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NSW government delivers a koala Sepp 2021, but devil is in the detail

‘This is a win for regional NSW and balances the interests of farmers’

THE koala State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP 2019) will be remade across NSW as SEPP 2021.

Core rural zones in rural areas will be decoupled from the SEPP as new codes that protect koala habitat under the Local Land Services Act are developed over the next month.

This will vastly reduce red tape by removing the dual consent requirements facing foresters and farmers while immediately introducing enhanced protection for koala habitat in areas where more than 95% of development activity occurs.

Deputy Premier John Barilaro said the concerns of landholders in regional NSW had been heard by the state government.

“This is a win for regional NSW and balances the interests of farmers and the protection of koalas and their habitat,” Mr Barilaro said.

“Land zoned for primary production or forestry in



John Barilaro



Rob Stokes



Matt Kean

regional NSW will not be subject to the new SEPP, which means farmers will not be strangled by red tape.

“The intention has always been to find a solution to protect both farmers and koalas and we have successfully arrived at the Koala SEPP 2021.”

Minister for Planning and Public Spaces Rob Stokes said the new solution was a big step forward for the protection of koalas in NSW.

“The new SEPP will apply to areas where more than 95% of development occurs

across NSW, places where koala protection is needed most,” Mr Stokes said.

“The new SEPP will help us achieve the NSW Koala Strategy’s objective of stabilising, then increasing the populations of koalas in the wild.”

Timber NSW general manager Maree McCaskill

“NEW SOLUTION A BIG STEP FORWARD FOR PROTECTION OF KOALAS”

said while the process appeared to be a step forward, “the devil will be in the transitional arrangements”.

“We will need to see the SEPP and keep in mind that a SEPP does not have to go through parliament – it is an instrument that can be declared or repealed by the Minister for Planning without reference to the government,” she said.

Observations show the Coalition could not get a new amendment to the Local

Cont P 3



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From P 2

Land Services Act through the house; Catherine Cusack, a member of the NSW Legislative Council, representing the Liberal Party, would again cross the floor if it was attempted again.

[Tensions last year over the Coalition government koala policy boiled over when Ms Cusack made an emotional speech to parliament before crossing the floor. Her vote meant the bill was defeated 18-19. She said the bill was about patching up a political disagreement, not protecting koalas]

“The other option – although a real risk for industry – is to do the change via a SEPP,” Maree McCaskill said.

“Again remember, a SEPP does not get approved through parliament and is entirely created and or removed by the Minister for Planning.

“The new koala SEPP 2021 to be created will contain a clause to remove the requirement for dual consent.”

Some key points in the NSW government release include:

- Koala SEPP 2019 will be remade across NSW as Koala SEPP 2021 (yet to see the detail).
- The existing Koala SEPP

“AMBITIOUS PLAN TO DOUBLE KOALA POPULATIONS



1/ **New solution will ensure protections for core koala habitat.**
2/ **Catherine Cusack.**

2020 (updated SEPP 44) will continue to apply in core rural zones (RU 1, 2 and 3), except in metropolitan Sydney, Blue Mountains and the Central Coast, where Koala SEPP 2021 will apply across all zones.

- Comprehensive Koala Plans of Management (KPOM) will be finalised to protect koala habitat in Tweed and Byron Shires. (It will be interesting to see what happens in Byron Shire as no real forest is left in the Tweed).
- Private Native Forestry (PNF) and Local Land Services (LLS) codes will be revised to ensure robust protections for koalas in areas of high value koala habitat and certainty and consistency for primary producers (due to go through in next two months).
- Once the codes are finalised and reflected in

Minister for Energy and Environment Matt Kean said the new solution will ensure protections for core koala habitat and colonies across the state.

“We have ambitious plans to double koala populations in NSW by 2050 and that means we need the right policy tools in place to protect

and preserve wildlife and their habitat,” Mr Kean said.

“This is a good first step and we will continue to build on that with our soon to be announced Koala Strategy 2.0 which will include targeted conservation and investment actions to boost conservation across the state.”

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Red Stag's \$40m timber processing plant ready for clearance in Rotorua

A \$40 MILLION large-scale timber processing plant in Rotorua "tantalisingly close" to completion will help create upwards of 100 jobs.

However, the company behind the project has job opportunities available now across its platforms as the industry struggles to keep up with demand.

Red Stag Group chief executive Marty Verry said the new facility would produce cross-laminated timber for surging markets that wanted environmentally



Steve Verry... CLT plant will be struggling to keep up demand.

friendly "modern new-age materials".

The company performed stronger than expected last year with bright forecasts ahead and "we have continuous job openings and opportunities," Mr Verry said.



Kevin Lewis... global demand looking for quality timber products.

Machinists, forklift drivers, operators, maintenance, fitters and particularly night shift operators were needed as it was increasing its shift patterns due to demand.

"It is a very, very buoyant market at the moment across the sector and across the globe," Mr Verry said.

"The materials sector is struggling to keep up with this uptake and there are raw material shortages here and around the world. People are starting to realise more than 10% of the world's greenhouse gas emissions are caused by materials used to build with ... and there is a big movement to encourage low carbon construction using wood."

Red Stag was investing "a lot against that in terms of the plant and equipment to gear up for these developments".

Export markets for Red Stag included Australia, the Pacific Islands and Asia with a particular focus on structural lumber products.

The new cross-laminated timber factory at its site in Waipa was being commissioned and was

starting to supply jobs but would be fully commissioned in the next few months.

Last year Red Stag received a \$15 million loan through the government's Provincial Growth Fund to help develop the engineered wood products manufacturing facility.

Recipients included loans to Red Stag Group \$15m, Te Puke-based Pukepine Sawmills \$1.6m, alongside KLC Ltd's \$3m support package and Tunncliffe Timber Solutions \$2.25m to help the business expand and to increase production.

Pukepine Sawmills general manager Jeff Tanner said prior to Covid it had 150 staff. Now they employed 185 and had 10 vacancies.

KLC managing director Kevin Lewis said it was hiring for several roles from the shop floor to a chief financial officer.

Like others in the timber industry, it was experiencing unprecedented demand as "Aotearoa seeks to remedy our housing shortage, Kiwis seek to renovate and improve their homes during a global lockdown and overseas markets look for quality timber products".

(With extracts from Rotorua Post).

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Strumming to the tune of plywood as world's largest guitar stars at festival

JIM BOWDEN

WOOD scientists at the DAF Salisbury Research Facility and a leading manufacturer in premium grade plywoods have partnered with architects and academics to produce the world's largest acoustic guitar – centrepiece for Brisbane's Curiosity Festival, a 17-day celebration of science, art and tech, which starts this Saturday.

The 'Immersive Guitar' – launched by the Queensland Conservatorium Research Centre and constructed mostly within Griffith University – gives audiences the rare experience of being inside a musical instrument. This has been achieved by upscaling a standard acoustic classical guitar 11.5 times from its original size, with some necessary modifications.

The completely portable and weatherproof building is inspired by an acoustic guitar's percussive as well as harmonic and melodic capabilities. The plywood walls and sound boxes and guitar strings operate as an acoustic instrument so participants



Create team players at Griffith University ... Professor. Vanessa Tomlinson, head of percussion, Karin Schaupp, head of guitar, and Dr Hassan Karampour, senior lecturer in structural engineering.

will feel the vibrations as they pluck the strings and tap the walls.

The instrument, 4 m high and designed as a canopy, lies on its back with seating around the internal outline of the guitar's 'belly'. Steps lead to a platform in the middle, enabling audiences to pluck the six strings while light shines in through the guitar's sound hole 2 m overhead. The giant guitar has been constructed in a collaboration with the Salisbury research

centre and Austral Plywoods, using Responsible Wood-certified hoop pine (*Araucaria cunninghamii*) from HQPlantations.

The Brisbane-based plywood manufacturer supplied some 100 sheets to the guitar project, consisting of 2400 x 1200 x 4 mm exterior 100% hoop pine BB and 2400 x 1200 x 16 mm structural 100% hoop pine BB.

The guitar is the result of 12 months' work from artistic conception to visual

design, engineering, testing of string-weights and detailed collaborative construction planning.

"This is a truly trans-disciplinary arts project led by the Queensland Conservatorium Research Centre in collaboration with the Griffith University's department of engineering," project co-leader Professor Vanessa Tomlinson said.

Along with other project co-leaders Karin Schaupp and Dr Hassan Karampour, the project team includes architect Bruce Wolfe, research associate Dr Jocelyn Wolfe, luthier Jim Redgate and building certifier Cath Patterson.

Partners include Conrad Gargett, the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, Austral Plywoods and Philip Chun Building Certifiers.

The project will be officially launched on March 18.

On the cover: Putting the finishes touches to the installation of the 4 m high ply acoustic guitar near the Channel 7 Wheel of Brisbane at South Bank this week.



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Webinar: sustainably engineered wood for a low carbon future

MORE than 80 attendees will participate in the New Zealand Green Building Council's 'plugged-in' products and materials webinar series.

Engineered timber as a construction material is on the rise, as architects, engineers and builders around the world recognise its versatility, flexibility and benefits for people and the planet.

Responsible Wood CEO Simon Dorries and marketing and communications officer Jason Ross will provide an overview of PEFC and formaldehyde reclassification and exposure. They are joined by sustainable architect at Scion Andrea Stocchero who tackled the question 'can sustainably-sourced engineered wood be one of New Zealand's shovel-ready answers for a sustainable future?'

Mr Stocchero also provides a lens on how building with sustainable wood can contribute towards the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and Climate Change mitigation while ensuring intergenerational prosperity and wellbeing.

He explains that using wood in construction supports local communities. It fosters integration across a multi-industry value chain that spans forestry, wood product manufacturing, building design and construction, including waste management, energy production, logistics and transportation.

Brad Crowley, senior



1/ Scion's Andrea Stocchero... how building with sustainable wood can contribute towards the United Nations sustainable development goals.

2/ Brad Crowley... sustainably-sourced engineered wood.

manager, buildings and communities, at the NZGBC, will ask probing questions about sustainably-sourced engineered wood.

Mr Crowley is also manager of the Green Star rating tool where he assists the Green Star team and identifies new opportunities to use the quiver of Green Star tools (design and as-built, performance, interior, communities) to make buildings better.

'Plugged-in' provides New Zealand's Green Star and Home Star accredited professionals much needed information as it relates to products and materials.

The webinar provides an overview of the new Australian / New Zealand Sustainable Forest Management standard due for publication later this year and explores the emerging role of engineered timber in meeting the UN sustainability development goals and formaldehyde reclassification and exposure.

A copy of the webinar will be provided on the NZGBC website in the coming weeks.

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

31: Launching the Gippsland Forestry Hub 30-year strategic plan – Morwell Innovation Centre, cnr Monash Way and Princes

Way, Morwell, VIC. 9 am-12 pm followed by lunch. The GFHub aims to identify opportunities for a growing industry into the future to make the industry sustainable while supporting local regional communities to thrive, improve public perceptions, support our community, and raise awareness in Gippsland of the career opportunities and job pathways available within the sectors. RSVP Megan Para at megan.para@vicash.com.au by March 22.

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

1: Australian Forest Products Association Gala Dinner and Symposium – Parliament House, Canberra, ACT. For further information see: www.ausfpa.com.au

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.

Frame Australia webinar closes March 12 for early bird rate

THE last chance for early bird registration to a Frame Australia webinar designed for practicing builders, architects, engineers and other building practitioners will close tomorrow March 12 at 5 pm.

The rate of \$49 (incl. GST) is ahead of the full price of \$75

(incl. GST) for the event to start at 5 pm on March 17.

The series is designed for practicing builders, architects, engineers and other building practitioners to stay up to date with recent Australian project experience.

The Game Changer -

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for offsite construction.

Speakers include architect Misho Vasiljevich, principal, Misho+Associates and Nick Hewson, dead of design, Xlam.

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MARCH

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/>

OCTOBER

22-24: International Conference on Forest Biodiversity and Sustainability (ICFBS) – Dubrovnik, Croatia. World Academy of Science, Engineering and Technology. For further information see: <https://waset.org/forest-biodiversity-and-sustainability-conference-in-october-2022-in-dubrovnik>

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

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OPEN LETTER TO INDUSTRY

TIMBER NSW IS STILL STANDING AND GROWING

Timber NSW and its previous names of Country Sawmillers Association and NSW Forest Products Association (still a trading name) has existed since 1906 continuously representing the timber and forest products industry in NSW.

Although largely representing hardwood companies, forest professionals, contractors and harvest and haulage companies, Timber NSW does have members with softwood interests.

In recent communications and news releases, a new entity named Forest Products Association of NSW was announced and many in the industry assumed it was replacing Timber NSW or that Timber NSW was merging with the new entity similar to what happened in Tasmania (FIAT) and Victoria (VAFI).

Timber NSW offered to represent the softwood industry in NSW. However, they declined and preferred to be represented by a new entity being set up by AFPA which was initially being called a name too close to our trading name. As such they have now decided to establish the AFPA NSW Committee. Timber NSW is not part of that organisation.

Our organisation is strong and growing and prides itself on not just congratulating government but more often holding government in NSW to account.

Just as the forest industries are always expected to be held accountable for their actions and performance, Timber NSW believes that governments also have to be held accountable for their performance.

Timber NSW advocates and negotiates without fear or favour and works hard to ensure the industry and its members comes first. Our members are at the heart of our work and their success is our success. No matter how large or small every business/member counts and needs representation and has equal representation in the organisation.

The highly regulated and controlled native hardwood industry in NSW has significant challenges ahead of it. Timber NSW, in conjunction with NSW Farmers and other rural regional organisations, fought off the Koala Habitat SEPP 2019 and has continued to strongly advocate for the changes needed to the Local Land Services Act to enable the continuation of Private Native Forestry without being buried in regulation that overreaches private property rights.

Timber NSW recently uncovered a parliamentary process designed to lock out all but selected environmental organisations, reviewing the Local Land Services (Miscellaneous) Amendment Bill 2020 – despite Coalition members sitting on that Committee. Timber NSW called it out and the submission process was opened up.

Vigilance, strong advocacy and well researched advice is key to our success. Whether it is negotiating with state and federal government on issues like environmental legislation, forest industry applicable regulation, EPIs, supply contracts, harvest and haul issues, member legal advice, our members are front and centre.

Timber NSW members (over 50 companies) represent nearly 70% of all grades of native hardwood ex Crown and Private Property.

If you are involved in the forest and timber industries in NSW and are concerned about the future direction of the industry, then you should join Timber NSW.

Contact

Maree McCaskill

info@timbernsw.com.au to discuss membership.



TIMBER NSW

Hyne \$14.5m expansion project to create 50 new jobs in Maryborough

RECRUITMENT is set to commence for 50 new jobs created in Maryborough following an announcement by Bruce Saunders, MP Maryborough, and Hyne Timber CEO Jon Kleinschmidt of a \$14.5 million expansion project.

With demand for structural and engineered timber products on the increase, the 139-year-old, privately-owned Hyne Timber is investing for growth and increased capacity to supply quality products for the Australian construction sector.

Jon Kleinschmidt said expansion plans had been accelerated following the commissioning of a new glue laminated timber plant in Maryborough last year which relies on the Tuan mill for its feedstock and developed with the support of a state government Jobs and Regional Growth Fund grant.

"The next stage will address the feedstock bottleneck at Tuan with the installation of a continuous drying kiln.

"This means extra shifts and



1/ Hyne Tuan mill... continuous drying kiln set to create extra shifts and about 50 new jobs.

2/ Jon Kleinschmidt... supply from HQP softwood pine plantations is sustained and expected to increase over coming years.

about 50 more people to join the team in Maryborough," Mr Kleinschmidt said.

"The supply of softwood pine plantation is sustained and expected to increase over coming years from supplier, HQ Plantations. We have also notified our other local

suppliers of the increased production and flow-on growth for their businesses including Richers Transport, Log Management Solutions, Altus Renewables, Bassett Barks and Laminex."

In addition to the ongoing direct and indirect job benefits, more than \$5.5 million worth of work has already been awarded to Wide Bay-based businesses with Hyne Timber committed to

supporting local companies where possible.

The Tuan mill already employs around 210 people and is one of Australia's largest suppliers of softwood framing, predominantly supplying the housing construction sector. Production will increase by 20% as a result of this investment.

The first round of recruitment training commencing in April while the continuous drying kiln development progresses in parallel with commissioning in coming months.

The new kiln operates differently to the Tuan mill's existing batch kilns. Packs of wood are continually fed onto trolleys then steadily pushed through the kiln without stopping. Over 37 hours the wood passes through three zones – a humid-heating zone where the wood is gradually warmed up; a central low-humidity drying zone; and a humid cooling zone. Heat is transferred between the cooling and heating zones to increase thermal efficiency.



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UTAS staff trains on scientific accuracy

THE Australian Forest Products Association has welcomed the University of Tasmania's investigation into the publication of a flawed study last year that linked forestry operations and bushfire severity.

UTAS will undergo training of academic staff on the importance of research integrity and the disclosure of conflicts of interest.

Last year the Australian Senate passed a motion condemning the flawed study and its misuse by the Australian Greens. The motion noted "that the withdrawal of this paper was required because of the number of significant errors and wrong conclusions and that it did not meet the standard for 'high-quality scientific works' as required

by the Multidisciplinary Digital Publishing Institute.

AFPA deputy CEO Victor Violante commended the university for investigating the matter ... "and taking steps to ensure that all academic staff are mindful of the need to disclose conflicts of interest and to ensure their work is scientifically sound and meets the university's high standards."

AFPA wrote to Vice-Chancellor Rufus Black last year expressing concern that a scientific paper co-authored by UTAS academics had been withdrawn by the publishing journal due to significant errors, and that one of the authors, Dr Jennifer Sanger, had subsequently disclosed that she was employed by the Bob Brown Foundation to run



Dr Jennifer Sanger

its campaign to shut down Tasmania's forestry industry.

"The investigation confirmed there were shortcomings in the academic process, and I commend UTAS for committing to ensure academic staff are aware of their responsibilities and undergo training to better understand their obligations," Mr Violante said.

"While the review found that the conduct of the academics did not meet the high threshold required to amount to 'research

misconduct', the university advised AFPA that the investigation highlighted 'the need to support process improvement by providing further training and guidance.'

Mr Violante added that scientific consensus is that reducing fuel loads in the forest through a combination of mechanical fuel reduction and controlled burns play a vital role in bushfire mitigation, and that forestry operations do not increase bushfire severity.

"Research has found that in the eucalypt forests of south-eastern Australia, an annual reduction program of 5% of the landscape could reduce the extent of bushfires by as much as 50%," Mr Violante said.

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**Timber Trade
Industrial Association**



Deb takes a stand: encouraging full review of Vic. wildlife management

National parks and reserves failing our critically-endangered species

IT'S great to see newly-appointed CEO of the Victorian Forest Products Association has gone on the offensive encouraging the Victorian government to conduct a comprehensive review of wildlife management.

"For too long wildlife and biodiversity management has been focused on the miniscule area of state forests accessed by our timber industry," says Deb.

"In Victoria, the forest industry harvests just four out of every 10,000 trees to produce wood products used every day in the homes and offices of Australians across the country, and for every tree harvested a tree is replanted and re-grown. Meanwhile, Victoria has around 4 million ha of national parks and reserves created specifically to deliver environmental and biodiversity outcomes," she says.

Deb adds: "This inquiry should examine why the current management of the national parks and reserves estate is not achieving these objectives and failing our critically-endangered species."

She confirmed that Victoria's national parks had received very little active management, resulting in

“PUBLIC LANDS MANAGEMENT IS NOT SUSTAINABLE



1

significant impacts to the state's biodiversity.

Many farmers, land managers and regional communities complain that where these public lands are not managed sustainably, feral pests such as pigs, deer, goats, cats, foxes and wild dogs are having a devastating impact on native fauna and their habitat.

The Victorian Wildlife Act 1975 that sets the rules around how people interact with wildlife in the state has not been reviewed since it became law in 1975. The Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change Lily D'Ambrosio said recommendations for reform of the Act would be provided to government by mid-2022.

Meanwhile, timber industry jobs destroyer Victorian Premier Daniel Andrews refuses to back away from his announcement to shut-down the state's long-established and sustainable hardwood forest-based industry.

The logic behind the



2

1/ *Victorian forests... a long-established and sustainable hardwood industry..*

2/ *Where's the logic, Dan? Think again.*

TRUNK LINES



With **CHERYL FORREST**

Andrews decision, particularly in the wake of the 2019-2020 bushfires and their impact in regional Victoria, astounds me.

That a political party supposedly championing workers is prepared to destroy hundreds of regional jobs is unfathomable. It is a clear signal of its disregard for regional businesses and the communities they support, as well as the thousands of downstream processing jobs.

The prospective closure of a sustainable industry, certified to world's best practice, has blindsided

those who work in Victorian businesses. Without Victorian native timber, Melburnians will hunt their hardwood floors, stair treads and other appearance grade timbers from places often without the same high level of sustainable forest management as is practiced in Victoria.

So, it's Girl Power to the rescue again – more strength to you Deb.

I can say absolutely that we in the harvesting contracting game are completely opposed to the possible actions of Dan Andrews and acknowledge the troubling uncertainty and enormous stress on forestry contractors and their employees across Victoria.

A change to show some collective muscle and opposition in November at AUSTimber in Traralgon – more about that later.

**Catch you next month.
Cheryl**

The MARKET Leader...



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Celebrations will honour Bill Gottstein as trust prepares for its 50th anniversary

JIM BOWDEN

THE Joseph William Gottstein Memorial Trust Fund was established in 1971 as a national education trust to promote the development of Australia's forest products industry through the pursuit of excellence in people, processes and products.

Plans are now under way to honour the late Bill Gottstein's impact on the trust as it celebrates its 50th anniversary.

The trust management team continues a call for former recipients of Gottstein awards to update their contact details ... "to keep the 'Gottstein family' connected and able to network with each other."

A Zoom 'get-together' will be held for those unable to attend celebration events in person.

Meanwhile, the new date for the keenly-anticipated Understanding Wood Science Course (postponed last year due to Covid) has been confirmed for Sunday evening, November 14, through to Friday afternoon, November 19. With the IFA/AFG conference in October and AUSTimber in early November, this ensures no timing clashes.

The course program includes a substantial new field trip itinerary based around Albury-Wodonga before moving on to Canberra for a laboratory day and a guest lecture series.

The Gottstein 50th anniversary course dinner will be held in Canberra on Thursday, November 18.

Applications for the 2021 Gottstein fellowship and scholarship awards and industry skill awards open this Friday, March 12, and this



1/ One of the early plywood training courses for industry ... CSIRO plywood section staff at the Division of Forest Products in south Melbourne. Identified back row far left Peter Moglia, sixth from left Bill Gottstein, far right Andy Stashevski, and front row far left Ken Hirst.

2/ Dr Keith Crews... Gottstein fellowship a privilege.

year will be solely focussed on studies within Australia and New Zealand as Covid issues continues to limit international travel.

All details are available at www.gottsteintrust.org

*** **** **

EMERITUS Professor of Structural Engineering at the University of Technology Sydney and honorary professor, structural engineering, University of Queensland Dr Keith Crews has expressed the "great privilege" of being awarded a Gottstein Fellowship in 1990.

At the time, as a 34-year-old consulting engineer, Keith Crews was undertaking a part-time Master's degree.

"The Gottstein fellowship provided enormous impetus for both the research and consulting work that I was undertaking at the time as well as providing the opportunity

to establish an invaluable 'network' of researchers and colleagues in overseas universities and timber research facilities.

"Today, many of the folk in this network continue to be close friends and colleagues with whom I have worked as an academic over the past 30 years, all developing an international reputation in timber engineering.

"Several have themselves been Gottstein fellows, (notably Kevin Lyngcoln) who as mentors provided insightful advice and kept me 'grounded' as an academic to ensure that the work I was undertaking was useful for the timber industry in both Australia and overseas.

"There is no doubt in my mind that the Gottstein fellowship provided me a unique opportunity that shaped my professional career and opened the door

for me to engage in a successful academic career.

"I believe I have been true to the intent and purpose of the trust and my contributions to both industry and the engineering profession have honoured the legacy left by Bill Gottstein so many years ago.

Editor's note:

Kevin Lyngcoln, a former CEO of the Plywood Association of Australasia (now EWPA), worked alongside two giants of plywood technology – Bill Gottstein and Peter Moglia – during the early days of the CSIRO Division of Forest Products in south Melbourne.

"As an engineering recruit, I worked directly under Peter Moglia, and then Ken Hirst in gluing research and Andy Stashevski, who became my future father-in-law," Kevin recalled.

"But all of us, every one of us, worked under Bill Gottstein's umbrella. And I'm probably the last survivor of those who worked with Bill."

Bill Gottstein would often quote a favourite scientific writer: "Some of the explanations may not be scientifically correct, but the author believes that it is more important to be nearly right, and understandable, than to be academically accurate, and incomprehensible."

Bill Gottstein was tragically killed in 1971 while photographing a tree-felling operation in New Guinea.

WoodSolutions education program embraces shift to blended learning

Continued student assistance through updated learning materials

THE last year has required the education system to move from a majority face-to-face setting to a largely online one.

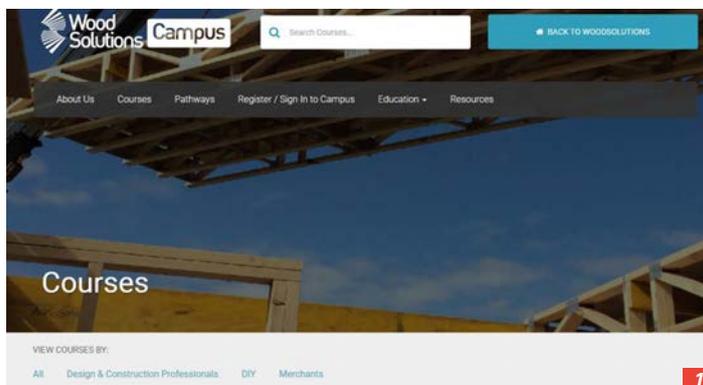
As we look to the years ahead, we see can see that a combination of the two delivery channels is the future of learning. Making education and upskilling as interactive and dynamic as possible for students and professionals is the goal.

When asked what the future of WoodSolutions™ and education look like, Eileen Newbury, national program manager for the WoodSolutions™ brand who is also the marketing and communications manager at Forest and Wood Products Australia, said: "We are going to refresh and evolve our delivery in order to educate the specifiers of the future."

She also said that the team planned to create more short educational videos, continue developing updated course curriculum and consistently provide informational webinars for continued professional development.

The program plans to provide continued student assistance through updated learning materials.

The WoodSolutions™ website offers facilities that back the program's focus on



national university support, national TAFE support and resource development. The Campus section of the website offers learning modules for industry as well as design and build specifiers. The team offers resources ranging from educational videos, power point presentations and PDFs for teachers to project case studies, industry connections and interactive educational games.

The team has designed the site to make the teaching process as accessible



as possible.

WoodSolutions™ collaborates with industry leaders and instructors to create a course curriculum that is progressing alongside the ever-changing industry. The WoodSolutions™ education and Campus programs have more than 2000 users and expect to see continued growth.

WoodSolutions has a

1/ *The WoodSolutions campus website is a collaboration between FWPA and the University of Tasmania's Centre for Sustainable Architecture with Wood.*

2/ *Dr Alastair Woodard... blending in-person practical lessons and online learning.*

Campus website that provides educational materials for industry members and development opportunities for design and build specifiers. The site offers videos on topics ranging from timber grading to design for bushfire as well as clear steps and processes to further training in timber usage.

Coordinating some areas of the WoodSolutions™ education program is Dr Alastair Woodard.

Mr Woodard said that, "blending in-person practical lessons and online learning is the future of the WoodSolutions™ education program."

WoodSolutions™ is finding balance amidst an unusual year. This blended style of learning is proving to generate growth and opportunity for students and educators. Online assessments and instructive materials make access, to the vast knowledge provided by WoodSolutions™, easier and faster for students around the world.



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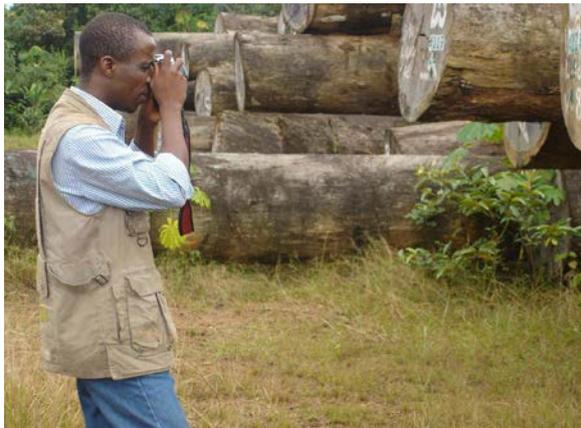
App joins war to combat illegal logging

A MOBILE application (app) that will help combat illegal logging has been developed in Manila.

The Department of Science and Technology-Forest Products Research says the app will hasten accurate and quick identification of all timber and lumber products while in transit and subject to checks and inspection.

The image of the transverse section of timber will be captured on a camera. Through machine vision, the structure or pattern will be analysed and recognised, and the species will be identified by comparing the image from the database of timber cross-section images stored in the system.

The app will help ensure



New app will ensure only those tree species allowed to be harvested or imported are transported and used by the wood-based industries.

that only those tree species allowed to be harvested or imported are transported and or used by the wood-based industries.

The app will quickly identify the wood or lumber, especially if the timber or lumber are illegally harvested or if these are banned timber or wood species.

The forest products

research agency is an authority in identification of wood and timber products in The Philippines. It maintains more than 16,000 local and foreign wood samples and 2600 plant specimens.

The agency has also partnered with the US Forest Service for the development of the app. The project is being funded by the Food and Agriculture Organisation of

the United Nations.

The agency will prepare the cross-section images and will provide other technical information on initial species identified to be included in the app.

FAO is currently in the process of hiring the app developer. Meanwhile, apart from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, the furniture, handicraft and other wood industries are also expected to benefit from the new technology.

Illegal logging and deforestation is one of the largest environmental problems of the modern age. It causes huge carbon emissions, a loss of biodiversity, and destroys sensitive ecosystems to a point beyond repair.

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Women choose to challenge stereotypes

THE record turnout of more than 25 members of the Women in Forests & Timber Network met at a breakfast this week to celebrate International Womens Day.

This year's IWD theme of 'Choose to Challenge' is one most befitting of this group of women, who challenge the norm every day by taking on important roles in a traditionally male industry.

The breakfast was attended by some of the most inspiring network members. A special mention was given to WFTN executive committee member Radmila Desic who is the recent recipient of the Member of the Order for significant service to women in the construction industry in Queensland.

Joining the network for the first time was April Whittam, the first female GM of The Truss Company and the woman behind a new recruitment initiative to hire more women into trade and apprenticeship roles. Forest scientists, training

managers, government and sales representatives, communicators and educators joined the breakfast.

Stephanie Hunt, community engagement manager at HQPlantations – who with her colleagues Alison Dillon and Regina Dodd left Imbil at 4.30 am to make the three-hour journey to attend – said that the networking events were an important opportunity for women to “share their challenges and successes”.

They was also a forum on industry issues.

Many wholesalers, retailers and builders were experiencing timber shortages; educators, such as TABMA, were seeking female trainers for timber courses and looking forward to supporting

more female apprentices with the federal government extension to its Boosting Apprenticeship and Traineeship Commencement Fund.

The group met on Tuesday this week for the first time in a year since the Covid-19 pandemic.

“A FORUM ON INDUSTRY ISSUES”

WFTN executive committee member Sarah Porter announced that the network's charity partner for the year would be the Brisbane Domestic Violence Service, which supports survivors of domestic, partner and family violence.

This group has been particularly impacted in the past 12 months, with many finding themselves trapped in their homes with perpetrators of abuse due to rolling lockdowns and mandated self-isolation requirements.

The WFTN is looking forward in 2021 to returning to a year-round focus on raising funds and awareness for marginalised women outside of the industry, and advocating for gender diversity in the forest and timber sectors.

Sarah Porter added: “It is our mission to recognise the contributions of the women in our industry and support their access to professional development opportunities every day – not just on International Women's Day.”



1/ Celebrating women's achievements... members of the Women in Forests & Timber Network meeting at a breakfast in Brisbane.



2/ Clarissa Brandt, Timber Queensland, with Alison Dillon, Stephanie Hunt and Regina Dodd of HQPlantations, making their IWD pledges.

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