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COVER STORY P15

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# 5.46m ha of eucalypt plantations after Aussie initiative at Dongmen

## ‘Don’t forget those who dug the well when you take water from it’

DICK PEGG and KEVIN HARDING

FOUR Australians have returned from China after joining Chinese counterparts and friends in celebrating the 30th anniversary of the successful completion of the Dongmen State Forest Farm Eucalypt Afforestation Project.

Dick Pegg (project director and forester), his wife Haijia Li (Chinese forester on the project), Kevin Harding (timber utilisation and tree breeding adviser) and Paul Milham (project chemist) have all worked as consultants in Asia since the completion of the project.

They were joined by more than 50 old Chinese colleagues, friends and families in functions in Nanning, Dongmen and



*Old friends... Wei Ju and Dick Pegg (both 1934 vintage) inspect an 11-year-old hybrid eucalypt clonal plantation derived from crossing a selected tree from a E. urophylla seed lot from Alor Island, Indonesia with a selected pollen parent of E. grandis selected from a seed lot from Davies Creek near Mareeba in North Queensland.*

Beihai. They also visited the reasonably new pulp and cardboard mill of Stora Enso east of Beihai city.

The Dongmen project was located at Dongmen Forest Farm to the south of Nanning, the capital of Guangxi, China. The project ran from 1981 to 1989 and was managed by

the Queensland Department of Forestry on behalf of AusAID.

The goal of the project was “to develop the wood production through the development of fast-growing species in southern China”. There were always three resident staff living in China

for the whole project involving a total of eight people; 18 specialists were involved on a short term basis.

Well known Queensland foresters Ted Mannion (1982-85 and 1988-89) and Keith Gould (1985-88) were resident team leaders.

The project established 60 experiments and 1400 ha of demonstration forest. Basic to the project was the demonstration of site preparation and fertilising techniques along with the scientific testing of species, provenances, families and clones.

The project evolved from being a demonstration of modern forestry techniques to be an intensive tree improvement exercise. A total of 37 species were tested and hybrids made using controlled pollination of selected parents. This resulted in a complete change of species

Cont P 3

**“A COMPLETE CHANGE OF SPECIES FOR OPERATIONAL USE**



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From P 2

for operational use.

In 1981, there were 400,000 ha of eucalypt plantation in China. Today the area is 5.46 million ha – more than 80% of which is planted with Dongmen hybrid clones. The most productive clones are hybrids of *Eucalyptus urophylla* (which comes from Indonesia) and *E. grandis* but there are also a few good clones on *E. urophylla* and *E. tereticornis*. The latter are mainly used in the more coastal areas where the soil is sandier than further north and typhoons are more frequent.

Dongmen clones are also planted in Vietnam, Malaysia, Lao and Singapore. The rotation age in 1981 was 15 years or more with an MAI of 8 – 10 m<sup>3</sup>/ha/a; today the rotation is 6-8 years with an average MAI of about 25m<sup>3</sup>/ha/a.

The annual cut of eucalypt wood in China is now in excess of 64 million cub m a year – and increasing. The total value of output from eucalypt plantation forestry today is in excess of \$200 billion annually. The Australian cost of the Dongmen project was \$6.3 million (\$17.2 million at 2019 values) and the Chinese cost RMB6.4 million (maybe about RMB30 million today).

China has progressed at an exceedingly fast rate over the past 30 years and progression in the eucalypt industry has kept pace with the rest of the country. In the past four years new veneer, ply and particleboard plants have sprouted along the road



**Load of eucalyptus veneer logs out of the Dongmen Forest Farm in Guangxi, China.** (Photo courtesy Dick Pegg)

to Dongmen – all based on eucalypt wood.

Undoubtedly, the continuation of work after the end of the project is very gratifying. Dongmen has the biggest base of eucalypt breeding material in China and probably in Asia.

The Dongmen nursery produces more than 30 million plants each year, most from six clones which derive from the controlled pollination program in 1987. Several of the younger people who worked on the project have become professors while most of the older people have now retired.

About 70% of eucalypts planted in China today target production of logs for sale to veneer mills; the veneer log market is the most profitable product for the grower.

At harvest, the very small (< 6 cm small end diameter) and/or crooked logs go to fibreboard, woodchips for pulp production or may be used as building poles (during construction they prop up other scaffolding and planks) and the suitable size and quality material is rotary veneered on chuckless lathes.

Modern lathes can peel down to a core of about 18 mm but the cores from the older machines are in the 20-25 mm range. Recovery from rotary peeling is in the range

of 40-60%, depending on log quality and size.

Since 2000, China has been an exporter of plywood and from about 2003 has been the largest producer of plywood in the world.

Eucalypt veneers are produced mostly in the southern regions of Guangxi, Guangdong, Hainan and Fujian. Production is largely a cottage industry with in

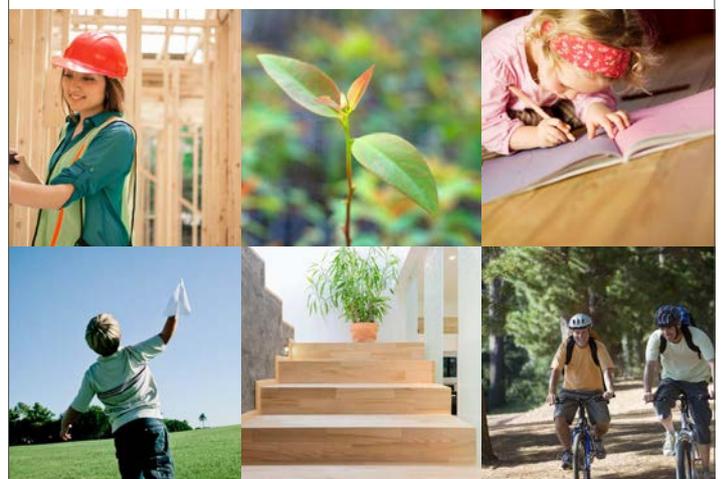
excess of 15,000 veneer mills, mainly family-owned, operated by state forest farms or by village communities.

The long-lasting achievements of the Dongmen project are well recognised and appreciated in China.

Comments by Ian Blanden, the Australian who is manager of Stora Enso in Guangxi, are pertinent: "We are also extremely lucky to have been able to take advantage of the great work performed by you all during the Dongmen Project. As Tao Shan, our chief of Government Affairs said: 'Don't forget those who dug the well, when you take water from it!'"

It may seem strange that the Queensland Department of Forestry has been destroyed by the ALP to appease greenie allies, but the work done by staff of that department continues to bear fruit in China.

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“ANNUAL EUCALYPT WOOD CUT IN EXCESS OF 64M CUB M

# Authorities burn a forest fire solution

## Back-flip on back-burn put down to ‘environmental concerns’

JIM BOWDEN

EVEN the NSW Rural Fire Service, an august organisation with a fine record of fighting bushfires and saving lives, can make some silly mistakes.

Officers of the Private Forestry Service Queensland, a non-profit association working for the past 18 years to improve the quality and viability of the private forest resource in Australia, were denied access last winter to carry out a critical prescribed burn on a 1000 ha woodlot it manages south of Casino in North NSW

The Rural Fire Service, apparently, won't allow any back-burning in forests within an eight-year period since the

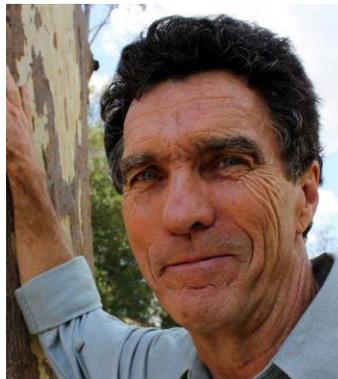
last hazard reduction.

“This beggars belief and borders on environmental madness,” said Sean Ryan, executive officer, PFSQ.

“Fires still raging in northern NSW and feeding on ‘forest fuel’ loads have totally wiped out the 1000 ha of ‘managed’ private forest and went on to destroy many thousands more – all up in smoke when early back-burning would have greatly reduced the damage to forests and property,” he said.

“No alternative plan was put forward; our permit for controlled burning was revoked, we believe, because of ‘environmental concerns’.

Fuel reduction – also known



**Sean Ryan... forest fuel loads have decimated private forests.**

variously as prescribed, planned, controlled or hazard-reduction burning – is the targeted burning of bushland to control fire behaviour.

The idea is to reduce the intensity of subsequent fires at the same place by removing fine surface fuels such as leaf litter. Reducing these hazards increases the window of opportunity for fire fighters to control bushfires.

Already this fire season, six people have died and more than 1000 homes have been lost across NSW and Queensland.

The largest conflagration, the ‘mega fire’ at Gospers Mountain near Sydney’s north-western outskirts, was likely to burn for weeks until substantial rain falls, not expected before the end of January or early February.

The NSW Bureau of Meteorology says the largest fires simply could not be extinguished by water-bombing aircraft or firefighting

crews on the ground.

“The massive NSW fires are in some cases just too big to put out at the moment ... they’re pumping out vast amounts of smoke which is filling the air, turning the sky orange and even appearing like significant rain on our radars,” the bureau said.

The bureau forecasts grim weeks ahead, with strong winds forecast for fire-affected areas and no rain relief in sight. A months-long drought in eastern Australia has left bushland tinder dry and prone to ignition, especially from dry lightning strikes.

Conditions had eased off in Queensland, a spokeswoman for Fire and Emergency Services said;

A high fire danger rating is in place for the Darling Downs and Granite Belt to the Cape York Peninsula.

There have been reports of severe forest damage at plantations managed by HQ Plantations at Jimna in the Somerset Region and Pechey-Esk on the Darling Downs.

Meanwhile, instead of being home for the holidays, Canadian firefighters are heading to Australia to help battle wildfires. A delegation of wildfire experts has embarked on a month-long trip to aid in the country’s crisis.

The group of 21 wildfire suppression experts left Vancouver last Tuesday and are not expected to return until early January. Seven of the experts are from British Columbia’s Wildfire Service and include two highly-trained



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**“NSW FOREST FIRES JUST TOO BIG TO PUT OUT**

Cont P 8

# Surf life saving club re-build a challenge for timber in a challenging environment

PORTSEA Surf Life Saving Club describes its location as “one of the most unforgiving environments in Australia”, and the Mount Levy Beach it overlooks as “challenging”.

People may recall it was from nearby Cheviot Beach that Prime Minister Harold Holt never returned after his regular morning swim in 1967.

Since 1949, Portsea SLSC members have been responsible for saving more than 4500 lives on the beach and have assisted some 1500 young men and women to gain Surf Life Saving Australia’s coveted bronze medallion.

Since 1965 the club has maintained a patrol of ‘Portsea Back Beach’ as it is better known, to protect local and visiting swimmers. It also provides a range of educational and junior development programs

“NURTURING LIFESAVERS OF THE FUTURE



*Portsea Surf Life Saving Club... natural colours and textures of the hardwood blend seamlessly into the beachscape.*

for children designed to inform them of the dangers that exist, not only in the notoriously unpredictable swells of Bass Strait, but in all aquatic environments.

It was hoped the programs would also nurture the life savers of the future. However, all the activities of the club were becoming increasingly difficult due to the limitations of the existing clubhouse. Originally constructed in 1960 from a shipping container and upgraded in 1972, it could no longer meet the needs

of the club, let alone provide additional services for community and school groups and capitalise on its spectacular location as a venue for events.

Perched on a very exposed cliff-top, the site posed many challenges and it took two years to demolish the old clubhouse. In a postcode where the average house price sits above \$2 million, the local community raised \$7 million of the \$9 million construction cost which is testament to their support and commitment of the club

and its activities.

Built by Ireland Brown Constructions, timber is the real feature of this building – but not just any timber would have withstood the constant wind, sand and water this exposed location delivers.

The specifications of the design and extreme weather conditions called for large, commercial grade blackbutt timber, renowned for its durability and modern look. The natural colours and textures of the hardwood also

*Cont P 6*



Image courtesy of the \_shoot\_ project, the 2018 Responsible Wood Photo Competition Winner

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From P 5

sit comfortably in this coastal location, blending seamlessly into the beach-scape.

Boral Timber was selected as equal to the task of supplying the enormous hand-cut blackbutt battens which wrap around the entire façade. They are also used in the pergola, which features laminated blackbutt beams overhead, as well as in the expansive decking.

The beams are made from Class 1 durable timber compliant with the bushfire BAL- 29 requirement and also have chain of custody certification through Responsible Wood which ensures the timber has been sustainably sourced and managed right through to the end user.

Leon Travis, general manager, sales and distribution, at Boral Timber, explains the advantage



*Fit for purpose... enormous hand-cut blackbutt battens wrap around the entire façade.*

of certification: “We have implemented Responsible Wood chain of custody to support sustainable forest management in Australia. This ensures all Boral Timber

**“ ALL PRODUCTS TRACED FROM PROCESING TO DISTRIBUTION ”**

manufacturing sites are certified; all products can be traced from processing through to distribution.”

The dramatic location wasn't without its challenges for Boral either. Access to the cliff was limited and uneasy. There was only a single and extremely steep ramp leading to the site.

Mike Bullows, site

manager at Ireland Brown Constructions, said deliveries to the site were tough.

“We had very limited access down to the beach so we had to coordinate different-sized trucks just to be able to fit down the road,” he said.

The striking new two-storey building was completed and opened in April.

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**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](http://www.gottsteintrust.org) Inquires [gottsteinsecretary@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:austimber2020@afca.asn.au) Follow AUSTimber on [www.austimber.org.au](http://www.austimber.org.au)

**7-8: MobileTECH Ag 2020 – Rotorua, NZ.** International keynote Dr Mike Briers, CEO, Australian-based Food Agility. "We are on the cusp of the 4th agricultural revolution and unlike those that came before, this digital revolution will bring producers and consumers closer together," says Dr Briers. "The real question, however, is who will be the builders and who will be the bystanders?" Jamie Azzopardi, the Oceania head of IBM's The Weather Company, will also deliver an important keynote. The company is one of the world's largest weather forecasters and has made significant advancements through IBM's Watson Machine learning platform. IBM has just launched a new weather modelling service that uses supercomputing and big data to provide global forecasts down to an area as little as 3 km. The system issues

12 trillion pieces of weather data every day and process forecasts every hour. Russell Craig, national technology officer, Microsoft NZ will return for the 2020 event. While artificial intelligence (AI) can be an overused buzzword, there is no argument that this will be a game-changer for the primary sector. MobileTECH Ag will be a great forum to understand how new technologies powered by data and AI are being adopted by agribusinesses. Cloud-based AI is the driving force behind Microsoft's FarmBeats initiative, which has already seen action within New Zealand's agricultural community. The system captures large amounts of data from feeds throughout the farm and uses AI and machine learning to translate that data into real insights for the growers. Contact Ken Wilson, program manager on +61 4 5226 2337 or email [ken.wilson@innovatek.co.nz](mailto:ken.wilson@innovatek.co.nz) Visit [www.mobiletech.events](http://www.mobiletech.events)

**APRIL 2020**

**15-16: Timber & Technology.**

**The Zero Carbon Future. Timber Offsite Construction 2020 Conference & Exhibition – Crown Promenade, Melbourne, Vic. Australia.** The only national event exclusively devoted to design, manufacture and construction of offsite timber and mass wood buildings. The theme reflects the emerging marriage of timber and technology, and the need for future net zero carbon buildings with timber contributing through carbon storage benefits. Program sessions will include world leading experts with award-winning architects, international and local engineers, major building companies, and prominent suppliers to offsite construction markets. Exhibition offers suppliers opportunity to access expanding construction markets with a booth display. Contact Kevin Ezard on 0419 538 638 or email [kevin@timberoffsiteconstruction.com](mailto:kevin@timberoffsiteconstruction.com) New website: [www.timberoffsiteconstruction.com](http://www.timberoffsiteconstruction.com)



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**DECEMBER**

**16-17: Forest Landscape Restoration and the Bonn Challenge in Eastern and South-East Europe – Belgrade, Serbia.** Informing on the Bonn Challenge (launched in 2011 and extended by the 2014 New York Declaration on Forests, a global effort to bring 150 million ha of deforested and degraded land into restoration by 2020 and 350 million ha by 2030), and to gather input for a study on forest landscape restoration. For further information see: [www.unece.org/](http://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](http://www.danaevents.co.nz/2020china) or contact Julie Bell [admin@dana.co.nz](mailto:admin@dana.co.nz)

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**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](http://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/](http://www.events.risiinfo.com/investment-conference/) or contact [conferences@risi.com](mailto: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](http://www.danaevents.co.nz/2020russia) or contact Julie Bell [admin@dana.co.nz](mailto: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](mailto: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/](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:admin@dana.co.nz)

**• Please send any events listings to John Halkett via email: [johnh@timberandforestryenews.com](mailto:johnh@timberandforestryenews.com)**

# Fire intensity has massive impact on wildlife

From P 4

air tanker supervisors and a heavy equipment branch director.

Chief scientist at the Australian Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Dr Bidda Jones said that, beyond the human cost of the fires, the widespread blazes would have a "major impact of biodiversity."

"Depending on the intensity of the fire, it will have had a massive impact on wildlife," she said. "And not just on those iconic species like



*Sharing the load... members of the British Columbia Wildlife Service are joining Australia's bushfire battle.*

koalas. You have to think of this in terms of how it affects the entire ecosystem.

"You have animals relying on the eucalyptus trees for their primary diet – greater gliders are another example of that. Then you have a whole range of other species living off nectar or the insects in

that environment, and there's going to be a considerable loss of insect life in those fires."

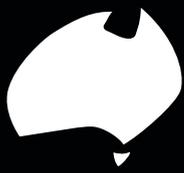
Dr Jones said animals often preferred old large trees for nesting, the trees most likely to be destroyed by the fires.

"And then with fires that have been burning even at low

intensity, leaf litter and all the understorey is gone. That's providing food and refuge to animals there and the animals they would eat.

"So if you look at the overall picture ... the damage has been so extensive, it's going to have a major impact on biodiversity."

**“CANADIANS HELP AUSSIES IN WIDE FIRE BATTLE**



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# Importers busy – and more to come

## Growing contributor to domestic timber product consumption

THE activities of the Australian Timber Importers Federation expanded during 2019 in line with the increasing percentage of the domestic timber product consumption that is made up by imported timber products.

ATIF general manager John Halkett said this had been notable in relation to structural softwoods and a wide range of engineered timber products and components.

He said a significant amount of the ATIF effort during the year related to activities that lie within the responsibilities of the federal Department of Agriculture and Water Resource, more specifically the International Forest Policy, Plant Import Operation and Brown Marmorated Stink Bug (BMSB) sections.

ATIF has an ongoing dialogue with Forest and Wood Products Australia related to the compulsory levies paid on all timber product imports. These levies, along with matched federal government funding, support important research, technical and marketing activities.

Mr Halkett said ATIF



**Fostering international timber trade relationships... Doug Donaldson, British Columbia Minister of Forests, and John Halkett, general manager, ATIF.**

continued to be the first point of contact for timber product exporting countries.

“Over the past 12 months, discussions have taken place with embassies, high commissions, trade associations and timber product exporting companies from Canada, Russia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Chile, New Zealand, Peru and several European countries, with an emphasis on activities related to new supplies of structural softwoods and some engineered wood products,” Mr Halkett said.

In addition to matters related to the federal level of government, other ATIF activities over the past 12

months have included a submission, reporting and participation in effort directed at difficulties and escalating costs associated with port congestion and charges, notably in the Port of Botany, Sydney; the preparation of a compliance guide related to Australian building codes and standards for imported treated and untreated structural softwoods; and ongoing reporting on market conditions.

Mr Halkett noted that an interesting aspect of 2019 has been the strengthened international interest in the Australian market as evidenced by the acquisition of the Swedish Vida Wood

group by Canadian mega company Canfor and their now physical presence in Australia, plus the acquisition of the long-standing and respected Gunnersen company by Singapore-based global timber products company Forest1.

ATIF’s last board meeting for 2019 was held in Melbourne last week.

Victorian wholesalers and importers joined board members for a lunch hosted by Forest1. Welcoming guests, managing director Ian Fankhanel announced that ATIF chairman Nils Koren had been appointed as a non-executive director of Forest1

During the meeting, Dr Alastair Woodard, Wood Products Victoria, who leads the Mid-rise Sector Market Implementation Group, gave an update on the mid-rise lightweight framing building program.

Also, the board was briefed on the new Wood Timber Framing: The Ultimate Renewable promotion campaign by campaign chair Marita Pierce-Indugula of Timberlink.

• ATIF AGM photos, P 11.



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1/ Lunch break in Melbourne... ATIF board member and CEO of Stora Enso Timber Australia, Darrin Wheeler; managing director, Wright Forest Products, Ashley Wright, chair of the Timber Framing: The Ultimate Renewable campaign Marita Pierce-Indugula, and ATIF board member and managing director, Woodhouse Timber Co, Chris Woodhouse.

2/ Chatting over lunch... Ann Sanfey, Timber Merchants Association, and Australia's leading timber engineer Craig Kay from Tilling Timber.

3/ Lunch trio... Brett Wilkinson, EGGER Australasia, Jacinta Colley, ATIF board member and national sales manager, Vida Wood Australia, and Meyer Timber's Michael Moorhead.

4/ Dan Fankhanel, managing director, Forest1, congratulates ATIF chair Nils Koren on his appointment as a non-executive director of the company.

5/ Comparing notes... Andrew Fraser, director, Evolution Forest Products, and Jonathan Holt, CEO, Simmonds Group.



2



3



4



5

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# The bear facts: Russia largest softwood exporter

RUSSIA surpassed Canada as the world's largest exporter of softwood lumber in 2019 and is on track to ship almost 32 million cub m of lumber this year, representing 23% of globally-traded lumber.

Wood Resources International says lumber production has fallen in both the US and Canada this year because of disappointingly low activity in the US housing market and meagre demand for North American lumber in overseas markets.

Lumber import prices to China have fallen for three consecutive quarters and in the 3Q/19 hit their lowest level since 2016, says the report.

Germany's exports of softwood lumber are likely

to reach a 10-year high this year. The biggest increases in shipments have been to China, the US, the UK and India.

The gross margins for lumber producers in Finland have fallen more rapidly than those of their Swedish competitors during 2018 and 2019.

A plentiful supply of logs coupled with declining demand moved sawlog prices downward in most major markets around the world in the 3Q/19. The biggest price reductions came in Central Europe, where storm-damaged logs flooded the market.



With falling sawlog prices throughout the world, the Global Sawlog Price Index took a hit in the 3Q/19 and had its third largest q-o-q decline in 10 years.

The European Sawlog Price Index, which has been in steady decline for two years, fell another 5% in the 3Q/19.

Prices for softwood

pulp logs and wood chips either remained unchanged or declined in the 3Q/19 compared to previous year. The biggest price reductions were seen in Austria, Germany and Sweden.

The only region with higher prices in the 3Q/19 was western Canada, where pulp log prices increased by 10% from the previous quarter.

The Softwood Fibre Price Index fell by 2.2% q-o-q in the 3Q/19 and hit its lowest level in two years. The Hardwood Fibre Price Index has been fairly stable over the past two years. In the 3Q/19, the HFPI experienced a slight decline from the previous quarter but increased about a 1% from the 3Q/18.

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# New Forests appoints NZ property manager

FOREST investment manager New Forests has announced the appointment of Forest Enterprises Growth Ltd as property manager for its New Zealand forestry assets in the Wairarapa and Southland areas.

Forest Enterprises, based in Masterton, commenced its role on December 1.

Matt Wakelin, who recently joined New Forests Tauranga office as manager, operations and investments for New Zealand, welcomed the appointment.

“With Forest Enterprises engaged to provide property management services, we are well placed for the next steps in implementing our strategic plans for these forestry estates,” Mr Wakelin said.

“New Forests continuously seeks to bolster the management of our estates by



**Matt Crapp... common objectives in supply chain.**



**Matt Wakelin... implementing strategic forestry plans.**



**Bert Hughes... partnership will benefit stakeholders.**

bringing sustainability into the core of forestry investment. We are confident that this new relationship with Forest Enterprises will align property management with our ongoing efforts to support and strengthen local industry and supply chains in New Zealand.”

New Forests director of operation, Matt Crapp said Forest Enterprises and New Forests shared common objectives in the supply chain – to improve efficiency

and safety through increased coordination and scale.

Forest Enterprises CEO Bert Hughes looks forward to building on the existing strong relationship between the companies.

“After collaborating with New Forests and forming Log Distribution Ltd earlier this year, this is another great example of a partnership that will benefit both community and industry stakeholders,” Mr Hughes said.

“With more than 50 years’ experience in the market, we are eager to support not only New Forests’ operations but also its commitment to responsible investment and sustainable management of the land.”

New Forests is an Australian-based international sustainable forestry investment manager that has been operating in New Zealand since 2005. New Forests has a New Zealand office in Tauranga and manages investments on the North and South Island, including the Timberlink sawmill business in Blenheim.

New Forests and its subsidiaries manage investments in around 550,000 net hectares of forests and timberlands across a global portfolio of nearly 1 million ha of forestry and conservation investments.

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# Awards reflect increasing innovation in the applications of wood in design

## ‘Timber buildings are once again coming into their own’

MICHAEL SMITH

WITH stage two judging of the 2020 NZ Wood-Resene Timber Design Awards just days away, we profile more of the outstanding entries – following our initial preview of the awards in last week’s edition.

NZ Wood promotions manager Debbie Fergie says various technologies are providing new opportunities for designers, “which shows that timber buildings are once again coming into their own. We look forward to even more architects and engineers confidently specifying timber for a wide range of applications within the built environment.”

A standout among the entries for the Residential Design Award is Tuarangi, by TOA Architects, located on a constricted site in the inner-city Auckland suburb of Grey Lynn. The dwelling features exposed interior wall and floor panels finished in natural oils, solid timber stairs and a kitchen benchtop made of swamp rimu.

The project became an exercise in pushing the boundaries of cross-laminated timber construction; 42 engineered timber panels were made from pine at a Nelson factory and erected on site in just 10 days.

Among the finalists for the External Structure Design category is Saltwater Creek Cycleway Bridge, by JTB Architects. Connecting Nelson city with its waterfront, the timber bridge



**1/ Suarangi... pushing the boundaries of cross-laminated timber construction.**  
Photo: David Straight

**2/ Saltwater Creek Cycleway Bridge... the timber design met the local council’s key requirements.** Photo: Virginia Woolf

was able to fulfil the local council’s key requirements, notably to ensure cost effectiveness, sustainability and a low-maintenance regime, given the bridge’s marine setting.

The 30-metre-long structure – consisting of radiata decking, glulam beams and garapa side slats – was put together offsite and placed carefully on concrete supports on either side of the creek, thus avoiding any environmental impact on the waterway.

Notable among the entries for the NZ Specialty Timber Award (for locally grown alternative species, excluding



Douglas fir and radiata pine) is the James Hay Theatre floor. Its wonderfully expressive heart rimu was sourced from Westland and then carefully dried, machined and installed by Timbers of New Zealand.

The installation was part of a project to refurbish three performance areas of the Christchurch Town Hall, which sustained serious damage as a result of the 2011 earthquake.

The awards have, on occasion, cast a wider net to include builds from the South Pacific. Of special interest in the Public Design category is Star Mountain Plaza in Papua

**“ENGINEERS CONFIDENTLY SPECIFYING TIMBER”**

Cont P 16



1/ **LJames Hay Theatre... the timber floor was part of a wider refurbishment project.** Photo: Simon Laurie  
 2/ **Haus Espresso... a spacious and airy container-sized café.** Photo: Jamie Armstrong

From P 15

New Guinea, which features a complex timber roof structure designed by New-Zealand-based Kirk Roberts Consulting.

This integrated commercial development in Port Moresby includes a convention centre, hotel and retail spaces, and is based on the traditional

Pacific longhouse.

The timber roof components were manufactured in New Zealand and shipped for onsite assembly, part of a successful coordination of multiple elements that reflected the project’s international scope. The design includes a clear span, glue-laminated arch portal

frame and impressively finished visual connections.

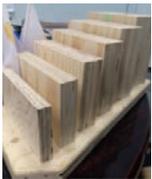
Also of note (in the Commercial Design category) is Haus Espresso in Christchurch, by Dalman Architects – a surprisingly spacious and airy, container-sized café, which took just under eight weeks to construct. This modest build is a fine example of the

versatility of wood and its ability to elevate function and form by creating warm and inviting interior and exterior surfaces.

*On the cover: The Star Mountain Plaza, the PNG entry in the 2020 NZ Wood-Resene Timber Design Awards, features a complex timber roof structure based on the traditional Pacific longhouse.*



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# Married bliss: timber and technology

THE marriage of timber and technology is powerfully transforming building methods around the world.

A new generation of building design, manufacturing and construction practice is using offsite technologies with engineered wood. It's being called the 'new concrete'.

This trend is at the forefront of the Timber Offsite Construction 2020 Conference and Exhibition, the only national event for the design, manufacture and construction of offsite timber and mass wood buildings.

It will be held Monday and Tuesday, June 15 and 16, at Crown Promenade in Melbourne.

The event theme 'Timber & Technology. The Zero

Carbon Future' reflects the emerging marriage of timber and technology, and the need for future net zero carbon buildings, with timber contributing through carbon storage.

Program sessions will include many of the world's leading experts, award-winning architects, international and local engineers, major building companies, and prominent suppliers to offsite construction markets.

Speakers from USA, Canada, UK, Europe and local experts will present updates on global developments and technology initiatives

## Timber Offsite Construction

in four topic themes – building design influences, construction productivity, manufacturing and technology, and building projects in wood.

Project panel sessions will explore a range of timber and wood building projects, featuring presentations by key professions in design, manufacture and construction, along with discussion on the challenges and solutions developed.

The 2020 event is expected to draw more than 300 delegates from various industry sectors

such as building design, building construction, timber and engineered wood, prefabricated manufacturing and building materials supply.

A new feature for 2020 is delegate registration for half-day topic themes enabling limited times to attend specific interest sessions at a lower cost.

The exhibition booth display area offers suppliers access to expanding construction markets, and an unparalleled opportunity for networking and establishing business contacts.

Event organiser Frame Australia will advise program details and delegate registration in February from the new website [www.timberoffsiteconstruction.com](http://www.timberoffsiteconstruction.com)



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# Library of tree DNA to protect world's forests

BEADS of sweat form on Cynel Moundounga's brow as he repeatedly rams a steel rod into an Okoume tree.

Each strike of his mallet cuts through the relative quiet of the world's second-largest tropical rainforest. When the researcher switches to a sledgehammer 10 minutes later, the echo grows even louder.

A bystander might assume that Moundounga's relentless hammering was damaging what is one of Gabon's most commonly logged trees, but his work in the Congo Basin is not only harmless – it could protect trees around the world against the illegal logging that threatens the planet's forests.

Moundounga is an independent consultant collecting tree samples for



**Forest protector... Cynel Moundounga in the field taking tree samples.**

World Forest ID, a global project that is trying to create an ironclad way to determine the origin of wood products. If successful, it could transform the timber sector by making it easier to prosecute illegal loggers.

"Within 10 years, we think that with any wood product you will be able to test and know where it came from," said one of the project's co-leaders Phil Guillery, a supply chain integrity director at the Forest Stewardship Council.

"This is the first time where we have the ability of irrefutable evidence that can be... presented in a court."

International agreements and national laws restrict the trade in certain tree species from certain countries. To enforce these restrictions, it's vital to be able to identify exactly where timber comes from, but most illegal loggers get away with the crime because law enforcement officials have such a difficult time tracing a wood product

back to its origins.

An estimated 15-30% of globally-traded timber violates either national or international laws, according to Interpol.

Forests are not only home to 80% of the world's land-based species, but they act as a carbon sink by removing CO2 from the Earth's atmosphere. Tropical tree cover loss causes more carbon emissions each year than 85 million cars would in their entire lifetime, according to World Resources Institute.

But Guillery believes World Forest ID will be able to eliminate this ambiguity. By combining cutting-edge science with a comprehensive tree library, the team aims to create a universal resource that can be used in court.

(CNN)



## Cousin Jim's

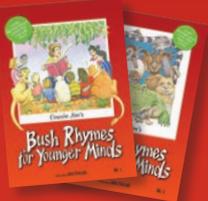
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# Mitsubishi Outlander Exceed: 'we had it all just like Bogie and Bacall'

THE 1981 hit song by Bertie Higgins flowed through my head as I drove down the palm-fringed road to Calypso Bay ... "We had it all, just like Bogie and Bacall. Starring in our old late, late show ... sailing away to Key Largo."

It's not too difficult to transfer yourself to the Florida Keys off the southern coast of Florida when you visit this delightful 'hidden' gem – a canal estate near Jacob's Well on the navigation channel between the Broadwater and Moreton Bay, less than 60 km from Brisbane.

With three 'boaties' on board the Mitsubishi Outlander Exceed docked at the Calypso Bay marina near a flotilla of very expensive yachts as we prepared for a day on the bay.

The mid-sized Outlander SUV is one of the success stories for the Japanese manufacturer's Australian operation offering a wide specification range that covers everything from the most basic four-wheel drive, 2-cylinder version all the way up to the luxurious plug-in hybrid model.

The Exceed tops the range and is available with three all-



**Cruising.. the family SUV Mitsubishi Exceed made its way to Calypso Bay.**

wheel-drive powertrains – the 2.4-litre petrol CVT, the diesel with a six-speed automatic and the plug-in hybrid with a price range of \$42,290 to \$53,990.

Our test red diamond Exceed diesel lists at \$47,730 (rrp).

Outlander has a 2.2-litre, 4-cylinder engine that produces 110 Kw at 3500 rpm and torque of 360 Nm at 1500-2750 rpm. This runs through a 6-speed automatic transmission with manual shift facility. Economy is rated at 6.2L/100 km depending, up or down, on freeway or city driving.

Previous models had a

clever 4WD system, but this model has a much simplified electronic controlled AWD system. Three driving modes balance fuel economy and driving performance. AWD ECO (fuel-efficient mode), AWD AUTO (normal mode) and AWD LOCK (high ground covering ability).

The Exceed comes complete with 18 in. alloys, six-speaker sound system, reversing camera, central locking with automatic door

**“VERSATILE AND FLEXIBLE FAMILY SUV”**

lock, climate control, active cruise control, leather gearshift and steering wheel, auto headlights and wipers. Add to this partial leather interior with micro-suede inserts, keyless entry and start, electric front seats and folding power mirrors and electro-chromatic rear vision mirror.

The Apple CarPly and Android Auto makes up for the lack of sat nav and there's a six-speaker DAB radio, Bluetooth and 7 in. touch screen.

Whether a five or seven seater, the Outlander offers good storage and load capacity. Only the LS and Exceed models get seatback pockets on both sides.

Luggage capacity is reliant on the number of seats in use. With all three rows upright, the boot is a just 128 litres. This rises to 477 litres with the third row folded, but if both rear rows are stowed you have a hefty 1608 litres.

The Outlander is built with family versatility and flexibility in mind – and safety... seven airbags, blind spot and lane departing warning, forward collision mitigation with pedestrian detection and rear cross traffic alert.

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## HEAD OFFICE

Timber & Forestry e-news  
PO Box 69, Potts Point, NSW 1335,  
Australia  
Phone | +61 (0) 417 421 187

## PUBLISHERS

John Halkett | +61 (0) 417 421 187  
johnh@timberandforestryenews.com  
Dennis Neilson | +64 (0) 7 349 2764  
dennisn@timberandforestryenews.com

## MANAGING EDITOR

Jim Bowden | +61 (0) 401 312 087

## ADVERTISING

John Halkett | +61 (0) 417 421 187  
johnh@timberandforestryenews.com  
Jim Bowden | +61 (0) 401 312 087  
cancon@bigpond.net.au

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