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Training camp prepares foresters ahead of busy fire season in NSW

MORE than 50 Forestry Corporation of NSW firefighters honed their skills recently in a five-day training camp at Johns River in preparation for a busy fire season ahead.

Staff from the Mid North Coast, Hunter, Northern Tablelands, North Coast and Pilliga areas were trained in essential firefighting skills such as fire command, control and communications, appliance familiarisation/use.

The three streams of general firefighter, advance firefighter and crew leader roles were the focus for the week-long event.

Fire training and operations staff officer Adrien Thompson said the training camp was a crucial component of fire season preparation.

“Forestry Corporation is responsible for preventing and managing fires in 2 million ha of state forests across NSW,” Mr Thompson said.



Skilled and ready...Forestry Corporation staff and new recruits with trainers at the Johns River fire camp.

firefighter training camps being held around the state ahead of the fire season.

“Every year we bring our seasonal recruits and permanent staff together for pre-season training camps to train, upskill, refresh and improve their practical skills and fitness ahead of the fire season,” Adrien Thompson said.

“We hold fitness tests and pre-season fire days in each region to put all our firefighting staff through their paces in realistic emergency scenarios and critical information sessions.”

Forestry Corporation’s investment in training firefighting staff, enhancing fire control rooms and equipment, upgrading fire trails and staffing fire towers has proven very effective in protecting local forests and communities from damaging fire.

“We take our firefighting responsibilities incredibly seriously; our training ensures everyone from our most experienced firefighter through to our newest recruit is fit and ready to be deployed to the fire front.

“We also send crews to assist on large bushfires across all tenures within their local areas, interstate and even internationally, so we need to ensure we are at the top of our game.

“The hot and dry conditions mean we’ve already had crews managing bushfires in partnership with other NSW firefighting agencies, so this training camp is a timely skills refresher.”

The Johns River training camp is one of a series of

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Agribusiness group opens \$200m Australian timberland fund-raiser

'Some highly suitable plantation assets identified'

MELBOURNE-based Smith Agri International has begun fund raising for its managed investment vehicle – a \$200 million Australian timberland fund.

The firm is in discussions with cornerstone institutional investors for Smith Agri International Timberland Fund, a closed-end vehicle which will invest exclusively in Australian timberland assets.

Smith Agri International is an agribusiness consultant that works throughout the value chain, from real estate to transactions through to the planning, design, logistics, planting, management and export of forestry and agricultural assets.

It proposes that the fund's assets be managed by its wholly-owned subsidiary Virgin Forests, a specialist forest contracting entity specifically set up to deliver a complete range of forestry related services throughout the commercial value-chain. This includes part of the team that worked in the forestry operations team at Willmott Forests under David Smith, and which established and managed more than 65,000 ha of commercial radiata plantations across New South Wales and Victorian,

Mr Smith is a professional forester with value-chain experience having established and managed more 56,000 ha (68 million trees).

The fund is targeting an IRR of 8-18%, net of fees and expenses. David Smith said there was the flexibility to meet cornerstone investors' preferred investment models.

He told Agri Invest the genesis of the fund followed work conducted on behalf of a client in Australia on a buy-side mandate. This involved planning and negotiating the acquisition of private plantation assets to help the client expand from an export capacity of 250,000 tonnes to 1.5 million tonnes annually.

"Our client's ability to deliver volume to market effectively delivered favourable terms, wherein our client could effectively pay for these plantation properties through operation profits," David Smith said.

"The downside to this model more recently has been an increasing pressure to sell land soon after harvest in order to again access sufficient capital from which to continue acquisition.

"The reality is that if we're able to hold on to that land instead and re-establish the plantation, or at least take time in selling it, the returns will be much higher.

"The fund allows us to take advantage of that opportunity while also allowing us to open up supply agreements with buoyant domestic processing markets here in Australia."

He said there was a shortage of commercial plantations to meet demand in both the domestic and export markets in Australia and that the trade war between the



David Smith... opening up supply agreements.

US and China had led to a focus on alternative sources of timber, such as Australia.

"The fund aims to help meet that demand by providing access to Australian

timberland for investors who wish to deploy capital in the country but did not have the local management structure in place to do so," Mr Smith said.

Mr Smith said the firm had mainly been in discussions with overseas investors about the fund, but that it would welcome interest from Australian investors.

He said the firm had identified "some highly suitable plantation assets" in Australia and that he could see the fund "increase dramatically beyond the targets we are talking about and in the near future."

(With extracts from Agri Investor)

The united voice for Australia's forest industries



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“AN ABILITY TO DELIVER VOLUME TO THE MARKET”

HIA says new housing levels to rise above construction quality concerns

But consumers shun high-rise in favour of detached housing

KNOWN quality problems in Australia's construction market will not impact overall levels of new housing but may cause some shift in demand away from high-rise apartments towards lower density dwelling stock, a leading housing industry economist says.

Speaking at the Housing 100 Breakfast in Melbourne last week hosted by the Housing Industry Association, HIA chief economist Tim Reardon says that media reports of high-profile issues regarding cladding, waterproofing and structural defects would not impact the overall level of demand for new housing.



1/ Positive news... shift away from apartments to detached and semi-detached housing.
2/ Tim Reardon... it's about population and wage growth.

Despite concerns over quality, he says people still need spaces in which to live.

Nevertheless, he says the

problem: **2** may impact the type of housing which people buy as consumers shun high-rise in favour of detached and semi-detached housing.

"The macro answer is not at all because people still need to live in houses," Mr Reardon said, asked about the impact of well-publicised construction defects upon overall housing demand.

"It's just a question of which one you are going to live in," he said "From a detached housing market perspective, if consumers respond to what's going on in the media at the moment and shift away from apartments, that's positive news for semi-detached and detached houses.

"From a macro perspective, however, it's about population and wage growth and GDP growth."

Mr Reardon's comments come amid ongoing concern about the level of construction defects which are apparent in new housing, particularly

in the apartments sector after considerable media coverage about combustible cladding, structural defects and waterproofing issues over recent years.

Speaking about the apartments sector, Westpac chief economist Bill Evans said concerns over construction quality might contribute toward greater caution from investors in off-the-plan buying.

This, along with other factors such as the significant number of completions set to hit the market, may contribute toward greater challenges for developers in obtaining the required volumes of presales which are needed to secure new project funding.

This, he says, is one factor behind a broader view which he holds that approvals in the high-rise sector will remain soft over the near-term.

"I think the test is going to come now as completions are peaking at the moment so there is a lot of stock coming onto the market," Mr Evans said.

"The primary issue would be the ability of developers to get pre-sales and therefore to get funding and whether investors on a pre-sale basis off the plan sales will be more cautious (as a result of the quality issues). It seems reasonable that they may well be."

"That's one of the factors behind my view that the completions are going to be falling quite substantially over the next few years as approvals remain soft."



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Industry faces increasing uncertainty as forest ‘invasions’ continue in Victoria

THE peak body for the Victorian timber and forestry industry is concerned at the lack of government support for local harvesting contractors.

“Protesters who invaded harvesting operations in a Rubicon Valley timber harvest site last week ignored Public Safety Zone legislation, putting lives at risk,” Victorian Association of Forest Industries CEO Tim Johnston.

“We all have the right to lawful protest,” he said. “But it appears that the same group of people have been moving from site to site, invading workplaces and endangering lives. The government has laws in place to prevent dangerous protests in forestry operations and these must be strictly enforced.”

Mr Johnston said not only were protesters endangering their own lives by entering the coupes but they were also risking the safety of hard-working forest contractors.

“The situation is dire, and the government must take action,” he said.

Malcom Warnock from Rubicon Cable Co. was the



1/ Tim Johnston... government must act decisively against unlawful forest protests.



latest target for protesters when they invaded his harvesting coupe last week.

“Myself and a number of other contractors have been hit hard this season with protesters illegally coming onto our worksites unlawfully and illegally,” Mr Warnock said.

“I have to question our Public Safety Zone legislation because if it was that secure, then how are these protesters still targeting our coupes on a regular basis.”

Mr Johnston said ongoing protest actions and the fear contractors faced that they could be next was adding to high levels of stress in an already uncertain time.

“Imagine attending your place of work only to be confronted with hostile protesters who walk onto your site, make you stop work, and force you to lose financially while you wait for days or even weeks for government intervention,” he said.

“Never before have hard-working contractors and sawmillers in Victoria been under so much financial and mental stress. We are sadly seeing similar struggles to those that many of our farmers are currently facing. We are also a part of the rural landscape and this stress is impacting our workers. Indeed, the crisis is so severe

that the state government has assistance programs for those in agriculture to help with mental health.”

Mr Johnston called on the government to act decisively against unlawful protests and also urgently implement assistance programs for affected timber and forestry contractors.

Meanwhile, consultation on reforms to the code of practice for timber production has been sidelined by the Victorian Environment Minister. Lily D’Ambrosio took to social media to announce the consultation process had concluded.

“I acknowledge there are legitimate concerns around the draft reforms to the code of practice for timber production and how they fit together,” Ms D’Ambrosio wrote on Twitter. “Listening to the community is important and that’s why I’ve decided to withdraw the current consultation.”

Ms D’Ambrosio said the full package of reforms would be released for consideration at a later date

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Forestry, fibre advisory role for Nathan Trushell after VicForests

NATHAN Trushell has stepped down as CEO of VicForests to take up a new role as senior adviser, forestry and fibre innovation, with the Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions.

Announcing the move, VicForests acting chair Therese Ryan praised Mr Trushell for his work at the helm since taking on the senior management role in 2016. He was more than 20 years' experience in natural resource management, much of which was held in various



Nathan Trushell... new government role.

senior forestry management positions within Victoria.

However, Ms Ryan said Mr Trushell's experience had not been lost to industry. "In his new role he will help guide the future of the wood and fibre industry in Victoria,"



Monique Dawson... appointed interim CEO.

she said.

"Among many other things, Nathan has driven our new strategic direction for the organisation, continued to improve our journey to Zero Harm, established a new executive team and maintained our profitability."

Monique Dawson has accepted a one-year term as interim CEO for VicForests commencing on October 21 and brings a wealth of experience in the government sector working on complex policy matters and corporate service delivery. This has included roles as deputy

secretary corporate services, chief operating officer Employment, Investment and Trade, and recently head of forestry and game at the Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions.

The DJPR was established in January to ensure Victoria's strong economic performance by growing industries and regions and creating more jobs in the communities.

This work supports six ministers, spans 10 portfolios and operates across metropolitan, regional and international offices.

Mr Trushell will relinquish his role as a director of Responsible Wood, which meets for its AGM in Mount Gambier, SA, on October 22.

The Australian Forest Products Association acknowledged Nathan Trushell's significant contribution during his time at Vicforests and congratulated him on his new position. AFPA looks forward to continuing to work with Monique Dawson in her new role.

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Forest workers put safety first

PRO-Visual Publishing in conjunction with the Australian Forest Contractors Association, Australian Forest Growers, NZ Institute of Safety Management, Minter Ellison Rudd Watt Lawyers and the Forest Industry Safety Council has released the latest edition of the Augmented Reality Forestry Sector Guide to Workplace Safety AU/NZ 2019/20.

The wall-mountable printed guide can be displayed where workers have easy viewing access on a regular basis.

The agriculture, forestry and fishing industries are highest for workplace injuries and fatalities.

The guide is distributed free to Australia and New Zealand industry. Visit www.provisual.com.au

OCTOBER

3: Australian Timber Importers Federation board meeting – Brisbane Airport Conference Centre, Brisbane Australia. Contact John Halkett (02) 9356 3826 or mobile 0417 421 187. Email: john.halkett@bigpond.com

17: Institute of Foresters of Australia, Innovation in Forestry Seminar – Library at the Dock, Docklands, Melbourne, Australia. Seminar will cover: latest developments in drone use and mobile data collection in native and plantation forests; adaptive harvesting and regeneration practices in native forests; harvesting performance monitoring in plantation forests, and innovation in log measurement and payment systems. To register to attend see: www.forestry.org.au/Forestry/Events/Innovation_in_the_Forestry_Sector

17: 20th Australian Timber

Design Awards presentation dinner – The River Room, Crown Melbourne, Australia. People's Choice voting closes September 30. All category winners including the 'Grand Prix' winner will be announced during the presentation evening on October 17. Enjoy a three-course meal and drinks all while being entertained by MC Peter Maddison, founding director of Maddison Architects and host of Grand Design Australia. Contact 0420 232 253 or email inbox@timberdesignawards.com.au

18: 2019 TABMA National Awards Dinner – Doltone House, Hyde Park, Sydney, Australia. Hosted by TABMA Australia, 6:30 - 11:30 pm. Dress formal.

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

31: Rural Press Club of Queensland: A conversation on the future of agriculture and activism – Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre, Cnr Merivale and Glenelg Streets, South Brisbane. Club members \$125 p.p. (gst inclusive) or \$1200 for table of 10. Non-members \$135 p.p. (gst inclusive) or \$1300 for table of 10. Speakers: David McNamee, Lemontree Feedlot and Rowan McMonnies, managing director, Australian Eggs, in conversation with ABC Radio's Craig Zonca. Wide relevance to Australia's forest industry. In March 2017, the McNamee family made headlines when more than 100 animal activists illegally entered their feedlot near Millmerran. The flow-on effect has been unprecedented scrutiny of the interface between activism and primary production and

a suite of proposed new measures to clamp down on unlawful entry to agricultural land. Contact: Rural Press Club on (07) 3221 9222 | or email admin@ruralpressclub.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 30. 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

15: Victorian Association of Forest Industries annual industry dinner – Melbourne Cricket Ground, Melbourne, Vic, Australia. Tickets available at www.vafi.org.au



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OCTOBER

6-9: 52nd International Symposium on Forestry Mechanization (FORMEC) and 42nd Council on Forest Engineering (COFE) Annual Meeting – Sopron, Hungary. For further information see: www.formec2019.com

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

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

21-25: 2019 DANA Japan Forest Industry Tour – Japan. A unique five-day Forest Industry Tour of several forest, wood processing and wood

importing and expecting port facilities on Kyushu and Honshu Islands. For further information and to register see: www.danaevents.co.nz/2019japan/

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

28-30: Fastmarkets RISI 34th annual North American Conference – Seaport Hotel, Boston, USA. Forum covers all aspects of the forest products industry. Industry experts will discuss latest trends, challenges and opportunities. For further information see: www.events.risiinfo.com/north-american-conference/

NOVEMBER

11-15: PEFC Forest Certification Week 2019 – Würzburg, Germany. For further information see: www.pefc.org/events-training/pefc-forest-certification-week-2019

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

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/

DECEMBER

16-17: Forest Landscape Restoration and the Bonn Challenge in Eastern and South-East Europe – Belgrade, Serbia. Informing on the Bonn Challenge (launched in 2011 and extended by the 2014 New York Declaration on Forests, a global effort to bring 150 million ha of deforested and degraded land into restoration by 2020 and 350 million ha by 2030), and to gather input for a study on forest landscape restoration. For further information see:

www.unece.org/

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

AUGUST 2020

24-27 :World Conference on Timber Engineering (WCTE Santiago 2020) – Santiago, Chile. Topics include Sustainable Forests for timber production; wood products, connections: timber engineering' timber architecture; building and environmental impacts; policies, education and future trends. For further information see: www.wcte2020.com/

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

WA's first timber-framed office tower approved

A LOCAL council has approved an office tower in Fremantle to be constructed out of cross-laminated timber, in a 'first' for Western Australia.

The six-storey building, designed by Harris Jenkins Architects, will comprise five office floors above a ground floor hosting a bar and restaurant. The building will also feature a suite of sustainability features, including an operable glass facade that will circulate fresh air and deliver maximum sunlight to all levels, while revealing the timber structure to the outside.



A 'first for WA... the CLT six-storey building approved for Fremantle. (Image Harris Jenkins Architects and York Property Group)

Brad Pettitt, mayor of Fremantle, said the council was pleased with the sustainable credentials of the building.

"In recent years in Fremantle we've seen the construction of some really

exciting sustainable buildings that are better places to live and work in, better for the environment and cheaper to operate," he said.

"To be home to the state's first timber-framed office building will only enhance

Fremantle's reputation as a leader in sustainable development."

He noted that the project would be the first new office project in the eastern end of Fremantle since a planning amendment in 2012 opened up a number of sites in the city for possible redevelopment.

"It goes to show that it can take a long time for the planning decisions of the council to flow through to actual development, but it also demonstrates that the council's plan to make Fremantle a more attractive investment destination is working.

RBA rate lifts confidence in housing

MASTER Builders has challenged banks and other lenders to pass on Tuesday's RBA rate cut in full and without delay.

The Reserve Bank has taken the rate down to a new unprecedented low of just 0.75% as it battles to head off rising unemployment and stimulate a stalling economy.

After the announcement, the Australian dollar hit a decade low of 67 US cents

Master Builders Australia chief economist Shane Garrett welcomed the cut given it has the potential to boost demand across the economy and reduce financing costs for the 370,000 small businesses in the building and construction sector.

"There is already evidence



1



2

1/ **Shane Garrett... steering housing in a positive direction.**

2/ **Geordan Murray... increased activity among investors.**

that the interest rate reductions earlier this year have started to steer some parts of the housing market in a positive direction," Mr Garrett said.

Housing Industry Association senior economist Geordan Murray said throughout the remainder of 2019 the new home market should start to reflect the lower interest rate environment following the RBA rate cut.

"The modest lift in home prices over recent months has led to improved confidence and is likely to result in increased activity among investors," he said.

"These factors together should assist the housing market in the back end of 2019."

Shane Garrett said the RBA move would only succeed if it was matched by similar reductions in the interest rate on mortgages

and small business loans.

"It is important that the banks and major lenders play their part in making sure that this happens," he said.

The big banks passed on around 80% of the 50 basis points of cuts in June and July, but are not being so generous this time. The CBA, Australia's biggest home lender, was the first to move, passing on a little more than half the cut.

CBA edged down its key rates for owner occupiers by 0.13% per annum to 4.80%.

HIA says there have been positive developments in the broader housing market since mid-year. But both the HIA new home sales report and ABS building approvals figures show new home builders were still feeling the winter chill in August.

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Structural resilience of Tectonus technology gains seismic traction

Revolutionary earthquake protection system wins health contract

MICHAEL SMITH

FOLLOWING the successful application of its resilient slip friction joint technology as part of the Nelson Airport Terminal project, Auckland-based Tectonus has won the contract to supply its revolutionary seismic protection for Medispace's Hutt Valley Health Hub build.

Testing of the tension-compression brace applied in the building's structure was successfully carried out at the Auckland University of Technology's structural testing lab.

The technology is making a significant contribution to the project's importance level (IL) 4 rating as defined in clause A3 of the Building Code, which relates to the consequences of failure. At this level, structures "must be operational immediately after an earthquake or other disastrous event" and include emergency shelters and hospital operating theatres, triage centres and other critical



Pioneering joint technology... testing Tectonus's tension-compression brace at the Auckland University of Technology's structural testing lab.

post-disaster infrastructure.

[The integrated medical hub is the first primary health centre in New Zealand to receive the IL4 earthquake resilience rating].

Tectonus has also made its first foray into the global market with Fast + Epp, an internationally recognised structural engineering firm based in Vancouver, British Columbia.

Construction has begun on Fast + Epp's purpose-built, four-storey, mass timber

home office. It features electro-chromatic glass, prefabricated CLT shear walls and Tectonus's earthquake-resistant technology that dissipates energy, has no sacrificial components and doesn't require post-event maintenance. In a North-American 'first', Tectonus's resilient slip friction joints will anchor the building's shear walls.

And in recognition of the company's seismic protection advances, Tectonus was recently named one of two

inaugural local winners of the Australia New Zealand Leadership Forum Trans-Tasman Innovation and Growth Awards, giving it access to advice from business leaders and decision-makers in the private and public sectors.

In a further development, Tectonus exhibited at Woodrise 2019 in Quebec City, Canada, this week, an international forum of heavy hitters with a stake in the mid-rise and tall wood building industry.

The forum aims to stimulate alliances and collaborations via displays, workshops and business-to-business sessions, and to promote and position wood as a leading construction material in North America and beyond.

Tectonus marketing manager Anya Valyashko said some 1000 attendees were expected, and there had already been keen interest expressed in the company's innovative technology.



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Japan tour a standout from Rugby Cup!

DANA director Dennis Neilson is leading an industry tour to Japan this month with much of the five-day event spent on the picturesque island of Kyushu.

While Japan has 70% of its land area covered in trees and mostly in the high quality softwood species Hinoki and sugi – where 10 million ha was planted in a remarkable effort immediately after World War 2 – it still imports large volumes of hardwood and softwood sawn timber and woodchips.

Australia is a major supplier to Japan of both eucalyptus and pine for pulp.

The tour from October 21 to 25, organised by DANA in association with Japanese partners, will visit sawmills, laminated post plants, plywood mills and specialty decorative wood product



1/ Chikoku sawn timber in Japan.

2/ Dennis Neilson... sugi logs competing directly with pine log exports from Australia and New Zealand.



mills, all on Kyushu Island in western Japan.

The mission will also visit a pulp mill using imported woodchips and the largest log exporting port in Japan.

“Demand for sugi log exports to China has grown exponentially in recent years with some of these competing

directly with pine log exports from Australia and New Zealand,” tour leader Dennis Neilson said.

On the final day of the tour, delegates will visit a huge 100% imported log sawmill, a Finnish-supplied thermo-modified timber (TMT) kiln

plant and a huge robotic furniture components factory, all near Tokyo.

There are still a few field trip seats available. Visit www.danaevents.co.nz/2019japan/ (See notice, Page 17).

Neilson says the DANA tour will provide a welcome relief to Rugby World Cup visitors between the quarter final and semi-final matches – both of which will feature the New Zealand All Blacks and may feature the Australian Wallabies.

The tour coincides with an AFPA trade delegation to Tokyo on October 26-29, during which Assistant Minister for Forestry Senator Jonathon Duniam will join the group on October 27 for an evening reception with Japanese government and industry representatives.

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SHACK culture is not unique to Tasmania, with beach shack communities in Western Australia and Queensland achieving heritage status in recent years.

However, it is firmly entrenched in the Apple Isle's history; almost everyone with a family history has had access to a shack somewhere on the coast with many handed down through generations.

Constructed between the 1950s and 1980s, these simply-built holiday homes were constructed using any materials to or off-cuts from other houses and were added to over time.

It was this tradition of simple, functional, pared-back dwellings built from uncomplicated materials that inspired architect Taylor and Hinds when designing a trio



Denison Rivulet coastal cabins...opening timber structure to a wild, exposed landscape

of coastal cabins at Denison Rivulet close to Tasmania's east coast.

This dynamic young Tasmanian architectural practice prides itself on delivering "memorable environments for people" and anyone lucky enough to stay at Denison Rivulet will not easily forget the experience.

Seen from afar, the cabins

sit confidently but modestly within the landscape without any sense of dominating it. The unpretentious exteriors are clad in silvertop ash but the focus is on the wonderful interior spaces and their relationship with the wild, exposed landscape outside.

The rich, self-finishing timber used throughout the interiors lends a soft glow and warmth.

It was also the preference of the client and the desire of the architect to use only Australian certified timber and materials that were readily procured and sustainably managed at the source. In Australia, certification is provided through Responsible Wood, the governing body for PEFC.

The many species of timber used in this project also included Tasmanian oak, Victorian ash, radiata pine and spotted gum.

Architect Mat Hinds believes integral to the Tasmanian tradition of shack spaces is a looseness, but a high degree of purposefulness. "Shacks are a very interior realm," he says.

Proportions are varied according to function such as the high 3.3 m ceilings, compressed to 2.4 m in the upstairs sleeping quarters.

WHERE: DOLTONE HOUSE - HYDE PARK, THE BALLROOM **WHEN:** 18TH OCTOBER 2019, 6:30 PM - 11:30 PM **DRESS:** BLACK TIE

PRICING: \$180 PP OR \$1,700 TABLE OF 10 **RSVP:** 7TH OCTOBER - [HTTPS://TABMA.COM.AU/EVENTS](https://TABMA.COM.AU/EVENTS)



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Germany's forests a challenge, a crisis and then on to a katastrophe

Turning to New Zealand practices for a lesson in climate change

DENNIS NEILSON

FOR centuries Germany has been held up as the epitome of forest management excellence and sustainability.

So much so that esteemed New Zealand academic (and a New Zealander of the Year) Dame Ann Salmon recently sung the praise of "German forestry's low intensity management practises" while chastising those of New Zealand plantation forest owners

But of course, like a lot of these things, the pixie dust of Hansel and Gretel hid the reality. With restrictive management practices, largely a ban of clearfelling and ultra-long rotation lengths (in a few instances several hundred) and much longer than prudent (leading to over mature and vulnerable forests), much of Germany's forests slide into such a state of dis-repair that one shock would have hammered them.

But three simultaneously in two years? That has turned



Coming to grips... Germany's Minister of Agriculture Julia Klöckner inspects trouble-hit federal forests in the Brandenburg region.

a challenge into a crisis and on into a catastrophe. Commentators are now increasingly reporting on the catastrophe as the 'triple whammy' of multi-user year droughts, bark beetle devastation and fires decimating the high value spruce forests.

No one knows how bad it is. A late September article said they thought 110,000 ha of spruce forests had been badly affected (that means dying

or dead) but then 250,000 football fields – 150,000 ha (but now experts are saying 250,000 ha) – could be dying by the end of the year or soon after. We think it will end up several times more.

Media headlines such as '800 million euros to bring Germany's forests from brink

of collapse' and 'Germany's climate-stressed forests face catastrophe as bugs attack' are now common place – almost daily.

Do we care?

Well, New Zealand forest owners do, and some Australians as well. Why? Because to clear the millions of tonnes of dead and dying trees, Germany's public and private forest owners are

“NO ONE KNOWS HOW BAD IT IS”

Cont P 15

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From P 14

giving away the wood to be processed, or selling it to China as logs. In July, 700,000 tonnes of logs were exported to China from Germany alone. The previous monthly record shipment was 100,000 tonnes. This is delaying log export demand and price recovery from both New Zealand and Australia.

In addition, inexpensive and further subsidised European sawn timber is being exported to China in record volumes.

Will it only be a matter of time before distressed and oversupplied German and European sawmills (and CLT plants) decided to ramp up

“RAMPING UP EFFORTS TO SUPPLY SAWN TIMBER TO AUSTRALIA?”

the efforts in increase sawn timber to Australia?

But is help on the way? In a major article of September 29, Germany's largest daily newspaper Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung (FAZ) reports on New Zealand's emissions trading scheme and some commentators say this is just what Germany needs to help its forests recover. The headline for the article read: 'Forest owners want their contribution to climate protection rewarded. One solution would be emissions trading. Model is New Zealand'.

One major investor in forests in Austria, Germany and New Zealand explained: "While politics in Berlin dominate, in New Zealand the climate protection performance of the forests are consistently financially rewarded. While his German trees and burning up and dying, his New Zealand trees



Ivan Diaz-Rainey... you have to watch what kind of forest you get.

sequester 30 to 40 tonnes of CO2 each year. For each tonne he receives a certificate showing market value is currently around 15 euros (\$A24) – or around 600 euros/ha/year, almost \$US1000.

Of course there is always a doom and gloom – common in academia – outlook. The article's author asks: 'So why not transfer New Zealand's model to Europe and extend emissions trading to the forest?'

Well, New Zealand academic Ivan Diaz-Rainey, a professor for climate change finance at the University of New Zealand Otago when interviewed by FAZ warned. "You have to watch what kind of forest you get. In New Zealand, large barren pine monocultures originated because these trees grow very fast, and thus bind a lot of CO2. Good for the climate but bad for biodiversity in the forest"

Some mothers do 'av 'em.

Postsriptum: Germany ranks among the most densely wooded countries in Europe. Around 11,4 million ha or one-third of the national territory are covered with forests. In regional terms, the proportion of woodland cover varies widely, ranging from 11 % in Schleswig-Holstein to more than 42% in Rhineland-Palatinate and Hesse, the most thickly wooded federal states.



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GALA EVENING

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DRESS: COCKTAIL ATTIRE



BC an awe-inspiring spectacle of towering forests and mighty trees

RECENTLY returned from Canada I was again super impressed with the extent and spectacle that British Columbia's towering trees and forests present.

They are truly massive, covering about 60 million ha. You could drop both France and Germany into BC's forests and they would disappear beneath the trees ... not forgetting of course that they provide habitat for an iconic population of North American large animals such as black bears, cougars, deer, coyotes and grey wolves.

Most of the remainder of the province consists of alpine or other naturally unforested areas like wetlands and grasslands. Only about 2% of BC has been converted to agriculture, urban areas and other forms of development.

Canada's richest forest diversity is found along the BC coast, which stretches from US Washington State north to the Alaska panhandle, with a deeply indented, island-dotted coastline that covers more than 25,000 km. Much of the coast region is remote wilderness, yet it also includes the province's most heavily populated areas.



1/ Coastal temperate forests in British Columbia... a mild, wet climate supporting species such as western red cedar, Douglas-fir, western hemlock, amabilis fir and Sitka spruce.

2/ Iconic creatures... black bears forage in the forests of British Columbia.

Much of the forest is considered to be old growth with trees more than 120 to 150 years of age for non-coastal forests, where fire is a frequent and a natural occurrence. For coastal forests, where tree species are longer-lived and fire is rare, old growth is defined as trees more than 250 years old. By this definition, an estimated 43% of the forests are old growth – that is 25 million ha.

These are among the tallest trees in the world, and can reach an enormous size in this highly-productive ecosystem.

BC's most widespread tree species is lodgepole pine in the dry forests of the gently rolling plateaus in the centre of the province. Like many interior forests, these pine forests depend on fire for renewal. They are also subject to insect infestations and the province is now experiencing its largest-ever infestation of the mountain pine beetle, which has infested about 2 million ha in the west-central interior.

The harsh northern climate has given rise to slow-growing forests of spruce, aspen, pine and deciduous shrubs, interspersed with areas of black spruce bogs and alpine tundra. The boreal forests in the northeast are part of the extensive belt of boreal forests that stretch right across northern Canada.

The valleys of south-central BC are the hottest and driest in Canada. Grasslands provide habitat for some of the province's rarest plants and animals, including desert species such as rattlesnakes. Forested areas are dominated by ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir.

For more tree stories see: www.talkingtrees.com.au

TALKING TREES



With JOHN HALKETT

Sponsored by Forestry Corporation of NSW

In coastal rainforest, old growth accounts for more than half of the forest, with some trees more than 1000 years old.

The province has an estimated one-fifth of the world's coastal temperate rainforests. The mild, wet climate supports species such as western red cedar, Douglas-fir, western hemlock, amabilis fir and Sitka spruce.



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Corporate leader new CEO at FSC

LENGTHY experience in risk and compliance, education, law enforcement and climate change mentoring has equipped Damian Paull well for his new position as CEO of the Forest Stewardship Council Australia.

Mr Paull brings a strong background in corporate leadership with a number of regulatory and membership-based organisations that are involved in the development of voluntary standards and codes of practice.

Announcing the appointment, effective September 30, chair of the FSC Australia board Mark Gauthier said: "Damien is a proven CEO and director with an excellent track record of inspirational leadership, management change and building trusted relationships.

"His experience reforming



Damian Paull... strong background in corporate leadership.

large organisations and managing high performing teams operating in complex environments will be an asset," Mr Gauthier said.

As national director of the Australian Account Standards Board and the Auditing and Assurance Standards Board, Mr Paull was responsible for assisting the two chairs and boards to



Mark Gauthier... new standard for environmental management.

develop and maintain high quality financial reporting and auditing standards. His career spans risk and compliance, education, law enforcement, and climate change mentoring.

In 2018, FSC Australia released its landmark Australian Forest Stewardship Standard. Developed by experts from industry, environmental and social

backgrounds, Mark Gauthier said the standard provided the highest standard of environmental management for production forests in Australia.

In the past 12 months, retailers Bunnings and Officeworks had outlined 2020 targets to source FSC-certified forest products.

Currently, FSC certifies 1.22 million ha of Australian forests to full FSC forest management standards, an increase of 37% since 2012.

FSC Australia is a registered national office of the global NGO Forest Stewardship Council, promoting responsible forest management practices through multi-stakeholder standard setting and the operation of a globally-recognised certification labelling program.



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When NZ forestry was fun: century of service celebrated at Parliament House

Jim Spiers, 96, honoured as the oldest Forest Service attendee

THE 100-year anniversary of the establishment of the New Zealand Forest Service was marked at a special evening of celebration at Parliament House in Wellington.

The event on September 24, hosted by Forestry Minister Shane Jones, was attended by more than 120 guests, including Deputy Prime Minister Winston Peters, MPs, former ministers of forestry, industry CEOs, and past Ministry of Forestry directors-general.

New Zealand's forestry heritage was well represented by a number of former state forest employees and/or their descendants.

"To have in one room such a wealth of forestry knowledge and so many people who have significantly contributed to the key milestones that define our forestry heritage, was incredibly special," said Te Uru Rākau Forestry New Zealand deputy director-general Julie Collins.

Forestry historian Paul Mahoney spoke about forestry's past with three case studies including George and Irene Murray, kauri logging contractors in the Coromandel Ranges back in 1919 when the Forest Service started.

Mr Mahoney noted the forest service was formed 100 years ago because the then government predicted the demise of native forest resources to supply timber for the construction needs of



Lifetime Achievement Award... Peter Berg (right) is recognised as a true champion of forestry by Julie Collins, Forestry New Zealand deputy director-general, and Shane Jones, Minister for Forestry.



Forestry science tribute... Bruce Manley (right) receives his award from Zealand Forestry Minister Shane Jones.

a growing nation.

"It then predicted native resources would be gone by 1948, so it needed to get cracking with a major plantation tree planting program," he said.

"Native forest harvesting lasted past 1948, but in a much diminished role from the 1950s, and was all but banned by a 1990s decision of the then Clark Labour government.

Jim Spiers, 96, who recently published the book

'When Forestry was Fun: The Evolution of a Forest Engineer', was honoured as the oldest Forest Service attendee on the night. His career "from Dolly to Director" covered logging with Dolly the horse at Tapanui in 1941, to managing Kaingaroa forest from 1966 through to being the

FORESTRY HERITAGE WELL REPRESENTED

inaugural director of the Logging Industry Research Association until 1984.

The evening also included the presentation of three forestry awards specifically developed for the 100-year celebrations – one for

forestry science, the Kaitiakitanga Aotearoa Award and for lifetime achievement.

Winner of the Forestry Science Award was Bruce Manley for his dedication to, and leadership within, forestry research, and his innovative work on carbon forestry.

The Kaitiakitanga Aotearoa Award was presented to Guy Salmon for his commitment to the protection of forests, forest ecosystems and the connection of forests to people.

The Lifetime Achievement in Forestry Award was presented to Peter Berg in recognition of a "true champion of forestry" within New Zealand and the commonwealth.

To capture the essence of the past 100 years, a forestry timeline was created for display at the celebrations and as a special souvenir

Cont P 19

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takeaway for guests.

“We also re-enacted a photo originally taken in 1921 when the State Forest Service leadership team was in Wellington for its inaugural

**“FORESTRY
TIMELINE
CAPTURED
A CENTURY**



Connection of forestry to people... the Kaitiakitanga Aotearoa Award is presented to Guy Salmon by Forestry Minister Shane Jones.

conference,” Julie Collins said. “A photo of the present leadership team was taken on the parliamentary library steps, the same spot where the original picture was taken. Both photos were on display at the event.”

On the cover: Paul Mahoney, 96, forestry historian, is warmly recognised at the NZ Forest Service celebrations by Jim Spiers, inaugural director of the Logging Industry Research Association, and Winston Peters, Deputy Prime Minister.

Stand up for Forestry Corporation jobs: Labor

THE NSW Labor Party says Bathurst stands to lose nearly 60 jobs if local member Paul Toole doesn't stand up for his community.

While in Bathurst on Sunday, Labor deputy leader Yasmin Catley and Opposition Spokesman for Natural Resources Paul Scully declared that Labor would

fight to protect the city's Forestry Corporation jobs.

They said that 57 local jobs were at risk if a scoping study were to support the long-term lease of Forestry Corporation's softwood division.

Mr Scully said these job losses would impact the Bathurst economy.

“The Bathurst electorate

has the highest number of people working in forestry and wood products manufacturing in the state, around 650 people according to the last census,” he said

“They're direct jobs. Generally there is about double that in terms of the indirect jobs that are supported through services

the Forestry Corporation buys in, the spending of those people and their families within local communities.

However, Paul Toole said the Labor Party was “no friend to the forestry industry”, while the Liberals and Nationals were committed to retaining the jobs.

(Western Advocate)

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Multi-talented mum judged NZ forestry skill professional of the year

A WOMAN considered the backbone of her company, a camp mum to her crew and a team member who will step into any position has been crowned Northland Forestry Skilled Professional of the Year.

Michelle Harrison, who owns Wise on Wood with husband Nigel, was awarded the top trophy by New Zealand's Regional Economic Development and Forestry Minister Shane Jones. She also won the inaugural PF Olsen Woman in Forestry crown at the fourth annual NFA Northland Forestry Awards before an industry-packed audience of nearly 500 people.

Those who have worked alongside Michelle had nothing but high praise for this very driven mother of two saying she was always willing to share her knowledge with others.

Eighteen years ago, Michelle had married into as well-established logging family, working in the business before she and Nigel started their own ground-based harvesting crew in late 2015. They started small with just two in the crew with Michelle initially the log maker and skiddie.



Four kiwis... Michelle and Nigel Harrison with two of the native birds they are protecting.

The company has grown now, with a crew of seven and Michelle processing more than 350 tonnes a day driving the processor. This year the company notched a record month of in excess of 10,000 tonnes. Michelle also does the office work and the health and safety side of Wise Wood while being a mum, wife, chair of the Okaihau College board of trustees and being with school and sport activities.

She is passionate about the environment and always looking for ways the company can improve its impact on the environment and to protect wildlife within their harvest areas. This year she was instrumental in the relocation of the protected Kauri snails she discovered while helping to prepare an area for harvest. She has also worked with kiwi during and post-harvest,

taking on the responsibility of monitoring the birds during harvest. Michelle is hoping to get her kiwi handling licence this year.

Wise on Wood has an excellent reputation for its health and safety practices, environmental awareness, producing good returns for forest owners, and all the while keeping harvest managers and staff happy.

Wise on Wood also claimed the Competenz Trainee of the Year with Kiesten-Breeze Repia receiving the certificate and Mark Lavakeiaho the Forest Industry Contractors Association Emerging Talent of the Year Certificate.

Skipps Logging claimed the Blackburne Group Chartered Accountants Contractor of the Year Trophy and the Gough Individual Breaker Out

Excellence Award, which went to Caleb Skipps.

Rosewarne Cable Loggers picked up two awards, with the company taking out the UDC Training Company/ Contractor of the Year crown and Dave Paton winning the AB Equipment Individual Harvesting Excellence Award.

Other results included:

UDC Training Company/Contractor of the Year: Rosewarne Cable Loggers. **Greenheart Group Forestry Excellence Award (individual):** Nick Tombleson (Tombleson Logging Ltd). **HPL Roading Excellence Award (individual):** Lex Harkness (Trees Out Ltd). **AB Equipment Harvesting Excellence Award (individual):** Dave Paton (Rosewarne Cable Loggers). **Fortuna Distribution Excellence Award:** Selwyn Powell (C3). **Pacific Motor Group Wood Processing Excellence Award (individual):** Ian King (Northpine). **Gough Breaker Out Excellence Award (individual):** Caleb Skipps (Skipps Logging). **Hancock Forest Management Faller Excellence Award (individual):** Jason Kay (Northland Forest Managers). **Forest Industry Contractors Association Emerging Talent of the Year:** Mark Lavakeiaho (Wise on Wood). **Woman in Forestry Excellence:** Michelle Harrison (Wise on Wood).

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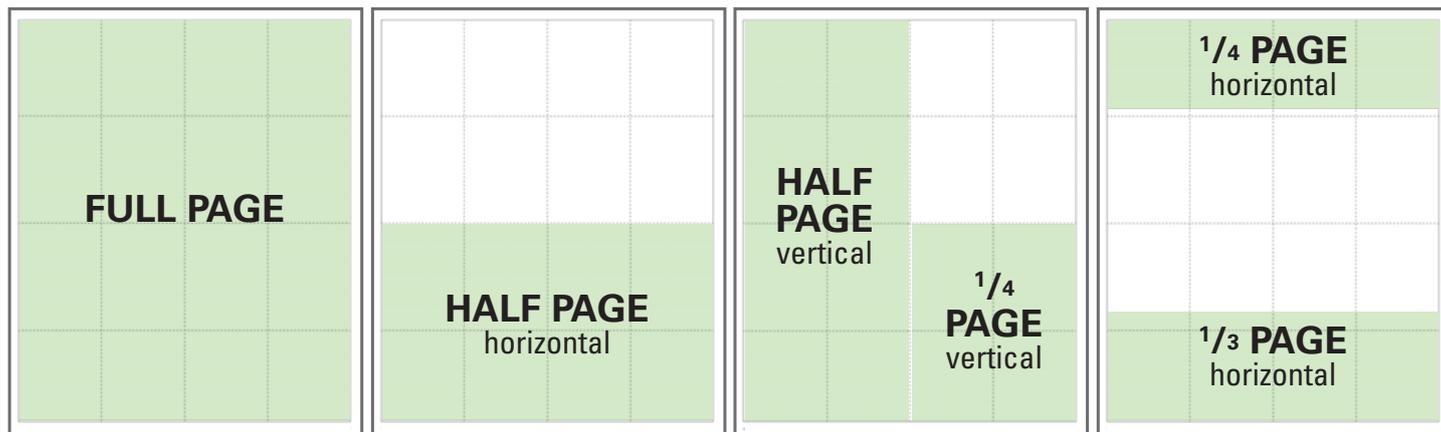
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