A creative collaboration of design and construction... Catholic primary school at North Strathfield.
2/ Knut Menden... innovative use of engineered timber.



Construction conference and exhibition project panel in Melbourne on June 18 to discuss the

details of the build. Joining Knut Menden on the panel are engineer Sulan Mendis, TTW Engineers, and building contractor Joseph Moser, CWC-Timber Engineering & Carpentry.

Conference director Kevin Ezard said the introduction of project panel discussions to this year's event would offer delegates unprecedented access to engage with industry professionals.

For more information, visit www.frameaustralia.com



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Building industry needs a shake-up: better standards, off-site construction

THE Australian construction industry needs to radically shake up its approach to construction to help save the environment, academics say.

A more timber-heavy and mostly off-site construction process could be the way forward, says Adjunct Professor at the Centre for Smart Modern Construction at Western Sydney University David Chandler, OAM.

He will appeal to the timber and construction industries to adopt off-site

construction manufacturing, or OSCM, already popular in Europe, by 2030 at the Timber Offsite Construction conference on June 17.

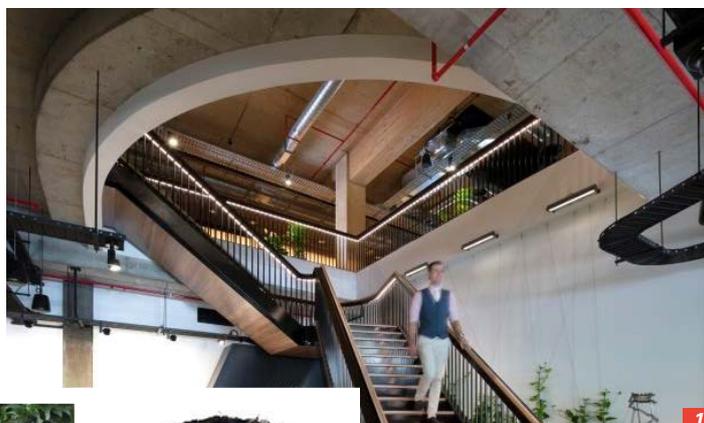
“The big difference between Australia and Europe is that European businesses are very large businesses, in large markets and very close to each other,” Chandler said.

“In Australia we have the opposite – small businesses in moderately sized markets far apart from each other.”

By building off-site, the construction process became more streamlined, materials and energy efficient, and faster, Chandler said.

“The moment you begin to transform the process of manufacturing building, you have to make less waste. And the less waste, the better for the environment,” he said.

To ease the likely advent of smart homes, Chandler says taking an OSCM approach



1/ 25 King Street, Brisbane... 10 storeys built mostly from CLT and glulam.

1/ David Chandler.
2/ Ralph Belpario.



was needed.

“It’s very hard to put smart in buildings after they’re made; you need to put it in as you’re building them and if we don’t go down an OSCM pathway it will be very hard to put the smart in buildings.”

The resurgence of enthusiasm within the industry for the age-old building material timber was helping to enable this pathway, Aurecon major projects director Ralph Belpario said.

Aurecon has shown an interest in using timber in its construction projects, including in its new Brisbane headquarters at 25 King Street. The 10-storey building is mostly built from CLT and glulam.

“Timber is an enabler,” he said. “It’s lighter, easier to handle, with less crange, and the material is easier to work.”

Mr Belpario said at present, building a tower with mostly timber attracted a price

“What we need is a groundswell so more people invest in the technology.”

Just one company is locally producing CLT in Australia.

Another change the industry needed to take on is a set of national building standards aimed at minimising energy use within homes and reducing the impact a changing climate would have on them, says Timberlink Australia executive general manager of innovation Duncan Mayes.

He was championing a change to national building codes to outlaw aluminium window and door frames in favour of aluminium-coated timber frames.



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On right trak with Tigercat mulcher at Trawalla customer demonstration

THE newest addition to Tigercat's machine offering in Australia, the Tigercat 480B Mulcher was launched with in-field demonstrations in Trawalla, Vic.

A group of local customers, including mulcher contractors and forestry contractors, joined representatives from Onetrak (the Tigercat dealer in Australia) to learn more about the new machine and see it working on site.

Tigercat's Australian product support team members also attended together with factory representative Rob Pentesco, product manager and head of engineering for Tigercat's 700 and 400 series machines.

Contractors viewed the 480B mulcher working and got the chance to have a closer look at the machine during a presentation by Rob Pentesco and Glen Marley from Tigercat.

Onetrak managing director David Hazell said Tigercat always put a lot of resources into supporting their machines and having factory representatives on the ground for new machine releases – another testament to their commitment to Australian customers.

"We have had the Tigercat 480B mulcher fitted with the 4061 mulching head operating here on a stump grinding site for a few days now and we are all very impressed with its performance," Mr Hazell said. "It's a very challenging environment that really puts the machine to the test, and it handles these conditions very well."

The machine is also fitted



1/ The Tigercat 480B Mulcher ... ideal for vegetation mulching, clearing regrowth, right of way clearing for powerlines, land subdivision and fire breaks.
2/ David Hazell ... sales and after-sales teams ready to support machines.

teams ready to support these machines.

Tasmanian-based Onetrak was founded by David and Jaime Hazell in 2006. In 13 years the company has grown from a small single construction equipment franchise in Brighton, Tas, to employing more than 100 staff members and 35 service vehicles across Tasmania, Victoria, New South Wales, Western Australia, South Australia and Queensland.

Onetrak is home to large brands within the forestry, earthmoving and construction industries, offering new and used machine sales, hire equipment, service and parts.

For more information about the Tigercat 480B Mulcher and interest in a demonstration contact Onetrak on 1300 727 520 or visit www.onetrak.com.au

with three cameras that can be monitored simultaneously with a split screen making it very safe to operate. The ergonomic electronic joystick steering is very adaptable and makes the machine easy and smooth to operate.

The Trawalla demonstration showcased the machine working on a stump grinding site, but, Mr Hazell said, the machine was also ideal for vegetation mulching, clearing regrowth, right of way clearing for powerlines, land subdivision and fire breaks.

According to mulcher carrier product manager Rob Pentesco, Tigercat is continually trying to improve efficiencies in order to achieve better fuel economy

and direct as much power as possible, no matter what size carrier to the attachment.

"We are always making sure the robustness of the carrier meets our customers' expectations," he said. "Tough, reliable and productive is Tigercat's philosophy and we always aim to achieve those goals."

“MORE POWER AND BETTER FUEL ECONOMY”

David Hazell said the Onetrak team had just completed factory run product training for the Tigercat 480B mulcher and had a sales and after sales



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Australia-USA furniture groups to partner on global design innovation

THE Australasian Furnishing Association in conjunction with the US-based International Society of Furniture Designers (ISFD) has announced a global partnership which expands the reach of award-winning designers across both countries.

The ISFD advocates for “outstanding design and the furniture designers whose creativity drives the industry’s engine.”

“The partnership is a timely reminder that ‘design’ is effectively the life-blood of any trend-based industry, and in the 13th year of our industry awards program we acknowledge that Australian designers are at the forefront of innovative, cutting-edge thinking,” AFA CEO Patrizia Torelli said.

ISFD board president Tim O’Hare said innovative and creative home furnishings had



1/ **Talking certification in Brisbane... Patrizia Torelli, CEO, Australasian Furnishing Association, with Responsible Wood CEO Simon Dorries (left) and fellow RW director Willie van Nieker, general manager, Green Triangle, OneFortyOne Plantations.**
2/ **Tim O’Hare... innovation and creativity have never been more important to the evolving consumer.**



never been more important to the evolving consumer.

He said the first point of business was to activate the bi-lateral entry of approved nominations to the Australian Contemporary Emerging Design Awards (ACE) directly into the ISFD annual Pinnacle Awards.

Entries in the Pinnacle awards, which now feature expanded categories, will benefit from the premiere High Point International Home Furnishings Industry event dedicated to promoting design quality and encouraging

increased recognition of product designers.

Patrizia Torelli said Australasian region manufacturers and designers were urged to nominate for the ACE awards. Deadline for submissions has been extended to July 15 to expand the opportunities for nominees to enter both international award programs with the backing of two major international peak industry bodies.

“In an effort to ensure the competitions reflect the entire residential and commercial

furnishings and interior design industries, categories for entry have once again been expanded,” Ms Torelli said.

The ACE Design Awards reflect the vision of the entire industry and are open to students, emerging designers and masters from all fields related to the furnishing industry.”

The Australian furniture industry represents 104,000 businesses and more than 420,000 Australians employed in the furniture and furnishing supply chain.

Melbourne-based Ms Torelli, a director of Responsible Wood, said product certification and chain-of-custody systems provided AFA members with a unique opportunity to showcase Australia’s sustainable timbers on a global scale.

“With customers increasingly sensitive to environmental and social considerations, Responsible Wood provides guidance to customers increasingly concerned with the environmental credentials of timber furniture,” she said.

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Joel Fitzgibbon takes on resources

MP Joel Fitzgibbon has resources added to his responsibility for agriculture and forestry in new Labor leader Anthony Albanese's front bench – a shadow portfolio he held from 2001-2003 during the Howard ministry.

He was Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry in 2013 in the second Rudd government.

Australian Forest Products Association CEO Ross Hampton said AFPA had a good working relationship with Mr Fitzgibbon. "It's pleasing to see him reappointed to the agriculture and forestry portfolio."

Along with Liberal MP for Barker, Mount Gambier-born Tony Pasin, Mr Fitzgibbon is

co-chair of the Parliamentary Friends of Forestry and Forest Products.

Mr Fitzgibbon reflected on the "huge opportunities to grow fibre industries such as timber, wood products, furniture and paper product, as well as developing newer materials such as carbon fibre, light-weight materials, bio-products and advanced polymers."

"We will work closely with the forestry sector, unions and other relevant stakeholders to understand the key priorities needed to achieve the planting of an additional 400,000 ha of new plantations," he said.

"Forestry sector policies must be developed through a whole-of-government approach."



Joel Fitzgibbon...forest policies must be developed through a whole-of-government approach.

AFPA welcomed Mark Butler's reappointment to climate change and energy and looked forward to working with Terri Butler who has the new responsibility for the environment.

Mr Butler follows Tony Burke who goes from environment to industrial

relations. Mr Burke was Minister for Agriculture and Forestry in the Gillard government from 2010 to 2013.

Ross Hampton said a strongly performing parliament and government, in many ways was reliant on a strongly performing Opposition.

"AFPA will work with the relevant shadow ministers to ensure the needs of Australia's forest industries are duly considered in national debate and policy development," he said.

"The Opposition should keep the pressure on the government to ensure it delivers," said Mr Hampton who will meet all relevant shadow ministers as soon as possible.



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NZ kauris engaged in a battle of survival against dieback disease

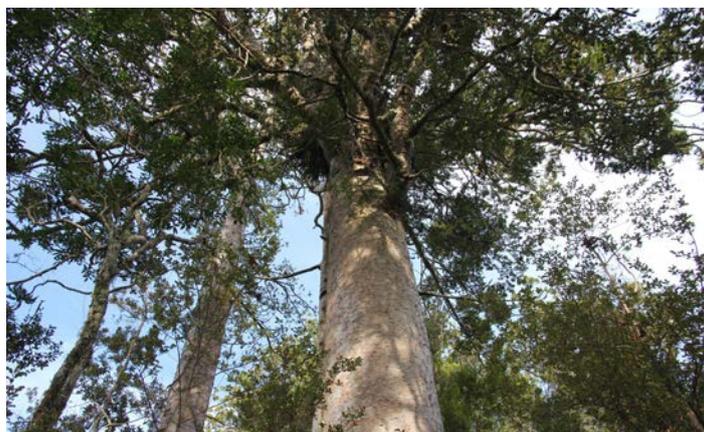
Could this iconic species be relegated to a glass case in a museum?

MICHAEL SMITH

JUST west of Auckland sit the magnificent Waitakere Ranges and regional park – effectively the city’s lungs and an important source of water that comes in the shape of five dams and reservoirs.

The ranges might only reach a height of 400 m, but orographic lift sees them receive double the rainfall of the nearby city.

The Waitakeres became a shining example of conservation through weed and pest control, regeneration and eco-restoration – in marked contrast to a past that saw the exploitation of its



Kauri in the Waitakere Ranges... critics say track closures are too little, too late.

kauri resource as logging and milling denuded the region in the 100 years up to the 1940s.

And now kauri in the

ranges, and in other forests of the North Island, are engaged in a battle for survival in the form of kauri dieback disease

(a spore easily transmissible by humans and animals). Cleaning stations were established on many of the tracks that criss-cross the region but were often ignored by walkers in their keenness and ‘right’ to experience the bush.

A rahui or prohibition was the response from Māori, which carries some moral weight but is not enforceable by law. More recently, the local authority took the drastic action of closing the majority of tracks – an acknowledgement of the

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From P 16

failure of ever-more-elaborate cleaning stations to stop the disease's spread.

Walkers are now left with some service roads that lead to the reservoirs, and coastal, sand-based tracks where there are no kauri present.

For some time now, we've witnessed the signs of a species in distress – limp branches and yellowing leaves, and resin bleeding from trunks (kauri's main defence against the pathogen).

There is evidence to suggest that phosphorous acid (phosphite) suppresses the disease and stimulates the tree's natural protection – but it is unlikely to be a long-term cure.

Interestingly, some scientists believe we shouldn't underestimate the species' ability to fight the disease. Kauri has been growing and



Cleaning stations on many tracks have often been ignored by walkers.

evolving in New Zealand for some 90 million years, and in that time has most likely encountered worse diseases than dieback.

But others say the fight is complex given that there are up to 180 varieties of the spore. In addition, the species' limited gene pool and its long life would indicate an inability to adapt and eventually defeat the disease.

It is sobering to think that dieback may well have arrived here with forestry seedlings imported in the 1950s. Symptoms were first noticed in Northland and the Waitakeres in the early 2000s. Now we are told the disease has been detected a mere 100 m from our largest kauri, Tane Mahuta. (It wasn't so long ago that visitors would make a point of hugging

this iconic tree.)

Editing kauri DNA may be a crucial way forward – along with ongoing efforts to plant the species in areas outside a human-imposed natural range; and field trials to collect seeds from healthy trees in infected areas, in the hope that young trees will develop with improved resistance.

Just north of Auckland is the Kauri Museum at Matakahe, which provides a wonderful record of the kauri's history before and since human contact. Among its gems are images of the kauri timber industry by bushman and photographer Tudor Collins, and displays of all manner of machinery used to mill our native giants.

It will be to our eternal regret if our initial lack of action to fight kauri dieback results in the species being viewed merely in a display case.

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Trade disputes, fires a struggle for Canada's softwood lumber industry

CANADA'S softwood lumber industry is struggling as it faces down two of the biggest challenges facing the country – trade disputes and climate change.

In British Columbia, where the industry is concentrated, companies have been cutting back shifts and closing mills as a lack of log supplies and low prices bite, with more closures expected to come.

"It's not a happy situation right now if you're in the lumber business," says Russ Taylor, managing director at Forest Economic Advisors Canada.

The impact of high log costs in the province – brought on by a lack of supply from the lingering pine beetle outbreak and back-to-back record wildlife seasons – was tempered last year by record high lumber prices.

But prices plunged last fall to usher in a wave of temporary mill shutdowns in the province, and a second wave has been playing out in recent weeks as prices fail to recover.

Earlier this week Interfor announced it would cut back on operations for June,



Challenges in Canada... softwood mills are cutting back shifts and closing mills as log supplies dwindle.

joining in the temporary curtailments already rolled out by Canfor and West Fraser.

Wall Street Analyst at BMO Capital Mark Wilde calculates that the combined cuts add up to about 500 million board feet or some 0.8% of North American annual lumber production, which he said was wholly inadequate to deal with the lack of raw log supply and the "very ugly" market.

"It is a bit like medics treating battlefield wounds with Band-Aids," he said. "They won't stanch the bleeding in a horrible market."

Prices were never expected

to stay at the highs of last summer, but they're now less than half of where they peaked as lower-than-expected US housing starts keep prices down.

“PRESSURE ON RAW LOG SUPPLY WILL INCREASE

The slow housing market has been blamed on extremely wet weather, which the US government said was the rainiest May to April since records began in 1895.

Meanwhile, the warmer, drier weather in western Canada could also be

contributing to spruce bark and Douglas fir beetle infestations and the spread of wildfires.

The pressures on raw log supplies in British Columbia, which will increase under efforts to protect woodland caribou, mean the province will likely lose 12 mills in the next decade according to a report commissioned by Forest Economic Advisors Canada.

Rising government-set log fees on July 1 will add further cost pressure to an industry dealing with low lumber prices.

At the same time, Canada's industry has been struggling under US softwood tariffs imposed in 2017.

Industry analysts estimate the tariffs, which average about 20%, push mills in British Columbia and Quebec from about a break-even point to a negative 15-20% loss.

The duties are taking a bite now that prices have fallen so much. In the last major round of softwood tariffs in the early 2000s the companies got back about 80% of duties, but the dispute took five years to resolve.

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New industry brand sends strong message on sustainability benefits Wood. The Ultimate Renewable attaches to shift in consumer attitude

FOREST and Wood Products Australia hosted launches in Melbourne on Tuesday and in Sydney yesterday of a new industry brand ahead of a consumer advertising campaign next month.

The Ultimate Renewable will promote the sustainability and environmental advantages of the forest and wood products industry, with the goal of reframing forestry in the eyes of the public.

The messages underpinning the brand will aim to educate the public that wood is the ultimate renewable resource, able to be replanted and grow back.

The brand offers a universal, positive communications message for the sector to share and was warmly received at the launch by more than 100 industry representatives.

Speakers at the event included Ric Sinclair, managing director of FWPA, John Simon, chairman, Peter Maddison, award-winning architect and host of Grand Designs Australia, and Howard Parry-Husbands, CEO of research consultancy Pollinate, which oversaw the consultation process that informed the brand.

The Ultimate Renewable brand resulted from extensive collaboration between FWPA, the industry and consumers.

Through a number of focus groups and extensive data analysis, the consultation found that the most impactful messages were the idea of forestry being renewable, providing a wealth of benefits



At the launch of The Ultimate Renewable in Melbourne on Tuesday... Eileen Newbury, FWPA national marketing and communications manager, with award-winning architect Peter Maddison.

for the environment and tackling climate change, at a time when environmental issues are becoming increasingly important to Australian businesses and consumers.

Mr Parry-Husbands said the brand would galvanise stakeholders across the sector to unite with the singular focus of positively changing public perceptions around forestry.

“Our initial analysis showed that, while the mainstream media was concerned with the perceived negative environmental impact of forestry, what was missing from the narrative was a focus on replanting,” he said.

“During our extensive consultation about potential ways of turning negative perceptions into positive ones, a common theme emerged – the fact that wood is the ultimate renewable.

“If the industry can properly demonstrate this, we can change the world to one built on sustainable resources. Everybody will benefit if we work together.”

“WHAT WAS MISSING WAS A FOCUS ON REPLANTING”

Ric Sinclair said The Ultimate Renewable brand was a concept built on an ethos of collaboration, and urged stakeholders to become champions of the brand by promoting the benefits of using sustainably sourced and well-managed forest products.

“We operate in an incredibly diverse sector,” he said. “But no matter where our stakeholders sit across the supply chain, the reality is that we all share a common

resource, which is renewable.

“What we have created is a brand that everyone can embrace and incorporate into their own collateral, in turn amplifying the message.”

FWPA will act as the central point for the coordination and marketing of the brand, with variations of the logo available for use by different areas of the sector.

As well as hearing the story behind the new brand, attendees were treated to a sneak peek of the new The Ultimate Renewable TV consumer advertisements featuring Peter Maddison. The ads share the key messages behind the brand and will be launched as part of a multi-platform, \$1.8 million campaign from the first week of July.

Mr Maddison told guests there has been a notable shift in attitudes towards wood among both the media and building industry in recent years.

“While some architects and designers may still have trouble deciphering the messages around timber and construction, more and more are recognising the benefits of using this wonderful material,” he said.

“I believe the market has turned, and it is an honour to lend myself to such a wonderful cause.”

FWPA will host similar events for industry stakeholders in Brisbane, Perth, Adelaide and Hobart over the coming days and weeks.

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