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Innovating farm forestry as a commercial timber enterprise

DANA CONFERENCE REPORT



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Duniam on resource access: ‘we’re here and we’re listening’ Government to conduct inquiry on short-term supply constraints

JIM BOWDEN

FORESTRY can absolutely run complementary to farming activities, but the key is to ensure the right trees are planted at the right scale and in the right places, Senator Jonathan Duniam said in Brisbane on Monday.

He was opening the DANA forest industry innovations conference – his first major address to the industry since his appointment as minister responsible for the sector – which attracted more than 70 delegates from New Zealand, the UK and from across Australia, including the remote Tiwi Islands, 80 km from Darwin across the Clarence Strait.

Senator Duniam said a key strategy was needed to enable farm forestry to become a commercial, timber-supplying enterprise.

“This will include investigating aggregation tools, data needs, mapping and business models and navigating the challenges of changing land use – and an



Conference speakers and moderators...
Peter Zed, CEO, Omega Consulting, Bill McCallum, managing director, Hancock Natural Resources Group Australasia, John Halkett, general manager, ATIF, Dennis Neilson, director DANA (NZ) Ltd, Rotorua, and Phil Cottle, senior agriculture underwriter, Pardus, London.

inquiry into short-term timber supply chain constraints,” he said.

“With the long growing time for trees we need to assess any resource access or supply chain constraints.

“I will be asking the Standing Committee on Agriculture and Water Resources to conduct an inquiry into short-term timber supply chain constraints in the national plantation sector.”

The senator said the area under plantations was decreasing and plantation development concessional loans would support the establishment of new plantations.

“With the need to produce more wood, the government

“ CHALLENGES OF CHANGING LAND USE

is looking at what we can do to remove barriers to the expansion of the plantation estate. But careful thought must be put into the planning for these loans, to ensure we avoid some of the mistakes of the past.”

Senator Duniam said the government had committed \$4 million over four years to establish two centres of the National Institute for

Cont P 8



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Visions of bright future for Tiwi forest industry groups

PRESENTATIONS by Tiwi elders at the DANA forest conference this week gave delegates exciting visions of a thriving forest industry for indigenous peoples in one of Australia's most remote areas, 80 km north of Darwin.

Presentations by Kim Puruntatameri, Tiwi Plantations Corporation chairman and Gibson Illortaminni, chairman of Port Melville Pty Ltd, showed the determination and commitment of Tiwi landholders to develop forest and port businesses to provide employment and income for future generations of Tiwi.

The Tiwi Islands are home to a 30,000 ha plantation of Acacia mangium 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 Australia Ltd, had transformed the Tiwi's forestry project.

"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.

And it's not only woodchips. Trials with plantation wood are also being considered for



Representing Tiwi Plantations Corporation are Kim Puruntatameri, chairman, and Mark Ashley, general manager.

the possible introduction of a construction industry.

In 2010-11, Poyry determined 28,390 ha was planted to Acacia mangium and 937 ha to Pinus caribaea. Planning has started in preparation for a second rotation, potentially of eucalypt/eucalypt hybrid.

Assessments in 2016 showed an available volume at 1.137 million bone dry metric tonnes of woodchip – an export industry worth \$US150 million at current prices.

Trial plantings of eucalypt hybrids suggest potential increase in productivity of up to 60%. Plantations comprise 5% of Melville Island and 4% of the total area of both islands. Harvesting commenced in mid-June 2015, with the export of the first woodchip consignment in November 2015. A total 16 shipments of woodchip and one shipment of pine logs have been sent out to date.

Australia's largest exporter

“ PLANNING FOR SECOND ROTATION OF EUCALYPT HYBRIDS

and processor of forest products, Midway acquired Plantation Management Partnership in August 2017, which entered into an agreement with Tiwi Plantations Corporation in October last year. This provides for a major increase in harvesting, trucking and loading capacity and capability for woodchip and logs and the building, now completed, of a 'floating' port facility brought in from Singapore.

Tiwi landowners established Tiwi Plantations Corporation to manage the plantations on behalf of eight traditional landowners who represent eight land-owner groups.

In 1986 when the Northern Territory government terminated its involvement in forestry on the islands, 3900 ha of cypress and caribbean pine plantations had been established, together with the first trial plantings of Acacia mangium.

More than 40 Tiwi were employed in the nursery and the plantations, many for more than 10 years, and some for up to 20 years.

Small sawmills have been operating on the islands for more than a 100 years.



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Sawmill efficiency must lift to combat export sawlog pricing

AUSTRALIA is facing a significant and increasing softwood sawn timber product resource deficit.

Spelling out the figures to DANA conference delegates, CEO of Queensland-based Omega Consulting Peter Zed added: "Imports will fill the gap, but they need to be better managed by processors and not just importers."

The former group general manager for Weyerhaeuser with an ANU forestry honours degree said timber prices and shipping costs made Australia potentially unattractive to some exporters through the cycle.

"International timber market prices will impact



Bell ringers keeping the conference sessions running like clockwork .. the Bell sisters Dawn and Julie from DANA New Zealand with Pam Quirk of Brisbane (left).

Australian imports," he said.

Installed capacity of softwood sawmills was 9.9 million cub m (8.1 million cub

m currently processed), with 1.8 million cub m of latent capacity.

Mr Zed said export parity sawlog pricing would continue to challenge sawmills. He said sawmill efficiency needed to lift by up to 30% to combat substitution and export sawlog pricing, which would require significant new investment.

"Further product rationalisation needs to occur if productivity (and cost competitiveness) targets are to be won," he said.

"Further innovations in products and services are needed to sustain this mature industry sector – none of which will be substantial in their own right."

These included engineered wood products and innovative new products; innovative domestic utilisation options for hardwood plantations (currently exports are 0.5 million cub m of plantation hardwood sawlog annually – and it's rising); and protection against 'vulnerable' imports.

"Australia needs innovative solutions to domestically process small diameter sawlog, which currently total 2-2.5 million cub m a year."

Mr Zed named three potential disrupters.

- Russian sawlog and lumber production could significantly impact log exports to China from New Zealand and Australia (increasing domestic log supply and lowering domestic timber prices (likely).

- Price of rolled steel could increase, reducing steel frame competitiveness and substitution (less likely due to the impact of the current US-China tariff war).

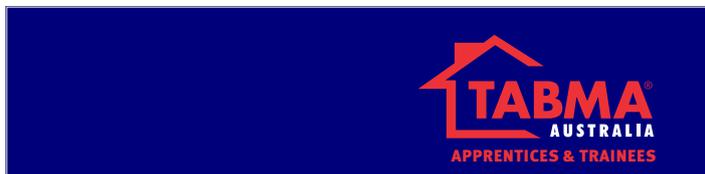
- Australia could adopt a domestic sawlog equivalent export tariff, similar to that which Canada used to attempt to remediate a log export issue and drive domestic production (less likely in the current era of free trade agreements).

“IMPORTS NEED TO BE BETTER MANAGED BY PROCESSORS

And the Russians are coming!

Mr Zed said in the past 10 years Russia had increased its annual sawn softwood exports from 15 million cub m to 33 million cub m.

In that period, Russian exports to China had increased from 3 million cub m (20% of total) to 20 million cub m (60% of total), now representing 50% of all China's softwood lumber imports.



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Ian Ferguson a giant of forestry is remembered for rigorous research

DESCRIBED by his colleagues as a “giant of Australian forestry”, Ian Ferguson, Emeritus Professor of Forest Science at the University of Melbourne, has died, aged 83.

More than 200 friends and colleagues from all walks of his life attended the funeral at Melbourne’s Springvale Botanic Cemetery on July 17.

Professor Ferguson’s administrative skills were appreciated by about every organisation that he came in touch with – universities, service clubs, professional organisations and forest companies.

His early career started at the Forestry School in Canberra after which he went to Western Australia as a forester and then to the Forestry Commission of NSW.

He attended Yale University in the USA in 1962,

completing a one-year Master of Forestry degree. After Yale, he returned to the Forests Department of Western Australia and then decided to follow his research interests with a teaching role at the University of Melbourne. He then moved to ANU for 10 years, then back to Melbourne in 1981 as Head of the School of Forestry.

On occasions he was Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture and Forestry, Pro-Vice-Chancellor and held various other administrative positions in the university. He retired as Professor Emeritus in 2003.

He was rigorous in his research whether applied to exotic pine forests or native Australian forests and he was innovative in the analytical methods he applied to data. In the 1990s he was frequently called on by state forest services to cast a critical eye over their management of plantations or native forests and he was efficient, thorough and then fearless in presenting his findings

He was active in the



Professor Ian Ferguson... fearless in presenting his findings.

Institute of Foresters of Australia from the time he joined as a student, and was its national president 1995-99. After his ‘retirement’ he was a director on the governing boards of several private companies, including Hancock Plantations, and with his wife Sandra, travelled to many meetings across the globe.

Throughout his academic career and afterwards, Professor Ferguson sought ways of keeping in touch with the forest industry. He did this by his active involvement in the research of his 40 or so graduate students he steered through their hoops

and through a large number of consultancies that he conducted for state and private forestry companies in Australia and elsewhere.

Close friend Dr Brian Turner, who attended Yale University with Prof. Ferguson, said his dealings with people were always courteous.

“He could converse with kings and commoners with equal ease and could rise to the occasion,” Dr Turner said. “In recent times, Roberta and I have met up with Sandra and Ian in warmer climes around the time of our anniversaries, and we’ve also enjoyed their hospitality at the family retreat in Mount Martha where Ian tried to convince me that wind-surfing ‘was a breeze’.

“His peregrinations and the pain of the last part of his journey have now ended but his influence will continue for a long time. I have lost a good friend but his memory will remain.”

Professor Ferguson is survived by his wife Sandra, children Claire and Heather and five grandchildren.

“HIS INFLUENCE WILL CONTINUE FOR A LONG TIME”

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Private industry survey shocks VAFI

THE Victorian Association of Forest Industries has called on the state government for answers to allegations that a partly-funded government market survey campaign sought feedback on the hypothetical closure of the Victorian native timber industry.

VAFI CEO Tim Johnston said the line of questioning, if found to be accurate, was severely damaging for the future of the industry and the thousands of hard-working Victorians reliant on it.

"We need to know if this is true or not," Mr Johnston said.

"If such questioning is found to be true, then we demand immediate answers from the state government regarding why the questions were posed in the first instance, and to seek clarity



Tim Johnston...
government must be transparent with its plans.



Jaclyn Symes...
questioned on forest industry survey allegations.

about its plans for the industry.

"It's believed a number of regional meetings have been held with specific questions relating to the imminent shut down of the industry. Two participants have now publicly spoken out about the line of questioning."

The most recent of several events was in Maryborough

while others are understood to have taken place in Shepparton and Bendigo and various centres in Gippsland. It was reported participants were paid \$100 and were required to sign a confidentially note.

VAFI has written to the Victorian Minister for Agriculture Jaclyn Symes seeking answers to the allegations.

"The native timber industry directly employs thousands of people across the supply chain and supports many more additional jobs through flow-on economic activity," Mr Johnston said.

"Again, we are faced with distress to many in the industry. We need immediate action and answers from the state government. Failure to do so will mean it is again turning its back on this vital industry, and more importantly, those working in the industry across rural, regional and metropolitan Victoria.

"The government owes it to the industry to be open and transparent with its plans," Mr Johnston said. "Ongoing uncertainty is having a detrimental effect on the mental health of many."

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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

18: Hardwood is Good Convocation– *Maryborough, Qld, Australia.* Sunday, August 18, from 11.30 am. Private Forestry Services Queensland has partnered with industry to discuss the native forest sector in Queensland – and new changes 'in the wind'. New government regulations will impact on everyone, so

attendance at this event is critical. Slacks Harwood is supplying a BBQ lunch. RSVP by August 11 for catering. Contact Bronwyn Lloyd, PFSQ on (07) 5483 6535 or email pfsq@bigpond.com

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

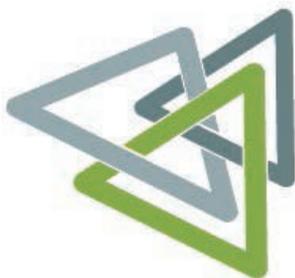
NOVEMBER

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

MARCH/APRIL 2020

30 MAR/4 APRIL: AusTimber 2020 – *Traralgon, Vic, Australia.* Largest timber industry show in Australasia with in-forest show demonstrates the latest developments in log harvesting, processing and hauling equipment in action and up close. Also field trips to industry sites, a wood chop competition and forwarder competition. For more information see: <https://www.afca.asn.au/www-austimber-org-au>



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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 Örki, Hveragerði, South Iceland. Conference will focus on threats posed to Nordic forestry and forest plant production by invasive pest species. For further information contact: forest@nordgen.org

SEPT/OCT

30 SEPT-4 OCT: Second World Congress on Mid- and High-rise Wood Buildings Woodrise 2019 – Québec City Convention Centre, Québec City, Canada. Theme: Building our cities for future generations jointly organized by FPInnovations (Canada) and Institut technologique FCBA (France) will bring together wood construction stakeholders, decision-makers, and professionals to share their knowledge and strengths in order to position wood as a leading construction material for tomorrow's sustainable cities. For further information: Ann Cantin, Director, Communications and Marketing, Québec City Convention Centre, acantin@convention.qc.ca, 418 564-1312; Marjolaine Dugas, Director of Communications, FPInnovations, dugas@fpinnovations.ca, 514 782-4595

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

OCTOBER

6-9: 52nd International Symposium on Forestry Mechanization (FORMEC) and 42nd Council on Forest Engineering (COFE) Annual

Meeting – Sopron, Hungary. For further information see: www.formec2019.com

8-10: Timber Expo Birmingham – Birmingham, UK. Annual trade show covering a breadth of timber applications from timber frame, sawmills, merchants, glulam, SIPs, CLT, fixings and fastenings, timber cladding, doors/windows, mouldings, skirtings and flooring. For further information contact: +44 (0)7956 173351 or www.timber-expo.co.uk

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

20: Exploring pathways to verified sustainable tropical timber Conference – Berlin, Germany. The 2019 European Sustainable Tropical Timber Coalition (STTC) Conference centred around the two themes of tropical timber promotion and verified sustainable forest management. Visit www.europeansttc.com/20-november-2019-conference-exploring-pathways-to-verified-sustainable-tropical-timber/

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

From P 2

Forest Products Innovation – one in Mount Gambier and one in Launceston – with matching funds from state governments.

“In the national plan, we commit to establishing another two centres and we are in discussions with state governments that might want to partner with us in delivering additional research in areas that industry is

identifying and driving,” he said.

The government has already announced the development of nine regional forestry hubs across the country, centred in areas with high concentrations of forestry resources, processing facilities, employment and access to markets.

“The five pilot hubs – each provided \$1 million to support growth – are under way and delivering this important

element of the national forest industries plan,” Senator Duniam said.

He added: “While we can boast more than 132 million ha of native forest in Australia, which puts us in the top 10 nations for forested area, it’s our 1.94 million ha of plantations that provide 87% of the logs harvested.

“With a total log harvest of more than 32.9 million cub m 2017-18, worth \$2.7 billion, the forestry sectors are

making large contributions to both the Australian economy and many regional and rural economies.”

• More DANA conference coverage next issue.

On the cover: Senator Jonathan Duniam who opened the DANA conference (centre) with Ric Sinclair, managing director, FWPA, Clarissa Brandt, Timber Queensland, Dennis Neilson, conference convener, and Ross Hampton, CEO, Australian Forest Products Association.



- 1/ *Dominic Kain, tree breeder-geneticist, HQ Plantations, Kerri Catchpoole, senior project officer, Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (Queensland), and Adnan Cokic, resource valuation specialist, HQ Plantations.*
- 2/ *Timber Queensland communications manager Clarissa Brandt, and Philip Hopkins, private media consultant.*
- 3/ *Steve Walker, chief operating officer, China Forestry Group, and Andrew Wye, state manager, Patriarch-Wood Based Products, Launceston.*
- 4/ *Tony Price managing director, Midway Ltd, Sydney, Roger Smith, general manager, Tiwi Plantations Corporation, Nakara NT, and Bryan Hayes, CEO Forico Pty Ltd, Launceston.*
- 5/ *Andy Williams, manager, resources planning and valuation, Hancock Natural Resource Group Australasia, Melbourne, Jason Syme, director, forest investment, Rayonier NZ, and Andrew Crisp, principal, Poyry Management Consulting (UK) Ltd.*
- 6/ *Peter Zed, CEO, Omega Consulting, Murrumba Downs, Qld, Brenton Yon, Komatsu Forest Pty Ltd, Sydney, and John Halkett, ATIF general manager, Sydney.*



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FWPA podcast: how forestry is preparing its future workforce

ONGOING evolution and rapid advancements in technology have led the forestry sector to take steps towards preparing current and future workers for the changing demands of the industry.

The latest episode of Forest and Wood Products Australia's WoodChat podcast focuses on initiatives that are equipping the industry's future leaders, and engaging young people from disciplines not traditionally associated with forestry.

During the episode, the hosts discuss the FWPA-supported For Our Future initiative – an experiential program focusing on regional and collaborative leadership. Now into its second year, the program aims to identify and help train future leaders in the sector, while providing connections to set up opportunities for collaboration in the future.

Matthew Linnegar, CEO of the Australian Rural Leadership Foundation which runs the program, said the objective was to help produce



Matthew Linnegar... helping to produce leaders across the sector.

leaders across the sector, no matter what skills were required in the future.

He added: "Do we require people who can look beyond their own organisations and start acting in the broader interests of the sector? Yes, we do! Do we need people who can communicate well, and who can form relationships, even with those with whom they are in competition? Yes, we do!"

Mr Linnegar said the program had multiple benefits. Firstly, the individual participants benefit from developing their own abilities as leaders. Secondly, their organisations benefit from strong leadership abilities they brought back with them, and thirdly, we hope the sector will start to think, act

and interact in a more unified way.

The episode also considers the differing skill sets that will be required by the industry in the future. The hosts chat to data scientist James Kondilios of the Australian National University, a recipient of an ABARES Science and Innovation Award.

Mr Kondilios discusses his research, which he hopes will advise plantation managers about eucalyptus variants that will thrive in a future warmer and drier climate, and how he ended up applying his skills to

the area of forestry.

"Prior to my involvement with the forestry industry, I didn't know there was a need for data scientists," he said. "I believe the more people like myself who see the sorts of problems we can help the forestry industry to solve, the more people with these sorts of skills the industry will attract."

This episode is part of the second series of the WoodChat podcast, following topics on how radio-frequency identification (RFID) tracking technology is used to improve the on-site processes associated with prefabricated timber, and how 3D printing can turn timber waste into construction materials.

WoodChat represents FWPA's commitment to engaging new ways of communicating industry news and innovations. Each episode includes in-depth conversations with experts on recent discoveries, innovations and initiatives.

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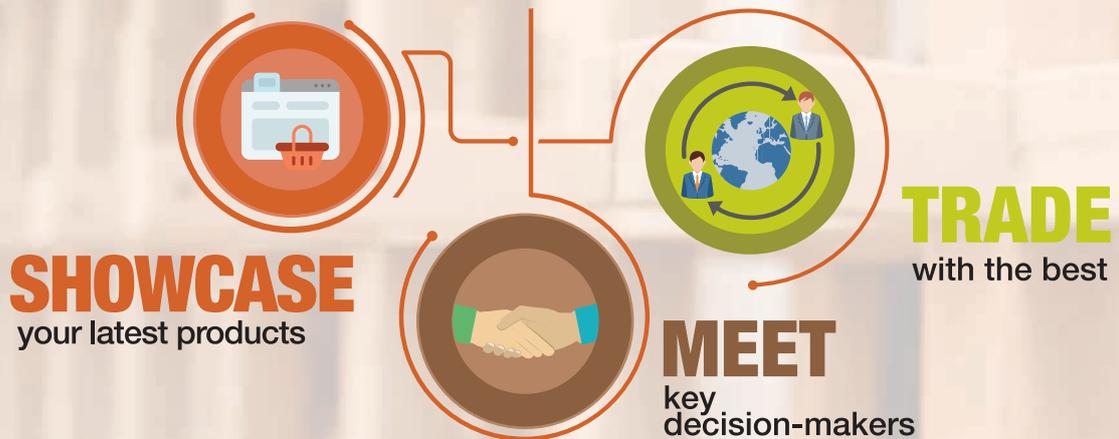
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Bob Hawke's granddaughter named Landcare ambassador in celebration

THE Landcare movement last Friday celebrated 30 years of all sections of Australian society working together to improve the environment and create more productive land – for agriculture and forestry.

The Minister for Agriculture Senator Bridget McKenzie, who marked the anniversary in Melbourne with a host of people involved in Landcare over the last 30 years, announced Sophie Taylor-Price as the new Landcare ambassador.



New ambassador for Landcare... congratulating Sophie Taylor-Price are Landcare Australia CEO Dr Shane Norrish, and Minister for Agriculture Senator Bridget McKenzie.
Photo: WA Landcare Network

Ms Taylor-Price, Bob Hawke's granddaughter, paid tribute to the long-serving PM who 30 years ago asked the

community to join together in tackling environmental challenges.

"Thirty years on, look what Landcare has achieved," she said. "Landcare has evolved and grown into a movement of more than 6000 groups and hundreds of thousands of volunteers across rural and urban Australia."

Ms Taylor Price, who is a consultant with EY's Climate Change and Sustainability team, said Australia needed grassroots movements like Landcare now more than ever.

"We need it as a bridge between conservationists, farmers and other land managers. And we need it to engage with young landcarers empowered to know they have a voice as environmental leaders for today."

Senator McKenzie said the government had committed \$1.1 billion in the 2017-18 Budget for the second phase of the National Landcare Program.

At the Melbourne celebration, she announced a \$14.4 million investment over

five years for Landcare Australia Ltd and the National Landcare Network.

"This funding will be used to enhance engagement with rural communities, improve communication and support the sharing of knowledge to help breakdown the disconnection between the city and the bush," the senator said.

"Landcare isn't just a movement – it's an immovable force. For 30 years it has transcended politics and ideologies."

She said Australia had an international reputation as sustainable land managers, and Landcare had helped to foster this.

“LANDCARE A MOVEMENT OF OVER 6000 GROUPS

"The government is determined to maintain high environmental standards, supporting sustainable farming methods and sharing best practice to grow Australian agriculture to \$100 billion by 2030," she said.

Landcare is the name for a community not-for-profit organisation which involves local groups of volunteers repairing the natural environment. The idea was that farmers, conservationists and scientists could work together to improve both farm quality and natural ecosystems.

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PEFC spreads wings in New Zealand

SPEAKING ahead of an extensive New Zealand outreach next week, Responsible Wood's Simon Dorries and Jason Ross spoke of PEFC's growing footprint in the forest products industry.

"We have a busy itinerary and will meet with a variety of timber and paper-based companies which proudly carry PEFC forest certification," Mr Dorries said.

"We are also meeting with a number of influential groups including the New Zealand Tropical Timber Importers Group and the New Zealand Green Building Council, briefing the New Zealand market on the development of the new joint standard for sustainable forest management,"

Responsible Wood is the national governing body for



PEFC in Australia.

Simon Dorries, CEO, and Jason Ross, marketing and communication officer, will be travelling through Auckland, Rotorua and Wellington from July 29 to August 2.

"Awareness and recognition of PEFC forest certification is growing in the New Zealand marketplace as inquiries continue to grow, especially in the building materials sector," Mr Dorries said.

"With the development of the new trans-Tasman forestry standard, the first joint Australian and New Zealand



Simon Dorries... Awareness of PEFC certification is growing in New Zealand.

standard for sustainable forest management, PEFC forest certification is increasingly used to demonstrate timber legality requirements both during procurement and at time of purchase"

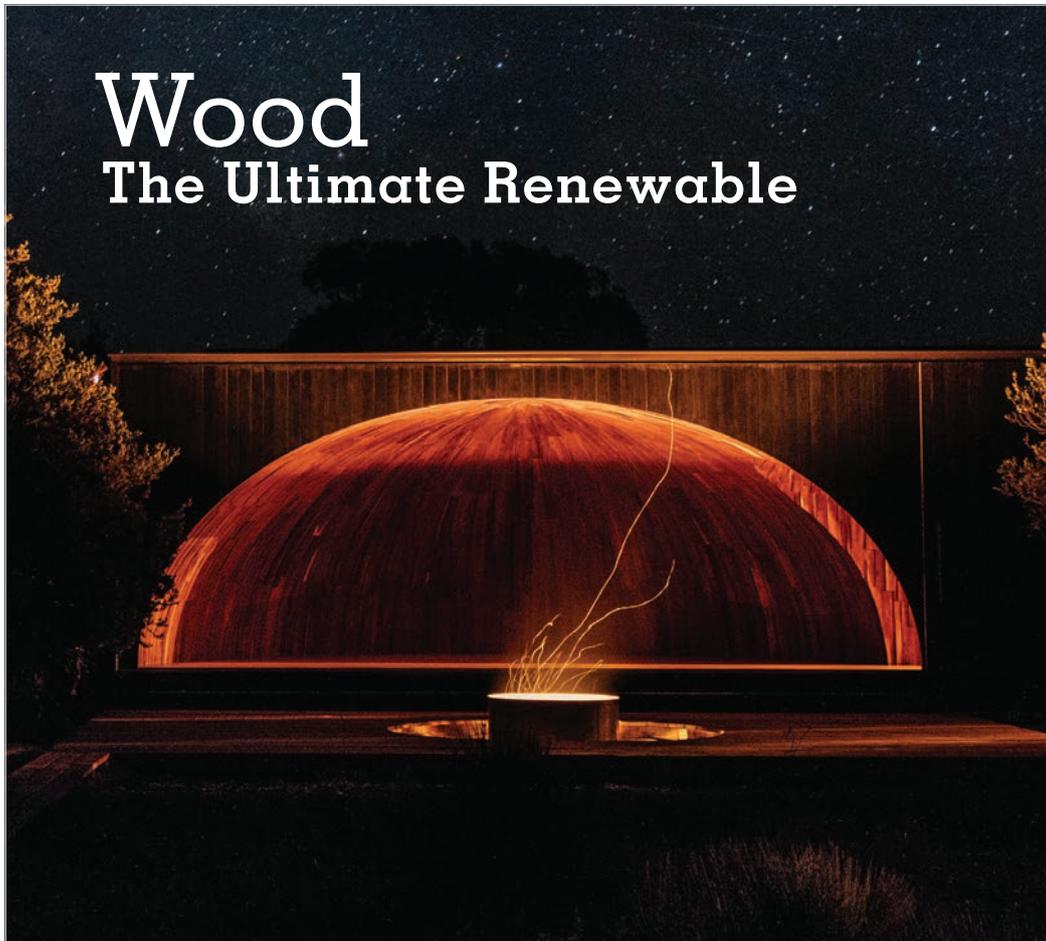
New Zealand interest in the new forestry standard has been met with unprecedented interest; a strong balance of Aussies and Kiwis are represented on the standard committee.

"Certainly the interest from New Zealand stakeholders has been high; on balance Australian and New Zealand representation will be

almost 50-50 with slightly greater representation from Australians," Mr Dorries added.

More information on the sustainable forest management standard development process or PEFC is available at www.responsiblewood.org.au

Forestry in New Zealand is geared to both domestic and export demand. Some 44% of harvested logs and varying percentages of processed forest products are destined for world markets. Seven countries – Australia, China, Japan, the Republic of Korea, the US, Indonesia and India – account for more than 80% of the value of these exports. Apart from logs, exports include sawn timber, woodchips, panels, pulp and paper and other products.



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Free pre-lunch drinks and refreshments have been sponsored.

PEFC a pathway for 'trees outside forests'

PEFC has provided a new pathway for agricultural landowners to achieve forest certification.

Long outside the scope of the PEFC 'forest' certification, low density trees on agricultural and settlement lands can be now assessed as part of the PEFC 'Trees Outside Forests' approach.

For small scale forestry, the initiative provides practical and affordable forest certification options for farmers and other land managers looking to grow trees as just one of a multitude of different crops.

Speaking at the World Agroforestry Congress, Dr Tony Bartlett, an adviser to the ACIR Forestry Program, championed the benefits for small landholders growing trees in agricultural landscapes for the international market.

More than 1200 delegates and leading keynote speakers from 97 countries attended the congress in Montpellier, France, in May.

"I have always been concerned that small landholders growing trees in agricultural landscapes are disadvantaged or even discriminated against in international markets," Dr Bartlett said.

"This is because it is difficult for them to meet international standards that apply to larger forest areas."

For Trees Outside Forests, group certification plays a key role, ensuring that the certification can be extended across multiple landowners, increasing the cost-effectiveness and the potential for delivering positive impact in the landscape.

With interest in Responsible



Dr Tony Bartlett... championing benefits for small landholders.

Wood and PEFC forest certification growing among silvopastoral landowners, Trees Outside Forests is proving to be a great enabler for responsible forestry, taking the pressure off native forests and providing smallholders with a framework to manage land for multi-generational use

The benchmark standard is used by Responsible Wood, the Australian national governing body for PEFC, in developing the Australian standard for sustainable forest management (4708: 2013 – Sustainable Forest Management).

More information about the 'Trees Outside Forests' program is on the PEFC website. For details about the Australian Standard for Sustainable Forest Management visit www.reponsiblewood.org.au

The World Agroforestry Centre, an international institute headquartered in Nairobi, Kenya, specialises in the sustainable management, protection and regulation of tropical rainforest and natural reserves. It is one of 15 agricultural research centres which makes up the global network known as the CGIAR.

Unique collaboration gives new hope for endangered bandicoot

JOHN HUDSWELL

THE oft-quoted phrase attributed to Henry Ford that "coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success" is a perfect description of a unique collaboration between establishment and the young in South Australia.

Local school students and ForestrySA have combined forces in a bid to protect the endangered southern brown bandicoot (*Isodon obseulus*) living within the Kuitpo Forest Reserve.

The nationally endangered bandicoot was re-discovered living in the forest in early 2018 – the first sighting since the Ash Wednesday bushfires in 1983.

Now, students from McLaren Vale's Tatchilla Lutheran College are assisting in the ongoing monitoring and protection of the typically shy marsupial.

Students were briefed by Department for Environment and Water Senior Ecologist Dr Elisa Sparrow before installing a motion detection camera on ForestrySA land near Kangarilla. The camera was positioned within bandicoot habitat located



1/ Tatchilla Lutheran College students work with Department of Environment and Water Senior Ecologist Elisa Sparrow and ForestrySA ranger Lennan Whiting to install a motion-detection camera within southern brown bandicoot habitat in the Kuitpo forest reserve. Photo ForestrySA



2/ I'm back... the endangered southern brown bandicoot has returned to South Australia's Kuitpo forest after a 40-year absence.

post-clearfall plan, the creek-line will be rehabilitated with local heath species to provide habitat and protection from predators," Mr Whiting said.

"A biodiversity corridor will also be established, linking

up isolated known bandicoot habitat areas through the forest in to adjacent private lands.

"The project will be completed in stages, preserving the existing weedy habitat until the native vegetation replacement is properly established."

in a degraded drainage line overgrown with declared noxious weeds such as periwinkle and blackberry. While both plant species are declared weeds, they provide effective coverage for the bandicoot and vital protection from predators such as foxes and feral cats.

Within just weeks, two bandicoot sightings were captured on camera.

According to ForestrySA ranger Lennan Whiting, the latest bandicoot sightings increase understanding of its distribution within the Kuitpo forest and provide confirmation the Bone Gully drainage line is being used as habitat. It also supports a ForestrySA conservation initiative to establish a buffer zone during future harvest operations in nearby pine plantation.

"As part of our long-term,



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“BIODIVERSITY CORRIDOR WILL BE ESTABLISHED”

\$140K to improve heavy rig safety

THE Australian Forestry Contractors Association has received \$140,000 to assist and improve heavy vehicle safety.

The funding has been allocated to AFCA to support the Professional Ownership and Driver Wellbeing Program (PODW through the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator's (NHVR) 2019 heavy vehicle safety Initiative, which is supported by the federal government.

AFCA general manager Stacey Gardiner said the funding would support the organisation to improve heavy vehicle safety.

"AFCA is pleased to be partnered with Australian Trucking Safety Services and Solutions (ATSSS) and KJ Training and Consulting to deliver the PODW



1/ **Stacey Gardiner... more than 30 free forestry sessions across Australia.**

2/ **Sal Petrocitto... heavy vehicle safety is everyone's responsibility.**

program, which will provide fundamental psycho-education tools to address 'human factors' for those at highest risk within the forestry industry of a heavy vehicle accident," Ms Gardiner said.

"The PODW program will be delivered by way of a series of more than 30 free forestry sessions across Australia, specifically targeting drivers, management and staff within the forest industry."

Director ATSSS Alan Pincott said data from recent forestry heavy vehicle incidents had shown a trend in 'human factors' such as inattention and complacency contributing to crashes.

"The PODW program provides an opportunity to address these factors and complements work already occurring within the industry relating to chain of responsibility, registered

codes of practice and training about significant risks such as truck rollovers. :

NHVR CEO Sal Petrocitto said the funding was part of \$5.4 million distributed across the country.

"Heavy vehicle safety is everyone's responsibility, and through local safety programs, we can make our roads safer for all road users," he said.

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Wool and wood could be win-win for forestry and agriculture sectors

Collaborative structures could support landowners to plant more trees

TREES, trees and more trees needed!

ABARES recently published a report on the economic potential for new plantation establishment in Australia. The report is part of a joint work program with the FWPA and identifies a shortfall by 2050 in the volume of softwood sawlogs available for the domestic market of 2.6 million cub m.

In terms of new softwood plantations, an additional 200,000 to 250,000 ha would be required by 2050 to make up the shortfall. However, given the uncertainty around softwood sawlog supply and log-equivalent demand in 2050, some estimates suggest the required area could be higher with Omega Consulting indicating that this could be as much as 490,000 ha.

That is a big number and to place that in context, the softwood estate is presently 1.036 million ha and produces 10.8 million cub m of softwood sawlogs.

The scale of the challenge raises the obvious question where would the land come from?

Considerable policy work over recent years suggests that the most logical areas for expansion are those where there is already forest activity including infrastructure and access to local processors and/or ports for export. These hubs have recently been endorsed in an announcement by the Prime Minister confirming funding for four forest industry hubs



1/ **Complementary outcomes?... A bale of wool and a pack of timber.**

2/ **Jigsaws Farms... revegetation and plantation stands all integrated into the farming landscape.**

FOCUS ON FORESTS



With **JIM HOUGHTON**

with indications further hubs will be funded.

It is anticipated the funding will be used to enable each hub to identify constraints on plantation expansion and develop regionally based solutions. This could include farm forestry and the establishment of collaborative structures to support a number of landowners planting stands of trees which collectively would be at suitable scale to supply local processors.

To better understand the benefits of farm forestry a field trip involving some 30



This may not work for all farmers in all regions but it certainly is a great example of how trees can be incorporated into the

participants was organised recently by AFPA and the National Farmers Federation to Jigsaw Farms near Hamilton in western Victoria. The hosts Mark Wootton and Eve Kantor were very generous in explaining the whole operation to the group.

It was amazing to see what had been done from the 1980s with the introduction of revegetation and plantation stands all integrated into the farming landscape. As well as the future income from wood products, the trees have contributed to improvements in the productivity of the farm with stocking rates nearly double the district average. The trees also act as a carbon sink which has enabled wool to be sold to high-end carbon neutral customers. Other benefits included shelter for stock especially during calving and lambing.

farming landscape and potentially create a 'win-win' for forestry and the land owner.

A lot more work needs to be done to make the benefits of long rotation softwood better understood as stand-alone projects or in collaborative structures. The funding for hubs will assist in this process.

Who knows ... in the future a bale of wool and a pack of timber may be seen as complementary outcomes from a range of agriculture activities.

• *Jim Haughton manages FWPA's statistics and economics program. He has a background in economics and statistical analysis and 15 years' experience as a senior manager in the industry. He holds a Bachelor of Economics and a Graduate Diploma in Business Administration*

Enhancing forest management practices

EFFECTIVE forest management is vital to the ongoing sustainability of forests and the viability of the sector – both native and plantation and on both public and private land.

The latest proposed enhancements to the Tasmanian Forest Practices Code have been released by the Forest Practices Authority for public comment.

The code provides standards and guidance to ensure the ongoing viability of Tasmanian forests balanced with reasonable environmental protections.

“RATED ONE OF THE BES CODES IN THE WORLD”

The latest enhancements include guidance for land owners wishing to establish and harvest trees along waterways (riparian zones) for agroforestry and riparian rehabilitation.

There is also a new section on native forest management (silvicultural) systems which will provide a single stand-alone reference and reduce reliance on external documents.

Chief forest practices officer Peter Volker said the latest proposed enhancements were developed through a comprehensive review process.

“We set up working groups drawn from industry, private forest owners, discipline experts and community groups to review



Peter Volker... a comprehensive review process.

each section of the code,” Dr Volker said.

“It was a very positive process with a focus on changing only those things that were necessary and ensuring the code remains up to date with modern forest practices and environmental management.

“The code is the go-

to for people preparing and implementing forest practices plans to achieve sustainable forest management.

“Importantly, it is about how forests are managed and is not about setting forest policy or how wood and timber are used, and it is very clear on that.”

Dr Volker said the Tasmanian Forest Practices Code had stood the test of time; it had been rated as one of the best codes in the world.

“The latest amendments will make it even better,” he said.

Tasmanian Forest Practices Code was first released in 1987 and has had previous revisions in 1993, 2000 and 2015.



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Australasian supply chain invited to join 16th Canadian buyers' mission

BRITISH Columbia Wood's global buyers' mission will again be held in Whistler this year, an opportunity for Australian and New Zealand buyers to meet and develop new business relationships with Canadian wood product producers keen to grow their export markets.

The 2019 GBM event will run from September 11 to 13 in the spectacular Whistler Village.

Registration is open to anyone involved in specifying wood products, including architects, engineers, interior designers, developers, manufacturers, as well as wholesalers, distributors and resellers.

"As in previous years, the Australian Timber Importers Federation continues to support the mission program," general manager John Halkett.

"For this the 16th buyers' mission there is an attractive

“NEW BUSINESS TO GROW EXPORTS



incentive attendance package for Australians," he said.

"GBM 2019 provides an outstanding opportunity to identify new sources of high quality, competitively priced softwood products, while reconnecting with current suppliers and networking with peers."

The mission last year welcomed more than 800 delegates with estimated new business developed of about \$50 million.

Mr Halkett said attendees would have the opportunity to meet Canadian manufacturers of products that include structural



1/ BC Wood's global buyers' mission... an opportunity to meet Canadian manufacturers of a wide range of timber products.
2/ John Halkett... attractive incentive package.

softwoods, engineered wood products, remanufactured items and components, pre-fabricated housing and structures, timber frame homes and structures, millwork and finished building products; together with specialty timber lines such as western red cedar, all showcased in a comfortable, networking environment.

Mr Halkett said introduction of the Trans-Pacific Trade Agreement, effective from December 31 last year, had remove the existing 5% tariff on Canadian timber imports,

which had resulted in substantial additional volumes of structural and other softwood products being imported into Australia at very competitive rates.

"Also, with the new Canadian Green Sawn Wood Certification Program having just been announced, the Global Buyers Mission will provide a timely opportunity for Australian wholesalers and others in the supply chain to update themselves on the increasingly important timber trade between Canada and Australia," he said.

Preliminary inquiries can be directed to John Halkett on 0417 421 187 or email john.halkett@bigpond.com

A Global Buyers Mission video can be viewed at www.youtube.com/watch?v=E9R5KzFrnBA. Further information about GBM 2019 is also available at www.bcwood.com

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HEAD OFFICE

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

PUBLISHERS

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

MANAGING EDITOR

Jim Bowden | +61 (0) 401 312 087

ADVERTISING

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

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Media releases: Jim Bowden e: cancon@bigpond.net.au | **Ad bookings:** e: advertising@timberandforestryenews.com

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