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Office fit-out creates a timber hub in Brisbane

COVER STORY P2



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New fit-out gives industry associations a 'timber hub' at their Brisbane offices

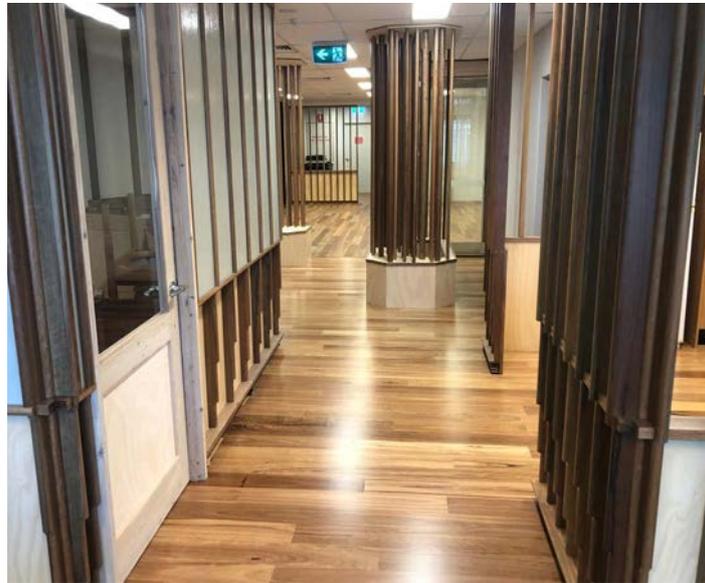
JIM BOWDEN

WHEN Timber Queensland relocated to the northern Brisbane suburb of Kedron a new fit-out provided an opportunity to create a 'timber hub' showcasing Queensland specialised timber species.

Working with long-term member Architectus, a floor plan and interior design was developed using the principles of biophilic design with Timber Queensland and Responsible Wood co-locating in a collaborative space.

The renovation is reaching its final stages with TQ associate member Scribed Flooring now onsite installing spotted gum donated by Parkside Timber, engineered blackbutt hardwood from Boral Timber and Darwin stringybark provided by DTM Timber.

Another major feature is the boardroom table made from a variety of Queensland specialty timbers provided by Branch 95. The Maryborough company's Leo May and Mark Hogan from Architectus have hand-crafted the table from



The ambience of wood... refurbished Brisbane offices of Timber Queensland and Responsible Wood.

four sections using laminated black wattle to create the centre with each framed with Queensland silver ash and table tops mounted on Darwin stringybark.

DTM Timber general manager Ian Haines said the design was a modern take on a parquetry feel and included rebates into the frame to accentuate the design.

"They have been hand

finished and coated in a two-pack lacquer to preserve and highlight the amazing look of the timber," he said.

Timber Queensland CEO Mick Stephens said project certification for the Brisbane office was a step closer with the project team awaiting findings from an audit by SCS Global Services, which would give the office refurbishment the Responsible Wood chain

of custody standard AS 4707:2014.

In order to make a claim using the Responsible Wood logo, a minimum of 70% of all timber used on the project must be claimed in accordance with AS 4707 and validated by an approved certification body.

SCS Global Services is one of 12 certification bodies approved by Responsible Wood to certify chain of custody and is the only certification body that has participated in a Responsible Wood Project Certification Scheme.

SCS Global Services has provided its time pro-bono to assist with the project, supporting a list of material suppliers, designers and trades who have donated their products and services.

On the cover: Welcome to our 'timber hub'... Mick Stephens and Clarissa Brandt of Timber Queensland, and Jason Ross, Responsible Wood, enjoy the ultimate wood atmosphere at their refurbished Brisbane offices.



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Ecological forest management protects not threatens flora and fauna, says IFA

Land clearing should not be confused with sustainable forestry in Australia

PRESENTING hard-hitting facts, the Institute of Foresters says not one industry operation in Australia has been identified as the reason for extinctions of forest-dwelling flora or fauna.

IFA and Australian Forest Growers president and forest scientist Bob Gordon says the overwhelming reason for species extinction of fauna in Australia is feral animals such as cats and foxes.

"Other reasons include land-use change, invasive species and weeds, unsuitable fire regimes, disease and pathogens as well as mortality agents such as hunting and the collection of eggs and plants," Mr Gordon said.

"Land clearing or land-use change is when forests are converted for example to urban development and agriculture," he said.

"It is important that land clearing that converts forests to other land uses should not be confused with sustainable forestry – they are two very different activities."

Mr Gordon said sustainable harvesting in Australia's forests had a very small foot-print and sustainable forest management included replanting as well as re-establishment of forests after a harvest operation.

He said the forest sector worked very hard to achieve sustainable forest management ... "and that's why it was important to highlight that no forest



1/ Sustainable harvesting in Australia's forests has a very small foot-print and sustainable forest management includes replanting as well as re-establishment of forests after a harvest operation. Photo: New Forests

2/ Bob Gordon... sustainable forest harvesting has a very small footprint.



operations in Australia have been identified as the reason for any extinctions of flora or fauna."

In a reminder, Mr Gordon added: "Australia's regional forest agreements are a legal agreement developed 20 years ago to conserve forest biodiversity and provide Australians with a sustainable and ethical timber supply. This is why we are calling for Australians to plant more trees, improve the management of invasive species and feral animals as well as adopt active forest management to respond to our changing climate and bushfire threat."

Meanwhile, the Advisory Committee on Sustainable Forest-based Industries (ACSFI) highlights that during

“FOREST PRODUCTS PLAY VITAL ROLE IN KEEPING PEOPLE SAFE

the pandemic forest products have played a crucial role

in keeping people safe and healthy by providing personal protective equipment, and other supplies and services, including hygiene and sanitary products, biomass for heating, ethanol for sanitiser, respirator paper, and packaging for food and other parcels.

"In order to continue the uninterrupted supply of these products, the forest sector has been appropriately recognised in many parts of the world as an essential service," said ACSFI, a statutory body that guides FAO on issues concerning the sustainable consumption and production of forest products.

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NZ elections this Saturday ... but what does it all mean for the forestry sector?

Greens support forestry but are more focused on non-commercial native species

DENNIS NEILSON

THE latest national poll (Colmar Brunton of October 8) suggests that Labour at 47% will be close to governing alone after the elections this Saturday, thanks to New Zealand's convoluted and barely comprehensive 'MMP' voting system.

Jacinda Ardern is on course to comfortably win a second term, with her Labour Party holding a double-digit lead over conservative National in surveys.

In 2017, Labour only got 37% of the popular vote but



NZ Labour leader Jacinda Ardern, flanked by ministers and Northland MPs in Puketi Forest, announces a \$32 million funding boost for the fight against kauri dieback disease. Photo: Northern Advocate

seat (ironically the Northland seat of the current Minister of Forests Shane Jones).

A previously very minor party, the ACT polled at 8% and is now the new 'darling' of New Zealand politics. However, even a right wing focused National-ACT Coalition is unlikely to get enough votes to outdo either Labour itself, or a Labour-Greens coalition.

But even stranger things have happened in New Zealand politics.

What does all of this mean for the forestry sector? Few good outcomes, a lot of uncertainty and some bad outcomes are likely.

The 'champion' of forestry in the 2017-2020 Coalition government was the controversial NZ First list (meaning no electoral seat) MP Shane Jones. He started in 2017 with a hiss and a roar implementing a 'One Billion Tree' project, which has since largely been diluted/fizzled out before he went to the dark side of forest owners by spending much of 2020 trying to restrict log exports to support an often-shaky sawmilling sector.

He did, however, make a very major positive change – to allow fast-tracking of overseas investment applications, which allowed bona-fide foreign investors a one-off up to five-year approval to buy larger new land areas for planting, and

was able to cobble together a government by signing coalition agreements with the minority NZ First (7%) and the Green (6%) to get above 50.1%, leaving the National Party (which had governed from 2008 to 2017 and which received 44.5% of the votes) out in the cold.

But in 2020, Labour's coalition parties are looking decidedly shaky. The Greens are on 5%, the minimum required to have any MPs (unless it wins an electoral seat, which they did not in 2017 and may not again in 2020); and NZ First at a dismal 2% - way less than it needs unless it wins one

“LABOUR MAY BE CLOSE TO GOVERNING ALONE



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Cont P 6

From P 5

existing forests, in multiple purchases.

In the unlikely event that NZ First gets back in, it will not likely have the same influence from late 2020.

NZ First has, however, issued a forestry manifesto, which this time, although supporting the billion trees, is far more focused on native nurseries and tree planting. It supports 'wood first' initiatives, but appears to have backed off its earlier insistence that logs should be processed in New Zealand, at any cost to forest owners. Training also features.

The (dominant) Labour Party seems to have become more conservative on its (generally) very forest-positive 'Coalition' policy. For instance, it will delegate decisions to regional councils to be able to ban forestry on pastoral (hill country) land. It has intimated it wants bans in place.

This move will likely create 'gulags' of aging, underfunded farmers with no succession plan to sell to the kids (long gone to cities like Sydney) so they will end up with even more serious mental health problems that a number of farmers now



Judith Collins... says she "hates trees".

have – but will not be able to sell up and move out to enjoy a dignified retirement.

But then, NZ politics is all for show and optics. It is not about real people.

The Greens would generally support forestry but will be more focused on non-commercial native species planting. Its champion, far left Eugene Sage, is reported to intensely dislike pine trees.

The ACT Party has no formal forest policy – only a one-liner that it eliminate a (non-existent) \$4000 per hectare subsidy for forestry. ACT subsequently stated that it developed this bizarre policy "after reading an article".

ACT will also replace the Emissions Trading Scheme with something more



Eugene Sage... an intense dislike of pine trees.

'transparent', but would be more supportive of foreign investment, especially from OECD countries.

The National Party takes the cake, or rather looks to take the cake, away from forestry. Its leader Judith Collins has been reported to have publically stated that she "hates pine trees" and that, "trees pollute waterways".

Its recently-released forestry policy states that National will, "remove the exemption that streamlines the process for forestry

“ALL PARTIES HAVE WAFFLE WORDS ABOUT SUPPORTING FORESTRY – BUT HOW?”

applications in the Overseas Investment Office test".

This will possibly eliminate the only substantial source of funding to plant trees (banks are not lending to farmers to plant, and so the only other source is government whose debt has/ will balloon from less than 20% in 2019 to a projected more than 50% in 2021. No money there.

National will also "re-examine" and "review" existing rules for carbon offsets under the Emissions Trading Scheme. That will not be to improve the existing regulations; its only outcome will be bad for forestry.

This policy looks to have been cobbled together on the fly.

All parties have some waffle words around "encouraging" and "supporting" the sector, without saying how.

No political party has any Plan B – indeed any idea – how New Zealand will fund the looming \$30 billion Paris Accord-driven carbon deficit payments due in 2030.

We will update this after next Saturday's election, as things might change if two or three Party coalition negotiations are necessary to form a government.



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John Simon steps down as FWPA chair after a stellar career in timber industry

'We have a great future supplying unique products and fulfilling jobs'

ESTEEMED timber personality John Simon is retiring from the board of Forest and Wood Products Australia Ltd after eight years as a director and five years as chair.

He will step down at the FWPA AGM next Thursday.

"FWPA will undertake a major refresh of its strategic direction in 2021 and it is important that the next chair of the company leads this activity," Mr Simon said.

He pointed to some of the achievements of FWPA in recent years, including:

- The funding of research projects to improve the productivity and profitability of the timber industry.
- Changes in the national construction code which has made it easier for timber commercial structures to be built, and the formation of FWPA's voluntarily funded mid-rise advisory team.
- The WoodSolutions website, which this year celebrates its 10th anniversary.
- The successful launch of 'The Ultimate Renewable' marketing campaign.
- The ongoing partnership with Planet Ark and its 'Make it Wood' program.
- Establishment of the Centre for Timber Durability and Design Life at the University of Sunshine Coast.
- The Forest Learning program targeting school teachers.

John Simon said it had been a privilege and honour to lead the FWPA.

"The many successes and achievements have only been

possible with the dedicated work of our wonderful staff, ably led by Ric Sinclair," he said. "This has particularly been the case in the past six months, with most of our team based in Victoria and working from home."

Mr Simon thanked the directors of the company who had provided wise guidance and ensured that FWPA maintained high levels of corporate governance.

"In particular, I acknowledge the two retiring directors Jim Henneberry and Brian Farmer. Jim has done an excellent job in his role as chair of our audit and finance committee, and Brian has successfully led the growers research advisory group in identifying future research priorities.

"The strong support that we have received from the federal government during my time as a director has also been much appreciated."

Highlights of Mr Simon's career include CEO roles with Sterlands, Hudson Timber & Hardware, Pine Solutions and Simmonds Lumber; trustee and chairman, Gottstein Trust; chair, Timber Development Association; board member, Australian Timber Importers Federation; founding director, Wood Products Australia; chair, solid wood marketing committee, A3P (predecessor of the Australian Forest Products Association); and life



John Simon... "privilege and honour to lead the FWPA."

membership FRAME Australia.

In a message of appreciation, the Assistant Minister for Forestry Jonno Duniam pointed to the hard work John Simon had put into FWPA over the last eight years.

"During John's time as chairman he has been successful in commissioning research projects to support Australia's forestry industries in both growing and processing our sustainably sourced forest products," Mr Duniam said.

MANY LEADERSHIP ROLES IN INDUSTRY

"One of John's outstanding achievements was the creation of FWPA's WoodSolutions program, which is one of the world's most popular English language wood product technical support sites. The site provides technical information outlining the correct

specification and use of wood products.

"John has delivered through FWPA's industry vision of a forest and wood products industry that will grow as a result of increased demand for its market-oriented, sustainable and competitive products and services.

"I wish John well in his future endeavours."

Mr Simon reflected on his involvement with the Australian industry: "I have been very happy to contribute my time to the timber industry which has given me so much opportunity since I arrived in Australia from Singapore 35 years ago. Through my involvement with various organisations, I have made many friends and enjoyed being able to assist in the improvement of our industry.

"In an unusual twist, with my Simon surname, my first job in Australia was with the plywood manufacturing company Ralph Symonds. My last full-time role was CEO of Simmonds Lumber."

Mr Simon graduated as a civil/structural engineer, but his career in the timber industry began as a teenager working for pocket money during school holidays in his father's timber furniture manufacturing business. More recently, he joined the Mens Shed at St

Cont P 17

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

16–19: DANA New Zealand Forest Industry Status

and Outlook Conference and Field Trip – Napier Conference Centre, Marine Parade, Napier, New Zealand. Website under construction, for further information contact Conference Organiser Julie Bell admin@dana.co.nz

OCTOBER 2021

11-14: IFA/AFG national conference ‘Your Forests,

Our Future’ – Country Club Tasmania, Launceston, TAS, Australia. Open to forest scientists, forestry professionals and forest growers. Call for abstracts and sponsorship opportunities will be released in coming months. Contact Institute of Foresters of Australia. Visit www.forestry.org.au or phone (03) 9695 8940.

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OCTOBER

22: Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) Annual Conference – Vancouver, BC, Canada. This year, SFI is hosting a one-day E-Summit to bring our network together to engage around the work SFI is doing across its 4 pillars to achieve our mission of advancing sustainability through forest-focused collaborations. For full 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 more information see: www.wcte2021.com/

25-29 : B C Wood Global Buyers Mission – VIRTUAL EVENT. Live virtual event to meet and interact with pre-qualified international buyers from around the world. The event to find new sources of high quality, competitively priced Canadian wood products, while letting you reconnect with current suppliers. For more information go to: <https://bcwood.com/events/global-buyers-mission/>

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



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Recovery milestone: 2m tonnes salvaged

FORESTRY Corporation of NSW has reached an important recovery milestone – two million tonnes of fire-affected timber harvested, hauled and sold from the organisation’s bushfire-affected Tumut and Bombala softwood plantations.

Acting Snowy regional manager Louise Bourke said the milestone represented around 46,700 truckloads of logs and was a significant boost for communities recovering from the devastating 2019-20 bushfire season.

“Congratulations to our staff and industry partners for this result,” Ms Bourke said. “The salvage harvesting program has meant the local timber industry has had an incredibly busy year, and can continue to support



1/ **Recovery... Tumut-Bombala salvage process boost for local contractors.**

2/ **Louise Bourke... praise for industry partners.**

Forestry Corporation is working with local harvesting and haulage contractors and mills to help ensure timber is available for the NSW community to rebuild after the fires.

“While the fire was clearly a devastating event, the recovery process has been a boost for some local contracting businesses this year in what are otherwise very difficult times,” Ms Bourke said.

“Roughly, one-third of the plantations in the area surrounding Tumut and Bombala were impacted by the 2019-2020 bushfires. Fire-affected timber has the same structural properties as unburnt timber, so can be harvested and processed into house frames, furniture and other essential renewable wood products. After a fire, there is a 12-month window to salvage the timber before it starts to deteriorate.”

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the region’s recovery from the impact of the bushfire season.”

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Timber industry backs LNP policy on cheaper energy for processing

THE Queensland timber industry has welcomed the LNP's election policy commitment for cheaper energy for manufacturing.

LNP Leader Deb Frecklington announced the cheaper energy policy for manufacturers, which would remove the need for Ergon and Energex to charge manufacturing businesses a rate of return on electricity provided through the distribution networks.

They estimate this would reduce fixed connection costs and usage tariffs for manufacturing by around 20%.

Timber Queensland CEO Mick Stephens said this measure would benefit the hundreds of businesses in timber manufacturing and wood products fabrication who employed thousands of Queenslanders across the state.

"Energy costs, and transmission costs in particular from so-called gold-plated networks, have been a high cost-impost on timber manufacturing for some time," Mr Stephens said.

"Providing a more realistic energy price would improve the competitiveness of the industry and generate a more positive investment environment," he said.

"Reducing energy transmission costs from state-owned utilities was a specific ask in our election policy plan



Deb Frecklington... cheaper energy for manufacturing.

released on September 25.

The Premier Anastasia Palaszczuk also announced an agreement to underwrite the CopperString project in north Queensland. This project proposes to install additional power transmission capacity and connection to the national grid which can create opportunities for reduced power prices.

"We would welcome any cheaper power outcomes from this project, particularly for north Queensland timber businesses," Mick Stephens said.

"However, we also recognise that the LNP state-wide transmission cost measure would provide a direct and immediate benefit for timber manufacturers," he said.

"Over the coming month, we look forward to discussing and hearing in more detail from the major parties and other candidates on how they can help support and grow the forest and timber industry, which generates almost \$4 billion in value each year and supports 25,000 jobs.

"We believe the industry could generate an extra \$300 million in annual output and generate an additional 2000 jobs with the right policies in place."

“MORE REALISTIC ENERGY PRICE

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HYNE TIMBER

NZIF award winners recognised for skills, achievement and a commitment to forestry

THE New Zealand Institute of Forestry has announced the winners of its prestigious 2020 awards – acknowledged for their diverse range of skills and experience and hard work and commitment at grassroots level to high level policy planning and academic leadership.

The new forestry ‘heroes’ announced by NZIF president James Treadwell are Bruce Manley, Julie Collins and Adrian Loo.

The NZIF has also appointed two new fellows, Bill Liley and Dennis Neilson.

The highest honour in New Zealand forestry is the Kirk Horn Award, the oldest science award in New Zealand and a biennial prize that recognises outstanding service to the forestry industry at large.

Awarded to Bruce Manley, the award recognises the major impact of a lifetime’s work as a researcher and educator. This has culminated at the University of Canterbury where Professor Manley is the Head of the Forestry School

The NZIF Forester of



Bruce Manley



Julie Collins



Adrian Loo



Bill Liley



Dennis Neilson

the Year is a reward for outstanding contribution to the forestry sector. Julie Collins has demonstrated exemplar leadership, excellence and personal integrity in her work within the industry for decades. She heads Te Uru Rākau, the government forestry agency.

The Prince of Wales Sustainability Cup recognises the achievements of an outstanding young forest professional. This year’s recipient is Adrian Loo, an environmental manager working with the 1BT program to encourage new planting.

New fellow Bill Liley, who is managing director of Indufor Asia Pacific, holds a Bachelor of Forestry Science (Hons) degree from Canterbury University.

Mr Liley’s long expertise includes the assessment of forest quantity and condition, and the projection of its wood supply capability and cash flows. These provide the primary elements of forest value estimation, which extends to include treatments of land cost, risk and cost of capital.

Appointed NZIF fellow Dennis Neilson is a Rotorua-based forest industry consultant and co-publisher of Timber&Forestry enews. His experience in managing land acquisition, establishment, forest management, harvesting, log transport,

shipping, log and woodchip export sales and marketing forest financing and strategic planning, enabled him to quickly establish a forest industry consulting business, Dana Ltd.

Since then Mr Neilson has founded or co-founded a number of commercial companies, including Tree Farm Finance Ltd, which was later sold to US giant GMO, a number of forest owning companies, an international financial advisory company and a number of major international multi-client report entities, including three which were sold to US-based RISI in 2006-2013

Mr Neilson is still actively involved in preparing updated editions of all three publications.

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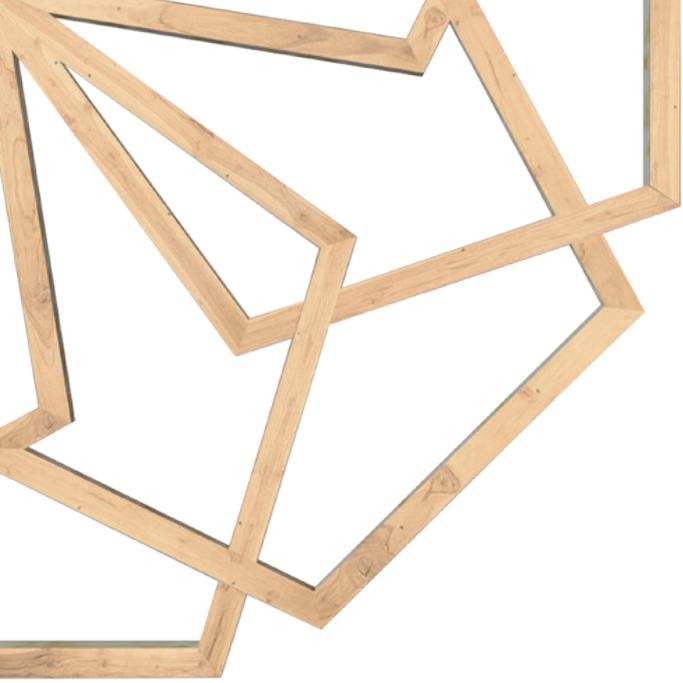
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Strong demand identified for durable, genetically-improved eucalypts in NZ

Australia's natural durability ratings standard underpins NZDFI research

SINCE its founding in 2008, the NZDFI's key objective has been to develop a sustainable and economically viable hardwood industry based on genetically improved eucalypts.

To that end, it relies on three closely integrated teams (management, science and a regional working group) ... and landowners/ trial managers in dry eastern regions who host its growing trials.

Paul Millen notes that the Australian natural durability ratings standard AS 5604 is the key guideline that underpins the NZDFI's research.

“EXTENSIVE LINKS WITH GROWERS ACROSS THE TASMAN”

“We also have extensive links with Australian researchers and forest growers who are undertaking similar work across a range of themes, including genetics, forest health and silviculture, wood processing and durability,” he said. “For example, wood mass loss experiments using fungal cellars to generate accelerated decay were conducted by leading Australian researchers using NZDFI wood samples.”

Mr Millen says durable eucalypts compare favourably with radiata pine, the forest industry's mainstay.

“They produce heartwood

In a follow-up to an article on ground-durable eucalypts (T&F enews October 1) MICHAEL SMITH talks further with Paul Millen, project manager of the New Zealand Dryland Forests Initiative (NZDFI).



1/ Grower Rick Alexander measures two-year-old eucalypts at a trial site. Photo: NZDFI

2/ A square sawn eucalypt post being tested after 11 years of service. Photo: NZDFI

which takes a long time to decompose because of biochemical resistance to wood rot,” he said. “Unlike radiata pine, no chemical

treatment is needed.

“Eucalypts tend to be more site-specific, but they have greater drought tolerance, produce harder timber and provide better biodiversity values.

“They have a huge potential to extend the habitat suitable for some native birds and insects, and to support honey bee populations. Many eucalypts flower profusely, even in autumn and winter when other species, including manuka, aren't flowering.”

Mr Millen adds: “Eucalypt species introduced into New Zealand and planted across a wide range of environments are not known to have developed wildings. Eucalypt seed does not naturally disperse over long distances in the way that conifer seed can.”

Eucalypts also coppice (regrow from a cut stump), so their roots hold the soil in place even after harvest. This new growth may be one or multiple stems that, after a number of years, can be

Cont P 13



From P 12

harvested again and the cycle continues. All NZDFI species could be grown on that basis, although this precludes the introduction of further genetic improvement after a first rotation.

Paul Millen acknowledges there are a number of pests and diseases that pose a threat. "Forest health is one of the main themes of our R&D program, including selective breeding for pest- and disease-tolerant genotypes, and learning about site-species matching to ensure optimal health and productivity."

Two environmental risks have been identified – fire (which should be mitigated by locating plantations away from peri-urban areas and rural buildings), and the potential impact of large-scale planting on water availability/quality.



Well-established NZDFI eucalypt trial at a Hawke's Bay Regional Council forest, Waihapua. Photo: NZDFI

The NZDFI accepts that both risks warrant further investigation. However, this is best undertaken at a catchment scale by the regional councils in the target regions. Additional resources to research the potential effects of durable eucalypt forestry will need to be secured.

Mr Millen says the NZDFI

has already identified strong and increasing national and international demand for naturally durable timbers.

“GLOBAL DEMAND FOR NATURALLY DURABLE TIMBERS

"A key target market is posts for vineyards, kiwifruit orchards and other horticultural crops with organic/sustainable production systems," he says. "There is also significant domestic demand for critical infrastructure products such as cross arms for power poles and rail sleepers."

While the NZDFI is focused on establishing a high-quality forest resource, work is also under way to test the potential of durable eucalypts as components of high-strength engineered timber products such as LVL. Millen says local LVL producers are seeking an additional wood supply as increasingly large timber buildings need super-stiff components.

"On optimal sites, eucalypts can achieve growth rates exceeding radiata pine while producing much stiffer wood," Mr Millen said.

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In for long haul: foundation SAFPA CEO

A FORMER Property Council of Australia executive has been appointed the South Australian Forest Products Association foundation CEO.

Nathan Paine was with the Property Council for eight years as chief commercial officer, responsible for the national operations of the council, and as executive director (South Australia). Interim chair Keith Lamb hailed the significance of the appointment in achieving the vision to have a single unified voice for the South Australian forest products sector, bringing together the state's timber growers, processors, and manufacturers.

"As an organisation, we are starting with well over half of the industry in South Australia and we are committed to creating a

body that represents the entire industry and a home for all businesses that operate in the forest and forest products industry in South Australia," Mr Lamb said.

Mr Lamb said this year had seen the South Australian forest products sector, along with the rest of the state and the country, buffeted from the combined impact of

“FORESTRY IS A LONG-TERM BUSINESS”



Nathan Paine... forestry is a long-term business.

bushfire and Covid-19. There had never been a more important and challenging time to bring the sector together.

Nathan Paine said as governments increasingly looked for opportunities to generate new jobs and opportunities, the state's forest industries provided a pathway for new, long-term manufacturing jobs.

"Forestry is a long-term business and investments

are generations in nature. Our members are in this for the long haul, but that doesn't mean there aren't short-term challenges. I am proud to lead the association in its vision towards growth and prosperity for the state."

SAFPA was formed in June to represent the forest products sector in South Australia, which represents about 172,000 ha of sustainably grown plantation forests and produces about \$2.6 billion of wood and paper products each year.

The sector directly employs about 5500 people and indirectly supports another 12,500 jobs across the supply chain involving growing, harvesting, processing and wholesaling.

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OR CONTACT JULIE BELL

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AKD 'pinks up' for breast cancer awareness

AKD this month is once again 'pinking up' in support of the McGrath Foundation to raise awareness and support to help fund McGrath Breast Care Nurses which provides invaluable support and care for the women and men who are experiencing breast cancer.

Team members at AKD and customers are encouraged to wear their pink shirts and shoelaces for the month of October, and this year they are also supplying pink face masks free of charge to all employees and asking them to also make a personal donation to the charity.

CEO Shane Vicary says AKD has set a target of \$50,000 this year, more than double the amount raised last year.

"We are pushing hard this year to reach this ambitious



In the pink... AKD packs helping to support McGrath Foundation's breast cancer campaign.

goal and we have already raised almost \$10,000," he said

"To make a difference to this worthy cause, we need to rev up our generosity; everyone can make a positive difference and that's got to feel good after the year we've all had so far."

To promote the cause even more publicly and to really make heads turn, the company is changing their product wrap for the entire month of October to include the Pink AKD logo, the McGrath Foundation logo and the donation link that people can follow to donate to this worthy cause.

This change in wrap was suggested by AKD's product wrap supplier Pakaflex, which has agreed to supply the new wrap design at no extra cost along with a donation of \$1000 to the McGrath Foundation.

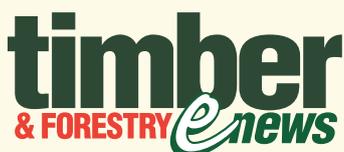
Many of AKD's customers and suppliers are also getting on board with the pink facemasks in support of raising donations and awareness.

Shane Vicary added: "This is a great opportunity to really get the message out to everyone who interacts with our products – freight companies, fabricators, merchants, packaging manufacturers and builders – to create awareness for the cause and help us hit our fundraising target of \$50,000."

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Labor pledges \$500m for house repairs

AUSTRALIA'S builders have welcomed the federal Opposition's contribution to the effort to rebuild the economy in the Budget Reply Speech.

"A strong pipeline of building and construction work is vital to building our way out of recession and we acknowledge the Opposition's policy to invest in the building of new social housing and in the maintenance of current stock," Master Builders Australia CEO Denita Wawn said.

"This is an important policy, which as the Shadow Minister for Housing [Jason Clare] acknowledges, is the shared responsibility of Australian

governments," she said.

"We welcome the Opposition's recognition that our industry must be supported to be at the centre of the recovery.

Labor is calling on the Morrison government to create work for thousands of tradies in almost every suburb and town across Australia by investing half a billion dollars to fast-track urgent repairs to social housing.

In a joint statement Opposition Leader Anthony

“100,000 HOMES NEED URGENT REPAIR



Jason Clare... opportunities for apprentices.

Albanese and Jason Clare said 25% of Australia's social housing needed urgent repair and maintenance. "That's 100,000 homes"

They said some of these homes had problems such

as mould, leaking roofs and water damage, while others were simply unfit for people to live in.

Repairs could start almost immediately, providing work for local plumbers, chippies, sparkies, plasterers and painters as well as companies that manufacture building supplies and materials. This would also provide opportunities for apprentices.

"This should involve an immediate \$500 million contribution from the commonwealth and a partnership with the states, with the expectation they would contribute up to the same amount in new funding," the statement said.

From P 6

Ives and enjoys working with wood there.

His real entry into this great industry was when he received a scholarship to do a postgraduate degree in timber engineering at the Imperial College in London.

“CONFIDENT OF A GREAT FUTURE FOR INDUSTRY



John Simon celebrates the launch of the 'The Ultimate Renewable' brand in Sydney last year with Matt de Jongh, Department of Agriculture, and Eileen Newbury, national marketing and communications manager, FWPA.

"Although our industry in Australia is constantly under attack, I am confident that it has a great future in supplying unique products to builders, manufacturers and consumers, and providing interesting and fulfilling jobs," Mr Simon said.

"Timber's role as 'the ultimate renewable' is beginning to be widely appreciated."

The FWPA AGM will be held via Zoom conference at 4 pm on October 22.

– JIM BOWDEN

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