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ISSUE 645 | February 18, 2021

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Chop chop ... Chinese traders quick to pull rare timber from national park

Logging methods make mockery of Queensland forest codes of practice

JIM BOWDEN

CHINA may have banned log imports from Queensland but Chinese traders are very active in the state pulling rare red hardwood species from a national park before transporting the processed product 1500 km by road to port for shipment.

The species, *Archidendropsis basaltica* (also known as dead finish or red lancewood), was among 1000 trees cleared in Lakewood National Park in the Cook Shire, 340 km north-west of Cairns.

The timber, sacred to the Thaypan people, the traditional owners of more than 38,000 ha of land in central Cape York, was allegedly razed without regard to its size, age or cultural significance in a logging operation by the Kyerrwanbda Thingalkal Land Trust.

Dead finish is 'timber gold' for the Chinese; the dense red hard timber cut to size from small trees, some of which



Thaypan people... traditional owners of more than 38,000 ha of land in central Cape York.

are more than 500 years old, are turned for products such as ornate tables, benches and knife handles.

The timber is seen as a replacement for rosewood (*Pterocarpus indicus*), China's traditional prey, as it strips forests in Papua Guinea, The Philippines, Indonesia, Africa, Madagascar and Brazil almost to extinction.

A report in The Courier-Mail says the KTL Land Trust

carried out the harvest in North Queensland through its timber company Oga-Alugi Pty Ltd, which is believed to have a forest allocation in Queensland, whatever that means. Photos taken of damage to surrounding tracks

“TRANSPORT OF TIMBER 1500 KM TO PORT”

and steams show there has been no regard for any form of forest harvesting codes of practice.

Kalinga Station grazier Peter Trout said the logging had left hazards strewn across 10,000 ha.

We are sure any Australian citizen caught undertaking this wanton destruction of a national park – or

a private forest – would face severe criminal charges along with a hefty fine.

The Department of Environment is reported to have started inquiries “to determine if matters of national environmental significance have been impacted”.

Timber Queensland CEO Mick Stephens said the

Cont P 5



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Mass-ive engineered wood project latest weapon for NIOA expansion

Hyne, X-lam key suppliers for 5-storey Brisbane building

AUSTRALIAN-owned defence contractor NIOA is set to break ground on an \$11 million expansion of its Brisbane base with the final engineered wood components craned into position on a five-storey building at Brisbane Airport.

The mass timber building was constructed in Queensland using CLT supplied by X-lam's factory in Albury-Wodonga using 2550 sq m of 200 mm thick panels walls, floors, roof, stairwell and lift shaft, and 450 Lm of glulam beams from Hyne Timber at Maryborough.

The NIOA extension is the first mass timber structure of its kind for builder Besix Watpac

"We forecast the structure to take 36 days for completion, but we are on track to be complete in just 26 days in total," said site manager Ben Rowlands.

"Part of the construction brief from the client was to ensure we do not hinder the day-to-day operations of the busy NIOA facility so the quicker we can construct and cleaner we can keep the site, the better," he said.

"Using all prefabricated engineered timber for the structure means we have minimal waste on site, less trades on site, faster, quieter construction and a far cleaner

“FASTER, QUIETER AND CLEANER CONSTRUCTION”



Tour of inspection ... Susie Kirk, Richard Kirk architects, Katie Fowden, manager strategic relations, Hyne Timber, Dr Andrew Magub, Richard Kirk architect, Jackson and Robert Nioa of NIOA, Will Isaac and Ben Rowlands, Watpac, Robert Mansell, X-Lam, and Richard Kirk, architect.

site than what we see with a traditional construction project.

"We spent more time reviewing the shop drawings and preparation for construction but in doing so, we can deliver on our commitment to minimise disruption to our client during construction."

NIOA has entered a significant growth phase with a \$130 million capital investment in domestic munitions and explosives manufacturing, including a \$60 million artillery shell forging plant in Maryborough with joint-venture partner Rheinmetall Waffe Munitions.

The defence contractor also has co-tenancy at the federal government's munitions plant at Benalla in Victoria. It recently secured Stage 1 of Tranche 1 of the LAND 159 program to modernise the Army's weapons systems and in 2018 was awarded the \$100 million LAND17-1C.2 future artillery ammunition contract.

Project architects Richard

Kirk and Dr Andrew Magub of Brisbane-based Kirk Studio are familiar with designing and specifying mass engineered timber, priding

themselves on delivering projects which showcase sustainability.

Cont P 4

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From P 3

Dr Magub said the building was a new typology, column-free space to enhance the experience for those working within it.

The timber is all Australian grown and certified plantation pine. The volume of timber used in the building will grow back within Australian plantations in just 45 minutes.

Rob Mansell, technical sales representative and business development manager with Hyne Timber, said the project was the second mass engineered timber building supplied by Hyne Timber and XLam to NIOA with the new Rheinmetal NIOA factory



Fast, clean build... the new NIOA building is expected to be completed in April.

in Maryborough nearing completion.

“This building and the factory in Maryborough have been specifically procured and built entirely from Australian grown and manufactured engineered timber products, supporting local jobs,” Mr Mansell said.

“It has been great to supply this local project and work

with the professional team to see this showcase come to fruition.

“It is also great for our employees who manufacture the engineered timber to see their work coming together for an exceptional office space for the future.”

The new offices are expected to be completed in April 2021.

Besik Watpac, a wholly-owned subsidiary of the award-winning international contractor BESIX Group, specialises in complex construction across all sectors, including infrastructure and marine works and combines Watpac’s four decades of local experience and partnerships.

The group, with more than \$7.6 billion worth of work in hand and operating in 25 countries employing 15,000 people, built the world’s tallest structure, Burj Khalifa, a skyscraper in Dubai, United Arab Emirates with a total height of 829.8 m (just over half a mile) and a roof height of 828 m.

On the cover: The mass timber building constructed in Queensland for the NIOA expansion in the Brisbane Airport precinct using CLT supplied by X-lam and glulam beams from Hyne Timber.

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2021 record year for detached home building, says HIA report

THE housing industry anticipate that almost 130,000 new detached homes will commence construction in 2021.

The previous record of 120,000 starts in a calendar year was set in 2018.

HIA chief economist Tim Reardon.

This forecast is contained in HIA’s economic and industry Outlook Report, which includes updated forecasts for new home building and renovations activity for each of the eight states and territories.

“HomeBuilder has delivered,” said HIA chief economist Tim Reardon.

“All leading indicators show a record volume of detached homes about to commence construction and this is

occurring in almost every location across Australia,” he said.

“This has not only secured the employment of the 500,000 people employed in detached home construction, it will also absorb tens of thousands of workers from across the rest of the economy.”

Mr Reardon said the extension of HomeBuilder in November was the primary cause of this significant upgrade in the forecast but the demographic shifts were also driving demand for detached homes.”

Regional locations in many states are showing a larger increase in activity than capital cities as the population moves away from inner city living.

From P 2

reports were disappointing in light of the recent Northern Australia forestry study supported by the CRCNA (Cooperative Research Centre for Developing Northern Australia) and industry partners.

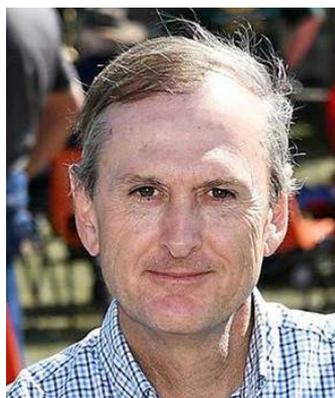
“A key recommendation from this study was a recognition of the importance of developing better consultation and engagement models between industry and indigenous communities,” Mr Stephens said.

“GOVERNMENT SHOULD WORK WITH INDUSTRY ON STRATEGIC PLAN”

“Furthermore, we have repeatedly raised concerns with federal and state authorities over suspected illegal logging activity in native forests in Queensland. These concerns have revolved around fly-by-night operators who have targeted the lucrative Chinese log export market.

“With opportunistic operators who don’t necessarily have the long-term interests of landowners and processors at heart, there are significant risks of poor harvest practices and breaches of state vegetation regulation.

“Despite numerous requests, we still do not know to what extent appropriate



Mick Stephens... concerns repeatedly raised with authorities over suspected illegal logging activity in native forests.

regulatory compliance and audit checks are being done with respect to native log exports.”

On a more positive note, Mr Stephens says there are significant opportunities for

native forestry development in northern Australia.

This requires not only better collaboration between traditional owners and industry participants across the supply chain, but also a more supportive investment environment by government that can generate local processing jobs and wealth generation.

“We look forward to continuing to promote these more positive outcomes going forward,” Mr Stephens said.

“It is high-time the Palaszczuk government started to work with industry and local communities in the north to develop a longer-term strategic plan for the industry,” he said.

Plants at most risk after Black Summer megafires

AUSTRALIA’S 2019-2020 Black Summer bushfires severely impacted hundreds of plant species.

While the prospects of recovery for most appear to be good, some species remain vulnerable, says a CSIRO research report.

Remotely sensed satellite fire hotspot data was compared with records of plant occurrence from herbarium collections to discover the plant species

and ecosystems impacted.

CSIRO’s Dr Robert Godfree said the fires burned close to 8 million ha of forest, woodland and shrubland across the south-east of Australia. Many of the fires occurred in ecosystems that make up a globally significant biodiversity hotspot.

“The scale of these fires and the number of plant species and communities affected was unprecedented for the

region,” Dr Godfree said.

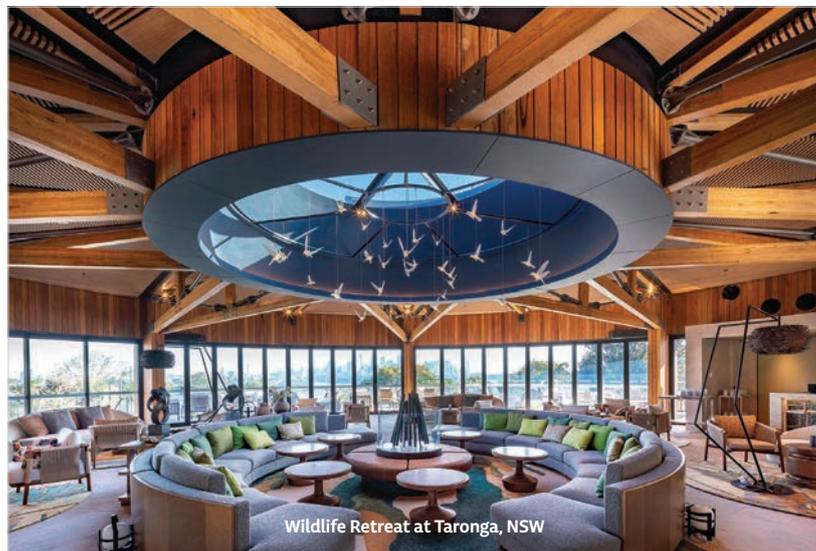
The researchers found that 11 megafires each more than 100,000 ha in size combined with many smaller fires to extensively burn 17 major vegetation types, including remnant rainforests and diverse eucalypt forests and woodlands.

More than 800 native plant species had more than half of their populations burnt, with some experiencing fire across their entire ranges.

CSIRO also studied the bushfire recovery traits of more than 200 plant species and found that most, including many rare species, are resilient to fire.

“These results suggest that we can be a little more optimistic about the ability of many plant species to recover after the fires,” Dr Godfree said.

In parts of NSW more than three-quarters of remaining rainforests were burnt.



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Let's do business in Queensland! Chance to re-connect at symposium

WHILE the times we are living in may be uncertain, one thing's for sure ...: Timber Queensland's Doing Timber Business in Queensland symposium on March 19 is a long-awaited opportunity to gain insight into the industry's future and re-connect with industry colleagues.

CEO Mick Stephens said while Covid-19 continued to present challenges for everyone, 2021 would be a significant year for the Queensland timber industry.

He said long-term hardwood resource security for the state's southeast, far north and central Queensland was essential for industry confidence and investment, as well as new softwood plantation investment models and timber manufacturing competitiveness.

"The symposium will bring the full industry supply chain together for a face-

BRINGING THE FULL SUPPLY CHAIN TOGETHER



Happy to re-connect... Mark Furner, Queensland Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries, opens the 2018 Doing Timber Business in Queensland with Mick Stephens, Timber Queensland CEO.

to-face discussion on key policy issues for industry and supporting projects that can unlock further growth." Mr Stephens said.

"We are pleased the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries Mark Furner will be speaking at the event. Also, the Shadow Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Tony Perrett will provide his perspectives on the industry," he said.

"They will be joined by speakers covering housing market trends, resource security and plantation

development, environmental regulation, Far North Queensland and southeast Queensland regional forestry hubs, supply chains and more."

Mick Stephens said TQ's reputation for delivering quality content and speakers at previous Doing Timber Business in Queensland events had attracted interest and support from industry stakeholders across Australia including gold sponsor Responsible Wood and silver sponsors PF Olsen and Eco Cottages.

"Our sponsor partners and

the TQ team look forward to catching up with industry colleagues," Mr Stephens said.

The airy, ventilated venue will provide plenty of space and an opportunity to combine work with play. Following the formal proceedings guests will enjoy barefoot bowls and a barbeque.

To celebrate the International Day of Forests (March 21), the IFA/AFG Queensland branch is holding a plantation management and fire recovery field trip to Jimna, the day after the symposium. Jimna, itself is a small old timber town, lies in the mountains of the Jimna State Forest and the Conondale National Park, 140 km north of Brisbane.

Further information on the field trip can be found at www.forestry.org.au

Registrations are now open for the symposium via www.timberqueensland.com.au

For further information contact Clarissa Brandt, TQ strategic relations and communications manager on (07) 3358 7906 or 0416 350 328.

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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.

Forests Our Future conference: key speakers selected

KEYNOTE speakers have been selected for the IFA/AFG 2021 national conference – Your Forests Our Future – in Launceston from October 11 to 14.

- Professor Annette Cowie has a background in soil science and plant nutrition, with particular interest in sustainable resource management. She is a senior principal research scientist in the NSW Department of Primary Industries, and Adjunct Professor, School

of Environmental and Rural Science, at the University of New England.

Annette is a lead author for the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Sixth Assessment Report and co-leader of the International Energy Agency Bioenergy research group.

- Victor Steffensen is an indigenous writer, filmmaker, musician and consultant applying traditional knowledge in a contemporary context. He is a descendant



1/ **Annette Cowie**
2/ **Victor Steffensen**

of the Tagalaka people in north Queensland.

Much of Victor's work has been based on the arts and reviving traditional knowledge values, particularly Aboriginal

fire management, with Aboriginal communities and non-indigenous Australians.

He is co-founder of the Firesticks Alliance and the National Indigenous Fire Workshop, which involves a large community network across Australia.

A call for abstracts for the conference closes on April 7. Registrations open next week with a special 'early bird' registration prize.

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EVENTS LISTS MAY CHANGE DUE TO CORONAVIRUS TRAVEL, SOCIAL DISTANCING AND OTHER RESTRICTIONS. PLEASE CHECK THE RELEVANT WEBSITES FOR UPDATES.

FEBRUARY

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

MARCH

8-10: European Forest Products Industry Conference – VIRTUAL EVENT. Fastmarkets RISI. Pulp, paper and packaging forecasts and panel discussions - Understand the key market changes impacting the European supply chain and beyond. For more information see: www.risiinfo.com/events/

9-11: Dubai WoodShow – Prague, Czechia The Dubai WoodShow is the premier destination for wood specialists. It is the region's only dedicated business-to-business meeting place for the wood, wood accessories and woodworking machinery industry. For further information see: www.woodshowglobal.com/dubai/#section3

22-23: International Conference on Forest Science, Ecology and Management (ICFSEM) – Dubai World Trade Centre, Dubai. World Academy of Science, Engineering and Technology. For further information see: <https://waset.org/forest-science-ecology-and-management-conference-in-march-2021-in-prague>

APRIL

1-4: International Conference on Agriculture, forestry, Biotechnology and Food Science (ICAFBFS) – Bali, Indonesia. The key intention of ICAFBFS is to provide opportunity for the global participants to share their ideas and experience. This event will also help the delegates to establish research or business relations as well as to find international linkage for future collaborations. For further information

see: www.allconferencealert.com/event-detail.html?ev_id=522856

MAY

5-8: Forestry – Bridge to the Future – UNIVERSITY OF FORESTRY, SOFIA, BULGARIA (TO BE HELD IN A HYBRID FORMAT. PARTICIPANTS WILL HAVE THE CHOICE OF ATTENDING IN PERSON OR VIRTUALLY). For further information see: <https://conf2020.forestry-ideas.info/>

24-25: International Conference on Forestry Science and Silviculture (ICFSS) – London, UK. World Academy of Science, Engineering and Technology. For further information see: <https://waset.org/forestry-science-and-silviculture-conference-in-may-2021-in-london>

24-28: XV World Forestry Congress – Seoul, South Korea. 15th World Forestry Congress. The theme will be: Building a green, healthy and resilient future with forests. For further information see: <https://wfc2021korea.org/online/notice.html?act=view&aid=40>

JUNE

15-16: Carbon Forestry Conference – Rotorua, New Zealand. Changes to legislation in relation to climate change and emissions trading, including carbon farming investment opportunities. For further information see: <https://carbonforestry.events/>

29-1: WoodEX for Africa – Gallagher Convention Centre, Johannesburg, South Africa. Long established as the gateway to Africa's timber trade, WoodEX for Africa 2021 will be the ultimate machinery, tools and supplies gathering in Africa. Held in conjunction with the 2nd Deck & Flooring Expo and co-located with Africa's biggest construction expo, African Construction Expo. For further information see: <https://woodexforafrica.com/>

JULY

2-4: Foire De Libramont 2021 – Libramont Exhibition & Congress, Rue des Aubépines, 50 B-6800 Libramont, Belgium. The Libramont agricultural, forestry and agri-food fair is a huge outdoor exhibition that offers a showcase for the rural world in all its many shapes and forms (machinery, livestock breeding, forestry, the agri-food industry, horticulture, study, and R&D). For further

information see: <http://www.libramont-exhibition.com/>

23-26: The International Forest Festival – Feanedock National Forest, Leicestershire. UK. Music, forests, art and ideas. For further information see: <https://timberfestival.org.uk/>

AUGUST

9-12: World Conference on Timber Engineering – Santiago, Chile. Uruguay XXI will host as part of its strategy to promote investments in the forestry and wood sector. This is the first time this event is held in South America and will be hosted by the Chilean capital. The main topics that this conference will cover are sustainable forests for timber production, wood products and connections, wood engineering and architecture, policy, implementation and management, education, promotion and future trends. For further information see: www.uruguayxxi.gub.uy/en/events/article/145/

16-19: 20th Commonwealth Forestry Conference – VIRTUAL EVENT. An informal forum for foresters, and all those with an interest in the forestry sector to exchange knowledge and experience. It is organized by the Standing Committee on Commonwealth Forestry and covers general aspects of forest management and governance and has a focus on the changing priorities of the forestry sector. For further information see: <https://cfc2021.ubc.ca/>

30-31: International Conference on Forest Aesthetics and Site Preparation – Australian Museum Sydney, Australia. World Academy of Science, Engineering and Technology. For further information see: <https://waset.org/forest-aesthetics-and-site-preparation-conference-in-august-2021-in-sydney>

SEPTEMBER

22-24: Natural resources, green technology and sustainable development GREEN2020 – Zagreb, Croatia. Now rescheduled from last year. For further information see: <https://www.sumins.hr/green2020/>

27-1: LIGNA.21 Making more out of wood – Hannover, Germany. For further information see: <https://www.ligna.de/en/>

• Please send events to John Halkett: johnh@timberandforestrynews.com

DANA review: new twists, turns in Asia's 35m-tonne annual chip trade

All eyes on Australia: will there be a surplus in 2021 and 2022?

DANA director Dennis Neilson and partner Shanghai-based Gavin Hao of Gingko Consultants have almost completed interviewing more than 100 forest owners, woodchip exporters, trading and shipping companies and woodchip importers from all continents for the 2021 Asia Pacific Woodchip and Biomass Trade Review.

Neilson has been co-writing this annual review for 26 years and Hao for 12 years, but Neilson says this year's DANA Review will provide more major new twists and turns in the 35 million tonnes a year Asian trade than ever before.

After a seriously challenging year for both pulp mill end-users and woodchip suppliers, the new shoots of a resurgent 2021 and 2022

“DEMAND IN JAPAN READY FOR BIG REBOUND”



New port terminal at the world's largest pulpmill... the OKI operation in Sumatra, Indonesia, designed for pulp and paper exports, but possibly also for importing woodchips.

promised in the next three years.

Indeed, more than 20 new pulp projects have been announced in China which will if all are built increase pulp capacity by more than 28 million tonnes and with a vast increase in woodchip supply required. They will not be all built but just how many will be and when is the 64-billion-dollar question.

market are already emerging.

A major driver of woodchip demand and prices is the price of pulp, especially hardwood pulp. This crashed in 2019 and into 2020, but is now rebounding so fast that suppliers worry that a new high water bubble could be achieved as a forerunner of another major correction.

Covid-19 restrictions resulted in a major downturn

in Japanese woodchip demand for almost all of 2020, and for China also for much of last year.

Demand in Japan will rebound substantially in 2021 although probably not to 2019 levels. However demand in China, which actually increased in 2020, will again likely increase in 2021, with some major new pulp mills under construction and more

Woodchips supplies from Uruguay and Chile are now in a transition phase between a surplus for export and huge new domestic demands as two major pulp mills open in late 2021 and 2022.

The massive pulp industry in Indonesia promised to start exporting very large quantities of woodchips

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Re-electability of ‘Mother Theresa’ may depend on fixing the un-fixable

Housing price increase tsunami will continue to surge in NZ

DENNIS NEILSON

NEW Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern is seen as a ‘Mother Theresa’ both at home and abroad ... except in Australia.

Her role in terrifying the team of five million Kiwis on a mission to follow her religiously on her Covid elimination policy is the stuff legends are made of.

Her Teflon coat is so thick now that she would have to be guilty of high crimes and misdemeanors to be tossed out in the next election in 2023.

“THE MARKET WILL KEEP RUNNING HOT THIS YEAR”



Housing hot... price records topple in New Zealand.

This is in spite of her government’s record of hopelessness in the last three and a half years, in just about every measure, including house building and infrastructure, homelessness, child poverty, a massive rise of criminal gangs and so on.

The housing markets in many countries are on fire, and no less so than in New Zealand.

However, the tsunami of

house price increases in New Zealand over the last 12 months, which continues to accelerate, could be the one thing that unravels her if she cannot contain them.

On Monday three reports were released which support this:

- The Real Estate Institute of NZ confirmed the biggest housing boom for 20 years.
- Statistics NZ’s house affordability data (which

confirmed that almost no-one can afford to buy a house anymore, except the resident ‘nouveau riche’ and tens of thousands of rich expatriates flying home to escape from a Covid-ravaged world to buy property in the ‘safe’ Land of the Long White Cloud.

• Westpac Bank says the market will keep running hot this year. All the ‘doom-and-gloomers’ who predicted a major downturn in the economy, and a crash in housing demand post mid-2020 Covid lockdown, have long since been dispatched to the rubbish heap.

House supply is so limited that multi-bids at auctions and house sales happen a day or two, or sometimes a few hours, after listing, which is now the norm.

The NZ Herald this week reported on ‘jaw-dropping house price data which shows the size of the task

Cont P 10



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From P 9

ahead'. Annual house price increases include 31% in Gisborne/Hawkes Bay, 26% in Wellington, Manawatu-Whanganui and 21% in Taranaki. All regions are suffering.

In January another house price record has toppled with Trade Me Property reporting that the national average asking price experienced the largest annual growth on record in January.

The author and DANA director Dennis Neilson is ironically enjoying this circus – he has 100 people wanting to sign up to build houses on his nine sections in one Taupo subdivision. Section prices in the subdivision have increased by \$100,000 in the last two years.

The government, and especially Prime Minister Ardern, are now panicking. 'Loan- to-value ratios (LVRs)



(Rod Emmerson NZ Herald)

imposed in lending earlier, but which were lifted post-Covid, will now be reinstated and made even tougher for investors.

In March, owner-occupiers will need at least a 20% deposit, and investors at least 30%. From May, investors will need at least a 40% deposit.

In the longer term the government plans to completely overhaul the Resource Management Act in an effort to fast-track development and provide more house supply more

quickly.

The RMA has been blamed for all the woes of governments over the last two decades. However, a previous Labour government introduced the RMA, so we are not holding our breath.

The Prime Minister has

“ PM HAS TWO YEARS TO PULL SEVERAL RABBITS OUT OF THE HAT

two years to pull several rabbits out of the hat to quell rampant house prices.

However, every other action and legislation her left wing government has ever passed in more than three years has actually increased the costs of developing land sections and building houses. That is what left wing governments do.

Ardern will require every waking hour she has to pull the 'unfixable' off, so she will have to curb her propensity to attack Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison at every opportunity:

Just last week she took several shots at him for practicing (some more) under-arm bowling over an alleged ISIS bride, whose strong 'Ocker' accent would fit in seamlessly as a barmaid at the Ettamogah Pub.

However, Morrison has sent her to Coventry... that's New Zealand.

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Russia log ban to impact global markets

RUSSIA exported 15 million cub m of logs in 2020, which accounted for almost 12% of globally-traded roundwood.

Much of this trade may come to a halt next year when a new law proposed by Russia's president will ban the exportation of softwood logs and high-value hardwood logs as of January 1, 2022.

The Russian government is also considering new regulations aimed at reducing the exportation of green softwood lumber. This regulation is loosely planned to also commence in 2022 and is intended to incentivise investments in dry-kilns to produced dried lumber for exports.

The Chinese lumber industry will be directly impacted in the short-term as exports of softwood logs



Russian official checks logs for export.

mainly from Far East Russia are likely to be prohibited. China will probably look to source more sawlogs from other regions, such as Oceania, Europe, and the US.

The increased competition for logs in those markets will likely put upward pressure on sawlog prices. Mid-term, the study expects China will evolve from importation of roundwood to importation of lumber. This shift will allow lumber manufacturers

in Europe and Russia to increase shipments to China.

While the proposed ban is not yet law, it is widely expected to be implemented and passed into law in the second quarter of this year. If enacted, the law will most significantly impact Eastern Russia, where an estimated 10% of the timber harvest is exported in log form. In the short-term, the Chinese lumber industry will be most directly impacted, as exports

of softwood logs mainly from Russia Far East are likely to be prohibited.

Reducing log and green lumber exports will likely stimulate further value-added processing within Russia and better control illegal logging.

While the proposed ban is not yet law, it is widely expected to be implemented and passed into law in the second quarter of this year. If enacted,

The law will most significantly impact eastern Russia, where an estimated 10% of the timber harvest is exported in log form.

Although it is expected that the export ban will drive Russian investment in new lumber capacity, there might also be some impact on other forest industry sectors.

(Wood Resources International)

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It's not just the summer and the sun, we see work building in the pipeline

There's enough demand 'baked in' to move through 2021 in good shape

WITH the activity data for our industry continuing to surprise I have to go back to the 60s to find a suitable musical equivalent to describe the current situation.

Some of you may remember it – 'The Pipeline' by The Chantays from 1962. It's not just the summer and the sun but we can now see work building in the pipeline.

The industry had done a magnificent job during the early months of Covid-19 in pulling work forward to maintain building activity. However, given the big hit to the economy in the June quarter where overall economic activity declined a record 7%, the challenge was always how to backfill the pipeline.

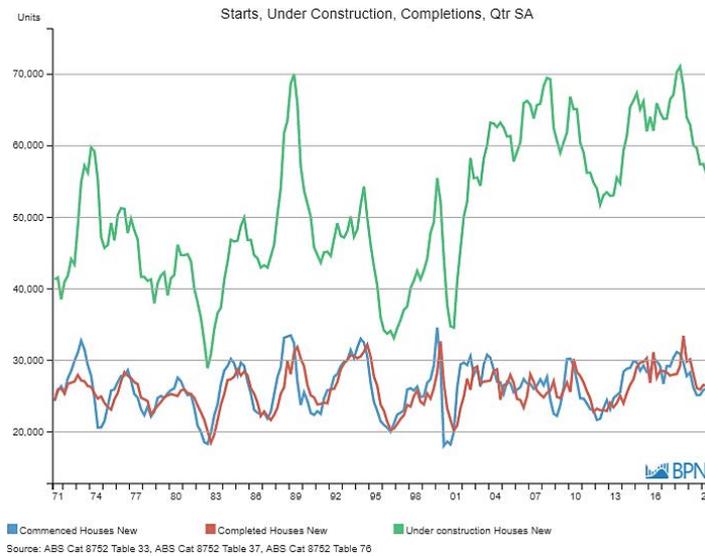
This was particularly pertinent to our industry given the collapse in net migration, which traditionally is a big driver of household formation rates. Net migration is expected to be down -72,000 in the 2020-21 financial year compared to +154,000 in 2019-20.

Pleasingly, as can be seen in recent building activity data, the trend is upward.

After a run down from the peak of the last housing cycle in mid-2018, new houses under construction (the green line in the graph) have moved up to 58,399

“CHALLENGE IS ALWAYS HOW TO BACKFILL THE PIPELINE

HOUSING ACTIVITY MEASURES



in the September quarter. This represents a change of +4.3% from the previous quarter. The reason for this is that housing starts were up (blue line) at 27,067 while completions (red line) were down at 25,851.

While the December quarter for this data series is not due until April, this looks like the beginning of an upward trend. Supporting this outlook is the strength of dwelling approvals which in December were 19,537 (up +10.9% on November) and +22.8% on the same period 12 months ago. There was an even more stellar performance for detached houses – 13,785 in December, an increase of +14.9% on the previous month and up 55.4% on 12 months ago.

This is backed up by housing finance with loan commitments in December (excluding refinancing) of

Jobkeeper having a positive impact on employment. In addition, the RBA has been effective in providing liquidity to the banks and keeping interest rates low.

Specific to housing has been the HomeBuilder program which provided cash incentives of \$25,000 for contracts signed by December 31, 2020. This program has now been extended to March 31 at a reduced level of \$15,000.

With people in jobs or at least transitioning back to work plus low interest rates there is clearly confidence in the market which is generating strong demand. This is despite the reduction in traditional drivers such as net migration.

However, at the end of March the liquidity the government has been providing of over \$50 billion a quarter will cease. As well as JobKeeper, other initiatives in the economy such as bank mortgage deferrals and the retail tenancy moratorium will also end.

The expectation of policy makers is that consumer spending and business investment will fill the gap. This may mean the recovery is patchy with some sectors doing better than others.

At this stage, the data for new housing suggests we have enough demand 'baked in' to move through 2021 in good shape. So while you are hanging ten to the sounds of 'The Pipeline' keep an eye on the changes coming in March.

FOCUS ON FORESTS



With JIM HOUGHTON

\$26.006 billion.

Of direct interest to our industry is loans for construction and purchase of new houses which were \$6.448 billion in December up +61% on the equivalent period 12 months ago. That is a lot of housing to build!

So given the challenges the economy is working through – how is it so?

As mentioned in previous columns, the government has provided significant support with programs such as

AS 4707 standard reference committee updates on revision of chain of custody

WITH more than 300 chain-of-custody certified companies in Australia, the AS 4707 Chain of Custody Standard – in addition to delivering Responsible Wood-certified products to the marketplace – has a tremendous impact on internal management processes of businesses along the timber value chain.

The standard provides organisations in the wood or forest products certification chain with the minimum criteria and requirements to implement a credible system.

This system tracks wood or forest products originating from Responsible Wood-certified forests through all phases of ownership, transportation and manufacturing to the end consumer.

Following the appointment of the AS 4707 standard reference committee and working group in late 2020, the committee met this week in Brisbane to review the current standard (AS



Preparing for a Zoom conference at the first meeting of the AS 4707 standard reference committee... Clarissa Brandt of Timber Queensland, representing the Women in Forestry Network, Peter Zed, Omega Consulting, chair, Simon Dorries, CEO, Responsible Wood, and David Rawlinson, independent environmental expert

4707:2014) and commence on a working draft.

The reference committee nominating bodies include the Association of Accredited Certification Bodies, Australian Forest Products Association, Australian Institute of Packaging, Omega Consulting, Timber Development Association, Tasmanian Forest Products Association, the University of Melbourne, the Victorian Forest Products Association

and the Women in Forestry Network

Peter Zed of Omega Consulting has been appointed chair of the committee. He holds an Honours degree in Forestry from ANU and has worked within the timber industry for more than 40 years. His involvement has ranged from plantation development to forest product manufacturing in roles as diverse as R&D scientist to chief executive.

The new standard is expected to adopt changes in the chain-of-custody rules for PEFC ST 2002:2020 and trademark-requirements and PEFC ST 2001:2020 trademark rules.

PEFC is the world's largest forest certification authority with more than 20,000 companies certified under the PEFC chain-of-custody standard.

Responsible Wood is the national governing body for PEFC in Australia with the Australian standard endorsed by and mutually recognised by PEFC International.

"We expect the draft standard to become available for public consultation in mid-2021," Responsible Wood CEO Simon Dorries said.

"The consultation is an essential part of Responsible Wood standards setting process where we share the work by the standard reference committee and working group, obtaining the input of everyone concerned," he said.

From P 9

from 2019, but the pulp price crash coupled with reduced Covid-19 paper demand put paid to that.

However, a resurgent pulp demand and price this year and into next may require woodchip imports to commence permanently. The wood fibre supply demand balance of its 10 million tonne p.a. pulp industry is a major 2021 talking point. Potential deficits could swallow much of Australia's supply.

The commissioning of

several new huge Chinese-owned 4.8-5.0 million (grain capacity) cubic feet capacity specialised woodchip carriers in 2020 and 2021 mean that woodchip supplies can now be sourced efficiently on even ultra-long distance voyages, and especially in conjunction with soybean shipments from Latin American to North Asia.

A huge new woodchip and soybean combined operation is on the cards this year in southern Brazil for the north Asia market.

However, the surplus woodchip carrier capacity



1/ **Gavin Hao**
2/ **Dennis Neilson**

seen in mid-2020 has now evaporated and available woodchip carriers are as scarce as hen's teeth.

The world's largest supplier, Vietnam, continued to surprise with record shipments in 2020, and

with even more likely to be exported in 2021.

There are other suppliers, but all eyes are on Australia this year and next. Will it have a surplus of mainland *Eucalyptus globulus* and/ or Tasmania *E. nitens* in 2021 and 2022? Or will the continuing fallout from the 2009-2014 MIS financial catastrophe catch up with suppliers?

Neilson and Hao will have their 2021 edition available for purchase in March. To secure a copy please contact Julie Bell at admin@dana.co.nz

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WHEN three European masters of auto engineering gathered together in a Frankfurt design shop something big was going to happen.

And it did – the Kia Stinger ... probably one of the sportiest production cars ever.

Each equipped with the same German motoring 'DNA', Peter Schreyer, Gregory Guillaume and Albert Biermann defected to Korean manufacturer Kia from, respectively, BMW, Volkswagen and Audi.

Designed by Schreyer and Guillaume at Kia's European studio in Frankfurt and engineered by Biermann (former BMW vice-president) the Stinger was first unveiled at the 2017 North American International Auto Show.

Guillaume says the Kia Stinger is very much a modern interpretation of iconic Gran Turismo models from the 1970s, a car for spirited long distance ... "with subtle Coke bottle curves".

Guillaume adds: "It's not about outright power, hard-



1/ Kia's MY21 Stinger... it's all about the journey.



2/ Inside the Stinger... black leather and a host of new additions.

edged dynamics and brutal styling all at the expense of luxury, comfort and grace. The Stinger has nothing to do with being the first to arrive at the destination – this car is all about the journey."

Kia's testing of the car involved more than 1000 km at the Korean circuit and further 10,000 km at the legendary 'green hell' Nordschleife track in Germany, a terrifying and merciless route through the Eifel forests.

Our test model was the Kia MY21 Stinger petrol 2-litre turbo GT-line that has 182 kW of power (at 6200 rpm) and 353 Nm of torque (at 1400 rpm) via an eight-speed automatic with electric power steering.

Kia claims the GT-line uses 8.8L/100 km of unleaded

petrol in the combined city and highway cycle while putting out 201g of CO₂. It has a 60L fuel tank so can travel 682 km on a full top-up.

The Stinger has a 5-star rating from ANCAP.

This year's GT-line (black leather) is a rear-wheel-drive 4-door with five seats that you can drive away for \$59,990.

Inside the cabin there's a bunch of new additions, most noticeable a 10.25-in. widescreen infotainment system. It also features Apple CarPlay, Android Auto DAB+ radio and 'native navigation'.

The bulk of Australia's excitement is the Stinger with

“WITH SUBTLE COKE BOTTLE CURVES

the big power, the twin-turbo V6; more than 90% of Stinger customers have opted for the big motor. However, the four-cylinder is still respectable and Kia claims it will manage 0–100 km/h in six seconds flat.

Remember, this is a large GT-inspired family car and not an outright performance car. Compared to something more relatable, it's still a whole second faster to 100 km/h than a \$69,900 BMW 3 series!

Let's go with another Kia promo: "Stinger is the sublime five-door performance car that blends the highest calibre of engineering with the craft and beauty of the artisan's work".

We agree or should we say 'donguihaeyo' ... or 'ich stimme zu'?

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PO Box 69, Potts Point, NSW 1335, Australia. Phone: 0417 421 187.

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