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'We're all friends here': Minister at AFPA event

COVER STORY PAGE 3



Responsible Wood



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\$1.15 billion Sydney Metro on the right track with responsible timber

RAILWAY station canopies and parking garage façades recently completed as part of the \$1.15 billion Sydney Metro Northwest project have been constructed with 100% responsibly sourced timber, according to certification body SCS Global Services.

The contract, awarded to CPB John Holland Dragados, involves building 15 km twin tunnels between the north-western suburbs of Bella Vista and Epping – the longest railway tunnels ever built in Australia.

The wood used at seven stations has been certified by SCS under the Program for the Endorsement of Forest Certification and Responsible Wood chain-of-custody project standards. One additional station has been certified with a FSC ‘partial project’ certificate.

Additionally, the timber used on four multi-storey parking structures, with space for more than 4000 vehicles, has also been certified as sustainably sourced under the PEFC and Responsible Wood project



Train of custody... NSW Premier Gladys Berejiklian and Transport Minister Andrew Constance take a ride on the responsible Sydney Metro Northwest system.

standards.

The Sydney Metro Northwest project is the first of its kind to earn a responsible timber project certification. Transit operations commenced within the system on May 26, 2019.

The contractors sourced sustainable wood from Responsible Wood and FSC certified forests in New South Wales. They also tracked the material through the

primary sawmills and timber wholesalers to the fabricators and installers of the timber batten ceilings and facades.

SCS Global Services conducted the certification assessments under the PEFC/Responsible Wood and FSC standards. Independent,

“TRANSPARENT THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE SUPPLY CHAIN”

third-party certification ensures that timber comes from responsibly managed forests, and that transparency has been maintained throughout the supply chain.

John Holland sustainability manager Thirukumaran Jallendran said the project was a milestone for Australia.

“We are proud that it reflects the country’s responsible sourcing goals,” he said.

SCS Global Services lead auditor Nick Capobianco said projects of this scale and profile were the key to driving change in supply chains and educating stakeholders, suppliers and the general public about sourcing responsible forest products.

Simon Dorries, CEO, Responsible Wood, said third-party certification was essential for such a large-scale project to meet Infrastructure Sustainability Council of Australia rating tool requirements; it enabled Sydney Metro to demonstrate responsibly sourced timber with a backed guarantee from SCS audits.”



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Minister passionate about her forest industry heritage

JIM BOWDEN

DAUGHTER of a log haulier, new Agriculture Minister Bridget McKenzie addressed more than 200 guests at the AFPA members' dinner in Canberra last night: "We are all friends here."

In her first major presentation and largest audience since she was appointed to the new Morrison ministry, Senator McKenzie's passionate support of forests was loudly applauded by an assembly of stakeholders from across every sector of the industry.

The first female Agriculture Minister, she has stepped into her new role promising to prioritise consultation and collaboration over a reform agenda.

"My style is to work with industry," she said. "And your Assistant Minister for Forestry Jonathon Duniam has already rolled up his sleeves to work very hard with one of Australia's most vital industries."

“WE'RE ALL FRIENDS HERE

Describing herself as first and foremost a "proud country Australian", Senator McKenzie said in her first speech that she was a true conservative and her goal was "to reflect and represent rather than revolutionise".

She grew up in a timber town, Benalla, Vic, and is from a long line of farmers. Three generations of her mother's family were pioneering cattlemen at Omeo in the high country.



Russ Hughes, CEO, Australian Bluegum Plantations, Jodie Mason, forest research manager, FWPA, and Jarrod Burn, Sustainable Timber Tasmania.

Brought up in a timber town, the senator recalled her father's days as a log trucker and her family's strong link with the forest industry.

"We are proud of our heritage, who we are and where we come from. Like everyone here, we 'grew with the forests'."

She added: "And I know it's a tough working in this industry; my dad lost quite a few mates in logging accidents. But I am also reminded that this industry supports towns, families and jobs and will continue to do so."

The senator remarked on the successful launch of the industry's 'Ultimate Renewable' message. "My father planted native trees 40 years ago when I was still at primary school and those stems today are testament to a renewable resource."

She said many people wanted natural fibre in their homes – furniture, floors and desks – but it was disappointing that a lot of

these same people were opposed to forestry, totally unaware of its sustainability.

"Indeed your 'Ultimate Renewable' message will help break down these misconceptions."

The Senator says she has always loved the land. "It's a great passion of mine. You can't live in regional Australia and not appreciate the role agriculture, forestry and fisheries play in our local communities and economies," she said.

"That's why it's incredibly important in these early days of my ministry for peak bodies to meet me and know they can contact my office and to know that I will work with them."

• **More coverage, pictures next issue**

On the cover: Senator Bridget McKenzie shares her passion for forestry with Greg McCormack, chair, Australian Forest Products Association (left), Amy Moulton, development analyst, Midway (who gave the vote of thanks), and Ross Hampton, FWPA CEO.



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Tall timber building talks capture industry momentum at FRAME

ONE thing you can certainly say about the Offsite Timber and Mass Wood Construction conference in Melbourne this week – it was in the right place at the right time.

The momentum around the building of mid-rise and even taller wooden buildings is continuing with Australia now only second behind Canada for the number of tall wooden structures, either already built or on the drawing board.

While many 'first generation' wooden buildings were constructed



1

- 1/ *The gold sponsor Tilling team... Josh Adamson, Craig Kay and Adrian Robertson.*
- 2/ *Kevin Ezard... new expanded conference venue matches growth of offsite construction.*
- 3/ *Haytham Moshi, ATS Building Products, catches up with Rhonda Schmidt and Scott Johnson, both from LP Corporation*



2



3



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using glulam and mass timber panels such as CLT, as the primary construction element, the situation is now more diverse. CLT is still, and likely to remain, a central element of tall wooden buildings, although new systems based on light weight framing and other materials, plus prefabricated complex components are now all part of the mix.

At the conference opening, organiser Kevin Ezard told the around 300 delegates that the new expanded conference venue at the Crown Promenade Hotel matched the growth and interest on offsite construction and that the proceedings would focus in particular on productivity, faster build times and lower costs.

Certainly new products, building systems, construction technologies and software support were all canvassed at the FRAME conference. Mr Ezard noted global efforts to address these issues, and also the expansion in material supply and trends including the much improved utilisation of wood, would feature in the two-day annual highlight conference.

"The conference covers all sectors, aspects and processes of the offsite construction industry, from residential right through to larger-scale commercial projects," he said. "We have an outstanding line up of both national and international expert speakers to address these topics."

A more detailed coverage of the event with photos will appear in upcoming editions of Timber&Forestry enews.

– JOHN HALKETT

“MANY COMPONENTS ALL PART OF THE MIX

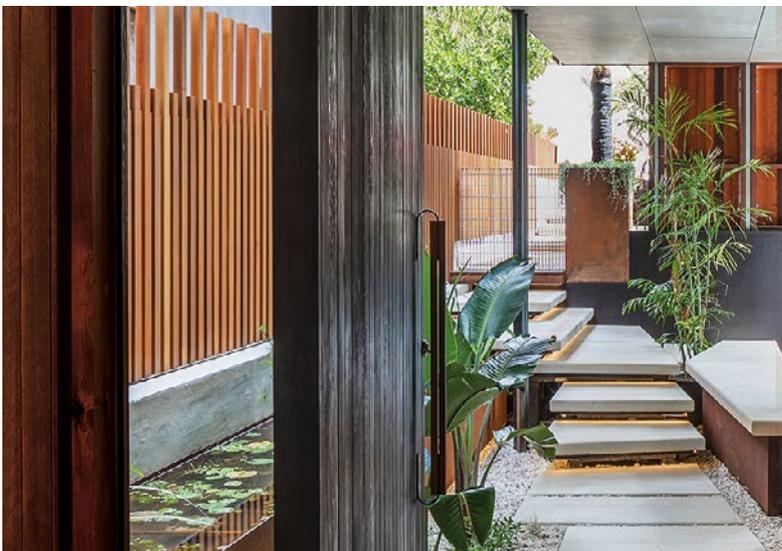
Delegates network at FRAME Australia event in Melbourne



Chatting at morning tea... Jim Houghton, manager, FWPA's statistics and economics program, Scott Bradley and Marita Pierce-Indugula both Timberlink Australia, and Troy Justice, marketing manager for Australia at Lonza.



1/ Warwick Drysdale, managing director, Programmed Timber, catches up with Christine Briggs, national marketing manager, AKD Softwoods.
2/ On duty for Xlam... Maurizio Vairo and Anthony Antonino, technical sales representative.



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AFPA members dinner at Old Parliament House



1/ AFPA chairman Greg McCormack (right) introduces Queen's Birthday Honours recipients Ron Adams, former chair, FWPA (Order of Australia), Michelle Lauder, assistant secretary, forestry, Department of Agriculture (Public Services Medal), and Paul Madden, manager, Arbutnot bluegum sawmills, Koondrook, Vic (Order of Australia).



2/ Peter Zed, CEO, Omega Consulting, Murrumba Downs, Qld, and David Rowlinson. Make it Wood campaign manager, Planet Ark.

3/ Adam Redman, research scientist, Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, with Dr Kevin Harding, president, Australian Forest Growers.

4/ John Halkett, general manager, Australian Timber Importers Federation, with Bridget McKenzie, federal Minister for Agriculture.

5/ Jacquie Martin, Institute of Foresters of Australia, and Tim Woods, managing director, IndustryEdge.

The united voice for Australia's forest industries



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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/

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

8-10: AUSTROFOMA (Austrian forestry machine and device demonstration) – Forchtenstein, Austria. For further information see:

www.austrofoma.at/en

21-25: 2019 DANA Japan Forest Industry Tour – Japan. A unique five-day Forest Industry Tour of several forest, wood processing and wood importing and exporting port facilities on Kyushu and Honshu Islands. For further information and to register see: www.danaevents.co.nz/2019japan/

23: Woodflow Logistix Conference – Vancouver, Canada. For further information see: www.woodflowlogistix.events

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

AFPA members dinner at Old Parliament House



1/ Andrew Hurford, Hurford Hardwoods, Kyogle, NSW, Phillip Moyambo, Highland Pine, Oberon, and Keith Davidson, Boral Timber.
 2/ Michelle Lauder, Department of Agriculture, Canberra, Phil Clements, Softwoods Working Group, and Diana Gibbs, NSW Rural Assistance Authority and AFPA board member.
 3/ Robbie McGavin, research facility and project manager, Salisbury Research Centre, Brisbane, Alison Dillon, HQ Plantations, and Greg Levinge, site manager, AKD Softwoods Caboolture, Qld.
 4/ Sarah Paradise, CEO, Australian Honey Bee Industry Council, Canberra, John Sergeant, Kangaroo Island Plantations, and Liz Paradise.



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Norwegian biologist elected IRG president

NORWEGIAN silviculturist and forest biologist Dr Lone Ross Gobakken was elected president of the International Research Group on Wood Protection at the IRG's 50th annual meeting in Quebec City, Canada, last month.

More than 220 delegates from 30 countries assessed a total of 1145 papers and poster presentations at the conference venue, the Fairmont Château Frontenac.

Dr Gobakken works at the Norwegian Institute of Bioeconomy Research (NIBIO). In 2005 she studied for a PhD in the area of bluestain fungi on coated and uncoated timber cladding. She completed her degree in 2009 while at the Norwegian Institute of Forest and Landscape Institute's Department of Wood Technology headed by IRG member Dr Erik Larnøy.

New IRG vice-president is Canadian Rod Stirling from the forest town of Port Alberni on Vancouver Island.

He manages FPInnovations' New Construction Materials Group working with a team of 12 scientists, technologists and industry advisers focused on wood protection in Canada's engineered wood products sector.

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

Australia and New Zealand were well represented at the IRG meeting held from May 12 to 16. Forty delegates and partners attended from USA and the host country Canada fielded 30 representatives.

Australian delegate Dr



New IRG president... Dr Lone Ross Gobakken confers with vice-president Rod Stirling at IRG50 in Quebec.

Harry Greaves, technical chairman, Timber Preservers Association of Australia, said copper penetration in micronised and amine preservative treated pine was again high on the agenda, with interesting findings on the role of resin canals in getting the chemical into the wood structure.

Dr Greaves said there were key papers on maintaining service life of poles and sleepers by effective inspection regimes and dual treatments with boron and oil-borne systems such as copper naphthenates and creosote.

"To be expected with the increasing use of mass

timber around the world, CLT products, treated or otherwise, were featured in presentations," he said.

IRG50 was preceded by the 115th meeting of the Australian Wood Protection Association in Orlando, Florida.

"This shorter format meeting was held in the contrasting climate of steamy Orlando, which after the cool Canadian spring, was hard to take for some of us," Dr Greaves said.

IRG 51 will be held in Bled, Slovenia, from June 7 to 11 next year.

Meanwhile, TPAA has taken up membership of the Treated Wood Council in the US. The TWC is an international trade association founded (and funded) jointly by treaters, preservative manufacturers and wood producers, serving them and the wood preservation industry in the arena of US government affairs.

Dr Greaves said the main benefit of membership was improved communications among associations on regulatory activities.

•TPAA Bulletin Page 17

220 DELEGATES AT QUEBEC CONFERENCE



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Voluntary matched funding boosts timber's productivity and usage

FOREST and Wood Products Australia has supported a range of exciting RD&E projects, funded by industry and the federal government under its voluntary matched funding program. Voluntary matching has allowed FWPA to work with some of the best minds in the country on developing technologies and initiatives that will have significant long-term benefits for industry.

The scheme allows FWPA to provide up to 1:1 matched funding against the cash commitments of external investors in support of project proposals. The amount of funding offered has increased over the years, from \$590,000 in 2015-16 to \$3.32 million in the current financial year.

The initiative is well received by industry, with its funding cap consistently reached each year. A total of \$9.01 million has been invested in RD&E projects since 2016, serving to increase the industry's technical capacity.

Below is a summary of key ongoing projects being supported:

Next generation forest plantation investment

“SIGNIFICANT LONG-TERM BENEFITS FOR INDUSTRY”



Voluntary matched funding supports exciting research.

There are considerable areas of Australian farmland where different types of planted forest would not only yield benefits for forestry, but also for agriculture and the environment. Despite likely increases in demand for timber, there is a lack of new investment.

The aim of the University of Melbourne research is to design and test new and more sustainable models encouraging investment in planted forests. To do this, researchers are analysing the requirements and past experiences of key stakeholders in specific regions, while also considering economic and environmental factors such as carbon, biodiversity and water.

Resultant models will enable the formation of new partnerships between tree growers and the



agricultural sector, maximising productivity gains for all.

Reducing and minimising expansion of giant pine scale populations

Since 2017, researchers from HVP Plantations have been working to identify chemical control options suitable for plantation managers to significantly reduce giant pine scale infestations amongst *Pinus radiata* trees.

Researchers are screening a range of chemical options, application methods and strategies, aiming to delay the arrival of giant pine scale into commercial plantations until longer-term control options can be put in place.

International structural design software adapted for Australian standards

Developed in Europe, TimberTech Buildings is a structural design software package supporting the analysis of timber shear wall structures, offering high-speed modelling and calculations to the construction industry.

Seven Australian industry partners are collaborating to adapt the software for Australian codes and standards, including upgrade of existing features, the development of new features and adapted calculation routines.

The result will be an efficient offsite prefabrication solution for Australian mid-rise timber systems, making the solution accessible and bringing the technology into the mainstream arena.

For more information on FWPA's voluntary matched funding program, contact FWPA <https://www.fwpa.com.au/resources/reports/voluntary-matching.html>



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Green Triangle industry awards a time to celebrate our timber heroes

New category for trainers, IT services, agencies and suppliers

AFTER the outstanding success of the inaugural Green Triangle Timber Industry Awards at Mount Gambier, SA, last year, the organising committee is encouraging the forest sector to present those who have shown outstanding qualities, are significant mentors and are committed to the roles they play.

Nominations for the awards are now open with just over eight weeks for industry to applaud its skilled workforce and business champions.

More than 500 people supported the event last year when Reid Logging picked up the top award, along with the prize for harvesting excellence, with employee Adam Sealey taking out the individual forest operations crown.

This multi-generational logging company was toasted as the supreme winner of the inaugural Green Triangle Timber Industry Awards at The Barn in Mount Gambier.

Another outstanding commendation was Leonie Stapleton from Timberlink who was honoured with a lifetime contribution award, recognising her long-term commitment and involvement in an industry that has historically been male dominated.

Leonie was seen as quite unique, in terms of her contribution and legacy.



Celebration... a section of the large crowd at last year's GTTIA awards dinner in Mount Gambier.

She played a consistent and important role in the development of the region's export woodchip trade, the radical disruptor of the 1980s and 1990s. The export woodchip trade is the market that accelerated the region's thinning programs, creating the forest structure that generates today's reliable and uniform supply of larger high-quality saw log. It was the enabler for much of the timber manufacturing activity we see in Mount Gambier today.

A new award this year – Services to the Timber Industry – is open, but not limited to, training organisations, IT services, equipment suppliers, agencies and suppliers.

The nominees and winners of this year's awards will be celebrated at a formal dinner in Mount Gambier on Friday, November 1, with a guest list expected to easily meet the venue's capacity of 500. Comedian and radio and TV entertainer Merrick Watts will

be master of ceremonies.

"We were proud of the efforts of our industry last year to get this event up and running and to have enthusiastic support from our sponsors from across the region," chair of the GTTIA committee Adrian Flowers said.

"We know there will be an even greater energy and support for nominations this year now that the sector has seen how the event can provide a platform for celebration," he said.

"The regional industry continues to underpin some 8500 regional jobs and provides a valuable foundation for businesses and investors."

The nomination process starts with an online form

with an efficient step-by-step process across a number of categories.

By majority, the categories themselves have remained the same with a few name changes to clarify some sectors of the industry that could have missed out last year.

Nominations close on August 16 and then judging will begin.

Sponsors:

Gold – HVP Plantations, OneFortyOne, Kalari, Timber&Forestry enews, Timberlands & Pernola Plantations, GTTIA, Scania, Trident Tyres, Border Watch.

Silver – Port of Portland, PF Olsen Australia, QUBE Ports, South West Fibre, SFM Asset Management, PFP Group, Fennell Forestry, ISO Marshalling PTY Ltd, Cummins, Barry Maney Group, Trelleborg, Beaurepaires, Daily Timber News, Australian Forests&Timber News

Bronze – Glenelg Shire, ForestWorks, Triple Limestone, Hit 961, MIXXFM Hamilton, 981 3HA, Trimble Forestry Logistics, Komatsu Forest Pty, Sureway Employment & Training, Onetrak, Climate Friendly, Trimble Forestry, Spectator, Galpins

For more information, visit the website www.gttia.com or contact Prue Younger, event manager on 0064 (21) 2765484 or email info@gttia.com

“APPLAUDING A SKILLED WORKFORCE AND INDUSTRY CHAMPIONS”

ABARES: fewer Australian sawmills

A SIGNIFICANT number of sawmills have closed in Australia since 2006-07, with hardwood sawmills decreasing by 64% and softwood and cypress pine sawmills by 31%.

The Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences national wood processing survey 2016-17 estimates a total of 299 mills (excluding value-add only) operated in 2016-17, comprising 182 hardwood sawmills, 58 softwood sawmills, 23 wood-based panel mills, 19 post and pole mills and 17 cypress sawmills.

“SAWNWOOD GENERATED \$2.5BN REVENUE IN 2016-17

The volume of hardwood and softwood sawlogs harvested for domestic processing has also decreased by 38% and 2% respectively, over the same period, says the ABARES report.

However, the decline in mill numbers has slowed since 2012-13 and total sawlog processing volumes have increased.

In 2016-17, a total of 10.63 million cub m of sawlogs was processed in Australian sawmills, which comprised 1.91 million cub m



Sawmillers... on the decline.

of hardwood sawlogs, 8.58 million cub m of softwood sawlogs and 147,000 cub m of cypress sawlogs.

A total of 4.71 million cub m of sawnwood was produced in 2016-17, made up of 742,000 cub m of hardwood sawnwood, 3.91 million cub m of softwood sawnwood

and 57,000 cub m of cypress sawnwood. In 2016-17, an estimated 280,000 cub m of posts and poles and 1.79 million cub m of wood-based panels was produced.

An estimated \$2.48 billion of revenue was generated in 2016-17 from the sale of sawnwood processed in Australia – \$930 million from hardwood sawnwood sales and \$1.55 billion from softwood sawnwood sales.

ABARES estimates that Australia's sawmills and post and pole mills employed 8029 people in 2016-17, of which around 89% were full-time workers (including managers and owners).

Males accounted for around 90% of the workforce. Wood-based panel mills employed a total of 2390 people in 2016-17.

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All in forest industries must take advantage of the ‘ScoMo miracle’

IT’S not ‘ScoMo’ around here anymore after the recent stunning Coalition election win... it’s ‘Saint ScoMo’, already beatified (if that is the correct word) for the ‘miraculous’ return of the LNP government against the odds and predictions of gloom and doom by the so-called expert pollsters.

So a bronze statue or stained glass window are certainly in order.

Those of us down here at the sharp end of the tree business, paying wages, machinery loans, fuel, repairs and equipment upgrades – not to mention home mortgages and living costs – can now breathe a little easier.

So, most recognise the ScoMo miracle as a big plus for businesses bringing, as it does, a big helping of comfort to owners and investors, supporting companies and vitally the troops in the trenches, including those of us working hard in forest industries.

Unfortunately, bitter experience has taught us that Labor governments, whether they be state or federal, have demonstrated scant interest in assisting forest-based industries

“INDUSTRY STILL HAS A LONG LIST OF CHALLENGES TO CONFRONT”



country towns.

Getting commercial plantations and forest management expanding again would be a real game changer. Also pumping up the tyres on the R&D bus will certainly lead to future commercial forest-based

1

1/ *Saint ScoMo... a miracle and a better chance for forestry.*

2/ *Bridget McKenzie... family background in the forestry industry.*



2

TRUNK LINES



With **CHERYL FORREST**

ScoMo has put paid to that!

But let us not get too carried away; we know that the forest industry has a long list of real challenges to confront. So we really need to seize the opportunity ScoMo has provided. Investment in tree planting and plantation expansion are critical priorities to support the prospect of expanding wood processing and value-adding manufacturing, increased employment opportunities and more prosperous

business possibilities.

Also – just can’t let this opportunity pass, and if I may be so bold and gender-specific – the appointment of deputy National Leader Bridget McKenzie as the Minister for Agriculture should be good for forestry. I hear on the grape vine that her family has a history in the forestry industry.

So, more women power has got to be a recipe for more progress I reckon. Let’s be blunt – the bar isn’t that high. Bridget will be assisted more specifically on forestry matters by Jonathon Duniham. Jonno was the deputy chief of staff to Tasmania Premier Will Hodgman, so he’s no stranger to the forest industry.

So thanks to ScoMo. We now breathe a bit easier. But let’s take advantage of this good fortune and strengthen the industry that gives us a livelihood.

Amen to that do I hear you say?

Catch up again next month.

Cheryl



Forestry industry... ready to seize the opportunity.

as they smooch up to the latte-sipping (almond milk, please) gluten-free éclair and vegan burger eating inner city trendies.

Labor governments have been happy to sacrifice forestry workers, and other rural industries to chase green votes in inner Melbourne and Sydney. Well, down here – at least for the next three years – we reckon Saint

The **NEW** Generation...



NEW Komatsu 875 & 895

Komatsu Forest have added a complete new model the Komatsu 875 (16 tonne) forwarder filling the vacancy left by the old 890. This addition compliments the 895 (20 tonne) by extending the Komatsu range to cover all the contractors' extraction requirements. These New Generation models have been refined with the latest developments in the key areas.

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Record value for plantations harvest

CONDITIONS in Australia's forestry sector remain favourable, according to a report released this week by the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences.

ABARES acting executive director Peter Gooday said the Australian forest and wood products statistics: September and December quarters 2018, showed the total value of logs harvested in 2017-18 was a record \$2.7 billion, up 4% from 2016-17 – the increase was driven by values of hardwood and softwood commercial plantation harvests.

The total volume of logs harvested in 2017-18 remains high at 32.9 million cub m, down 1% from the record high 2016-17 log harvest but an increase of 44% since 2012-13. Commercial plantation logs comprise 87 per cent of Australia's total log harvest, up 19 per cent over the decade.

"The high log harvest has been underpinned by continued strong export demand for our products, especially hardwood woodchips and roundwood logs," Mr Gooday said.



Peter Gooday... continued strong export demand.

Strong export demand continued into the first half of 2018-19, with higher woodchip volumes contributing to an overall rise in export value of 10%, compared with the first six months of 2017-18. Over the same period, wood product import values increased by 14%.

Consumption of wood

products was also higher across most categories in 2017-18, with softwood sawnwood consumption up 5% over the year, packaging and industrial paper up 5%, and aggregate paper and paperboard up 1%.

In contrast to these positive trends, ABARES estimated small declines in wood processing industry output in 2017-18. Softwood and hardwood sawnwood production both decreased, down by a combined 2% over the year. Production of paper and paperboard also decreased slightly.

In the first half of 2018-19, the number of new houses commenced decreased by 4%, with other residential building commencements down 10% compared with the first six months of 2017-18.

“STRONG EXPORT DEMAND”

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).

Registration Closes Friday, 5 July 2019

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



What have Romans ever done for us (or why should I be in TPAA?)

VERY recently I was asked just this question and I thought it would be good to make a few points. The stated purpose of the Timber Preservers Association of Australia is to represent the interests of the timber protection industry ... so we respond to and act on issues we have identified or those brought to our attention.

The TPAA web site is full of information about treated wood and it's freely available to all site visitors. It contains a list of currently registered timber treatment plants, a pile of freely downloadable technical information, information about timber treatment, information on a quality program, answers to more than 30 frequently asked questions and of course a contacts page.

I am also in the process of getting a 'products and services' tab installed.

Between June 4 and 10 this year, the TPAA web site had 786 users and 1260 page views – not bad for a week's worth of exposure and well worth maintaining.

The TPAA provides treatment industry representation on national and state committees. For

“PRODUCTS AND SERVICES TAB ON WAY



A funny thing happened on the way to a TPAA forum.

example, we provide input into the Australian Standards process. The most recent review has been a long drawn out affair with TPAA maintaining input to all meetings.

I have been involved with the Queensland Department of Environment and Science on the disposal of wood waste containing preservative chemicals. Sure, this is a Queensland thing, but I bet that other state governments will be looking over the fence to see what happens here.

TPAA has presented on managing timber durability to a range of groups including university undergraduates, Engineers Australia, the Queensland Waste Recycling Association and building approvals groups. So we

JACK'S RANT

With JACK NORTON
Secretary, TPAA

are out there promoting preservative treated timber.

We provide links to other associations such as the Engineered Wood Products Association of Australasia, the Treated Wood Council in the US, the NZ Timber Industry Federation and the Australian Timber Importers Federation. If something of interest comes through then it is passed on to members.

The TPAA is currently in a strategic alliance with Independent Verification Services to provide testing services and quality management systems.

We provide technical backup to our members. If there are any technical

issues or questions related to wood protection we will either respond directly to the query or redirect the questions to someone who can help.

TPAA maintains a register of timber treaters, both national and international, selling treated product in Australia. We don't represent all treated timber manufacturers but we do represent most of them.

There are currently just over 300 brands registered to Australian producers and about 200 brands registered outside Australia. There are 21 international suppliers into Australia registered with TPAA.

So that's our current work agenda.

Quo vadis TPAA? Well come along and find out!



Timber preservation - Conserving the nation's heritage. Visit us at tpaa.com.au

Mass plywood panels .. coming soon to a tall building near you

FOR some time now cross laminated timber has been the mid-rise wooden building material of choice, often being described as 'plywood on steroids' – but it isn't plywood.

CLT is made from dimension timber like 90 x 35 mm or 135 x 3 5 mm laminated together. Plywood manufacturing is a well established technology that uses wood very efficiently, peeling it off logs as small as 15 cm in diameter. It also uses 20% less wood than CLT with reduced waste and greater consistency.

Now Freres Lumber in the US state of Oregon has announced the development of a new-to-market innovative wood product – mass plywood panel (MPP).

Vice-president sales for Freres Lumber Tyler Freres said MPP was a massive, large-scale plywood panel with maximum finished panel dimensions up to 3.5 m wide by 15 m long, and up to 12.5 cm thick.

The panels can be customised to fit specific projects constructed in 2.5 cm thick increments that provide superior strength and performance.

MPP is an alternative to



CLT challengers... Tyler and Kyle Freres of Freres Lumber in the US are excited about the potential of mass plywood panels.

CLT for use in multi-storey buildings, while also increasing the speed of construction. While both are new wood product innovations, MPP uses engineered veneer and custom plywood layouts as a base material rather than timber.

"We believe veneer is the most appropriate raw material for mass panels," Tyler Freres said.

"Our veneer plants can efficiently and responsibly use second and third-growth timber with a minimum of a 12.5 cm block diameter to produce engineered panels. Natural defects within the log

are engineered out of the raw material prior to constructing the mass panel via the traditional plywood laminating process."

Mr Freres added: "I suspect we are going to be seeing a lot of MPP, and that it is going to give CLT a run for its money."

The company cites several advantages of the MPP product, including the opportunity for large format panels to be manufactured

“CUSTOM BUILT TO FIT SPECIFIC PROJECTS”

at the production facility to include window, door and all other required cut-outs, minimising waste and labour on the job site.

Mr Freres said the relative lightness of the panels could also help transportation costs and logistics. That, plus the aesthetic appeal of wood made MPP a competitive new option.

The development of the new product was made possible through a partnership with researchers at Oregon State University College of Forestry and the new Centre for Advanced Wood Products.

The centre and OSU faculty provided product testing, panel engineering expertise, and a clear avenue for future product development.

"The compounded veneer layers, and the ability to engineer each individual layer mean we can customise the panels to specific engineering needs," Mr Freres said.

"Studies conducted at OSU show that by using veneer as a raw material for a mass timber panel, we can potentially achieve the same structural attributes of a CLT panel with 20-30% less wood."

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Take the opportunity once again to nominate an industry person or company that deserves to be recognised for their contribution to the forestry industry.

We are seeking suitable candidates that reflect all sectors and work within the Green Triangle region and with this inaugural event, let's make it the success it should be and provide the chance to celebrate the high achievers and players that hold credible status within the industry.

It is important to get involved again this year as the awards are now an annual event following on from the success of last year. The value proposition for nominees to be finalists and winners will generate industry opportunities and will grow the profile of the region to benefit businesses and industry.

Get involved, nominate today and step up.

Check out our website for nomination category criteria and details www.gttia.com

Key Dates 2019

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16 August
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