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MALAYSIAN WOOD EXPO 2019

COVER STORY
P2

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MALAYSIAN WOOD EXPO 2019

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Malaysian Wood Expo a shop window for credible, sustainable forest industry

1000 trade visitors from 47 countries on buying mission in KL

JIM BOWDEN

MALAYSIA'S timber industry had established high credibility to provide quality, legal and sustainable timber according to market demand, the Minister of Primary Industries Teresa Kok said at the opening of the Malaysian Wood Expo in Kuala Lumpur on Tuesday.

"As at September, 4.31 million ha of Malaysia's forests were certified under the Malaysian Timber Certification Scheme, endorsed by PEFC," she said.

"A cumulative total of 2.06 million cub m of MTCS certified timber and timber products have been exported to 68 countries."

Teresa Kok said ensuring sufficient supply of raw material was one of the important thrusts under the

BUSINESS MATCHING SESSIONS



Thumbs up for Malaysian Wood Expo... Wong Kah Cane, deputy CEO of MTC, William Pang, publisher of Panels and Furniture Group, Teresa Kok, Minister of Primary Industries, Dato' Low Kuan Chuan, chairman, MTC, and Richard Yu, CEO of MTC.

National Timber Industry Policy.

"The government has established a forest plantation fund to reduce pressure on native forests," she said.

Malaysia has more than 3500 mills, located mostly in the peninsula, which constitute around 83% while the remaining 17% are in Sabah and Sarawak.

The Minister said the Malaysian furniture industry had also undergone transformational changes over the years and now was a vibrant industry that contributed significantly to the economy.

The three-day Malaysian Wood Expo is jointly organised by the Malaysian Timber Council and the Panel and Furniture Group and is

being held at the Putra World Trade Centre.

Trade exhibits are spread over more than 8000 sq. m to accommodate 135 exhibitors from 22 countries – Australia, New Zealand, the US, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Chile, China, Croatia, France, Gabon, Germany, Italy, Singapore, Romania, Spain, Sweden, Taiwan, Thailand, Ukraine, the United Arab Emirates and Malaysia.

To further boost business at the expo, MTC is holding two business matching sessions – the overseas suppliers Malaysian Importers/Manufacturers Exchange Program and the Incoming Buying Mission.

The exchange program facilitates the augmentation of raw materials from foreign countries such as New Zealand, Chile, Gabon, France and the US. The buying mission, which is expected

Cont P 8



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Native forests and plantations dodge a bullet as fires spread through two states

Help from Victoria a welcome relief for fatigued Queenslanders

BEST reliable reports suggest both native hardwood forests and state plantations in NSW and Queensland have, remarkably, 'dodged a bullet' as bushfires continue to sweep through both states.

Forestry Corporation NSW says fires in the northern half of the state remain ongoing and are expected to continue. Significant fire fighters crews and assets, including nursery staff from Tumut, have been deployed across the state.

These fire-fighting crews and their capacity are widely regarded as among the best in the state.

The corporation reports some impact on hardwood plantations in northern NSW. Although not significant, a detailed assessment of forest damage will not be undertaken until the fire situation is more under control.

In Queensland, the fire spread is being monitored by DAF forestry division staff who are working with National Parks and Wildlife officers to report and act on any serious threats to native forests.

No significant losses to hardwood or cypress stands has been reported, it's still



Stretched to the limit... managing fatigue big issue for fire fighters.

"touch and go" as fires continue to spread.

HQPlantations in Queensland has all available firefighting crews patrolling, battling or containing blazes in or near pine plantations in multiple locations from the NSW border to Byfield in central Queensland, including fires at Jimna, Pechey and Yeppoon.

Staff from HVPlantations in Victoria have greatly contributed to efforts, particularly giving Queensland crews a chance to roster off, grab a meal, rest before re-entering the fray.

Chief operating officer Islay Robertson said while temperatures had dropped and winds had eased, the fire danger in plantation forests was not over.

"Conditions are still extremely dry," he said. "If storms forecast don't bring rain, lightning could start new fires and hot, windy conditions are forecast to escalate early next week.

also want to reduce the risk of new fires while conditions are so dry and our firefighting crews are spread so thin.

"We have been battling blazes continuously since last Friday and managing fatigue is an ongoing issue. Once the fires are out, our staff and contractors will need a rest before things can return to normal."

The closure, for public safety, includes popular recreation

Cont P 4

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“IT'S STILL TOUCH AND GO AS FIRES SPREAD

From P 3

destinations in the Glasshouse Mountains, Fraser Coast, Brisbane Valley, Mary Valley and Byfield.

The Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service has reported 90 wildfires since the start of September, burning more than 204,580 ha.

Weather events that caused the 2018 bushfires are expected to become increasingly common.

The 2018 bushfires were unprecedented and the response was the largest in Queensland's history. Between November 22 and December 6 last year, more than 1200 bushfires were recorded across the state.

Less than 10% of the fires originated on the department's managed estate and about 70% of those bushfires were contained within the estate boundaries.

In the 2018-19 financial



Islay Robertson... fire danger in Queensland plantations not over.

year, the department treated 1,030,232 ha in planned burn operations, which was well above the target of 634,000 ha.

The department currently employs 800 rangers and also works with indigenous Land and Sea Rangers groups to undertake fire management activities on jointly-managed national parks.

Meanwhile, the bushfire threat in NSW is far from over after a week of catastrophic



Tony Johnstone...fighting against three different wind directions.

conditions and a state of fire emergency remains across Queensland.

Firefighters are bracing for a dangerous collision of weather systems as more than 60 fires continue to burn across the state.

Authorities are also concerned that erratic weather could fan the Cobrabb fire near Yeppoon in central Queensland, which is only 70% contained. Gusts of about 30 km an hour at some fire grounds are expected to near 50 km an hour, with

temperatures in some areas 6-8 deg. above average.

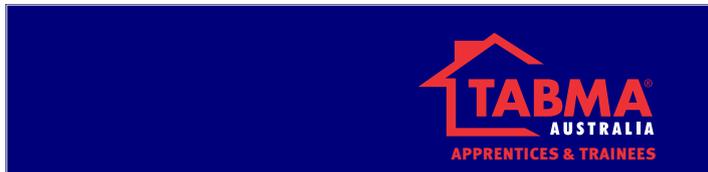
"Potentially we've got a weather condition where we could actually have three different weather fronts," Queensland Fire and Emergency Services assistant commissioner Tony Johnstone said.

"We've got a cold air and a warm air flow and when the cold air and the warm air sort of mix we end up with three different wind directions, which can basically turn ... the flank of a fire into a head fire pretty quickly," he said.

All this ahead of Australia's regular bushfire season that heightens through December, January and February.

– JIM BOWDEN

LATE NEWS: As T&F enews went online, fires were racing towards the Hurford family's plantation at Bungawalbin in north NSW. Workers have been instructed to leave the area. Report next issue



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AFPA takes its disgust to the streets

THE timber industry's sustainability message went to the streets of Melbourne last Friday as AFPA staff and forest stakeholders gathered on the steps of Parliament House to protest the premier's decision to close down the native forestry industry.

• Pictured are the Mayor of Wellington Shire Alan Hall, Tim Quilty MP, Northern Victoria in the Legislative Council, and Ross Hampton, CEO, AFPA.

The action was ahead of next Tuesday's industry rally by the timber industry, including contractors, which is seen as the key battleground for the next Victorian election.

AFPA is inviting supporters



to join the rally, which commences at 10.45 am on November 26 outside parliament in Spring Street.

There will be several speakers including Opposition Leader Michael O'Brien, and a number of Victorian politicians are expected to attend and support the industry and the many communities across the state that depend on it.

VicForests applies soothing balm to state's wounded timber industry

IFA condemns government's 'irresponsible' policy on native forests

AS industry struggles to come to grips with the Victorian government's transition plan for native forests, VicForests is applying soothing balm to wounded timber businesses in face-to-face meetings across the state.

New CEO Monique Dawson is "talking through the detail" with about 50 sawmillers and allied operations.

"This policy delivers more than four years of certainty for Victoria's native timber industry," Ms Dawson assured.

"Of course there will need to be a longer-term transition and that's why I'm meeting with local mills, contractors and other timber businesses to help them adapt to a more sustainable future for the industry from now until 2030 and beyond."

“PREMIER IS CAUGHT OUT MISLEADING VICTORIANS

VicForests is focused on quickly negotiating new supply contracts with timber harvesters, haulage, roading and forestry contractors to give them medium term certainty.

"We are also talking to our customers about our plans to quickly negotiate new timber supply contracts to give mills certainty of supply to June 2024," Ms Dawson said.

"Within 18 months we will start the sales process for supply beyond 2024. We also believe there are significant opportunities for the business, customers and contractors beyond 2030, and have commenced a transformation program to make the most of the 10-year transition period.

The professional body for forest scientists, forest managers and forest growers, the Institute of Foresters of Australia, and Australian Forest Growers have condemned the Andrews government decision as "short-sighted".

IFA federal president Bob Gordon said the ban was



Monique Dawson... talking through the detail.

poor public policy with clearly predictable and undesirable outcomes.

"Daniel Andrews has lost perspective on environmental issues and is prepared to visit significant damage to rural and regional communities, especially in Gippsland, for no discernible gain to the environment," Mr Gordon said.

"The claimed climate change benefits are indefensible because they ignore the science regarding proven atmospheric carbon sequestration from sustainable forestry and use of timber

products to displace steel and concrete in buildings.

Mr Gordon said that in the absence of a domestic hardwood industry Australia would simply import more hardwood of questionable provenance from the Asia-Pacific region.

"At the very time foresters and firefighters are warning of a devastating build-up of fuel in Australia's forests the government has decided to make things worse," he said.

"It is irresponsible to remove the forestry workforce and compound the loss by closing much of the road and track network used to combat fires."

Meanwhile, AFPA says the Premier Dan Andrews has been caught out misleading Victorians about ending the harvesting of old growth forest as one of his excuses to shut down the native forestry industry and put thousands of regional Victorians out of work.

Cont P 6



Image courtesy of the _shoot_ project, the 2018 Responsible Wood Photo Competition Winner

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From P 5

VicForests announced months ago that it had ceased all old-growth forest harvesting from September 1, 2019. Despite this, in his media statement from November 7, the premier said ... "logging in remaining old-growth forests will cease immediately, protecting around 90,000 ha, with all logging in native forests across the state to stop by 2030"

AFPA CEO Ross Hampton said the Premier was either unaware of his government's previous decision to stop old-growth harvesting or sadly misleading the public with his claim in his media release.

“PREMIER IS CAUGHT OUT MISLEADING VICTORIANS

"The decision to shut down the native forestry industry will have devastating effects on thousands of workers and hundreds of communities across the state," Mr Hampton said.

"Now the Premier has been exposed, claiming to have banned non-existent old growth timber harvesting."

The Andrews government's abrupt decision to close Victoria's native forest industry, taken behind closed doors, is the culmination of successive cutbacks in the timber available to industry over the past 50 years.

Gippsland has borne the brunt of this development.

Initially, the reductions in native timber were based on sound public policy but they became increasingly driven by ideology and a shabby desire for 'green' votes at state elections.

Key drivers have been the



Bob Gordon... clearly predictable and undesirable outcomes.

huge expansion of national parks and other reserves that exclude timber harvesting; increasing environmental protection in state forest available for timber harvesting; relentless pressure from green groups; dubious political decisions; and the massive fires of the past two decades.

The Central and East Gippsland forests were opened to harvesting to provide timber for the post-war building boom, as

the 1939 Black Friday bushfires had closed much forest close to Melbourne.

In 1970, only 205,267 ha of national parks had been created in Victoria's forests. In that year, the state Coalition government formed the Land Conservation Council, which over the next three decades established an extensive reserve system founded on sound science.

The studies included special investigations into wilderness, rivers and streams.

Correction: In last week's issue of T&F enews (Industry in Crisis: comments on Leadbeater possum colonies in Victorian forests) Tim Morrissey was quoted as a member of the Victorian Environmental Assessment Council. Mr Morrissey is policy and research manager at VAFI and has no association with VEAC. T&F enews apologies for the error.

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NOVEMBER

27-28: Hyne Timber and Xlam CLT and mill tour – Tumbarumba sawmill and plantation pine forestry operation. Conducted by Timber Development Association. Tour limited to approved building design professionals: architects, developers, engineers, certifiers, cost planners. Commences in Sydney. Coach from Albury visits XLam’s Wodonga CLT plant. Travel to Tumbarumba for overnight stay and dinner at Courabyra Wines. Morning visit to pine forestry operation then continue to Tumbarumba sawmill. Tour cost includes return flights Albury-Sydney accommodation on Monday night, breakfast, two lunches, dinner and luxury bus travel. Reduced rate where accommodation is not required. CPD certificates of attendance available for all professionals. Contact Mariela at TDA on 0420 232 253 or email info@tdansw.asn.au

DECEMBER

5: IFA/AFG Communication

and Engagement: Skills and Planning for Forestry Professionals seminar – Level 6, Marie Reay Teaching Building Kambri, ANU, Canberra, Australia. 9am-4.30pm, with optional Christmas networking drinks 5-7pm. Designed to up-skill forestry professionals to improve communication with forestry stakeholders and the broader community on the multiple values and benefits of sustainable forestry. Contact Jacquie Martin, CEO, IFA, on (03) 9695 8940 or email: ceo@forestry.org.au Visit www.forestry.org.au

9-10: Integrated Timber Design Workshop – University of Queensland, Brisbane, Qld, Australia. The ARC Future Timber Hub at UQ has announced its second timber design continuing professional development course. The workshop, open to practicing engineers, architects and other building design professionals, will focus on integrated design of timber buildings, fire safety, durability and building physics. The course will be led by

internationally recognised engineer Professor Jose Torero, University College London, with contributions from timber durability expert Geoff Stringer and building physics expert Samantha Anderson, and presentations by members of the Centre for Future Timber Constructions and the ARC Future Timber Hub. Greater awareness of the potential benefits of engineered timber as a structural material for the design of multi-storey buildings is increasingly leading to client interest in a ‘timber building option’. However, the technical education and professional experience of designers typically focuses on concrete and steel, providing little or no grounding in either the fundamental principles of timber design or its practical application to a contemporary building context. Integrated design ensures that all design aspects are considered simultaneously at all design and construction stages. Failure to apply an integrated design approach can lead to delays, rework and redesign,

and even failure of a project. This course will present state-of-the-art knowledge on fire safety engineering including façade detailing, design for durability and how this is reflected in maintenance, and why air-tightness is as equally important in Queensland as it is in Tasmania. Contact Kelly Rischmiller, ARC Future Timber Hub, Centre for Future Timber Structures. Phone 61 7 344 31360 or email k.rischmiller@uq.edu.au Visit www.futuretimberhub.org and www.civil.uq.edu.au/timber

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: www.afca.asn.au/www-austimber-org-au



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DECEMBER

3-4: Climate change and new challenges in the production of high quality and well adapted forest reproductive material – Jastrebarsko, Croatia. A European Forestry Institute event in collaboration with the Croatian Forest Research Institute (CFRI) celebrates the 60th anniversary of organised forest seed science in Croatia. The conference will provide a valuable contribution to the multidisciplinary look at seed science and connection of wide circle of scientists from the field of biotechnical sciences. For additional information see: www.efi.int/events/climate-change-and-new-challenges-production-high-quality-and-well-adapted-forest

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 he 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/

MARCH 2020

16-17: Asia Pacific Woodchip and Biomass Trade – Radisson Blu Shanghai New World Hotel, China. Optional field trips: March 18-19 to Yangtze Basin region; March 19-22 (including travel) to Suifenhe on the Russia-China border in Heilongjiang province. Visit www.danaevents.co.nz/2020china or contact Julie Bell admin@dana.co.nz

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

MAY 2020

19-20: FastMarkets – RISI-DANA 7th annual Forest Investment Conference – Convene Conference Centre, New York City. Register at www.events.risiinfo.com/investment-conference/ or contact conferences@risi.com

26-27: Inaugural DANA Russia Forest Industry Sector Conference and field trip – Hilton Helsinki Strand Hotel in Helsinki, Finland..

DANA joins with respected Russian information company Whatwood. Post-conference visits to harvesting and wood processing equipment manufacturers who sell to Russia (and in fact to the rest of the world); and to mills using some of this equipment. Visit www.danaevents.co.nz/2020russia or contact Julie Bell admin@dana.co.nz

JUNE 2020

1-5: DANA Europe Spruce Damage Seminar and Tour – Hamburg, Germany. One-day seminar in Hamburg on the impact of spruce forest damage on Germany, Austria, Czech Republic, Poland, Sweden, Italy. Website and full details available soon. Register interest with Dennis Neilson dana@dana.co.nz

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

‘Only building material that grows on trees’

From P 2

to generate sales of almost \$US1 million, is matching local manufacturers with more than 80 buyers from 17 countries.

MTC is offering special incentives for these programs as well as to local timber-based SMEs who purchase machinery during the expo.

With 135 exhibitors from 22 countries and more than 1000 trade visitors from 47 countries, the go-ahead and entrepreneurial Malaysian Timber Council is expecting to secure sales of \$US6.5 million or more.

Joining the official opening, the chairman of the Malaysian Timber Council Dato’ Low Kian Chuan said the expo was about the celebration of wood.

“Wood as we all know is a sustainable, ecologically sound and renewable building material – in fact, it’s the only



Promoting Kiwis in KL.. the New Zealand trade and Enterprise exhibit at the Malaysian Wood Expo.

building material that literally ‘grows on trees’,” he said.

“Wood could also be a solution to climate change; not only does wood remove more carbon dioxide from the atmosphere than it adds through manufacture, but by replacing carbon-intensive materials such as concrete or steel it doubles its contribution to lowering CO2.

He said more and more architects in developed countries such as the UK, Austria, Canada, USA, Norway, and Australia were

pressing for a return to wood as the primary building material.

“This is evidenced by the many high-rise buildings and structures using wooden materials such as cross-laminated timber that are being designed and built in such countries, including proposals for timber skyscrapers in London, Chicago, Amsterdam and Tokyo.”

The MTC chairman thanked the Ministry of Primary Industries, the Malaysian

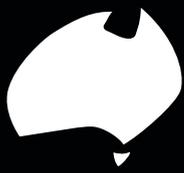
Timber Industry Board, the six Peninsular Malaysia timber associations as well as the American Hardwood Export Council and French Timber for their support and endorsement of the expo.

“Not forgetting our gold sponsor Biesse, silver sponsor Cabinet Vision and bronze sponsor Credit Guarantee Corporation Malaysia Berhad,” he said.

Dato’ Low Kian Chuan gave special praise to the Malaysia External Trade Development Corporation for its help in the business matching program together with MTC which had resulted in more than 80 international buyers attending the expo.

• More reports, pictures on the Malaysian Wood Expo next week

On the cover: Warm welcome to the Malaysian Wood Expo by Primary Industries Minister Teresa Kok.



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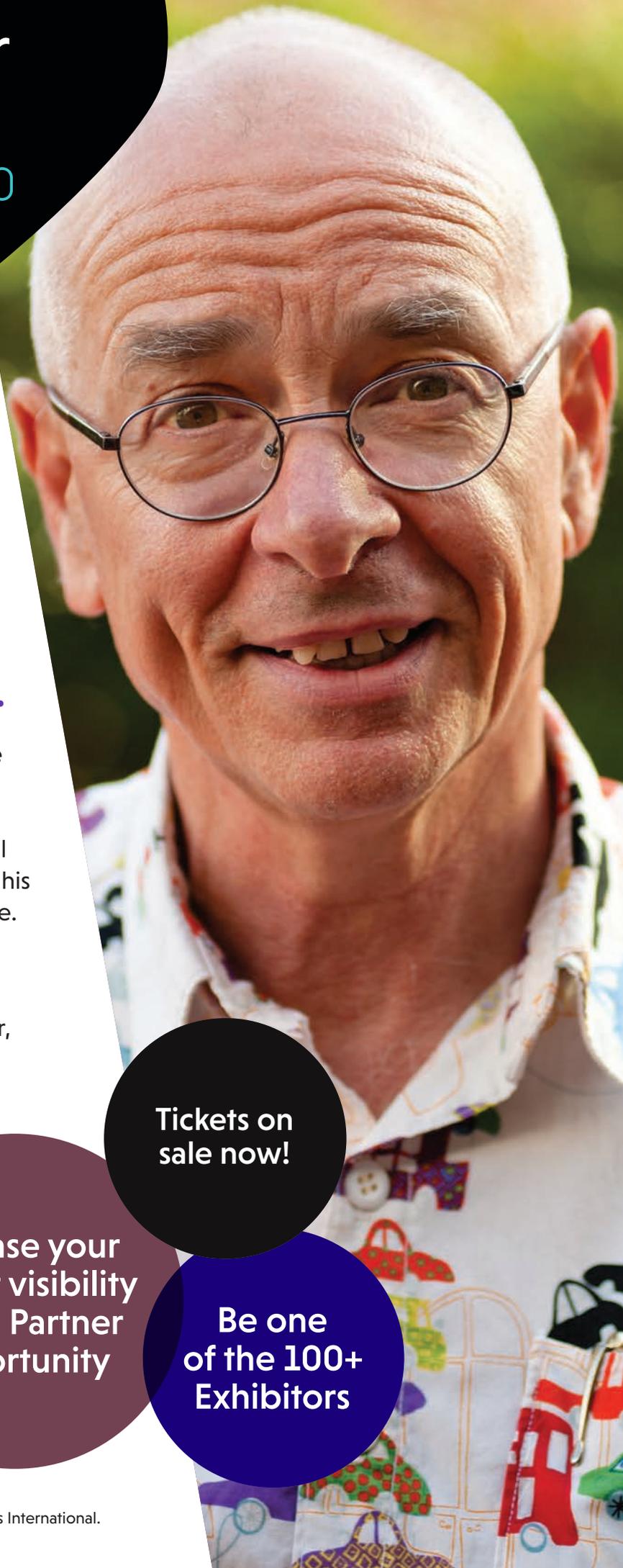
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Evolving roles and skills in timber merchandising reflected in changes

FEEDBACK is invited on two new qualifications proposed by industry skills developer ForestWorks to replace the Certificate II and III in timber merchandising.

These qualifications are:

Certificate III in Timber Building Products Supply:

The draft certificate is for people who work in warehousing, logistics and customer sales roles in timber wholesales, hardware and timber supply and timber manufacturing businesses. It includes three specialisations:

- Certificate III in Timber Building Products Supply (warehousing).
- Certificate III in Timber Building Products Supply (logistics).
- Certificate III in Timber Building Products Supply (customer sales).

Certificate IV in Timber Building Products Supply:

The draft certificate is for people who work in purchasing and sales account management roles in timber wholesale, hardware and timber supply, and timber



Timber trade sales a growing sector... new certificate qualifications proposed.

manufacturing businesses. It includes two specialisations:

- Certificate IV in Timber Building Products Supply (purchasing).
- Certificate IV in Timber Building Products Supply (sales account management).

Timber building products supply covers a range of wholesale purchasing and selling activities from Australian and international suppliers for distribution to downstream users such as timber retailers, hardware stores, commercial and residential construction companies, building, construction and trade customers, carpenters and

furniture manufacturers.

Businesses have indicated that:

- The timber supply and the job roles and skills needed by employers have changed and continue to evolve.
- Timber trade sales is a growing sector due to the ongoing construction of residential and commercial buildings and a wider range of timber building products and systems that are being commercialised from Australian and international suppliers.
- Most hardware stores have transitioned a large proportion of their retail

operations to the timber trade. This means that they adopt now a business-to-business model and a 'whole-of-house' concept in response to the growing demand for timber from building construction businesses and trade customers.

- Sourcing timber and timber building products/systems from international markets have placed a greater emphasis on the verification of product compliance with the Australian Illegal Logging Prohibition Act, certification systems, legality verification systems and Australian standards for the engineering and design of timber building systems.

The draft qualifications can be viewed and edited on the project website (www.skillsimpact.com.au/timber-building-solutions/training-package-projects/timber-merchandising-project/) or contact the project manager Georgiana Daian, head of ForestWorks skills standards development on (03) 9321 3500 or gdaian@forestworks.com.au



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Pushing the boundaries: exciting times for forestry research and development

THERE is no doubt there are exciting times ahead for the future of forestry. A multitude of Research, Development and Extension (RD&E) projects in Australia alone are looking to push the boundary of what is possible for our industry.

New innovations are giving foresters the ability to be more predictive and precise, while increasing safety for people 'on the ground'. Ultimately, this will help to increase productivity and profitability across the value chain and promote positive environmental and social outcomes.

To achieve these aims, there is a lot of work happening in the areas of big data, automation and robotics, sustainable land management practices, genetics, remote sensing and integrating new technology into forestry and timber operations.

FWPA collaborates with industry and academia to support local RD&E and has helped fund many ground-breaking projects throughout the year. Here are a small number of them.

Predicting wood quality in standing trees

An innovative multi-disciplinary project has led to the possibility of predicting wood quality in standing trees, which could result in more efficient harvest strategies and downstream processing.



1/ **Virtual reality can improve forest management.**
2/ **Static bending testing in action.**

Forestry scientists and mathematicians took a virtual look inside a tree and developed algorithms to predict the best use for the timber. This work will lead to growers and processors being able to plan more confidently for specific products from a harvest, improving returns throughout the supply chain from plantation to finished wood product.

The collaborative project was supported by FWPA, the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, HQPlantations, Hyne Timber, Forest Corporation New South Wales, HVP Plantations, Queensland University of Technology and the University of the Sunshine Coast.

VR supporting safer and more cost-effective forest management

New research has demonstrated forestry field operators can accurately

aerial vehicles (UAVs) to investigate the potential of VR to replace current forest inventory fieldwork approaches.

The project addresses the challenge of forests becoming more difficult to evaluate manually, due to increasing safety concerns and access problems.

Electronic tags enhance construction benefits of prefab timber

The advantages of prefabricated

timber systems in construction are being given a boost by researchers trialling radio-frequency identification (RFID) technology to improve on-site processes.

Research led by the University of Technology Sydney has been testing the value proposition associated with attaching small, computerised tags to timber construction elements manufactured off-site.

By utilising tags on cross laminated timber (CLT) panels, wall frames and flooring systems, real-time data about each component can be easily stored and accessed. Electronic readers can then be used by construction teams to unlock all the information stored, allowing for easy identification and tracking.



TALKING RD&E



With Dr Chris Lafferty

FWPA research and development manager

perform certain tree stem assessments in an immersive, virtual reality (VR) environment. Benefits to industry could range from improved safety to reduced labour costs.

A team at the University of Tasmania used data acquired by helicopters and unmanned



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Dinner guests hold back tears to celebrate the winners of VAFI achievement awards

MORE than 220 guests camouflaged their feelings, as best they could, over Victoria's state's native forests closure issue to celebrate industry achievement at the VAFI annual dinner at the iconic MCG in Melbourne last Friday night.

Highlight was the awarding of the Lifetime Achievement Award to Max Walker of Walker's Sawmill in Corryong in the Upper Murray River region, accepted on his behalf by his son Graham.

"I had the pleasure to meet with Max a little under 12 months ago," VAFI CEO Tim Johnston said. "In his heart and mind the mill was and still is his life.

Max Walker left school at



Economy Award... Rob Rule, Timber Training Creswick (centre) is congratulated by Tim Johnston, CEO, VAFI (left) and Peter Williams of Australian Paper, the award sponsor.

14 and started work with his father in the bush prior to World War 2.

"He saw generations of development in the forestry industry," said Mr Johnston who added he was glad that Max was not at the event to

see the impact of the Victorian government decision on native forestry which was so much part of his life.

Speaking at the awards dinner, AFPA CEO Ross Hampton said the government's announcement

on native forests closure was wrong in every way – "wrong for the environment, wrong for climate change action, wrong for social reasons, wrong for regional communities, wrong in its nonsense that fast growing 10-year-old plantation trees will replace appearance grade timbers."

Mr Hampton said it was an inner-city-focused government turning its back on regional Victoria.

"The Victorian hardwood industry is completely sustainable and could have continued forever," he said. "The industry here only has access to four trees out of 10,000, and after harvest the areas are regenerated by law.

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Sustainability... Andrew Morton, Indufor, (right) presents the award to Simon Zimmer (back) and Graham Walker of Walker's Sawmill, while Tim Johnston, VAFI, adds his congratulations.

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“It could go on providing timber for Victoria and jobs for regional Australians for decades to come if Premier Andrews hadn’t made this decision.

Mr Hampton said the next state election was more than two years away so this would be a marathon not a sprint.

“We need to make sure that regional communities right across the primary industries sector understand that while it is native forestry today, tomorrow it could be them,” he said.

“If inner city electorates start to send a message that they don’t like some aspect of fishing, or mining or agriculture, this state Labor Government may well decide to close them down for the sake of a few votes.”

The Economy Award, sponsored by Timber Training Creswick was presented to Australian Paper for its contribution to the Latrobe Valley and Victorian economy through a number of initiatives and major projects, including the 2018 Maryvale Mill annual shutdown in August-September – the longest in the site’s 81-year history – that allowed for the investment of \$51 million in 31 separate capital upgrades to strategic mill infrastructure.

The Community Award, sponsored by ForestWorks,

went to SFM Environmental Solutions for its Forestry in Schools project.

Rendelsham Primary School owns a tree plantation established on local council land some 40 years ago. SFM staff assessed the site’s suitability for harvest. SFM staff members Courtney Pink and Mike Lawson walked the entire school to see the harvesting operation in progress. Employment opportunities were also discussed, and once on site, the children were clearly ‘sold’ on working in the industry.

“WIN FOR FOREST SCHOOLS PROJECT”

The Sustainability Award, sponsored by Indufor, was another prize for Walker’s Sawmill for its investment in a solar power initiative on the site. The mill is now reaping the rewards of new LED lighting and solar electricity.

Employment has grown to 23 staff and production has increased by 40%. The sawmill has kept people in jobs, contributed significantly to the local town of Corryong and provided a substantial increase to the timber and forestry industry economy. Crucially, it has achieved this while also lowering the carbon footprint of the business.



Resource access and security big issue for forestry and honey bees

MOU ensures protection of leatherwood trees in Tasmania

AN MOU has been signed between Sustainable Timber Tasmania, the Australian Honey Bee Industry Council and the Tasmanian Beekeepers Association that will ensure the ongoing protection and provide maximum practical access to leatherwood trees for beekeepers on STT-managed land.

The signing on November 9 was witnessed by the Minister for Primary Industries and Water Guy Barnett, STT CEO Steve Whiteley, TBA president Lindsay Bourke and Sarah Paradise, CEO, Australian Honey Bee Industry Council.

"Tasmania is leading the nation with this initiative," Ms Paradise said.

"It is an important achievement and acknowledges a great deal of hard work by Sustainable Timber Tasmania and the Tasmanian Beekeepers Association," she said.

"It showcases what can be achieved in other states when forestry and beekeeping industries work together for mutually beneficial, sustainable outcome."

Meanwhile, at a Melbourne meeting, the Australian Honey Bee Industry Council discussed stakeholder engagement with beekeepers through the FSC certification process.

The delegation – CEO Sarah Paradise, chair Peter McDonald, executive member Therese Kershaw and resource committee chair Ian Cane – met with FSC Australia CEO Sara Gipton.

Sarah Paradise noted that



Meeting in Melbourne... Australian Honey Bee Industry Council representatives Ian Cane, Therese Kershaw, Peter McDonald, and Sarah Paradise with FSC Australia CEO Sara Gipton (right).

Sustainable Timber Tasmania's engagement with beekeepers as a result of their quest for FSC certification had led to improved dialogue and collaboration between forestry and beekeeping in Tasmania.

"This has resulted in planning guidelines for apiary values that are more than acceptable for both the beekeepers and Sustainable Timber Tasmania," Ms Paradise said.

FSC Australia was given some background on the beekeeping industry; the biggest issue for beekeepers is not only resource access but resource security.

"Beekeepers may have access to sites but if recent harvesting or prescribed burns have occurred, resource security may have been lost to the beekeeper rendering the site of zero value," Ms Paradise said.

"Resource access and security is important for beekeepers not only for honey production but critically for hive health for pollination services and global food security.

"When providing pollination services, hive health

deteriorates significantly due to low nectar and pollen traditionally associated with majority of horticulture crops. Therefore, hives need to be strong going into pollination but also need good resources to rebuild hive health after pollination."

The National Farmers Federation is aiming for \$100 billion in farm gate output by 2030. There is currently

“BEEKEEPERS ARE STRONG SUPPORTERS OF NATIVE FORESTS

significant growth in crops such as almonds and avocados and these industries will contribute to that target.

Beekeepers will be able to meet the large increase in demand for hives for pollination services but will need secure access to floral resources for the remainder of the year for hive health and honey production.

"Beekeepers are strong supporters of forestry in native forests and recognise the constraints forestry is working with," Ms Paradise

said. "But they are looking to collaborative more closely to ensure good outcomes for all forest users."

An interesting trial, the 'Ironwood Project' in Victoria, has been conducted between foresters and beekeepers over the last 10 years. The trial has looked at harvesting techniques and controlled burns so that there is no net loss to forestry yet an increase in resource security to beekeepers.

Also, last week in Western Australia, WAFarmers beekeepers division, together with the Forest Industries Federation of WA and experienced local foresters, spent a productive day travelling around Collie to look at forest management and different ways of managing forest fuels which can complement prescribed burning in the South West jarrah forests.

Australian Honey Bee Industry Council is looking forward to meeting Responsible Wood CEO Simon Dorries for similar discussions on stakeholder engagement with beekeepers during the certification process.



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Farmers, foresters at odds in protest

IN an uncomfortable twist to the lyrics in the Oklahoma! musical by composer Richard Rogers that “the farmer and the cowman should be friends”, a protest in Wellington last week shouted that the farmer and the treeman should NOT be friends,

Which is sad.

New Zealand First Forestry Minister Shane Jones confronted members of the anti-forest group 50 Shades of Green on the steps of Parliament House in Wellington last Thursday where he labelled them “rednecks”.

“FORESTS WILL ACT AS A CARBON SINK



Standing his ground... NZ Forestry Minister Shane Jones confronts the farmer protest in Wellington.

His comments drew harsh criticism from National's agriculture spokesman Todd Muller who called Jones a “schoolyard bully”.

And his fellow Ministers didn't endorse his comments either, with both Agriculture Minister Damien O'Connor and Climate Change Minister James Shaw seeming to

distance themselves from the remarks.

About 500 protestors, many of them farmers, gathered to bleat that the government was “destroying” rural New Zealand with its tree-planting proposals. One of their banners cried “let them eat wood”. Responses included “let them build houses

out of lamb chops” and ... “generate renewable energy out of milk powder.”

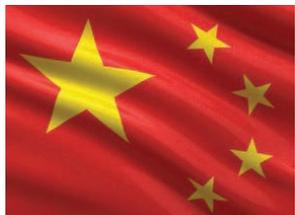
All school yard stuff.

And then this from former primary industries minister Nathan Guy: “The only good tree is a tree that was never planted in the first place”. And from National Party finance spokesman Paul Goldsmith: “The rural society in New Zealand will surely be devastated if another tree is planted”.

At least we now know where the National Party officially stands on forestry in New Zealand (‘down with evil trees’).

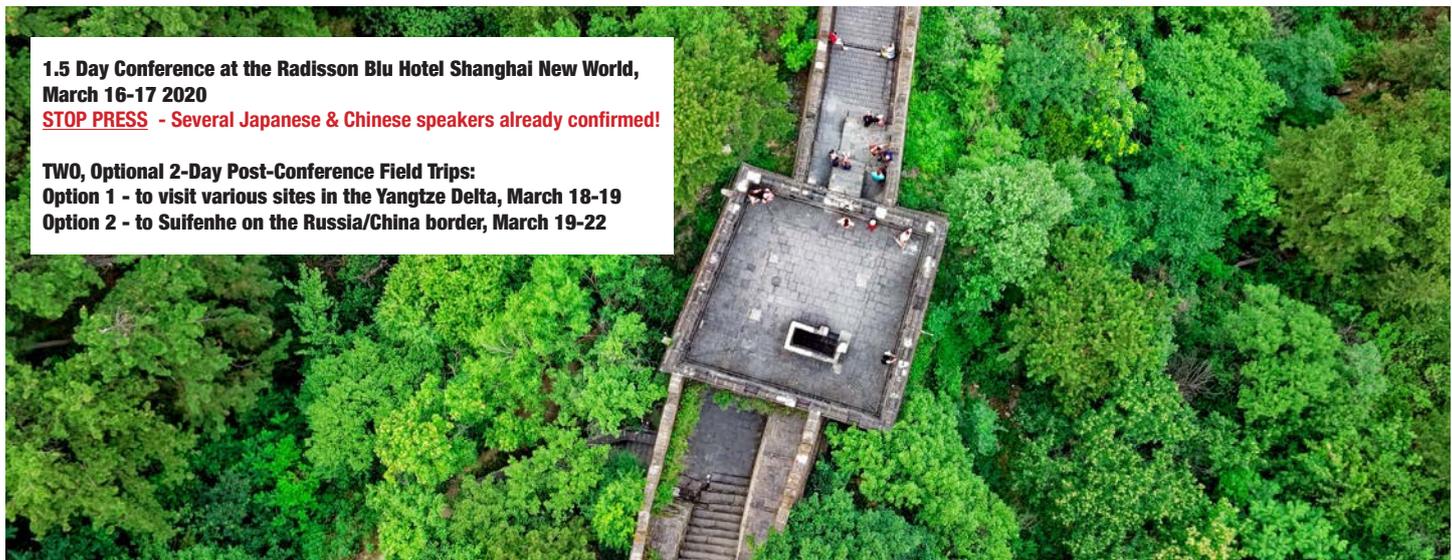
Shane Jones says trees can play a lead role in New Zealand's transition to a low emissions economy, and this

Cont P 17



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Ukraine, Guyana join PEFC global family

THE PEFC global family gathered in Wurzburg, Germany, last week for Forest Certification Week and the PEFC 24th General Assembly.

PEFC Week, from November 11 to 15, has grown as one of the most important annual public dialogues on the future of forest certification and sustainable forest management: the PEFC Stakeholder Dialogue.

Under the theme, Certification and Sustainability: from Niche to Mainstream, the dialogue looked to the future and where the next 20 years will take PEFC.

The PEFC general assembly welcomed its 52nd and 53rd national members Ukraine and Guyana into the alliance.

“We are very happy to see the PEFC family growing further and we are looking forward to working together with Ukraine and Guyana,”



Meeting in Germany for PEFC Week... Peter Latham, chair of the board of PEFC International (left), and Ben Gunneberg, CEO (second from right), with Responsible Wood board members Suzette Weeding (Sustainable Timber Tasmania), Dr Hans Drielsma AM, chair, and Katie Fowden (Hyne Timber).

PEFC International CEO Ben Gunneberg said.

Ukraine, on a boarder with Russia, is one of the largest countries in Europe and 15.6% of land – 10.4 million ha – is covered by forests.

Mariya Maha from the Association National Voluntary Forest Certification System, said PEFC would support establishing and

implementing a national forest standard for Ukraine. “The reputation of PEFC will help us to increase the trust level of forest workers, and build a strong cooperation with all stakeholders to eliminate the risks to our forests,” she said.

The Guyana Forestry Commission is leading the implementation of the voluntary partnership

agreement (VPA), a trade agreement between Guyana and the European Union.

The collaboration between PEFC and local stakeholders in Guyana began in 2015, supported by the PEFC collaboration fund.

Guyana, on the northern mainland of South America, has one of the largest unspoiled rainforests on the continent, some parts of which are almost inaccessible by humans.

“In a joint project with CIRAD, we have worked in the region to generate new knowledge on the long-term impacts of timber extraction on both carbon stocks and timber recovery in the humid tropics,” Ben Gunneberg said.

“The results from the project will feed in to the development process of a national sustainable forest management system in Guyana.”

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is reflected in a new request for research into innovative ways to use wood fibre.

“We know about the ability of trees to absorb carbon and we’ve invested heavily in rapidly strengthening our forestry estate through initiatives such as the One Billion Trees program and recent changes to the Emissions Trading Scheme. These forests will act as a carbon sink in the short-to-medium term,” Mr Jones says.

“However, they are also vital to increasing wood

and fibre supply over the next 20 to 30 years as we position our forestry system, or parts of this system, to manufacture a wide range of products that will help us adapt to climate change and meet our emissions target.

“We know that consumers want alternatives to concrete, steel and plastic.”

Forest owners say the new Federated Farmers’ policy on climate change is a major step to help farmers understand trees are not an alternative to farming, but rather trees are tools to assist farming’s survivability.

Industry adviser and former president of the New Zealand Forest Owners Association Peter Clark has described this policy stance on the use of trees as “absolutely correct



Todd Muller... out on a limb.

and potentially far reaching”

The Federated Farmers’ policy states; “Soil erosion control plantings on steep hillsides will see emissions sequestered in new forest plantings, reduce sedimentation and phosphate in our waterways, and could also achieve

biodiversity objectives.”

Peter Clark says more farmers will now see trees are beneficial and helpful but it will be beyond locking up land for erosion control or riparian planting.

“Planting trees for later harvesting also achieves the aims of carbon sequestration, improving water quality, biodiversity and erosion control,” he says. “So long as the land is again replanted in trees after harvest.

“And, for a well-managed woodlot, farmers will get a substantial return on their planting investment. The return will be easily comparable with pastoral farming, either through eventually selling their logs, or selling a farm with tree assets on it.”

“IT’S NOT A COMPETITION FOR LAND USE

Plantation log harvest on steady increase

A NEW edition of one of the most popular publications about Australia's forests is now available.

Acting ABARES executive director Peter Gooday, said the latest Australia's Forests at a Glance booklet was a "treasure trove of data and information for the forestry sector".

Australia's Forests at a Glance 2019 covers how native forests, including old growth forests, are conserved and managed.

"It also covers plantation forests and the industries

that provide the wood products that we all use," Mr Gooday said.

"Forty six million ha of our native forests are managed for the protection of biodiversity, which compares with 6 million ha of public native forests managed for timber production.

"Of the 4.5 million ha of forest assessed as old-growth, 76% is in conservation reserves."

Australia's Forests at a Glance 2019 shows the total 2 million ha of plantation decreased slightly due to reduced area under hardwood plantation.

The volume of logs harvested has increased steadily for many years as timber plantations reach maturity. The forestry and



Peter Gooday... facts and figures essential for informed public debate.

wood products industries employ 76,000 people. However, Australia still imports \$2 billion worth of wood products.

Mr Gooday said facts and figures about forests were essential for informed public debate about conservation and management.

"This publication provides those facts and figures in a readily accessible way."

Australia has 134 million ha of forest, which is 17% of the land area and about 3% of the world's forest area. Forests are divided into three categories – native (132 million ha), commercial plantation (1.95 million ha) and 'other forests' (0.47 million ha).

Australia's native forests are dominated by eucalypts (101 million ha) acacias (11 million ha), rainforest (3.6 million ha) and woodland forest (91.5 million ha)

Australia's 1.95 million ha of commercial plantations consists of both softwoods (1.01 million ha, mostly pines) and hardwoods (0.92 million ha, mostly eucalypts).

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Hyundai Veloster passes the pub test

Sporty coupe built exclusively for Australian market

THE Colonel Blimp type was half way through his Toad in the Hole at the Fox and Hound.

“Bloody good,” he puffed.

“Good day sir, and where’s home?” inquired the Welsh-born Orson Whiels.

“Wonglepong, at the moment,” replied Archie reaching for his mug of London Fullers Pride.

“Visiting my sister on an Australian holiday.”

Wonglepong is a rural hamlet not far from the Kokoda Army Barracks at Canungra in the Scenic Rim, a short drive from the Gold Coast, built in 1942 as a jungle training camp.

Keeping to Aboriginal-named townships, Wongawallan is where the Fox and Hound sits in rural splendour in the hinterland above the Gold Coast. This English inn was removed section by section and brought in crates from Tunbridge Wells where it was known as the Sussex Arms. Built in the 1770s and re-named Fox and Hounds, the pub’s all-timber fittings are older than the first settlers in this country.



Hyundai Veloster pulls up at the Fox and Hound... a statement sports car for Australia.

Colonel Blimp and Maud came out to look at the Veloster coupe auto that brought us to the pub.

He was impressed and remarked on the Hyundai’s unique four-door hatchback design – a single door on the driver’s side and two doors on the passenger side, plus the tailgate, of course.

“You know how the Velostar got its name?” he asked.

“Well, while they were secretly trying out the prototype on a German autobahn, the car was going so fast, that the German polizei decided to give chase. When they finally lost contact, one of them apparently said to the other: “Franz, I think ve lost 'er.”

Veloster. Available in three model grades, the range begins with the self-named ‘Veloster’, the 2-litre four-cylinder petrol variant (110kW/180Nm) arriving with a choice of six-speed manual or automatic transmissions.

The entry model is equipped with Hyundai’s ‘smart-sense’ suite of techno treats – a touchscreen infotainment array with Apple CarPlay, Android Auto and Bluetooth connectivity, LED daytime running lights, reversing sensors and camera and a tyre pressure monitoring system.

Stepping up the range, the Veloster Turbo has a 1.6-litre four-cylinder turbocharged petrol engine (150kW/265Nm) matched to a choice of six-speed manual or seven-speed dual-clutch transmission.

The top-spec Hyundai Veloster Turbo Premium includes heated and air-ventilated front seats, wireless phone charging, head-up display and a full-width glass sunroof

Current prices range from \$29,490 to \$42,990 for the Veloster base and Turbo Premium TTR respectively.

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The Veloster’s asymmetrical door configuration certainly differs from its many competitors. Hyundai has moulded the three-door body over the same foundations as the popular i30.

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