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Victoria's decision on native forests dominates discussion at AFPA events

Joel Fitzgibbon calls out the 'fallacy' of Premier Andrews' claim

SHADOW Minister for Agriculture and Rural and Regional Australia Joel Fitzgibbon has delivered a veiled swipe at the Andrews government over its decision to phase out Victoria's native timber industry.

He said a strong relationship between the commonwealth and the states was needed to sustain regional jobs. He warned Australia could not sustain a forest and forest products industry and "all the jobs and wealth it creates" without a native forest industry.

Mr Fitzgibbon also called out the "fallacy" of Premier Andrews' claim that the hardwood timber industry in Victoria can transition to plantations by 2030.

Speaking at the AFPA members' dinner in Canberra he said: "We have the land and the resource to supply



Industry support... Joel Fitzgibbon address the AFPA members' dinner in Canberra.

much of this timber from our abundant native forest estate and through an expanded plantation estate.

"It's this sustainably harvested native forest product that generates most of the work in our local hardwood sawmills. Even if plantation forestry could be grown sufficiently quickly to offset the loss of our native resource – and it can't – it is no replacement for our

renewable native forest product."

Mr Andrews has continued to brush aside savage union attacks about his decision to ban native harvesting. The announcement came on the same day a review into



Labor's federal election loss urged the party to improve its standing with people living in regional and rural Australia.

The Victorian government has announced a \$120 million package to aid workers and small timber mills through a "tough transition".

Mr Fitzgibbon said to sustain regional jobs there needed to be strong participation and cooperation between federal and state governments.

"In each of the RFA states and Queensland, we've benefited from native timber resource security; native forest harvesting certified as sustainable by the relevant international certifying body," Mr Fitzgibbon said.

"That's the way it is, and the way it should be. It's the best outcome for our natural

Cont P 3



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environment. It's also the best way to abate carbon, and the best way to manage bushfire risk."

A new Australian Forest Products Association board was elected last Friday with re-elected AFPA chairman and chairman of Midway Ltd Greg McCormack saying that it reflected the diversity of the industry and was ready to take on new challenges facing the sector.

Two new board members were appointed – Stacey Gardiner, general manager, Australian Forest Contractors Association, and Diana Gibbs, a resource economist and a member of the NSW Rural Assistance Authority Advisory Board.

Other AFPA board members include Jean-Yves Nouaze, AFPA deputy chair and executive general manager, Visy Pulp and Paper; Peter



Stacey Gardiner... AFCA general manager



Diana Gibbs... resource economist.



Greg McCormack... re-elected chairman of AFPA.

Williams, chief operating officer, Australian Paper; Paul Michael, executive chair, Weathertex; Ian Telfer, CEO, WA Plantation Resources; Jon Kleinschmidt, CEO, Hyne Timber; James Malone, CEO, Wesbeam; Islay Robertson, chief operating

TWO NEW
AFPA BOARD
MEMBERS

officer, HQPlantations; Mark Rogers, managing director, New Forests Australia/NZ; and Steve Whiteley, CEO, Sustainable Timber Tasmania.

In conjunction with coconvenors Joel Fitzgibbon MP and Tony Pasin MP, AFPA hosted the Parliamentary Friends of Forest Industries Christmas drinks on November 27 at Parliament House.

Despite interruptions from the need to vote on the floor of parliament, Assistant Minister for Forestry Senator Jonathon Duniam joined many other senators and members to discuss the challenges facing the industry and AFPA and to thank them for their ongoing support.

This was followed by the AFPA members' dinner the next day with guest speaker Peter Maddison, the face of the Ultimate Renewable campaign and host of Grand Designs Australia, sponsored by Forest and Wood Products

Sustainability leader re-elected to FWPA

SUSTAINABILITY leader Tony Arnel was re-elected to the board at the annual general meeting of Forest and Wood Products Australia last Friday as the organisation looks to continue growing the forestry and wood industry into the future

Hosted in Canberra in conjunction with AFPA, the AGM provided an opportunity for stakeholders to learn about FWPA's successes over the year, as well as gain an insight into upcoming plans.

Professor Arnel was reelected as a non-executive director and brings excellent leadership credentials from the building and sustainability industries.

He is currently a professor at Deakin University and the

global director of sustainability at engineering consultancy, Norman Disney & Young. Prof. Arnel has also held numerous prominent board positions, including on the Green Building Council of Australia, The Climate Institute, Energy Efficiency Council and the Deakin University School of Engineering.

"Having Tony Arnel continue his position on the FWPA board is incredibly positive for both our organisation and wider sector," FWPA chair John Simon said.

"As a leader in sustainability, including being one of the founding directors of the Green Building Council of Australia, he provides invaluable knowledge and experience to help lead FWPA."

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Beam me up: jobs, sustainable housing branch out from DAF timber research

Vision for cypress to replace steel in modular house construction

RESEARCH by Queensland's Department of Agriculture and Fisheries to develop a new sustainable timber product has delivered additional jobs and a boost to a Queensland construction company.

Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries Mark Furner said the research by DAF's forest product innovation team had proven to be a 'win-win' good news story for Cooroy-based Eco Cottages.

"An innovative collaboration between DAF and Eco Cottages, which began in 2017, has resulted in high-quality cypress glue-laminated beams which have helped deliver



1/ Sustainable research... DAF forest product innovation team leader Bill Leggate, Eco Cottages director Greg Phipps and DAF project manager Dr Robbie McGavin at an Eco Cottage modular home under construction.

2/ Mark Furner... an innovative collaboration.

cheaper, more sustainable housing and jobs for Eco Cottages," Mr Furner said.

Eco Cottages is using

the cypress glue-laminated beams in the construction of its sustainable, pre-fabricated modular homes.

"The beams not only offer a cost effective and more environmentally sustainable alternative to traditional construction options such as steel, they have proven that jobs can grow on trees," Mr Furner said.

"Since the collaboration began, Eco Cottages has employed an extra eight full-time employees including five apprentices, all of whom are locals, with the manufacture of the cypress beams generating four full time positions, two of whom are apprentices.

"This totally Queenslandfocused effort involves cypress timber harvested from the Barakula state forest, Hurford Hardwood which operates a cypress sawmill at Chinchilla, Eco Cottages and DAF."

Eco Cottages director Greg Phipps said the partnership with DAF had made possible the production of low-cost, environmentally friendly cypress glue-laminated beams. "Eco Cottages has a strong sustainability ethos and working with DAF has allowed us to realise our vision to replace steel and other similar products used in modular house construction with a product made from a sustainable and renewable natural resource," Mr Phipps said.

"The result has been so good that we had no hesitation in using more than 200 of the beams in the construction of our new 2000 sq m factory at Cooroy.

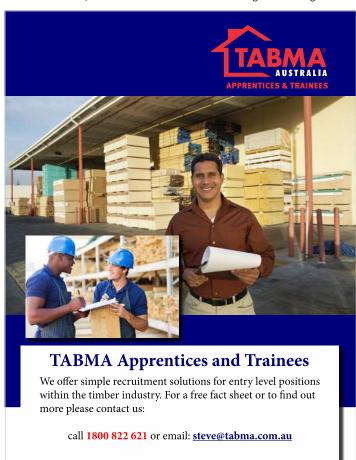
"Eco Cottages is the only manufacturer of cypress glulam in Queensland and our new factory has allowed us to increase manufacturing capacity to support our modular building construction program."

Mr Furner said several characteristics made Queensland cypress Eco Cottage's building material of choice.

"Queensland cypress is renowned for its sustainability, natural durability and low environmental impact making it a perfect choice for the research," he said.

"DAF researchers established timber properties, identified suitable adhesive systems and manufacturing protocols and performance tested the final engineeredwood beams."

He said DAF had enthusiastically supported this worthwhile venture and continued to provide guidance and support to the initiative as well as extensive product and process testing.



Landmark CLT and forests tour an 'eye-opener' for build professionals

Rare opportunity to explore the complete supply chain 'up close'

FINDING 20 of Australia's leading architects, engineers, builders and developers in a Tumbarumba plantation forest in the heart of the Forestry Corporation of NSW's softwood pine plantations is not a common sight.

But for the motivated professionals looking to timber as the ultimate building renewable, Tumbarumba and indeed the Victoria-NSW twin cities of Albury and Wodonga play an all-important role in building and construction of faraway cities.

Hosted by the Timber Development Association, leading building professionals embarked on a two-day CLT and mill tour, which involved visiting the XLam production facilities at Wodonga, a pine

WITNESSING THE SCIENCE AND PRECISION **OFTIMBER PRODUCTION**



Nick Firth, NSW Forestry Corporation, explains forest management to architects, engineers and building developers during a tour of the corporation's pine plantations at Tumbarumba

plantation and Hyne Timber's Tumbarumba Sawmill.

TDA CEO Andrew Dunn. convenor of the trip, said the tour provided building professionals with a rare opportunity to explore CLT 'up close', capturing the complete supply chain, from the forest, through the sawmill and the production facility.

"Building professionals are always astonished when they witness the science and precision that goes into the production of timber products," Mr Dunn said.

"They see this commencing in the forest, through to the sawmill and then to the CLT manufacturing."

XLam is the first CLT

manufacturer in the southern hemisphere, and through its Wodonga production facility has capacity to service a growing demand for the engineered wood product in Australia's building and construction industry.

Sean Bull, XLam business development manager (NSW and Queensland), emphasised the value of CLT in delivering a range of bespoke building solutions.

"While CLT is a prefabricated building system, every project XLam delivers is unique - something generally not associated with prefabrication," he said.

"CLT's similar strength properties to reinforced concrete, but 80% lighter, opens doors to tremendous opportunity."

At Tumbarumba, participants were guided through softwood pine plantations and Hyne Timber's sawmill.

Cont P 6



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From P 5

Timber site optimisation manager Mat Thomsen gave the visitors an insight into the 'chain of custody' involved in delivering sustainable building materials.

"The group learned how we are developing new ways of using a mature sustainable building material for state-of-

the art building construction," he said.

"Its journey from the forest to a completed product is far more complex than most people imagine with

leading-edge technology and automation used throughout the process. And forest certification plays an important role in demonstrating and verifying



1/ Inspecting the 'raw' product... TDA tour members visit forest operations.

2/ Getting up close with CLT... tour participants visit the XLam production facilities at Wodonga.

the sustainable origins of building materials."

Joining the tour,
Responsible Wood's
marketing and
communications officer Jason
Ross stressed the importance
of building professionals

specifying Responsible Wood and or PEFC claims on forest products.

'When it comes to supporting forests, certification claims on products are essential."

Jason said these claims provided assurance that timber was sourced from forests and from suppliers that were committed to sustainable forest management.

This was evident throughout the tours – the pine plantations, sawmill and the CLT production facility are all certified under the PEFC forest certification scheme.

Jason added: "For architects, engineers, developers or building professionals committed to sustainability, PEFC/
Responsible Wood claims are a powerful commitment to sustainable forests."

CERTIFICATION
CLAIMS ON
PRODUCTS ARE
ESSENTIAL

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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, wll

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 stateof-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@ug.edu.au Visit www.futuretimberhub. org and www.civil.uq.edu.au/

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





DECEMBER

16-17: Forest Landscape
Restoration and the Bonn
Challenge in Eastern
and South-East Europe –
Belgrade, Serbia. Informing
on the Bonn Challenge
(launched in 2011 and
extended by the 2014 New
York Declaration on Forests

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.

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. Oneday 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

NOVEMBER 2020

1-5: 3rd DANA African Forest Industry Investment Conference and field trip

- Durban, South Africa.
 Planning under way. Two day optional field trip (November 19-20). Register interest with Julie Bell admin@dana.co.nz
- Please send any events listings to John Halkett via email: johnh@ timberandforestryenews.com

NZ wood processor Claymark in receivership

NEW Zealand wood processor the Claymark Group is in receivership, say media reports.

The company, which employs about 510 people, had been set for sale to the New Zealand Future Forest Partnership but came under pressure when the sale was not quickly settled.

Financial advisory firm KordaMentha has been appointed as receiver to Claymark Ltd and its related entities. The appointment covers Claymark's operations in Rotorua, Katikati, Thames and Auckland.

The Claymark Group is a long-established business producing and exporting high quality radiata pine

wood products.

The receivers planned to continue to trade the business while they worked through the key issues but that would be reliant on support from log suppliers and key customers, KordaMentha said in a statement.

Claymark managing director Mark Clayton said he was committed to working with the receivers to maximise the return to stakeholders.

His immediate focus was to help the receivers with asset protection and communication with employees, creditors and customers.

KordaMentha receiver Brendon Gibson said the New Zealand Future Forest Partnership had entered into



Mark Clayton... committed to maximising returns to stakeholders.

an agreement to acquire the Claymark Group and there would be discussions with NZFFP regarding its contract.

"Ultimately, the business will have to be sold," he said.

The receivership does not affect Claymark USA, Inc, the group's US-domiciled business, which continues to trade as normal.

NZ Future Products is 100% owned by Kinleith Continuation LP, a limited partnership which includes public partner David Henry, son of NZ First lawyer Brian Henry. It has four directors – the three initial directors Brian Henry, David Henry and Michael Rann (based in UK) and a fourth director Jan Trotman, partner of Winston Peters, leader of the New Zealand First party, who was appointed in August.

Claymark is New Zealand's largest manufacturer of premium pine products, distributing a wide range of treated primed outdoor products, interior primed mouldings and DIY boards to the Australian market.

The company markets through wholesale partners in Australia and products include Tru-Pine, Profiles and Premium Pine brands.



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1000-year-old Chinese structures inspired award-winning student architect Monique

JIM BOWDEN

PASSIONATE about global forest management and sustainable buildings, student architect Monique Pousson was gratified to receive a Responsible Wood award for her performance in structural timber design at a special donors' lunch in Brisbane last Thursday.

Twenty-seven academic and merit awards were presented at the Lightspace Studio in Fortitude Valley, chosen by a select committee from the School of Architecture and School of Civil Engineering at UQ, including Dr Joe Gattas, Future Timber Hub, Dr Dan Luo, committee representative for architecture and Dr Lisa Ottenhaus representing civil engineering.

"The decision was unanimous to present Monique Pousson with the inaugural Responsible Wood award," Professor Cameron Bruhn, dean and head of the UQ School of Architecture, said at the presentations ceremony.

"Monique was selected on the basis of excellent



Responsible design... Monique Pousson is congratulated during the awards ceremony by Professor Cameron Bruhn, dean and head. UQ School of Architecture, Jim Bowden. representing Responsible Wood, and Professor John Macarthur. director, School of Architecture.

detailing, an innovative and visually expressive structural form, with timber central to the design," he said.

"What we build matters and so does how we build it." Monique said. "Building with sustainability in mind should be standard for the 21st century home."

She expressed her support for certification, both forest management and chain of custody.

"By consuming certified wood products, we make sure that they come from a responsible and sustainable source," she said.

Monique's project brief was to explore the design of a long-span timber roof that would house a large-scale market space in the centre of Brisbane.

"I explored alternative timber structures and their future potential within the construction industry," she said.

"The inspiration came from investigating traditional Chinese woven bridges, which date back more than

1000 years. These bridges use a weaving method which creates a triangulated system that behaves like a beam.

"Using this logic, I started to explore how I could create triangulation in a woven structure, rather than using a standardised truss."

What resulted was a layered structure, made up of curved laminated timber members which intertwined in the horizontal, vertical and diagonal axis, creating a large vaulted structure that 'floats' above the market space.

Next, Monique explored the joinery of the timber through an interactive prototyping process. Through this experimentation she developed uniform member sizes and shapes to simplify the on-site construction.

"The complexity of the structure becomes the building's ornament, creating a visually interesting space for the users to occupy, while showcasing the potential of timber construction to the public," Monique said.

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Women in industry raise over \$8500 for a worthy charity

QUEENSLAND'S
Women in
Forestry and
Timber Network
wrapped up a
very charitable
year by hosting a
donation drive for
its charity of choice – Friends
with Dignity.

A breakfast at the Miss Bliss Whole Foods Kitchen at Brisbane's West End on November 22 completed a year by WFTN working closely with Friends with Dignity grants coordinator Peggy Vlismas, which helped further the Sanctuary Program and raise funds to assist disadvantaged children through the program's scholarship endeavours.

Friends with Dignity is a volunteer-based, non-profit charity that provides practical programs to assist sufferers of domestic violence.

The breakfast was generously supported by ITI Australia. Their contribution, along with a \$500 donation from Timber&Forestry enews, and funds raised through sponsorship and raffles at the WFTN charity cocktail function, were officially presented at the breakfast on behalf of the WFTN to Friends with Dignity representatives Julia McKenna, director and CFO, and Peggy Vlismas.

"A last-minute \$1000 donation by Freemasons Queensland's Hand Heart Pocket meant that our cheque was soon outdated, "said WFTN's Sarah Porter, who is communications officer at Timber Queensland.



"The final figure of funds raised and donated this year was more than \$8500," she said. "We are so grateful for those involved in the network who helped make possible what will be a life-changing difference for the money's recipients."

Sarah said the amazing group of WFTN women also overwhelmingly answered the call for linen donations, bringing along enough sheets, doona sets, pillow cases, towels and soft toys to set up bedding for several families.

"Friends with Dignity has now fulfilled more than 400 sanctuary requests, so the demand for these items is always high."

The Women in Forests and Timber Network is a forum for women in the industry who meet to exchange ideas and ensure their voices are heard.

The network celebrates the achievements of women in the network and supports their access to skills and professional development opportunities. A secretariat service to WFTN is provided by ForestWorks.

On the cover: Sarah Porter, Women in Forest and Timber Network (right), presents a cheque to Julia McKenna of Friends with Dignity at a WFTN charity breakfast in Brisbane.



Cynical hardwood industry closure

It's an appalling decision by Victorian Premier Daniel Andrews and a political party that supposedly champions jobs and working people

STUPID, stupid, stupid!

Victoria's Labor government is buckling to pressure from the Greens to shut down hardwood timber supplies from native forests by 2030.

This state has a proud and distinguished history of sustainable forest management and the production of beautiful Victoria ash, which is splendidly mirrored in the magnificent furniture and flooring – a lot of it in state government buildings for all to see!

Not only are there businesses and jobs in regional communities linked to forest management, log harvesting and transport, but countless hundreds in additional businesses and jobs associated with valueadding manufacturing, such as componentry and windows and doors. Plus, of course, a whole range of services and support businesses.

Victoria also arguably has the most sophisticated and respected native forest management and environmental preservation practices in Australia.

It's an appalling decision by Victorian Premier Daniel Andrews and a political party that supposedly champions jobs and working people. Can this decision be a very bad joke?

We well know that forestbased jobs and industry provide a critical counter-





1/ Short-sighted and not listening... Premier Daniel Andrews is set to abandon forest-based rural communities in Victoria.

2/ Victorian ash dining table... state has a proud and distinguished manufacturing history.

balance to rural communities extremely hit hard by drought and a decline in some traditional agriculture activities. The Andrews government is out to destroy this relationship and abandon rural communities and towns. Yes, abandon them! And with a heartless 'who cares?'

Of course, a decision to shut down the Victorian hardwood industry will not impact on the demand side of the ledger. The requirement for high-quality hardwood timber products will continue, so how will this demand be satisfied? Obviously, imported timber, already present in the Australian market in substantial volumes, will get a real shot in the arm courtesy of Daniel Andrews. So, expect to see increasing volumes of hardwood timber coming from Indonesia, Malaysia, PNG, South America and even Africa... and don't even think





With CHERYL FORREST

about Gabon!

We know that forestry practices, ecological protection and trade credentials from some off-shore hardwood timber suppliers are not anywhere close to those in Victoria. Yet the Andrews government is happy to shut up shop ("not in my back yard thank you very much") and saddle other

countries with the burden of supplying the hardwood timber needed by Victorian home builders, commercial construction and a myriad of manufacturers.

It's great
that CFMEU's
Michael
O'Connor and
the Australian
Forest Products
Association
led by Ross
Hampton are
strongly fighting
against the
decision and
organising
resistance
action right to

the streets of Melbourne and on the steps of Parliament House. More strength to you all!

And it's great sensible pollies Littleproud and Fitzgibbon are on our side (see this issue).

The decision to close down the state's hardwood industry is an absolute abrogation of responsibilities and clearly designed to secure Green preference votes in marginal Victorian seats.

It is a disgrace.

Daniel Andrews should be well and truly ashamed of himself. We wonder how he can look at himself in the mirror every day.

I will have to stop now ... before I explode.

Cheryl

The **NEW** Generation...



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Komatsu Forest have added a complete new model the Komatsu 875 (16 tonne) forwarder filling the vacancy left by the old 890. This addition compliments the 895 (20 tonne) by extending the Komatsu range to cover all the contractors' extraction requirements. These New Generation models have been refined with the latest developments in the key areas.

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Peter Wilkinson, 95, a sawmiller through and through in Queensland

A DOYEN of Queensland's sawmilling industry Peter Wilkinson, 95, has died in Nambour on the Sunshine Coast.

The Wilkinson family is synonymous with the development of the early forest and forest products industry in southeast Queensland.

Both Peter and his late younger brother David were directors of Wilkinson Day and Grimes at Yandina and became joint managing directors of Wilkinson Timber Industries, based at Mount Gravatt in Brisbane – Peter looking after sawmilling operations and David responsible for timber merchandising.



Errol Wildman, formerly Wildman Timber Industies, Toowoomba, and Peter Wilkinson reminiscing at a Brisbane Hoo-Hoo pioneers luncheon in Brisbane in 2014 about their times as chairmen, respectively, of the Queensland Timber Board – Errol in the 1980s and Peter in the 1970s.

Peter Wilkinson stayed on as managing director when his brother moved to Oxley to run Forest Products Marketing. Both served terms as chairman of the Queensland Timber Board (now Timber Queensland) – David in the 1960s and Peter in the 1970s.

The townships of Yandina and Cooroy were at the centre of the early pine industry on the near north coast built on exotic pine plantations – slash, Caribbean and their hybrids and sawdust ran through the blood of the Wilkinson and Straker families.

AT THE CENTRE OF EARLY PINE INDUSTRY

The Straker Cooroy sawmill, trading as Cooroy Sawmilling Co, was buit in 1944. To counter shortages of log timber and safeguard their future, Wilkinsons of Yandina, Strakers of Cooroy and Cooran and Luttons in the Mary Valley joined to form Northcoast Sawmills Pty Ltd at Cooroy in 1970.

Together they established a new mill at Nandroya in 1972 with logs drawn from a wide radius and incorporating modern equipment for efficiency. Northcoast Sawmills was acquired by Christopher Skase's Quintex in1980 and subsequently Boral which operated both the Cooroy and Nandroya plants. A fire on May 2, 1997, threatened the Cooroy mill but was confined to a small area leased for experimental product development.

The formation of Northcoast Sawmills was a natural development of a partial amalgamation in 1956 when the Cooroy Sawmilling Co of Cooran, Straker & Sons and J.P. Wilkinson & Sons of Yandina and Conondale jointly formed Kiln Dried Timbers Pty Ltd to erect four double kilns and new planing mills on 1.2 ha at Cooroy. The kilns enabled the companies to market timber in southern states and western Queensland where naturally coastal dried timbers then were not acceptable. Peter Wilkinson and Arthur Straker supervised the project on a site adjacent to the Cooroy sawmill.

J.P. Wilkinson, father of Peter and David, started in the industry in 1934 when he bought the Jocumsen sawmill at Yandina for 500 pounds. The same year, he introduced the first crawler tractor, an American diesel Caterpillar 35 – at the time considered "the invention of the year" – and the first motor truck.

The Cooroy mill was closed by the state government in 2000 in accordance with the Regional Forest Agreement.

Peter Wilkinson was a sawmiller through and

Cont P 15

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From P 14

through and proudly wore the 'badge of honour', one finger lost on his right hand in a milling accident.

He retired to Montville on the Blackall Ranges, later moving to Bli Bli and then selling his home there to settle with his wife Kay at a gated retirement community at Twin Waters.

He loved boats and in his retirement years enjoyed many voyages on his cruiser. He was just as passionate about motor cars and for many years motored around the hinterland in his BMW. He held his driver's licence until his 92nd birthday.

He died at Nambour Hospital at 1 am last Saturday.

His first wife Joan predeceased him 17 years ago. He was married to his second wife Kay for 16 years and is surived by three children, five Is proud to induct into its

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Yeler Wilkinson

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grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

Kay Wilkinson said Peter was a much-loved quiet and

sincere man.

"Yes, he loved motoring and always drove BMWs. But at the age of 92 his licence

Recognition...

Peter Wilkinson

the Queensland

Timber Pioneers

in Brisbane on

August 9 this

recognition of

outstanding

Queensland

contributions to

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his dedication

year "in

his manv

during the annual

Hall of Fame

certificate

awarded to

gathering of

was a not renewed which upset him considerably as we had just bought a new car."

He was remembered at a silent salute by a group of pioneer foresters, sawmillers and timber merchants at a lunch at Tattersall's in Brisbane on Tuesday, which celebrated the 37th anniversary of the Sunshine AusTIS conference held at Caloundra in 1982.

Mr Wilkinson will be remembered at a service at St Mary's Anglican Church, 1 Memorial Close, Montville, this Friday, December 6, at 11 am.

- JIM BOWDEN



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Aircraft not the silver bullet for forest fires

I WAS reading the article in your journal ('No relief as bushfires burn across thousands of hectares' 28/11/19) – the one with the picture of a Chinook helicopter dropping a load of pink fire retardant on some scrub in California.

It might be handy to put some perspective on the exorbitant amount of money spent on aircraft, and the limits to their value, in assisting in fighting bushfires.

I'm a member of the Bushfire Front in Western Australia, a lobby group which promotes prescribed or controlled burning during cooler months to reduce the build-up of forest fuels and hence limit the size and strength of bushfires which will inevitably start.

We are concerned that too

many people in authority, and the public in general, think that aircraft ('water bombers') are the silver bullet which will miraculously put out all bushfires. They think we just need to spend more money and purchase bigger and better ones, and more of them. And media love them. Every time a fire starts, the TV footage will show a water bomber in action.

The truth is that water bombers can play a part when a fire is first discovered, if they can get to the fire quickly and douse it or slow it down before ground crews arrive. They can also save a building if they can drop water in the right place. But water bombers are basically useless in stopping large bushfires of the like experienced in the eastern

states over recent weeks. They cannot operate at night; they cannot operate when winds are too strong; a large proportion of the water they drop does not reach the edge of a fire at ground level where it is needed due to dispersal and capture of the water by vegetation above the ground; and they are rudely expensive.

We advocate that rather than spend more money on aircraft, governments should invest more in preventative measures before fire seasons start, including training of crews in prescribed burning as well as fighting bushfires, more funding for volunteer fire fighters and, most importantly, more prescribed burning.

In Western Australia, both sides of politics recognise the

limitations of water bombers and the importance of preseason preparation. The Bushfire Front has played a significant role in this area.

I believe it's important that our forestry and timber industries – and the PUBLIC – are fully aware of the importance of fuel reduction to protect timber assets and also to be aware that spending tens of millions of dollars on more water bombers is wasteful in the extreme.

– JOHN CLARKE, Bushfire Front WA (35 years' experience as a forester, district manager, fire officer and, most recently, strategic contracts manager with the Forest Products Commission. Part-time consultant and chair of the WA division of the Institute of Foresters of Australia.



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Labor decision on native forests cruel hoax

FEDERAL Minister David Littleproud gave strong support for the Victorian native forestry industry in Question Time, highlighting the benefits of a sustainable industry that employs thousands of Victorians

The Minister for Water Resources, Drought, Rural Finance, Natural Disaster and Emergency Management David Littleproud said Victoria's native forests were one of the most sustainably managed resources in the country, and, in fact, only four in every 10,000 trees in native forests in Victoria were harvested. "And every one of those are replaced."

CALLED OUT
THE FALACY
OF THE CLAIM

This support for the industry is in stark contrast with the decision by the Andrews Labor government to shut down the sector by 2030, threatening thousands of jobs in many regional and rural communities.

Minister Littleproud also praised Shadow Minister for Agriculture and Resources Joel Fitzgibbon for backing Victoria's native forestry industry at an AFPA dinner in Canberra last Thursday, in a veiled swipe at the Victorian government's announcement.

"He has, in all honesty, shown the courage, the courage and conviction you would expect on this, and recently at the Australian forest products association dinner he called out the fallacy of the claim that the hardwood industry can transition by



David Littleproud... standing shoulder to shoulder with forest industry.

2030." he said.

"Australia cannot sustain a forest and forest products industry and/or the jobs and wealth it creates without a native forest industry. Coalition members are going to stand shoulder to shoulder with those men and women whose communities will be destroyed."

Australian Forest Products
Association CEO Ross
Hampton welcomed Mr
Littleproud's supportive
comments and the bipartisan
support in federal parliament
for Victoria's sustainable native
forest industries.

"The Victorian native forestry now knows that the Coalition is backing the industry. We know that federal Labor is backing the industry so the only party who doesn't understand the importance of the sector is Victorian Labor and Premier Daniel Andrews," Mr Hampton said.

"The decision to shut down the native timber industry flies in the face of science and good policy and the attempt by Premier Andrews to say it's a 'transition' is nothing more than a cruel hoax."



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Carbon-friendly Christmas tree greets visitors to Parliament House in Brisbane

THIS December staff and visitors to the Queensland Parliamentary Annexe are enjoying the fresh smell of pine from a real Christmas tree in the building's foyer.

Last week, Curtis Pitt,
Speaker of the Queensland
Parliament, together with
Mark Furner, Minister
for Agricultural Industry
Development and Fisheries,
and Bruce Saunders, MP
Maryborough, were joined
by Tony Perrett, MP Gympie,
and other members of
Queensland's Parliamentary
Friends of the Forest and
Timber Industry network, to
welcome the tree's arrival.

Curtis Pitt said he was was thrilled for parliament to host a real Christmas tree.

"We want to celebrate Christmas the Queensland way," he said. "That's why we are more than happy to host a real Christmas tree, adorned with festive timber ornaments and grown right here in Queensland."

Timber Queensland CEO Mick Stephens said the forestry industry was pleased to provide the tree, which added to the festive spirit and put smiles on the faces of



In the festive spirit... – Parliamentary Friends of Forest and Timber Industry co-chairs Tony Perrett, MP Gympie and Bruce Saunders MP Maryborough, join Curtis Pitt, parliamentary Speaker, and Timber Queensland CEO Mick Stephens, to celebrate the arrival of a 'live' Christmas tree at Parliament House.

all who walked through the annex.

"This tree represents a tradition that is commonly adopted in the northern hemisphere and other parts of the world, where Christmas trees are grown to provide a more aesthetic experience during this special time, and reflect our inherent affinity with plants and natural materials," Mr Stephens said.

"The real tree also removes carbon dioxide from the atmosphere; it grows and stores it in the stem and branches of the tree, highlighting the renewability and carbon-friendly nature of sustainably sourced trees," he said.

The Christmas tree was a radiata pine, commonly grown for Christmas trees around Australia due to its conical shape and form. While not a common commercial species in Queensland, it is grown in the southern



highlands where the cooler climate is more suited to the species.

"The tree is adorned with Queensland-grown hoop pine plywood ornaments. Araucaria cunninghamii is the only native softwood species in Australia to be commercialised for plantation timber production.

Meanwhile, real trees are also popping up across Canada and Marie-Paule Godin, a forester with Tree Canada, says it's better to cut down a real tree at Christmas than to assemble one from a box

"The message that cutting down trees is bad for the environment has been so ingrained in our collective psyche that it is understandable for people to think an artificial plastic Christmas tree is a better idea," she lamented.

There are almost 2000 farms in Canada that grow Christmas trees, and not just for home consumption. Canada exports about two million trees every year, while at the same times importing about \$60 million worth of artificial trees.

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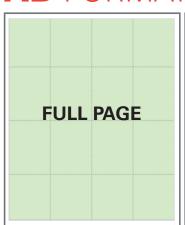


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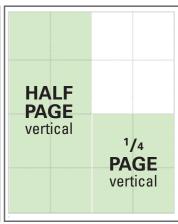
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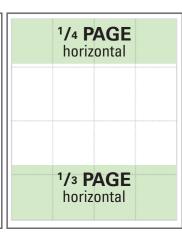
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