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ISSUE **598** | **March 5, 2020**

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Building with wood in bushfire-prone areas

COVER STORY P9

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Global ambitions set as Australia's largest forest research group opens

Institute will train future leaders, inform on international policies

THE largest forestry research group in Australia was officially opened today at Queensland's University of the Sunshine Coast, banding together 80 experts eager to protect and restore the world's precious forest resources.

Director of the new USC Forest Research Institute Professor John Herbohn said the collaboration came at a time when the world was becoming increasingly aware of the vital importance of forests for life on Earth.

"It's becoming more urgent by the day that we come together to find the best way to tackle bushfire management, rainforest degradation and take advantage of the carbon sequestration capacity of forests and sustainability of the timber industry, among other challenges," Professor Herbohn said.

The institute consolidates USC's existing Forest Industries Research Centre,



Professor John Herbohn... forests vital for sustainable agriculture and food security.

the Tropical Forests and People Research Centre and the National Centre for Timber Durability and Design Life.

"Forest research has grown exponentially at USC in the

“MORE THAN A QUARTER OF THE WORLD'S POPULATION RELIES ON FORESTS

past five years, so the time is right to join forces," Professor Herbohn said.

"USC already has a critical mass that uniquely positions us to work with experts, government departments, industry and community members to tackle the complex challenges we face globally.

"Domestically, we can see the issues with fire management, and globally we see the substantial degradation and

deforestation, particularly across the tropics and the urgent concerns this raises about the amount of carbon this puts into the atmosphere.

"In recent years there had been a real push for reforestation, so the USC Tropical Forests and People Research Centre had been looking at better ways of doing that, how the trees can be protected after planting, as well as the role forests play in carbon sequestration.

"The centre has notably been looking into biofuels and sustainable management of industrial plantations, while the timber durability and design life group seeks to find better ways of using timber to reduce the need for replacement."

Professor Herbohn said forests were vital for sustainable agriculture and food security and more than a quarter of the world's population relied on forest

Cont P 3



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From P 2

resources for their livelihoods and energy.

"Forests are at the heart of a sustainable planet," he said.

"Our challenges include ending poverty and hunger, responding to climate change, building resilient communities, achieving inclusive growth and sustainably managing the Earth's natural resources."

The institute brings together 80 experts who will also help train the next generation of leaders and inform international forest policies.

Among those joining the institute is Research Fellow Dr Nestor Gregorio, whose work on low-cost forestry techniques and reforestation recently featured in the Washington Post.

Also on the team is Professor Robin Chazdon, an expert in tropical forest restoration, who recently published in Nature journal about the high potential for restoration in the Amazon, especially in areas that have fairly recently been cleared or burnt and have not been used for agricultural production.

USC Deputy Vice-Chancellor (research and



Dr Nestor Gregorio...
low-cost forestry techniques.



Professor Robin Chazdon...
expert on tropical forests.



Professor Roland De Marco...
benefits of being Australia-based.

innovation) Professor Roland De Marco said the institute had the immediate benefit of being based in Australia.

"Australia's forest and wood products industries are recognised as among the most innovative in the world, and USC is delivering the latest research to support it," Professor De Marco said.

"We also have extensive networks and global partnerships with leading industry bodies, government agencies and forest and

wood products companies."

The launch event included keynotes from internationally renowned speakers, presenting on various aspects of forests and forest research as well as research funding agencies and key Australian industry and government partners.

Institute researchers also presented their current work along with a poster competition and a Three Minute Thesis (3MT) competition.

Mass timber: be flexible, keep ahead of the changes

THE mass timber building industry is in a "fast, rapid, evolutionary era," that could leave many proponents today licking their wounds on the sidelines tomorrow if they don't keep abreast of changes to materials, systems and designs.

That is the word from Dominique Briand who said that designers and builders need to be flexible to new ideas and approaches to ensure that the mass timber industry can keep up to its competition.

Briand is president and general manager of Structure Fusion Inc., a Quebec-based company which specialises in the design, manufacture and installation of mass timber and hybrid structures.

Speaking to a seminar audience at a Wood WORKS! Ontario conference in Toronto, Briand said efforts were needed from everyone involved in the mass timber industry to improve the way the industry operated.

"That could include sawmill

operators, engineered timber fabricators, conception teams (who meet with architects, engineers and clients to plan jobs and design the structures) and prefabrication companies," he said.

He said currently most engineered timber manufacturers also doubled as the project designer for clients.

"I think in the future we are going to have to see a separation into different companies to achieve this end because manufacturers have a 'materials-based' focus while designers have a 'solutions-based' objective."

Briand said designers who want to improve their products in order to compete with other material designs (concrete and steel, for example) need to find partners in the field.

He said much of the industry was built around CLT. "But systems are becoming more and more complex; you have post-tensioning, new types of connectors..."

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WELL done! 25 King reaches platinum level for sustainable design in buildings

Exposed timber structures create contemporary, creative environment

AUSTRALIA'S tallest engineered timber office building, 25 King, has claimed the title of Queensland's first WELL Core and Shell Certification at the Platinum level, complementing its 6-star Green Star Design and As Built rating, representing world leadership in sustainable design.

The prestigious distinction was awarded through IWBI's WELL Building Standard, the premier building standard to focus on enhancing people's health and wellness through the buildings where we live, work and play.

25 King earned the distinction based on seven

Accepting the WELL Platinum rating... Johnny Incampo, assistant development manager, commercial, development, Lendlease, Jack Noonan, vice-president, Australia and New Zealand - International WELL Building Institute, Matthew Miller, development director (Queensland), Lendlease, Jeremy Mansfield, sustainability manager (Old/NT), Lendlease, Lee Walters, construction manager, Lendlease, and Andrew Scerri, national sustainability manager, development, Lendlease.

Photo: AJ Moller Photography

categories of building performance – air, water, light, nourishment, fitness, comfort and mind.

Designed and manufactured by Lendlease and owned by Impact Investment Group, the ground floor



WELL and truly sustainable... 25 King, Australia's tallest engineered timber office building.

Photo: Tom Roe

embodied carbon with the ability to reduce energy use by 46% and a 29% reduction in potable water consumption, a key element of wellbeing in all its forms.

Lendlease managing director, development, Matthew

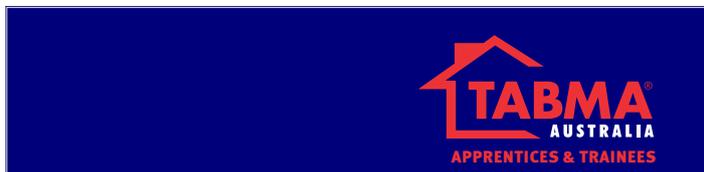
Mears says the achievement is significant. "The performance of an office building can deliver direct economic benefits to investors, tenants and the community which is why we're dedicated to developing next generation workplaces where healthy outcomes create long-term value for everyone," he said.

"Investing in the wellbeing of employees leads to a better employee experience which ultimately drives customer engagement and satisfaction. This successful outcome would not have been possible without the support of many."

and the nine-storey timber commercial tower features open and flexible office space complemented by exposed timber structures to create a contemporary and creative studio environment.

25 King's extensive use of innovative and sustainable building materials provides a natural aesthetic to enhance the health and wellbeing of its building occupants, as well as state-of-the-art technology to deliver a true workplace of the future.

The low carbon timber structure is designed to achieve a 74% saving of



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Fire-hit forests salvaged for power poles in NSW selective timber harvest program

POWER poles and hardwood timbers for homes and infrastructure will be the focus of a small-scale selective timber harvesting operation set to commence in fire-affected parts of Mogo and South Brooman state forests this week.

Forestry Corporation of NSW senior planning manager Dean Kearney said that specific conditions had been developed by a team of scientific experts to allow some fire-affected timber to be harvested from a small proportion of state forests that were designated for timber production, while leaving unburnt areas untouched.

“Timber is an essential renewable resource and will be even more important over the coming months as communities begin to rebuild homes and critical infrastructure damaged or destroyed by fires,” Mr Kearney said.

“Many of the state forests that are managed to continually produce and regrow these timber products have been impacted by fire this year, with up to 80% of



A renewable resource... Dean Kearney inspects a recently harvested area south of Coffs Harbour. Photo: ABC

state forests on the south coast, managed for timber production, affected by the fires.

“The Environment Protection Authority, with the input of scientific experts, has provided Forestry Corporation with site-specific conditions for selective timber harvesting operations in designated parts of Mogo and South Brooman state forests. These areas were previously set aside for timber production this year but have now been impacted by fire.

“Fire-affected timber has the

same structural properties as unburnt timber and is suitable for processing into structural timber products that will be key to rebuilding operations, such as power poles, bridges, girders, and flooring and decking,” Mr Kearney said.

“Strictly-managed selective timber harvesting will help prevent the loss of some high-quality timber damaged by fire, including material that will be in high demand for rebuilding, while ensuring the right protections are in place for key environmental values, particularly wildlife habitat, as these forests begin

regenerating.

“The harvesting conditions augment the already strict ruleset in place for forest operations and include requirements to leave all unburnt forest untouched and establish even more stringent conditions to protect water quality, hollow-bearing trees and wildlife habitat.”

Mr Kearney said selective harvesting in fire-affected forests would look very different from the salvage harvesting that was carried out in pine plantations or in other states and would only take place in a small proportion of state forests that were already designated for timber production.

“Timber harvesting takes place in less than 1% of state forests each year and all areas are fully regrown,” he said.

[More than 5 million timber utility poles are in-service throughout Australia’s energy networks. Most were produced from select native forest-grown hardwood species having the required structural characteristics and naturally-durable heartwood].



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State leads on mechanical fuel reduction

TASMANIA will introduce legislation to make it easier to mechanically remove vegetation to create fire breaks.

The Australian Forest Products Association welcomes the news; it has been urging all Australian governments to recognise the effectiveness of mechanical fuel reduction to complement prescribed burns as a bushfire mitigation tool, following the recent catastrophic bushfire season.

Tasmanian Premier Peter Gutwein announced a suite of bushfire mitigation measures on Tuesday in his 'state-of-the-state' address, which also included additional resources for managing fuel loads across the state.

"I commend the premier for acknowledging the critical role



1/ Mechanical fuel reduction... playing critical role in bushfire mitigation strategy.

2/ Peter Gutwein... additional resources for managing fuel loads across the state.



that mechanical fuel reduction can play as part of the state's bushfire mitigation strategy," AFPA CEO Ross Hampton said.

"This fire season has shown that the multiple approaches by multiple land managers and agencies when it comes

to fuel load reduction isn't working, and that many jurisdictions struggle to meet prescribed burn targets," he said

"In many fire-prone countries, the use of mechanical fuel reduction alongside hazard reduction

burns has proven highly effective in keeping communities safe and helping preserve forests areas."

The terms of reference for the federal government's royal commission into the bushfires include 'preparedness and resilience responsibilities, which includes land management and hazard reduction measures'.

"We are urging the commission to investigate mechanical fuel reduction as part of a whole-of-landscape approach to managing Australia's 132 million ha of native forest, as part of its review," Mr Hampton said.

AFPA recently released a report, Using Fire and Machines to Better Fire-Proof Our Country Towns, which makes the case for mechanical fuel reduction.

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MARCH 2020

15-19: Asia Pacific Woodchip and Biomass Conference and Field Trip – Radisson Flagstaff Gardens Hotel, Melbourne, Vic, Australia.

Optional Pre Conference Field Trip March 15-17 to Green Triangle. Conference 18-19 with enhanced programme to include Australia specific talks including the impact of recent bushfires on the future of the woodchip and biomass exports from Australia. Visit website www.danaevents.co.nz/2020melbourne or contact Julie Bell admin@dana.co.nz

20: Understanding AS1684.2: Australian Residential Timber Framed Construction – Quartz Room, Victoria Park Golf Club, Herston Road, Brisbane, Qld, Australia.

8.30 am-4.30 pm. Timber Queensland's highly requested small group AS1684.2 training workshop TQ takes only 25 participants per event to ensure an intimate and hands-on learning experience. The workshop is a comprehensive full-day guide to the timber framing code, including practical applications, tie-down, bracing and member size determination. Past attendees have said it should be a "must-attend" for anyone involved in the timber design and build chain. Cost: \$400 TQ members; \$500 non-members (includes morning tea, lunch

and afternoon tea). Course requirement that all delegates bring their own copy of the AS1684.2. Register at www.timberqueensland.com.au/events

APRIL 2020

7-8: MobileTECH Ag 2020 – Rotorua, NZ.

International keynote Dr Mike Briers, CEO, Australian-based Food Agility. MobileTECH Ag will be a great forum to understand how new technologies powered by data and AI are being adopted by agribusinesses. Contact Ken Wilson, program manager on +61 4 5226 2337 or email ken.wilson@innovatek.co.nz Visit www.mobiletech.events

JUNE 2020

11: Innovation in Action Conference – Wellington, NZ.

Showcasing latest trends and innovations in the offsite sector in New Zealand and internationally, covering residential, commercial and infrastructure. Speakers will present an overview of the economic, regulatory, skills and sustainability landscape shaping the sector. Contact Jessica on jessica@prefabnz.com

15-16: Timber & Technology. The Zero Carbon Future. Timber Offsite Construction 2020 Conference & Exhibition – Crown Promenade, Melbourne, Vic. Australia. Exclusively devoted to design, manufacture

and construction of offsite timber and mass wood buildings. Program sessions include world leading experts with award-winning architects, international and local engineers, major building companies, and prominent suppliers to offsite construction markets. Contact Kevin Ezard on 0419 538 638 or email kevin@timberoffsiteconstruction.com New website: www.timberoffsiteconstruction.com

21-26: 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

JULY 2020

23-24: Doing Timber Business in Queensland: Regional Opportunity. – Brisbane, Queensland.

Third biennial event is Queensland's forest and timber industry's leading 2020 networking opportunity comprising one day conference, gala dinner, workshops and site tours. Full website and program will be released shortly contact admin@timberqueensland.com.au

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

OCTOBER 2020

21st Australian Timber Design Awards – Sydney, NSW, Australia (date and venue to be advised).

Entries close June 1. Voting for the People's Choice Award is open from August to September. Visit the new awards website for information and registration instructions. www.timberdesignawards.com.au

NOVEMBER 2020

4-7: AusTimber 2020 – HVP plantation site, Traralgon, Gippsland region, Vic. Australia.

Event and dinner ticket sales now live – and limited. Welcome dinner with guest speaker Dr Karl Kruszelnicki AM, Australian science communicator. Make sure you commemorate the event with some AUSTimber merchandise. Contact Dionne Olsen on +61 429 202 929 or email austimber2020@afca.asn.au Follow AUSTimber on www.austimber.org.au



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MARCH 2020

3-5: National Conference on Climate Change NCCC-2020 – Utkal University, Bhubaneswar, Odisha, India. Conference aims to promote the outstanding research, latest innovations and trending technologies Climate Change and Environmental Science. Enquiries to: conference.nccc@gmail.com

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

13-14: Quebec Forest Industry Council 2018 Convention – Quebec City, Canada. Covering the interests of softwood and hardwood sawing, peeling, pulp, paper, cardboard and panels and manufacturers of engineered wood products. For additional information visit www.cifq.qc.ca

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

JUNE 2020

1-3: International Forest Business Conference and Tour – Sopot, Poland. A two-day conference on megatrends that shape forest and wood industry sectors. The event will highlight the transformation of forest-related businesses towards a low-carbon bioeconomy, discuss tensions between sustainability and cost competitiveness, and call attention to new green innovations. Field trip on June 3 to IKEA and Egger mills. The event will welcome institutional investors from across the globe to discuss investment opportunities in timber to diversify their portfolios and achieve healthy returns. Register at www.fba-events.com or contact karolina@forest-analytics.com

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. Visit www.danaevents.co.nz/2020europe, or contact 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

27-30: Council on Forest Engineering Annual Meeting – Corvallis, Oregon, USA. Following a successful 2019 meeting in Hungary and Austria, this conference will be the second part of the two-year joint annual meeting collaboration. For additional information see: www.cofe.org

OCTOBER 2020

21-23: Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) Annual Conference – Vancouver, BC, Canada. The 2020 SFI Annual Conference will be focused on how forests can make a difference when it comes to so many of the most important sustainability challenges faced in the forest sector and communities. For additional information see: sficonference.org

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@timberandforestrynews.com

Correction: MASSLAM size capabilities

THE article on MASSLAM fire tests (issue 597, P 4) gives incorrect information on size capabilities. Some of the tested members offer a 40% reduction in size compared to imported mass-timber products.

MASSLAM columns and beams can be manufactured up to 1300 mm wide x 450 mm x 12 m long without block laminating.

This was referred to in the report that Australia's first 120-minute Fire Resistance Test (FRT) and Fire Resistance Level (FRL) had been successfully completed on exposed glue laminated timber members manufactured in Victoria by Australian Sustainable Hardwoods Pty Ltd.

Minister wants overhaul of carbon farming market

AGRICULTURE Minister David Littleproud wants an overhaul of the carbon farming market by the end of the year, saying some companies are rorting the system for "passive income" rather than agricultural production.

Speaking at an agricultural outlook conference in Canberra, Mr Littleproud said the government's 'direct action' climate change policy, the emissions reduction fund, had sometimes turned out to be a "blunt instrument".

He said in Queensland big corporates bought out



David Littleproud

productive agricultural land from farming families and then simply locked it up to get a passive income through carbon credits paid for by the government.

Mr Littleproud said he

wants a more sophisticated system in which farmers get biodiversity stewardship credits for genuinely improving farm practices.

"Corporate operators who had no interest in farming were taking advantage of buying up remote agricultural land and taking it out of production," he said.

"They should 'regenerate' the land by letting trees and shrubs regrow and earn carbon credits based on that regrowth fixing carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere."

FWPA podcast busts myths on building in bushfire-prone areas

A NEW episode in the Forest and Wood Products Australia series of WoodChat podcasts launched this week shares best-practice methods on building with wood in bushfire-prone areas to help educate the community.

It focuses on FWPA's important work to provide resources for the construction industry and consumers about building resilient homes with timber.

It's a pertinent topic considering national tragedies from the summer bushfires.

Hosts Sam and Georgia speak to Boris Iskra, national codes and standards manager at FWPA, on the importance of building with fire in mind, focusing on the relevant building standards and how timber can be used compliantly.

Mr Iskra said many Australians wanted to continue living in these areas and also wanted to build with wood because of its environmental and aesthetic advantages.

"There are no guarantees that a building will survive a bushfire regardless of the materials used in its construction," he said. "What we can do is build using the materials and methods we know will best protect the structure and its occupants.

"We can predict how timber will perform in specific circumstances and can therefore design properties using timber to help meet the performance requirements of the structure."



Boris Iskra... building resilient homes with timber.

In addition to presenting educational workshops in bushfire-prone areas, FWPA offers a wealth of free resources on the topic via its WoodSolutions website.

During the episode, the hosts also speak to Nigel Bell, principal of ECOdesign Architects + Consultants, who builds in bushfire-prone areas.

"Most people have little concept of how readily timber can be used or not used in a bushfire-prone area," Mr Bell said.

"The far too simplistic norm is 'timber will burn, therefore it's not good enough'. That is a very naïve position, because timber is one of the most sustainable building materials we have. We should be using it to the fullest extent reasonable, possible and financial."

WoodChat represents FWPA's ongoing commitment to engaging ways of communicating news and innovations to the industry and beyond.

You can listen to WoodChat on SoundCloud and iTunes.

Cover photo: Peter Bennetts



Extending NSW's koala habitats has 'staggering implications' for industry

SECTIONS of forestry have criticised a NSW environmental planning policy to extend koala habitats, saying it will have "staggering implications" for the timber industry.

The NSW government says the policy will better protect koala habitats and help deliver on the objective to stabilise and protect koala protections across the state, as outlined in the NSW Koala Strategy.

Deputy secretary of Planning and Assessments Marcus Ray says the new definition of core koala habitat will ensure areas with demonstrated koala presence will be recognised and protected.

He says the number of tree species known to be used by koalas has also been increased from 10 to 123, recognising regional differences in koala



Steve Dobbys... koala habitat policy gazetted without industry consultation.

preferences in nine distinct areas.

The Koala Habitat Protection SEPP includes a new definition of 'core koala habitat', two maps to help protect koalas across NSW, and the most up-to-date tree species data.

The policy intent of SEPP 44 has been retained in the Koala Habitat Protection SEPP and the former SEPP was

repealed when the new SEPP commenced on March 1.

Steve Dobbys, a NSW forestry consultant with 22 years in native forest and plantation management, and 18 years in planning and supervising harvesting operations, said the koala SEPP has been gazetted without any consultation with affected private property landowners, farmers,

councils, developers, the timber industry, mining sector or anyone else seeking development consent.

NGOs (conservation groups) were the only group of people consulted before the koala SEPP was gazetted before Christmas last year.

"The implications for development, industry, private property landowners and 'business as usual' in New South Wales are staggering," said Mr Dobbys who is a director of TimberNSW

The new koala SEPP is inconsistent with the NSW government policy of 'red tape reduction'; there are already four pieces of legislation designed to protect native vegetation as habitat for native animals, including threatened species.

"This new SEPP would make five and is an unnecessarily duplication of NSW law," Mr Dobbys said.

"The SEPP seeks to protect and recruit areas of potential koala habitat where an actual koala may not have been

“A NEW DEFINITION OF 'CORE KOALA HABITAT'”

Cont P 17



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Future Timber Hub tour highlights commitment to research investment

Driving the uptake of mass timber construction systems

THE ARFC Future Timber Hub at the University of Queensland is helping bridge the gap between tall and residential buildings, with development of mid-rise systems that blend mass timber with stick frame construction.

A 'refresher' tour of the hub last month by Queensland Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries Mark Furner and senior DAF managers highlighted the research investment in the facility since it was launched in 2017.

Mr Furner said innovation and creativity would be drivers of a sustainable timber manufacturing industry.

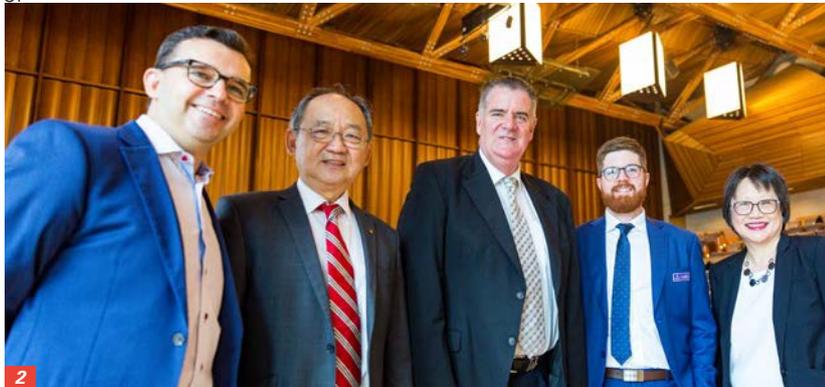
"This is the sort of ingenuity we need to see to make sure the timber industry continues to be a significant driver of employment in Queensland," he said.

"The industry knows that evolution is necessary if it is to thrive, and the Queensland government continues to stand shoulder to shoulder with industry to make those outcomes a reality."

Dr Joe Gattas, chief investigator of the Future Timber Hub and senior lecturer at UQ, led the presentation and tour along with Professor Sritawat Kitipornchai, director of the hub, members of the board, and other chief investigators and partner investigators of research projects within the



1/ Talking Timber Hub... Dr Joe Gattas, UQ, Mark Furner MP, and Dr Rob McGavin, DAF Salisbury Research Facility.



2/ Research tour... Professor Carlo Prato, acting head, UQ's school of civil engineering, Professor Sritawat Kitipornchai, director, ARC Future Timber Hub, Mark Furner, Minister for Agricultural Industry Development, Dr Joe Gattas, chief investigator, Future Timber Hub, and Professor Vicki Chen, executive dean of the faculty of engineering, architecture and information technology.

3/ Inspecting 'tiny house' 3ePanels... DAF deputy director-general Greame Bolton, Mark Furner MP, and associate professor Dilum Fernando, UQ.

hub.

"The hub's direction aligns with other initiatives by DAF to equip Queensland's forestry and timber manufacturing industries with the next generation of construction technology," Mr Gattas said.

The tour also highlighted the strong collaboration between

Dr Gattas said the hub was a unique research partnership that brought together experts from across the entire timber supply chain, from primary producer to construction regulator, and across industry, government, and academia.

"We have built an ecosystem where experts share their expertise to help solve problems in other disciplines and drive the uptake of mass timber construction systems," Dr Gattas said.

The future now is encouraging the adoption of wood encouragement policies to ensure wood is at least considered as the primary structural component in these buildings. The Western Australia and Tasmania governments plus

18 local government authorities and councils around Australia have already adopted the policy. Many other countries have adopted a similar policy which encourages the use of natural, timber-based products in construction.

Dr Gattas said Australia's timber and bio-resources were a major contributor to regional economic development.

"The minister was interested to hear how the hub is creating new and improved timber products, and markets for those products, through close integration of building design, manufacturing and construction expertise," he said.



UQ and DAF research; it focused on projects managed at UQ along with the projects being completed at Griffith University, the University of Canterbury and the DAF Salisbury Research Facility. The tour showcased the excellent facilities available to the Future Timber Hub, including structural engineering, fire safety and architecture laboratories.

The show must go on ... AUSTimber rescheduled for November in Gippsland

Best outcome for stakeholders, communities and industry partners

PLANS for the re-scheduled AUSTimber 2020 at Traralgon in Victoria's Latrobe Valley in November are well under way with all exhibitors, partners and suppliers recommitting to the new date.

Organisers took the tough decision to postpone AUSTimber because of the devastating bushfires in east Gippsland. That decision has been met with widespread industry and community support.

Organisers are running the April schedule unchanged in November, with exhibitors supportive of the rescheduling.

Dr Karl Kruszelnicki, one of Australia's 'National Living Treasures', has also recommitted to being guest celebrity speaker for the welcome dinner on Thursday, November 5.

The Mayor of Latrobe City Council Dan Clancey said the city fully supported the decision to hold this significant event at a more appropriate time of the year.

"The decision to reschedule is the best outcome for



Set to go... AUSTimber is the largest timber industry machinery show in the southern hemisphere.

stakeholders, the community and industry partners," he said. AUSTimber coordinator Dionne Olsen said tickets already purchased would be honoured in November, and the program remained unchanged for the new dates.

"We also want to recognise and thank our supporters, exhibitors and partners for the positive and proactive response to the decision to reschedule the event," Ms Olsen said.

"It is their commitment to the success of the show in November that means our communities will still have the opportunity to benefit from more than 10,000 national and

showcase of machinery and equipment with dynamic in-forest hardwood and softwood demonstration that include clear felling, cut-to-length eucalyptus harvesting, pine harvesting in first thinnings, establishment techniques and



Dionne Olsen... planning well advanced for program in November.



Dr Karl Kruszelnicki... recommitted as celebrity speaker at dinner.



Dan Clancey... best outcome for stakeholders and the community.

international attendees.

"AUSTimber is the largest timber industry machinery show in the southern hemisphere and planning is well advanced to ensure a seamless transition to the upcoming show in November."

Around 100 exhibitors and more than 8000 people are expected to attend the

silviculture practices, in-field chipping, mulching and bio-fuel production, later thinnings, long-length harvesting and truck and trailer offering test drives.

Contact Dionne on +61 429 202 929 or email austimber2020@afca.asn.au www.austimber.org.au

PROGRAM UNCHANGED FOR EVENT AT TRARALGON

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TIMBER & FORESTRY EQUIPMENT ISSUE 156 | March 2020

Responsible Wood to showcase at UN forum

AUSTRALIA'S largest forest certification scheme, Responsible Wood, will participate in the 2020 United Nations and Australia Sustainable Partnerships Forum in Melbourne on April 15 and 16

With a focus on the 17 sustainability development goals ratified by all UN members states in 2015, the forum will bring together government, universities and private and community sector organisations to develop partnerships around areas such as sustainable cities and communities, climate action and gender equality.

For Responsible Wood, the Australian national governing body for PEFC, forest certification and the role sustainable forest management plays in unlocking the full potential of forests, is an important factor in achieving sustainable development goals.

"Responsible Wood and PEFC forest certification provide a framework for global forests to be managed sustainably for multi-generational use," Responsible Wood marketing and communication officer Jason Ross said.

"Whether its minimising poverty and hunger, promoting education, good health, wellbeing and gender equality or clean health, sanitation, affordable and clean energy and decent



Dr Susie Moloney... associate professor at RMIT University's sustainability and urban planning program.

work opportunities, forest certification sets the benchmarks and standards."

The forum has been designed so Australian organisations can explore potential partnerships with other similarly committed groups.

The event is ideally timed – it aligns with the beginning of the second trimester of the UN's 15-year agenda to transform the world through the sustainable development goals.

Thirty speakers include Dr Susie Moloney, Associate Professor in RMIT University's sustainability and urban planning program, and a member of the Centre for Urban Research.

Dr Moloney is co-founder of The Climate Change Exchange. Her research focuses on urban sustainability, planning and climate change and the implications for policy and governance, particularly at the local and regional scale.

For information on the forum email office@unaavictoria.org.au

“FRAMEWORK FOR GLOBAL FORESTS

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Timber design awards celebrate 21st year

THE 2020 Australian Timber Design Awards are now open.

Now in their 21st year, the awards – this year presented in Sydney in mid-October – are distinguished by a proud heritage of innovation and achievement.

The awards promote and encourage outstanding timber design.

Entries are invited from builders, designers, architects, engineers and landscapers – anyone involved in the design or building of structures that feature timber.

A Rising Star award is available to students and entrants aged 35 or under.

“The awards and competition offer a unique system for build environment



Timber Design Awards 2019... Eileen Newbury, FWPA marketing and communications manager, presents the overall winner trophy to James Fitzpatrick of fitzpatrick+ partners for The Seed House. Joining the presentation were MC Peter Maddison (left), and Andrew Dunn, TDA.

professionals and students to showcase their outstanding application of timber-based design in their built projects,” said Andrew Dunn, CEO, Timber Development Association which is organising the event.

“Winners are featured permanently on the Australian

Timber Design website,” he said. “Nonetheless whether you win or not, you will be acknowledged either as a runner up with the winners’ feature or listed as a participant in the awards eBook.

“The awards website will display your project’s

summary profile, create an online photo gallery of your entry, and acknowledge your award accolade.”

Entries close on June 1. Voting for the People’s Choice Award is open from August to September.

The breadth and depth of entries last year ‘exposed’ the increasing popularity of wood and wood products in the built environment – an growing trend as more mid-rise residential and other commercial projects discover the significant financial, operational and environmental benefits of using timber construction systems.

Visit the new awards website for information and registration instructions. www.timberdesignawards.com.au



2020 RUSSIAN FOREST INDUSTRY SECTOR OUTLOOK CONFERENCE AND FIELD TRIP

STOP PRESS



International Forest Industry Advisors



Timber industry research & analytics

CONFERENCE 26 & 27 MAY - Hilton Helsinki Strand Hotel, Finland | FIELD TRIP 28 & 29 MAY - To Equipment Suppliers to Russia (& Mill Visit Examples)

IMPORTANT UPDATE!

The rapidly deteriorating global situation with Coronavirus has forced us to make the decision to defer our Russian Conference and Field Trip till 2021.

It is anticipated this event will run at similar time of year in 2021 and the new programme and field trip details will be launched ASAP.

For further info contact Julie Bell admin@dana.co.nz or Igor Novoselov in Moscow igor.novoselov@whatwood.ru



2020 DANA - GINGKO ASIA PACIFIC FOREST INVESTMENT, WOODCHIP & BIOMASS TRADE CONFERENCE AND FIELD TRIP

Multi-registrations
received from
companies from
multiple countries!

Biomass trade
trend talks on
both Asian &
European trade



15 - 19 MARCH 2020. RADISSON ON FLAGSTAFF GARDENS MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA

The DANA-Gingko Field Trip & Conference and programme for Green Triangle and Melbourne from March 15 - 19 is now complete. These include:

A 2 ½ DAY GREEN TRIANGLE FIELD TRIP *Sunday March 15 to Tuesday March 17*

All visits confirmed:

- Port of Portland (the largest woodchip export port in the world): softwood & hardwood woodchip storage and ship-loading terminals, and SW & HW log export storage and loading terminal
- Major woodchipping complex of South West Fibre at Myamyn
- N.F. McDonnell & Sons softwood sawmill at Mount Gambier
- Softwood and hardwood plantations, harvesting & hardwood in-field chipping
- New AKD Sawmill at Colac

2 DAY ASIA PACIFIC: FOREST INVESTMENT, PULP WOOD CHIP & BIOMASS TRADE TRENDS CONFERENCE *Wednesday March 18 and Thursday*

March 19 at Radisson Flagstaff Gardens Hotel in Melbourne

With additional presentations on:

- The impact of Australian bushfires on wood production and export trade in 2020
- The impact of coronavirus on China woodchip and wood imports in 2020

Plantation visit details
now finalised.

SW - Thinnings &
clearfell. HW - One
year trees & clearfell &
chipping.



FOR WEBSITE

[CLICK HERE](#)

OR CONTACT JULIE BELL

admin@dana.co.nz

Habitats 'no go' for forest operations

From P 10

recorded for up to 18 years.

The definition of 'core koala habitat' has been updated to make it easier for areas to be identified and removes the need for koalas to be actually present – and it expands the number of koala feed tree species from just 10 species to 123.

Mr Dobbyns said the SEPP was supported by predictive maps, not field verified and with no mechanism for a landowner to contest them. Both maps are inaccurate and include some plantations, non-native species, individual paddock trees, non-tree vegetation, avocado farms and macadamia plantations.

The koala SEPP relied heavily on a 'guideline' to provide clarity around various definitions and processes. When the SEPP became law on March 1, no agreement on the guideline had been reached.

Mr Dobbyns said in developing the koala plan of management, the Koala SEPP allowed councils to create



1/ Marcus Ray... better protection for koala habitats.

linkages across the landscape between areas of 'core koala habitat', and even across cleared paddocks.

Private native forestry operations are not permitted in core koala habitat.

Mr Dobbyns said ministerial direction that all core koala habitats must be rezoned as 'E2: Environmental Conservation' will prevent farmers, landowners and developers from undertaking land use such as forestry, agriculture, mining, residential or business development.

"If an agricultural area is identified as core koala habitat, it becomes 'sensitive regulated land' and is no longer covered by the Local Land Services Act," Mr Dobbyns said.

"Routine agricultural activities, such as fence line clearing, building dams and roads are either not permitted

or require development consent."

Mr Dobbyns pointed out relevant examples:

- Private native forestry is governed by local land services. Approval to harvest trees requires an approved private native forestry plan from the LLS.

- The Private Native Forestry Code of Practice for northern NSW (August 2013) provides that "forest operations are not permitted within any area identified as 'core koala habitat' within the meaning of State Environmental Planning Policy No 44 – Koala Habitat Protection." This will flow through to the new koala SEPP.

- Depending on the relevant council's LEP, private native forest may also require consent from council via a

development application. If so, this activates the provisions of the koala SEPP, as the land area will be greater than one hectare. Council cannot grant consent for forestry in areas of core koala habitat.

The Forestry Corporation of NSW website emphasises:

"Timber harvesting from the state's regrowth native forests has been ongoing for the past 100 years. Throughout this time, koala populations and the timber industry have co-existed and we know from recent research that they continue to do so today.

"There are large areas of koala habitat in national parks, state forests and private lands. Koalas have been recorded living in and around areas of state forest where harvesting has occurred both recently and historically.

"The areas of state forest available for harvesting make up just 4% the 23 million ha of forested land in NSW. These forests are critical for providing renewable regrowth timber for our local industry while also supporting significant koala populations. This is a result of many years of well-managed, sustainable forestry practices."

“ KOALAS AND INDUSTRY HAVE CO-EXISTED FOR 100 YEARS ”

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Timber & Forestry eNews is published by Timber & Forestry eNews PO Box 69, Potts Point, NSW 1335, Australia. Phone: 0417 421 187.

Delivered every Thursday, 48 weeks of the year to industry decision makers in Australia, New Zealand, the Asia-Pacific, North America, UK and Europe. Ad rates shown are based on a weekly booking.

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