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Welcome to Wood World: a 'theme park' for research

COVER STORY P8



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Consider this, Big Box chiefs .. a ban on your products at construction sites

JIM BOWDEN

THE blockade by timber trucks of the Bunnings Traralgon store in Gippsland this week, and a promise by timber workers to undertake more of the same, should cause the Big Box management to reconsider its short-sighted decision to close its doors on Victorian hardwood timber.

The decision threatens the thousands who work in the state's native forest industries.

Here's something for Robert Scott (CEO, Westfarmers) and Michael Schneider (managing director of Bunnings Group) to contemplate.

An angry Michael O'Connor, national secretary of the Construction Forestry Maritime Mining and Energy Union, says timber workers will not sit back and be pushed around by big-end of town fat cats like those in

Bunnings and Wesfarmers head offices.

"The blockade is the sign of things to come at Bunnings warehouses across Australia if they do not agree to reverse their ban on local timber," menaced O'Connor.

Putting the cat among the pigeons... consider this for a sleepless night, Messrs Scott and Schneider: if the CFMMEU construction division were to blacklist timber products, flatpack joinery and hardware from Bunnings stores from their building sites, it could easily cost you at least \$500 million in lost turnover. Add this to your nightmares: it seems competitors of Bunnings are already lined up and eager to



Copping it sweet... Michael Schneider, managing director of Bunnings Group.

pick up new business – your business.

The CFMMEU has carried out such action before – for much lesser hare-brained* schemes than yours.

Bunnings claims that it has made its decision because it will not stock 'illegal timber'. Oops, sorry fellas ... you're wrong and ill-informed on that one, too. If you continue with this madness you'll invite the

real illegal plunderers of the world's timber to offer you a few thousands containers of the stuff along with a dead orangutan or two.

Listen, please, to AFPA CEO Ross Hampton: "It's completely wrong to equate Australia's tightly regulated, sustainably managed timber harvesting operations with the globally recognised definition of 'illegal logging' which is unsanctioned, unregulated and leads to deforestation (where cleared forests are not regenerated)."

He continues: "According to Interpol, between 15-30% of the timber trade in the world is 'illegal'. That means more than \$70 billion worth of globally-traded timber comes from illegal sources.

"None of that timber comes from the state government agencies which run accredited, audited and sustainable native forestry operations in this country."

On top of that, Bunnings

Cont P 6

“BLOCKADE A SIGN OF THINGS TO COME



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Future Timber Hub 'firing up' on tall timber buildings in the Pacific

JIM BOWDEN

RESEARCH projects and future pathways at the ARC Future Timber Hub will be reviewed by board directors at a meeting today (Thursday) at the University of Queensland's Centre for Future Timber Structures.

The majority of hub projects started in 2018 and are in their final stages of completion. Projects will be regularly updated on the Future Timber Hub website. Visit www.futuretimberhub.org or www.civil.uq.edu.au/timber

"The plan is to continue timber research beyond current projects," hub manager Kelly Rischmiller said.

"The way forward for the hub has not been finalised, but there will be a closer review of all projects at a special board meeting on August 6," she said.

The hub's wider influence in a national context is being considered.

The Future Timber Hub is an industry, government and academic 'brain's trust' committed to the future development of tall timber buildings in the Pacific region and is funded by the Australian Research Council.

The board is made up of representatives from UQ, the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, Arup – an independent firm of designers, planners, engineers and architects – Hyne Timber-XLam and Lendlease. Hub director is Professor Sritawat Kitipornchai, who is responsible for research leadership and strategic direction.

A key focus of the research



Connecting with wood at UQ this week... Kelly Rischmiller, ARC Future Timber Hub manager, and chief investigator Dilum Fernando, Associate Professor, School of Engineering.

group is to manufacture products that have excellent fire safety properties, which is especially important for timber used in tall buildings. A recent project has investigated the self-extinguishment mechanism of CLT in order to establish design criteria for the safe use of tall-timber buildings.

With industry partners, the team tested a large 3.4 m square room with exposed CLT panels as well as panels covered with plasterboard. It was then exposed to a pool of kerosene fuel, which was ignited to generate a fire that reached temperatures above 1000 deg.C.

The kerosene fire burnt out after about 20 minutes, and a few minutes after the complete consumption of the kerosene, the charred CLT wall and ceiling self-extinguished without failure of the plasterboard encapsulation.

This is just one of many tests being conducted to determine the fire-safety qualities of the new

materials, and is building a body of evidence to guide the establishment of clear guidelines for timber-based

construction, towards the optimisation of tall timber buildings in Australia.

The ARC Future Timber Hub and UQ's School of Engineering organised the successful 5th Pacific Timber Engineering Conference in Brisbane in July last year. The next global event, separate from PETC, will be the World Conference on Timber Engineering in Santiago, Chile, from January 11 to 14, Covid conditions permitting.

Topics will include sustainable forests for lumber production; wood products and connections and timber engineering.

Visit www.wcte2021.com

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Career in property and architecture gives Jennifer rise to mid-rise team

NOW in its fourth year, Forest and Wood Products Australia's WoodSolutions Mid-rise Advisory Program is operating in NSW, Victoria and Queensland, building on a base of completed projects with many more in the pipeline.

The mid-rise team comprise specialists in timber from design and engineering to costing, and they act as advisers and facilitators, helping project teams optimise and realise the benefits of timber systems.

"It's an exciting time to be taking up the role of lead program development manager," says Jennifer Cunich.



Jennifer Cunich... lead program development manager for mid-rise program.

"I feel this is a logical progression that builds on knowledge and skills I've

gained in previous stints as executive director of the Property Council of Australia and CEO of the Australian Institute of Architects," she said.

"One of my first challenges is to share this with industry – both on the supply and the design and build sides," she said.

Gerry Neylan, the outgoing mid-rise manager said he was delighted to hand over to someone of Ms Cunich's experience and enthusiasm.

"I'm sure she will grow the strengths of the program, while bringing a new perspective to add value for the participants and partners," said Mr Neylan who will continue to be involved with the program as chair and consultant.

FWPA managing director Ric Sinclair thanked industry program partners for their support as the mid-rise team continues to become the catalysts in accelerating the uptake of timber systems in the sector," he said.

"If any industry members would like to discuss participation in the program, I would be delighted to talk to them."

Visit www.woodsolutions.com.au/mid-rise



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“EXCITING TIME TO BE TAKING UP THE ROLE

"The benefits of timber in mid-rise projects are a perfect fit for a community wishing to increase the amenity and reduce the environmental impact of buildings – and nowhere is it more applicable than urban infill, affordable housing and aged care. These are some of the areas that have the potential to contribute real social benefits too."

Ms Cunich says she has been impressed by the enormous depth of experience and knowledge that the mid-rise team and the WoodSolutions program have assembled.

Nominations open for Stanton award

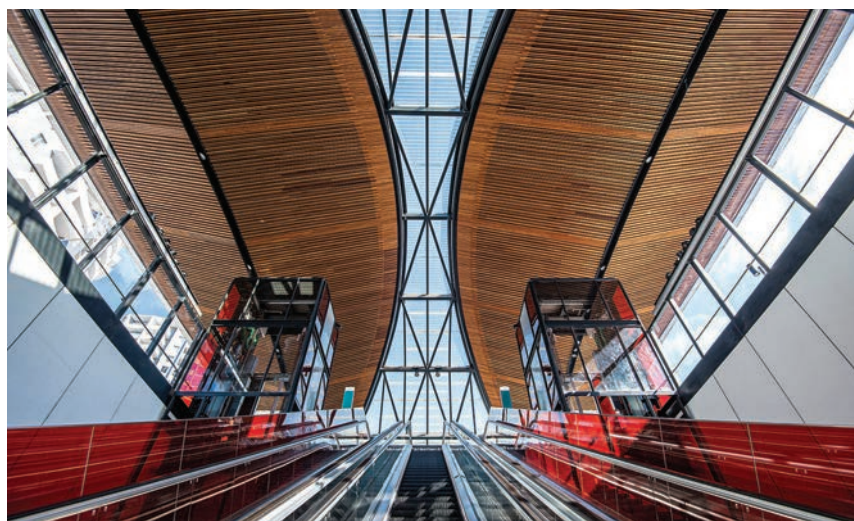
Marks contribution to forest management or chain-of-custody certification

THE governing body for PEFC in Australia, Responsible Wood, is calling for nominations in this year's coveted Richard Stanton Memorial Award for Excellence in Forest Management or Chain of Custody.

This is the sixth year of the award which pays tribute to a man who devoted his life to sustainable forest management in Australia and internationally and was CEO and national secretary of Australian Forestry Standard Ltd (now Responsible Wood).

Nominations for the award are open to individuals who have contributed significantly to either forest management or chain-of-custody certification under the Responsible Wood certification program. The award nominees will be those who have contributed to sustainable forest management under AS4708 or chain of custody under AS4707.

The award is open to, but not restricted to, forest owners and managers, chain-of-custody certificate holders, staff of certification



The Sydney Metro Northwest rail project ... winner of the 2019 Richard Stanton Award.

bodies, forest scientists and researchers, and designers of products manufactured from sustainable timber.

The award also carries a \$2000 bursary prize.

Applicants for the award will have demonstrated excellence in:

- A significant and valuable contribution to sustainability.
- Innovation, improvement or excellence in forest management or chain of custody certification.
- A strong commitment to the Responsible Wood certification scheme and sustainable forest management.

- Innovation and Improvement in the promotion and marketing of Responsible Wood certified products

The selection of the successful applicant will be made by the Responsible Wood marketing committee and announced at the annual general meeting later this year.

Nominations for the award close at 5 pm on Friday, October 2. They can be forwarded to: Responsible Wood, PO Box 786, New

Farm, Q 4005. Email [sдорries@responsiblewood.org.au](mailto:sdorries@responsiblewood.org.au)

Last year's joint winners were Nick Clarke and Thirukumaran Jallendran, formerly of the Sydney Metro Northwest rail project sustainability team. They were responsible for delivering the first Responsible Wood project certification. The project involved eight Sydney Metro stations (seven of them with Responsible Wood project certification) and four commuter car parks. The project represents the largest PEFC project certification delivered in the southern hemisphere.

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Hyne Timber Glue Laminated Structure at Mon Repos Turtle Centre, Queensland

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From P 2

has moved prematurely in not even waiting for the foreshadowed appeal of the Federal Court case on which it has based its decision.

Mr Scott and Mr Schneider, here's another lesson. Listen. There are just four trees out of 10,000 used in native forestry in Victoria – 100% regrowth forestry. It is certified to the world's largest global certification scheme PEFC (trading in Australia as Responsible Wood).

Australian Forest Contractors Association general manager Stacey Gardiner joins the protestors: "Regional Victoria is facing a jobs crisis. Bunnings' short-sighted decision has added to the continued uncertainty in



- 1/ **Protest... a log truck blocks entry to Bunnings' Traralgon store in Latrobe Valley.**
- 2/ **Ross Hampton**
- 3/ **Michael O'Connor**
- 4/ **Stacey Gardiner**

the industry and contractors are bearing the brunt of this."

Community advocate Felecia Stevenson says Bunnings needs to explain why it has taken a hard-line against local workers, contractors and businesses, a line which decimates jobs,

families and communities and gives the green light to import timber from Indonesian rainforests," she said.

Backing up the blockade,

“CERTIFIED TO LARGEST GLOBAL SCHEME PEFC

hundreds of sawmill workers, contractors and their crews are phoning Bunnings head office in Hawthorn East calling for the reversal of the decision. Thousands of Australians have now committed to boycotting Bunnings until they reverse their local timber ban.

Are you listening inside that box?

** Yes, that's the correct spelling. Hares are known for their jumpiness, and they're also not the smartest creatures on the planet. It refers to the perceived qualities of the hare and usually means flighty, reckless, or badly thought out.*

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AUGUST/SEPT

Timber Queensland online training course.

Timber Basics: Application, Durability & Use. Building professionals – architects, building designers, engineers, builders and certifiers – should have an understanding of the properties of wood as a resource and how these impact on the use as building materials. TQ has developed this three-part webinar training course to provide a deeper understanding of timber application, specification and durability considerations.

Dates:

August 18, 11am-12pm.
August 25, 11am-12pm.
September 1, 11am-12.30pm.
Course must be booked as a whole, sessions are not separately bookable. This course has CPD points available. This is a ticketed course. Full course program and registration at www.timberqueensland.com.au/Events/Default.aspx?id=3098

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.

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

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

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.wcte2021.com/

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



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Salisbury complex Australia's one and only wood science 'theme park'

Research drives incredible range of projects with a global perspective

JIM BOWDEN

I HAVE just revisited 'Wood World' – a science technology 'theme park' that has become the epicentre of Australia's research into wood products and processing.

Covering two hectares on the outskirts of Brisbane with more than 3100 sq m of machine shops, laboratories and offices, the Salisbury Research Facility indeed has a global perspective.

The team continues to gain strength, with a staff of timber engineers, wood and forestry scientists and technicians. They are also linked to a network of institutions – Timber Queensland, the Engineered Wood Products Association of Australasia, Queensland University of Technology, University of Queensland, Griffith University, University of Sunshine Coast, Australian National University and the University of Tasmania, to name just a few.

But their wood science skills and exchange of knowledge reaches further – to New Zealand, France, Switzerland, Germany, the US, Brazil, Indonesia, Vietnam, Laos and Fiji.

The Queensland government has been conducting forest product



Bill Leggate, team leader, operates the experimental timber preservation plant at the Salisbury Research Facility in Brisbane.

research and development since the early 1900s. Today, the forest products innovation team sits within horticulture and forestry science alongside the forest production and forest protection group.

The 'wood world' tour was conducted by Dr Rob McGavin, research facility and project manager within the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries' agri-science division.

To say he was bursting with pride as he introduced a plethora of key projects completed or under way would be an understatement. He took on the task of capsulising some of them – engineered wood composites, product design, kiln drying, sawmilling, veneer processing, grading, wood properties evaluation,

performance testing, timber protection and wood extractive analysis.

"But this is my latest toy," he said as he unlocked a side panel and started pushing buttons on a rotary planer from Europe.

Dr McGavin says he 'discovered' an earlier version of the machine at the LIGNA machinery fair in Germany in 2001 and never forgot it.

"We were looking for alternative methods to prepare boards to improve gluing and face milling continuously showed promise and the investment was made in 2019," he said.

[That mission to Hannover 19 years ago was led by the writer who took 28 foresters, sawmillers and wood scientists through Italy, Austria and then to LIGNA].

Adhesion research has been a more recent expansion for the Salisbury team.

"With the growing international demand for engineered wood products, Queensland industry is well placed to provide new value-added products with some key advantages over most commonly available timber species," Dr McGavin said.

"These include higher mechanical performance and superior natural durability. But some of Queensland's timber can be challenging to bond."

He said a key to accessing these emerging markets was the matching of adhesive systems and the manufacturing protocols to ensure glue bonds were strong and durable. It

“ VENEER LATHE TECHNOLOGY AS OPTIMISED HARDWOOD PROCESSING ”

Cont P 9



Tradition... Jack Dorries, research assistant, measures the wettability of timber as part of the adhesion development program at the Salisbury Research Facility. Jack is the son of Simon Dorries, CEO, Responsible Wood, and former chief of EWPPA.

From P 8

provided a different approach to conventional planers and was showing real benefits in boosting bond performance.

One project that captured attention against a background of a diminishing wood resource was the performance of early-age tropical and sub-tropical plantation eucalypts in veneer-based engineered wood products.

New spindleless veneer lathe technology has optimised the processing of the hardwood resource; grade quality and recovery have been determined across a number of priority species.

Adhesive performance using a range of adhesives has been conducted at a laboratory and semi-production scale. Plywood and LVL products have been manufactured and multiple construction strategies tested. Mechanical properties have been determined for each species.

“HYBRIDS ADDRESS A CRITICAL SHORTAGE OF TIMBER POLES

Results clearly indicate that the early-age hardwood plantation resource, previously thought to be unusable, can be processed with suitable systems to yield valuable structural grade veneer.

Studies have also involved early, mid and final rotation age plantation hardwoods including spotted gum, Gympie messmate, red mahogany, Dunn's white gum, western white gum, blue gum and shining gum.

Wood properties have been determined and EWPs assessed for grade quality and mechanical properties with products developed for internal furniture, structural and appearance plywood, LVL, power poles and bridge components.

The results indicate that, technically, hardwood plantations can be harvested and converted into a range of products at an earlier age than previously considered feasible under Australian growing conditions, substantially improving the economic feasibility of timber plantation systems in this country. Similar outcomes have been achieved with small-diameter thinnings from

Cont P 11

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From P 10

native forests, opening the door for new, more productive and sustainable forest management approaches.

A cross-section of plantation softwood logs was assessed using a range of methods to better measure board quality on green-off-saw boards and kiln-dried boards.

Results from laser measuring devices, vibration, ultra-sound, black and white tonal colour cameras and stress graders were analysed. The results will give the structural pine industry

**“A FULL
BREAKDOWN
OF ALMOST
ANY LOG TYPE**

an early assessment and segregation of timber based on indicators for grade quality. This will allow the processor to divert non-structural material early in the process and avoid cost-adding processes such as kiln drying. Another softwood focused



Kara-Master sawmill at Salisbury... enabling full log breakdown of almost any log type.

project aims to determine individual board quality before the tree is even felled.

Research at the centre has also focused on 'hybrid poles' as Australia faces a critical shortage of timber poles. Plantation thinnings or regrowth stems can be bolted to a steel spike in a cluster to form a hybrid steel-wood pole. This has many advantages over options such as steel and concrete, using traditional lightweight timber, a non-conducting material.

Other major capacity areas at Salisbury include:

- A spindleless veneer lathe, veneer guillotines and clippers, veneer composers and stitchers, glue spreaders and hot and cold presses

through to commercial scale, allowing full capacity to process and construct wood composite panel products and engineered wood products.

- Kara-Master sawmill to enable full log breakdown of almost any log type. Twin laser alignment allows duplication of almost any sawing patterns and electronic sizing system ensures maximum accuracy.
- Kiln capacity covering the full spectrum of available technologies including a solar kiln (15 cub m), dehumidifier (10 cub m), experimental conventional kilns (0.2, 4 and 12 cub m) and super-heated steam vacuum kiln (2 cub m).
- Salisbury's NATA-

accredited laboratories have full capability to test a range of mechanical properties including strength, stiffness, compression, shear, tension, nail and screw holding, hardness and glue bond.

- A programmable 625-litre vacuum-pressure impregnation computerised plant allows for development of a range of products and preservatives.

- Temperature and humidity controlled rooms enable joint design, fixings, construction methods, coating systems and adhesive performance ensuring products are developed fit-for-purpose.

- A fully equipped wood processing and machining workshop at Salisbury includes table and panel saws, band saw and band re-saws, surface and panel planes, spindle moulder and panel sander.

Believe me, we have only touched the surface of what's going on at Salisbury.

On the cover: Looking over a Ledinek Rotolas rotary planning machine at the Salisbury Research Facility are Andrew Outhwaite, senior adhesives technician, Rob McGavin, research facility and project manager, and Bill Leggate, team leader.



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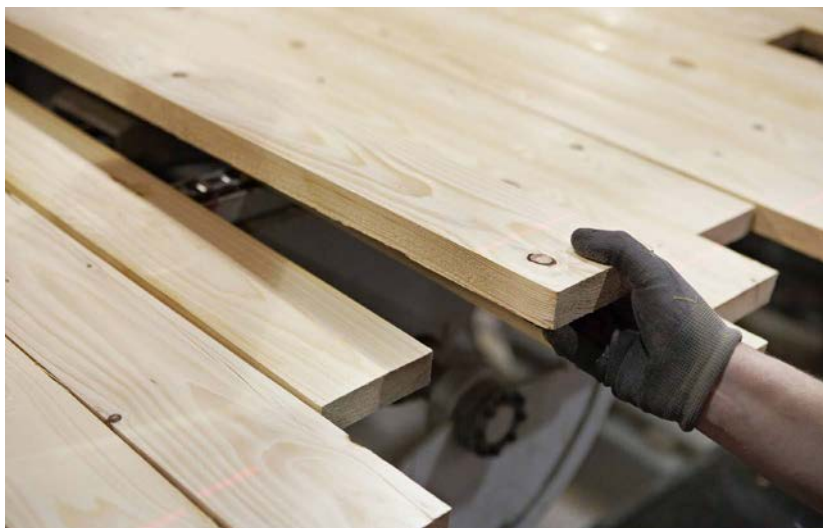
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Stora Enso is committed to filling gap in supply of quality softwood products

LONG-TERM forecast demand data clearly demonstrates that Australia will increasingly require a level of continuing imported solid softwood timber and engineered wood products.

"Without this imported volume, the building industry will be less resilient, smaller and employ fewer people... and the industry will be forced to use greater amounts of less environmentally



Clean, legal and meets Australian building codes... Baltic pine from Stora Enso.

friendly alternatives such as steel," says Darrin Wheeler, sales director of Stora Enso Australia, which has distribution centres

in Melbourne, Brisbane, Adelaide and Sydney.

"We are 100% committed to continuing to ensure that Australia's building and

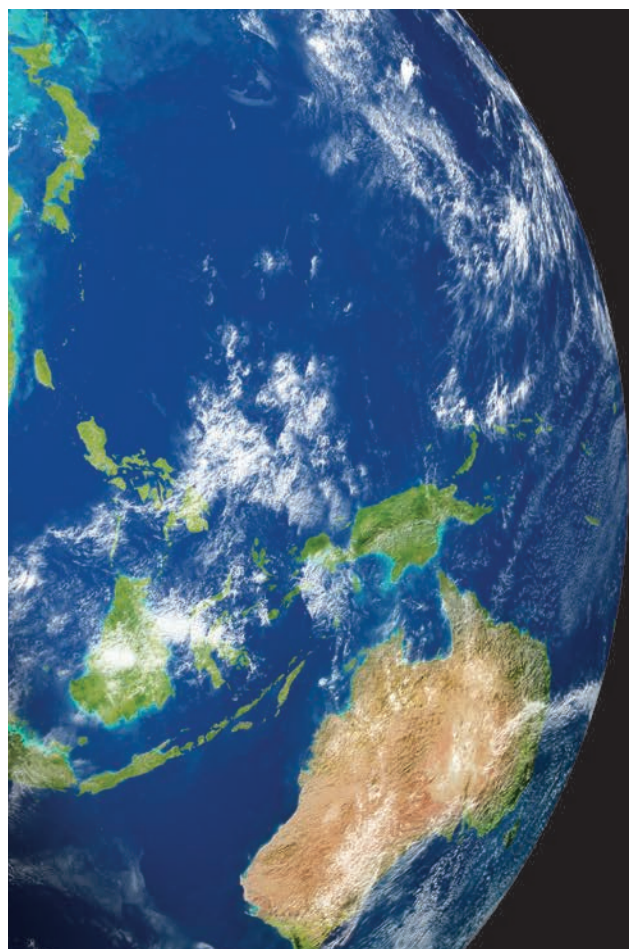
construction trades have access to fit-for-purpose, quality timber products," Mr Wheeler said.

Along with other wholesalers and importers, Stora Enso Australia is absolutely focused on customers' needs.

"Daily it is about what we can do better for our customers with added services, product developments, technical support, and bringing our global knowledge of timber to customers and our building projects," Mr Wheeler said.

He confirmed that along with other wholesalers and importers, Stora Enso

Cont P 12



Some standards enforced in Australia originate from international certifying bodies

Think Global (not just Local)

Always purchase appropriately certified imported timber products



ATIF

Australian Timber Importers Federation Inc
www.atif.asn.au



From P 11

Australia looked forward to continuing to supply competitively-priced quality softwood timber products into the future.

Like other importers, Stora Enso Australia puts energy into understanding market needs on a daily basis, and ensuring that the timber products it supplies comply with Australian building codes, illegal logging regulations and biosecurity requirements.

"Also, the reality is that wholesalers and importers are substantial employers carrying out a significant amount of value-adding processing, grading, component assembly,



1/ Baltic pine forest managed by Stora Enso... net annual increment from European forests is more than 700 million cub m.
2/ Darrin Wheeler... it's about what we can achieve for our customers.



four distribution centres supply structural softwood products for frame and truss manufacturing, plus a range of other products, including weatherboards and joinery. All softwood timber is supplied from Stora Enso's facilities in Europe.

The company has a proud heritage and know-how in forestry

and timber, and is committed to the development of products and technologies based on renewable materials. Stora Enso, headquartered in Helsinki, Finland, has some 25,000 employees in more than 30 countries, and is publicly listed on the Helsinki and Stockholm stock exchanges.

“MONITORING THE MARKET ON A DAILY BASIS

preservation treatment, machining, grading and repacking,” Mr Wheeler said.

Stora Enso Australia's

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New generation of Profimat moulders inherit German design and excellence

SOLID wood value-added manufacturing is increasingly important to optimise returns from log processing.

High quality moulders that are reliable, simple to operate, give precise, repetitive results, require minimum maintenance, and are cost competitive, go a long way towards enhancing solid wood processing profitability.

Managing director of Weinig Australia Markus



Profimat moulders... the answer for sawmilling and wood processing businesses seeking to upgrade their existing moulding stations to greatly improve precision and efficiency.

“SHORT SET-UP TIMES AND HIGHER USER SAFETY

Ostermaier stresses that with the Weinig heritage of German design and engineering excellence, together with the omission of unnecessary electronics,

Profimat moulders are extremely reliable and require minimum maintenance.

“The intelligent design of the Profimat ensures short set up times, high user safety and ergonomic operation with simple controls,” he said. “The sawmilling and advanced wood processing industry will be hard-pushed to find a better fit-for-purpose machine.”

The new Profimat moulders

Cont P 14

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are the answer for sawmilling and wood processing businesses seeking to upgrade their existing moulding station to greatly improve planning and profiling precision and efficiency.

New, next-generation Profimat moulders are available in two versions that concentrate on the essentials, while still offering users a range of manufacturing options. They have been designed and manufactured to meet the increasing challenges of a rapidly changing industry and offer the speed, flexibility,

“HIGH SURFACE QUALITY OF ALL WORK PIECES

reliability and quality needed to survive in the market in the long run.

Markus Ostermaier confirmed that the intuitive operability of the Profimat ensures short setup times, high user safety, pleasant operating comfort and consistently safe working.

“Plus, with its robust cast iron machine base and spindles in proven Weinig quality, the Profimat ensures a high surface quality of all work pieces.”

Thanks to its compact, robust design and the omission of unnecessary features, the Profimat is surprisingly durable and requires little maintenance.

“And if you have big things to accomplish, the Profimat is available with an optional working width of 260 mm.



Markus Ostermaier... with inherited German design and engineering excellence, together with the omission of unnecessary electronics, the Profimat requires minimum maintenance.

The standard width is 230 mm,” says Mr Ostermaier.

The Weinig Group is the world's largest manufacturer of machines and systems for solid wood processing. A number of individual specialised companies offer a

range of products under the Weinig brand, covering the complete process chain from the raw material to the end product.

Following the integration of the HOLZ-HER brand in 2010, Weinig also offers innovative and future-proof solutions for processing wooden composites in its portfolio – as well as the expertise that comes with more than 100 years of experience.

Founded in 1905 with headquarters in Tauberbischofsheim, Germany, Weinig has production sites in Germany, Austria, Luxembourg, USA and China along with 30 subsidiaries and branches in Europe, America, Asia and Australia, employing some 2500 staff.

Life after Covid: \$110.5bn in approvals

FORECASTS for sawn timber demand out to 2035 show there is life after COVID-19.

However, the immediate outlook is very challenging with the current cyclical downturn expected to bottom out in 2020-21 and steadily improve back to pre-Covid peaks during 2023-24.

Australia's dwelling approvals forecasts in February were for two years of growth, with the second year (financial year 2022) showing huge gains, in the order of 15%. However, revised forecasts for financial years 2021 and 2022 are expected to see dwelling approvals lower than the anticipated 161,600 for the recently-departed financial year 2020, according to the revised forecasts produced by BIS Oxford Economics for a project managed by FWPA.

Approvals of detached dwellings are expected to



Sawn timber and housing... some bright notes for a recovery.

be relatively stable through financial years 2021 and 2022, before rebounding strongly in the two following years. The outlook for medium-density dwellings is similar, but generally stronger in the short term. Over that same period, however, the forecast for higher density dwelling approvals is very poor, especially when comparing the pre-pandemic and post-Covid pandemic forecasts.

There are some slightly brighter notes, even for the prolonged recovery from the pandemic. Just as relevant

as the number of dwellings approved; the indicators point to a modest 3% expansion in the value of residential activity during financial year 2021, to \$110.5 billion.

As with the approval numbers, only the high-density dwellings are expected to see value soften.

The driver for value increasing is reported by BIS Oxford Economics: “Interest rate cuts and eased mortgage serviceability testing have already flown through positively to the established property market, and are positioned to drive a recovery

in total residential building from mid-2020, subject to the impact of the coronavirus.”

By financial year 2023, the forecasts for commencements will hit around 230,000 total dwellings, driven by “population growth,” rising dwelling stock deficiency, housing stimulus including interest rate cuts, and improving household confidence.

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(Extract from the July edition of the Forest and Wood Products Statistics Count prepared by Jim Houghton).



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Communities join Green Triangle in fight against theft of illegal firewood

COMMUNITIES are being urged to join the fight against native firewood theft by ensuring the wood they purchase is sustainably and legally sourced.

Firewood theft has plagued the Green Triangle forest industry for many years, but more recently, forest owners have reported a sharp increase in illegal activity.

A group of Green Triangle forest owners fed-up with widespread environmental destruction and theft of native timber, have joined forces with law enforcement and government agencies to address the issue.

The new intra-agency and forestry management liaison group spans both sides of the South Australian-Victorian border, with representatives from ForestrySA, SFM Asset Management, Green Triangle Forest Products, OneFortyOne, HVP, Australian Blue Gum Plantations, PF Olsen, Timberlands Pacific, Birdlife SA, SA's Department for Environment and Water, Department of Environment, Water, Land and Planning Victoria, SA Police and Victoria Police.



Standing their ground... members of the Intra-Agency and Forestry Management Liaison Group Kieran Gosden, ForestrySA, Mike Lawson, SFM Asset Management, and Aiden Laslett, Department of Environment and Water, pictured in native forest near Mount Gambier.

Group chair and SFM asset management portfolio manager Joel Turner said it was important for community members to ensure they purchased only legally and sustainably sourced firewood.

He said plantation grown blue gum was an excellent sustainable choice which burnt at the same temperature as redgum, was easier to split and ignite and was readily available from local merchants.

"What the public doesn't realise is that the wood they are purchasing from private sellers has often been cut down illegally from native reserves or private land across

the region," Mr Turner said.

"Illegal firewood theft damages the native environment that is protected for conservation and native animal habitat. Many of the trees being cut down are 150 to 200 years old and they can't be replaced. It takes more than 100 years for a redgum to provide a suitable habitat for native species such as the endangered Red-tailed black cockatoo."

Fellow group member ForestrySA forest ranger Kieran Gosden said camera surveillance and patrols had been increased in and around plantation and native forests

to help catch thieves operating across the region.

"The forest industry is working collaboratively with regulatory authorities and police," he said. "We're all ramping up our efforts to catch those responsible."

Green Triangle forest products harvesting manager and group member Mark Wells said the community had a collective responsibility to look after the environment for the benefit of future generations.

"This is a pretty unique environment and if we're not careful, we'll destroy it and lose more than just trees," he said. "I think a lot of the people who are buying redgum are probably unaware of the impact of what they're doing. For them it's just a heating resource to keep them warm in winter, but the real environmental impact – they just don't see it."

"We really need to convey to the community that we understand what they are looking for, but there are alternative resources they can use to do that. Cutting down our redgum is going to have a huge impact on our natural resources going forward."

REGIONAL FORESTRY HUB MANAGERS – SOUTH EAST AND NORTH QUEENSLAND

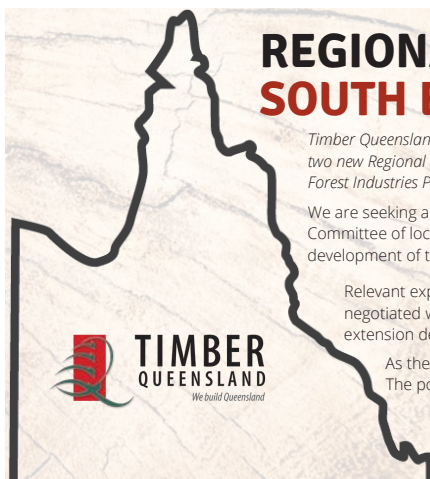
Timber Queensland, the peak body for Queensland's forest and timber industry, has partnered with the Australian Government to deliver on the implementation of two new Regional Forestry Hubs in South-East Queensland and North Queensland. The regional hubs are a key action under the Australian Government's National Forest Industries Plan.

We are seeking a self-motivated individual to undertake the role of hub manager in each region. Reporting to the Chief Executive and working with a Steering Committee of local industry and regional stakeholders, the successful applicant will manage the implementation of the relevant hub to progress further development of the industry in the region.

Relevant experience and/or skills in project management, stakeholder engagement and communications will be essential. A salary package will be negotiated with the right applicant, either on a full time or part-time basis. The position will be on a contract basis for two years initially with scope for extension depending upon funding. Positions descriptions are available at www.timberqueensland.com.au

As there are two separate positions, please indicate whether you are applying for the South-East Queensland or North Queensland position. The positions will be locally based in each region, most likely in Maryborough and Cairns (locations subject to negotiation).

Written applications, including a short curriculum vitae, nominating referees and a statement addressing the position description should be addressed to: Chief Executive, Timber Queensland, PO Box 231 Kedron Qld 4031. Email applications are preferable, and should be sent to: admin@timberqueensland.com.au Applications close COB Monday 10 August 2020



Organic drive to a land of milk and honey in a non-guzzler Kia Seltos GT-Line SUV

GROUND-breaking environmentally-friendly organic batteries are under development in Germany, but they could be still 15 years away from mass production.

The organic car battery is said to be graphene-based, using organic cell chemistry with a water-based electrolyte. That means they don't use any rare metals or anything toxic and can biodegrade without polluting the environment.

Until one comes along, the petrol-driven Kia Seltos GT-Line was a fit-for-purpose means of getting to Farm&Co, a delightful organic tourist magnet at Kingscliff, a coastal town just south of the Tweed, 115 km from Brisbane.

Operated by Michele Stephens and her partner Ian Kittle, the tourist farm grew avocados for 30 years before the couple turned into all things organic – coffee, milk, meat, vegetables, macadamias ... and an organic aftershave that got the pheromones buzzing like the bees around the sunflowers.

For \$4 you cut one of these from two big fields. During



Kia Seltos GT-Line... one of the more powerful smaller SUVs.

the growing season, young sunflowers rotate their bright yellow heads during the day to track the sun's movement across the sky. They reset overnight, swinging their face back to the east. Bloomin' marvellous.

The gleaming white Seltos turned a few heads, too. It's one of the more powerful small SUVs. Kia and Hyundai share engines and transmissions, so under the bonnet of the Seltos GT-Line there's a familiar 1.6-litre four cylinder turbo-charged petrol engine paired to a seven-speed dual-clutch auto and all-wheel drive, rather than the naturally aspirated 2-litre/CVT/front-drive combination



in lower-grade variants.

Sold as a budget-friendly model in some overseas markets, the Seltos GT-line goes for a drive-away price of \$41,990 and is easy on the juice – 7.5 litres per 100 km, which although not the segment's lowest is still very respectable. Highway consumption is certainly low – with figures as low as 5.5

l/100km on the open road.

The GT-Line comes with advanced autonomous emergency braking that uses a camera and radar to detect other vehicles, pedestrians and cyclists and can stop or reduce speed in an emergency to minimise harm.

Passengers get a generous amount of space; the high roof means no shortage of head room front or back with good knee and toe space

and a reclining rear seat ensuring plenty of long-distance comfort.

Inside, there's a 10.25-in. touchscreen with navigation, smartphone connectivity for compatible Apple and Android

phones, digital radio, leather-look 'premium' seat trim with electric front seat adjustment, front seat heating and cooling.

Boot space is enormous – 433-litres to the rear seats or 1393 with them folded.

We turned our heads to the north with a promise to return to this land of milk and honey.

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HEAD OFFICE

Timber & Forestry e-news
PO Box 69, Potts Point, NSW 1335,
Australia
Phone | +61 (0) 417 421 187

PUBLISHERS

John Halkett | +61 (0) 417 421 187
johnh@timberandforestryenews.com
Dennis Neilson | +64 (0) 7 349 2764
dennison@timberandforestryenews.com

MANAGING EDITOR

Jim Bowden | +61 (0) 401 312 087
cancon@bigpond.net.au
PO Box 330, Hamilton Central QLD
4007, Australia

ADVERTISING

John Halkett | +61 (0) 417 421 187
johnh@timberandforestryenews.com
advertising@timberandforestryenews.com

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About Onetrak

Onetrak has rapidly grown into a major player in the Australian heavy equipment industry. Home to some of the largest brands within the earthmoving and construction, forestry, material handling and quarry industries, the business offers new and used machine sales, hire equipment, service and parts.

Today employing over 100 people across Tasmania, Victoria, Queensland, New South Wales, Western Australia and South Australia, Onetrak prides itself on the quality of its people, carefully chosen from a diverse range of backgrounds within the industry with one common trait – a desire to exceed customer expectations.

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For queries regarding the position please call our Tumut Operations Manager Brad Madden ph 0439 189 938 or Brisbane Operations Manager Mitchell Hills ph 0488 711 110.

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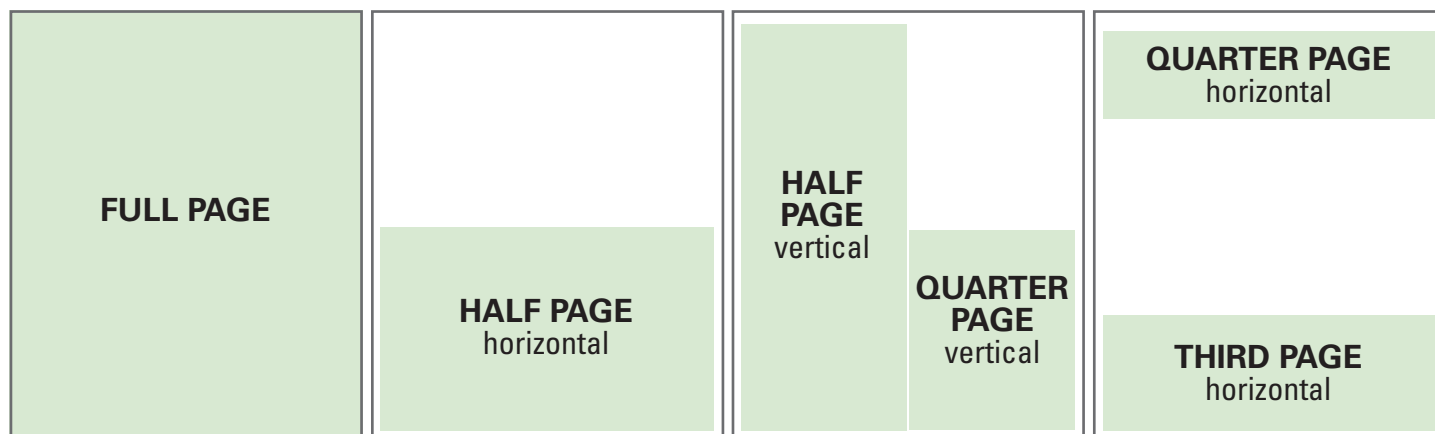
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