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# Stacked deck a winner for wood in Powerhouse Museum construction

JIM BOWDEN

MASSIVE structural timber ‘blocks’ will sit atop “elegant steel lattices” in the construction of the controversial Powerhouse Museum in western Sydney, considered a \$1 billion project.

Relocation of the museum from Sydney’s inner city to western Sydney will cost \$645 million and create more than 1100 construction jobs and 2400 indirect jobs.

NSW Premier Gladys Berejiklian, who took over the arts portfolio in April, says the new museum will be bigger and better than anything New South Wales has ever seen.

“It will rival global cultural icons such as the London Science Museum and the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum,” she said.

Resembling a stacked deck of cards, the new building will be big enough to house large



**Lisa Havilah... renewing historic relationships.** Photo: The Australian

objects including the historic Boulton and Watt rotative steam engine and the Loco No 1, which hauled the first passenger train in New South Wales.

Ten days after the NSW government renewed its support for the proposed Powerhouse Parramatta, the museum has released a state significant development application and environmental pact statement for public comment until July 7.

A builder will be engaged once the planning process

plays out with work expected to start as soon as early next year. After a search for design architects across 20 countries and sifting through 74 concepts Paris-based architect Moreau Kkusunoki and local firm Genton were appointed.

The blocky design uses various green and brown shades to give the building a natural feel which blends into its surroundings. Converging shapes and staggered level balconies will overlook the river and park below.

Immersive and large-

scale programs will be accommodated across 18,000 sq m of exhibition space. The new powerhouse, a proposed 24-hour cultural precinct, will feature constantly changing programs as well as residential studios for researchers, scientists, artists and students.

Powerhouse Museum CEO Lisa Havilah said the new site would expand access to the museum’s collection while renewing historic relationships between science, technology and culture.

Ms Havilah will report to the arts minister, rather than board chairman as per the previous structure, and her job description is heavily weighted towards managing the move and build of the new museum. She has in-depth knowledge and understanding of the workings of museum collections and major exhibitions.

**PARISIAN ARCHITECT APPOINTED**

**On the cover: Artist’s impression of the Powerhouse Museum in Sydney with construction expected to start early next year.**



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# Government turns blind eye to illegal, life-threatening pickets in forest coupes

## Industry calls out double standards on workplace safety across state

THE lives and livelihoods of forest workers and their families in Victoria have again been endangered by stupid, militant protestors and a government seemingly oblivious to the human damage and suffering they cause.

Protesters shut down seven logging coupes across Victoria on Tuesday as environmentalists and community members called for an end to native forest logging.

Protesters used tactics including tree-sits, locking onto machinery and walking into logging coupes to halt logging at Mount Cole, Baw Baw, Toolangi, Big Pats Creek, Camberville, Lakes Entrance and Noojee. They have been protesting at various coupes for five weeks.

“Protestors are creating unsafe workplaces and are putting their lives in danger with their behaviour, particularly when they appear on worksites, and those operating equipment harvesting trees or driving a truck have no knowledge they are there,” Australian Forest Contractors Association general manager Stacey Gardiner said

“It is simply unacceptable, irresponsible, and illegal to come onto a controlled workplace and it must stop.

**“PROTESTERS ARE PUTTING THEMSELVES AND WORKERS AT GRAVE RISK**



1/ Senseless... a protester locks herself to a piece of machinery in a coupe at Baw Baw in eastern Victoria. 2/ Stacey Gardiner. 3/ Tim Johnston.



“It is creating a very stressful and at times confronting environment for forestry contracting businesses and I have serious concerns around the impact this is having on them and their employees’ mental wellbeing.”

Ms Gardiner said like all industries, our members deserve to have a safe workplace, and the government must do more, to act swiftly and penalise those who breach the law.

“Only last week we saw the Victorian government support strict enforcement of on-the-spot fines for those caught trespassing onto farms. Why is our industry not offered the same type of protection for undertaking lawful operations?”

Victorian Forest Industries Association CEO Tim Johnston said people who chose to disrupt legal timber harvesting operations put themselves and others at risk.

“There are a range of offences and penalties for

these dangerous actions, reflecting the seriousness of the situation,” he said.

“Despite this, the state government has consistently dragged its feet on enforcing these penalties and coupes remain closed for days or weeks on end.

“These are the same forest contractors that are asked by the government to risk their lives and fight bushfires. They should be allowed to go about their livelihoods safely and with certainty.”

**JIM BOWDEN**

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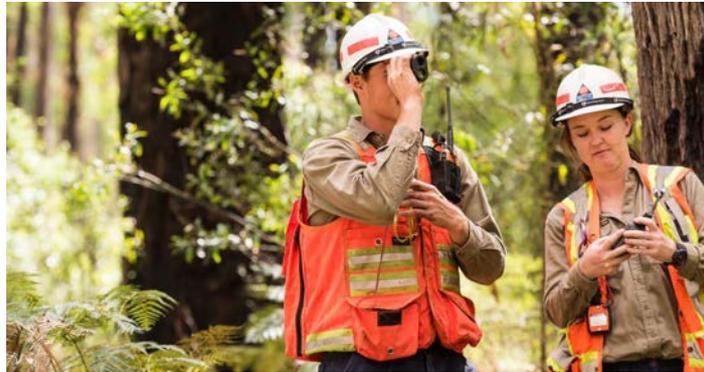
# Possum study proves Andrews wrong on plans to close down native forestry

## Site-specific conservation doomed to fail in dynamic landscapes

A NEW study by leading landscape scientists at the University of Melbourne has shown that forestry operations would reduce the Leadbeater's possum habitat by just 1.4%-2.3% if it continued for the next 250 years.

Furthermore, the study found that, while harvesting an area reduces foraging and nesting habitat, that foraging habitat returns within 10 to 15 years and can be re-colonised by Leadbeater's possums as long as there are nesting sites nearby.

Australian Forest Products Association CEO Ross Hampton said the important



**Possum spotting... ViForests is taking part in a range of projects to help the Leadbeater's possum recover and to ensure its long-term survival.**

research finally proved that the very modest amount of native timber harvesting in Victoria – about four trees out of every 10,000 – was entirely compatible with sound, sustainable, environmental

management.

“Under Victorian laws every small area which will be harvested is carefully surveyed for native species and protections put in place before operations,” Mr Hampton said.

“After timber harvesting is completed, the area is reseeded and regenerated which means, as the researchers found, it very quickly becomes suitable habitat again.”

The researchers also found that the biggest threats by far to the Leadbeater's possum were bushfires and climate change. They found that ultimately to protect threatened species, Victoria should move away from site-specific conservation, which the state has followed till now.”

The research says:

“This approach is doomed to fail in dynamic landscapes – particularly in fire-prone landscapes in a warming climate. For conservation planning to be successful, we need coordinated forest, fire and conservation management that accounts

for these dynamics across the whole landscape, not just in individual locations.”

Mr Hampton said this was exactly what AFPA had been calling for.

“We have asked the national Bushfire Royal Commission to provide recommendations on moving this nation to a ‘whole-of-landscape’ fire management approach,” he said.

“It is a recipe for more disastrous outcomes like the Black Summer bushfires if we continue to compartmentalise our fire management.

“The men and women and machines which can do this work for our communities are in our forestry workforce. It beggars belief that Premier Andrews is insisting that this workforce depart the bush, even as we consider how to avoid a repeat of the past tragic summer.”

Mr Hampton said the University of Melbourne study provided more evidence that the Andrew's government decision to take an axe to Victoria's native forestry sector in that state was ill-considered and had not considered all the ramifications.

“It doesn't make sense in terms of mitigating the fire risk for all Victorians, it doesn't make sense in terms of closing down regional jobs and, this study even now shows, it makes no sense when it comes to protecting the state's faunal emblem, the Leadbeater's possum,” he said.

“The decision should be reversed.”

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# Meet a passionate artist using recycled timbers to bring a community together

WHEN we think about art we might be forgiven for thinking mainly about paint, clay and canvas.

But for NSW Northern Rivers sculptor and teacher Dave Hickson 'wood construction' is the ultimate artistic expression.

Born in New Zealand and majoring in sculpture at the National Art School in Sydney, Dave graduated with honours and is a recipient of the prestigious Julian Beaumont Sculpture Prize. He has lived on the NSW Far North Coast since 2008 and works out of his studio at Ocean Shores.

Speaking ahead of the launch of a new collaborative project, 'At Home,' Dave is working with three other practitioners to support and enliven connections between artists and the community during the COVID-19 isolation.

'At home' is a program initiated by the Lismore Regional Gallery and Lismore Quad and represents an important shift as the arts adapts to a new reality.

"Together alone, 'at



**Met Uretir, who works at the Revolve Shop, with Naomi Mikkelsen who has taken up residence at the shop to prove that you can turn waste into art.** (Note examples of recycled wood art on this page.)



home' provides an important connection for artists and our community, primarily delivered using a digital platform and there may also be a physical element showcased on the other side of the virus crisis," Dave said.

For Mr Hickson, a visual arts lecturer who recently returned to delivering face-to-face teaching, the role of artists-in-residence is important in

connecting budding artists with the wider community.

"It is a tradition in the arts to have artist-in-residence programs around the country, helping artists to engage with the community and other practitioners, while also developing valuable experience ... getting you out of your comfort zone," he says.

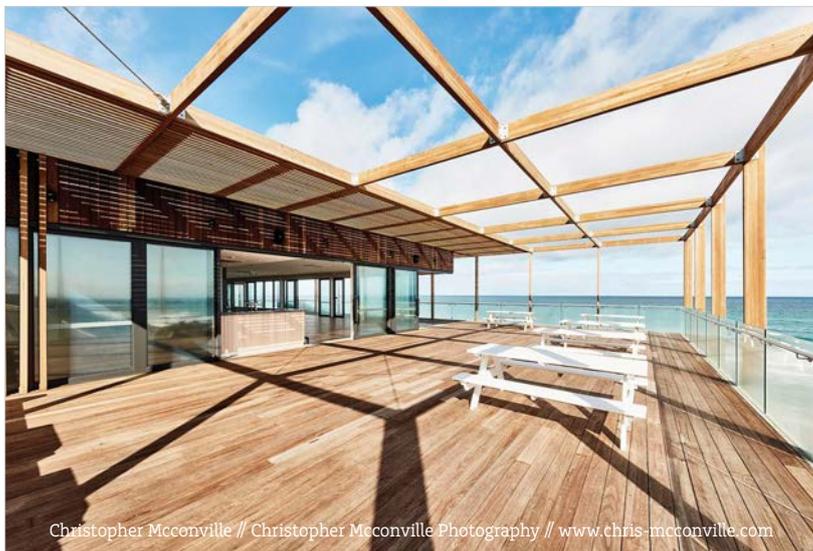
When it comes to materials, wood provides artists with great flexibility for expression. In addition, wood is natural and is sustainably sourced from forests certified under a forest certification scheme such as PEFC or Responsible Wood, ensuring forests remain healthy forests.

"Wood has lots of applications, whether carving or constructing; it's fun and inspiring to use and when it comes to creative expression it has intrinsic qualities unmatched by any other material," Dave said.

"It's just like having a 3D canvas to work on."

Dave says supply plays an important role, too. "Most of the materials used in my art pieces (see examples on this page) are sourced from salvaged timber or recycled furniture pieces featuring a variety of woods including western red cedar or hoop pine," he says.

"The collaborative sculpture is mostly made of wood, but includes photographic processes, drawing, weaving and filmmaking."



Christopher Mcconville // Christopher Mcconville Photography // www.chris-mcconville.com

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# Rob de Fégely says AM helps bring attention to valuable forestry sector



**Rob de Fégely... honoured with Member of the Order of Australia (inset)**

“ROB de Fégely has been a persuasive and moderate voice of reason in the sometimes less than reasonable forestry debates regarding native forestry, always delivering the facts with calmness and clarity.”

A fitting quote by Ross Hampton, CEO, Australian Forest Products Association, after Mr de Fégely was honoured in the Queen’s Birthday Honours on June 8 with a Member of the Order of Australia for: “Significant service to the forestry industry through business and advisory roles.”

Mr de Fégely has close to 40 years’ experience in the Australian forestry industry and has played extensive project and consulting roles with both government and corporate clients across Australia and New Zealand. He has travelled and worked extensively throughout Asia and North America.

Chairman of Sustainable Timber Tasmania, co-chair of the Forest Industry Advisory Council, past director of VicForests, immediate past president of the Australian Institute of Foresters of Australia and founding director of Margules Groome,

Mr de Fégely was awarded IFA’s prestigious N.W. Jolly Medal last year.

A registered professional forester, Mr de Fégely holds a Bachelor of Science degree from ANU and a Masters of Science (forest business management) from Aberdeen University in the UK.

Discussing the Queen’s Birthday honour, Mr de Fégely said he was humbled by the selection ... “which, just as important, helps bring wider national attention to the forest industry – its values, sustainability and its absolute renewable opportunities.”

Ross Hampton said the honour was well deserved and would be applauded right around Australia.

“Rob de Fégely is a learned forester who has for decades displayed a strong public service ethic, taking leadership roles in important bodies and helping shape the future of Australia’s sustainable forest industries.”

Mr de Fégely grew up on a Merino sheep property at Ararat in southwest Victoria where his father produced superfine wool along with cereal cropping.

**JIM BOWDEN**

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

**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/](http://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.doingtimberbusinessinqld.com](http://www.doingtimberbusinessinqld.com)

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**SEPTEMBER**

**27-30: Council on Forest Engineering Annual Meeting** – POSTPONED. Visit [www.cofe.org](http://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](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)

**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](http://www.fba-events.com) or contact [karolina@forest-analytics.com](mailto: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/](http://www.wcte2020.com/)

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

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# Dangerous fire season confronts Oregon

## COVID-19 hovers like smoke over state's preparedness to protect forests

FORESTRY officials in the timber-rich US state of Oregon say they are "operationally prepared" for what could be a severe and complicated wildfire season given drought conditions and the difficulties of dealing with COVID-19 on the fire line.



*Boots on the ground... young Oregon forest fire fighter.*

No other US state produces as much softwood lumber as Oregon – around 12 billion cub m.

The governor's natural resources adviser Jason Miller says the financially-troubled agency has the funds it needs to get it through the 2020 fire season. But that's not actually the case.

State lawmakers have

repeatedly kicked the can on finding a permanent solution to the agency's ongoing fire funding problems. And, only last week, state forester Peter Daugherty told members of an interim committee on wildfire reduction and recovery that the agency's budget would be exhausted in August – entering the peak

of fire season.

The agency is looking to negotiate a new, long-term line of credit with the Oregon Treasury, but treasury officials have been reluctant lenders given what they say is the department's

past mismanagement of its fire costs, and its resulting difficulties paying off its short-term borrowings.

"I'm quite certain no one is going to tell me to stop fighting fires," Doug Grafe, chief of fire protection at the Oregon Department of Forestry said.

"Everything I've seen from the legislature gives me complete confidence. It's the mechanism that's uncertain."

That confidence has not been mutual. Earlier this year, lawmakers considered a raft of wildfire legislation aiming to put more boots on the ground, modernise equipment, make huge investments in forest thinning and prescribed burns, and help communities adapt to increased wildfire.

The most ambitious legislation was based on the recommendations of a wildfire preparedness council the governor appointed last year.

Various lawmakers, however, choked on the projected forest restoration costs of \$4 billion over 20 years.

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# Proposed new NZ traders Bill creates more heat than light for forest owners

DENNIS NEILSON

THE proposed new Forests (Regulation of Log Traders and Forestry Advisers) Amendment Bill, which appears will soon become law in New Zealand, has stirred the usually dormant forest-owning sector into life.

On its face value, the Bill is benign, asking only that log traders and forestry advisers be registered. What could be wrong with that?

However, by the admission of the NZ Minister of Forests Shane Jones, its real intention is to restrict (or even ban?) log exports, by a duplicitous back-door registration process.

The Bill was introduced to the House late yesterday under "urgency"; submissions on the Bill were called with only four days' notice given; and hearings by the (bizarrely chosen environment select committee, which



2



3

1/ **Under threat... NZ forest growing sector reacts to Forests Amendment Bill.**

2/ **Shane Jones.**

3/ **David Parker.**

normally disparate groups.

At least three new groups have agreed to publically fight this Bill, including the NZ Forest Collective, which has started a social media campaign – [www.facebook.com/NZForestryCollective](http://www.facebook.com/NZForestryCollective)

Its latest posting includes an image of a Trojan horse, which is what this Bill is!

This week another group paid for a full-page advisement in the New Zealand Herald,

virtually an 'open letter' to the NZ Prime Minister and to the Minister of Trade David Parker urging them to reconsider the Bill.

The group sponsoring this advertisement includes the NZ Forest Owners Association, NZ Farm Foresters Association, Federated Farmers (the strongest lobby group in NZ), the Federation of Māori Authorities, the New Zealand International Business Forum, and a port and a regional wood council.

A third advertisement carries the theme 'Don't Rip Up our Roots'.

The Bill will soon become law, as the NZ Minister of Forests seems determined to crush the forest-owning industry. However, regulations will not be gazetted to give effect to a new Act for many months, well after the September general election.

But the fact is, it will not create any extra jobs in the New Zealand wood processing sector. In fact, it will more likely destroy them.

had nothing to do with commercial forestry) were held over only two days. Many submitters were allowed only five minutes to provide oral submissions.

Opposition to the Bill has been widespread and has drawn together several



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# Home-grown way to go as industry pushes for building stimulus package

## Compelling argument for use of salvage wood in construction sector

OKAY, I know, I've been going on about the coronavirus in my last two columns.

Well ... a bit more then. Aside from the medical consequences, bad enough – you would rather be in Australia than New York. However, the economic realities of the pandemic are now starting to show themselves in local sawmills and here in my patch of harvesting operations.

While we have all been beavering away down here, quick smart, salvaging fire-killed trees and processing logs through sawmills, the building and construction sector seems to have taken an abrupt nosedive because of virus-induced declining business confidence and a rapid drop in house building and construction activity.

While I haven't met him, I have been very impressed by the clear understanding of the current situation confronting the timber industry, and the pathway to a better tomorrow outlined by Shane Vicary at AKD Softwoods.

Along with others, he has made a compelling case for the federal and state governments to provide some broad stimulus to support the building and construction sector as the

**“POSSIBLE OUTCOME FOR TIMBER JOBS MORE THAN JUST ALARMING**



*Australian-grown and manufactured timber...the answer to building and construction projects post COVID-19 – and jobs.*

coronavirus cripples the nation's economy.

AKD Softwoods and other log processing facilities have recently been required to implement a series of production slow-down measures in response to the forecast timber demand downturn impact of the pandemic.

Everyone was pleased when the demand for timber products held up during March and April, but more recent forecasts of a sharp decline in housing starts over the balance of the year will have a severe impact on demand for timber products from Australian sawmills.

Master Builders chief economist Shane Garrett is clear that residential building activity is dependent on consumer confidence, and this pretty much evaporated over the past few months. Like Shane, he argues that, in the absence of some form

### TRUNK LINES



With **CHERYL FORREST**

of government stimulus, new house building is likely to continue falling. If that continues next financial year will be one of the weakest on record for new home building and associated industries.

Unfortunately, this reality means that sawmills are anticipating demand for their sawn timber to halve by July and August. Without a demand stimulus this decline might last as long as 12 months. The possible consequences for the 45,000 who work in the softwood

timber sector are more than just alarming. Help, I am one of them!

Great to see Shane Vicary and other industry leaders continuing to advocate for a broad construction stimulus package. Without this sort of intervention, the impact on many forest contractors and sawmill workers in the form of redundancies or reduced hours could be

substantial as the downturn impacts right across the forestry sector.

So, while we have had people working to salvage trees killed by the summer bushfires, there is a compelling argument for government support to ensure that the timber produced from salvaged logs by sawmills, such as those operated by AKD Softwoods, finds its way into building and construction activities across the country.

So, more strength to Shane Vicary and his dedicated team and others advocating for government support to see Australian grown and manufactured timber used in domestic building and construction projects as we work our way through COVID-19 and beyond. I'm sure you agree.

Catch up again next month.

**Cheryl**

# The MARKET Leader...



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# Cheers to beers off the wood as WA sheoak soaks up demand for barrels

JIM BOWDEN

GLASSES were raised to a fine-textured wood from Western Australia when a group of timber types gathered at Brisbane's historic Breakfast Creek Hotel to celebrate the relaxing of virus lockdown restrictions and to enjoy a few beers 'off the wood'.

Western Australian sheoak is the best for beer kegs," says Brisbane-based master cooper Michael Clowes, who teamed up with the Lion Group's XXXX Brewery in Milton to supply pubs and clubs across Australia.

Sheoak (*Allocasuarina fraseriana*) grows to 15 m and occurs in the coastal and hinterland regions of southwest WA from Perth in the north to near Albany in the east where it is an understorey species for jarrah.

"Green density is about 1000 kg/m<sup>3</sup>, the air-dry density about 730 kg/m<sup>3</sup>, and the basic density about 620 kg/m<sup>3</sup>, making it ideal for coopers like me," Michael said.

"The wood has wonderful bending capabilities using steam and is much thicker than other timbers such as American oak, which are used more for whiskeys and wines. The thickness also guards against the pressure from the beer inside the keg."

Michael lines his beer kegs with 'brewer's pitch',



**Celebrating with a beer 'off the wood' at the Breakfast Creek Hotel... Tim Evans, Coast to Coast Pacific (left) and Don Towerton, Thora Wholesale Timbers (right) congratulate veteran forester Dick Pegg (centre) on his induction into the Queensland Timber Pioneers Foresters Hall of Fame.**



**Bar attendant Kate Fien serves the famous beer off the wood at the Breakfast Creek Hotel.**

a special recipe of melted resin imported in blocks from Germany.

"The resin is good for yeast growth and gives a good malty beer taste, but more importantly it prevents infections within empty kegs."

Some coopers char their barrels, re-charring them for a specific flavour in a specific beer to achieve a fiery, smoky quality – an extension to choosing different hops, grains or yeast strains.

The Breakfast Creek Hotel was opened on May 17, 1890, and the upper floor of the 1889 building contains large rooms which have hosted meetings by the Australian

Timber Importers Association, the Queensland Timber Board and the Brisbane Timber Industry Hoo-Hoo Club.

Forty years ago a future prime minister was called in to help end a rebellion over a push to abandon wooden kegs from the hotel.

In the late 1970s, brewing companies were phasing out wooden casks, preferring to deliver beer in stainless-steel kegs and intricate piping systems.

The brewers argued coopers, who made the casks, were increasingly hard to find and wooden kegs were out of step with modern brewery processes.

**“TIMBER HAS WONDERFUL BENDING QUALITIES**

But drinkers at the 'Brekky Creek', led by an outspoken lot of waterside workers, marched in protest to the headquarters of Castlemaine Perkins, makers of the famed XXXX beer, delivering a petition of more than 300 signatures demanding retention of wooden kegs. Then ACTU boss Bob Hawke, who would later become PM, spoke with managing director Paddy Fitzgerald to settle things.

Eventually, Fitzgerald conceded and joined drinkers in the public bar to mark the occasion.

And as demand grows for timber kegs, a report just in says furniture prices in Japan are on the rise, with a growing popularity of domestically made whisky and its aging casks contributing to a shortage of timber.

White oak, favored for its strength and durability, is the material of choice for making whisky barrels, which are fabricated from straight-grain lumber, which can come only from trees with straight annual rings.

Japanese whisky has won fans across the world and producers have responded by boosting whisky production, driving up demand for aging barrels – and timber.

Wooden barrels have certainly been around for a long time. An Egyptian wall-painting discovered recently in the tomb of Hesy-Ra, dating to 2600 BC, shows a wooden tub made of staves, bound together with wooden hoops.

# AFPA request to reset pinus levy for forest growers to zero from January 1

ON June 5 the Australian Forest Products Association wrote to the Minister for Agriculture, Water and the Environment requesting that the forest grower Emergency Plant Pest Response Deed (EPPRD) levy be reset to zero from January 1, 2021.

As of June 9 this year, the 30-day objection period has officially started. If pine growers would like to object to the levy being reset to nil please either email myself (natalie.heazlewood@ausfpa.com.au) or the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (levies.management@awe.gov.au)

The department's email address allows for confidential objections to be made. Please provide your objections by July 8.

In order to reset the EPPRD levy to nil the following must occur:

- Notify those paying the EPPRD levy of our intention to do this (a previous email covers this requirement).
- Write to the Minister letting him know we will be



1/ Giant pine scale on the lower trunk of a pine tree.

2/ Natalie Heazlewood... new regulations to be tabled in parliament to reset the levy.



asking to reset the figure to zero (Minister written to on June 5).

- Levy payers will subsequently be contacted regarding a 30-day objection period.

The department then will create new regulations to be tabled in parliament to reset the levy. This process can take up to six months.

What levy? Under the EPPRD arrangement, the commonwealth has underwritten industry's costs from the giant pine scale incursion of approximately \$1.8 million. The Commonwealth then recovers these costs through a forest growers'

levy of \$0.05/m<sup>3</sup> on softwood plantation.

Why is the levy being removed? Since 2015, pinus levy payers have been paying the EPPRD levy as a result of the giant pine scale incursion.

Calculations for the first three quarters of the FY19/20 collections – \$30,000 less than last year – show: EPPRD levy funds collected for 2019-20 – \$452,484; 2019-20 federal government fees for levy collection (\$10,000) = \$462,484. Owed to the

“30-DAY OBJECTION PERIOD”

department: \$593,105.

Log sales figures for Q4 have continued to decline. Q1 of FY21 is forecast to be even more uncertain with levy funds collected not reported until August 2020.

Due to this, financial uncertainty collections look like they will need to continue into Q2 of FY21 since the levy cannot be removed unless some other method is put in place to repay the outstanding amount.

Why is AFPA doing this? AFPA, as signatory to the EPPRD, represents the forest industry on the Consultative Committee on Emergency Plant Pests (CCEPP) and the National Management Group (NMG) and as a result is the only body that can request the EPPRD levy is reset to nil.

[Giant pine scale (*Marchalina hellenica*) is a tiny scale insect that lives by sucking the sap of pine, fir and spruce trees. Adults grow up to 12 mm in length. Each female produces over 300 eggs between November and January, which then hatch into crawlers].

**NATALIE HEAZLEWOOD**, policy manager, Australian Forest Products Association.

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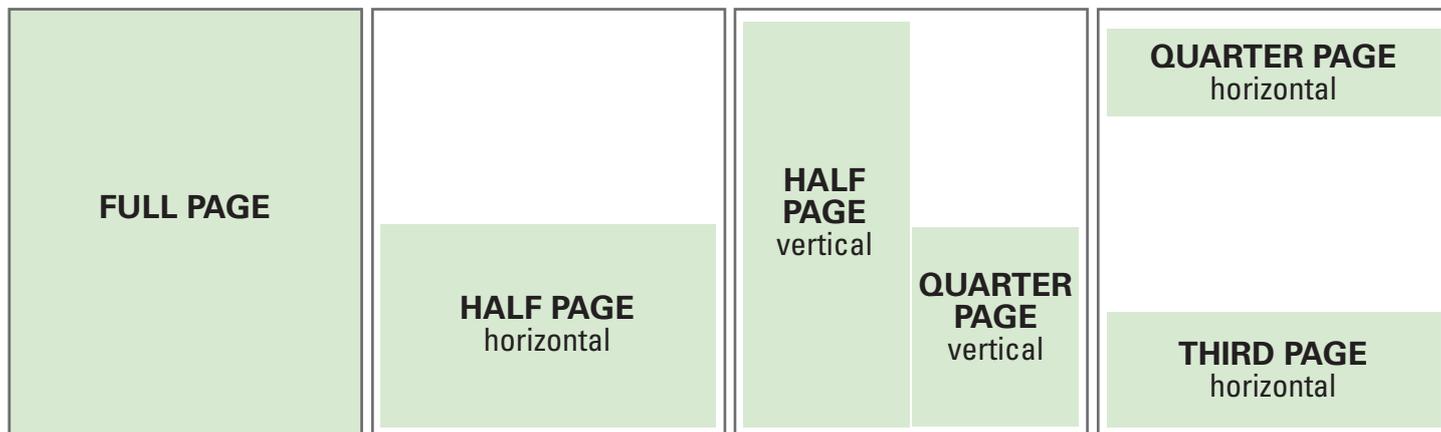
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