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Timber glitters in brand win for golden awards

COVER STORY P6



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Greens serve up Rice to attack sound sustainable forest industry message

AS one of the nation's major political parties, it is enormously disappointing that the Australian Greens are attacking federal public servants for simply producing a series of information videos covering Australia's sustainable native forestry industry.

The videos, titled, 'Australian Forestry, Planning for Tomorrow, Today', are available via the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment's website.

Australian Forest Products Association CEO Ross Hampton said the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment should be congratulated for adding facts to the conversation, rather than being attacked in this nonsensical way.

"These videos are 100 percent factual and will

“VIDEOS AN IMPORTANT RESOURCE FOR STUDENTS



1/ Grab from 'Australian Forestry, Planning for Tomorrow, Today' video.

2/ Senator Janet Rice... locking out the truth about forests.

be an important resource for students and all those seeking to better understand Australia's forest industries," Mr Hampton said.

"If the Greens wish to be taken seriously in environmental matters they must deal with facts and not simply attack the public service when its message doesn't suit their agenda.

"Our homes and offices need both plantation timber for pine framing for our houses and the appearance grade hardwoods we get from modest, sustainable

use of a small number of native trees. This hardwood native timber makes the products we love such as doors, windows, tables, benchtops and floors."

The video makes the evidence-based point that "every tree we use is regrown and replaced". However, Greens forestry spokesperson Senator Janet Rice is calling for this positive message to be hidden.

"In fact, in Australia we only use about four

native trees out of 10,000 every year, and every tree used is replaced through regeneration," Mr Hampton said.

"This is the gold standard for sustainable forestry practices globally, yet the Greens – who presumably also wish to halt deforestation in countries with poor environmental standards – have never explained how closing down native forestry in Australia will not result in yet more deforestation in other countries."

Mr Hampton added: "Forestry supports thousands of regional jobs. It also beggars belief that at a time of high unemployment the Greens are wanting to add native forestry jobs to the dole queue."

In another swipe at the forests sector, Senator Rice in May called for a stopping of native timber harvesting in Victoria "if Australia's threatened species are going to survive."



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Post-pandemic construction stimulus aimed at saving the building industry

Federal package for struggling sectors likely to reach \$1bn

CASH grants of about \$25,000 to build new homes will be on offer until the end of the year and will be uncapped as part of the federal government's post-pandemic construction stimulus package aimed at saving the building industry.

The package, likely to be launched this week, will also be means-tested to include those households potentially earning up to \$200,000, but will be available for only several months to avoid inflating house prices across the country.

The opposition and community housing sector is pushing the Morrison government to including social housing in its stimulus measures.

The construction package, which senior government sources expect to be slightly under \$1 billion, is one of several industry-specific packages the government is currently tailoring for struggling sectors as it moves away from economy-wide broad assistance measures.

However, the federal opposition and community housing sector is pushing the Morrison government to including social housing in its stimulus measures, proposing a \$7.2 billion package for new buildings and \$500 million for renovation of existing homes.

New modelling released

“PUSH TO INCLUDE SOCIAL HOUSING”



New modelling... four-year social house building program of 30,000 homes would create on average up to 18,000 full-time equivalent jobs each year.

on Wednesday by the Community Housing Industry Association and National Shelter found a four-year social house building program of 30,000 homes would create on average up to 18,000 full-time equivalent jobs each year.

Association CEO Wendy Hayhurst said the Social Housing Acceleration and Renovation Program (SHARP) would not only deliver better homes to those in need but also secure jobs for thousands of Australians.

Ms Hayhurst said the main benefit would fall where the job losses had been greatest in Sydney and Melbourne but also create jobs in regions and towns.

"With the period 2021-22 earmarked as an anticipated economic weak point, the program would create up to 24,500 jobs both on-site and in the wider building services industry," Ms Hayhurst said.

"The federal government has stated that we have to maintain a laser-like focus on

jobs to get Australia moving and this new modelling shows that SHARP does just that."

It is estimated SHARP would raise output in Australia

Cont P 4

The united voice for Australia's forest industries



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From P 3

by at least \$15.7 billion over the four years of construction and increase GDP by anywhere between \$5.8 billion to \$6.7 billion.

SGS economics and planning partner Terry Rawnsley, who led the modelling, said building homes had wide reaching impact beyond on site jobs and would call on services from equipment hire to waste removal.

"All this activity will have positive multiplier effects through local and regional economies, as construction and local supplier employees spend their newfound wages at local cafes, stores and even a weekend away," Mr Rawnsley said.

The Morrison government has so far ruled out an increased investment in social housing, instead leaving it to state governments, and



Wendy Hayhurst... delivering better homes to secure jobs.

focusing on a post-September commercial housing build when the industry says the current pipeline of projects will run dry.

The Australian Forest Products Association last week welcomed Master Builders Australia's Action Plan, which called for a raft of comprehensive economic stimulus measures from all levels of government to encourage new housing



Terry Rawnsley... positive multiplier effects through local and regional communities.

construction.

The MBA Action Plan supports AFPA's calls for new housing construction support, following dire forecasts from its members that sawn timber demand will plummet by 50% by year's end, risking thousands of jobs in the



Ross Hampton... MBA plan supports AFPA call for new housing support.

45,000 strong softwood timber sector.

According to new economic modelling commissioned by MBA, the \$13.2 billion Stimulus Action Plan would stimulate more than \$30 billion in new economic activity and create more than 100,000 new jobs across Australia's struggling economy.

(With extracts from the Sydney Morning Herald).

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France says Vive la Wood!

THE French government is poised to pass a law that stipulates that new public buildings will have to be built from 50% bio-based materials from 2022.

It's a timely shot in the arm for mass timber construction. Many have been frustrated by the slow uptake, despite wood's ability to significantly reduce the environmental impact of the construction industry, producer of upwards of 40% of global carbon emissions.

The newly proposed legislation builds on commitments already in place for the development of Paris's 2024 Olympic complex, which state that any building under eight storeys will primarily be constructed using timber.

"There is no reason that what is possible for the Olympics should not also be possible for ordinary buildings," argues Julien Denormandie, the French Minister for Towns and Housing.

Advocates for mass timber cite not only its substantial green benefits, but also increased speed in construction, a reduction in dust and noise pollution, and better thermal performance.

Add in the potentially huge cost savings over current alternatives once a robust mass-timber ecosystem is established and customer demand for biophilic spaces that incorporate more natural materials, and it would seem obvious for developers to champion wood.

Strong global demand buffers forest sector against COVID trade impacts

IT seems from a global analysis that the forest products sector's upward trade 'curve' has not been 'flattened' by COVID-19.

The virus may have had a negative impact on other supply chains, but a Wood Resources International snapshot shows the timber industry has remained fairly strong during the initial period of the pandemic.

Many commodity products saw reduced trade during March and April, a result of slowing demand, closures of manufacturing facilities to protect workers, constraint in the handling capacity of goods at many ports, and widespread financial distress.

But a closer look at the March 2020 trade data, the first 'coronavirus month', reveals that global trade of lumber, logs, wood chips and pulp increased compared to previous months.

Demand for toilet paper, face masks, disinfecting wipes, corrugated paper for cardboard boxes and wood products for home renovations are just a few



Challenging COVID... world trade in forest products remains strong.

forest products that have been in unusually high demand in many countries.

Positive developments for the forest industry sector in February-March identified by WRI include:

- Softwood logs – China increased imports by 14% month-on-month, with most of the added logs originating from New Zealand, Germany and Russia. Log imports to South Korea rose 19%, while Australia and Canada shipped about 70% more logs in March than in the previous month.
- Softwood lumber – shipments from New Zealand and Canada were up 32% and 25% respectively.

Lumber imports were up in most of the major markets in March, including China (+59%), the US (+27%), the UK (+13%), and Japan (+10%).

- Wood pulp – three of the four largest pulp-exporting countries, Brazil, the US and Chile, increased their shipments between 12% and 26% in March. The five top importing countries all purchased more pulp in March than in February, with China and South Korea increasing their volumes the most (40% and 29% respectively).

- Hardwood chips – China, Portugal, and South Korea imported more chips for their pulp industry in March than

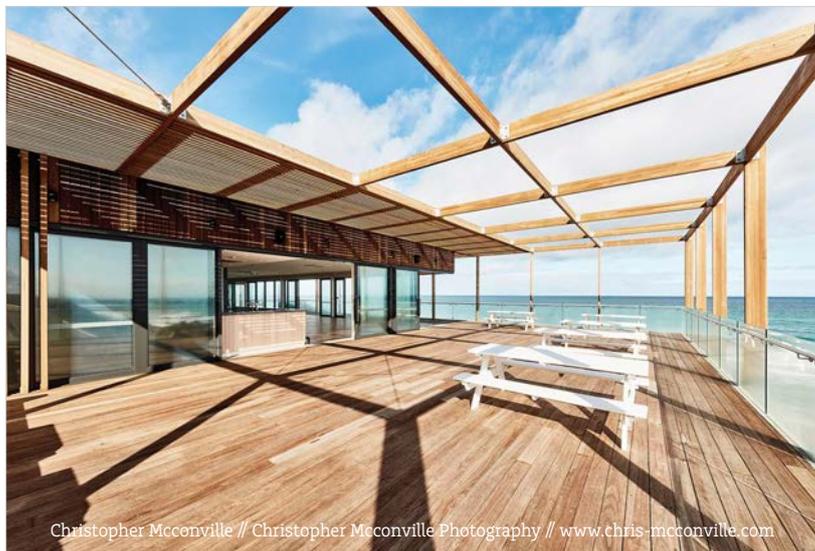
in the previous month. Most of the major chip-exporting countries, including Australia, Thailand, South Africa, and Brazil shipped more chips in March than in February.

In the coming months, says WRI, numerous countries around the world are planning to ease lockdown policies and loosen the rules that are restricting house constructions, international commerce and consumer shopping.

These changes will further benefit many companies in the forest industry sector, albeit as they travel a rough road.

Another 'positive' for the industry comes by way of a workplace study by the US Department of Labor, which lists forestry and forest harvesting as the safest occupations from COVID-19.

In the study, the risk levels of various jobs were calculated using O*NET, a database maintained by the department. On a scale of 1-100, forest harvesting was the lowest risk level – between 0 and 5%.



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Reframing forestry in the eyes of the public: ‘ultimate’ brand a gold winner

THE Forest and Wood Products Australia brand The Ultimate Renewable has been named twice on the winners’ list for the 2020 International Association of Business Communicators Gold Quill Awards.

For more than 40 years, the Gold Quill awards have recognised excellence in strategic communication worldwide, acknowledged as one of the most prestigious awards programs in the communications and marketing industries.

The organisers recognised FWPA’s entry ‘The Ultimate Renewable – Reframing Forestry in the Eyes of the Public’ in the marketing, advertising, and brand communication category, with quills awarded by International Association of Business Communicators divisions in both Victoria and the Asia-Pacific.

FWPA managing Director Ric Sinclair said the industry around the world had long struggled with the conundrum of broad community acceptance of



Celebrating the Ultimate Renewable launch in Sydney last year... Matt de Jongh, Department of Agriculture, Eileen Newbury, FWPA, and John Simon, chair, FWPA.

wood products alongside a persistent underlying concern about sustainable forest management.

“Our research shows the community largely understands that wood stores carbon, and that using wood can reduce carbon emissions,” Mr Sinclair said.

“However, we need to improve people’s understanding that harvested trees are actually replaced and grow into a resource for use by future generations.

“By providing education and challenging

misconceptions, the goal is to encourage the wider community to embrace forest and wood products across the supply chain, increasing acceptance of and demand for timber in Australia.”

Following rigorous industry and consumer consultation, The Ultimate Renewable brand was developed to reinforce the association between wood and the word ‘renewable’, while simultaneously promoting benefits of timber as a material

The Ultimate Renewable promotional campaign

comprised several communication tactics designed to engage industry and consumers, including face-to-face events, and advertising across social media, TV, outdoor displays, EDMs and trade and consumer magazines.

As well as providing an all-encompassing consumer campaign the brand also offers a universal, positive communications message for members of the forestry sector to share and incorporate into their own marketing collateral, further spreading the campaign details and amplifying the messages.

“FWPA operates in an incredibly diverse sector,” Ric Sinclair said. “But no matter where our stakeholders sit across the supply chain, the reality is we all share a common resource, which is renewable.”

On the cover: Gold performance... wood – the Ultimate Renewable – glitters at Novartis Australia’s new pharmaceutical headquarters in northern Sydney. (HDR Design).




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JUNE

11: Innovation in Action Conference – Wellington, NZ. Virtual conference online. Register interest at www.colabprefabnz.com

SEPTEMBER

1-3: DANA New Zealand Forest Industry Status and Outlook Conference and field trip – Emerald Hotel, Gisborne, New Zealand.

For further information see: www.danaevents.co.nz/2020gisborne/ or contact Julie Bell 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

30: Green Triangle Timber Industry Awards POSTPONED – Barn Palais, Mount Gambier, SA, Australia. Nominations open 1 June 2020 and close 14 August 2020. For more information visit:

www.gttia.com/

MARCH 2021

17-19: Doing Timber Business in Queensland – Hotel Marriott and Howard Smith Wharves, Brisbane, QLD, Australia. State conference, workshops, innovation tour and gala dinner organised by Timber Queensland. Visit www.doingtimberbusinessinql.com

EVENTS LISTS MAY HAVE BEEN, OR ARE LIKELY TO BE CANCELLED OR POSTPONED DUE TO CORONAVIRUS TRAVEL, SOCIAL DISTANCING AND OTHER RESTRICTIONS. PLEASE CHECK THE RELEVANT WEBSITES.

SEPTEMBER

27-30: Council on Forest Engineering Annual Meeting – POSTPONED. Visit www.cofe.org for update.

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

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

DECEMBER

7-9: 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 December 7 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

JANUARY 2021

11-14 : 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/

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



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Foresters seek clearer clarification on court's 'endangered species' decision

THE peak organisation for forest scientists and land managers, the Institute of Foresters Australia and Australian Forest Growers (IFA/AFG), supports clarification of the Federal Court decision finding VicForests had not followed what appear to be conflicting federal and state government rules to protect endangered species.

The decision sets a legal precedent in applying federal threatened species

protection laws to the forest harvesting sector in Victoria. The community group Friends of Leadbeater's Possum successfully argued that harvesting by VicForests

in 66 areas of habitat critical to the vulnerable greater glider and critically endangered Leadbeater's possum contravened federal law.

IFA/AFG president Bob Gordon said the organisation wholeheartedly supported the protection of all forest species, but the science used as a basis for the decision needed to be tested and the law needed to be clarified.

understanding the science.

"Our belief, supported by science, is that forests can be managed to provide multiple values which are not mutually exclusive. Conservation, carbon storage, fire management, traditional land management, recreation and harvesting can and need to co-exist.

Mr Gordon said forest scientists adopted a whole-of-landscape approach when managing forests, balancing these values to reach the optimum outcome.

"Unfortunately, forest scientists who work in national parks forest management are not resourced to carry out species surveys on an adequate basis – therefore it is difficult to get a landscape perspective," he said. "More funding is required to address this issue."

Mr Gordon said that in making their decision, the Court appeared to have looked at the impacts within discrete coupes, rather than considering the broader landscape context.

"To understand the true impact of management actions, they must be re-looked at as part of a bigger-picture perspective which takes into account the entire landscape where they took place including the substantial conservation reserve system," he said.

"There is extensive legislation that currently exists to how harvesting operations are undertaken in native forests, and this needs to be clarified."



1/ Foresters in Victoria care passionately about the environment and sustainability.

2/ Bob Gordon... forest scientists adopted a whole-of-landscape approach when managing forests.



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“FORESTS CAN BE MANAGED FOR MULTIPLE VALUES”

"Forest scientists who manage harvesting and regeneration operations do this job because they care passionately about the environment and sustainability," Mr Gordon said.

"They work hard to minimise any impacts from harvesting through survey work, implementing additional protection measures and

Plywood icon has sharp focus on future

CELEBRATING its 75th year, iconic Australian plywood supplier and manufacturer Sharp Plywood is fighting for survival ... "a battle we're sure to win," says general manager Darryl Sharp.

The Brisbane-based company, which has assembled one of the most varied and modern veneer plants in the country, is working with administrators to keep the business in the family.

"Sure, it's been tough. But we have a license agreement in place and our total focus now is on the future – our loyal customers, future customers and a continuing supply of our reconstituted and natural timber veneers, Darryl said.

"So, again, our focus is positive."



1/ Sharp Plywood... supplying quality veneers to clients across Australia.
2/ Darryl Sharp... family has a positive focus.

The family is progressing with a succession plan as second-generation directors Rodney Sharp (managing director) and Greg Sharp prepare for retirement. Their sons Darryl, Ashley, Greg and Aaron are negotiating to buy out all equipment and set up a newly-constructed

business.

Presently, Sharp Plywood has three retail stores in Queensland and supplies plywood veneers to clients across Australia with distributors in Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide.



"Also, our forests are very important to us and we strive to produce an environmentally friendly product. That is why we stock and press on Australian Particleboard, E-Zero MDF or VOC-free hardboard surface layers, as well as other A grade plywood veneer panels."

Although "the interruption" came during the COVID-19 setback, Darryl Sharp says the market and sales are better than expected. And although many construction projects were suspended as the virus took hold, he is happy to report that the last two weeks had seen a renewed interest from project managers, reflecting a more positive construction sector.

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Vancouver city approves residential mass timber buildings to 12 storeys

Last LVL panel lifted in service deemed essential by Canadian province

THE British Columbia's Council of Forest Industries has applauded the decision by the Vancouver City Council to approve by-law amendments allowing mass timber construction up to 12 storeys for residential and commercial use as of July 1.

COFI president and CEO Susan Yurkovich said the city had taken an important step, seizing Vancouver's green building opportunity while also supporting an industry that is a cornerstone of the province's economy.

"Giving the green light to building taller wood buildings is advancing Vancouver's work to combat climate change and support forestry-related jobs," Ms Yurkovich said.

She added that building with sustainably harvested, renewable, low-carbon wood products was a safe go-to solution in jurisdictions around the world looking to reduce their GHG footprint.

Last week, Adera



1/ Higher and higher... artist's impression of Adera Development's Crest residential mass timber project in North Vancouver.

2/ Susan Yurkovich... seizing Vancouver's green building opportunity..

Development 'topped-off' one of the largest mass timber residential projects in western Canada in the Central Lonsdale district.

With construction deemed an essential service during the COVID-19 pandemic by the province of British Columbia, Crest's construction team has successfully and safely continued to work over the last few months and on May 28 the team placed the final CLT panel on the second building at Crest in North

Vancouver, a key component of Adera's SmartWood technology method.

Adera's vice-president, sales and marketing, Eric Andreasen said the company remained confident that well-located, well-built, sustainable new homes would continue to succeed in this market.

The appetite and interest around large-scale mass timber projects continues to expand in North America with Adera and the Greater

Vancouver building industry at the forefront of the movement towards cleaner, healthier buildings that fight against climate change.

The mass timber for the project is manufactured by Penticton-based Structurlam Mass Timber Corporation, which provided CrossLam CLT and Glulam PLUS. The timber at the building sequesters more than 433,000 kg of carbon from the atmosphere, stored for the duration of the building's life cycle. The lumber is sourced from regional forests and is certified by the Forest Stewardship Council.

Owners who work from home will also benefit from Adera's QuietHome system, which uses SmartWood to reduce sound transference in the building.

Crest will also feature several permanent public art installations around the exterior of the building. The project will also deliver an innovative urban dog park for the use of residents and the surrounding community.



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30,000 registered users a celebration of 10 years promoting wood products

WoodSolutions: demystifying timber and educating specifiers

SINCE launching in 2010, the WoodSolutions program has built a strong reputation for providing high-quality and easy-to-understand information about the benefits of timber to the development, design and build sector.

Designed to support FWPA's mission of increasing demand for and acceptance of timber in construction, the program has proven successful in demystifying timber and educating those involved in specifying building materials about how it can be most effectively used. Information provided supports the construction sector when making important decisions including appearance, strength, workability, durability and fire-resistance.

With more than 30,000 registered users, WoodSolutions.com.au consistently is one of the world's top websites for

“ONGOING SUPPORT OF INDUSTRY



FWPA's mission... increasing the acceptance of timber in construction.

timber information.

Among the impressive and ever-growing list of resources, the website includes more than 50 technical design guides, which enable engineering and design professionals to easily build their knowledge of timber-related requirements in construction and design.

These guides have proven invaluable in helping meet the growing demand for professionals with a strong understanding of this area.

Aside from its broader mission to educate construction professionals about the advantages of using timber, members of the forestry and wood products industries can benefit from the WoodSolutions website



designers, engineers, quantity surveyors, builders, developers, students and more.

- Listen to the informative TimberTalks podcast, featuring insights from some of the world's leading experts in timber design, specification and construction.

TALKING TIMBER



With Eileen Newbury
National Marketing and
Communications Manager,
FWPA

in a number of different ways, including opportunities to:

- Promote their products and businesses by registering as an industry supplier on the website's database, visited by designers and specifiers.
- Participate in or present at free weekly online webinars, attended by architects,

- Access a wealth of timber-related resources, including construction case studies, species and material information, and the information on standards and codes.

- List your approved industry events on the WoodSolutions calendar and promote them to potential interested attendees.

A collaborative effort between FWPA members and levy payers, we are grateful for the ongoing support of industry bodies and technical associations. This support helps ensure our WoodSolutions program can continue to provide freely-available, relevant and accurate resources to the design and build sector, driving the success of our industry into the future.



An industry services company working to grow the forest and wood products market
Visit us at fwpa.com.au

Two major wood machinery events on track as new dates are confirmed

TWO major industry events interrupted this year by COVID-19 – the Timber Offsite Construction Conference and the AWISA wood machinery exhibition – are set to fire up in 2021 and 2022, with dates confirmed this week.

The offsite construction conference and exhibition has been deferred from June 15 and 16 this year to June 21 and 22 next year at the Crown Promenade Melbourne, with a focus on timber and technology in construction and the growing trend to attaining net zero carbon buildings.

“With a year to go, we are confident of ensuring face-to-face interaction and networking for delegates, presenters, and exhibitors, providing an exceptional opportunity to gain contacts and knowledge in these rapidly developing sectors,” event organiser Kevin Ezard said.

Conference sessions will present the latest global and local advancements emerging in building design and construction. Half-day topic themes will embrace building design influences, construction productivity, prefabrication and technology, and global wood building projects.

In particular, the increasing numbers of wood building projects around Australia provides an expanding choice of project speaker panels to discuss actual challenges and



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Kevin Ezard... top program and some exciting new features for our 23rd event.



Brett Ambrose... AWISA 2022 will bring another four years of technology change.

solutions experienced.

Mr Ezard added: “I am really looking forward to an excellent program and introducing some exciting new features for our 23rd year of the event.

“These changing times are also providing openings for new communication technologies to be implemented with a broader set of solutions to meet changing expectations.”

Session program details and delegate registration will be available in February next year from the website www.timberoffsiteconstruction.com.au

The Australian Woodworking Industry Suppliers Association had scheduled its popular international AWISA 2020 exhibition for Sydney in July

until COVID-19 got in the way.

“We are pleased to announce that AWISA 2022 will take place at ICC Sydney from July 6 to 9,” said AWISA chairman Brett Ambrose.

“Obviously we all continue to be bitterly disappointed not to be running an exhibition this year,” he said. “Some people were a little surprised when we made our postponement decision as early as the beginning of March. However, it was the right decision at the time, and regrettably it has proved over the last two months to have definitely been the correct decision.”

Mr Ambrose said the four years between AWISA 2018 and AWISA 2022 would make the show an even more important event to visit with four years of technology

change by machinery exhibitors and four years of new products by hardware, fittings and decorative product manufacturers on display.

“Also, it is sure to be time for the industry to get together and entertain clients in the style for which AWISA exhibitions are well known,” he said.

AWISA is one of the largest bookings at ICC Sydney, occupying all the exhibition halls, most of them for 15 days. It has been difficult to find a vacant space of this size early in 2021 that did not clash with other woodworking exhibitions around the world. Indeed, some of these events were also being postponed and it was clear that AWISA could have made a decision on dates to then find that a northern hemisphere show was promoting dates that clashed. Mid-2021 was also impossible with two major German trade shows, Ligna and Interzum, taking place in May next year.

The AWISA board has therefore decided to delay the next AWISA exhibition until the dates that were already booked at ICC Sydney for AWISA 2022.

**“EXCITING
NEW
PROGRAMS**

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The powerful Hundegger TURBO-Drive has enjoyed tremendous success in the region since its local launch a little over two years ago. Its super-fast operation, flexibility, small footprint (see overleaf) and user-friendly interface makes it the machine of choice for serious frame and truss operations. Many of the Hundegger TURBO-Drive machines are running multiple shifts and cutting 4-stack components, in operations where it is the second, third or fourth machine in operation.

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“...this job with birds-mouths took me just 20mins on the “CUT”, it would have been over 3 hours previously...”

The Hundegger TURBO-Drive “CUT” fast and reliable – for under \$300,000.00AUD



The TURBO-Drive CUT is supplied with an automated infeed and outfeed, **10kW 5-axis servo-controlled saw unit**, waste conveyors, printing, security fence, powerful drive motors, centralised lubrication, production monitor, short piece handling, full software and Truss UI touch-screen, including delivery, installation, training and even a spare saw-blade!

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Whatever your requirements, the Hundegger TURBO-Drive has a package to suit, all with localised Technical Support. All machines can be upgraded at a later date to ensure your investment returns full value. For detailed specifications, contact Sam Rowe on +61 418 561 023 sam.rowe@hundegger.com.au

I see trees: Captain Cook won wager with naturalist over Caledonian pines

CAPTAIN James Cook never pretended to be a botanist but he could spot a tree from a fair distance.

On his first journey of exploration and discovery on the Endeavour he had renowned botanist Joseph Banks on board, and then on his second voyage on the Resolution he was accompanied by German naturalist Johann Reinhold Forster.

Approaching New Caledonian in 1774, Cook claimed he saw trees and debated with Forster whether they were trees or pillars of stone. In his diary Johann Forster records the occasion. He noted that as they sailed along Cook saw "... a vast cluster of ... elevated objects ... various opinions and conjectures about them and occasioned the laying of several trifling wagers".

Forster also wrote: "... all the military men think them to be trees, whereas the experimental men are of the opinion they are stone pillars erect by Nature."

“WE FOUND TREES TO BE A KIND OF SPRUCE PINE

Forster recorded that they approached a large island covered in them, which took several days to round. By now Cook was determined that they were trees, and named the island the Isle of Pines. A suitable anchorage off a small island was found and Cook "...



1/ *Captain's call... New Caledonian pine or Cook pine tree in Sydney's Royal Botanic gardens.*
2/ *Johann Reinhold Forster... the military men think them to be trees.*

went ashore accompanied by the botanist ... we found the trees to be a kind of spruce pine, very proper for Spars which we were in need of."

So, Cook was correct ... these trees (Araucaria columnaris) are now known as New Caledonian pine, or Cook pine, named in honour



noble ancestry, and still consists of 25 species, all in the southern hemisphere. Paleobotanists have traced the ancestors of the genus back to prehistoric times. Common to all 25 of the species is the regimented geometry associated with the time of the dinosaurs. The trees radiate whorls of branches generally stiffer and spiker than those of other conifers.

When viewed from the sea, New Caledonian pine trees are the most prominent floral feature of New Caledonian and neighbouring islands. European mariners from Captain Cook onwards have been suitably impressed. They are a distinctive narrowly conical tree growing up to 60 m. The trees have a slender, spire-like crown.

The relatively short, mostly horizontal branches are in whorls around the slender, upright to slightly leaning trunk. The branches are lined with cord-like, horizontal branchlets. The branchlets are covered with small, green, incurved, point-tipped, spirally arranged, overlapping leaves. The bark peels off in thin paper-like sheets or strips and is rough, grey, and resinous.

The New Caledonian pine is commonly confused with the Norfolk Island pine because of their similar appearance.

TALKING TREES

With JOHN HALKETT

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of the great explorer. They are endemic to New Caledonia and the Loyalty Islands in the southwestern Pacific.

The tree is a distinguished member of the Araucaria genus that has a long and



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NSW Labor's 'buy local timber' message to underpin a housing recovery: AFPA

THE Australian Forest Products Association has welcomed a call from the NSW Opposition for any federal and state sponsored building stimulus packages to focus on Australian-grown and processed timber products.

In a statement yesterday, the NSW Shadow Natural Resources Minister Paul Scully called for a range of measures to support timber industries including an "emphasis on using local timber products".

AFPA CEO Ross Hampton said building construction approvals were showing all the signs of heading off a cliff in coming months as immigration dried up and the new home sales pipeline emptied.

"Already softwood sawmills around Australia are forecasting a 50% drop in demand for sawn timber by Christmas," Mr Hampton said. "There are some 45,000

regional Australians who work in our mills and associated areas and many of these jobs will be at risk if nothing is done.

"The federal government has flagged that a building stimulus package is on the cards and that is extremely welcome. Mr Scully's message must also be listened to. If the stimulus package does not include caveats which drive local production of timber, bricks, glass, windows etc, it will keep tradies busy but not the suppliers.

"This is not a call for long-term protectionism, but rather a request for a carefully designed policy response which hits all its goals."

Mr Hampton said all nations had been impacted by the pandemic; many competitor countries were looking at Australia as a place to send products to prop up their own jobs.

"The fast and clear health action by the Morrison government in shutting down the economy saved thousands of lives," he said. "An equally clear and sure-footed policy roll-out by all governments,



Paul Scully... emphasis must be on using local timber products.

with an unashamed focus on buying Australian, is now needed to save livelihoods."

Further, with housing and home renovations likely to be front and centre of future stimulus measures, NSW Labor has demanded the Berejiklian government urgently appoint a forest recovery commissioner to help the industry meet looming demand for timber.

The call comes amid reports that forward orders for timber products are being cancelled, adding to the financial pressure on timber mills and their workers in communities affected by bushfires and COVID-19.

Paul Scully said the

residential construction sector and timber-dependent communities needed certainty from the state government to recover.

"The timber industry has been devastated. I have heard reports of forward orders for timber products being cancelled because of the downturn in residential construction, which is further hitting mills and their workers," Mr Scully said.

"The industry needs support, guidance and a clear workforce plan going forward. This will require a co-ordinating authority like a forest recovery commissioner to lead the way.

"Had it not been for the COVID-19 stimulus plan, the Liberal-National government would never have come to the party and offered financial assistance to land owners with properties neighbouring Forestry Corporation land – support it should have offered months ago.

"This announcement is months overdue. Support to rebuild damaged or destroyed fencing should have been much higher on the Berejiklian government's priority list."

“POLICY RESPONSE MUST HIT ALL GOALS

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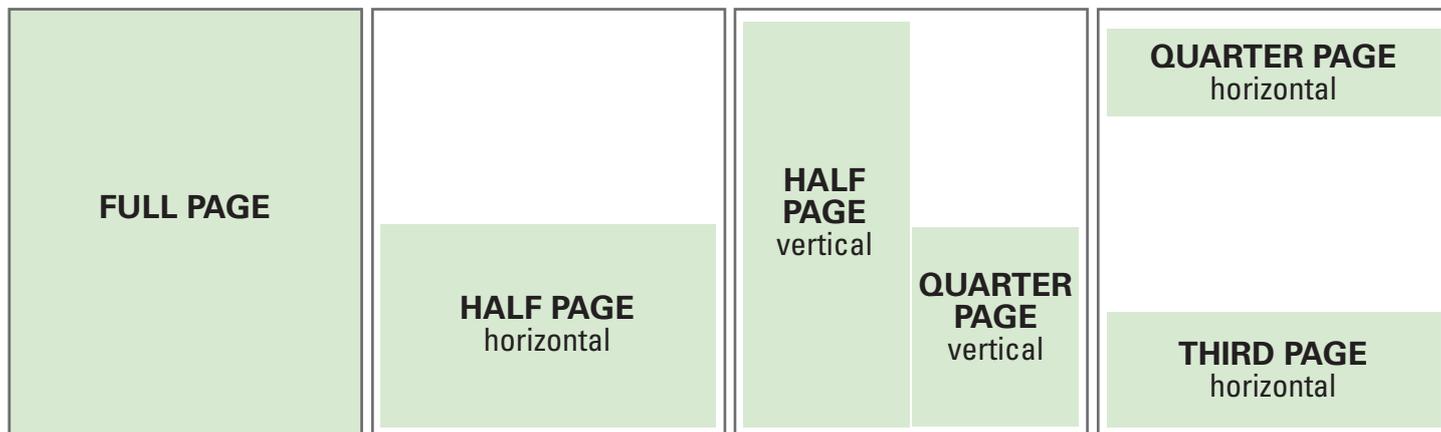
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