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Something good to Crowe about ... Forestry veteran awarded OAM

FOREST industries champion Peter Crowe was awarded the Order of Australia Medal (OAM) in the Australia Day Honours for his services to the softwood plantation industry.

Chair of the Softwood Working Group (SWG), Mr Crowe has worked in the forest industries since 1959 when he joined the then NSW Forestry Commission, working in a variety of positions until 2006.

Since then he has worked as an industry consultant and advocate, and has been involved in plant breeding initiatives which have improved the quality of the timber grown in plantations.

Since 1987 Mr Crowe, who lives at Thurgoona in southern NSW, has been involved with community engagement and regional development as the chair of the SWG, and as part of the Murray



Peter Crowe OAM, chairman of the National Foresters Grove, at the opening of the Geoff Green memorial pavilion in 2014, honouring the late Greenfreight Logging managing director.

professionals, who were both colleagues, but more importantly, friends, adding: "Being named as an OAM is certainly an honour for me and my family, but it also recognises the importance of forestry and its contribution to regional development in Australia,"

Regional Development Board and the board of Regional Development Australia Murray, between 1990 and 2016.

He was a driving force of the National Foresters Grove in Albury developed in conjunction with the International Bicentenary Forestry Conference organised by the then Australian Forest Development Institute in April 1988.

The idea was hatched by the late Bob Newman, then national secretary of Australian Forest Growers Inc.

Many of the trees at the grove are dedicated to individuals or organisations that have made a significant contribution to the forestry industry.

Deputy CEO of the Australian Forest Products Association Victor Violante said Peter Crowe had been a champion of the forest industries for nearly 60 years. "On behalf of AFPA and its members I congratulate him on this well-deserved honour."

Mr Crowe said he was extremely proud of working in the industry alongside a magnificent group of industry

Mr Crowe said the industry was continuing to wrestle with the short time frame to process damaged logs from the bushfires and anticipate the changes which would come once those logs were gone.

"The industry in general will suffer a major downturn because of the resource loss and the Softwood Working Group has been saying that since day one," he said.

- *Australian Fire Service Medal winner, P 4*
- *A forester's view on Australia Day, P 15.*

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Prevention vs water bombers: IFA's approach to Fraser bushfires review

IN a submission to the Fraser Island Bushfire Review, the Institute of Foresters of Australia is calling for a greater focus on year-round bushfire prevention activities over the use of water bombing aircraft.

Bushfires that started late last year burnt through more than 88,000 ha of the World Heritage island on Queensland's south-eastern coast, known as K'gari by the Butchulla traditional owners.

IFA/AFG president Bob Gordon urged the review panel to weigh-up the effectiveness and cost of relying on water-bombing aircraft as a reactive measure against the need for conventional wildfire responses and enhanced year-round prevention activities across Queensland.

"We often see aircraft bombing established fires, and people think that they put the fires out," Mr Gordon challenged.

"They don't put forest fire out. It is ineffective to attempt to water bomb a large fire out," he said.

"The time to attack a fire is before it starts, with prevention and hazard treatments, and soon after while the fire is small in area, with aggressive, land-based attack.

"Forest fires require a lot of work on the ground to remove fuels so that the fire is actually stopped from moving by a mineral earth break. These are often enlarged

“THE TIME TO ATTACK A FIRE IS BEFORE IT STARTS



- 1/ **Water bombers over Fraser Island... method of bushfire control challenged.**
- 2/ **Bob Gordon... there should be a greater focus on year-round land management**

be based on recommended fire regimes, cultural burning requirements and principles

and should be somewhere in the vicinity of 15,000 ha annually," Mr Gordon said.

"We also recommend an independent review of the effectiveness and efficiency of fire-fighting machinery and air fleet in comparison with fireline maintenance and wildfire mitigation activities.

"In Queensland, the immediate priority for future management should be on other extreme risk localities

Cont P 16

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Dedicated forester awarded services medal for work on fire management

A SIGNIFICANT contribution to fire management and research has earned respected forester Dr Lachlan (Lachie) McCaw of Manjimup, WA, the Australian Fire Services Medal as part of the Australia Day Honours.

A director of the Institute of Foresters of Australia and Australian Forest Growers, Dr McCaw was recognised for his ability to bring strategy, fire science and incident management together to inform best practice fire-management principles.

Fellow AFSM recipient and chair of the IFA/AFG's forest fire management committee Gary Morgan



Dr Lachlan McCaw... recognised for fire management and research.

AM said Dr McCaw's significant contribution to forest fire management and fire research made him a thoroughly deserving recipient of the award.

"Lachie's dedication to forest fire management



Sarah Wylie... leading Australia's largest bushfire clean-up campaign.

through his research and operational management is second to none," Mr Morgan said.

"He exemplifies the best form of research – not only conducting significant research but also applying this knowledge actively through the practice of forest fire management."

Dr McCaw has worked in forestry since 1980 and is a registered professional forester with skills in native forest management. He has extensive experience in bushfire research and management with a focus on forests, woodlands and shrublands of Western Australia.

His research interests include fire behaviour, fire climate and weather, and the role of planned fire in sustainable land management. He has been involved in a many aspects of native forest management including regeneration processes, thinning of regrowth stands and forest health.

He works as a senior principal research scientist with the Department of

Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions Western Australia, manages a 15 ha family forest at Manjimup and has been an active member of Australian Forest Growers.

Other committee members who have been acknowledged for their contribution to forest fire management in Australia include Gary Morgan AM AFSM, Ruth Ryan AFSM, Euan Ferguson AFSM, Kevin Tolhurst AM, Phil Cheney PSM and Neil Cooper PSM.

Given the lengthy time required in processing and considering nominations, this year is the first recognition for those who contributed to Australia's response to the 2019-20 bushfires and the Covid-19 pandemic.

“EXEMPLIFIES BEST FORM OF FIRE RESEARCH”

Among those receiving meritorious awards was Sarah Wylie of Tamworth, NSW, for her positive impact on traumatised and fragile communities trying to recover from bushfires. As the director of the Bushfire Clean-Up Program she was tasked with undertaking the biggest bush fire clean-up in Australian history. From July 31, 2020, the remotely-led team had cleaned up nearly 3500 properties and for more than six months Ms Wylie travelled across the state meeting with property owners and local contractors, and working with local councils and other state government agencies.



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Has the NZ government barked up the wrong tree for the last four years?

Major efforts seem to have been absorbed by the ‘politics of species’

WITH the Labour-led – but very much NZ First Party influenced – 2017-2020 NZ Coalition government, came a major re-focus on the New Zealand forest industry sector, which had been almost totally neglected by successive governments during the past 20 years.

However, after a roaring start in 2017-2018, with a ‘One Billion Tree Program’ announced, most of the (considerable) effort seemed to be absorbed by the ‘politics of species’, and serious in-fighting between forest owners and some sawmilling association players, whose main goal in life was to destroy an independent forest-owning sector by driving it to sell logs at a loss.

With a barrage of

“ ONLY A FRACTION OF ONE BILLION TREE TARGET PLANTED



Putting their weight behind the One Billion Tree Program in 2018... Waiariki MP Tamati Coffey, NZ First MP Fletcher Tabuteau, Assistant Forestry Minister Meka Whaitiri, NZ Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern, Forestry Minister Shane Jones and Te Arawa kaumatua Monty Morrison.

misleading information and constant fake news, basically one person – an ‘influencer’ with expert propaganda skills but who had possibly never planted or owned a tree in his life – totally brainwashed the previously sane Minister of Forests, who but for the World Trade Organisation rules, which shackled him, would have dealt a fatal blow to the forest owning sector in 2020.

Instead of encouraging the planting of hundreds of

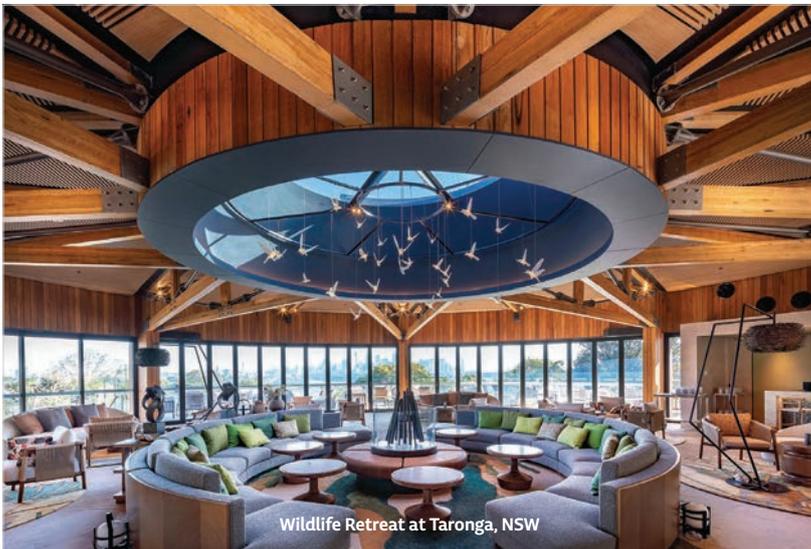
millions of radiata trees (the only sensible thing to do), the government ended up folding to both internal, and external pressure (from woke Greens), to plant a fraction of its target, and then almost all in super-slow growing non-commercial native trees and shrubs.

Many Maori land owning leaders also suddenly went off growing super-profitable pine tree planting in favour of planting non-commercial native trees. Neilson

concludes that this must be because Maori leaders find that making super-good money from pine trees is distasteful.

However, the government then, and since, with a huge amount of effort and engaging external consulting advisers has tried to identify ways New Zealand can become competitive making new products and exporting them to the world.

Cont P 6



Wildlife Retreat at Taronga, NSW

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From P 5

This continues with a major new contract recently signed with Finnish company Indufor to identify and report back on ways this might be achieved.

But has the government been barking up the wrong tree for the last four years?

DANA and T&F enews director Dennis Neilson is raising that question for the first time for debate.

Why might this be an issue?

Well ... before new companies and new funds can start investing in and making new and improved world-scale and competitive products, each project must have copious quantities of logs to process. In New Zealand, basically, that's logs from radiata trees.

And, Neilson speculates, we now probably have little idea in New Zealand of how many pine trees there are, and what harvest volumes will be available in the future.

Why is this?

Well, in 2008, a major government-industry exercise was undertaken to predict future harvest levels by region and nationally.

It was only several year later in 2013 that the government commissioned (the same) Indufor to do a (largely) desktop update of these regional and national harvest predictions.

Indufor did an excellent job in 2014 in re-setting the NZ harvest model and during that was reported to have found at least one massive mistake in the predictions in one region (Northland).

“LET THE INDUSTRY DO THAT – IT ALWAYS HAS AND IT ALWAYS WILL



1/ **New Zealand radiata pine trees... just now many are there?**

2/ **Dennis Neilson... counting trees in New Zealand.**

This mistake resulted in several mills being built in the region, which have now effectively run out of are about to run out of logs.

But in its update work, Indufor also assumed harvest ages and levels, which since 2014 were often ignored by owners of huge areas of pine forests. Many of these accelerated harvests were at ages up to several years younger than Indufor had assumed.

One example of how earlier predicted harvest volumes are on a course for a serious collision between expectation and reality is the availability of pruned logs in the Central North Island 2021-2030.

While we understand some sawmill owners are assuming there are 10-15 years of pruned logs still available, running at full mill capacity, forestry professionals such as Jeff Tomblason & Associates, Rotorua, predict some mills will probably start to close within five years, with most of them likely to close in less than 10 years .

The Indufor regional and national predictions are now several years old. Neilson contends that the first priority for the government is to re-engage (probably



Indufor to do a major and comprehensive review and update of harvest predictions from 2022 to 2060.

Failure to do so may lead to, at best, some sub-optimal wood processing decisions being made, but more seriously unsuspecting and/or naive investors investing in processing plants which may then run into serious unexpected future wood supply problems.

As a (third to last) 'kicker' Neilson suggests that recent and rapidly worsening regional government restrictions and forcing up the costs of harvesting will further reduce volumes which Indufor predicted would be available.

This whole picture needs to be revisited – and quickly.

As a (second to last) 'kicker', Neilson throws in the contention that the rapidly-rising carbon prices may well lead to large swathes of pine forests which Indufor assumed were going to be

harvested, but in practice may not be harvested for many years – or ever – as owners enjoy very attractive carbon returns for decades to come. Indeed just this week in its January Forestry Market report, AgriHQ states that NZU (carbon price) projections

are only pointing upwards, and that “This outlook may motivate forest owners to hold onto their units thereby postponing the felling of trees”. CommTrade predicts that NZU prices will increase by 65% from 2020 to 2024.

Neilson suggests a major theme of any new prediction work should be an assessment of this new phenomenon. And just as a last 'kicker', Neilson, who has been directly involved in forest operations and log marketing, and has closely observed the industry for 53 years, is not ruling out even higher demand and prices being offered for New Zealand radiata pine logs by overseas buyers, many of whom are very much more log conversion efficient, and with much lower costs than any New Zealand log processor can achieve.

In summary, Neilson contends that there are a number of more important issues facing the government and industry than figuring out how to make things with pine logs. Let the industry do that. It always has and it always will.

• **DANA's mid-March Napier conference on the sector outlook, and field trip to several forests and mills and a port, will directly address many of these issues. Visit danaevents.co.nz/**

FEBRUARY

8-12: Future Timber Hub showcase. Looking at research and partners facilities through a series of lunchtime webinars from 12 pm to 1:15 pm (AEST) each day, starting on Day 1 with projects covering prefabrication and digital fabrication strategies for large-scale timber construction; and alternative uses for under-valued sawmill products in innovative timber structures. Details and how to register will be listed on www.futuretimberhub.org More details next issue.

MARCH

15-18: DANA New Zealand Forest Industry Status and Outlook Conference and Field Trip – Napier Conference Centre, Marine Parade, Napier, New Zealand. For further information visit www.danaevents.co.nz/2021napier/

or contact Conference Organiser Julie Bell admin@dana.co.nz

19: Doing Timber Business in Queensland – Northern Suburbs Bowls Club 175 Edinburgh Castle Rd, Wavell Heights, QLD. Join QLD's full industry supply chain at a one day symposium followed by barefoot bowls & BBQ networking. For more information visit www.timberqueensland.com.au/ events or email admin@timberqueensland.com.au

JUNE

16-18: TABMA National Conference – Oaks Cypress Lakes Resort, Hunter Valley, NSW. Contact Alicia Oelkers at alicia@tabma.com.au

JULY

10: Victorian & Tasmanian Hardware Awards – Showtime Events Centre, Melbourne, VIC. 6:30pm-11:30pm. Contact

Natalie Scott at n.scott@hardwareaustralia.com.au

17: Queensland Hardware Industry Awards – Rydges South Bank, Brisbane, QLD. 6:30pm-11:30pm. Contact Natalie Scott at n.scott@hardwareaustralia.com.au

AUGUST

13: South Australian Hardware Industry Awards – Stamford Grand, Glenelg, SA. 6:30-11:30pm. Contact Natalie Scott at n.scott@hardwareaustralia.com.au

SEPTEMBER

4: TABMA QLD Awards Dinner – Rydges South Bank, Brisbane, QLD. 6.00pm start. Contact Alicia Oelkers at alicia@tabma.com.au

10: New South Wales Hardware Legends and Industry Awards – Doltone House Darling Island, Sydney, NSW. 12:00pm – 4:30pm. Contact Natalie Scott

at n.scott@hardwareaustralia.com.au

17: Western Australia Industry Awards – Beaumonde on the Point, Perth, WA. 12:00pm – 3:30pm. Contact Natalie Scott at n.scott@hardwareaustralia.com.au

OCTOBER

TBA: TABMA NSW Awards Dinner – Sydney, NSW. Contact Alicia Oelkers at alicia@tabma.com.au

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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FEBRUARY 2021

24-26 : Reforestation for biodiversity, carbon and livelihoods – VIRTUAL EVENT. The Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew and Botanic Gardens Conservation International will jointly convene a three day debate, scientific research, best

practice and policy recommendations to go beyond the headlines and find ways to raise the standard of global reforestation. The conference will create a global hub of expertise and innovative thinking, to ensure that reforestation delivers benefits not just for carbon capture, but also for biodiversity and

human wellbeing. For further information see: www.worldagroforestry.org/event/reforestation-biodiversity-carbon-capture-and-livelihoods

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

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Inaugural CEO sought for NSW association

JIM BOWDEN

THE Canberra-based Australian Forest Products Association has flagged the formation of an aligned NSW body “to cover all sectors from native forestry through to plantations, sawmilling and pulp and paper”.

This follows industry representative arrangements in Tasmania, South Australia and Victoria and reflects AFPAs increasing influence in national policy.

Procedures are under way to appoint an inaugural CEO for the NSW association, based in Sydney, with a brief to lead development and implementation of a whole-of-government industry engagement strategy.

The role will be responsible for developing a long-term



New NSW association to focus on native forestry, plantations, sawmilling and pulp and paper.

vision for the NSW forest products sector.

Last week the newly-formed Victorian Forest Products Association appointed Deb Kerr inaugural CEO. Ms Kerr, who starts on February 1, has extensive experience in the primary industries sector. She has worked in various industry representative roles.

The VFPA replaces the Victorian Association of Forest Industries and has announced

23 foundation members and elected an interim governing council.

In August last year, AFPA announced the appointment of Nick Steel as the first CEO of the Tasmanian Forest Products Association. Mr Steel spent more than 10 years working for the Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers Association at senior levels.

In June last year, the first stand-alone association for the

sector in South Australia was formed. A foundation meeting of the South Australian Forest Products Association brought together key industry stakeholders and saw an interim governing committee announced.

Timber NSW, established in 1906, remains a separate representative organisation of the timber and forest products industry in the state with membership and regional representation on the North Coast, Riverina and southern and western areas.

Maree McCaskill joined Timber NSW as general manager in 2013 bringing considerable experience in managing peak industry bodies and organisations, representing members at state and federal levels.



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New procurement rules guide governments on timber product selection



Compliance... a guide to procuring sustainable timber for government projects.

THE federal government has published a new Sustainable Procurement Guide which fits under the current National Waste Policy Action Plan and is used by government departments to comply with commonwealth procurement rules.

While this publication is designed for commonwealth entities, it will ultimately have utility beyond government as large corporates often pick these up to reform or inform their own procurement guides and requirements.

Referenced as part of the Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013, federal government departments are obligated to meet specific procurement rules when selecting suppliers for timber and timber-based products.

In meeting these rules, entities must consider the Sustainable Procurement Guide where there is opportunity for sustainability or use of recycled content.

The guide provides step-by-step guidance on how to consider sustainability in the different stages of the

procurement process, from identifying the business need to the end of the contract, including review and reporting.

It is designed to be sufficiently flexible for entities to apply the guidance within their own departmental frameworks and where it applies the Commonwealth Contracting Suite.

Under the procurement rules, government departments must still specify products that meet an available Australian standard, which in the case of timber and timber-based products is AS 4707 – Chain of Custody for Forest Products and AS 4708 – Sustainable Forest Management.

In addition, Responsible Wood and PEFC are both recognised as trusted ' ecolabels ' and thus can be used as sustainability requirements in developing procurement specifications.

The Responsible Wood certification scheme is the only scheme that complies with AS 4707 – Chain of Custody for Forest Products and AS 4708 – Sustainable Forest Management.



PEFC receives highest ranking in ASEAN guidelines for responsible forest management

THE world's largest forest certification system has received the highest rating against ASEAN guidelines for promoting responsible investment in food, agriculture and forestry.

In the forestry sector, the Program for the Endorsement of Forest Certification was rated 95% with the Forest Stewardship Council on 90%.

PEFC was rated higher due to its regional approach.

ASEAN RAI was launched in November last year. The 10 guidelines are part of a broad range of initiatives aiming to ensure investments in the food, agriculture and forestry sectors in the ASEAN region comply with international frameworks yet are regionally relevant and contextualised.

Twelve selected existing FAF industry standards and certifications were assessed against the 10 guidelines. PEFC sustainable forest management principles were used for the mapping exercise where the first five principles aligned with the ASEAN RAI guidelines on food nutrition, economic development,



PEFC... highest rating against ASEAN guidelines for promoting responsible investment in food, agriculture and forestry in the region.

natural resources, climate change and rule of law and governance.

The sixth PEFC principle (maintenance or appropriate enhancement of socio-economic functions and conditions) emphasises economic development and support to marginalised populations (women, young people and indigenous people) as well as tenure rights and data collection.

A partial match was observed with Guideline 10 (concerning regional approaches) when two of the six PEFC principles included specific references to regional

policy and approaches.

Overall, PEFC's sustainable forest management principles aligned with 9.5 out of the 10 ASEAN RAI guidelines. With the rating, organisations which are already adhering to these selected standards, such as the Malaysian Timber Certification Council, could easily demonstrate alignment with the ASEAN RAI.

The ASEAN RAI guidelines were grounded in the

Committee on World Food Security's Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems endorsed in Rome in October 2015. Subsequently, the ASEAN ministers responsible for agriculture and forestry adopted the ASEAN RAI in October 2018 following a nine-month multi-stakeholder consultation process led by Grow Asia – a unique multi-stakeholder partnership platform that brings together farmers, governments, private sector, NGOs and other stakeholders in southeast Asia to lift the productivity, profitability and environmental sustainability of small-holder agriculture in the region.

The PEFC General Assembly last year, the first to be held virtually, welcomed three new members into the alliance – Turkey, Bosnia and Herzegovina and UPM Kymmene Corporation into the alliance.

UPM owns more than 770,000 ha of PEFC-certified forests and has been involved in the development of PEFC systems for more than 20 years.

“ 9.5 POINTS OUT OF 10 IN RATINGS ”



From the Team at Lonza Wood Protection Oceania we would like to thank you for your support over the last 12 months, and look forward to your ongoing support in the year ahead.

Wishing you and your families a safe and enjoyable Christmas and New Year Holiday.



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Wood treatment and corrosion

... all preservatives don't work for all hazard classes

THE federal government's Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority approves the label for a wood preservative that may be used in Australia.

If a preservative system doesn't have a label it can't be used to treat wood. Note that this only controls preservatives used in Australia. Non-approved preservatives already in the treated wood may be imported and used.

One part of the APVMA approval process is the requirement for data that shows the stuff actually works. The data pack needs to show that the preservative system can stop insects, termites, decay and marine organisms at different concentrations for different hazard classes. Not all preservatives work for all hazard classes.

Obviously, fastener durability needs to match timber durability for a given exposure, but the APVMA approval process does not address this need.

Inside a structure where the timber stays dry and is not close to the beach, the combined impact of wood preservatives and fixings is

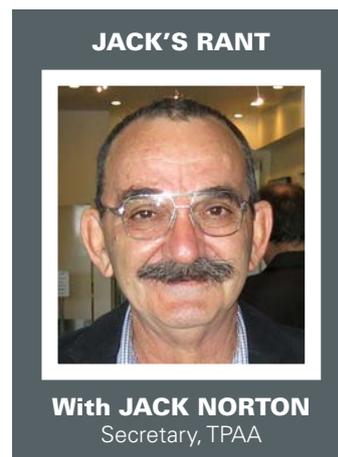
FASTENER DURABILITY NEEDS TO MEET TIMBER DURABILITY



Beware the hazards... once treated wood goes outside, above, in, or on the ground, or near salt spray, things become more complicated.

not really a problem. However, once the treated wood goes outside, above, in, or on the ground, things become more complicated. If the wood is exposed within 10 km of the coast they become even more interesting.

Unfortunately, the National Construction Code (formerly the Building Code of Australia) or the Residential Timber-framed Construction Standard AS1684-2010 series does not give clear direction for additional corrosion resistance for fasteners, nail plates and strapping for different environments. The standard specifies in Clause 1.15 that "all metal used in structural timber connections shall be provided with corrosion protection appropriate for the particular conditions". So the responsibility for choosing the



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With JACK NORTON
Secretary, TPAA

correct corrosion resistance is passed to the specifier.

The decision to use stainless steel over much less expensive galvanised or even black steel fittings in treated wood can be hard. On top of this, specifiers must deal with clients who object to or even aggressively oppose any cost that may result from using

more expensive fitting.

Wood acidity, timber moisture content, salt spray and fastener quality all have an impact on corrosion. If the timber is wet, then copper-based wood preservatives will also have an effect. This is particularly the case if timber is wet after treatment.

As I mentioned earlier, fittings applied to preserved wood in a dry environment are not really a problem. Timber protected against borers (H1) or termites (H2) does not get wet and corrosion is not an issue.

In service, both treated and untreated wood will lose moisture until the moisture in the air is equal to the moisture in the wood. This is known as the Equilibrium Moisture Content or EMC. In southeast Queensland for example, this EMC is around 12-15%. Embedded steel fasteners will start to corrode around 18-20% and the rate of corrosion increases as the wood gets wetter e.g. when it is in ground contact.

There are many technical and other publications on matching fittings to both treated and untreated wood and the reader should access these to 'get it right'.

A lot of material for this article was drawn from the writings of Ted Stubbersfield, and I thank and acknowledge Ted's contribution.

After the swallows, a tourist town restores 80-year-old timber bridge

Pioneer sawmilling company provides treated hardwood decks

BRUNSWICK Heads on the northern NSW coastline is a small idyllic town separated from the ocean shore by the tidal Simpsons Creek.

The old timber bridge spanning the river is an iconic structure in the town, symbolising its progress from a logging shipping port to a popular tourist destination, renowned for its surfing and picnic spots.

The bridge was built to transport rock wall boulders for the south wall breakwater construction and the local community loved the character of the bridge.

The South Arm Bridge has seven spans, is 6.15 m wide and 63 m long and is supported on timber piles that have been encased with concrete sleeves and sand to protect them from damage by marine borers.

With a community heavily invested in environmental issues, recycling and natural well-being, it made perfect sense for Byron Shire Council to restore and upgrade the bridge back to its former glory.

US-based Wood Research and Development, a company working in the maintenance and restoration of advanced timber structures, with an Australian office in Caboolture, performed a Level 3 bridge inspection, assessing and providing structural recommendations on upgrading the bridge from 10 tonne to 44 tonne.

With a stockpile of logs and timbers from past demolished bridges, the



1/ Ready for another 80 years... renovated timber bridge at Brunswick Heads.

2/ Protecting recycled timber... copper naphthenate is squirted into holes under the bridge.

Photos: Coffs Harbour Hardwoods

shire council commissioned WRD to perform non-destructive testing on the timbers to create a list of reusable timbers for the bridge rehabilitation. In 2019, allied company Timber Restoration Services won the contract to rehabilitate and upgrade the 63 m bridge. However, swallows were nesting under the bridge so work was postponed six months until the finish of the nesting season.

Part of the North Arm Bridge rehabilitation process was to recycle the existing timbers where possible and reuse the log timbers at the council stockyard. To ensure the recycled timber was



2

given the best protection, TRS made cuts or drilled holes and applied copper naphthenate oil emulsion and a paraffin-based sealant Anchorseal was used to seal the cuts.

The final touch was to diffuse all the timbers with Decaystop borate salt rods to inhibit fungi growth, allowing

“CREATING A LIST OF REUSABLE TIMBERS”

easy access to maintain the bridge elements.

Being such a busy bridge in a tourist town, TRS rehabilitated the bridge half a bridge width at a time, allowing traffic to use the bridge 24/7.

The full bridge refurbishment and upgrade included:

- Removing the concrete sleeves from the piles, pile-posting and wrapping the new piles.
- Replacing headstocks that were damaged or decayed and reinforcing each headstock / pile connection with a 5-bolt domino configuration for 44-tonne capacity
- Installing wales and cross-braces with recycled timber to upgrade the bridge's capacity to 44 tonne.
- Refurbishing both the existing and recycled stockpile corbels and re-installing them.
- Refurbishing both the existing and recycled stockpile log girders and



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From P 12

re-installing them.

- Removing the double-layer deck and replacing with a new treated hardwood single layered transverse deck.

- Replacing posts and rails with a combination of new and recycled timbers, painted with a 29% solids stain ... most importantly, to increase the longevity of this iconic bridge.

Timber Restoration Services built the bridge without a vertical bolt being installed, preventing moisture from tracking down from the top into the girders and headstocks. Even the treated hardwood transverse deck



Bridging the nesting gap... the house sparrow (*Passer domesticus*)



Sealing multiple bearing seats before installation.

Photos: Coffs Harbour Hardwoods

merchant and world champion axeman Ray McCarthy in 1961.

The transformation of this bridge is unbelievable – it is a classic beauty that, together, with the good construction practices used to build it and the council's commitment to regular maintenance, this iconic structure will last another 80 years.

(Thanks to Ted Stubbersfield of Deckwood Australia

at Gatton for putting us on to this story).

“THE ICONIC STRUCTURE WILL LAST ANOTHER 80 YEARS

has been locked down with M16 coach screws installed from underneath, producing a hex head-free deck that is free to drain with nowhere for water to penetrate the timber elements.

The treated hardwood deck planks were supplied by Coffs Harbour Hardwoods, a fifth generation sawmill with its roots planted in the 1850s. The family company was established by timber

On the cover: Drilling holes for deck lag screws on the South Arm Bridge at Brunswick Heads.
Photo: Coffs Harbour Hardwoods



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Reflect, respect, celebrate: a forester shares a viewpoint on Australia Day

SOME 85,102 days ago the First Fleet anchored in a gale at Port Jackson (first charted by Lieutenant Cook in 1770) and the first colonists came ashore at Sydney Cove at 3 pm on Saturday, January 26, 1788.

They were commanded by 50-year-old Captain Arthur Phillip. Thus began the task of creating a modern nation.

Look around, admire and respect the labours of all the following generations of nation builders, no matter their origin, in establishing our homeland. This is a core theme of Australia Day – celebrating the continuing achievements of its citizens and acknowledging those who put shoulder to the wheel in all its manifestations.

Australia Day is celebrated by 71% of Australians according to a new poll of more than 1000 Australians commissioned by the Institute of Public Affairs. In a similar finding a Nine News/SMH poll of 1222 people found only 28% wanted to change the date. Thus the silent majority has been heard above the shrills of the clamorous minority.

Bearing in mind the uncertainty of social distancing constraints, we all ought to take stock and be truly thankful that Australia is our home. No other country has come out of the recent

“EVERY DAY REVEALS HOW FORTUNATE WE ARE

EXTRACTS from an Australia Day address delivered on January 26 by Dr Gary Bacon AM at the Caboolture Historic Village.

Dr Bacon as chair represented the Queensland branch of the Order of Australia Association. A respected forester over many years, Dr Bacon was executive director of Queensland Forestry (1996-1999). He established the Queensland Forestry Research Institute in 1996



1/ *Australia comes through with flying colours.*

2/ *Dr Gary Bacon AM*

trials and tribulations of a global pandemic better than Australia. On just about every metric that comparisons can be made we Aussies have come through the repeated tests with flying colours.

According to Oxford University, Australia with 909 deaths in a population of 25 million has recorded a per population mortality rate nearly four times lower than the global average.

With a total of 28,766 confirmed Australian cases since the start of the pandemic the global per population rate is currently more than three times higher. Our health system and the health professionals and workers who deliver the services are to be admired as well as the Australian public who have done the right thing in accepting the imposed



constraints on hygiene, travel and social contacts.

The economy, employment, savings, sales (real estate, vehicles) have all bounced back to pre-stress levels significantly quicker than any prediction, based on the multi-year delayed recovery from the 2008 global financial crisis. The economy is forecast to grow by 4¼% next calendar year and unemployment is expected to fall to 6½% by the June quarter 2022.

There is no doubt that the commonwealth government injection of \$257 billion to date

in direct economic support has cushioned the blow and strengthened the recovery.

Every day the news from other places around the globe reveals

how fortunate we are. And on our National Day we can claim it. Declare it. Celebrate it. Not with hubris or podium thumping but with relief and humility.

There is another perspective to Australia Day, one that has flown under the radar for too long. Ray Payne OAM has reminded his Veteranweb network that Australian nationality officially came into existence on January 26, 1949, when the Nationality and Citizenship Act 1948 was enacted. That was the day we were first called Australians and allowed to travel with passports as Australians.

Before that special date, all people living in Australia, including Aborigines born after 1921, were called 'British Subjects' and forced to travel on British passports. We all became Australians on the same day! This then is an additional basis for our celebration of Australia Day January 26, and why new Australians receive their citizenship on that day.

It is also the day the Governor General announces the awardees of Australia Day honours. The Order of Australia is our own uniquely Australian system of honours and awards.

The 'Thank You' media ad program for this year is apt:

Reflect. Respect. Celebrate.

Cultural burning a trap for the unwary?

I READ the IFA submission on the Fraser Island fire and generally thought it was a bit too kind to National Parks and not critical enough of the overall system, preparation and suppression tactics.

Have we fallen into the trap of advocating cultural burning requirements and practices? Sure, we all know the local people did considerable burning but to believe the tribal elders of today have this knowledge is illogical because the last Aborigines left the island in 1904 when the mission at Bogimbah closed. There have been no Aboriginal burning on Fraser Island for about 120 years nor were there any Aborigines there for about 100 years.

When I was posted to Fraser Island in 1958, there



were no Aborigines there. My professional association with the island ended in late 1991 when I left Queensland Forestry and resigned as a member of the Fraser Island Recreation Board.

The only way the tribal elders of today could have this knowledge is through their DNA ... and we know

fire knowledge cannot be transmitted genetically.

The IFA's submission recommends "widespread burning involving traditional owners". Aboriginal burning was conducted throughout the year with the tall forest areas most probably being burnt in the warmer months after the surrounding

lower vegetation types were burnt in the cool months. Aborigines did not extinguish their fires. With the population of Fraser Island today, such practices would be rather impractical and dangerous. Recently, I saw an article (with photos) of Aboriginal people being taught about fuel reduction burning in NSW by Forestry Corporation staff.

Modern prescribed burning with ground or aerial ignition can be manipulated to simulate Aboriginal burning if required but often the current requirements of population and the forest/urban interface dictate goals that may differ significantly from those of Aboriginal burning.

RICHARD PEGG, retired Queensland forester, Brisbane.

From P 3

around the state, where the next fire disaster is more likely. This includes adequate fireline network design and maintenance, widespread burning involving traditional owners where possible, and adopting traditional burning design methods."

Mr Gordon said this would require a commitment from all

levels of government to better fund and resource active forest management and fire management programs.

In the bushfire review, IFA recommended that's sufficient management controls should be in place to manage backburn risks, and the policy of remote approval should be abandoned in favour of authority for backburn approval remaining with the

local, competent and qualified incident controller.

Also, funding and scale of air operations, including large aerial tankers should be reviewed based on an objective independent analysis of operational efficiency and effectiveness and a comparative analysis should be made with fireline maintenance and wildfire mitigation activities.

A post-fire analysis by a competent, independent fire specialist of early containment should identify any real underlying causes for containment failure and ensure continual improvement of any identified weaknesses.

A full copy of IFA/AFG's submission to the K'gari (Fraser Island) Bushfire Review can be found at www.forestry.org.au

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That's a deal: China opens to NZ wood

NEW Zealand's forest industry would benefit "immediately" from a trade deal signed this week between the country and China on what has been called the world's largest free-trade agreement.

The deal offers some New Zealand goods faster access to Chinese markets and a reduction in tariffs for paper and wood products.

NZ Forest Owners Association president Phil Taylor said the agreement would bring immediate benefits for the industry.

New Zealand has a trade surplus with China, exporting \$NZ19.4 billion in goods and services to the country, and importing \$NZ13 billion

NZ Trade Minister Damien O'Connor and China's Commerce Minister Wang Wentao inked the deal in a video-link meeting on Tuesday, more than a year after it was first settled by the countries.

Mr O'Connor said the



Damien O'Connor in Wellington after a virtual signing of a new trade deal with China on Tuesday.

upgrade meant the deal was suitable for another decade. New Zealand was the first developed country to sign a free trade agreement with China, in 2008.

"What this does is modernise the free trade agreement that we signed in 2008, and brings it up to date," Mr O'Connor said. "It provides real opportunities for exporters."

New Zealand will have 98% free trade with China, its largest trading partner, once the agreement comes fully into force. The upgrade has primarily focused on

reducing compliance costs for exporters, and other measures which ease access to China's markets.

Mr O'Connor said the upgrade and would give more security and certainty for exporters.

Under the upgraded agreement, 99% of New Zealand's \$NZ3 billion (\$2.8 billion) trade in paper and wood products will gain tariff-free, preferential access to China. An additional 12 wood and paper products will have duties removed, and the expected value of this change is \$NZ36 million.

Wood products have been a major export to China. Of the \$NZ6.4 billion in wood exports in 2018, 48% went to China.

Details of the agreement include:

- Reduced compliance costs for New Zealand exports, including

simplified documentation requirements and dedicated contacts for NZ businesses at key ports in China.

- Tariff-free access for about 99% of New Zealand's nearly NZ\$3 billion (\$2.15 billion) wood and paper trade to China, phased tariff elimination on additional wood and paper products worth NZ\$35 million.

- Benefits for exporters of perishable goods such as seafood, the forestry sector, and other primary sector industries.

(With extracts from stuff.co NZ)

Japanese paper mills to boost biomass power capacity

JAPANESE paper producers may expand use of biomass fuels at their in-house power generation plants to help achieve the country's 2050

carbon neutrality target.

Japan's paper industry aimed to increase the share of renewable power sources to 74% in 2050, up from

43.4% in the April 2019-March 2020 fiscal year, the Japan paper association said in its 2050 vision released this month. Woody biomass and

hydroelectric power sources would account for 36.8% of the sector's energy mix in 2050 compared with 10% in 2019-20.

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