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COVER STORY P3



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Record-high woodchip prices as Asia pushes for premium grades

China leads pack of fibre-hungry customers drawing on bluegum supply

FOREST companies around Australia are enjoying record high woodchip prices, with demand from Asia – especially China – pushing the price for premium chips beyond \$260/ bone-dry tonne.

Australia's largest processor and exporter of wood fibre Midway Ltd, which has recently acquired a logging and haul business in Western Australia, expects demand will continue to grow and has been steadily investing in forestry projects around the nation, including in the Tiwi Islands in the Northern Territory.

Midway's managing director Tony Price said it was a good time to be in woodchips.

"Over the last couple of years we've enjoyed significant price increases, with the current price for Tasmanian blue gum (woodchip) in the order of \$A\$260 bone-dry tonne and that's the highest it's ever been," Mr Price said.

"Not so long ago we were down around \$US150 when



Tony Price... a good time to be in woodchips.

there was a glut of blue gum on the market, which largely came about due to the MIS era."

Mr Price said demand from China had now exceeded Japan, and some mills in Indonesia were emerging as valued customers as well.

He said woodchips exported to China were going into three main product lines – Kraft pulp, which producers fine paper such as tissues; dissolving pulp, used for making rayon, a natural fibre that competes against other fibres such as nylon, wool and

cotton; and thermomechanical pulp, used for high quality cardboard and packaging.

Mr Price said Tasmanian blue gum remained the premium woodchip in the market, but lesser-quality timber chips such as Acacia magnum had all increased in price this year.

He expected the woodchip

TIWI ISLANDS FOREST PROJECT TO LOAD SEVEN SHIPS THIS YEAR

price would experience some "short-term softening" in the coming months, but overall the industry expected ongoing "modest price increases" over the next few years.

The record price for woodchips has provided a boost to one of Australia's most remote timber operations.

The Tiwi Islands in the Northern Territory are home to a 30,000 ha plantation of Acacia magnum trees, which were once managed by Great Southern before it, like many other managed investment schemes at the time, fell into administration in 2009.

The first shipment of Tiwi woodchips occurred in 2015 and the forestry project is expected to load up to seven ships this year.

General manager of Tiwi Plantations Roger Smith said the increasing price, coupled with significant investment by Midway, had transformed the Tiwi's forestry project.

Cont P 3



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Brisbane becomes hub for best in timber engineering

Global experts from 11 countries present at PTEC 19

JIM BOWDEN

MORE than 160 speakers and delegates representing the cream of the world's timber engineering professionals gathered in Brisbane yesterday to disseminate and absorb latest developments in science, research and application of wood in construction.

Eleven countries are represented at the three-day Pacific Timber Engineering Conference at the Convention Centre, which runs through to Friday.

PTEC 2019, hosted by the Future Timber Hub and ARC Industrial Transformation

“EXITING PROJECTS AHEAD”

From P 2

“It's not just the increased price of woodchip, but also the involvement of Midway; since Midway's arrival about two years ago they've managed to achieve a 17-18% increase of price for Tiwi woodchip,” Mr Smith said.

Woodchip prices might be through the roof, but



Conferring before the first session at PTEC 2019... Aidon Browning, fire engineer, Holmes Fire, Brisbane, keynote speaker Professor Jose Torero, head of University College London Department of Civil, Environmental, Geomatics and Environmental Engineering, Associate Professor Dilum Fernando, UQ School of Civil Engineering, and Vinny Gupta, mechanical engineering graduate at UQ who is undertaking a Master of Philosophy in fire safety engineering.

Research Hub for Tall Timber Buildings, in collaboration with the University of Queensland's School of Civil Engineering, is an 'engineering feat' of organisation and session content.

Industry members, academics, practitioners, researchers and students from across the Asia-Pacific region and beyond were welcomed by Associate Professor Dilum Fernando of the University of Queensland School of Civil Engineering, who is on the organising committee. He set

the pace when he introduced conference chair Professor Sritawat Kitipornchai, a UQ civil engineering researcher and member of the elite European Academy of Sciences and Arts.

Prof. Kitipornchai outlined exciting projects for the 'timber hub' that included a pathway to net zero energy for engineered wood multi-storey buildings in tropical and sub-tropical climates; the optimisation of wood-based mass-panels for Australian

Cont P 4

the export market for logs and planks is not so great, according to Paul Heubner, CEO of timber exporter Pentarch Forestry.

Mr Heubner said there had been some significant changes to the Chinese market which had affected demand for solid wood.

“We are seeing that China is moving more to the west,

away from its east coast in terms of construction,” he said.

“So what's happening there is Russian log and Russian lumber can actually access China's west at cheaper rates than we traditionally could from the east coast via export, so we're seeing a big [price] correction.”

(ABC News)



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From P 3

building systems; the impact of continuous drying on key production and performance criteria of engineered wood structural elements; and non-destructive evaluation of elastic material properties and acoustic characterisation of wood-based massive panels.

Three projects – long-span timber floor systems and the potential for a CLT-FRP composite with improved fire performance; a self-extinguishment mechanism of engineered timber in full-scale compartment fires; and



resilient design of structural timber beam-to-column connections in fire conditions – flagged the content of many of the conference sessions to be led by Professor Jose Torero, a renowned researcher on the topic and head of



the Department of Civil, Environmental and Geomatic Engineering at University College London.

He has been involved in landmark designs such as the tallest timber office building in the world, the space shuttle hangars at the Kennedy Space Centre and as part of the World Trade Centre collapse investigation,

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

Charred layers of timber keep the burning very slow and, once the fire takes the fuel load out, it allows self-extinguishment, provided the building is properly designed. Even in buildings where the timbers don't self-extinguish, the slow burning due to charring means the building loses its structural capacity more slowly than a steel or concrete building.

Prof. Kitipornchai announced three new timber hub industry academic partnerships which

1/ Robert Mansell, business development manager, Hyne, Craig Cowled, School of Civil Engineering and Built Environment, University of Queensland, and Andrew Dunn, CEO, Timber Development Association, Sydney.

2/ Minghao Li, University of Canterbury, NZ, Prof. Judith Sheine, director of design, School of Architecture and Environment, University of Oregon, USA, Chelsea Chang, and Mikhail Gershfeld, senior adviser, Department of Civil Engineering, California State University, USA.

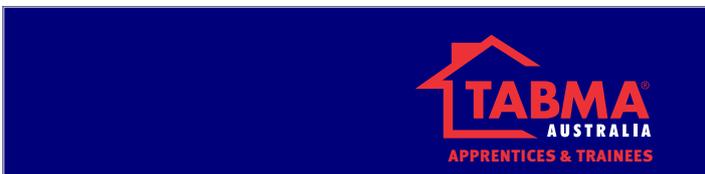
3/ Geoff Stringer, University of Queensland, Aurimas Bukauska, visiting PhD researcher, Department of Architecture & Civil Engineering, University of Bath, England, and Andy McNaught, technical manager, EWPA.

4/ Stephen Dayus, senior structural engineer, Tall Timber Building Systems (Wesbeam), Brisbane, Katie Fowden, manager strategic relations, Hyne Timber, and Craig Cowled, lecturer, School of Civil Engineering, Queensland University of Technology.

have attracted \$250,000 in additional funding – Melbourne University, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich and the University of Oxford.

• More coverage next issue.

On the cover: Laurence Ritchie, cost and program estimator mid-rise construction, and Adam Jones, technical officer (Victoria), welcome German delegate Hans Blaas, Institute of Technology, Karlsruhe, to the WoodSolutions stand at PTEC.



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Senator Duniam to deliver opening address at innovations conference

DELIVERING the opening address at the 8th annual DANA forest innovations conference in Brisbane on July 22 will be Senator Jonathan Duniam's first major presentation to industry since he was appointed Assistant Minister for Forestry in the new Morrison government.

Conference director Dennis Neilson said the conference and field trip on July 22 and 23 would be busy, educational and informative.

"In what may be a world 'first', we have attracted five high profile trans-Tasman speakers who will identify case studies of indigenous tribal investments in the forest industry, and in other sectors," Neilson said.

The five participants include:

- Roger Smith, CEO, Tiwi

“CONFERENCE FEATURES TRANS-TASMAN CASE STUDIES



Jonathan Duniam



Tony Price



Lisa Tumahai



Dennis Neilson

Plantations Cooperative, and chair Kim Puruntatameri, who will introduce the Australian investment and joint venture Tiwi Island Tribal Forestry Project.

- Gibson Illortaminni, chair, Port Melville, who will present on port operations including an innovative 'floating pontoon wharf' to load woodchips, which was fabricated in, and then towed down from Singapore.

- Tony Price, CEO of ASX-listed Midway (owner of Plantation Management Partners Pty, which provides forestry management and woodchip marketing services to the project. He will update delegates on Pacific Rim woodchip for paper and

biomass and wood pellet demand trends.

- Lisa Tumahai of Te Runanga o Ngāi Tahu will present a case study on NZ Maori tribal forestry and agribusiness investment strategy. Ngāi Tahu Holdings Corporation holds a diverse portfolio including private equity investments, property, tourism, farming, forestry and seafood, with a shareholder equity in 2018 in excess of \$NZ1.5 billion.

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

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

Since the federal 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.

For all conference and field trip information contact Julie Bell – email admin@dana.co.nz

• See notice, Page 16

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Log supply to decline in 2020-24: ABARES

THE potential log availability from Australia's commercial plantation estate is forecast to increase to an annual average of 29.7 million cub m in the 2015-19 period, followed by a decline to an annual average of 27 million cub m a year for the 2020-24 period.

The Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences says the average total plantation log availability forecast (2015-2059) is 10% lower compared with the 2012 log supply report. The average hardwood log availability forecast is 21% lower and the average softwood log availability forecast is 2% cent lower.

Most of the decline in total log availability is because the expected yield from

hardwood plantations is forecast to decline as plantations of low commerciality are not replanted and some lease agreements with landholders are not renewed.

ABARES estimates that the total commercial plantation estate may decrease by around 80,000 to 100,000 ha over the next 10 to 15 years. New plantation establishment will not be sufficient to offset removals of low commerciality plantations unless there are new drivers to expand or maintain the current plantation estate.



– 420,600 ha in 2017-8, followed by NSW with 393,200 ha and Western Australia with 361,700 ha.

A total of 3150 ha of new plantations was established in 2017-18, comprising 1700 ha of softwood plantations and 1450 ha of hardwood plantations. Around 51% of the new plantations established in 2017-18 were privately owned and 49% were publicly owned.

Around 15,550 ha of the plantation estate was converted to another land use in 2017-18 – 13,950 ha of hardwood plantations (90%) and 1600 ha of softwood plantations (10%).

The majority of converted plantations were in Western Australia (59%) and South Australia (25%).

In 2017-18, Australia's total commercial plantation area was 1,942,700 ha, a decrease of 12,400 ha (0.6% from 2016-17). These plantations are located within the 15 national plantation inventory regions that also contain the vast majority of regional processing facilities, or regional hubs.

Victoria continues to have the largest total area of commercial plantations of all states and territories

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JULY**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

AUGUST**9: Queensland Timber Industry Pioneers' Luncheon**

– Historic Pineapple Hotel, 706 Main Street, Kangaroo Point, Brisbane, Australia. 10 am-12 noon. Guest speaker

Chris Hyne, fourth generation member of the Hyne family. Meals, drinks from hotel's servery at your cost and selection. No other charges. Big holiday raffle to aid special children's charity. RSVP by July 27 to Don Towerton 0428 745 455 don@thoraimbers.com.au or Jim Bowden 0401 312 087 cancon@bigpond.net.au

SEPTEMBER**7-9: Kununurra Consultation Forum – Department of**

Primary Industries & Regional Development Conference Room, 1 Durack Drive, Kununurra, WA, Australia. 10 am-12 noon.

Free event. Identify and explore the growth potential of the forest and forest products industry in Northern Australia and develop longer term relationships with key industry and community

representatives. RSVP by August 29 to sarah@timberqueensland.com.au or call (07) 3358 7900.

OCTOBER

18: 2019 TABMA National Awards Dinner – Doltone House, Hyde Park, Sydney, Australia. Hosted by TABMA Australia, 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 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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SEPTEMBER

7-9: China Global Wood Trade Conference – Chongqing, China. Annual event for global wood traders providing an opportunity to learn about trends in global wood markets and to network. Visit: www.gwtchina.org/

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 expecting 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

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

Japan forum champions power of certification

MORE than 150 PEFC family members from across the Asia-Pacific region gathered at the Sustainable Green Ecosystem Council/PEFC International Forest Certification Forum in Japan last month.

Hosted in Tokyo on June 24, the forum commemorated the 20th anniversary of PEFC and celebrated the enduring role of forest certification in improving the social and environmental conditions of the world's forests.

The Sustainable Green Ecosystem Council is the PEFC national member for Japan. For Japan, as for the rest of the world, consumers and industry alike are increasingly demanding the materials they use and buy to

be certified as originating from sustainably managed forests. The country is therefore experiencing a rising interest and demand for the certification of its forests.

"With the 2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic approaching, the PEFC endorsement of the Japanese forest certification system will mean this, and other construction projects, will be able to benefit from certified timber, provided locally through SGEC," PEFC International CEO Ben Gunneberg said.



Section of delegates at the forest certification forum in Tokyo.

"Building on examples such as the 2012 London Olympics and the 2013 Winter Universiade in Italy, the 2020 Olympics can become the first global sporting event ensuring that all wood used comes from happy forests," he said.

Simon Dorries, CEO of Responsible Wood, spoke of the importance of PEFC certification in providing environmentally conscious consumers with trust that timber and paper based

products are sourced from a sustainable source.

Ben Gunneberg added that forest certification was increasingly becoming a non-negotiable for suppliers looking to gain access to international markets.

Mr Dorries said the forests products industry was increasingly global in outreach and Australia was no different.

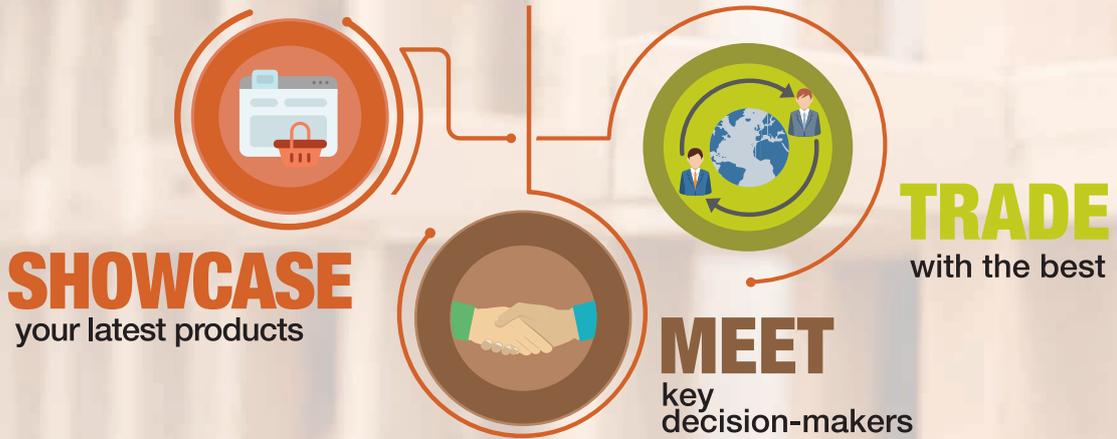
"Australia is an importer and exporter of forest products, and for many of these products it circulates around the Asia-Pacific region," he said.

"This reflects the power of certification; under PEFC, timber can be grown, manufactured and traded from country to country and border to border."

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200 million ha certified as FSC events celebrate 25th anniversary

CELEBRATING its 25th anniversary, the Forest Stewardship Council marks the occasion with some impressive global figures – more than 200 million hectares of forest FSC-certified and the issue of over 38,000 chain-of-custody certificates.

To mark the milestone, FSC plans two events in two countries that have played important roles in its history – Cancún in Mexico in September and Bonn in Germany.

“As the birthplace of FSC, Mexico has a special place in our hearts and in our history,” director general Kim Carstensen said.

“In 1994, FSC was registered as a legal entity in Mexico and the FSC secretariat opened its doors in Oaxaca with only three staff members. In 2003, we relocated our headquarters to Bonn and at that point more than 40 million ha of forest land was certified to FSC standards, and there were over 20,000 FSC-certified products on the market.”

Mr Carstensen added: “FSC, by using our democratic system to improve our standards, we continuously improve the responsible management of the world’s forests. Issues such as climate crisis or the extinction of biodiversity are becoming more pressing, and FSC will continue to be an important contributor in providing solutions on the ground.

In Australia, Nick Capobianco, who manages auditing and consulting business Green Marketing Concepts and is the Oceania representative for certification body SCS Global Services, has been involved with FSC for almost 15 years.

Mr Capobianco helped develop Australia’s first FSC-certified timber veneer panel products

His sustainability journey started back in the early 2000s when he was a senior executive at the Laminex Group. Working as the building products manager at Laminex, he quickly realised the value of independent verification.



Kim Carstensen... solutions on the ground.

“Credible third-party eco-labels provide businesses with the tools and confidence to make environmental claims, and helps buyers identify who they can trust,” he said.

While volunteering as a member of the Green Building Council Australia marketing committee and working at Good Environmental Choice Australia Mr Capobianco learned about eco-labelling programs and forest certification schemes such as FSC.

“From here on, I became increasingly convinced of the importance of third-party certification schemes to drive

the market towards more sustainable practices that are good for our planet and our future,” he said.

“I’ve seen supply chains and buying behaviour shift towards FSC-certified wood products, which sends important signals to the broader industry about responsible forest practices.”

Mr Capobianco has worked with specifiers, researchers, and a number committed colleagues and technical experts to establish an entirely new supply chain from a small timber producer in Dungog, NSW, for Australian timber species, local veneer slicers and specialist European veneer producers in Italy to Laminex’s own wood panel pressing facilities.

The ambitious initiative won the Victorian ICN Industry Capability Network award and led to Laminex becoming FSC certified across 40 sites in Australia. The decorative panels would go on to be used in the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre, Australia’s first six-star Green Star public building.



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New Forests settles purchase of NZ estate

SYDNEY-based investment manager New Forests has finalised the acquisition of Hikurangi Forest Farms, based in Gisborne, NZ, on behalf of its investment clients.

HFF is one of the largest forestry estates in the region and includes around 25,000 ha of radiata plantation on 35,000 ha of freehold, forest rights, and leasehold land. Significant investment has been carried out since the assets were acquired in 1997, building a high yielding and sustainable forest estate that is a significant contributor to the regional economy.

“SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTOR TO REGIONAL ECONOMY”

New Forests continues to implement an ownership transition plan incorporating continuity of operations. HFF directly employs 32 staff and spends over \$NZ40 million a year in the east coast community. New Forests and HFF have engaged with key stakeholders, including local businesses, Tangata Whenua representatives, councils, and community groups.

“We are encouraged by the positive engagement with stakeholders through the transition period and look forward to further collaboration to support the long-term sustainability of this regionally significant forestry asset, director operations for New Forests Matt Crapp said.

As part of the ownership transition, HFF has been renamed Aratu Forests Ltd.



Matt Crapp... long-term sustainability.

A formal launch of the new rebranded business is planned in Gisborne in September,

Aratu Forests will continue to be responsible for the ongoing legal proceedings related to breaches of the Resource Management Act following the Tolaga Bay storm damage in June 2018.

“We will be actively

pursuing strategies under the relaunched business to ensure that our management practices learn from the outcomes of the Tolaga Bay storm and meet local regulatory and international third-party forest certification standards,” Mr Crapp said.

Managing director Australia-New Zealand business Mark Rogers said New Forests and its clients represented long-term, stable, institutional ownership that would enable future sustainable growth of New Zealand’s forest industry.

Globally, New Forests and its subsidiaries manage investments in around 550,000 net hectares of forests and timberlands across a global portfolio of nearly 1 million ha of forestry and conservation investments.

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‘I can still plant a tree,’ says Queen, 93

THE Queen was not letting the small matter of her advancing age stand in the way of that most quintessential royal job – tree planting.

Rejecting an offer of help on Tuesday to plant a hornbeam sapling, the 93-year-old declared: “No, no, I’m still perfectly capable of planting a tree.”

With that she seized the spade and started energetically shovelling in the soil to commemorate 100 years of the National Institute of Agricultural Botany just outside Cambridge.

But as she strode over to the sapling, already half-planted on the lawn, she showed she meant business by giving her black Launer handbag to a lady-in-waiting

Once the tree was officially planted, she leant on the

spade like an allotment pro before her equerry Major Nana Kofi Twumasi-Ankrah discreetly spirited away the implement.

However the Queen did reveal she’s made some concession to age. In conversation with Tina Barsby, chief executive of CEO of the National Institute of Agricultural Botany, she revealed she doesn’t drink wine – or at least, her own wine.

“We talked about English wine. It’s a new crop for us,” Ms Barsby said.

“The botany institute is involved in almost every crop and one of our people mentioned we had an experiential vineyard in Kent and the Queen said she had some vines in Windsor.

“I told her that the official



The Queen of spades... Her Majesty plants a sapling at Cambridge.

wine for the Oxford and Cambridge boat race was English sparkling rather than French champagne, and that English wine was becoming more popular and much better.

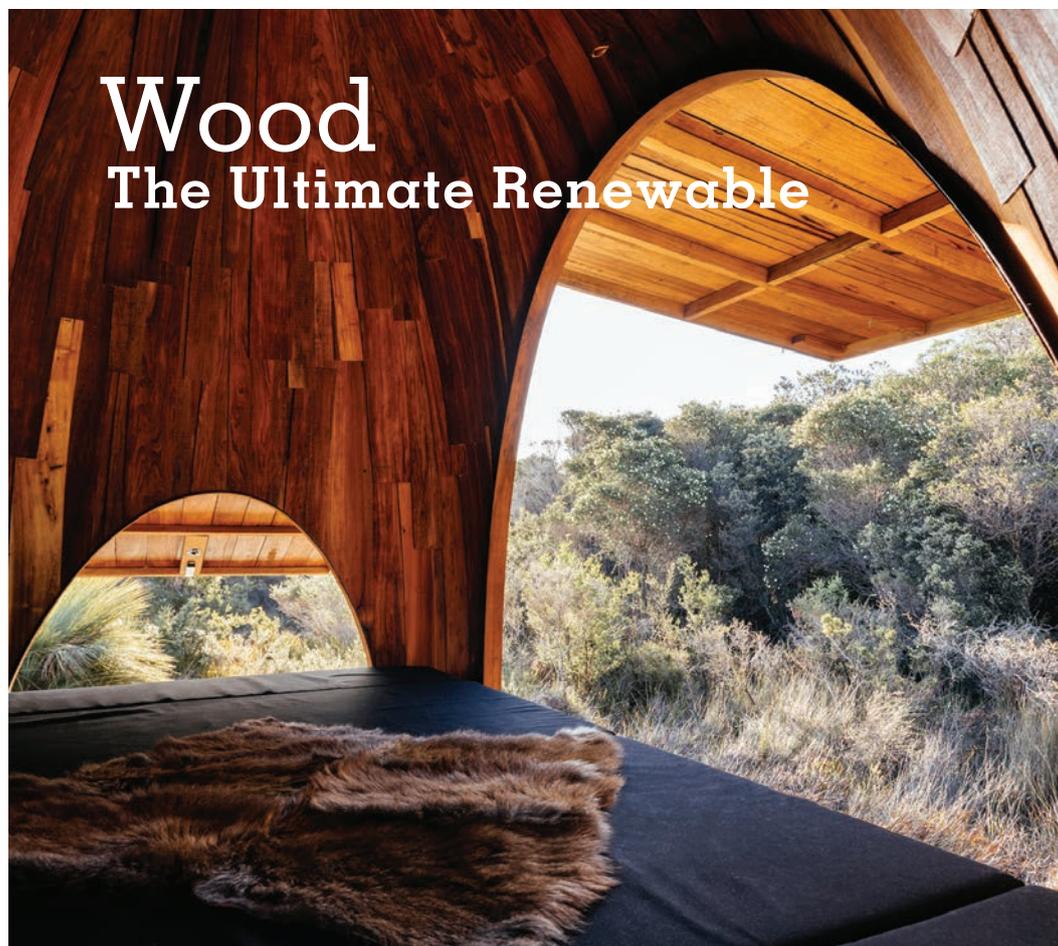
“And she replied: ‘I don’t actually drink wine myself but I hear it’s very good’”

Botany facts: The hornbeam tree is a handsome specimen with a pleasant shape. A member of the genus *Carpinus*, the variety is one of the world’s most popular ornamental landscaping trees.

The common English name hornbeam derives from the hardness of the woods (likened to horn) and the Old English beam ‘tree’ (cognate with German Baum).

The American hornbeam is also occasionally known as blue beech, ironwood, or muscle wood, the first from the resemblance of the bark to that of the American beech *Fagus grandifolia*, the other two from the hardness of the wood and the muscular appearance of the trunk, respectively.

(With extracts from the London Evening Standard).



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It's all about sustainability: pioneer guest

GUEST speaker at the Queensland timber industry pioneers' luncheon next month, fourth generation family member Chris Hyne, still rates sustainability as the number one reason he remained ever-loyal to the forest and forest products industry.

"If someone had told me our business was unsustainable I would have walked away from it," he said.

"My father, Lambert, said it was always about sustainability; we were managing a renewable resource and what we took out of the forest we put back into the ground or utilised any waste for sustainable by-products."

Mr Hyne will touch on the colourful history of Hyne Timber through to today's enterprise – a sixth generation company and one of the largest privately-owned plantation softwood processing operations in the southern hemisphere.

The luncheon on Friday, August 9, at the historic Pineapple Hotel at Kangaroo



Point, will salute industry pioneers – and the sons and daughters of pioneers – and will be marked by the induction of two industry identities into the inaugural Pioneers Hall of Fame.

Hyne Timber began its journey in 1882 when Richard Matthews (RM) Hyne arrived in Moreton Bay in 1864 at the age of 24 and opened the National Sawmill on the banks of the Mary River.

By the time RM's grandson James Richard Lambert Hyne assumed control of the business it was rebounding strongly from the depression, aided by a number of key innovations which have continued to characterise the Hyne business.

Lambert's contribution lasting over 60 years (1921-1985) saw the business recreated, initially shifting its focus from softwoods to hardwood.



Chris Hyne... recalling family's colourful history.

Under the strains created by World War 2, he resourcefully introduced hardwood to the company's expanding production, acquiring a number of small country sawmills. He also continued to expand the business by establishing a chain of wholesale/trade outlets along the eastern coast, from Townsville down to Brisbane.

Building on his father's legacy, Warren Hyne, managing director from 1979-1994, continued to

innovate and expand the capacity of the business while establishing himself as a national leader of Australia's timber industry.

Hyne continued to grow strongly and Warren initiated the most significant development of his career when the company won a tender to cut 225,000 cub m annually of the Tuan Forest and set about to building a pine sawmill. He died aged 77 in 2007.

Early luncheon sponsors include Thora Wholesale Timbers, Hyne Timber, Kennedy's Classic Age Timbers, Responsible Wood and Timber&Foresry enews.

The luncheon will help raise funds for Hummingbird House, a support service for the 3700 Queensland children affected by a life-limiting condition and their families. A raffle, run by Brisbane Hoo-Hoo Club 218, carries as the major prize a two-night stay at the Belles at Montville holiday cottages on the Sunshine Coast hinterland provided by industry identity Noel Wooton and his wife.

– Jim Bowden

• See notice, Page 19

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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

17 June
16 August
September
1 November

Nominations Open
Nominations Close
Judging Process
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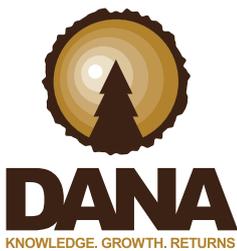
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NSW forests connected to some of our most distinguished poets

TREES, forests and forestry in NSW have enjoyed a past connection with some of the country's most distinguished poets.

Henry Kendall who published probably his best known second volume of poetry *Leaves from Australian Forests* in 1869 was appointed as the first inspector of state forests in 1881 by Sir Henry Parkes. However, his health broke down due to demands of the job and he died in August 1882.

Arguably one of Australia's finest poets, the late Les Murray had a strong mid-North Coast forest and forestry connection. He writes about the "... newly luxuriant woodland my grandparents John and Isabella Murray encountered when they took up their land at Bunyah in 1870 in a forest I have known all my life, the one I walked in first and the one I'm likely to walk in most often in the future."

Les was a keen observer and an impressive amateur forester. "I saw the very tail end of the era of bullock teams and trundling iron-shod jinkers, always called 'trucks' by the men who used them."

His botanical description of the mid-North Coast native forest around the area now known as Wang Wauk State Forest is well worth repeating here:



1/ *Mid-North Coast native forest... much loved by Les Murray.*

2/ *Les Murray... among Australia's finest poets and noted amateur botanist, forester and bushman.*



"High up there will be forest oaks, whose non deciduous needle leaves turn bronze in autumn and used to be taken by the black people as their signal to move away from the coast to winter in the sheltering hills. With these will be the greyish mauve spotted gums, then white mahogany and grey ironbark and seasonally orange-streaked grey gum, telling of stony ground; a brush box or two will indicate moister shaded soil, and then perhaps the warm chestnut trunks of soaring tallowwoods will take over, with black ironbarks and maybe a shift to blackbutt on drier soils, then these will give

his uncle Archie's death in September 1939.

"An experienced sleeper cutter and just three months married, he was killed by a falling top of a dead tree. My father had refused to fell a certain tallowwood on the grounds that it was too difficult to haul out.

"Archie's father, who supervised operations was stubbornly convinced the log was good. At three that afternoon as the disputed tree fell, it brushed against a tall dead one beside it and set up a whipping vibration. Hearing a cry of 'look out!' Archie made his only mistake and ran without looking up. The long snapped off top section of the dead bole hit him squarely in the head and burst his brains out."

Describing his affinity for his beloved local native forests Les notes: "It is a quality not so much alien and indifferent, as too many literary authors by now have parroted, but rather sober, subtle and uncorrupt, with a curious remote decency about it. As you move and work there, or as you die there, you do so in an intense spare abundance that sheds its perfumes and its high-riddled light on you equally ... one in which you are as much at home as a hovering native bee, or the wind, or death, or shaded tricking water."

TALKING TREES



With **JOHN HALKETT**

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way to dizzying blue gums, flooded gum and turpentine far down on the creek level!"

The Murray family had a long and personal connection with early forestry operations. Les describes the unfortunate circumstance surrounding



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ABC report opens old wounds in a battle against forest senescence

Where's the balance? Delays on long-term plan impact on communities

A RECENT ABC Four Corners report has misleadingly painted native forestry in Victoria as one of the major threats to forest species.

The report was strongly criticised as one-sided and pushing an anti-forestry agenda. Mark Poynter, an author, consultant and fellow of the Institute of Foresters of Australia, said it was well documented that sustainable forestry had never been responsible for any fauna or flora extinction. Yet the program on the threat of extinction in Australia devoted almost half of its time to the issue of forestry.

Current events bring vividly to mind the same ABC program in the mid-70s – the dark days of native forest closures – that denounced sustainable forest management against a filmed background of a ‘wrecking ball’ approach to clear felling in an Asian country – many thousands of kilometres away from the Northern Rivers. Balanced reporting?

This month marks 40 years since forest closures created the Terania Creek ‘wilderness’ reserve – and the memories of the anarchy of these violent protests in 1979. The vandalism of infrastructure and equipment, the spiking of trees, the sabotage of bridges, the verbal and physical abuse of people going about their lawful occupations and the many late-night telephone calls threatening to harm workers’ wives and children are a still vivid and



1/ **Pre-harvest surveys... a Channel 7 Going Bush episode filmed in the Central Highlands showed ecologists in all regions look for threatened species before planning harvesting operations.**

Photo: VicForests

2/ **John Macgreggor-Skinner... Terania Creek Inquiry vindicated the industry.**



unpleasant reminiscences.

The tirade of misinformation, emotional hype and abnormal behaviour influenced the political decision to expand the national park estate in 1982. The so called ‘Rain Forest Decision’ saw some 63,000 ha of forest locked up – and only 20% of it was brushwood (rainforest).

As Murwillumbah-based Institute of Foresters of Australia fellow John Macgreggor-Skinner recalls: “The fact that the outcome of the comprehensive Terania Creek Inquiry by Justice Isaacs vindicated the industry and recommended that the multiple-use forest management continue has been completely ignored by those who now propose some form of 40th anniversary celebration. The substantiated science of multiple-use forest management was disregarded in the post report political process.

“The state government’s October 1982 adverse decision was made specifically to bring an end to the violence and sabotage; the costs were people’s livelihoods and the resulting degradation of the forest advanced ecosystems.”

“THE COSTS ARE PEOPLE’S LIVELIHOODS AND DEGRADING OF FORESTS

He added: “For more than 50,000 years our forest ecology has evolved through disturbance, predominately fire and many plant species regenerate best after a fire. There was always an abundance of fresh herbage and regrowth that native wildlife prefer. The multiple-use forest management practices maintained diversity of mixed age classes and grassy understory. By locking

up the forest and turning them into a state of senescence, the forest ecology is changed – dramatically.”

As an example, Mr Macgreggor-Skinner says koala populations that were in abundance in Mebbin Forest and Collins and Lynchs Creeks have all but disappeared since these areas were converted to national parks. Over a two-year period, a koala management plan was developed to protect and enhance the then identified 400-plus Pine Creek koalas. However, the expansion of the national park has again been detrimental to this now dwindling population.

“Well may they build a monument? Perhaps it should be to anarchism and the sequential loss of the environment they purport to protect,” Mr Macgreggor-Skinner said.

The recent recommendations by the Victorian Environmental Assessment Council from its central-west investigation have also sparked a number of concerns for the industry in that state given the proposed decrease in harvestable areas.

Victorian Association of Forest Industries CEO Tim Johnston says sawmillers such as Pyrenees Timber in Chute, a VAFI member, will be negatively impacted if these recommendations are accepted by the government.

The small family-owned third-generation sawmill in the Pyrenees region, about

Cont P 19

From P 18

170 km west of Melbourne, is operated by Ian and Sally Crick.

Originally owned and operated by James Crick (Ian's grandfather), it was eventually passed on to his three sons who traded as J L Crick and Sons. In the early years the mill produced hardwood sourced from farmers clearing for agriculture.

Confident the demand for hardwood timber would remain, Ian and Sally focused on producing timber for rural customers and specialised in shearing sheds, stock yards and fencing materials. As the business grew they invested in value adding and now produce a range of high quality, messmate decking, flooring and F17 dry structural timbers.

Always looking for ways to become more efficient, Pyrenees Timber has invested in a biomass boiler to utilise sawmill waste which is used to heat the timber drying kiln. Some of this product is also delivered to the Beaufort Hospital's own biomass boiler replacing the need for LPG to heat the hospital.

"Again, small business owners in Victoria are under mounting pressure due to the lack of a sensible and



Saving the environment? The Terania rainforest logging protests that preceded the Franklin River protests in Tasmania

balanced state government long-term industry plan," Tim Johnston said.

Labor Premier Daniel Andrews has said the industry, stakeholders and the government were unable to come up with a consensus last year regarding the industry.

"He said the balance had to be right," Mr Johnston recalls, "and yet little action has been taken to ensure that an actual balance can be struck. It's the same empty rhetoric we hear over and over again from the government – the 'balance has to be right'.

"We agree, and we also point out that Victoria has an area of 7.88 million ha of native forest, of which only about 3000 ha is harvested and regenerated annually.

"So again, we call on the state government to get that balance right by releasing a long-term industry plan that includes a long-term commitment to a local native timber processing industry, not just stop-gap measures like short-term timber release plans that will do little to help the industry make investment decisions and move forward."

“HARDER TO MAKE INVESTMENT DECISIONS

INVITATION ... DON'T MISS 'Pioneers at the Piney'

Timber industry's annual Pioneers' Luncheon

At historic PINEAPPLE HOTEL, 706 Main Street, Kangaroo Point, Brisbane.

Friday, August 9 2019 @ 12 noon

The Hyne Timber story began in 1882, when Richard Matthews Hyne opened the National Sawmill on the banks of the Mary River in Queensland. The business would grow through the adversity of nature and economics to prosper, with Hyne becoming Australia's largest privately owned and operated timber manufacturing company.



Fourth generation family member CHRIS HYNE is a welcome guest speaker at the Queensland timber industry's annual Pioneers Luncheon on August 9.

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Nursery delivers 7.4m seedlings to restock plantations and build homes

MORE than seven million pine seedlings are being dispatched from Forestry Corporation of NSW's Blowering nursery near Tumut this winter, one of the largest crops since the nursery began producing containerised seedlings a little over a decade ago.

Plantation improvement manager Phil Green said the seedlings would be sent out to restock timber plantations near Tumut, Bombala, Bathurst and Walcha.

"Over the last 20 years, the nursery has seen distribution of more than 140 million seedlings to help build people's homes and workplaces," Mr Green said.

"We have 16 staff on board to help with the grading and dispatch program which runs for five months.

"At the height of the dispatch program, it is not uncommon to send upwards of 800,000 seedlings out of the nursery gate in one week.

Mr Green said preparations for the massive seedling dispatch began in October last year, when the team at the nursery planted more



Blowering nursery... massive seedling dispatch program.

than 340 kg of seed into individual cells.

"These seedlings are going to become homes and furniture for future generations, so we go to great lengths to ensure we produce high quality, robust seedlings that will produce strong and straight timber when they are ready for harvest in 30 years," Mr Green said.

"We use different seeds for seedlings destined to be planted in different parts of the estate so that the seedlings have the best chance of thriving in their

environment and growing into high-quality timber."

Mr Green said over the past eight months, the nursery had fertilised, watered and nurtured seedlings, regularly measuring the stem diameter, height and nutrient status of sample plots.

"We are now assessing each individual seedling to

ensure it meets our high standards," he said.

Forestry Corporation replants the equivalent of almost 300 times the area of Sydney's CBD to pine plantations each year and around 85% of the seedlings replanted state-wide are grown at Blowering.

Forestry Corporation of NSW is the largest manager of commercial native and plantation forests in the state and manages recreation, environmental sustainability and renewable timber production on more than 2 million ha of state forests.

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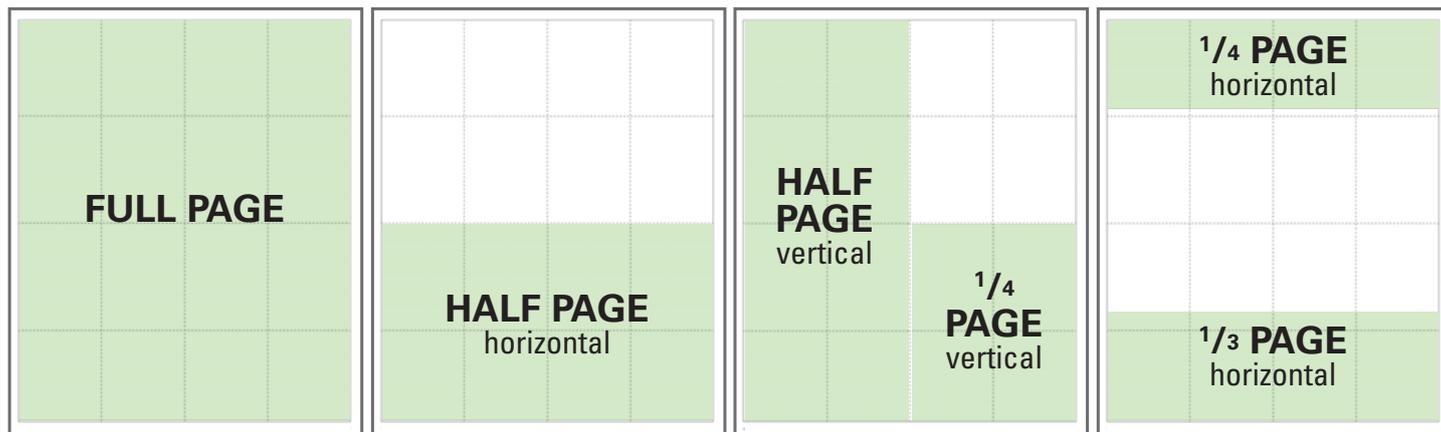
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