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Building code cladding decision threatens \$750m value-add sector

JIM BOWDEN

A SURPRISE decision by the Australian Building Codes Board to rule timber cladding not acceptable for Class 2 and 3 low-rise buildings under the existing 'deemed-to-satisfy' provisions of the National Construction Code has angered industry groups.

In what is considered an unwitting "knee-jerk" reaction to the Grenfell tower fire in London two years ago, the ABCC edict puts a \$750 million value-add industry sector at risk.

The Wood Cladding and External Fixtures Alliance says the new position adopted by the ABCB flies in the face of 20 years of decisions made by building surveyors and certifiers who have interpreted the code to allow timber cladding to be used on low-rise buildings.

However, after discussion

“KNEE JERK REACTION TO GRENFELL TOWER FIRE”



1/ Against the grain... ABCB ruling on timber cladding angers industry.

2/ Paul Michael...alliance will now focus on initiatives to ensure timber cladding remains a viable alternative for owners of Class 2 and 3 buildings.

with the ABCB, the alliance believes the primary objective now is to ensure the building industry is aware that timber cladding meets the existing regulations and deemed-to-satisfy provisions of other



low-rise classes of buildings (typically one or two-storey) in an effort to minimise the

loss of up to 2000 jobs and \$750 million of value add in the timber products supply chain, almost exclusively in regional Australia.

Chair of the alliance Paul Michael says there is a general view that the impact on timber cladding from a blanket ban on all

combustible cladding is an unintended consequence of the recent fires that have involved the more flammable aluminium composite panels and expanded polystyrene.

[More than a decade before the deadly Grenfell fire, Australian suppliers of aluminum composite cladding knew the product they were

Cont P 3



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From P 2

selling with a polyethylene (PE) core was highly flammable. Despite more fire-resistant cladding being widely available in Europe and the US, the cheaper PE core cladding continued to be installed on medium and high-rise buildings in Australia until 2013.

A Four Corners investigation revealed that some international manufacturers and their Australian suppliers were aware of the risks associated with using PE cladding on high-rise buildings, but they continued to import it because "Australia's lax and ambiguous building standards allowed it".

"We have not spoken to one minister or ABCB member who believes that timber cladding poses a safety threat to the occupants of a building and no risk assessment has been done to demonstrate there is an unacceptable danger," Paul Michael declared.

"The alliance believes it would have been more appropriate for the ABCB to focus on the issue of fire safety and stipulate certain performance which would have excluded the use of

highly combustible cladding, but continued to allow timber and other suitable well proven products that have significant environmental and aesthetic benefits," he said.

"However, the board chose not to do this, although we understand there was significant debate about the best option."

Mr Michael said it was absolutely critical all prospective owners, builders, building surveyors and certifiers understood that timber cladding could be used on all Class 1 buildings (houses) and other low-rise building classes except three-storey Class 2 and 3 buildings.

"In addition, we now understand we will need to find different pathways for Class 2 and 3 buildings," he added.

The alliance will now focus on initiatives to ensure timber cladding, which is one of the most environmentally and sustainable cladding products, remains a viable alternative for owners of Class 2 and

FURTHER FLAME SPREAD RESEARCH

3 buildings who prefer the aesthetic qualities of timber:

- Approach key building ministers who ratified the decision at the recent Building Ministers Forum to see if they are prepared to issue a Ministerial Order distinguishing timber from other combustible cladding to allow the immediate use of timber cladding in each state and territory.

- Consider the options in relation to the out-of-cycle amendment process that the ABCB will run.

- Look at generic performance solutions, including CodeMark, for certain products.

- Conduct further flame spread research on timber cladding in preparation for a Proposal for Change to the National Construction Code in 2022.

An industry figure said this week: "These guys need to be sorted out – and quickly. To treat timber in the same way as something that's explosive is a madness."

Australia, now experiencing a once-in-a-generation building boom, has a large legacy of buildings swathed in the potentially deadly aluminium composite cladding.

AFPA CEO takes forest role with UN FAO

ROSS Hampton, CEO, Australian Forest Products Association, has been appointed vice-chair of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation's advisory committee on sustainable forest-based industries.

"It's a great honour," Mr Hampton said. "I look forward to working with the highly-respected new chair Carina Hakansson, director general of the Swedish Forest Industries Federation as we support the drive to foster sustainable



Ross Hampton

forest industries globally.

"The appointment is a testament to Australia's forest industries which have a well-deserved reputation internationally as being among the best managed and most sustainable anywhere."

Mr Hampton said looked forward to progressing issues on sustainable forest management, recognition of carbon stored in forests and timber products, bioenergy (including recognition of renewable heat) and the world of emerging bio-products which were able to replace fossil fuel-based materials.

"In the future, sustainable forestry and renewable wood products will only become more prevalent across the globe," he said.



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NZ pruned logs growing in demand but not good enough to grow more?

A GROWING disconnect is developing between the relative demand for logs in New Zealand and their supply.

Demand for unpruned (knotty) logs (including AO, A, K, KI and KIS grades) has been strong in the log export market. However, the current over-supply of these 'ordinary' logs highlights both how vulnerable these log grades are to international substitution, with a conundrum facing forest owners – and in the medium



A growing disconnect is developing between the relative demand for logs in New Zealand and their supply.

term also clear timber buyers.

Addressing the forest innovations conference in Brisbane, Dennis Neilson, principal of NZ-based DANA, put forward these points:

- While unpruned logs can be easily substituted by alternative log and sawn timber suppliers from Russia, other European countries, Canada, USA, Latin America and Australia, pruned pine logs that long length, wide board clear timber are unique to New Zealand.

- Right now most buyers are oversupplied and don't want any more of these grades.

- In contrast, demand for clear lumber is very strong in North American, European and Australian markets

- When harvesting stops for unwanted knotty logs, it also stops for many owners of pruned logs – even though pruned log demand remains high

- And, in the medium term, major reductions in past and current pruning by a number of owners mean massive falls in pruned log volumes are looming, as harvest from the private land 'planting bubble' is largely completed within 10 years (or sooner).

- Some major owners

contend the current price premiums for pruned logs falls way short of the extra cost of growing them.

New Zealand consulting firm Jeff Tombleson & Associates has graphically illustrated the problem with a May 2019 update of its 2017 and 2018 surveys and data analysis of 12 Central North Island pruned log mills, and four forest owner categories (two major

owners, medium and small sized owners.

Collectively these mills consume more than 100,000 cub m a month of pruned logs – more than 90% of total Central North Island production.

“ DEMAND FOR CLEAR LUMBER IS VERY STRONG ”

The CNI is the 'canary in the mine' as it is the only region in New Zealand with large pruned log production and processing. Other regions have either no processing capacity, and/or smaller log production and processing capacity.

In other regions with large pruned log availability (the east coast and the North Island), it seems no-one is game to build more conversion capacity than the tiny amount already there.

Neilson notes that Tombleson's updated chart shows a reduction of CNI



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From P 4

pruned logs annually from 2017 to 2041. Annual harvesting is predicted to reduce from 1.3 million cub m in 2018, to 850,000 in 2025, to only 350,000 cub m in 2030; and to a paltry 150,000 cub m 2041.

What about the demand side?

“It has been going gangbusters,” says Neilson.

“ANNUAL REDUCTION IN CNI PRUNED LOGS”



Mass timber... Dennis Neilson and Kim Puruntatameri, chairman, Tiwi Plantations Corporation, admire the Lendlease CLT building at 25 King Street in Brisbane during an inspection by DANA conference delegates.

“Not only for the US moulding and better and board markets, but for Australian demand and the rapidly growing European market for ‘acetylated wood’ like Accoya or ‘thermally-

modified timber like Thermowood - or a New Zealand TMT brand Abodo Wood/Vulcan Cladding.”

An example relevant to Australia of clear New Zealand produced timber

products is Taranaki Pine’s new Parallel Laminated Timber, which was showcased at the DANA conference.

And, says Neilson, New Zealand clear radiata pine timber is sent all the way to Holland to be turned into Accoya products, some of which are now shipped back to Australia for a variety of end uses.

Neilson asks can this ‘chicken-and-egg’ Kiwi dilemma between increasing demand for clear timber and reducing pruned log volumes be resolved?

“Not easily,” he says.

Timber imports continue to gather pace

DEMAND for imported timber and wood-based products is strong as domestic production is constrained by resource availability was the message from John Halkett, general manager of the Australian Timber Imported Federation, at the DANA conference in Brisbane.

“Even assuming significant plantation establishment recommences, this is unlikely to have any meaningful impact on softwood timber supply for at least the next two decades,” he said.

Mr Halkett claimed that imported timber products grow the size of the market for all timber products and assist in improving domestic wood processing international competitiveness.

“They also provide substantial employment in building and construction industries that would not exist without imported timber products,” he added.

Mr Halkett noted that changing product preferences and structural



John Halkett... record levels of annual imports have remained stable.

product substitution for hardwood timber products are contributing factors to a significant increasing pressure on the demand side, notably EWPs and structural softwoods.

Australia’s imports of sawn softwood lifted to 917,505

cub m over the year-end January 2019, rising 48.2% on the prior year. Although there is current evidence of a downturn in demand and imports, the record levels of annual imports have been stable over the last few months.

On a monthly basis, imports in January totalled 70,274 cub m, down just 1.5% on January 2018. Future additional supplies of structural softwood products are likely to come from Canada and Russia.

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Pedalling wooden bikes for green jobs

NOW is the perfect time to grow the next generation of forest and conservation leaders, says teacher Zac Wagman who is riding a wooden bike across Canada for green jobs.

Zac says there is an incredible opportunity for young people to find jobs in the forest and conservation sector and to get the message out, and with others he's cycling across Canada on wooden bicycles.

He says growing up no one talked about green jobs or careers as the buzz at that time was on the digital and technology sectors.

"I actually grew up playing way too many video games and spending way too much time indoors," he admitted. "It was only after getting exposed to an outdoor summer job that



Pedalling green jobs... Zac Wagman makes a stop on his wooden bike at the University of British Columbia forest research forest office to visit manager Stephanie Ewen.

Photo: Greg Sabatino)

I realised how awesome the outdoors is."

Zac works with Project Learning Tree Canada, which has a goal to get youth to consider a short-term job working in the great outdoors,

including a financial incentive for companies to hire them.

"The idea is to get young people a foot in the door and then let them decide if they want to continue down that path," he said.

"From a lot of the employers the roadblocks are finding young people who actually want to work. Employers want to hire people; they just can't find those people."

Zac says it's a good time to get into the forestry sector. With wood products now more important in the face of climate change with their carbon sequestration properties we believe that forestry on the up and up."

The wooden bikes are made by a Montreal-based company and are similar in weight to a regular bicycle.

Zac and his brother Nick started the journey in Victoria, British Columbia, and plan to arrive in Newfoundland at the end of September ... right in time for National Forest Week.

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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@thoratimbers.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.

17: 20th Australian Timber Design Awards presentation dinner – *The River Room, Crown Melbourne, Australia.* Peoples' Choice voting open August to September. 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 Örk, Hveragerði, South Iceland. Conference will focus on threats posed to Nordic forestry and forest plant production by invasive pest species. For further information contact: forest@nordgen.org

SEPT/OCT

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

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

OCTOBER

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

Engineering (COFE) Annual Meeting – Sopron, Hungary. For further information see: www.formec2019.com

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

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

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

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

NOVEMBER

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

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

Visy's Carlie Porteous joins Gottstein board of trustees

THE manager of fibre and forestry compliance at Visy Industries, Carlie Porteous, has been appointed to the JW Gottstein board of trustees.

Visy, a global leader in the packaging, paper and resource recovery industries, has been leading packaging innovation for more than 70 years.

Carlie has eight years of experience in the forestry and packaging industries and is a member of FSC Australia's marketing advisory group and AFPAs steering committee on forest compliance.

Her role at Visy includes enhancing communication and collaboration with industry groups, suppliers, supply chain members and customers to achieve a responsible supply chain and maintain compliance across the company's 120 sites in Australasia

Visy also has trading offices in New Zealand, Singapore, Papua New Guinea and China.

Carlie has a continual focus on community engagement and participation and enhancement of high conservation values for wood



Carlie Porteous... contributing great skill mix to Gottstein trust board.

fibre sourcing for Visy's Tumut (NSW) facility.

Welcoming her to the role,

John Simon, chair of the Gottstein Trust, said Carlie added a great skill mix to the board of trustees and was an energetic and passionate advocate for the industry.

"She will be an excellent addition to our board, all of whom contribute their time to the trust on a voluntary basis," Mr Simon said.

The annual round of applications for Gottstein Trust fellowships, scholarships, and industry skills awards is now open. Visit www.gottsteintrust.org

• See notice, Page 9

Giant engineered wood frames keep fire-ravaged Notre Dame's roof safe

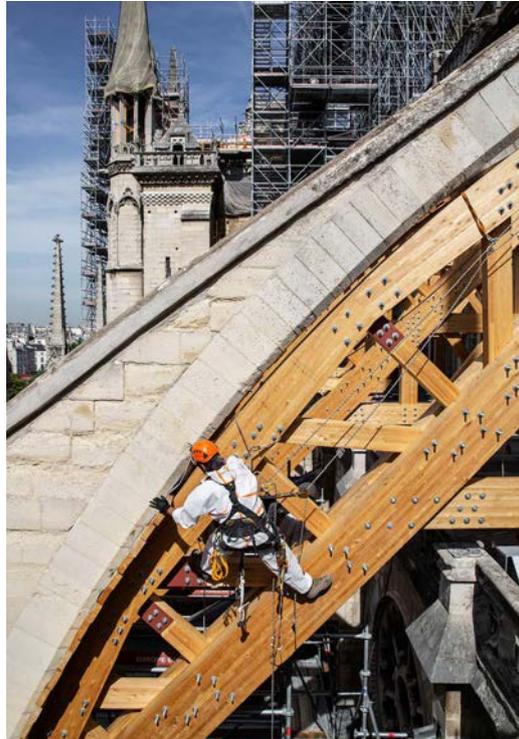
TREES from the bottom of an African lake could be used to rebuild Notre Dame Cathedral after Kete Krachi Timber Recovery, a private company based in Ghana, pledged to provide the massive replacement wooden beams at cost.

A fire in April, the cause of which remains unknown, raged for 12 hours, toppling Notre Dame's 13th Century centre spire in the process

Experts have ruled out replacing the 1300-year-old oak timbers, which take hundreds of years to grow to the right size.

Lake Volta was created in 1964 as a result of the construction of the Akosombo Dam in Ghana, and is the world's largest man-made lake with a surface area of over 7770 sq km. The flooding submerged vast tracts of hardwood forest and the timber – estimated at over 14 million cub m – is perfectly preserved.

At full capacity, Kete Krachi Timber Recovery will be the largest hardwood timber operation in Africa and will



Wood to the rescue... giant engineered timber frames built to exact specifications are fitted to Notre Dame's roof cavity.

provide a significant boost to both local employment and to the Ghanaian economy, producing valuable hardwood with minimal environmental impact.

Meanwhile, to fill a giant cavity in the cathedral's roof, where the oak roof frame known as the 'forest' once was, and prevent further disaster, a giant crane has

hoisted seven-tonne timber frames cut to the exact specifications of the flying buttresses, to be wedged inside each arc, in order to

“SUBMERGED TIMBER MIGHT BE USED IN REBUILD PLAN

weigh them down and stop the building from shifting.

Even though “the worst has been avoided,” as President Emmanuel Macron said, the damage has been devastating. This poses a particular challenge to efforts to rebuild the 856-year-old church, which Macron has vowed to do.

The wood for the soaring cathedral was first felled around 1160 to 1170, with some of it coming from trees thought to be 300 to 400 years old at the time they were felled. That puts the oldest timber in the cathedral at nearly 1300 years old.

“Replacing those beams with comparable oak is simply not an option,” says Bertrand de Feydeau, vice-president of the preservation group Fondation du Patrimoine. “Trees that supplied the roof's frame came from primary forests – forests that are largely untouched by human activity.”

He surmised that the huge trees associated with primary forests are gone too.



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Applications close on Monday, 16th September 2019.

Further information: gottsteinsecretary@gmail.com or Helen Murray +61 (0) 419-991-424.



Plaza developers beaming with delight at river walk suspension

JIM BOWDEN

AN innovative timber engineering project that saw 20 curved and laminated ironbark beams installed and suspended above a river walk extension has been completed at Lendlease's \$440 million redevelopment and expansion of the Sunshine Plaza Shopping Centre at Maroochydore.

The beams were delivered by Brisbane-based JT Benchtops and engineered by company principal John Toole from red ironbark (*Eucalyptus sideroxylon*) and grey ironbark (*E. paniculata*) timbers supplied by Coffs Harbour Hardwoods at Glenreagh, NSW.

Manufactured in partnership with Makimaki, a Brisbane specialist in custom-made indoor and outdoor furniture, the beams were made up from 8 mm laminations pressed together using an innovative connection and pressing system, the longest over 15 m in length.

The stunning arc formation involved excruciatingly tight



Conferring at JT Benchtops... Cameron Hird, Makimaki, John Toole, and Dr Rob McGavin, DAF Salisbury Research Facility.

tolerances using 100 custom-made clamps and forms to produce the required radii with zero spring back – critical for such tight tolerances.

"We rebated and glued steel bolts into both sides of the beams during manufacture with a 14 m high steel sleeve in the middle used to pull them tightly together," John Toole said.

Dr Rob McGavin, research facility and project manager at the DAF Salisbury research facility, provided technical guidance on timber species and grade selection along with

manufacturing advice.

The Buchan Group were the architects on the project and installation was completed by Calty Constructions.

John Toole, who established his first timber crafting service in 1984, says he has the only 'mobile timber' specialist service in southern Queensland.

"My family has been working with timber for almost as long as I can remember, so I learned to love and value timber as a precious, renewable resource from a very early age," he said.

"I'm still excited every time I see the beautiful grain of a piece of timber emerging under my hands.

"When forests are carefully managed, they regenerate and continue to produce beautiful materials for us to use. I am fully committed to the sustainable use of timber and choose my suppliers carefully, because I believe that it's possible to use timber without abusing our environment."

The McCarthy family has been supplying timber products nationally and internationally since Coffs Harbour Hardwoods was established by timber merchant and world champion axemen Ray McCarthy in 1961. The family is part of a long line of McCarthys that was heavily involved in timber as far back as the 1850s when pioneering and cedar getting was a mainstay of many NSW north coast families.

On the cover: Curved and laminated beams engineered from ironbark feature in Sunshine Coast re-development.



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Flood timbers deck out school room



New lease of life... Coffs Harbour Christian Community Junior School's head of campus, Terrence Yardley (left) and Forestry Corporation of NSW strategic projects and programs leader Justin Black joined by students to open the new computer room built from 'flooded timbers'.

STUDENTS at Coffs Harbour Christian Community Junior School will now enjoy computer lessons in a newly timber-clad building and deck built using timber donated by Forestry Corporation of NSW and Boral Timber.

Head of campus Terrence Yardley said he was delighted with the new building, both for its aesthetic appeal and functionality.

Forestry Corporation's strategic projects and programs leader Justin Black said research by Planet Ark had shown that using wood in buildings has physiological and psychological benefits that mimicked the effect of spending time outside in nature and could reduce stress and anxiety.

"The use of timber in this new classroom is a perfect fit and the classroom looks great and will be a better learning environment for the students," Mr Black said.

"Our forest management practices ensure that trees are continually replanted and regrown, continuing the cycle of regeneration

of this ultimate renewable resource, and as anyone who has timber floors, decks or fencing can attest, you feel better when timber is around you."

The timber for the new facility came from the Community Timber Partnerships, which was formed by Forestry Corporation of NSW, Boral Timber and Planet Ark to salvage around 1000 cub m of flooring, cladding and decking products impacted by the Murwillumbah floods in 2017.

"When we heard about such a large volume of timber being written off following the floods, in some cases for damage as minor as water staining, we were determined to salvage it for local community projects," Mr Black said.

"We're working with a range of community groups to give the timber a new lease of life and create renewable, durable, beautiful timber facilities for many more local communities to enjoy."

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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.

Join many timber and forestry friends to recognise and salute our industry's pioneers (and sons and daughters of the pioneers).

•
 Meals, drinks from hotel's servery at your cost and selection. No other charges.

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Free pre-lunch drinks and refreshments have been sponsored.

Brisbane conference innovation showcase



At the opening of the forest industry innovations conference in Brisbane... welcoming Assistant Minister for Agriculture Senator Jonathan Duniam (second from left) are Dennis Neilson, DANA, Rotorua, NZ, conference convenor, and speakers John Halkett, general manager, ATIF, and Jim Bowden, managing editor, Timber&Forestry enews.

FOR 1½ days last week delegates to the DANA forest industry innovations conference in Brisbane enjoyed more than 25 presentations by speakers and panellists showcasing innovation and trends in the Australian and international arenas.

More than 70 delegates from New Zealand, the UK and from across Australia, including the remote Tiwi Islands, 80 km from Darwin, gathered at the function rooms of the Pullman Hotel in King George Square.

The conference got off to a strong start with a presentation by new minister responsible for forestry Senator Jonathan Duniam.

A full range of topics were covered: from an excellent tree genetics talk through to three new products using New Zealand sourced radiata pine – but one manufactured in New Zealand and one from Europe.

A 'first' for Australian meetings were superb presentations by three indigenous leaders Kim

Puruntatameri, chairman Tiwi Plantations Corporation, Gibson Illortaminni, chairman Port Melville and Lisa Tumahai, Kaiwhakahaere, Te Runaha o Ngai Tahu, the largest New Zealand Maori tribe.

A talk on the leading role of Australia's mass timber construction buildings was brilliantly complemented by a field trip to the startling brand new 25 King Street MTC building. So modernistic, it even has a 'zen zone' where you can take time out to destress among plants and running water, all encased within the timber structure.

A second field trip took delegates to the rapidly expanding QCE Woodchipco export operation on the Fisherman's Island terminal at Port of Brisbane.

The Brisbane conference was the 8th managed by DANA in Australia and already plans are well advanced to expand the event format into a major Timber&Forestry enews conference, likely in Melbourne in 2021.

– DENNIS NEILSON



GREEN TRIANGLE TIMBER INDUSTRY AWARDS



NOMINATIONS OPEN

2019 Sponsors

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

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

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

Get involved, nominate today and step up.

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

Key Dates 2019

17 June
16 August
September
1 November

Nominations Open
Nominations Close
Judging Process
**GREEN TRIANGLE
TIMBER INDUSTRY AWARDS**



Pioneers' prize aids children's charity

A UNIQUE hospice for children will benefit from the annual Queensland Timber Industry Pioneers Luncheon in Brisbane on August 9.

A special raffle will raise funds for Hummingbird House, Queensland's only integrated support service for the 3700 children affected by a life-limiting condition and their families.

Founded in 2011 by Paul and Gabrielle Quilliam, the Hummingbird House Foundation has worked to become trusted curators of families' stories; pursue credible interactions with all levels of government; engage the Queensland community; and develop relationships within the paediatric palliative care sector.

Major prize in the raffle will be a two-night, stress-free



Stress-free... the Belle's at Montville, first prize in the Queensland Timber Pioneers Luncheon on August 9.

holiday escape to the award-winning Belle's at Montville, donated by timber industry identity Noel Wooton and his wife Julie.

The five-star air-conditioned cottage retreat, clad mostly in western red cedar, is 300 metres from the entrance to Kondalilla Falls National Park and five minutes' drive from Montville Village and the Flaxton Gardens. The cottages provide double spa bath, fireplace, and private

balcony with magnificent views, TV, a DVD player and an iPod docking station. Each cottage has a kitchenette with a microwave, refrigerator, toaster tea and Nespresso coffee machine.

Visit www.bellesatmontville.com.au

The luncheon at Brisbane's historic Pineapple Hotel at Kangaroo Point, starts at 12 noon on Friday, August 9 (see notice Page 14).

Guest speaker is fourth

generation family member Chris Hyne, who 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 will also mark the induction of a number of Queensland pioneer sawmillers to the Pioneers Hall of Fame.

The raffle will be run by Brisbane Hoo-Hoo Club 218.

Early sponsors for the luncheon are Hyne Timber, Thora Wholesale Timbers, Responsible Wood, Kennedy's Recycled Timbers, John Muller, Wood Addiction, Maleny (member Blackall Range Woodcrafters Guild) and Timber&Forestry enews.



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China's new green agenda to shut thousands of small plywood mills

Demand increasing for more sustainable sources of wood supply

CHINA is shutting down thousands of small plywood and particleboard factories in a three-year 'green agenda' to significantly reduce old and polluted production capacity levels over three years.

Speaking at the DANA forest innovation conference last month, Andrew Crisp, principal, Pöyry Management Consulting, London, said despite short-term volatility, however, China still offered potential for longer-term sustainable suppliers and value-added production.

By the start of 2019, China had closed more than 3500 plywood and fibreboard factories, eliminating 24 million cub m in production capacity. Also, over 1000 particleboard lines had been uninstalled or suspended, a production loss of a further 21



million cub m.

However, the number of large-medium sized wood-based panel companies was increasing, with some flow-on of sawlog processing residues, Mr Crisp said.

He said the construction market remained strong with a record number of building starts in June this year, due to government stimuli and monetary easing. But some slowdown was anticipated if the US-China trade war dragged on.

"The construction sector is

- 1/ Hit list... China targeting thousands of small plywood factories for closure.
- 2/ Andrew Crisp... new standards for wood frame construction.

the main end user of softwood logs and lumber in China with a 60-70% share," Mr Crisp said.

"High levels of construction activity will lead to some stabilising and possible rebound in log prices over the next few months as inventories at port begin to normalise," he said.

"Demand from export-driven sectors will remain depressed,

however, with some manufacturing shifting offshore; foreign investment in Vietnam was up 86% in the first quarter this year."

In the short-term, Mr Crisp says some higher cost log export operations in Australia will face difficulties if prices stay low. Some rebound in prices is likely once log inventories normalised.

In the longer term, lumber is expected to gain increasing share of the China market with some processing shifting offshore.

Demand is increasing for more sustainable sources of wood supply, namely PEFC and FSC certified plantation and natural forests

"In particular, increasing

Cont P 19

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From P 18

restrictions and declining supplies of tropical hardwood is a positive for Australian sustainable native eucalypts," Mr Crisp said.

"New greener building initiatives in China also offer future potential for wood frame construction, recognised in new standards to be introduced in August.

"Mass timber (CLT), also with a new building standard, is attracting wider

interest," he said.

In his presentation, Bill McCallum, managing director, Hancock Natural Resource Group Australia, said the outlook in China for NZ forest owners was not so bright.

"New Zealand has a large exportable surplus and the exposure to China is very high. Chinese demand patterns will follow Japan and Korea," he said.

"Chinese demand for imported timber and wood products will remain high but

processed products will win and logs will lose. NZ timber processors will struggle to compete on scale cost to market (ocean freight, belt and road).

"The future of New Zealand timberlands lies in the hands of the processing sector."

**“OPPORTUNITY
OPENS FOR
AUSTRALIAN
EUCALYPTS**

Mr McCallum said Australian demand for timber and wood products would continue to exceed domestic supply

"Exposure to China is relatively low and wood products exports are a small proportion of the total production, dominated by domestic sales.

"Also, Australian wood processors are protected by ocean freight and port cost barriers.

"The exchange rate is the forest owners' friend."

Name change better reflects diverse membership of southern tree breeders

THE Southern Tree Breeding Association – manager of national tree improvement programs and supplier of tree genetic evaluation services to Australia's \$23 billion forestry sector – officially became Tree Breeding Australia from July 1.

It was felt the change would better reflect the geographically-diverse nature of its membership base.

General manager of STBA Dr Tony McRae said the logical administrative evolution from a state-based association to a national entity would ensure the organisation continued to evolve, modernise and prepare for the future.

Dr McRae said the



**Dr Tony McRae...
maximising
productivity
of the existing
estate.**

establishment of Tree Breeding Australia had been in the pipeline for several years.

"The creation of the new company will help us improve our governance structures, better manage risk on behalf of our members, and more efficiently meet their current and future needs," he said.

"As the pre-eminent manager of Australian tree improvement programs and genetic evaluation services, the formation of TBA also allows us to generate significant cost savings, attract new members and grow the business in coming years.

"Demand for timber is

currently exceeding growers' capacity to supply and it's increasingly important for the industry to continue maximising the productivity of the existing estate. It is clear genetics will play a key role in achieving this."

Established in 1983 to develop improved genetics for plantation forestry, the STBA is based in Mount Gambier. ForestrySA is a foundation member of the organisation. In recent years, it has expanded to service member companies and clients in Western Australia, South Australia, Victoria, New South Wales, ACT, Tasmania and New Zealand, Asia and Europe.

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