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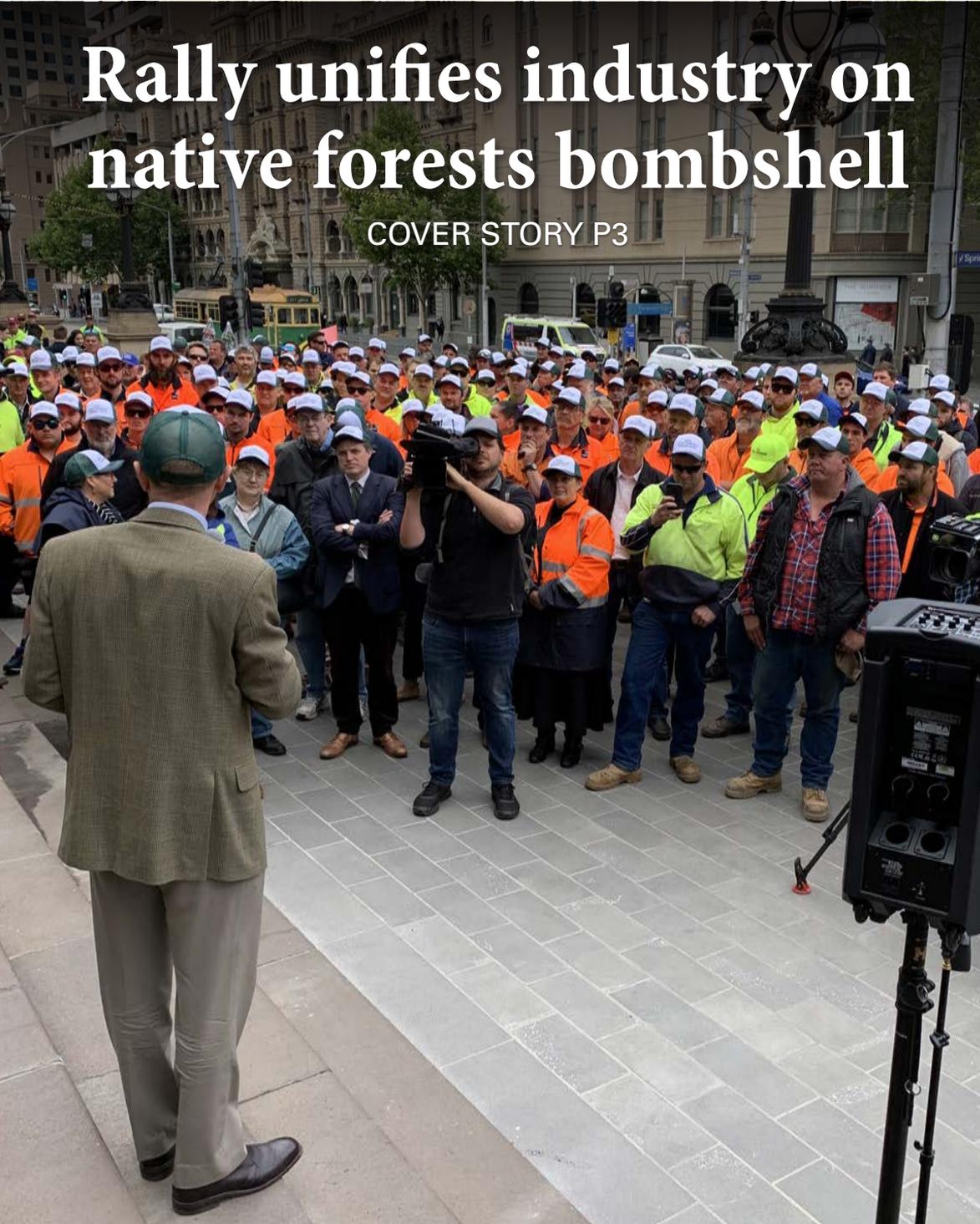
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ISSUE 587 | November 28, 2019

Rally unifies industry on native forests bombshell

COVER STORY P3



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No relief as bushfires burn across thousands of hectares in four states

THE extent of bushfire damage to native and plantation forests across four states is still difficult to gauge with many areas still too dangerous to send in assessment crews.

Australia has suffered a devastating early bushfire season with hundreds of thousands of hectares burnt and hundreds of properties destroyed with the loss of six lives.

NSW has been the most severely hit, with more than 1.65 million ha destroyed.

In Queensland, about 180,000 has been burnt, while in Victoria, where the bushfire season usually starts later, 100 km/h winds fanned more than 60 blazes during an unprecedented heatwave last Thursday.

Seven districts in South Australia were rated as at catastrophic risk of fire as temperatures soared into the 40s.



Big dump... a Chinook helicopter spreads retardant on fires in British Columbia.

Western Australia has also experienced early bushfires in several regions, with fears of much worse to come over summer, and there were minor bushfires this week in Tasmania.

Meanwhile, British Columbia aviation firm Coulson is sending helicopters to Australia to help fight the fires.

Chinook helicopters that Coulson used to fight fires in the Amazon rainforest are being deployed to Victoria.

In a recent Chile blaze, a Chinook completed 49 drops – more than 454,700 litres of water – in two hours, more than three times the amount of all the other 17 aircraft on the fire combined.

While there is ongoing debate in Australia about the adequacy of firefighting

assets, including water bombing aircraft to combat exiting, and likely future levels of forest fires, the Canadian Quebec government is spending \$42 million to upgrade eight water bombers.

Known as the 'Super Scooper', the CL-415 amphibious is a high-performance tanker that allows for a quick and sustained initial attack on forest fires.

Canadian company Viking Air will 'modernise' the CL-415, replacing the electrical and electronic navigation equipment.

Delivery of the last upgraded CL-415 is scheduled for 2024, but in the meantime the upgrades will not create any service interruptions in the fight against forest fires.

• Hurford Harwood loses plantations in one of first battles with bushfires this season. See Page 4.

“BLAZES AHEAD OF USUAL BUSH FIRE SEASON”



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Stepping up the protest in Melbourne as forest workers put on a united front

MORE than 300 forestry workers joined industry stakeholders on the steps of Parliament House in Melbourne on Tuesday to protest against the Victorian government's decision to shut down native forest operations by 2030.

They applauded Victoria's Opposition Leader Michael O'Brien who said he would "put the facts on the table" about forests and initiate an upper house inquiry in 2020.

Mr O'Brien said if elected at the next state election he would reverse the closure decision.

Parliamentarians representing the National Party and the Liberals stood alongside workers to support the industry.

National's leader Peter Walsh said the decision was not only "bloody disgraceful" it ignored the contribution the forestry industry made to firefighting in Victoria.

AFPA CEO Ross Hampton, VAFI CEO Tim Johnston and Australian Forest Contractors Association general manager Stacey Gardiner were very visible at the rally and hammered home messages to raise public awareness of the devastating consequences the Andrews government decision would have on thousands of jobs and communities.

It has now been two weeks since premier Daniel

“SHORT-SIGHTED DECISION THAT, SADLY, COMES AS LITTLE SURPRISE



On Parliament House steps... Peter Walsh, National's leader, Ross Hampton, CEO, AFPA, and Gary Blackwood, MP Narracan in northwest Gippsland.

Andrews announced the plan to begin phasing out native timber harvesting in state forests from 2024 – devastating news for an industry already under immense pressure.

"It's a short-sighted decision that sadly comes as little surprise following the government's apathy on issues affecting the native timber industry over the last five years," VAFI's Tim Johnston said.

"Ultimately it will hurt the Victorian economy, and more importantly, local communities and families that are reliant on timber and forestry. The impacts will be highly destructive.

"We have made it clear, both to government and in the media, that the Andrews government has made this decision on ideological grounds and it does not reflect the reality of a vital and sustainable industry," Mr Johnston said.

"We will continue the fight to reverse this decision but

we cannot be the sole voice. To be effective we need you to keep talking to your communities and elected

representatives about the many benefits of wood as a resource and about the importance of the industry to your communities.

"Together we can drive a change in public perception and create pressure on the government."

In front of the crowd, Stacey Gardiner interviewed AFCA director and forest contractor Chris Stafford about the impact the decision would have on his 10 direct employees, many of whom were at the rally.

They noted that a number of AFCA members were unable to attend as they were supporting the government

Cont P 4

The united voice for Australia's forest industries



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Hurfords early victim of bushfires

THE Hurford family's hardwood operations in Northern NSW were early victims of the bushfires – seven weeks ago when a 95-ha plantation of eucalyptus dunnies was destroyed. Then, only two weeks ago, fires ravaged 1000 ha of 'enrichment' plantings outside the little town of Coraki, 35 km from Casino.

"The whole paddock lit up," company forester Jim Rankin said. "We had 65 plots totalling 7000 stems, mostly blackbutt, spotted gum and ironbark, dating back to the first plantings in 2005 and some plantings last year."

"The plots are too dangerous to enter right now, but we are hoping for some survival rates, and with rain, hopefully, there could be some green shoot response."

The main species sourced by Hurford Hardwood from private native forests in northern NSW are Blackbutt, New England Blackbutt, Spotted Gum, Ironbark, Tallowwood and Sydney Blue Gum.

Hurford's produces high quality kiln dried products such as flooring, external cladding and decking as well as joinery.

The company employs foresters to manage its own private native forests using ecologically sustainable forest management practices.

Private native forests are critical to the Hurford Group's



Too close for comfort... a firefighter's view at Harrington a small village near Taree in mid-north NSW.

cladding, decking and joinery.

A sustainable supply of native hardwoods enables Hurfords to meet its customer needs.

Forestry Corporation NSW advises that all state forests from Nabaic to the Queensland border, and in the Northern Tablelands are closed to forest workers and the public until further notice due to the ongoing fire risk.

In the Walcha region, plantation forest closures include Hanging Rock, Nundle, Riamukka and Nowendoc pine forests.

Other forest closures due to fire include state forests Newnes, McPherson and Comleroy.

Visitors have been warned to stay out of all closed forests for their safety.

timber supply planning for the long term.

The main species are blackbutt, New England blackbutt, spotted gum, ironbark, tallowwood and Sydney blue gum. The company produces high quality kiln dried products such as flooring, external



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From P 3

with firefighting activities in east Gippsland with their employees and equipment.

"This service and equipment will no longer be available if the decision to close the native industry is not reversed," Ms Gardiner said.

A further united approach to the issue will be taken at the AFPA 'sold out' members dinner in Canberra this evening. Speakers include Senator Jonno Duniham, federal Assistant Minister for Forestry, and Joel Fitzgibbon, Shadow Minister for Agriculture and Resources.



United in a cause... Stacey Gardiner, AFCA general manager, with forest contractor Chris Stafford (centre) in the thick of Melbourne rally.

The dinner is being held in conjunction with FWPA and the Department of Agriculture. (Report next issue).

On the cover: AFPA CEO Ross Hampton addresses the rally on the front steps of Parliament House in Melbourne.

NZ timber design awards celebrate structural, aesthetic values of timber

MICHAEL SMITH

FORTY-FIVE years on from when they were first held, the NZ Wood-Resene Timber Design Awards continue to evolve by reflecting new structural and aesthetic uses of timber.

The entries for the current 18-month cycle include more prefabricated and panelised designs (in mass timber and cassette form), and some post and beam formats that emphasise design for manufacture and assembly (DfMA) processes.

The awards include two new categories – Public Design and Sustainable Development. The former celebrates the use of timber and wood-based products as a signature feature of public buildings, while the latter is for their use in projects that achieve a low environmental impact.

NZ Wood promotions

“NOVEL AND INNOVATIVE APPLICATIONS OF TIMBER”



1/ *Modhouse... taking advantage of improvements in prefabrication and engineered timber.* Photo: Simon Devitt
2/ *Debbie Fergie... showcase for new and interesting applications of timber.*



2 manager Debbie Fergie says the criteria for the Exterior Structure Design and the Wood, Fibre Products and Technology Innovation awards have been revised ... “allowing for more new and

interesting applications of timber to be showcased”.

The judging panel comprises architects and engineers with business, construction and sustainability expertise, among them Tim Melville, president of the New Zealand Institute of Architects and principal at Warren and Mahoney.

Joining him are David Carradine, a structural engineer and president of the New Zealand Timber Design Society, Andrea Stocchero, a

sustainable architect at Crown research institute Scion, and Andy van Houtte, structural manager at CGW consulting engineers.

The judges were full of praise for the quality of entries: “More and more novel, innovative applications of timber are submitted every year. The quality, design, materials and build philosophies employed demonstrate the evolving and imaginative use of timber in

Cont P 6



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

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From P 5

New Zealand and, indeed, around the world.”

The 48 stage-one finalists include a number of regional winners from this year’s New Zealand Institute of Architects awards, among them the Auckland Zoo Administration Building, the National Library Auditorium and Lindis Lodge. [All three featured in recent editions of Timber & Forestry enews].

Prominent in the new Sustainable Development category is Modhouse, a Hawkes Bay-based company that has taken advantage of improvements in prefabricated technology and the emergence of engineered timber to create modular

“ GALA AWARDS DINNER ON MARCH 26



1/ **Hidden Hills House... simple materials are a nod to tramping huts that dot New Zealand’s backcountry landscape.** Photo: Simon Larkin



2/ **Te Ara a Tawhaki... reflecting traditional Maori patterns.** Photo: Andy Spain

homes of limitless variety.

Materials incorporated into the environmentally sustainable design include a glulam frame, cross-laminated flooring and finishing plywood.

Among the finalists for the new Public Design Award is Te Ara a Tawhaki, a learning facility in Otaki (halfway between Wellington and Palmerston North), which houses student services, the campus library and main lecture space. The weathered timber lattice work of the

exterior reflects traditional Maori weaving patterns, while the interior timber spaces bring a sense of calm to proceedings and enhance acoustic performance.

Hidden Hills House by Warren and Mahoney is one of six impressive projects that make up the Residential Design category.

Sitting comfortably in its kanuka-filled bush location, the build consists of three ‘huts’ that feature unfinished plywood interior walls and

Douglas fir weatherboards. The simple materials and design are a nod to the basic tramping huts that dot New Zealand’s backcountry landscape.

Judging for the second round of the awards will take place on December 10. Category winners and the supreme winner will be announced at a gala awards dinner at the Grand Millennium Hotel in Auckland on March 26 next year.

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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 airtightness 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

FEBRUARY 2020

16-21: Gottstein Understanding Wood Science Course – Albury & Canberra, Australia.

New extended wood processing site visits based out of Albury, followed by lecture series at Canberra at the ANU

Fenner School. Formal course dinner and other networking events. Book early at www.gottsteintrust.org Inquires gottsteinsecretary@gmail.com

APRIL 2020

1-4: AusTimber 2020 – HVP plantation site, Traralgon, Gippsland region, Vic. Australia.

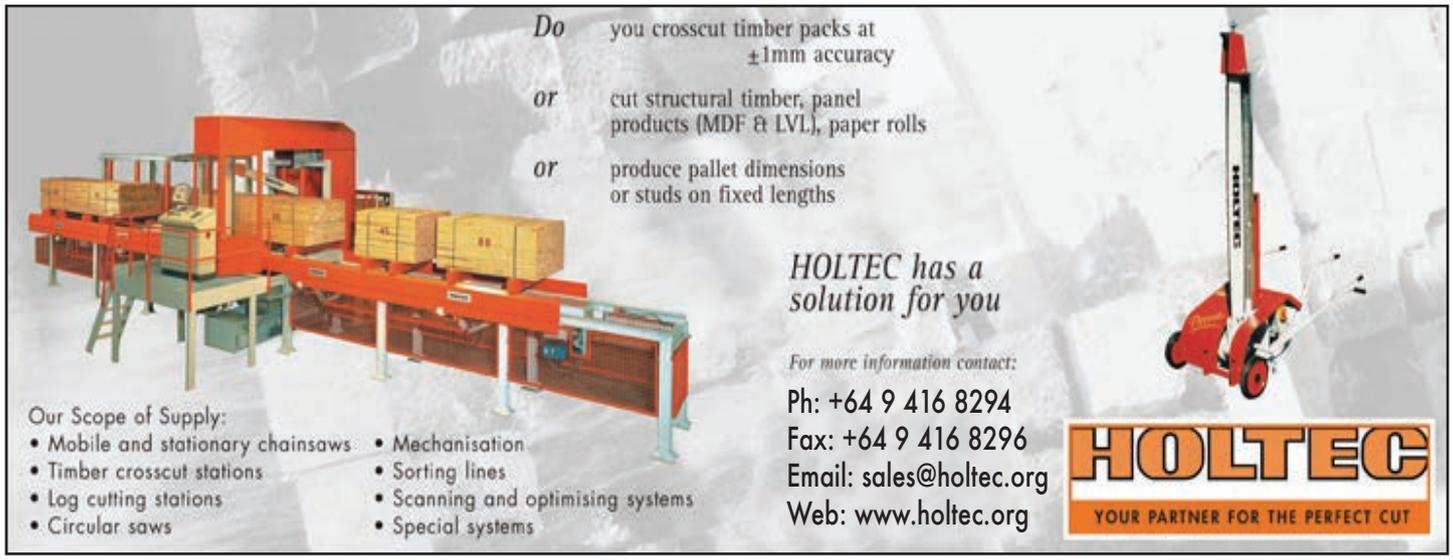
Event and dinner ticket sales now live – and limited. Welcome dinner April 2. Guest speaker Dr Karl Kruszelnicki AM, Australian science communicator. Make sure you commemorate the event with some AUSTimber merchandise. Buy your polo shirt, cap or bucket hat while you're purchasing your show tickets. For AFCA members and sponsors please email us for your discount code for both the show and dinner tickets. Tickets for the field trips will be available shortly, stay tuned. Contact Dionne Olsen on +61 429 202 929 or email austimber2020@afca.asn.au Follow AUSTimber on 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 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/

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

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/

SEPTEMBER 2020

1-3: DANA New Zealand Forest Industry Status and Outlook Conference and field trip – Emerald Hotel, Gisborne, New Zealand. For further information see: <https://danaevents.co.nz/2020gisborne/> or contact Julie Bell admin@dana.co.nz

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

Gathering enjoys snapshot of state's forest history

THE Commissariat Store – Queensland's oldest habitable building – was a fitting venue for a recent presentation on forest history.

More than 30 people gathered this month to listen to forest history enthusiast John Huth deliver an enlightening presentation on his extensive collection of photos. Mr Huth was a technician with forestry research in Queensland for more than 46 years.

The pictorial history presentation covered many topics including the men who started forestry in Queensland in the early 1900s, to camp life, early silviculture, transport, fire detection and research.



Looking back on Queensland's forest history... Norm Clough, former executive director, Queensland Forestry, John Simpson, John Huth, and Dr Gary Bacon, former executive director Forestry. Photo: Sarah Huth

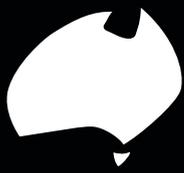
Many in the audience could reminisce about their early working life in forestry, while others were comparatively new to forestry and wanted to learn more.

John's knowledge and

recollection of the facts behind each image was nothing short of remarkable and greatly appreciated by those who attended the presentation and by members of the history community.

This event was jointly organised and supported by the Institute of Foresters of Australia and the Royal Historical Society of Queensland.

The heritage-listed Commissariat Store was designed by English-born Australian politician. William John Dumaresq and built from 1828 to 1913 by convict labour under the direction of Captain Logan, as a permanent building for the Moreton Bay penal settlement. The building is one of only two surviving buildings from the convict period in Queensland and is one of only four surviving commissariat buildings in Australia.



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Small bug has big consequences for pine log exports in Australia and New Zealand

Record volumes of damaged European spruce unloaded on China

DENNIS NEILSON

WHILE Australian eyes might be on this summer, for possible fire and drought reasons, for most of the global softwood log and sawn timber trading world all eyes will be on the European winter.

Either the first shots – the only shots – of the major spruce forest damage cause by bark beetles and drought in 2018 have already played out. Most of the damaged and dead trees have been identified, and the volumes of dead wood expected to be available in 2020 is known – although markets for such huge volumes have not all been identified – and maybe will never be for some volume.

Already in 2019, record volumes of damaged log have been exported to China, impacting on both New Zealand and (especially) Australian pine log exports.

European log imports into China, which were only



A short, silent killer... the European spruce bark beetle.

11% of the total in January this year, jumped to 30% in September. Percentages from New Zealand and Australia reduced in that period.

European log prices in China have kept falling into October-November, although some shippers say the bottom has been reached. At 109 Euros in September and 104 Euros in October, some are reporting small volumes being offered at 97 Euros in late November – although

major suppliers are saying the 104 level is the breakeven bottom.

But what happens next? No one knows. But there is a bunch of ‘ifs’.

If the winter in Europe just starting is cold, insects will die and all might be back to normal. But if it is mild, they

will not die, and the stage will be set of an ugly 2020 for European forest owners – and probably therefore all softwood sawmillers around the world.

If next spring is wet, new generations of insects may not breed so rapidly. If it is not they will breed like crazy.

If next summer is cool and wet, little more damage can be expected. If it is hot and dry, the disaster of tree deaths in 2019 might become the catastrophe of 2020, and therefore a surplus of log volumes on the market in 2021 and 2022.

Rotorua-based DANA is waiting to hold its 2020 European tour of the damaged spruce forest Industry until the first week in June next year to be able to assess how weather events between November 2019 and May 2020 pan out.

To secure a (very limited) tour seat, contact Julie Bell at admin@dana.co.nz

“STAGE SET FOR AN UGLY YEAR IN 2020”



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New TQ board is focused on industry innovation and regional opportunities

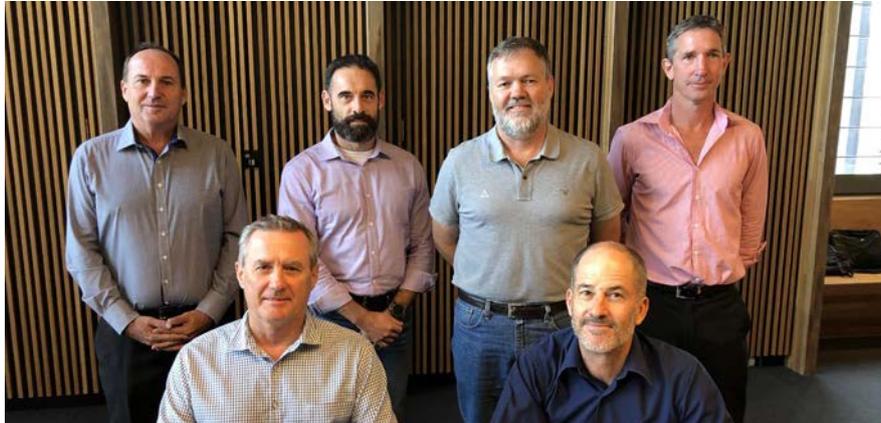
RESPONDING to regional opportunities and technical innovations ahead for the state's \$3.2 billion forest and timber industry, a broad representation of directors was elected at Timber Queensland's annual general meeting in Brisbane last week.

Appropriately, the AGM was hosted at the ARC Future Timber Hub at the University of Queensland.

A unanimous decision by members present, elected Paul Bidwell, deputy CEO, Master Builders Queensland as the chair and James Hyne, stakeholder engagement manager, Hyne Timber, as deputy chair.

The incoming board visited the Future Timber Hub's structural engineering and fire laboratories where experts from industry, government, and academia are collaborating to develop the skills, knowledge and resources to foster future growth of tall timber buildings.

Paul Bidwell said many of these projects focused on developing engineered wood



Directors present at the Timber Queensland AGM... Bob Engwirda, Adan Taylor, Craig Neale, David Simms (back row), and James Hyne and Paul Bidwell (front row).

products in future building structures.

"Increased use of products such as glue laminated timber, laminated veneer lumber and cross laminated timber offer new opportunities for the construction industry to reduce environmental impact and adopt timber solutions in the building market," Mr Bidwell said.

"We were able to see first-hand the applied research and integrated approaches to tall timber design and engineering, with many exciting applications for future housing and commercial projects."

The Future Timber Hub is an interdisciplinary partnership between the University of

Queensland, Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, Arup, Hyne Timber, Lendlease, Queensland Fire and Emergency Service, Scion NZ, Griffith University, University of British Columbia and the University of Canterbury.

Mr Bidwell said a key strength of the incoming board was its diversity of directors who represented the full industry supply chain from growers and processors through to traders and fabricators.

"Timber Queensland provides a united, powerful voice, and this board has insight into the policy and regulatory environment, as well as the environmental,

technical and market development aspects of meeting the growing demand for timber products," he said.

Directors elected at the AGM also included Robert Tapiolas, Parkside Group, Craig Neale, AKD Softwoods, Curly Tatnell, DTM Timber, Islay Robertson, HQPlantations, Bob Engwirda, Hurfords Wholesale, Adan Taylor, GMT Logging, David Simms, Simms Group and Bob Ryder, DTM Frame and Truss

Timber Queensland CEO Mick Stephens said the board had identified some key priorities going forward in 2020, including resource security and expansion, waste management and improving regional timber supply chains.

"The demand for softwood and hardwood products remains strong and we have significant opportunities in Queensland to build on existing timber regions, with high quality forest resources and associated processing and value-added operations that support many local jobs," Mr Stephens said.

Government cuts red tape to boost building construction

AS part of its move to bring forward billions of dollars in infrastructure, the federal government has announced it will be cutting red tape that hinders the progress of projects that are vital to housing.

"Infrastructure such as roads and bridges are vital

to growing and maintaining housing supply in Australia," HIA chief executive industry policy Kristin Brookfield said.

"Combined with the proposed initiatives to streamline project approvals through improved digital systems these reforms can assist the supply of new

housing and mean more people can get into a home."

HIA has long argued for the removal of red tape in planning approval processes. The overlap between commonwealth, state and local government in this space continues to frustrate many projects, adding time,

confusion and cost.

"Demand for housing remains strong due to ongoing population growth and any productivity reforms the government can implement to increase supply are welcome," Ms Brookfield said.

Presentation marks milestone in forest certification for Responsible Wood

GOVERNING body in Australia for PEFC, Responsible Wood has achieved the third greatest increase in PEFC globally-certified forests.

The milestone was recognised at the PEFC General Assembly in Wurzburg, Germany, this month where the PEFC 'family' gathered for the organisation's 50th anniversary celebrations.

PEFC Week, this year 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.

Speaking during the event, Responsible Wood CEO Simon Dorries reflected on the important role the Australian scheme was playing in growing the scheme.

"Responsible Wood (then the Australian Forestry Standard) was, together with CERTFOR in Chile, the first forest certification



Recognition... PEFC International chairman Peter Latham (left) acknowledges Responsible Wood's contribution to certified forests with a presentation to Responsible Wood chairman Dr Hans Drielsma AM in Germany. Offering congratulations is Ben Gunneberg, CEO, PEFC International.

scheme outside of Europe mutually recognised and internationally endorsed by PEFC International," Mr Dorries said.

“PEFC FAMILY CONTINUES TO GROW ON GLOBAL SCALE

area under certification with more than 11.5 million ha of defined forest area in Australia alone.

Mr Dorries said in Australia more than 90% of all commercial forest area – a combination of native and plantation forests – was covered by Responsible Wood certification.

Responsible Wood manages the Australian standard for Sustainable Forest Management (AS



Well-covered... more than 90% of Australian commercial forest area is certified to Responsible Wood standards.

"This marked an incredibly important milestone, and from 2004 onwards, the PEFC family has grown globally with many countries joining the PEFC alliance."

Today, PEFC has more than 310 million ha of global forest

4708) and the Australian standard for Chain of Custody for Forest Products (AS 4707) and is licensed by Standards Australia as a 'standards development organisation'.



8 wheels done right...

Komatsu 931XC

Malaysian Wood expo 'sell out' for international machinery exhibitors

Inaugural trade event in KL chalks up \$33.5m in sales

IT was an all-round success for the Malaysian Timber Council as it chalked up sales of about \$US33.5 million at the inaugural Malaysian Wood Expo this month.

Held at the Putra World Trade Centre in Kuala Lumpur from November 19 to 21, this was the first international wood and woodworking machinery event organised by MTC in partnership with the Panels & Furniture Group.

The three-day expo attracted 135 renowned exhibitors from 22 countries and more than 3000 visitors. The expo served as a pivotal convergence point for every segment of players from the timber industry.

Spanning across 8000 sq m, exhibitors showcased a wide range of products including tropical hardwoods, temperate softwoods, wooden flooring, sawn timber, wooden pallets, door and door frames, cutting tools, abrasives, adhesives, coatings, combined machines, dust collecting equipment, edge banding materials and machines, handling equipment as well as timber, woodworking and furniture production software.

Most of the exhibitors were from Germany, Italy, Australia, France, Belgium, Gabon, China, Chile, New Zealand, Taiwan and Singapore while the trade visitors were from France, New Zealand, South Africa, India, Singapore and Maldives.

To boost business at the expo, MTC organised two business matching sessions



Malaysian Minister of Primary Industries Teresa Kok confers with Malaysian Timber Council chair Dato Low Kian Chuan (left) and deputy CEO Wong Kah Cane on the MTC stand at the wood expo in Kuala Lumpur.

– the Overseas Suppliers-Malaysian Importers/Manufacturers Exchange Program and the Incoming Buying Mission – with special incentives for the purchase of machinery under its financial incentive program for purchase of machinery program and import assistance program for raw materials.

These programs facilitated the augmentation of raw materials from nine countries – New Zealand, Chile, Gabon, France, Romania, Sweden, Ukraine, Canada and the US. A total of 55 companies placed orders worth about \$US1.5 million.

The buying mission,

conducted in collaboration with the Malaysia External Trade Development Corporation and MTC regional offices, generated estimated sales of around \$US28.5 million.

More than 60 buyers from 14 countries participated in 470 meetings with 93 Malaysian suppliers during the buyers' mission.

“Despite a rather sluggish economy, the buying mission has demonstrated that there

are many strong investment plans in the timber sectors overseas, which is creating a huge demand for Malaysian timber-based products,” MTC chairman Dato’ Low Kian Chuan said.

“We were amazed by the volume of business we generated at the expo,” Wood-Mizer Asia regional director Robert Moxham said. “All machinery on show was sold.”

The Malaysian Wood Expo was opened by the Minister of Primary Industries YB Pn Teresa Kok, who applauded MTC and its “holistic exhibition” which showcased not only products made from

“BUSINESS MATCHING SESSIONS A SUCCESS”

Cont P 14

From P 13

tropical hardwoods but also what Malaysia can do with temperate hardwoods and softwoods.

“We can use these foreign timber species to produce furniture and other timber-based products which will increase the value of our exports,” she said.

“This will also reduce our reliance on local raw materials.”

MTC also organised a series of pocket talks where industry experts shared their insights to a full house on market trends, e-trade, timber products and timber



1/ Prepared... the Malaysian Wood Expo was an opportunity for members of Hoo-Hoo International to meet and discuss the 50th anniversary Jurisdiction IV convention to be hosted at the Hotel Istana in Kuala Lumpur from April 16 to 20 next year, hosted by the Malaysian Timber Industry Club 275. Sharing ideas on the program with Ray Lamari, J1V president from Far North Queensland Club 261, are Kam Eng Soh, Simon Lim, president, Clarence Tan, and Alice Tee. Back row: Alagapana Krishnan, Alan Lim, vice-president, Mr. Boon, Jerry Tan, and Weng Heng Soo.
2/ Promoting the Kiwis at KL... Juken New Zealand representatives Gordon Wilmshurst and Vaughn Evans on the New Zealand Trade and Enterprise stand.

its e-guidebook Schedule of Maintenance for Timber in Construction, a manual on how to care and preserve

timber-based materials used for construction purposes for both indoor and outdoor use.

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Builder confidence in Australia defies economic slowdown by small business

SMALL businesses in the construction sector remain confident about their prospects despite the building slowdown and soft economic conditions, a new survey has found.

In a scan of 1011 small and medium enterprises (SMEs) across Australia including 140 SMEs in building and construction, Australian marketing services monitor Sensis found 47.1% of all construction businesses were either extremely or fairly confident about their prospects over the next 12 months.

This is almost double the 24.3% who are either fairly or extremely worried (a further 28.6% were neither confident nor worried).

Meanwhile, 43.6% of small construction businesses expect their business to expand in the future – more than three times the 14.3% who expect their business to contract.

This comes in spite of challenging conditions in both the broader economy and the construction sector.



Confidence... 43.6% of small construction operations expect their businesses to expand in the future – more than three times the 14.3% who expect their business to contract.

According to the Reserve Bank of Australia, the economy is expected to grow by just 1.75% this year and by only 2.25% in 2020 – an expectation which implies barely any real expansion once population growth (currently 1.6%) is factored in.

In construction specifically, residential building approvals have fallen by around a fifth over the past year, admittedly from high levels. None of this is lost on survey participants.

All up, 85.7% of small construction businesses believe the economy is either slowing while a further 84.3% believe the economy will be

either worse or the same in a year's time.

On their own operations, just as many small construction businesses say sales have decreased over the past three months (25%) as those who report sales increases (25%).

Despite economic challenges, the survey indicates broad optimism across the economy.

Across all sectors, 55% of SMEs are confident about their prospects over the next 12 months.

The survey also uncovered dissatisfaction with government policies.

All up, 27.4% of all small construction businesses say federal government policies are working against small business while 20.7% say likewise about state and territory policies.

This compares with only 26.4% and 21.4% respectively who say that federal and state policies are supportive of small business.

Speaking about sentiment overall, Sensis CEO John Allan said the high levels of confidence in spite of economic challenges reflected natural optimism among small business owners.

"SMB owners are by nature optimistic," Mr Allan said.

"We know they have can-do attitudes that give them the drive to tackle a challenge even in the face of trying conditions."

He said the same entrepreneurial spirit was now shoring up SMB confidence in business prospects despite a growing scepticism in the state of the national economy."

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Wood adds whimsy to outdoor spaces

BUDAPEST-based design studio Hello Wood has unveiled a collection of outdoor smart furniture designed for schools and universities.

The furniture is outfitted with solar panels to generate clean energy for charging USB ports. The sleek designs include extra-long, undulating lounge chairs and a funky 'fluid cube' – all made out of solid wood.

Over the years, Hello Wood has created all types of innovative wooden installations, from LED Christmas trees built from reused wooden boxes and a solar-powered pop-up park to a colossal tiger statue made



Hello wood... unique shapes pop up in open spaces.



Tiger woods... statue made from reclaimed timber.

from reclaimed timber.

Now, the crafty wood artists have created a new collection of outdoor wooden pieces slated for the community spaces at local educational institutions.

Already installed in four Hungarian educational institutions, the outdoor pieces add a bit of whimsy to the open spaces found on campuses. The outdoor

furniture includes two vastly different designs – one a long lounge chair/bench that stretches out in a zig-zag shape with large curvatures marking the seating areas, and another designers are calling a 'fluid cube'. The wooden cube is open on three sides, with a built-in bench on the interior.

In addition to their unique shapes, the furniture pieces are also sustainable. The

wood used in Hello Wood's latest installation is all FSC certified which guarantees that the timber comes from responsibly managed forests. Both pieces have been equipped with solar panels, which were manufactured using recycled plastic waste. The solar energy is used to generate enough power to charge the multiple USB ports the students can use while they relax in the fresh air.

“ FLUID CUBE OPEN ON ALL THREE SIDES ”

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Raining purple as jacarandas display their magnificent canopies in Sydney

I CAN'T let November pass without mentioning the stunning jacaranda trees, now so much a feature of Sydney's cityscape.

The jacaranda tree's hold on Sydney and its scenery is now so well entrenched that the tree is often mistaken for an Australian native. It's actually indigenous to South America.

The species most commonly planted in Sydney, *Jacaranda mimosifolia*, was collected and taken to the Royal Gardens at Kew, England, in about 1818. One early source gives the credit to plant hunter Allan Cunningham, who was sent on from Rio de Janeiro to NSW, where he would later briefly serve as colonial botanist.

Arguably, Grafton is the Jacaranda Capital of Australia. From mid-October and mid-November the streets and parks of this northern NSW city are transformed into something out of a dream when the jacaranda trees explode in all their purple glory. From October 10 to November 10 is Grafton's 'official' Jacaranda 2019 season and includes the city's

“JACARANDA QUEENS AND EVERYTHING IN BETWEEN”



1/ Kirribilli, Sydney... Jacaranda trees create mauve necklaces for boulevards and canopies over narrow suburban streets.

2/ Jacaranda blossom... exploding in purple glory.

Jacaranda Festival billed as “beautiful, welcoming, fun, creative – a little bit crazy with Jacaranda Queens to Drag Queens – and everything in between”.

Jacaranda is a genus of 49 species in the family Bignoniaceae, native to tropical and subtropical regions of South America and the Caribbean. It has been planted widely and is quite common in southern California, Florida, Argentina, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Australia, New Zealand, Italy, Portugal, Spain and Zambia.

Jacaranda trees were a popular civic planting in the beautification programs of the early 20th century and inter-war years, right up to the 1950s and 1960s.

The trees create mauve necklaces for boulevards and canopies over narrow

TALKING TREES



With JOHN HALKETT

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suburban streets.

It's difficult now to imagine a time when jacarandas did not 'rain' purple on Sydney streets. But though the odd tree was grown in private gardens from the 1850s, most were familiar only with the specimen in the botanic gardens.

Like other members of the Bignonia family, jacarandas are difficult to grow from cuttings,

though they grow readily from freshly fallen seed.

Colonial horticulturists were likely working with cuttings from established trees that hadn't yet flowered, or old seeds that had deteriorated on the high seas en route from England or Brazil.

All this meant that in its early years as an Australian import the jacaranda was considered one of the rarest and most beautiful trees. That changed in 1868, when landscape designer Michael Guilfoyle solved the riddle of propagation. The method involves cuttings and cold pits, bell jars and bottom heat – enough to daunt even the most passionate of green thumbs.

By the 1930s, the jacaranda was so common that some forgot it had ever been anything other than ours.



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BC forest industry finds new markets in China as diplomatic tensions scale back

BRITISH Columbia forest products continue to find a growing market in China as diplomatic tensions with Canada have eased.

Speaking to reporters from Tokyo, the Canadian province's Forests Minister Doug Donaldson said his delegation of 35 forest company executives completed their visit to Shanghai with good trade prospects, after attending the Sino-Canadian Wood Forum.

He added that high-grade BC wood producers



Diplomatic tensions ease... British Columbia Forests Minister Doug Donaldson (left) visits wood buyers in China.

“GOOD TRADE PROSPECTS FOR PROVINCE

were focused on furniture manufacturers as well as the more established Chinese markets of Whistler-style resort construction and

wooden infill walls that reduce the country's massive use of concrete and improve earthquake resilience.

China and Japan's forest

products markets are more significant than ever as BC producers struggle with continued import duties of

Cont P 10

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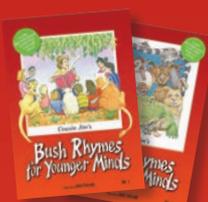
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From P 9

20% or more on sales to the US, Canada's traditional number-one market. China currently accounts for 28% of BC wood products exports, making it the fourth largest international customer, and Japan is third largest.

"The scale of Chinese construction and urbanisation is so vast that its annual floor space construction is equal to 1.4 times the size of Metro Vancouver each year," Doug Donaldson said.

"On the resort side, five billion Chinese people took a domestic vacation trip in 2018, an 11% increase over 2017"

BC exports 90% of its forest products, with China representing 28% of the province's total forest product



Building inspection... the scale of Chinese construction and urbanisation is vast.

exports at over \$4 billion. In 2018, BC exported about \$1.5 billion in forest products to Japan, including \$845 million in softwood lumber exports.

The 2018 BC trade mission to China and Japan came shortly after Canadian authorities detained Chinese telecommunications executive Meng Wazhou for extradition

to the US over charges there. The Huawei executive remains in Vancouver on bail as lawyers argue over the extradition application.

JAPAN TRADE OPENS FOR WOOD PELLETS

Minister Donaldson left last year's trade mission before it entered China, uncertain over the reception any Canadian politician would receive, as China took two Canadians into custody and began a series of trade sanctions on Canadian farm and other products.

This year the diplomatic tensions have eased and Minister Donaldson said he had a normal reception from industry officials in Shanghai.

"One of the mission's goals in Japan was exploring further sales of BC wood pellets as the country struggles to replace its nuclear power generation following the 2011 Fukushima earthquake and tsunami that crippled one of its nuclear power plants," he said.

Image: Donaldson-China-lumber

Plantation forest inspection for building designers

PARTICIPANTS in the Hyne Timber and Xlam CLT mill and forestry tour at Wodonga and Tumbarumba this week inspect plantation pine forest operations.

The tour on November 27 and 28, organised by the Timber Development Association, was put together for building design professionals and included architects, developers, engineers, certifiers and



cost planners.

The two-day event went behind the scenes at Hyne's Tumbarumba sawmill and Xlam's CLT plant. The \$30

million plant, opened in 2018, has capacity to produce 60,000 cub m annually of CLT.

CLT is mainly manufactured as large-format structural

building elements, including walls, floors and roofs, created by bonding together timber boards in orthogonal layers.

CLT is currently part of a global trend and is experiencing a high rate of uptake across Australia and New Zealand. Xlam has been manufacturing the product since 2012.

Report next issue

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