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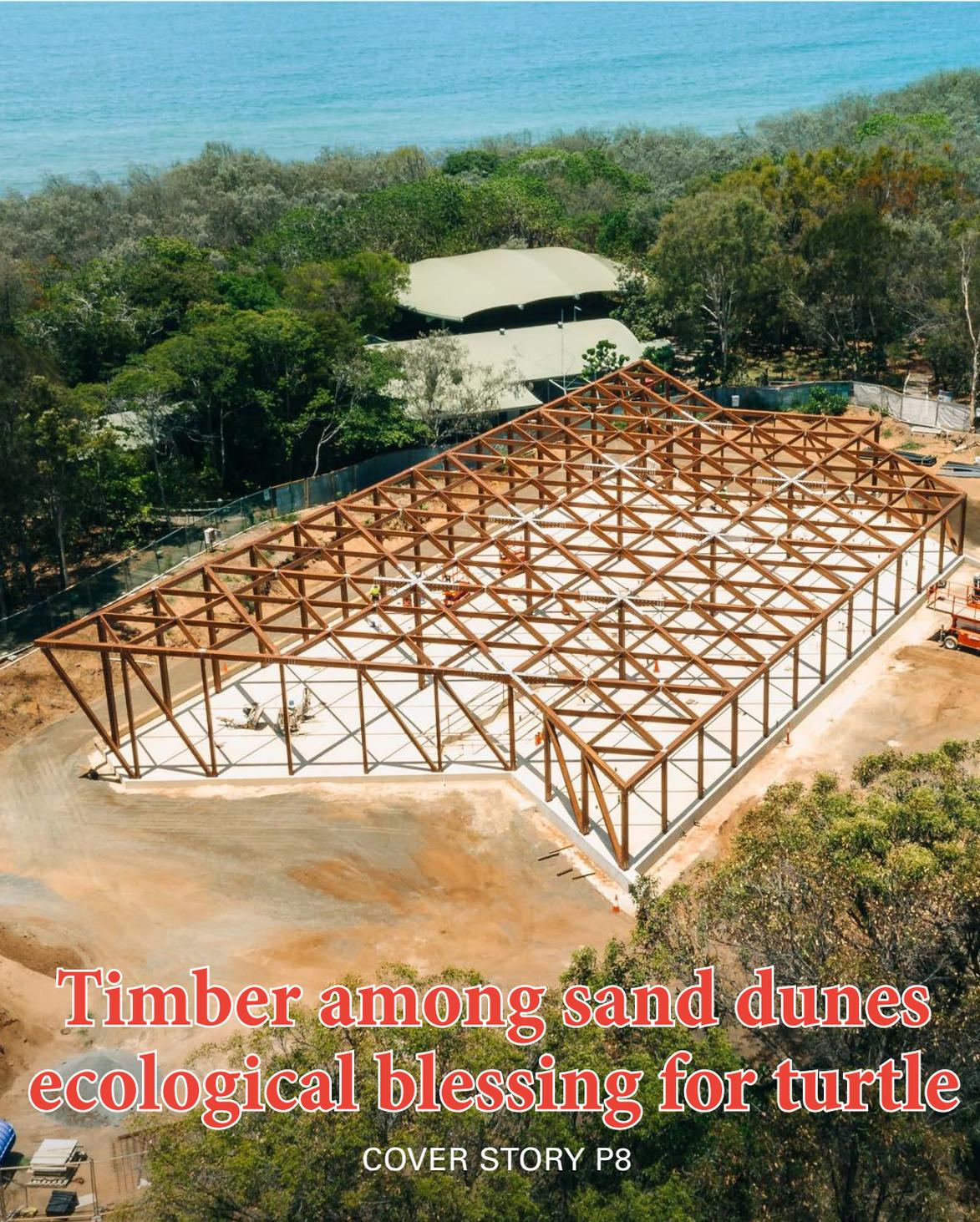
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Timber among sand dunes ecological blessing for turtle

COVER STORY P8

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Plea for federal freight subsidies to ‘save’ NSW plantations hit by fires

Loss of timber supply has immense implications for the industry

FACED with a shortage of local logs in southern NSW – one of the regions hardest hit by the summer bushfires – the timber industry wants the federal government to provide freight subsidies to make it viable to haul sawlogs hundreds of kilometres from other regions to the district’s timber mills.

So far, it has been unsuccessful; it doesn’t qualify for any of the \$600 million in federal bushfire recovery funding.

Hyne Timber’s sawmill at

“RACING TO SALVAGE FIRE-KILLED TIMBER



The race to survival... salvaging fire-killed timber in southern NSW.

Forest operator Ged Black, 68, who works in the Bago forest, says he’s got enough fire-killed timber to last another two years.

“By then, it will be too late to salvage any more of the fire-killed pine trees, as the elements will have rendered them useless for timber processing,” he says.

“They talk about it being between nine months and a

Tumbarumba, the beating heart of the Snowy region timber industry, estimates it will have to spend an additional \$10 million a year, at a time when margins are slim.

The company is racing to salvage as much of the fire-killed blackened timber while it still can.

Hyne at Tumbarumba

directly employs 230 people and just as many indirectly and is one of the largest sawmills in the southern hemisphere.

The loss of plantation pine has immense implications.

“That’s about 40% of our available logs going forward, so it’s a substantial impact to us in the future,” mill

manager Marcus Fenske said.

year that we’ve got for the log that has been burnt, getting it off the stump and into the mill. After that we’re sort of in uncharted territory, and the product is not going to be good enough to use.”

At Hyne Timber, an immense log pile feeds the mill at a rate of 7500 logs a

Cont P 3



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From P 2

day into structural timber. The sawdust powers the mill's furnaces and the residue goes to Tumut's Visy paper mill.

However, charcoal from the burnt logs is causing problems with the machinery.

"We have to deal with a lot of dust that comes with the burnt log," Marcus Fenske said.

"We have to use a lot of water to suppress that dust and that often causes other issues that the plant is just not designed to deal with."

Even if the wood is salvaged, timber will be in short supply in the future.

Governments in past decades had aimed to have 3

“CLOUD OF ECONOMIC UNCERTAINTY HANGS OVER REGION



Tour of inspection at Tumbarumba ... Michael Sharpe, national director, Advanced Manufacturing Growth Centre, a key plank of the federal government's Industry Growth Centres Initiative.

million ha of plantation timber by 2020, but that number is short by 1 million ha.

CEO of the Australian Forest Products Association Ross Hampton said the shortfall would have serious consequences.

"That would have been the raw materials that would have gone into those manufacturing plants in places such as Bombala, and Tumut and Tumbarumba, and that's going to have a long-term impact on those communities," Mr Hampton said.

"It really is a story that

Australians need to hear because we have had a major hit to what is really one of our major regional industries in Australia – the timber industry.

Key issues:

- It's estimated more than 50,000 ha of pine plantation in southern NSW was lost in

the Black Summer bushfires.

- Hyne's Tumbarumba sawmill has lost 40% of its future plantation wood supply.
- The timber industry is seeking federal freight subsidies to haul logs from other regions to sustain local mills.
- The mill also lost an estimated 25,000 ha of native timber and 50,000 ha of

pine plantations that encircle towns like Tumbarumba and Tumut.

The loss of forest, especially pine plantations, means a cloud of economic uncertainty hangs over the region.

(With extracts from ABC Landline)

Fibre king crowned US CEO of year

FIBRE-recycling king Anthony Pratt has been named 2020 North American CEO of the Year by Fastmarkets RISI, the definitive source of commodity data for the forest products industry.



Anthony Pratt

Mr Pratt, 60, the richest person in Australia with a net worth of \$US13bn, is executive chairman of Pratt Industries USA and Visy of Australia, with five containerboard mills producing 1.91 million tonnes/year of 100% recycled-content containerboard.

He will be honored at

the 35th annual RISI forest products conference on October. 6, the first-ever all-virtual event in North America.

His US company was the fifth largest US boxmaker in 2019 with a 7% market share. Pratt's boxes are made of 100% recovered paper.

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Wrapped about new AKD packaging as industry supports Aussie-made drive

TIMBER products from AKD are now starting to appear in a new plastic wrap that supports the Australia Made Campaign.

AKD has incorporated several changes and messages into the new wrap design: a simplified company symbol dropping 'softwood' from the logo; adding the Australian Grown and Made logo; a new termite-resistant blue pine product name – Terminator, made at the Colac, Tumut and



That's a wrap... AKD's new plastic design supporting Australian-made products.

Caboolture sites; and Endura, a new name AKD's outdoor structural H3 range.

"While AKD has always been Australian grown

and made, the company believes it is timely to ensure this is understood and prominent in its supply chain and particularly in customers' yards, national marketing manager Christine Briggs said.

Australian Made Campaign Ltd (AMCL) is throwing its support behind Aussie manufacturers and growers as they continue to lead the way in recovery from COVID-19.

"By calling on Australians to buy Australian right now, not only will we get products made to some of the highest quality and safety standards in the world, we can create local jobs and economic activity that will aid in the recovery process, while also strengthening our local

manufacturing capabilities," AMCL CEO Ben Lazzaro said.

"A coordinated push to 'buy local' has the potential to play a big part in getting Australia back on line," he said.

AKD became AMCL licensee last year and believes that the Australian Made kangaroo logo is one of the most trusted and well recognised Aussie symbols.

According to Roy Morgan Research, almost all Australians (99%) are aware of the Australian Made logo and 88% trust the mark as an identifier of genuine Australian products.



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**“ UNITED
PUSH TO BUY
LOCAL**

Cont P 5

From P 4

The vast majority (84%) associate the logo with supporting local jobs and employment and over half of Australians associate the logo with products that are of high quality (58%) and are produced using ethical labour (57%).

Sustainable, environmentally friendly and clean and green attributes were similarly top of mind, with nearly half of Australians (49%) connecting them with the iconic green and gold kangaroo logo.

During these uncertain and challenging times, every Australian has become more aware and conscious

“IT'S TIME TO ADDRESS THE IMBALANCE

of supporting Australian owned and made products as consumers. The Australian Made Campaign (AMCL) is also calling on Australia's business community and all levels of government to adopt 'buy Australian first' procurement policies, to help fast-track the country's resurgence as it plans its recovery from the impact of COVID-19.

"A coordinated push to 'buy local' has the potential to play a big part in getting Australia back online," Ben Lazzaro said.

"Australia's economic landscape will be forever changed. However, there is an opportunity for federal, state and local governments, as well as Australia's business community, to take the lead and put policies in place that prioritise genuine Aussie products for major projects, supply contracts and



Ben Lazzaro... calling on Australians to buy Australian right now

every-day consumables.

"Reinvesting in local industry and local jobs through sustainable purchasing policies will go a long way towards helping Australia bounce back from the pandemic."

Roy Morgan Research in 2017 found that while three quarters of businesses had a preference for buying Australian products, only

26% of those surveyed were found to have an official policy in place.

Australia's over-reliance on imported products has been highlighted during the COVID-19 pandemic. "It's time to address this imbalance," Mr Lazzaro said. "Let's take a long-term view and increase our level of manufacturing self-sufficiency. While there will always be a requirement for imports, it's important we get the balance right between local and offshore manufacturing to ensure Australia's long-term prosperity."

Given the rise in demand for locally-made and grown goods by consumers and businesses alike, it is even more important for local producers such as AKD to market their products with prominent country-of-origin branding.

New home sales soar in response to HomeBuilder

NEW home sales rose by 77.6% in June, from a record low result in May, off the back of the government's HomeBuilder program.

"The rebound in June does not fully offset the dismal results of the preceding three months and we are cautious of over interpreting

data from a single month," HIA chief economist Tim Reardon.

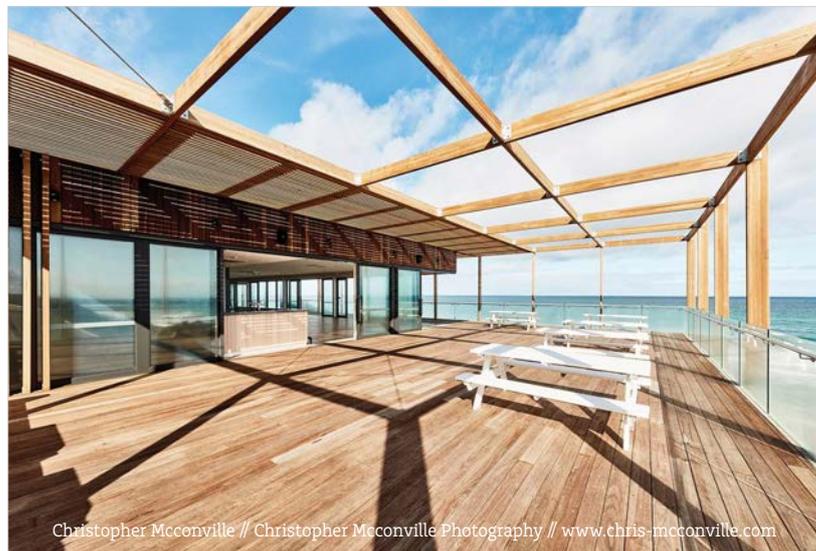
"It is a clear indication that HomeBuilder will help protect jobs in the sector in the second half of 2020 and into 2021. Additional sales data from July and August will be

necessary before drawing accurate estimates on the impact of HomeBuilder on employment in the sector."

Mr Reardon said the improvement in June could be seen across all the states which was a good indication that the program was working, to varying degrees

in each jurisdiction.

"If the momentum from HomeBuilder continues, we will see more slabs poured before the end of the year, protecting jobs across the economy in manufacturing, retail and professional services," he added.



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

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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 – Marriott Hotel, Brisbane, QLD, Australia. State conference, workshops and innovation tour organised by Timber

Queensland. Visit www.doingtimberbusinessinql.com

APRIL 2021

DANA New Zealand Forest Industry Status and Outlook Conference and field trip. Dates and venue TBA. To register interest as delegate or presenter please email admin@danaevents.co.nz

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.

POSTPONED – Durban, South Africa. Possible 2021 conference and field trip - Dates and venue TBA. To register interest as delegate or presenter please email admin@danaevents.co.nz

opportunities in timber to diversify their portfolios and achieve healthy returns. Register at www.fba-events.com or contact karolina@forest-analytics.com

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

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

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/

NOVEMBER

1-5: 3rd DANA African Forest Industry Investment Conference and field trip

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

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A timber treasure in the sand dunes makes an environmental connection

Spotted gum, hoop used in re-build of turtle research and tourist centre

DURABLE Queensland hardwood and the 'tropical' native softwood hoop pine were the architect's "environmental choice" in a \$22 million rejuvenation of the Mon Repos Turtle Centre at Bundaberg.

Situated 15 km inland from the Coral Sea coast, the centre is home to the largest concentration of marine turtles on the eastern Australian mainland.

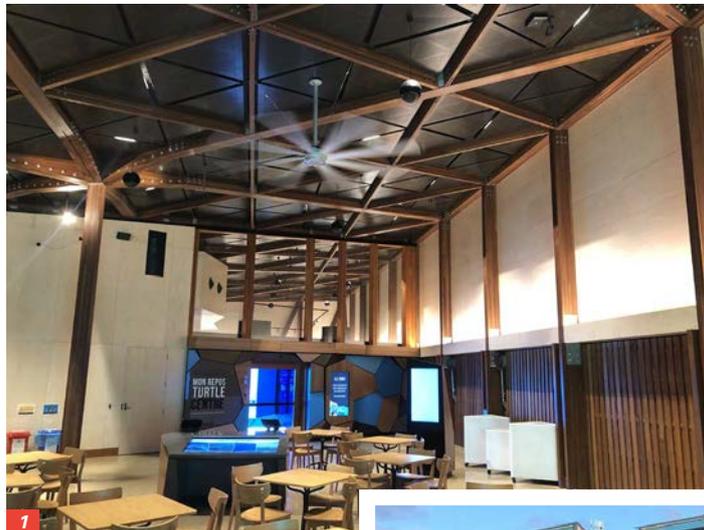
Mon Repos is especially dedicated to the research and protection of the endangered loggerhead sea turtle (*Caretta caretta*); the success of nesting and hatchlings before they make their perilous journey to the sea some months later is critical to the survival of the oceanic species.

Commissioned by the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, the new centre came with a project brief 'connected to nature' that inspired award-winning architect Richard Kirk.

"Located behind the sand dunes, the centre's timber structure embodies the famous turtle's connection with nature," he said. "The dunes provide a natural shield between the building and the hatchlings to conceal the possible spill of the building's light on turtle nests."

The centre features a prefabricated Hyne glulam timber structure. Additionally, Austral Plywood supplied hoop pine 'ariaply', a premium prefinished panel based on 'A' grade hoop pine plywood.

Queensland grown and



1/ Austral Plywood's pre-finished 'A' grade hoop pine ariaply... used extensively throughout the inside of the Mon Repos Turtle Centre at Bundaberg.

2/ A roo with a view – and a turtle or two... sections of the Mon Repos Turtle Centre, a 'must-see' tourist destination. Photo Bundaberg Regional Council.

3/ Welcome to Mon Repos... reception centre features timber joinery and panelling.

manufactured, the timbers meet the Australian Standard for Sustainable Forest Management, a prerequisite for Responsible Wood certification.

"The entire glue laminated timber structure is certified spotted gum, which not only meets exceptional sustainability credentials, but from a practical perspective, allows large spans with no internal structural walls," Richard Kirk said.

"This means the interior can be readily, seasonally reconfigured to meet the conservation needs of the centre as it welcomes and educates visitors year-round."

The Mon Repos structure

of numerous perforated triangles made from ariaply in an ebony finish.

"The triangular shapes, representing a turtle's carapace, were meticulously cut from detailed plans supplied by the architect. The perforations provide both acoustic benefits and an attractive appearance to the centre."

The significance of using spotted gum was its

environmental credentials and its support of the local economy. The timber was specified for its durability, strength, density and appearance to suit the corrosive, coastal environment.

For Rob Mansell, Hyne Timber's business development manager, glue laminated timber, the use of sustainably-sourced glulam was instrumental in meeting the 50-

year design life requirement in what is a corrosive marine environment where steel structures are highly susceptible to corrosion.



itself is known as a 'diagrid' which presents an innovative resistance against cyclonic conditions. It is believed to be the largest diagrid in Australia.

Natural hoop ariaply in solid sheets was used as wall linings throughout the centre.

Austral Plywood's joint CEO Stuart Matthews explains: "The ceiling is particularly impressive, consisting

On the cover: Nestled behind the sand dunes, the rejuvenated Mon Repos Turtle Centre started with a prefabricated Hyne glulam timber structure, embracing the project brief for durability and sustainability in the design.

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Federal-state funding will drive forest research at Gippsland innovation centre

VICTORIA'S forestry industry is set to benefit from \$2 million of new research through the establishment of a National Institute for Forest Products Innovation centre in Gippsland.

The federal government contribution will be matched by the Victorian government, and will be supported with additional funding and in-kind contributions by industry and research agencies.

Assistant Minister for Forestry Jonno Duniam said the investment would provide a major boost to the forest sector and the jobs it supported in the region.

"Funding a centre in Gippsland will be important in the recovery from the devastating bushfires," Mr Duniam said.

"The centre will play a vital role in supporting cutting-edge research, fostering collaboration, boosting innovation, increasing profitability, growing the market and securing Gippsland's role in driving forestry research in Australia.

"This investment will



Funding for forest innovation centre good news for Gippsland... Ross Hampton, CEO, AFPA, Senator Jonno Duniam, minister responsible for forestry, and AFPA chair Greg McCormack.

grow Australia's forest and forest products industry by supporting innovation in the forest products sector in areas such as forest management, timber processing, wood fibre recovery, value adding, advanced manufacturing and the bio-economy."

The funding is a core part of the implementation of the federal government's \$20 million National Forest Industries Plan, which includes establishing nine regional forestry hubs across Australia, reducing barriers to forestry expansion and developing a farm forestry strategy.

The Gippsland research centre will complement existing centres in Launceston and Mount Gambier.

Mr Duniam said the Morrison government would continue to call on the Andrews government to overturn its devastating unilateral decision to shut down the native forestry industry by 2030 and back the industry, the workers and the regional communities the industry supports.

“SUPPORT FOR JOBS IN THE REGION”

Federal Member for Gippsland Darren Chester said after a difficult first half of the year, the announcement was some positive news for Gippsland.

"Our region has battled drought, bushfires and the economic fallout from the coronavirus, and these challenges have only compounded the devastating impacts of the Andrews government's decision to shut down our timber industry," he said.

"Gippslanders are a resilient bunch and we will continue to work together with the support of government to build back better than ever."

AFPA has welcomed the announcement of the joint federal-state innovation centre but has rebuked a statement from the Andrew's government that it will support the closure of the native forest sector in Victoria. "It is extremely disappointing that the Andrew's government has chosen to mar a very important announcement with more media spin," CEO Ross Hampton said.



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TPAA talks faster and more efficient: zooming the new normal for meetings

LAST month we had a combined meeting of the technical committee and the TPAA board and because of travel restrictions our deliberations were via Zoom.

So the TPAA technical committee and board members are now all Zoomers!

In the past, we held both meeting on the same day to minimise travel and meeting costs and for those of us who travelled interstate (remember that?) it made for a l-o-n-g day.

Anyway, the stand-out feature of the meetings was that the whole thing was done and dusted in about two and a half hours. So while we missed out on the personal face-to-face interaction, video conferencing seems to be a pretty efficient way to hold a meeting.

Another major advantage – at least with Zoom – is that you can record the meeting and this is really handy if you need to go back over what was discussed and decided. A couple of the issues and topics covered included:

- The natural durability standard AS 5604 was last published in 2005 and the chairman of the technical

“TIMBER TREATMENT AWARD ON THE AGENDA



Flashback... at the launch of the National Centre for Timber Durability and Design Life at the University of the Sunshine Coast in December 2016, from left, Steve Dickson (State Member for Buderim), Andrew Wallace (MP Fisher), Senator Anne Ruston (then Assistant Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources), Greg Hill (vice-chancellor, USC), Prof. Roland De Marco (deputy vice-chancellor of research and innovation, USC), Dr Michael Kennedy (general manager, Forestry Science, DAF), Prof. José L. Torero (director of the Centre for Future Timber Structures at UQ), and Ric Sinclair (FWPA managing director).

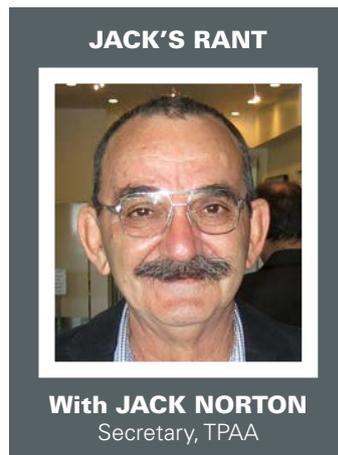
committee was tasked with raising the matter of an update with the Standards Australia committee TM 12.

- The current method listed in the standard to analyse for ACQ in conifers does not work for hardwoods. This matter, too, is to be raised with TM12.

- We are thinking of developing a Treated Timber Award and a couple of us will be meeting to set the ground rules for a workable outcome.

- The matter of mould on freshly-treated wood was raised and Jeff Morrell from the national centre for timber durability and design life at the University of the Sunshine Coast offered to circulate US information on the matter.

- The chairman of the technical committee briefed



the meeting on the status of the draft preservation standard.

- TPAA's brand listing process was discussed and a number of changes will be put in place. This will not affect the issue of brand numbers – rather the management of the process. At the start of June

there were 299 brands issued to Australian organisations and 201 international brands.

- We discussed linkages with the New Zealand Wood Processors and Pine Manufacturers Association. This later led on to discussions with the Engineered Wood Products Association of Australasia and the development of quality management systems. The discussions with EWPA took place some days after the TPAA meetings.

Back when I was a scientist with the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries or QDAF. Anyway, when I joined the department it was called the Queensland Forestry Department and over the years it morphed into QDAF with the wood preservation group evolving as time went on.

It appears you can take the lad out of science but can't take science out of the lad. I am now volunteering part-time at QDAF working on some projects and generally helping out.

The point of all this is that the QDAF researchers are doing some really exciting science. It's great to see that wood preservation still has a place in this ever-diminishing R&D world.

Stay safe and I'll report again next month.



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Has New Zealand squandered its 'unique position' on pruned logs?

DENNIS NEILSON

NO country in the world had so embraced 'pruning' (cutting off branches on young trees to produce knot-free clearwood timber at later harvest (20 years) than New Zealand.

The 'father' of pruning and modern silviculture was Dr 'Wink' Sutton, who worked for decades with the NZ Forest Research Institute.

In the 1960s, he concluded the world was going to run out of large diameter trees, and if grown to maximum diameter growth, and if branches were pruned off, then New Zealand could uniquely dominate global wide board, clear timber markets.

The advent of computers in the 1970s enabled Dr Sutton and his team to develop software which could predict growth, log and timber grade outputs (with assumptions).

Embraced by the then NZ Forest Service and some companies, and especially small woodlot growers, pruning has resulted in an annual harvest of 1.2 million



Dr 'Wink' Sutton... 'father' of modern silviculture in New Zealand.

cub m of logs a year.

However, major forest owners have since ceased this expansive pruning process, which results in less harvest volumes than more densely-stocked unpruned regimes.

A 'niche' of small, medium and large NZ sawmills utilise pruned logs and have markets for clear timber in Australia, the US and now Europe.

However, the largest volume of pruned logs – in the Central North Island around Rotorua – has now peaked and will substantially reduce over the next decade,

when there may be enough pruned logs to service only a few of the 10-12 pruned logs sawmills operating in the region now.

The key to pruning decisions is the price differential between pruned and unpruned logs. This has fallen from as much as \$100 cub m in the 1990s to only \$35-\$40 today. Some owners say they would need

“THE LARGEST VOLUME OF PRUNED LOGS HAS PEAKED”

a differential of \$80 cub m to entice them to recommence pruning

Ironically, demand for clear timber in mid-2020 has never been higher in both the US and Europe.

New wood modification techniques – including a

specialised 'acetylated wood' chemical treatment used by Accsys Technology (brand name Accoya) in Holland; a variation on that principle, based on impregnation with furfuryl alcohol, produced from agricultural crop waste by Norway-based Kebony, also in Europe; and a 'thermally modified timber' ultra-high temperature kiln process used both overseas and in New Zealand – have allowed normally fungal decay susceptible radiata pine to be treated to perform like old-

Cont P 16



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Logrite Cant & Peavey hooks 42" & 60" models. Light but very strong
Made in USA

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Strong, lightweight Swedish made aluminium tree calipers
6 sizes from 40cm-127cm

Tree Planting Equipment



Bushpro spades, genuine Pottiputki planters, kidney trays, planting belts, planting bags, fertiliser bags & Hamilton tree planters

What's the real cost of not buying Aussie timber?

Threatened survival of local saw mills

Placing thousands of Aussie jobs at risk

Harm to our timber industry today
will cost us more tomorrow

Impacts to local communities
that make up our industry

The survival of our local timber industry is under threat, placing thousands of Aussie jobs at risk and threatening timber supply requirements.

Your timber choice matters because it will keep Australia stronger. Stronger because of the thousands of Aussie jobs and the communities supported – including your own.

Buying Aussie timber first will ensure that the Aussie building industry remains strong, which in turn will make your business stronger. By protecting our local timber industry, you're protecting your own future.

buyaussietimberfirst.com.au



Tigercat's new feller buncher retains the nimble size of popular thinning machine

TIGERCAT has completed its drive-to-tree feller buncher line-up with the release of the 718G.

One of the last Tigercat machines to receive a Tigercat FPT Tier 4 engine, it was a challenge to package the additional after-treatment componentry required for Tier 4 compliance, while still retaining the nimble size of the industry's popular thinning machine.

The designers have succeeded, incorporating all the features of the larger G-series family members, as well as additional enhancements, while maintaining the approximate size of the previous E-series machine.

The 718G gets its power from the Tigercat FPT N45 Tier 4f engine which provides 125 kW at 2200 rpm. The completely redesigned engine compartment allows for a high capacity cross-flow cooling set-up with a hydraulic driven, automatic variable speed fan and an automatic reversing cycle.

The new compartmentalised layout keeps the cooling system, hydraulic components, and engine in separate areas.



New Tigercat feller buncher... enhanced ergonomics and operational productivity.

The new accumulation mode allows the operator to choose between normal and auto-accumulate for bunching head arm operation. Simultaneous open and close of the clamp and accumulator arms can also be programmed on a joystick button.

A saw-interrupt trigger on the joystick turns off saw power temporarily when extra horsepower is required. This is particularly useful in hilly terrain once the saw head is full and the operator is backing up to dump the accumulated bunch.

The G-series cab is quiet and well-equipped affording excellent visibility. LED

lights improve reliability and brightness. A more even light pattern provides better coverage around the machine. The front window area is nearly 10% larger. Combined with Tigercat's low-profile boom structure, visibility to the front is excellent. The rear quarter windows are more than 20% larger, improving the view over the back tyres – an asset in thinning applications.

Additional new features include a rear camera system,

programmable joystick buttons, electric hydraulic fill pump, and ground-level fuelling. Enhanced differential lock controls are timed to turn off after a pre-set duration to save axle wear.

Onetrak became national distributor for Tigercat in Australia in 2013. Founded in 2006 by David and Jaime Hazell, the company has grown from a small single construction equipment franchise in Brighton, Tas, to employing more than 100 staff members across Tasmania, Victoria, New South Wales, Western Australia, South Australia and Queensland.

Visit www.onetrak.com.au

“ HIGH CAPACITY CROSS-FLOW COOLING SETUP ”

From P 14

growth tropical and northern hemisphere hardwoods. These can last for decades without treatment.

Export demand is so high that 90% of the 1.2 million cub m of pruned logs harvested in the central north are being produced by domestic sawmills to export as timber, compared with

more than 50% of the sawlog harvest of unpruned logs exported as logs.

The future of pruning in the region (and over much of NZ), and the availability of pruned logs past 2030 will largely depend on whether forest owner strategies are determined by strategic thinkers, or by excel spreadsheets, fortnightly cash



An 83 cm or 75 cm dbh radiata pine tree, maybe 24 years, pruned to 6.5 m at Hawkes Bay, NZ.

flows watched by financial whizz-kids.

If 'finance' wins out, almost all central northern sawmills will be closed in a decade, leaving only the east coast with smaller but substantial volumes (450-500,000 cub m/year) of pruned logs available for a decade before this volume also falls away for another decade.

Chainsaw figures capture wonder of wood

JIM BOWDEN

THE three giant sentinels looked north, east and south from a cold, sand-swept boardwalk at the coastal town of Kingscliff.

Shining brilliantly under a winter sun, the polished wooden figures pay silent tribute to the many hundreds of lifesavers who over the past 80 years have dedicated their services, and lives, to this northern NSW community.

Carved by chainsaw, each from a different log – a brushbox, a tallowwood – and the sinister-sounding cadaghi – they are the products of talented arborist and wood sculptor Matt George who has created hundreds of these timber figures for charities and for display at wood shows, country markets, schools and university campuses across eastern Australia.

“They certainly won’t rust,” quipped timber lover Matt who worked with the Cudgen Headland Surf Club to lay the foundations for his three Kingscliff sculptures.

“They’re washed and rubbed with fine decking oil by club members every month so they’re going to be around for a very long time,” he said.

Matt’s human shapes are popular but his wooden



Chainsaw art... life-saver statues, sculptured from wood by Matt George, keep a silent vigil over Kingscliff Beach.

carvings are mostly of Aussie bush creatures – kangaroos, emus, echidnas, wombats and native birds and insects.

Matt, who lives at Noosa, gets most of his timber from a private log yard at Yandina on the Queensland Sunshine Coast. He has demonstrated his chainsaw art on many travels from the coast to the Outback, at times taking his



The chips fly... Matt George in action at a Queensland show.

children on the road with him.

“This was something I had to do, to create and donate my work to charities and raise funds for the needy ... and also to broaden the knowledge of what life offers my kids beyond their own cabbage patch,” Mark told us from his workshop.

“It also helped me both physically, mentally and emotionally. Wood can do that.”

Returning to the cadaghi (*Corymbia torelliana*), a tree species endemic to north Queensland ... it’s listed as

“IT HELPED ME EMOTIONALLY... WOOD CAN DO THAT

a weed in the southeast of the state – and it kills native bees!

It’s not clear how it does this, but apparently the bees collect cadaghi seeds from clusters of cream-coloured scented flowers which have a waxy appendage, a resin

that melts easily, clogging up hives and resulting in bee deaths.

Cadaghi was originally classified in the genus eucalyptus but was reclassified to genus *corymbia* in 1995.

But the sinister cadaghi wood makes for a fine sculpture.

• Next week in our motoring column we review a drive in a Kia Seltos GT-Line AWD to the Tweed region, stopping at Kingscliff and the delightful villages of Fingal, Chinderah and Cudgen, home to an organic farm, a tourist attraction with a piggery and one of Queensland’s oldest avocado orchards.

The farm’s butter avocado and beetroot/ginger spread sangers washed down with hot dark roast coffee are to die for.

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