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# COVID-19 hits industry events but organisers optimistic for a 'revival'

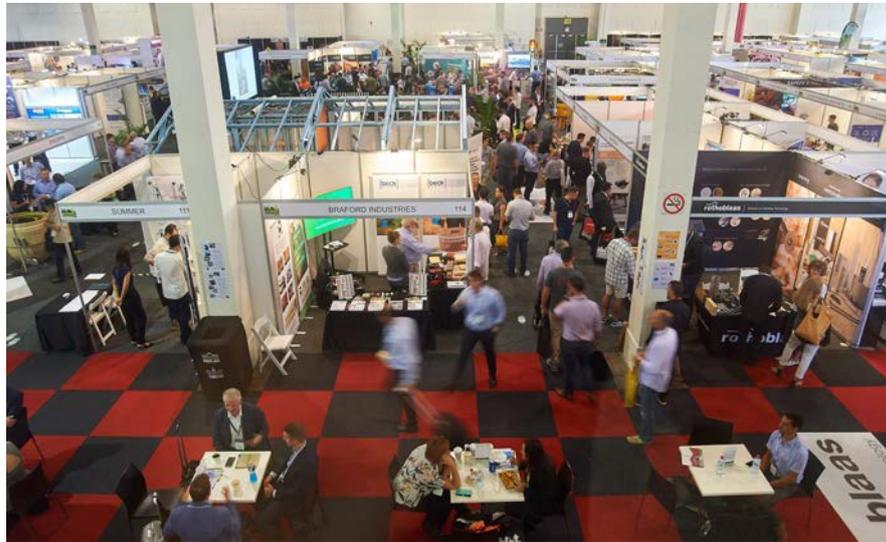
JIM BOWDEN

AS many industry events cancel because of the coronavirus, there is an air of optimism that many of them will 're-open' in the months ahead or be revived via on-line video presentations.

The DANA-Gingko Asia-Pacific woodchip and biomass conference and field trip in Melbourne this week was forced to close half way through proceedings. However, international speakers, including some who arrived a week ago, will contribute to a future Zoom video program.

The DANA European seminar and tour on June 2-5 focusing on damaged spruce forests in Germany and Denmark is also under a cloud.

Meanwhile, organiser Kevin Ezard tells us the Timber Offsite Construction 2020 Conference booked for June 15-16 in Melbourne has been postponed until later in the year. The speakers and project panel session program will remain



Sydney Build... construction conferences and exhibitions have fallen victim to COVID-19.

unchanged and all registered delegates will be advised with updates on the new timing.

In New Zealand, the Resene Wood Timber Design Awards ceremony has been cancelled and category winners will be announced

**CONSTRUCTION CONFERENCES FORCED TO CLOSE**

online along with a video of winners and finalists.

Other events cancelled in the weeks ahead or postponed to later this year are the AWISA wood machinery exhibition in Sydney; Timber Queensland's Doing Timber Business in Queensland conference in Brisbane; the AFPA members' dinner and women in forest industries forum in Canberra; the Australasian Packaging Conference in Melbourne and the Trucking

Australia 2020 conference in Cairns.

Hoo-Hoo International has postponed its April Jurisdiction 4 convention and 50th year celebrations in Malaysia with a proposal to hold the event from August 14-16.

Major building industry conferences have also been cancelled, postponed or moved online following the federal government advice

Cont P 3



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From P 2

Sydney Build event, hosted by the Green Building Council of Australia for March 24 and 25 and to be held later in the year, a date to be announced on Monday.

The move adds to a previously announced delay of the Design Build conference and expo, which has been pushed back from April 21-23 and will now be held on October 27-29.

In response to COVID-19, Standards Australia says all Australian staff will work remotely from March 19.



**Cautious... face masks now de rigueur for city streets and workplaces.**

Helen Murray, national secretary of the JW Gottstein Trust, says the committee is meeting soon to consider going ahead with the trust's wood science course scheduled for Albury and Canberra June 21-26. So far, it's still green for go.

National committee meetings and other engagements will be conducted remotely.

"We are committed to supporting our contributors as best as we can through this event," CEO Adrian O'Connell said.

"We are also committed to keeping up production and making sure we are working on priorities that align with national interest and support the Australian community."

Also going ahead ... MobileTECH Ag 2020 in Rotorua, NZ, April 7-8, AFPAs black-tie dinner at Parliament House, Canberra, on June 24; and the Malaysian Timber Council's inaugural Malaysian Timber Week 2020 and mini-Wood-M exhibition in Kuala Lumpur.



## Thank you for support as we mark 600th edition

THIS issue of Timber&Forestry enews wouldn't have made it to the 600th edition landmark this week without the support from our readers and advertisers.

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# Housing remains resilient in face of virus and lack of building materials

THE housing market looks resilient in the face of coronavirus concerns, property data analysts say.

CoreLogic data this week shows auction markets remain strong, with a 70% preliminary clearance rate from 2220 homes across all capital cities.

“With uncertainty rising and confidence slipping as the coronavirus outbreak becomes more widespread, there is some downside

risk that housing activity will reduce which could weigh on auction markets over coming weeks,” the report in Sourceable said.

“However, based on the



**1/ A brighter outlook... \$17.6 billion stimulus package bolsters economic resilience for building sector.**

**2/ Denita Wawn... government should bring forward expenditure on existing projects.**

major auction centres was likely to remain around the high 60% to low 70% range, implying this was still a seller's market, the CoreLogic report

concluded.

Meanwhile, Master Builders Australia says the government's \$17.6 billion stimulus package should bolster economic resilience in the face of the current challenge.

“In times of crisis people look to their leaders to respond and the government through this stimulus package has done that,” CEO Denita Wawn said.



early auction results, the housing market has proven to be relatively resilient so far.”

Sydney topped the week's auction clearance rates with 74.6% from 749 actions held.

In comparison to last year's figures, 638 auctions were held with a clearance rate of 54.2%.

Melbourne also experienced high rates, with preliminary rates stating 70% of 1173 total auctions were cleared compared with 52% of 920 auctions cleared this time last year.

In Sydney, the median house price was \$1,350,000, while units averaged \$857,500.

Although clearance rates had edged lower, the final clearance rate across the

**“ AUCTION MARKETS REMAIN STRONG**

“Right now what our industry most needs is confidence and this clear signal from the government that they are determined and committed to doing whatever it takes is extremely welcome,” she said.

“There are more than 380,000 small building businesses and tradies in



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From P 4

our industry, more than any other sector of the economy that will benefit from the government's strong focus on backing small businesses."

Mrs Wawn said builders and tradies around the country would respond favourably to the huge boost in the instant tax write-off threshold from \$30,000 to \$150,000 and expansion of its eligibility to businesses with turnover under \$500 million (up from \$50 million).

However, she said the government must take a strong leadership role in ensuring that construction of government projects currently under way continue and that projects scheduled to commence are not delayed or withdrawn.

The government could also bring forward expenditure on existing projects. Accelerating construction of current projects and bringing forward construction of shovel ready projects, big and small, would provide an immediate strong impetus for building firms to take up tax write off and investment incentive measures.

"Our industry also remains nervous about how protracted the inevitable



**Anxious... housing sector remains nervous about the inevitable shortage and delayed delivery of building products.**

shortage and delayed delivery of imported building products will be," Mrs Wawn said.

"This is a hit to our industry that is looming over the next few months and additional measures and extensions of some of stimulus measures may be required to help the industry weather that storm.

The Housing Industry Association has welcomed the NSW government plan to inject much-needed stimulus into the economy and the home building industry.

The stimulus package

announced by Premier Berejiklian would go some way to alleviating some of the anxiety that is moving through the industry at this time.

Part of the \$2.3 billion stimulus includes \$1.6 billion in tax cuts of which \$450 million is being allocated to waive payroll tax for businesses with payrolls of

up to \$10 million for three months – a 25% saving for this financial year.

The state has allocated a further \$56 million to bring forward the next round of payroll tax cuts by raising the threshold limit to \$1 million for the next financial year.

"Payroll tax is a major cost to businesses in the residential construction sector and puts a strain on cash flow, HIA says.

"Giving these businesses a breather from this cost of doing business will assist them to retain staff and keep the building industry going."

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# Sustainable forest management and the plight of the eastern brown kiwi

THE kiwi is an unmistakable national icon – a bird cherished by all New Zealand cultures and especially treasured by Māori.

Today, the kiwi is under threat with the population now numbering in the thousands and up to 27 kiwi being killed every week.

In 2000, the presence of eastern brown kiwi and kārearea (New Zealand’s only native falcon species) was discovered through a survey of Omataroa Forest, prompting the development of a pest control plan which led to the establishment of the Omataroa Kiwi Project.

Rayonier Matariki Forests, certified under the PEFC forest certification scheme, own the pine trees in Omataroa Forest and are a key partner in the initiative.

The company works with the Omataroa Kiwi Project to provide intensive trapping, pest control management and buffer trappings to protect kiwi from predators in the forest surrounding Puhikōkō native reserve.

The project’s activities include regular predator control, monitoring, catching and tagging kiwi, and participating in Operation Nest Egg, a national program that involves removing vulnerable kiwi eggs and young chicks from the burrows until they can be safely returned to the wild without risk of predation.

Alongside Omataroa-Rangitaiki No. 2 Trust, Rayonier Matariki is providing a unique and inspirational learning opportunity for children at local school,



Te Kura o Te Teko focusing on kiwi conservation and the wider biodiversity of Omataroa Forest.

For Rob Schoonderwoerd, district forester for Rayonier Matariki Forest’s Bay of Plenty region, the survey began a 20-year relationship with the Omataroa Kiwi Project Team and the Omataroa-Rangitaiki No. 2 Trust.

“To be able to undertake the project within a production forest while

harvesting and re-establishment operations are carried out illustrates the desire of all parties to make this project a success,” Rob said.

Deputy chair of Omataroa-Rangitaiki No. 2 Trust Jane Waldon says the trust’s relationship with Rayonier

Matariki Forests has really blossomed over the last few years.

“We share similar values which make for a great partnership,” Jane said.

The forest occupies 7777 ha of forest area, a mix of exotic production forest and indigenous forest (Puhikōkō) which has been set aside as a reserve by the Māori landowners.

Puhikōkō Native Reserve is the home of the Omataroa Kiwi Project.

**“RAYONIER FORESTS KEY PARTNER IN THE PROJECT”**

**APRIL**

**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](http://www.mobiletech.events)

**MAY**

**20: Australian Timber Importers Board meeting**  
 – *Stora Enso Australia, Derrimut, Melbourne, Vic, Australia.* Enquiries to John Halkett: [john.halkett@bigpond.com](mailto:john.halkett@bigpond.com) or 0417 421 187.

**JUNE**

**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](mailto:jessica@prefabnz.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](http://www.gottsteintrust.org) Inquires [gottsteinsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:gottsteinsecretary@gmail.com)

**24: AFPA gala back tie dinner** – *Parliament House, Canberra, ACT, Australia.*

**JULY**

**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](mailto:admin@timberqueensland.com.au)

**SEPTEMBER**

**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)

**OCTOBER**

**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](http://www.timberdesignawards.com.au)

**NOVEMBER**

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



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**APRIL**

**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**

**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](http://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/](http://www.events.risiinfo.com/investment-conference/) or contact [conferences@risi.com](mailto:conferences@risi.com)

**JUNE**

**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](http://www.fba-events.com) or contact [karolina@forest-analytics.com](mailto:karolina@forest-analytics.com)

**AUGUST**

**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**

**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](http://www.cofe.org)

**OCTOBER**

**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](http://sficonference.org)

**NOVEMBER**

**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)

# Distribution changes for John Deere and Cable

BRISBANE-based John Deere Construction & Forestry and Cable Price (NZ) Ltd will end their distribution arrangement of Deere branded and manufactured forestry, construction and compact machinery in New Zealand.

As the joint businesses expanded over the years, so have each company's priorities in various markets around the globe.

"John Deere Construction and Hitachi Construction Machinery Co. Ltd have a long and successful global partnership spanning multiple continents and product lines," Dan Fitzpatrick, global director of construction and



**John Deere... new dealers in New Zealand for the wide range of forestry machinery and equipment will be announced soon.**

forestry sales outside of the Americas said.

"This partnership served both companies well and supported each company's global growth over the multi-decade relationship," he said.

"Over the next five months, Deere and Cable Price will

work together to execute a seamless transition of business to John Deere newly-appointed construction and forestry dealers in New Zealand."

The changes announced have no impact on Deere and Hitachi's partnerships or

distribution arrangements outside of New Zealand.

John Deere will announce its new dealers for the New Zealand market in coming weeks with a full transition of business scheduled for July 1.

Since 1837, John Deere has been a world leader in providing advanced products and services and is committed to the success of customers whose work is linked to the land – those who cultivate, harvest, transform, enrich and build upon the land to meet the world's dramatically increasing need for food, fuel, shelter and infrastructure. Since 1837,

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# Applications open for NZIF Foundation 2020 awards, scholarships



APPLICATIONS are invited for the awards and scholarships offered by the New Zealand Institute of Forestry for 2020.

The awards, valued at \$29,500, are:

- One Future Forest Scholarship for post graduate research of up to \$10,000.

- The New Zealand Redwood Company Scholarship of \$5000 for an undergraduate scholarship at the University of Canterbury School Forestry.

- Cavasses Travel Award of up to \$3500 to assist a mid-career person to travel overseas or to bring an overseas person to New Zealand.

- Jon Dye Memorial Award of up to \$3500 to assist research projects in the areas of work study or new technology aimed at improving forest engineering and harvest productivity.

- Otago Southland Award of up to \$3000 to assist a project of relevance to forestry in the Otago/Southland region.

- Mary Sutherland Scholarship of \$1000 for a

polytechnic student.

- University Undergraduate Scholarship of \$1000.

- Frank Hutchinson Postgraduate scholarship of \$1000.

- Student poster prizes at NZIF conference (first, second and third prizes of \$800, \$500 and \$200).

Applications are now open. Further details on the foundation web page available through [www.nzif.org.nz](http://www.nzif.org.nz), (link on lower right hand side of page).

Applications must be received by the foundation administrator ([foundation@nzif.org.nz](mailto:foundation@nzif.org.nz)) no later than 5pm on Monday, May 18. The awards will be announced at the awards dinner of the joint conference of the NZ Institute of Forestry to be held in Masterton from June 28 to 30.

Enquires to the Foundation chair [am.mcewen@xtra.co.nz](mailto:am.mcewen@xtra.co.nz) or phone +64 274 733 262

The NZIF Foundation was established in 2011 by the NZ Institute of Forestry to advance education in relation to forestry.



# Newspaper gets it wrong: VicForests strongly rejects ‘illegal logging’ claim

A STORY in Melbourne’s The Age newspaper this week that “Victoria’s state-owned logging company doesn’t comply with Australian requirements designed to stop illegal logging ...” has been roundly denounced by VicForests.

The report said breaches recorded by the Auditor-General showed paper companies buying logs from VicForests might not be meeting the conditions of the Illegal Logging Prohibition Act.

VicForests says the The Age article wrongly reports that breaches of the Illegal Logging Prohibition Act have been recorded and reported by the Victorian Auditor-General.

“There is no such report by the Auditor General,” a VicForests spokesman said.

‘The Age data – which is from a Victorian Forest Audit Program (FAP) report – is stated incorrectly: the 43% of roading design non-compliances related to harvesting in 2015-16, not 2017-18 as stated.’

The Age story went on to



Victorian forests... certified under the Responsible Wood standard.

say the act puts the onus on timber importers in wealthier countries rather than the regulators in poorer countries to carry out due diligence on their supply chains to prove timber has been sourced responsibly and in compliance with regulations. Where risks of illegality cannot be reduced to a negligible level, logs cannot legally be processed.

VicForests provided Timber&Forestry enews with some solid and factual background notes on the matter:

- In the 2017-18 FAP audit, VicForests achieved

81% compliance on roading design.

- The non-compliances included minor issues with no environmental impacts, to some major issues, which have since been addressed.

- It targets high risk features (e.g. waterway crossings) and audit findings cannot, therefore, be taken as being statistically

**“THERE IS NO SUCH REPORT BY THE AUDITOR GENERAL”**

representative of VicForests’ overall operations.

- It is wrong to suggest non-compliances mean paper companies may be buying illegal timber from VicForests.

- To comply with the Illegal Logging Prohibition Act, timber processors, including paper companies must have a due diligence system in place to address the potential for processing illegal logged raw timber.

- Due diligence could include timber processors having regard to the timber legality frameworks and guidelines in the Illegal Logging Prohibition Regulations, which VicForests operations comply with.

- Since 2007, VicForests has also been certified under the Responsible Wood standard, endorsed by the international Program for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) – the largest and most recognised such system in the world. Responsible Wood audits VicForests every nine months and we have never failed an audit.

– JIM BOWDEN



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# Attendance at AUSTimber will give extra support for hardwood industry

## Rebellion is brewing in the bush as 'Dan the Destroyer' does his worst

YEAH yeah – I know, I have already spoken about the despicable decision of industry destroyer Victorian Premier Daniel Andrews in announcing the closure of the state's long-established and sustainable hardwood forest-based industry.

But, along with the horrendous bushfires that I spoke about in my last two columns, the unfathomable logic behind the Dan's decision well-and-truly spoils my appetite – so I am back for a second round this month.

In the wake of the shocking bushfires, and their impact in regional Victoria, it beggars belief that a political party supposedly championing working people and jobs is prepared to sack hundreds of country workers.

Victorian Association of Forest Industries CEO Tim Johnston says the continued failure of the Andrews government to engage with industry is a clear signal of its disregard for regional businesses and the communities they support, as well as the thousands of downstream processing jobs.

To add insult to injury, the state Labor government has, to date, refused to talk to the industry about its bizarre decision. So, no response to the joint letter signed by the chiefs of the Australian Forest Products Association, the Australian Forest Contractors Association, and the Victorian Association of Forest Industries sent last November asking for a meeting with the Premier.



**AUSTimber 2020... a one-in-four-year opportunity to see the latest global offering of forestry equipment and machinery.**

Not even an acknowledgement of the letter, much less a meeting!

"The announcement of the closure of a sustainable industry, certified to world's best practice, blindsided those who work in our Victorian businesses," was the blast from Ross Hampton of FWPA.

"Victoria's native forest industry uses four trees out of every 10,000 and every tree used is regenerated and by law there is no 'old growth' harvesting," he said.

He pointed out, as I have done, that without native timber, Melburnians will have to get their hardwood floors, stair treads and other appearance grade timbers from other places, many of them without the same high level of sustainable forest management.

Quite correctly, Australian Forest Contractors Association CEO Stacey Gardiner says there is strong opposition to this announcement; ongoing uncertainty is placing enormous stress on forestry contractors and their employees.



**Dan Andrews... refusing to talk to industry.**

### TRUNK LINES



**With CHERYL FORREST**

Of course, as we all know, the response and recovery efforts to the bushfire crisis have been huge and are ongoing. Many in the industry have been directly affected or are working tirelessly to support impacted communities across Victoria and elsewhere. So, understandably, the decision to reschedule AUSTimber 2020 in the face of bushfire response, recovery and salvage efforts is completely understandable.

So, the biggest forestry show in the country has been rescheduled for November 4-7.

I really want to reinforce the importance of attending

AUSTimber 2020 in Traralgon. Not only is this a one in four-year opportunity to see the latest global offering of forestry equipment and machinery, but also to have plenty of fun with forwarder competitions and wood chopping.

But the critical point I want to make it that AUSTimber will provide a worthwhile, timely opportunity to show your solidarity for the industry and your work colleagues in the face of the bushfire disaster.

This will send a powerful message to 'Dan the Destroyer' that the industry won't accept a politically-motivated decision to throw rural people, businesses and productive regional communities on the scrap heap.

Enews is a media partner and will be there on the ground at AUSTimber, so we really hope to see you there having some fun, but also sending a clear and serious message that rebellion is brewing in the bush.

Catch you again next month.

**Cheryl**

# The **NEW** Generation...



## **NEW** Komatsu 875 & 895

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

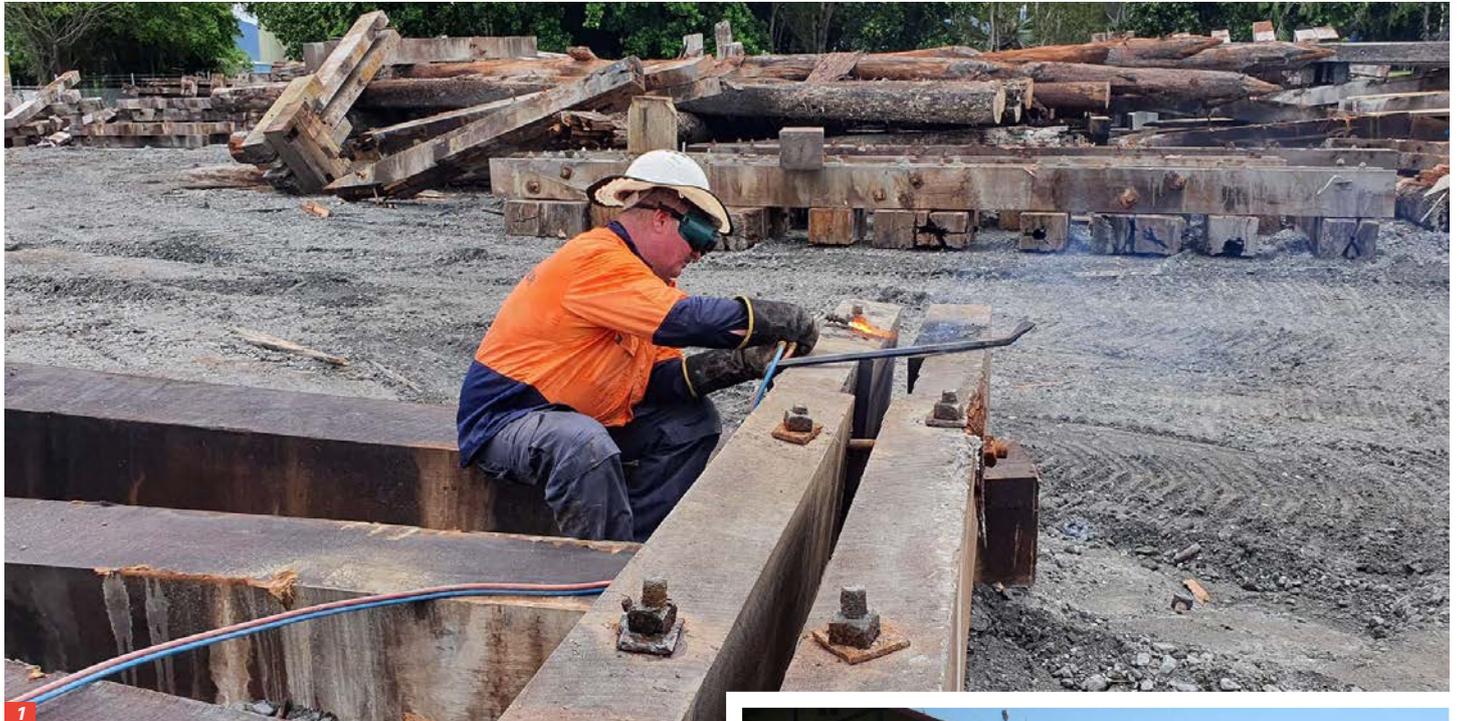
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# Rare Wet Tropics timbers salvaged from Cairns wharf looking for home

## North Queensland crows ash, hickory were part of World War 2 construction



HISTORIC rare timber from the world heritage-listed Wet Tropics of Queensland could find a new home with recycled timber specialists Kennedy's Timber removing hundreds of metres of piles as part of the \$20 million upgrade of the Cairns wharves in north Queensland.

The Cairns wharf was built in 1942 during World War 2 and was covered in 200 mm of thick concrete, which has ensured elements of the timber remained in remarkable condition for its age.

Kennedy's Timber has been contracted by Astral

**“HONOUR TO BE PART OF A SIGNIFICANT PROJECT”**

**1/ On the move... workers prepare rare timbers from Cairns Wharves for transport.**

**2/ Timber treasure beneath... the Cairns wharves, built in 1942 during World War 2, were covered in 200 mm of thick concrete.**

Construction to complete the removal of 2000 lineal metres of 350 mm x 300 mm crows ash (*Flindersia australis*), 1500 lineal metres of 375 mm x 175 mm Cairns hickory (*Flindersia ifflaiana*) and 150 turpentine piles (*Syncarpia glomulifera*), which will be put on sale for a special project.

Kennedy's Timber founder Michael Kennedy said it was an honour to be part of such a significant project and to be asked to find a home for this piece of history.

“In 26 years of timber recycling, I have never seen such outstanding timber with a rich history; both crows ash and hickory are very rare



timbers and highly sought-after,” he said.

“Years ago, the timber was milled in the rainforest of the Wet Tropics of Queensland which is now a UNESCO World Heritage site and logging is no longer permitted.

“To be able to give this timber to a new home is such a unique opportunity and we're certain there will be plenty of individuals excited

about the prospect of using this timber on their projects.”

Mr Kennedy said the timber was very desirable for furniture makers due to its golden colour, durability and rich patina. Recycled timber also stored carbon so it was always a great environmentally-friendly option.

The state government

Cont P 15



1 & 2/ Seasoned crows ash... among tropical timbers salvaged from Cairns Wharves.

From P 14

is spending \$20 million to upgrade the Cairns wharves from 1-6 as part of the \$127 million Cairns shipping development project, which is designed to attract large cruise ships and boost tourism.

A new concrete jetty has been built to replace the old

structure at wharf 6 with 15% retained for heritage purposes.

The timber removal process from the project site will take an estimated three weeks to complete.

“We want the Cairns Wharf recycled timber to go towards special projects and we have a few in mind,” Michael Kennedy said.

“I would love to hear from local builders, architects and designers who have an exceptional home for this piece of history.”

Kennedy’s Timber is a specialist in recycled timber within the commercial and residential building industry and provides the full spectrum of timber design options.

The company’s recycled timber has been used in projects such as the Suncorp Stadium, Tree of Knowledge at Barcardine, Parliament House Canberra, the Hilton Hotel and many resorts.

*On the cover: Rare timbers, including crows and hickory, are lifted and removed from the Cairns Wharves in north Queensland.*

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# Silicon Valley high-tech in construction

US-based Katerra is a company taking the building industry to a new level, applying Silicon Valley technology to design and construction.

President of Katerra Architecture Craig Curtis says Katerra is a new kind of company in the building industry, delivering end-to-end integration with significant investment in technological and design innovation."

Craig will be presenting via video at the Timber Offsite Construction conference later this year.

Katerra is redefining construction, injecting innovation and maximum efficiency at every scale of its building product and at every step of the development process, from conceptual



**Katerra building design model.**

design to engineering, supply chain, offsite manufacturing and final assembly on site.

Its portfolio of next-generation buildings focuses on maximising structures and systems for building platforms, structural systems, manufactured assemblies, window products, utility

systems, and finish materials.

Building design is supported by an extensive research and development program with specialist strategic partners including Michael Green Architecture, Equilibrium Consulting, Washington State University and other global specialists.

Katerra has now developed a range of standard building designs and floor plans for mid-rise residential, commercial and industrial buildings.

A unique feature of Craig's role as head of Katerra Architecture is to ensure the building feature products don't have a 'cookie cutter' appearance.

He achieves this by creating a catalogue of unique design products manufactured to specification. Craig summarised it as "mass customisation".

Building construction is based on high-precision engineered wood. Katerra is now manufacturing CLT at its Spokane Washington factory, which will produce 180,000 cu m a year for processing in the prefabrication plant.

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# From humble beginnings comes great success for this Melbourne wholesaler

WITH humble family roots in Italy where he worked as a young man in a sawmill, finding work in the timber industry was a sensible choice for Con Peluso when he emigrated to Australia.

He started a family-based business in Melbourne as a retail timber merchant. This move proved to be the foundation of a durable timber business built around strong Italian ancestry, customer service, loyalty and commitment. Over the years Con built a reputation for trustworthiness and strong, honest customer support.

His son Tony Peluso, managing director of City Timber, based at Clayton South, has been around his dad's timber business for as long as he can remember and, of course, moved into the business with his father as soon as he could.

Tony said shifting into the wholesale side of the timber business was an "act of courage," but was based on his father's well-established reputation, the family's solid reputation and strong customer support and their

**“CITY TIMBER'S WIDE RANGE OF PRODUCTS 'WITH A DIFFERENCE'”**



extensive product knowledge.

Today, City Timber continues its valuable, recognised role in Victoria's busy building and construction industry.

The company is a well-respected, essential supplier of an extensive range of timber products to the Melbourne trade, wider Victorian market and to



**Tony Peluso ... City Timber carries an amazing range of both domestically-sourced and imported products at its Melbourne warehouse at Clayton South.**

customers in Tasmania and Queensland.

City Timber carries an amazing range of both domestically-sourced and imported products in its Clayton South warehouse which includes 14,000 sq m of undercover storage, with technical product support and an administration staff exceeding 20. Tony also owns a fleet of delivery trucks, which means his timber orders gets to buyers on time.

Tony Peluso works on the basis that City Timber can provide customers with an extensive range of products.

"Yes, we do carry a full inventory of solid softwood and hardwood products, plywood, panels and many other product categories. But among our range are some interesting products not carried by other wholesalers," he said.

City Timber continues to be a family business with Tony's mother assisting with administration and his brother contributing to the company's performance.

Tony is proud of his Italian ancestry and timber industry heritage: "I think we have developed a business here that, were he still with us, would make dad very proud."

– JOHN HALKETT

## FSC stops on-site visits, but assures certification status

GIVEN the global outbreak of COVID-19 and travel restrictions, the Forest Stewardship Council has updated the derogation that allows certification bodies unable to conduct on-site

audits to either postpone the audit or replace it with desk audits.

Internal auditors of group and multi-site certificates will soon be given similar options.

"Our priority is to protect the health of staff of certification bodies and certificate holders, and to support global measures to minimise the spread of the virus," FSC said.

With the flexible audit options, FSC assures certificate holders that they need not be concerned of losing their certification status.

# Coronavirus: a pandemic of panic as consumers, traders face the unknown

## Arteries of global trade are clogging as trade ships drop anchor

THE coronavirus reaction has become a pandemic of panic.

Medical doctors and psychologists agree that humans are wired to fear the unknown more than the evils they face every day.

World-wide COVID-19 figures are sitting at 214,636 cases, 8953 deaths and 84,796 recoveries. In Australia, there have been 564 confirmed cases, 43 recoveries and six deaths compared with the biggest losses – 3237 in China and 35,713 in Italy, most among the aged.

Dreadful, but small numbers compared with global deaths from other diseases. Lost in the discussion about COVID-19 is the fact that the US is experiencing a severe influenza season that has already resulted in more than 16,000 deaths.

The World Health Organisation says the tobacco epidemic is one of the world's biggest public health threats, killing more than seven million people a year. And they have an antidote – don't smoke.

"Influenza is an old friend, or should I say, enemy," says Dr William Schaffner, professor of preventive medicine health policy at Vanderbilt University, a private research facility in the US.

"We know it well, so it doesn't send us in a panic."



Psychologist Paul Slovic of the University of Oregon says epidemics such as Ebola and the coronavirus "hit all of the hot buttons" that trigger irrational fear in people even if they're far from ground zero of the crisis. They're scared of what comes next.

"We know that the virus can be fatal. It's invisible and hard to protect against, exposure is involuntary and people are not convinced politicians and authorities are in control of the situation," he said.

But it is still the unknown that is causing havoc ... to world trade, lost jobs for thousands and for industries in Australia such as timber and construction with the cancellation of conferences and exhibitions (See Pages 2, 3).

Construction planning lawyers Lovegrove & Cotton say supply chain disruptions will impact on the viability of businesses; there will be redundancies and shop closures if some of the predictions concerning the disease's tenure play out.

This same scenario is starting to unfold in building industry supply chains. Product coming from abroad is beginning to diminish, which will impact upon critical path and contract deliverables and ultimately, in some cases, building project viability.

The impact is likely to hit sub-contractors first as the supply of manufactured product wanes. If sub-contractors cannot obtain and install building materials, then they will not be able to deliver.

**“BUILDING SUPPLY CHAINS DISRUPTED”**

About 20% of total project costs are sourced from China.

The arteries of global trade are also clogging up. Shipping companies that carry goods from China to the rest of the world are reducing the number of seaborne vessels. About 80% of world goods trade

by volume is carried by sea and China is home to seven of the world's 10 busiest container ports.

But trade sources say business activity in China, where the outbreak began, is back to 33% of normal levels, while manufacturing reached 43% and was increasing by about 1% per day. China's 18 million small and medium-

size enterprises, the engine room of the economy, are recovering quickly.

Forecasters say manufacturers won't return to normal production until at least mid-March. Beijing has promised tax breaks and provided more than 1000 companies with low-interest loans from a \$42 billion recovery fund. But economists caution that aid alone won't solve all the problems because travel curbs and other controls still in place have disrupted shipping and kept employees from getting back to work.

Meanwhile, the Morrison government is working on a quorum plan which requires only 31 lower house MPs and 19 senators to pass the \$17.6 billion stimulus and \$2.4 billion health packages, with another multi-billion-dollar rescue plan under way.

The Prime Minister has sought to assure Australians the government is taking action on coronavirus but

Cont P 19

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says everyone has a role to play.

In an address to the nation, Scott Morrison detailed his government's \$22.9 billion economic stimulus package, dividing his government's strategy into three goals.

"One, protect Australians' health; two, secure Australians' jobs and livelihoods; and three, set Australia up to bounce back stronger when the crisis is over," he said.

The words "bounce back" were a prominent theme in Mr Morrison's speech as he spruiked the government's economic performance.

**“ SHIPPING COMPANIES REDUCING VESSELS AT SEA**

"Once the virus has run its course, we are making sure Australia can bounce back strongly," Mr Morrison said.

In a sideline move, backbench MP Barnaby Joyce wants to shut down the entire federal parliament building against the coronavirus threat following a decision to close the public-viewing galleries in each chamber for next week's sittings.

War-time conditions.



**1/ A team of Queensland researchers believe they may have found a cure for the novel coronavirus and hope to have patients enrolled in a nationwide trial by the end of the month. University of Queensland Centre for Clinical Research director Professor David Paterson said two drugs used to treat other conditions wiped out the virus in test tubes. He said one of the medications, given to some of the first people to test positive for COVID-19 in Australia, had already resulted in "disappearance of the virus" and complete recovery from the infection.**

**2/ "We'll bounce back!" ... Prime Minister Scott Morrison and chief medical officer Professor Brendan Murphy speak on the state of the coronavirus.**



Maybe so. And maybe a war ministry could make instant decisions rather than the long-winded debates we see among MPs about what should be done, and when, and at what cost.

The War Ministry, led by Churchill, was the UK's

coalition government for most of World War 2. Churchill formed a five-man war cabinet with powers to make decisions and act on them instantly. Although the original war cabinet was limited to five members, in practice they were augmented by the service chiefs and ministers who attended the majority of meetings.

Further, in late news, authorities in Wuhan, a city of 11 million people in central China, where the outbreak

is believed to have begun, have been ordered to round up everyone with the deadly coronavirus and send them to mass quarantine camps,

With the infection and death toll rising every day, Sun Chunlan, a vice-premier who is leading Beijing's response to the outbreak, has told city investigators to go house to house to check the temperatures of all residents and interview close

contacts of anyone infected with the virus.

"Set up a 24-hour duty system," Ms Sun said. "During these wartime conditions, there must be no deserters, or they will be nailed to the pillar of historical shame forever."

A week ago, it was confirmed that a whistleblowing doctor who was reprimanded for "spreading rumours" about the coronavirus before it was officially recognised has died.

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**HEAD OFFICE**

Timber & Forestry enews  
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  
advertising@timberandforestryenews.com

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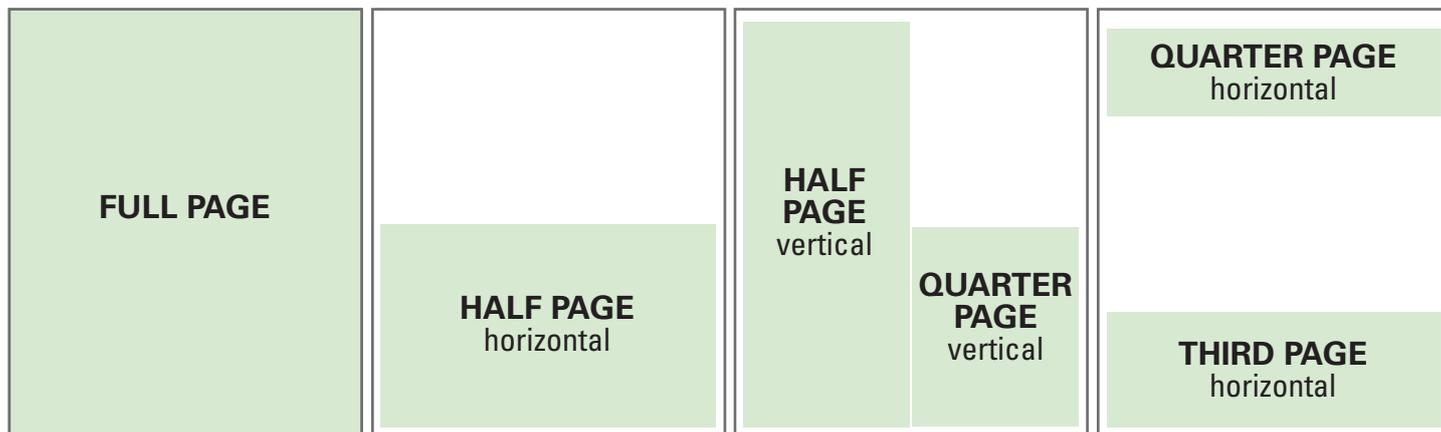
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