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All the winners in 21st design awards

COVER STORY P3



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Wouldn't resource security be a worthy Christmas gift for Queensland industry?

JIM BOWDEN

IT was festive cheer all around at Brisbane's Parliament House today as members of the Queensland Parliamentary Friends of Forests and Timber Network gathered in the lobby beneath a Christmas tree – a state-grown Monterey pine gifted by Timber Queensland.

Indeed it was a good venue for a bit of friendly industry 'lobbing' by TQ directors and staff as they met with MPs from both sides of the chamber, fresh from the state election on October 31.

Newly-elected TQ chair Ian Haines said it was an understatement to say the forest and forest products sectors face a very challenging year ahead.

"The China ban on Queensland logs is a big issue I know and I have some differing perspectives on that, but resource security is right up there as priority Number One," Mr Haines said.

"Our CEO Mick Stephens is hot on the trail of a pre-election commitment by the Palaszczuk government to



Ian Haines... new chairman of Timber Queensland.

accept our five-point plan for greater resource security and a policy on the environment to generate new investment in the regions.

"Without these assurances it is extremely difficult for wood processors to commit to expansion and more jobs and to invest in new superstructure and mill upgrades – and have a future business plan to present to the banks."

Ian Haines, who is general manager of Dale and Meyers operations at Maryborough, incorporating DTM Timber, Branch 95 and Hardwoods of



Curly Tatnell... a changing of the guard.

Australia, said although there was some industry concerns over the China log ban there were two sides to the story.

"A lot of people are running around excitedly talking about the money they will make from exporting logs, but in reality it's not what it seems," he said.

"Shipping out hardwood logs rather than having them

processed by Queensland businesses and adding to their productivity is central to a commitment from both the ALP and LNP to address the issues of rising private native log exports, which risks eroding local hardwood processing and job creation.

"And on the subject of native timber harvesting, as an industry we must ensure compliance and adhering to codes of practice is an absolute priority."

As a sign of the times, Timber Queensland held its 2020 AGM online via Zoom on November 20. It was acknowledged that members had weathered the initial impacts of Covid-19, and had worked in unity with other industry leaders and allied organisations in keeping the building and construction sector buoyant via state and federal stimulus measures.

After seven years as a director and four years as chair Paul Bidwell from Master Builders Queensland stepped

“RESOURCE SECURITY NUMBER ONE PRIORITY NOW”

Cont P 5



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Timber design winner joint project by Aussie architects and Italian fabricator

'Stunning' hybrid concept announced at first virtual event for awards

JIM BOWDEN

A HIGHLY-acclaimed Australian architectural practice and an award-winning Sydney-based structural engineer have combined with one of Europe's top fabricators to produce the overall winner of the 21st Australian Timber Design Awards.

The Marrickville library and community centre in Sydney's inner-west led a near-record field of entries from builders, designers, architects, engineers and landscapers in the national contest with category winners announced on Wednesday at a virtual event.

The award for excellence in timber design was presented by platinum sponsor Forest and Wood Products Australia.

The Marrickville library, built on the site of the former Marrickville Hospital, which closed in 1990, was



The \$40 million project, built by Mirvac Construction, was a joint venture by BVN Architects, structural engineer Taylor Thomson Whitting (TTW) and Italian fabricator Rubner Holzbaur, based in South Tyrol.

With four production facilities and five branch offices in four countries, the Marrickville project

door frames, tiered seating, joinery, ceilings and furniture.

Cont P 4



1/ The Marrickville library and community centre... overall winner of the 21st annual Australian Timber Design Awards.

Photo: Brett Boardman and Tom Roe

2/ Abby Galvin... consulting on the world's tallest timber hybrid building to be completed in Sydney by 2025.

described by judges as a "stunning project," which was crafted inside and out with certified timber for the columns, façade, screening, internal walls, window and



The People's Choice award winner... Macquarie University Clinical Education Building by Architectus + Buildcorp + Arup, sponsored by Intergrain.

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From P 3



was the first in Australia for Rubner Holzbaur.

To execute the project, 54 round columns were built with different lengths reaching from 3 m to 9.3 m. Trimmed and round milled on a CNC-controlled machine at the Rubner factory, 90% of the roof structure is supported by timber columns – an oversized floating canopy inspired by the original hospital roof.

Five additional timber columns simultaneously bear the load of one part of the roof and of the façade including the railings.

Besides the round columns, Rubner Holzbau also introduced a complex



Julian Brenchley... MC of the 21st Annual Timber Design Awards. Julian says there's one essential thing you absolutely cannot do without when it comes to designing a new home or renovating – an architect.

"I think there is something to be said about using professionals to help with the creation of the built environment," he said. "Any builder can build a building, but it's more about how that fits into the built environment, and how you approach internal amenities - how people use buildings. "The spaces, the light, the sustainability ...there is a whole matrix of things."

hybrid solution of steel and timber as well as the entire facade composed of straight and arched tailored glued laminated timber posts.

A company spokesman said the detailed and workshop design, factory prefabrication of all timber and steel elements and the preliminary assembly were

part of the scope of services, which included on-schedule transport, customs clearance in the port of Sydney ... and the entire, smooth execution of all tasks in close coordination with local authorities.

The awards were hosted by Julian Brenchley, residential architect on The Block Insider, the popular home renovation TV show, who has been both lecturer and tutor in design theory at the University of Technology.

"In this strange year where nothing is normal, we are humbled by the continuing interest in the awards," said Andrew Dunn, CEO, Timber Development Association, which has organised the event since it was convened in 1999.

"Expecting designers to be distracted this year, we were pleased to see an increase in entries over last year," Mr Dunn said.

"We are also seeing a maturing of timber design. Initially, timber design was only considered for housing or coverings to other materials.

"Over the years the continued growth in the non-residential categories has again seen this category split the division into two –

catering for public buildings in one and commercial in another.

"We are also noticing an increased use of timber for structural purposes; designers recognise timber can offer the dual benefit of structure and decoration."

Mr Dunn said the diversity and excellence

of projects submitted demonstrated unique and thoughtful consideration of the selection of timber and endorsement of the structural, natural and aesthetic qualities excellently employed by the high calibre of Australian designers.

An intimate awards plaque presentation is scheduled for 6 pm on December 8 at the Union Hotel in North Sydney.

Because of Covid-19 restrictions there are strict rules to follow with a maximum of two guests for each sponsor. For inquiries and RSVP (no later than December 4) visit www.timberdesignawards.com.au

“WE ARE SEEING A MATURING OF TIMBER DESIGN”

Interestingly, as a background to the awards and in another 'first', Abbie Galvin, a principal and director of BVN, who was appointed NSW Government Architect last year – the first woman to hold the position since it was created more than 200 years ago – is

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From P 2

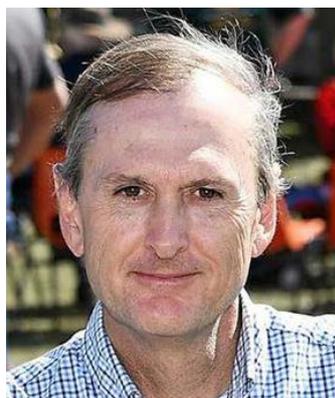
down as chairman, the position taken by Ian Haines.

In a somewhat changing of the guard, Curly Tatnell of DTM Timber resigned as a director to begin a transition to 'semi-retirement'. He remains as chair of the hardwood division and will continue to advocate strongly for the Queensland timber industry in a variety of roles.

In other recent changes, members elected Steve Worley and Ian Haines to fill vacancies in the forest management and hardwood processing member categories respectively.

The board comprises: Ian Haines (chair), general manager, DTM Timber; Robert Tapiolas, director, Parkside Group; James Hyne, stakeholder engagement manager, Hyne Timber; David Simms, director, Ravenshoe Timbers; Bob Engwirda, CEO, Hurfords Wholesale; Steve Worley, group manager marketing, HQPlantations; Adan Taylor, general manager, GMT Logging; and Bob Ryder, divisional manager, Australasia Trade Building Company

**IAN HAINES:
A FAMILY
REUNITED**



Mick Stephens... hot on trail of pre-election commitments.

Ian Haines talks about challenges ahead, but it's been a very challenging 12 months family-wise. He flew into Brisbane today for the parliamentary 'party' and will

fly to Sydney in a few weeks to celebrate Christmas with his wife, four children and their partners – "effectively eight kids" – the first time the family unit has been together since Christmas last year.

Mr Haines has been in Maryborough while his wife has been stuck in Sydney thanks to Covid. One of his children arrived home from Ireland a few days ago after release from a Covid quarantine.

So a happy and joyous Christmas to Timber Queensland, and the Haines family in particular, together at last, and happy birthday Ian, who turns 57 this Friday.

Forest management plays critical climate role

FOREST management, when implemented correctly, can not only reduce the number of devastating wildfires that rage every year but also the billions of tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions that result from them as well, researchers have determined.

The mitigation potential for avoiding deforestation, implementing forest management activities, increasing harvest rotations and reforestation and afforestation could reduce carbon dioxide emissions by up to 6.6 billion tonnes a year

by 2055, according to a study published in Nature.

The avoidance of deforestation in the tropics would have the largest impact, which could account for up to an estimated 54% of the total mitigation of carbon dioxide emissions, says the researchers who used models to study the forestry activities in 16 different regions'

The tropics, Brazil, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Indonesia contribute to the largest

share of emissions mitigation in all of the scenarios modeled in the study.

The majority of the mitigation of carbon dioxide emissions in the US would derive from forest management intensification and afforestation.

Forests are critical to stabilising the climate and can "substantially" reduce greenhouse gas emissions due to both the oxygen the trees provide and the ability to absorb carbon in the atmosphere.

"It has long been recognised that nature-based climate change mitigation strategies, which leverage natural ecosystem carbon sequestration and storage processes, have the potential to substantially reduce global greenhouse gas emissions," the study said.

The forest management activities could cost about \$US393 billion a year, which the authors project is higher than recently reported. About a quarter of the costs would come from private land managers.



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

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Regional families say big ‘thank you’ for buying Aussie timber first in 2020

Industry confident it can increase supply and support housing demand

CHRISTINE BRIGGS

NEW research data backs the positive impact of buying local first and Aussie timber workers want to say a big “thank you” for the ongoing support.

What you may not know is all the industry faces and their families that live in regional Australia – people that are mums, dads, sons and daughters who have grateful smiles on their faces for their fellow Aussies – have made a point of Buying Aussie Timber First in 2020.

Mill workers around Australia are giving a big thank you to all those who have played a part in keeping their jobs secure and their communities healthy during uncertain times.

It has been a tough year but the Australian softwood sawmilling industry and this supply chain has truly risen to the challenge.

First, the sector has continued to operate safely, with some major processing facilities located in fire-impacted and Covid-19 lockdown regions. Kudos for this!

Second, during the pandemic the sector demonstrated that it is a significant local manufacturing industry producing essential services and products, and with our valued customers ensured the ongoing supply of structural timber products to build Aussie homes.

Residential building is a key factor in Australia’s economic



The faces of Industry CEOs say ‘thank you’... from left, Patrick Warrand, Wespine, Shane Vicary, AKD, Ian Tyson, Timberlink, Jon Kleindschmidt, Hyne, Cameron McDonald, OneFortyOne, and Stephen Daddm Boral.

recovery, so the domestic softwood processing sector’s successful advocacy to all levels of government for new house building stimulus has been another achievement this year.

The local sector has ramped up to meet the unexpected strong demand this year for structural timber used in new Australian homes and renovations projects whilst keeping its workforces across Australia safe.

September monthly sales this year were at a record level compared with the last two years and were up 8% on the same month last year highlighting the strong demand.

Research conducted in 2020 by Pollinate also shows some interesting trends of growing awareness and support by the domestic building specifiers and



designers for Aussie-made timber. Being Australian made and made for Australian conditions were important criteria in survey respondents’ selection of timber products and also compared to alternative building materials – 84% of building specifiers and designers stated that local timber made for Australian conditions was important in their decision.

The collage of Australian faces supporting the Buy Aussie Timber First initiative

“SOFTWOODS SUPPLY CHAIN HAS TRULY RISEN TO CHALLENGE”

continues to grow and it’s very rewarding for the timber mill workers to see this show of support across Australia,

especially support from tradies on building sites across Australia using structural pine products.

Local industry leaders would like to take the opportunity leading up to Christmas to thank our supply chain for Buying Aussie Timber First in 2020. Coupled with the positive impact of the various government stimulus packages, this has given the industry confidence to be agile and increase local supply to support increased housing demand which is key to Australia’s economic recovery and future wellbeing.

• Christine Briggs is national marketing manager, AKD.

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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DECEMBER

7-9: International Forest Business Conference and Tour – Sopot, Poland. A two-day conference on megatrends that shape forest and wood industry sectors. 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@timberandforestryenews.com

Giving back to community: Applications open for Provans award

THE long-standing Melbourne family behind Provans Timber and Hardware are giving back to the community in the city's trade industry.

The family has announced a donation of an annual award and scholarship for Melbourne Polytechnic students in memory of their family ancestor David Provans.

The Provans family has been involved with Melbourne's timber trade since 1912, with David Provans a founding member of the Committee of the Collingwood Technical



School, now known as Melbourne Polytechnic.

Applications for 2021 are open and up to three scholarships and an award will be available to current and prospective students undertaking courses such as carpentry, joinery and cabinet making on an annual basis.

For further information or to apply, contact Melbourne Polytechnic through this link.



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Fraser Island a ‘basket-case’ of poor land management as fire rages across 80,000 ha

After 130 years of timber production heritage site goes up in smoke

AS firefighters struggle to contain a massive bushfire on Fraser Island off Queensland’s south eastern coast forestry veterans say the tourist resort has been a “basket-case” of mismanagement for many years.

The fire has been raging through the island for six weeks, destroying unique forests across more than 80,000 ha. It comes as southeast Australia is experiencing a blistering heatwave.

Queensland Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk says a “full review” will be conducted by the Inspector-General of Emergency Management Alistair Dawson, who

“FIRE BOMBERS USELESS AND A WASTE OF MONEY”



1/ *Water bombers on Fraser Island... more holes in this idea than a Swiss cheese.*
 2/ *Alastair Dawson... to ‘police’ review on Fraser Island bushfires.*

has more than 38 years in police and emergency management,

Fraser Island was presented for heritage listing “in pristine order” in 1992 when it was listed as a UNESCO World Heritage site after more than 130 years of timber production.

Since taking control of Fraser Island, National Parks has neglected fuel hazard management allowing many roads and access tracks to deteriorate. Prescribed burns



have been severely reduced.

The northern part of the island has escaped burning for many years. One ranger suggested fuel loads were too high in the north and had gone unmanaged.

He was spot on!

The bottom section of the island was burnt last year or maybe the year before (it is alleged to have been a prescribed burn that got away). This area is now covered with thick vegetation and blocked to public access.

The Queensland Fire and Emergency Services was given responsibility for the management of the blaze last Friday, six weeks after it broke out. Until then, National Parks had been the lead agency. The rural arm of the service is controlled by urban fire commanders – a point made in many submissions to the recent Bushfire Royal Commission and ignored by that inquiry.

This control results in putting the major effort into suppression rather than prevention. As a result, water bombers have dumped more than one million litres of water on long firelines with no apparent ground control such as a road or access tracks.

This strategy has been

Cont P 14



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FWPA has recently commissioned an independent organisational performance review and is seeking feedback on the company’s performance.

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From P 8



working with TTW, SHoP Architects, and Eckersley O’Callaghan on the structural, civil, and facade elements

of what will be the world’s tallest timber hybrid building.

To be completed by 2025, it will be the new Sydney HQ for global tech giant Atlassian, whose co-founder Mike Cannon-Brookes bought the most expensive piece of residential real estate in Australia, paying \$100 million for Fairwater, a sprawling Sydney estate

previously owned by the Fairfax dynasty.

It’s next door to the second most expensive piece of residential real estate in the country, Elaine, which happens to be owned by his Atlassian co-founder, co-CEO and co-billionaire Scott Farquhar.

The 40-storey Atlassian building, coming in at 180 m,

will be constructed with mass timber – layers of softwoods pressed together – and will feature a glass and steel facade, topped by outdoor gardens.

On the cover: Marrickville Library and Community Centre... overall winner of the 21st annual Australia Timber Design Awards for BVN and TTW Merits. Photo: Brett Boardman and Tom Roe

Australian Timber Design Awards

ALL THE WINNERS IN THE 21ST ANNUAL AUSTRALIAN TIMBER DESIGN AWARDS –

- **Overall winner:** Marrickville Library by BVN and TTW Merits.
- **People’s Choice:** Macquarie University Clinical Education Building by Architectus + Buildcorp + Arup.
- **Sustainability:** -Balgowlah CLT Passivehouse by Betti & Knut Architecture.
- **Rising Star:** Bo Chu for Coppin Street Studio from Pitch Architecture + Design
- **Small Budget:** ANZAC Walk by Pelle Architects.

EXCELLENCE IN TIMBER APPLICATIONS –

- **Residential Class 1 - New Building:** Scotland Island House II by Sam Crawford Architects.
- **Residential Class 1 - Alteration or Addition:** CLT House by FMD Architects.
- **Multi-Residential:** La Trobe University Bundoora Student Accommodation Stage 1 by JCB Architects, Multiplex Constructions and TTW.
- **Public Buildings:** Marrickville Library by BVN and TTW.
- **Commercial Buildings:** Damaru House, Barangaroo by TZANNES and Lendlease.



1/ Andrew Dunn... diversity and excellence of projects demonstrated thoughtful consideration of the selection of timbers and the endorsement of structural and natural qualities by high-calibre Australian designers.

2/ Sustainability winner... Balgowlah CLT Passivehouse by Betti and Knut Architecture. Photo: Hao Quan Cai

3/ Residential Class 1 - New Building... Scotland Island House II by Sam Crawford Architects. Photo: Brett Boardman

- **Interior Fitout – Residential:** Breezeway House by David Boyle Architect.
- **Interior Fitout – Commercial:** Phoenix Central Park - Performance Space by Durbach Block Jaggers Architects.
- **Landscape:** Olivine, Gumnut Park by MDG Landscape Architects.
- **Furniture and Joinery:** The Magic Box by Liminal Objects + Van Tuil.
- **Stand Alone Structure:** Chadstone Link by Make Architects.



- **Australian Designed International Projects:** Kutubu Convention Centre by Grimshaw.
- **Australian Certified Timber (Responsible Wood):** Wildlife Retreat at Taronga by Cox Architecture, TTW and Taylor.
- **Recycled Timber:** Mon Repos Turtle Centre by Richard Kirk Architect.

- **Sliced Timber and Prefinished Veneers:** State Library Victoria Children’s Castle by Architectus + Schmidt Hammer Lassen Architects.
- **Timber Veneers:** Springvale Library by Lyons Architects.
- **Tasmanian Timber:** Y House by Andrew Simpson Architects.

Carbon payments will only support a modest plantation investment for Vic

PLANTATIONS forestry participation in the Carbon Farming Initiative in south-west Victoria will not cause a rapid expansion of the plantation estate ... but it will support the state's emission reduction goals.

A new Ernst & Young report released this week by the Green Triangle Forest Industries Hub highlights that existing investment constraints, typically the high price of agricultural land and proximity to processing facilities, will hinder expansion even with carbon payments under the federal government's Emission Reduction Fund.

Carbon payments have been identified in the forest industries hub strategic plan as an enabler for future investment. However, the research shows that alone it is unlikely to cause a "rapid

expansion" of plantation estate, which currently utilises less than 6% of total Green Triangle land area.

The Victorian side of the Green Triangle is currently not included in the CFI, with South Australian forest companies in the Limestone Coast included in the scheme among four other forestry hub zones nationwide – SW Western Australia, N/NW Tasmania, NE NSW, SW Slopes of NSW and the South Australia side of the Green Triangle.

GTFIH chair Ian McDonnell said Ernst & Young's research illustrated that land values in south-west Victoria were the highest of any national plantation region. "Forestry in the region can only compete for land at the margin with profitability remaining low," Mr McDonnell said.

"It is predicted that



Ian McDonnell... land values in south-west Victoria the highest of any national plantation region.

just over 4000 ha of new plantation will be established in the region over the next 30 years – that is 0.2% of the total available land."

The study shows that the carbon price would need to double, reaching \$30/tCO_{2e}, to close the investment gap. The price of carbon has remained about \$14-\$16/tCO_{2e} for the past five years which when applied to a plantation investment of an average timber species and rotation length the increase in return is only 1-2%.

"The study shows that the carbon price would need to climb above \$25/tCO_{2e} to deliver a positive return for investors," Mr McDonnell said.

"Adding to this, the state's water management plans provide fair and equitable use of the resource for all primary industries, meaning carbon payments will not be a major catalyst for new plantation growth in the region.

"Taking this into account, forest plantation will remain unviable with a risk of divestment or relocation to other high rainfall regions."

Mr McDonnell said the report showed that extending full participation in the ERF to south-west Victoria ensured plantation environmental benefits were duly recognised, while enhancing the sector's contribution to Victoria's emission reductions efforts.

"The Green Triangle has set the target of expanding the plantation estate by 200 million trees over the next decade," he said.

“CARBON PRICES NEED TO CLIMB TO DELIVER A POSITIVE RETURN



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Rotorua: logical step to comprehensive 'wood-first' policy across New Zealand

Forestry, biotech identified as key sectors for economic transformation

MICHAEL SMITH

IN 2015 Rotorua Lakes Council made the critical, and some would say logical, decision to adopt a 'wood first policy' – an acknowledgment of the forestry-wood processing sector's role in the district's economy.

Forestry contributed an estimated 7% (\$246 million) to local GDP in 2019, and is the region's largest employer. At least one-third of New Zealand's plantation wood supply is harvested within 100 km of Rotorua, and the city plays host to two forestry-related educational institutions and Crown research institute Scion.

The council's policy encourages the use of wood as a preferred, sustainable building material for all local projects; requires that wood is used in council projects; and actively supports/recommends wood and the wood industry regionally and nationally.

Mayor Steve Chadwick says wood, forestry and biotech have been identified as key sectors for economic transformation in work that is under way to finalise an economic development strategy for Rotorua.

"We want wood to be a building material of choice wherever possible



– for council projects and for others who are undertaking construction and development in our district," Cr Chadwick said.

"And we know there is the potential to further develop wood processing and to create more jobs. In the current Covid environment – as we work with our community towards local economic recovery and a strong future – diversification will become increasingly important.

"It is also important to us that the character of our place reflects our history

The 'friendly' environment has also played a role in encouraging the development of various wood-prominent, non-council start-ups – notably QE Health's purpose-built medical facility, the Wai Ariki spa and wellness centre on the city's lakefront, and Te Uru Rakau's (Forestry New Zealand) new forestry hub.

1/ Scion's innovation hub features LVL diagrid wall frames and floor/roof beams.

2/ Mayor Steve Chadwick... 'wood first' recognises the importance of forestry and wood processing to the local economy.

and culture. Part of that is recognising the importance of forestry to our local economy and 'wood first' is one way to do that."

A council spokesperson says the policy has led to an increase in wood procurement for a number of high-profile council ventures. These include the Inner City Revitalisation Project, the lakefront redevelopment (landscaping, bridges and boardwalk), and the refurbishment of the council's Civic Centre building.

“WOOD REFLECTS OUR HISTORY AND OUR CULTURE

Scion's soon-to-be-completed innovation hub is also a showcase for the region's dominant raw material ... with its diagrid wall frames manufactured from precision-cut laminated veneer lumber, and the glulam and CLT entry canopies.

At the ForestWood 2018 Conference, Mayor Chadwick noted that it had been a challenge for the council to keep 'wood first' "relevant to the community, investors and stakeholders when the value proposition for building in wood is still to gain traction".

Indeed, it took some time for a national policy of sorts to be introduced ... three years in fact from the Labour Party's 2017 election promise to introduce a wood preference policy for new government builds. And now we have an altogether more

Cont P 12

From P 11

comprehensive announcement in the form of 'Building for Climate Change' – effectively a low-carbon construction policy.

The Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment says the aim is to make greater carbon savings and emissions reductions nationwide – which inevitably means wood will have a more prominent role to play in the building and construction sector.

A ministry spokesperson says engagement with the sector will occur over the next year, accompanied by changes to the Building Act and Building Code.



Rotorua's Eat Street... pedestrianised restaurant strip with engineered timber frames.

In the wake of the announcement, Mayor Chadwick says the Rotorua Lakes Council will review its 'wood first' policy in the near future to potentially better

reflect the government's new direction.

"Anything that encourages greater use of sustainable, home-grown wood is great, and I'm pleased to now see central government moving in this direction – but there's more to be done, both locally and nationally, to promote wood as sustainable and cost-effective," he said.

“WOOD REFLECTS OUR HISTORY AND OUR CULTURE

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Money in the tin to support research on treated timber performance in bushfires

BAL ... 'pressure' from regulators, builders, architects and specifiers

AFTER every Australian bushfire event concerns are raised about the use of external timber products in landscape applications.

The most common examples of these products are fencing, sleeper retaining walls and garden edging.

The problem is mainly about the impact of burning external timber structures on houses. While at this stage there are no restrictions relating to these applications in the Australian standard AS 3959 Construction of Buildings in Bushfire-prone Areas, there is increasing pressure from regulators, builders, architects, and specifiers about building with timber in bushfire-prone (BAL-rated) areas.

Having just said that there are no restrictions under the standard, various authorities throughout Australia are introducing restrictions on the use of timber (not just treated wood) around a building in bushfire-prone locations. For example, the NSW Rural Fire Service in its Planning for Bushfire Protection' guide,

“A LOT OF DECISIONS ARE MADE ON ANECDOTAL EVIDENCE



Various authorities throughout Australia are introducing restrictions on the use of timber (not just treated wood) around a building in bush fire-prone locations.

which must be complied with, has introduced the following requirements (7.6 Fences and Gates):

'Fences and gates in bushfire-prone areas may play a significant role in the vulnerability of structures during bush fires. In this regard, all fences in bush fire prone areas should be made of either hardwood or non-combustible material. However, in circumstances where the fence is within 6 m of a building or in areas of BAL-29 or greater, they should be made of non-combustible material only.'

The problem is that there are a lot of decisions made on anecdotal evidence because of a lack of data.

The treated pine fencing market is not small and an 'Investigation of Outdoor

JACK'S RANT



With JACK NORTON
Secretary, TPAA

Markets for Timber Products' currently being undertaken by Forest and Wood Products Australia under its 'Residential Construction and Timber Fit-out' program, has a preliminary estimate of the value of the potential loss of the timber fencing market (due to excluding their use in bushfire-prone areas) of between \$5 million and \$18

million. The potential market loss for the sleeper market is more than twice this range.

FWPA is funding a scoping study to detail a possible fire test program to investigate the performance of treated pine fencing in bushfire-prone areas. The focus of the fire testing will be to determine what risk a timber fence has on a dwelling in the event of it catching alight ... and does it potentially lead to failure of the dwelling?

In the scheme of things, TPAA is not a large organisation. This issue, however, is considered to be really important and at the last TPAA board meeting, the directors agreed to offer up to \$10,000 to support research into the performance of treated wood in bush fire prone areas.

Chemical suppliers are also chipping in with a further \$15,000.

Now I am an old researcher and am reasonably aware of the cost of research. If anyone else out there in timber treatment land wished to contribute, then please don't hesitate to contact me.

Nick Livanos from Koppers Performance Chemicals represents TPAA on the bushfire standard and I have Nick to thank for the contents of this article.

From P 8

ridiculed by experienced forest fire experts around Australia as “useless and a waste of money”. When this tactic failed, it was claimed it was because of the sand on the island. What did they think it was – cheese?

Another action that has brought ridicule is the sight of suburban fire trucks driving up and down the beach.

Fraser Island has been viewed as a “basket case” of poor fire and land management for too many years. The place is overcrowded. Reportedly there were 400 4WD vehicles at Ely Creek last Boxing Day. The ocean beach is a constant stream of vehicles on any day. Some of the main tracks are now box cuts metres deep. Reports indicate that the amount of human waste and attendant material behind the dunes is “significant”.

Some expected outcomes from Annastacia Palaszczuk’s review of the response to the Fraser Island bushfires might include:

- The blame lies with illegal fires lit by campers. (Local National Parks staff have already used this excuse).
- It’s a sand island and access to tackle fires is



On the beach... Queensland Fire and Emergency Services crews at the ready.

difficult. (If campers have access to light a fire then QNP rangers have the same access to fight it).

- Water bombers should have been used earlier. (This is usually accompanied by a request for more and larger bombers).
- It was an exceptional fire due to climate change and thus no one was to blame.

What may not get a lot of airing are these questions:

- Does National Parks have a fire management plan and strategy in place on Fraser Island?
- Is a fuel reduction periodic burning regime in place?

• Are Fraser Island rangers trained in fire suppression and fire application and what equipment is based on the Island?

- Has a network of fire access been developed and maintained?
- Is aerial fire surveillance undertaken during periods of high fire danger? (With thousands of campers spread around the Island, fires will occur).

In a recent submission

“NEEDS TO SHIFT EMPHASIS FROM SUPPRESSION TO PREVENTION”

to the Bushfire Royal Commission, the Rural Fires Association of Queensland highlighted the need to shift the emphasis from bushfire suppression to prevention.

This should be a major component of land management, especially in large tracts of Crown lands such as national parks ... and Fraser Island.

It could be concluded that National Parks are very poor land managers. And it could be debated whether this is because of their policies or because of a shortage of funds provided by governments.

– **DICK PEGG and JIM BOWDEN**



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Cultural sites demand certified timber

A BRISBANE architect renowned as a designer of buildings of cultural significance on sensitive sites has been presented with a finalist merit in the 2020 Richard Stanton Memorial Award.

Richard Kirk of Kirk Architects was recognised for his contribution in driving the specification of Responsible Wood-certified, Queensland-grown spotted gum in the construction of the new Mon Repos Turtle Centre near Bundaberg.

Nominated by Hyne Timber, Mr Kirk's award is dedicated to a man who was devoted to the forest industry.

The Mon Repos Turtle Centre, a multi-award winning project, is a conservation park where passionate rangers and scientists manage



Simon Dorries, CEO, Responsible Wood (right), presents Richard Kirk, principal of Kirk Architects with the finalist certificate in the Richard Stanton Memorial Award for his commitment to chain of custody certification.

conservation and research programs to enhance the success of nesting before hatchlings make their perilous journey to the sea some months later.

In a brief to Mr Kirk, the centre's owner Queensland Parks and Wildlife (also the custodian of the certified forests) required a design connection to nature, sustainability and durability

in the corrosive coastal environment.

Timber was therefore the ideal construction solution for a range of reasons including locally and sustainably grown, durability, strength, density and aesthetics. Mr Kirk specified Hyne's Responsible Wood certified spotted gum glue laminated timber to deliver "exceptional sustainability credentials"

With timber specification confirmed, the timber was purchased directly by Queensland Parks and Wildlife from Hyne Timber and carried full chain of custody. This early and direct procurement is highly unusual but also served to ensure the construction would be completed prior to the turtle season.

Kirk Architects' use of certified timber is on display in the façade mullions and GHD Auditorium structure at the University of Queensland's flagship Advanced Engineering Building.

Richard Kirk, with three practice locations, has been an influencer for sustainable architecture both in Australia and overseas, championing forest chain of custody certification.



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Aussie family quits NZ mill after 97 years

IN what was described by Oreti Community Board chairman Brian Sommerville as "pretty sad stuff", a near century-old New Zealand Southland sawmill has been forced to sell.

The Craigpine mill, owned by the Black family in Australia for 97 years, is negotiating with Southland-based Niagara Sawmilling Co for a takeover, expected later this month.

Niagara director Ross Richardson said it had been a hard year for Craigpine; Covid-19 had disrupted its traditional model of exporting unprocessed sawn timber to Asia.

Because Niagara processed its timber into building products and had increased its supply into the domestic building market, the company was able to expand.

"Although we will be reducing the Craigpine operation from two



Niagara Sawmilling has been wholly owned by the Richardson family since 1954.

shifts to one, due to the continued expansion of the Niagara timber business, we are happy that we are able to offer many of the Craigpine staff new roles at our Kennington site," Mr Richardson said.

Of the more than 100 current Craigpine employees about 53 have been offered

work, and there are plans to recruit a further 30 new staff with a wide range of different skill sets.

After the closure of five sawmills across New Zealand this year, the company was pleased to be able to integrate the Craigpine sawmill into its timber operations and enable its

"legacy to live on".

The volume of manufactured timber products produced at Niagara's Kennington factory near Invercargill had almost doubled in the past year with 50 new jobs created.

Work had already started on a new distribution and packaging facility which was scheduled to be completed by July next year and increase production by a further 25%.

DANA director Dennis Neilson said the announcement was part of a wider transformation of the NZ sawmilling industry ...with too many tiny and uncompetitive units either closing or merging into larger, more efficient sustainable businesses.

More than 40 sawmills in New Zealand had failed in the last 15 years.

(With extracts from *Otago Daily Times*)

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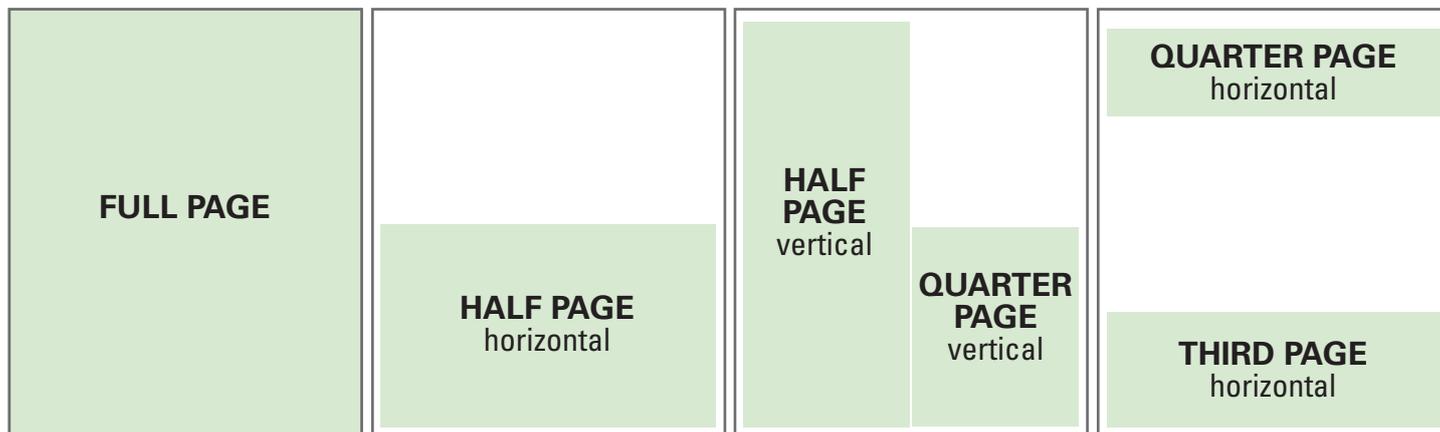
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