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COVER STORY P12



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Hyne plan: export logs processed at Tumbarumba will protect Aussie jobs

Federal government support would fast track new supply channels

HYNE Timber, one of Australia's largest producers of sawn timber products, is seeking government support for an initiative that will see softwood saw logs destined for export processed at its Tumbarumba mill in NSW.

The move is aimed at protecting hundreds of jobs locally and along the timber supply chain, helping the Australian economy recover from bushfires and the Covid-19 pandemic.

Following discussions with suppliers in Victoria and South Australia, Hyne Timber has confirmation that at least 431,000 cub m of sustainably-grown, plantation pine can be made available to the mill over the next three years.

CEO Jon Kleinschmidt said Hyne had already applied

“BUSHFIRES HAVE IMPACTED ON 40% OF OUR LONG-TERM LOG SUPPLY



Jon Kleinschmidt... retaining job security for hundreds of people.

for a NSW grant and was now in discussions with the federal government to secure transport support to fast track these new supply channels.

“Those logs are situated beyond the Tumbarumba viable supply zone, and to do this we need transport support for the extra 41% of freight costs,” Mr Kleinschmidt said.

“We believe redirecting logs from export and into the Australian economy while retaining job security for hundreds of people, is a

compelling case for state and federal government support.

“If we can secure just under \$29 million in support over three years on top of our own contribution of more than \$42 million, we can convert that into an estimated \$173 million for the Australian economy.”

“The jobs secured at Tumbarumba, and our sales and distribution staff in NSW alone, equates to more than \$70 million in wages and salaries going back into the economy and vibrancy of our

regional towns.”

Mr Kleinschmidt added: “We have crunched the numbers and without support, this additional 431,000 cub m of logs is too expensive to freight to Tumbarumba, as the additional costs cannot be passed onto our customers, who will be forced to use imported timber.

“The devastating bushfires have impacted 40% of our long-term log supply. The situation is serious, and the community is rightfully concerned about the future. However, we have found a significant ‘win-win’ solution if we can secure government support. Those logs will supply Australian timber for 10,000 new homes.”

Mr Kleinschmidt said the by-products would also support the economy with an estimated 104,526 tonnes of chip supplied to Visy in Tumut for paper and packaging production and up to 24,457 more tonnes of bark

Cont P 13



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From P 3

for commercial applications including potting mix to grow the nation's fresh food.

Dried wood shavings customer David Shandley has further warned of disruption to the food supply chain as a result of the bushfires and the impact on by-product availability.

Shandley's Transport buys 100% of Hyne's dried wood shavings, used as animal bedding for commercial food producers and supplying the major supermarkets nation-wide.

“WE HOPE GOVERNMENT WILL WORK WITH HYNE TO PROTECT OUR SUPPLY CHAINS



Tumbarumba mill... equipped to process softwood logs destined for export.

“The 431,000 cub m additional log volume means 14,109 more tonnes of dried wood shavings, supporting jobs in Holbrook and beyond,” Mr Shandley said.

“We hope the government will work with Hyne to protect our supply chains and secure the flow of Australian logs, timber and by-product to

benefit our own economy and regional communities.”

Hyne Timber has applied through the NSW government Bushfire Industry

Recovery Package – Sector Development Grants for support and is now in discussion with the federal government.

21st awards a virtual celebration

THE 21st Australian Timber Design Awards will now be a 'virtual celebration' as Covid-19 restrictions prevent the staging of the usual annual gala presentation dinner, which was scheduled for Sydney later this year.

“As we continue to guide our every day through what is life under Covid-19, the board has reluctantly made the decision to hold a virtual celebration evening,” TDA CEO Andrew Dunn said.

Judging is now under way for the coveted People Choice award, which closes on September 30. Voting this year is closer than ever with less



than 30 votes between 1st and 4th.

Visit the new awards website for information and registration instructions at www.timberdesignawards.com.au or phone Mariela on 0420 232 253.

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Government releases new blueprint for long-term bushfire recovery in Victoria

\$110m for local projects that create jobs and help communities

THE Victorian government has unveiled a new blueprint for the state's fire-affected regions and more than \$110 million for local projects that create jobs and help communities recover from the summer's devastating bushfires.

Minister for Police and Emergency Services Lisa Neville this week released Bushfire Recovery, Victoria's Eastern Victoria Fires 2019-20 State Recovery Plan, which



In recovery mode... Victoria's Minister for Police and Emergency Services Lisa Neville (left) is shown the extent of the bushfires in the Buchan area of Gippsland.

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sets out the journey ahead for bushfire-affected communities over the next 12 to 18 months as they move from the short-term 'stabilising' phase to longer-term rebuilding and recovery.

It outlines \$78.06 million for region-wide projects vital for recovery including:

- \$10 million to repair and reinstate roads, crossings and fire-tower infrastructure and \$8 million to ensure the safety of the arterial road network.
- \$8 million to deliver and install more high-quality, short-term modular homes and \$4.4 million for support, services and rebates to help locals plan and complete their rebuild.
- \$7.7 million to fund new seed stocks and directly sow forest areas by hand and helicopter, and \$5 million to protect rare and threatened species from pests and predators.

- \$7.15 million to upgrade infrastructure at Cape Conran to make it 'visitor-ready'.
- \$6.4 million for safety works in parks and forests so they are fit for public use and \$1.2 million to support a major event review of regional forest agreements.
- \$4.8 million to support Aboriginal community organisations, businesses, jobs and infrastructure.
- \$5.1 million to fund legal assistance and \$2 million to provide tailored financial counselling for bushfire affected individuals and businesses.
- \$3.6 million to further boost the capacity of councils – Victoria's key partners in recovery.
- \$1.95 million to strengthen the resilience of schools and help them prepare for future disasters.

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From P 4

- \$1.88 million to increase family violence support services, including early intervention programs and \$88,000 to support health and housing services.

In addition, the State Recovery Plan also delivers \$34.3 million towards the Local Economic Recovery program, matching a previous federal government contribution.



Thousands of people evacuated the east Gippsland region of Victoria when three major fires struck on all fronts during the Black Summer.

“FIRES MOST EXPENSIVE IN LIVING MEMORY

Both levels of government will work together on economic recovery projects shaped and supported by local communities including councils, community recovery

committees, businesses and other local groups.

The State Recovery Plan is underpinned by the State Recovery Framework and sets

an agenda for recovery across the natural environment, buildings and infrastructure, business and economy and health and wellbeing.

In an Australian ‘first’, the plan also sets out a recovery plan for Aboriginal culture and healing – recognising the unique impact of the disaster on Aboriginal community and country.

The 2019-20 bushfires were the most extensive in living memory burning more than 1.5 million ha, destroying hundreds of properties, significantly affecting local economies and tragically taking five lives.

TAFE teacher vies for top Victorian training award

TAFE Gippsland teacher Kevin Nunn has been shortlisted as a finalist for a 2020 Victorian Training Award.

The timber training unit manager from TAFE Gippsland’s Forestec campus in East Gippsland was nominated in the Teacher/Trainer of the Year category in this year’s coveted TAFE and training sector awards.

The Victorian government this week release details of all 2020 VTA finalists who will vie for the 66th annual awards

in 13 categories, with some winners going on to represent the state at the Australian Training Awards in November.

Kevin’s nomination by TAFE Gippsland came after an appraisal of his work over 25 years in the timber training sector and his vital work during the summer bushfires and subsequent community recovery activities.

TAFE Gippsland’s CEO Grant Radford said Kevin’s shortlisting recognised him as a true professional within his



Kevin Nunn... a finalist in the 2020 Victorian Training Award.

industry and a leader in the education and training sector.

The shortlisting of Kevin for a Victorian Training Award is TAFE Gippsland’s first for some years. He was advised of his selection earlier this month and his judging panel

interview took place on-line late last week due to current pandemic restrictions.

The Covid-19 restrictions will also result in the winners of the 2020 Victorian Training Awards being announced in a virtual setting later this year.

The Victorian Training Awards recognise and honour the outstanding achievements of individuals, organisations, employers, and training and community providers in the Victorian TAFE and training sector.



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Bushfire inquiry report finds forestry had little impact on NSW fire severity

Government commits to implementing all 76 recommendations

A NSW bushfire inquiry report has found forestry had little impact on fire severity

The report from the inquiry was made public this week.

In looking at forestry operations the report found that, based on DPI research in the 2019-20 fires, timber harvesting does not increase bushfire severity.

The conclusion in the study was “These results indicate that, at the landscape scale, fire severity was much the same regardless of tenure and in state forests was not influenced by harvesting.

NSW Government has committed implementing all 76 recommendations made in the report, which examined the causes, preparation and response to the devastating 2019-20 bushfires.

This summary report presents statistics on the area of forest burnt in each of four severity classes –low, medium, high and extreme – across the three main tenures burnt: national parks, state forests and private forests. It also presents statistics on fire severity within harvested areas in state forests, to investigate whether harvested areas influence fire severity at the landscape scale.

In burnt forest by tenure national parks accounted for 54.5% of the total forest area burnt, state forests 18.6%, and private forests 24.6%. As a proportion of the state’s total forested area, about 38% of national parks, 36% of state forests and 13% of private forests were burnt.

Premier Gladys Berejiklian



On the front line... NSW Premier Gladys Berejiklian and Deputy Premier John Barilaro (left) join Shane Fitzsimmons, Commissioner of NSW RFS, to inspect the bushfire front at Tyringham on the Mid North Coast near Coff's Harbour last year.

thanked former NSW Police Deputy Commissioner Dave Owens and Professor Mary O’Kane AC for their hard work on the Report.

“The government has worked in lock-step with the RFS and Resilience NSW to ensure the state is as prepared as it can be to face the next fire season,” Ms Berejiklian said. “But the learnings from the inquiry will help us further improve our preparedness and response.”

The NSW Government has already delivered more than \$45 million in additional funding, announced in May, to fast-track hazard reduction and deliver upgrades to firefighting capability.

“This was a terrible bushfire season and we will look at all the steps we can take, especially in relation to helping people protect their property,” the Premier said.

“The findings of the report show that there is an opportunity to strengthen governance and responsibility,

which we are in the process of addressing. The report also acknowledges the significant contribution of both climate change and the vast expanse of the state’s bushland towards these devastating fires.”

“THE INQUIRY WILL HELP US FURTHER IMPROVE THE RESPONSE”

Deputy Premier John Barilaro said all 76 recommendations in the inquiry were based on the harsh lessons learnt from the catastrophic bushfires of last summer.

“Last bushfire season was unlike anything we have ever dealt with before and we need a government response to match,” Mr Barilaro said.

“Things like strategic hazard reduction and better land management no matter the tenure are essential when

it comes to keeping our communities safe.”

The Minister for Police and Emergency Services David Elliott said NSW was more prepared than ever before for the 2020-21 fire season.

“We have already begun implementing the Inquiry’s recommendation to replace and retrofit the fleet, with 120 new trucks and 70 refurbished trucks to be rolled out before the end of the financial year,” Mr Elliott said.

“I would like to thank all our emergency personnel and volunteers who made us all proud over this relentless bushfire season.”

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SEPT/OCT

Timber Queensland 4-part webinar training program – Understanding AS1684.2.

September 15, 10am-12pm; September 22, 10-11.30 am; September 29, 10-11.30 am; October 6, 10 am-12 pm. Cost \$200 (inc. gst) \$200, non-members \$250 (inc. gst). Course must be booked as a whole; sessions are not separately bookable. CPD points available. This is a ticketed course. Register at

www.timberqueensland.com.au

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

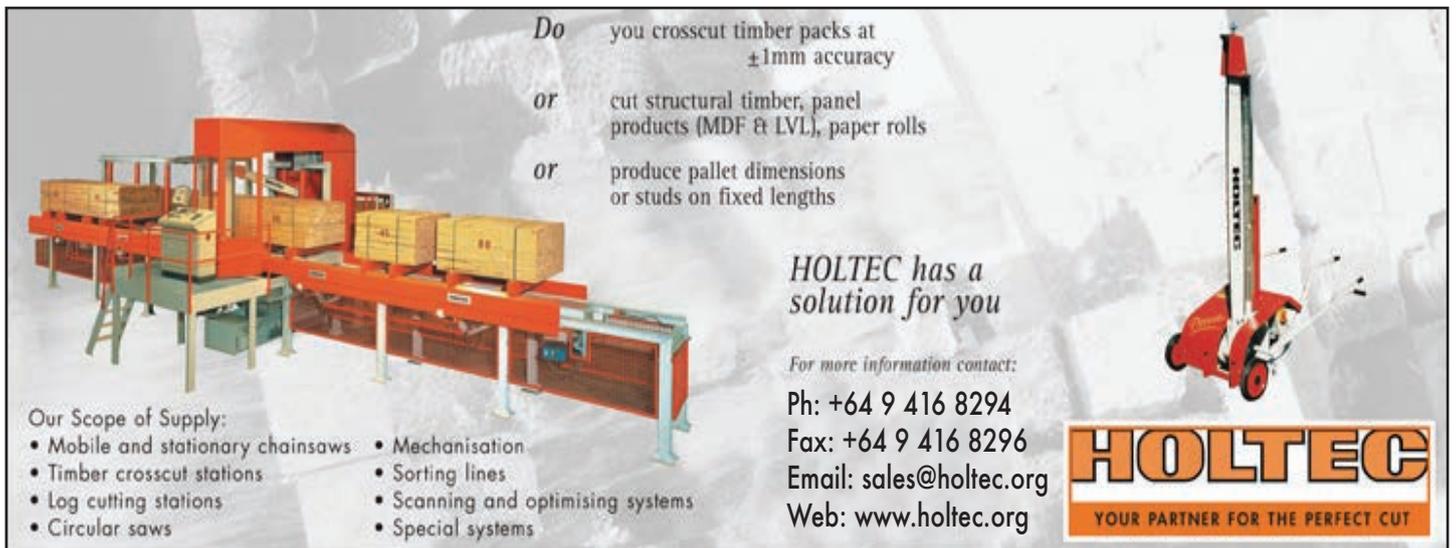
7-9: International Forest Business Conference and Tour – Sopot, Poland. A two-day conference on megatrends that shape forest and wood industry sectors. The event will highlight the transformation of forest-related businesses towards a low-carbon bioeconomy, discuss tensions between sustainability and 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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Manufacturers getting the jitters over future supply of domestic hardwoods

Gradual shift to imported wood products from USA and Malaysia

ACTIONS against timber in Victoria and Western Australia have emboldened opponents to the native forest-based sector across the country.

This has been heightened by court action surrounding Victoria's future supply of hardwoods, the Andrews government's move against the forest sector and the somewhat bizarre decision of Bunnings to ban hardwood timber products in the state.

In WA, a parliamentary member of the Greens has proposed a bill to ban the future harvesting of native forest timber, and to close down the state's Forest Products Commission. While this bill is unlikely to succeed, it has encouraged activists across the country to step up their efforts, including in northern New South Wales.

Collectively, these actions have sent jitters through building and high-value manufacturing industries that rely on an ongoing, reliable supply of high-quality hardwood timber. It has also threatened ongoing investment and employment, particularly in rural-based industries. This includes furniture makers and window and door manufacturers, both of whom have value-added



1/ Malaysian wood... strong certification credentials.
2/ Hardwood supply... Malaysia exporting a wide range of hardwood products, including solid timber, mouldings, veneer, plywood, particleboard, MDF, joinery products and furniture.

manufacturing processes that are dependent on substantial investment in CNC automated machinery.

An unfortunate consequence of this uncertainty for the domestic hardwood sector has been evidence that some manufacturing entities dependent on quality hardwood timber have switched to imported

hardwood species where the perceive that the ongoing risk of supply is not as great as is continuing access to domestically-sourced native forest hardwoods.

Specialist hardwood companies report an increase in demand for American hardwoods such as white oak and cherry to replace supplies of the ash group of eucalypts such as Victorian ash and Tasmanian oak. In NSW and Queensland some

manufacturers of windows and doors are placing a greater dependence on timbers from the Solomon Islands including rosewood.

There is also ongoing and strengthening interest in hardwoods from Malaysia. Australia has, and continues



“ INCREASED DEMAND FOR AMERICAN HARDWOODS ”

to be, a major export market for Malaysian hardwoods that are characterised by tight specifications, high quality and strong certification credentials. These attributes collectively give Malaysian hardwoods a market edge over tropical hardwoods sourced from elsewhere.

Malaysian hardwoods range from heavy and

Cont P 10

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From P 8

medium weight construction timbers to fine furniture timber. The southeast Asian country offers a wide range of hardwood products, including solid timber, mouldings, veneer, plywood, particleboard, medium density fibreboard, builders' carpentry joinery, and wooden furniture. There is also a steady demand for picture frames, pre-finished parquetry, glued laminated timber and laminated veneer lumber.

Malaysia's total export of timber products improved



Hardwood supply... Malaysia exporting a wide range of hardwood products, including solid timber, mouldings, veneer, plywood, particleboard, MDF, joinery products and furniture.

by 1% year-on-year in 2019, registering a total export

value of more than \$A 7.5 billion. This was driven by a

substantial increase in the wooden furniture exports to \$A3 billion.

So, unless state governments across Australia demonstrate a greater willingness to support the native forest-based hardwood sector, we can expect to see building and manufacturing industries highly dependent on quality hardwoods continue to shift to imports. This is likely to have serious implications for regional employment and related value-added wood processing and manufacturing.

Linda Sewell steps down from OneFortyOne

KEY industry leader Linda Sewell is stepping down as CEO of OneFortyOne Plantations, having joined the company in 2013.

OneFortyOne Plantations is a privately-held company with a softwood plantation estate of 80,000 ha in regional South Australia. A start-up entity, the company was newly formed in 2012 to acquire the cutting rights to the plantation from the privatisation of the estate by the South Australian government.

Ms Sewell was among industry stakeholders who

brought the advocacy of forest industries together through the amalgamation of A3P and NAFI to form AFPA 10 Years ago, and she was the foundation chair of AFPA, sitting on its board for four years.

She was also the inaugural chair of the Green Triangle Forest Industries Hub. In a tribute, deputy chair Ian McDonnell said, "Linda is a highly respected among her peers and will be sorely missed by our board. Of particular note is her commitment to stewardship. She has been a strong



Linda Sewell... respected industry leader.

advocate for relishing new education pathways and opportunities for the next generation of Green Triangle foresters."

He said Ms Sewell's "tenacity and enthusiasm" had been pivotal in forming the hub's strategic plan, generating realistic objectives to sustainably grow the sector

over the next three decades.

Before joining OneFortyOne, Ms Sewell was CEO, Hancock Victorian Plantations, leading the company's softwood and hardwood plantation estate in regional Victoria.

Prior to that, she worked for Carter Holt Harvey for 11 years, nine of which were in New Zealand. She was chief executive CHH's laminated veneer lumber business with trans-Tasman operations and global sales offices.

Born in New Zealand, she has a BSc (botany) and BCom (accounting and finance).



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Moving into ‘virtual space’ architects had new opportunity to tell their story

Designers impressed with timber’s cost comparisons and speed of construction

MICHAEL SMITH

IN anticipation of the upcoming New Zealand Institute of Architects national awards, we take a look at more regional winners from the institute’s eight constituent branches – following our initial story in last week’s edition.

In ‘normal times’, the awards would be celebratory live events attended by architects, clients, builders and consultants. But, as NZIA president Judi Keith-Brown noted in her opening address ... “moving into the virtual space offers a new opportunity to tell our story.”

Ms Keith-Brown added

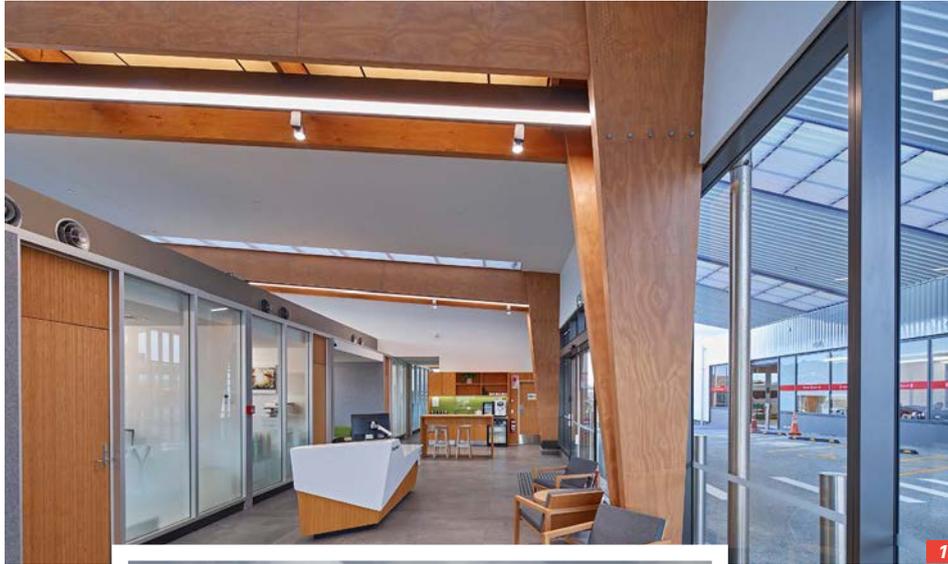
“THEY QUICKLY TRANSFERRED THEIR SKILLS TO WORK WITH LVL

that the profession needed to address the perception that architects are expensive, remote and unaffordable. But, at the same time, she

is confident the profession is increasingly aware of what it takes “to create a more prosperous, resilient and sustainable Aotearoa”

showroom and workshop areas to bring warmth and texture to proceedings.

Cont P 13



1/ **Botany Toyota... exposed LVL frames in the office/reception area.** Photo: WMZA & Michael Ng



2/ **Botany Toyota... the design team and contractors were impressed with the speed of construction.** Photo: WMZA & Michael Ng



3/ **Light Mine... reclaimed totara cladding complements the subdued colours of the surrounding landscape.** Photo: WMZA & Michael Ng

4/ **Light Mine... a multitude of fine timber finishes.** Photo: WMZA & Michael Ng



From P 12

In addition, prefabricated lightweight LVL trusses were used to link the two areas via an inverted ‘hipped roof’ entranceway ... resulting in a light-filled first point of contact with the dealership’s customers.

Although the design team and contractors were more familiar with building in steel, they were able to quickly transfer their skills to working with LVL – being suitably impressed with the favourable cost comparisons and speed of construction.

Further south on the Kuaotunu Coast (Coromandel Peninsula) is Light Mine house, by Crosson Architects, winner of a housing award in the Waikato & Bay of Plenty region. This distinctive build had the judges enthusing about its “sculptural, off-grid skylights that reference the mine shafts of this former gold-mining area”. The inverted shafts effectively ‘mine’ sunlight and starlight in each of the three separate, multi-generational living pods.

Light Mine’s interior features a multitude of fine timber finishes ... while the exterior’s reclaimed totara cladding will continue to weather gracefully, in keeping with the subdued planting and surrounding dunes.

Among the winners in the highly competitive housing category of the Southern region was Wanaka Crib, by Pac Studio. The judges were enthusiastic in their praise for the project’s “vernacular architecture wrought fresh” and its delicate variations in the crafting and detailing of



1/ **Wanaka Crib... ‘vernacular architecture wrought fresh.’**

Photo: Simon Devitt

2/ **Abodo Showcase Cardrona... ‘architectural form reduced to its purest essence.’**

Photo: Simon Devitt

3/ **Abodo Showcase Cardrona: revels in the possibilities of thermally modified timber products.**

Photo: Simon Devitt

traditional materials.

Various timber components add a wonderful softness and variety to this subtle composition – from the graduated weatherboards

to the interior combinations of southern beech, rimu, plywood and recycled kauri.

Also from the south is Abodo Showcase Cardrona by Assembly Architects, a winner in the Small Project Architecture

category. This simple cabin showroom revels in the possibilities of the company’s thermally modified timber products – including highly grained timber panelling, end-grain flooring, laminated timber furnishings and slatted balustrades.

On the cover: NZIA regional awards entry Wanaka Crib... interior combinations of southern beech, rimu, plywood and recycled kauri.
Photo: Simon Devitt

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Will the New Zealand election make any difference to the forestry sector?

DENNIS NEILSON

THE unexpected (small) second wave of the pandemic community transmission after 102 days of Covid-19-free life in New Zealand has caused the government to semi-lock down Auckland, restrict the rest of the country and delay the general election from September 19 to October 17.

What impact may all of this have politically on the forestry and forest industry sectors?

Well, prior to this new Covid wave, the Labour Party, the senior party in the Coalition government, led by Jacinda Ardern, had a very good chance of winning enough seats to govern alone.

This has never occurred since the MMP voting system was adopted in 1995.

It may still happen ... but the Prime Minister's impenetrable Teflon coating has taken a scratching in the last two weeks with the new lock-downs.

The election date delay may yet allow her and her party to weather the loss of invincibility and to govern alone. It would dearly love to do that, especially to drop the troublesome baggage of the NZ First Party, and even if possible the more compliant Green Party.

If Labour needs the Greens (only) to govern, forestry policy will likely be less sympathetic to commercial plantation forestry, as the Greens would favour planting only non-commercial native species over radiata pine trees – to save the planet from whatever Greens want to save the planet from.



If Labour needs NZ First as a partner (with its low polling and likely marriage with the Greens as well), the same policies may continue – support for plantation forestry but wanting to kill log exports. However, the latest WTO decision (that alleged Canadian subsidies on US timber imports were rejected as a reason for any tariffs/restrictions) may temper the minister's fervour to knock the wind out of forest owners' sails.

If National win (unlikely, but possible) then all hell might break loose, as its leader Judith Collins publically proclaimed in July that she "hates pine trees" and that "trees pollute waterways." The National Party is more of a farmers' party than anything else, and NZ farmers are like Australian farmers: they dislike any change to land use, even if it makes economic sense.

If half the traditional National supporters who

are dependent on the New Zealand forestry sector switch votes it could swing the election (further) away from National.

However, if a centre right National-Act Party coalition gets over the line (see its chances below) a combination of the National Party disdain for pine trees, and Act's policy to dump the 'Climate Change Response (Zero Carbon) Amendment Act 2019', might eliminate the political will to have a single new pine tree planted in New Zealand ever again.

The massively powerful farmers lobby continues to control the farms versus forestry political and media narrative, in spite of overwhelming evidence that returns from forestry are better than for pastoral farming.

•The DANA 'straw poll' in late August (with a +/- 50% margin of error) has the chances of a Centre Left Labour only government at 50-60%, a left wing Labour-Greens coalition at 20%, a three-way 'left and right' wing Labour, Greens and NZ First coalition at 10% and a Centre Right National-Act Coalition at 10-20%.



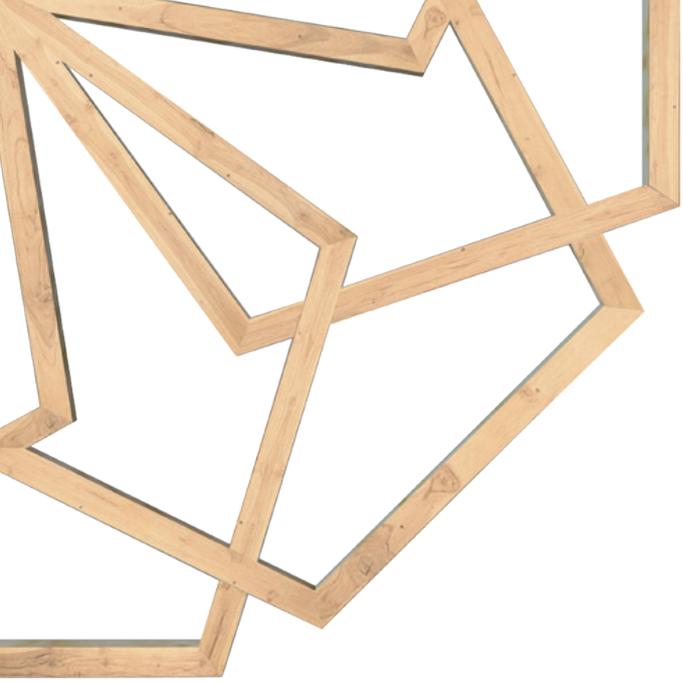
In the balance... Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern and leader of the Opposition Judith Collins.

Sector	Company Name	Profit in millions of dollars after tax	Assets in millions of dollars	Percentage return on assets	Profit in dollars per hectare
Farming	Landcorp	-11	1,782	-0.6	-29
Forestry	Kaingaroa Timberlands	584	4,731	13.3	3,172
	Taumata Plantations	214	2,367	9.3	1,252

Source: NZ Farm Forestry Association – NZ Tree Grower, August 2020 – from Deloitte's Top 200 NZ Companies financial records, 2019

Category	Export value comparisons		
	Land use, million hectares	Export returns in billion dollars a year in 2019	Export earned dollars per hectare
Meat and Wool	8.5	10.2	1,200
Forestry	1.7	6.9	4,077

Source: NZ Farm Forestry Association – NZ Tree Grower, August 2020



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That Black Summer – the people and the process in preparation for the next season

IN the last of a three-part series, Responsible Wood meets with those at the frontline, managing the longer-term recovery efforts to salvage burnt timber resources, support local timber communities and rebuild the NSW forest estate.

Forestry staff are tired, but very grateful the last bushfire season is behind them – and they have started preparing for the next.

The Make Good, Make Safe program saw Forestry Corporation of NSW staff and agency partners work hard to prepare and reopen burnt forests across the state.

Australian native forests are very resilient to the impact of



Dean Anderson... salvage of burnt timber now well under way.

wildfires. Native flora in these forests have unique recovery strategies and the forests are already showing remarkable regeneration.

Parallel to this program, softwoods staff are

addressing the damage done to the pine plantation estate.

Forestry Corporation of NSW's regional manager Dean Anderson said the fire-affected timber had the same structural properties as unburnt timber, so it could be harvested and processed into house frames, furniture and other essential renewable wood products.

"Last season's fires impacted around a quarter of our pine plantation

estate and, although these plantations have been affected by fire, they are certainly not lost," Mr Anderson said.

"After a fire, we have up to 12 months to salvage the timber while it is still in good condition, before it starts to deteriorate," he said.

"As at August, we are now well under way harvesting timber from fire-affected plantations and working at over double the normal rate to deliver this resource to processors and manufacturers and ultimately the community as finished products."

To find out more about the Black Summer and the people involved in forest recovery visit responsiblewood.org.au



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Forestry in NSW doubles nursery seed production to replant burnt plantations

FORESTRY Corporation of NSW is preparing to double the output from its Grafton nursery next year to replant plantations affected by the summer bushfires.

“This will allow our production teams time to harvest affected timber and prepare the sites for planting in 2021 so we can replant and regrow all the burnt plantations with renewable timber,” nursery manager Kath French.

“Forestry is a long term-industry and every time we sow a seed here at Grafton we are planning more than 30 years into the future for when that seed will become an essential timber product for the next generation,” Ms



Kath French, Forestry Corporation of NSW's Grafton nursery manager, prepares seedlings to replace burnt plantations.

year's planting program was replacing areas both harvested in previous years and those affected by bushfires.

“The logistics for re-planting are enormous,” he said.

“Across the whole state we are planting more than nine million radiata pine seedlings.

“While the 2020 planting season has replaced forests harvested in previous years, it is also replanting into burnt forests – up to two-thirds of the planting program in some areas.”

The planting program makes an important contribution to the recovery of burnt forests and communities.

“While we were happy to put the bushfire season behind us, a lot of work followed to lay the foundations for the ongoing bushfire recovery and rebuilding the plantations,” Mr Davies said.

Forestry Corporation NSW is working closely with planting crews to make sure measures are in place to meet government Covid-19 health guidelines and minimise the risk to workers and the community.

“Crews were either local or have been working regionally before the pandemic,” Mr Davies said. “However, we put measures in place to limit contact between planters, crews and businesses who support the planting program.

“We are taking the risk of Covid-19 seriously and the 2020 planting season supports the recovery process.”

French said.

“Each of the seedlings is individually sown from a carefully selected seed, and we will spend six months carefully watering, weeding and fertilising the crop.”

The 12-person team at the Grafton nursery sorts and grades seedlings to ensure only the hardiest are sent out to plantations.

“ ONLY HARDEST ARE SENT OUT TO PLANTATIONS ”

“Once in the ground, these seedlings will be grown for around 35 years to supply renewable timber for the next generation's homes and infrastructure, so it's vital that we only send the seedlings with the best chance of survival,” Ms French said.

Silviculture manager Roger Davies said this

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The realm of the Siberian larch: when the freezing starts the tough get going

THE largest forested region on the planet is the boreal coniferous tract, which accounts for about a third of the Earth's total forest cover and dwarfs tropical rainforests.

Boreal forests blanket a swathe around the Arctic Circle across Alaska and into northern Canada. They cover about 8 million sq km of Siberia alone, where they are known as the taiga. Vast amounts of carbon are lock up there, with so much biomass that worldwide levels of carbon dioxide and oxygen fluctuate markedly in time with northern seasons.

This is the realm of the larch.

The gigantic Yenisey River flows 3200 km from Mongolia to the Arctic, dividing Siberia in two. To the west, all the way to Finland, the Siberian larch (*Larix sibirica*), dominates the landscape. Eastwards to Kamchatka, almost the end of the land, is the domain of its close sibling the Dahurian larch (*Larix gmelinii*).

The two species are very similar with only marginal differences in their habitats.

“WHERE TEMPS DROP BELOW -65 DEGREES C



Siberian larch... a dominant species in the vast boreal forests.



Siberian larch... commonly used for flooring, cladding and veneers.

However, they can be distinguished by their cones, which stand erect on the branches – soft and hairy on the Siberian larch, and with scales curved slightly outwards on the Dahurian larch.

On young larch trees the outer bark is silvery grey, becoming reddish-brown, thickened and furrowed with age.

Siberia is ridiculously inhospitable. Over the course of a year the air temperature can vary by as much as 100 deg. C. In southern Siberia, these conifers grow to 30 m or more, but near the Arctic Circle stunted by the elements, they reach just 5 m.

Winter is more than freezing. In some areas the average monthly temperature for December to March is -40 deg. Celsius and nights can

TALKING TREES

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drop below -65 deg. C.

The larches of Siberia have evolved several adaptations to handle the freezing temperatures and the related lack of liquid water. Like many high-altitude conifers, their narrow, conical profile sheds snow to prevent damage to branches. Needle-like leaves have a small surface area, reducing evaporation,

and their wax coating also prevents dehydration.

Usually for conifers, larches are deciduous. In the dying days of summer, they turn a spectacular yellow-gold and drop their needles, cutting water loss even more. In autumn they adjust their anti-freeze biochemistry by increasing the amount of turpentine in their thick bark and wood, and replacing water that would freeze and rupture cells with various sugars.

Larch timber is very commonly used in the construction of buildings and for timber cladding, flooring, boat building and veneers, and as a source of pulp for paper-making. There are large Siberian larch plantations in Finland and Sweden – so much more readily accessible than in the challenging environment of Siberia.



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Remembering the MV Krait and crew

JIM BOWDEN

IN September 1962, Steve Stevenson and Max Haymen, both Australian ex Services Reconnaissance Department operatives, were on a timber buying mission to British North Borneo.

While there they saw a vessel lying at anchor in Sandakan Harbour which looked remarkably like the Krait, used in Operation Jaywick regarded as one of the most brilliant special-forces operations in World War 2. Yes, it was the Krait all right. She was owned by a British sawmiller for the Borneo timber trade

The 21-metre, 60-tonne former Japanese fishing vessel carried 14 members of the top-secret 'Z' Special Unit from Australia to Singapore in September 1943 where they sank 40,000 tonnes of enemy shipping anchored in the busy Japanese occupied waterway. Six of the crew paddled 50 km into the harbour in two-man kayaks to attach limpet mines onto the sides of several Japanese ships.

The MV Krait, named after a small but deadly Asian snake, is credited with sinking more enemy shipping than any Australian warship

I first visited the Krait in



1/ Big event in Sydney Harbour... the MV Krait returns to Australia in 1964.



2/ Renovation under way... new teak planks are used to replace old and damaged sections of the MV Krait.

2015 at the Sydney National Maritime Museum at Darling Harbour where it bobbed around in the shadows of the massive destroyer HMAS Vampire and the lofty masts of the grand replica of James Cook's HMB Endeavour. I had enjoyed a Sydney Hoo-Hoo Club 215 lunch meeting where the memory of the late Steve Stevenson (74063), a foundation member of the club, hove into view.

After recognising the Krait at Sandakan, Steve, who owned Tenaru Timbers in Sydney, and Max Haymen, another timber merchant, helped launch a public appeal and the Krait Trust Fund was formed to purchase the vessel and return it to Australia – which it did successfully in 1964.

Steve named his company

Tenaru after a beach in the Solomon Islands where he set up a sawmill in the 1970s. His Krait appeal was also keenly supported by the timber industry and the Hoo-Hoo movement in particular.

Built largely of Burmese teak (*Tectona grandis*), the Krait was restored, plank by plank, to serve as a memorial to those elite commandos. Everything of historical significance was saved, including the original nails and planks of wood which were removed and used in displays at the museum.

The boat's original carvel planking is a building method where hull planks are laid edge to edge and fastened to a robust frame forming a smooth surface. Traditionally, the planks are neither attached to, nor slotted

into, each other, with only a caulking sealant between the planks to keep water out.

Extensive restoration work was commenced in 2017. Shipwrights and conservators worked to restore the hull, replace the decks and return the vessel to its wartime configuration.

The last surviving crew member on the Krait's audacious and successful mission in 1943 Mostyn "Moss" Berryman, 96, was quietly laid to rest in Sydney on August 25, the day Australia was marking the 75th anniversary of the end of the war in the Pacific.

Moss Berryman was an 18-year-old navy recruit when he volunteered for "special service". He had no idea what that service would involve.

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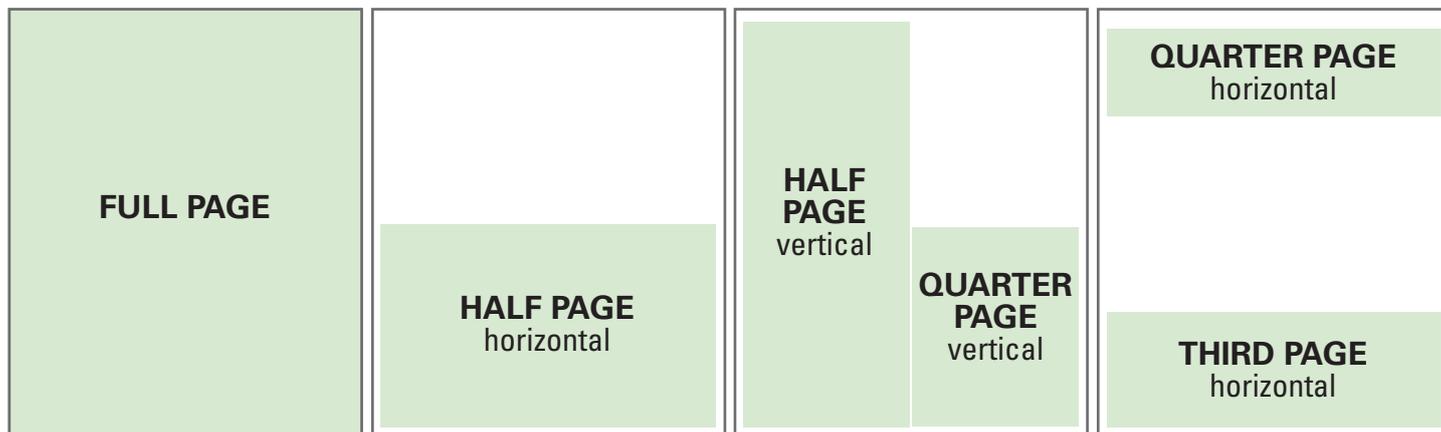
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