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Government strengthens laws to curb ‘activist stunts’ that threaten workers

TIMBER communities have welcomed the strengthening of laws to curb unlawful media stunts by professional activist organisations.

The federal government says the new regulations will empower the Commissioner of the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission to investigate charities engaging in or promoting serious unlawful acts of trespass, vandalism, theft or assault and threatening behaviour.

“Forest communities are sick and tired of being targeted by corporate activism’s unlawful conduct and we hope this announcement will lead to real action,” Forest and Wood Communities Australia chair Steve Dobbys said.

“Legitimate forestry operations are routinely subjected to action by activist groups who abuse the right to protest and their charity status for financial and political gain,” Mr Dobbys said.

“They raise their profiles to attract donations by wilfully and illegally invading workplaces, abusing forest workers, and making false



Steve Dobbys... forest communities are sick and tired of being targeted by the unlawful conduct of corporate activists.

claims about the impacts of forestry in Australia.

“We just hope there is more to this announcement than government posturing, as there are existing regulations governing charities which, from what we have seen, are not being enforced.”

Mr Dobbys said FWCA fully supported the right to protest and encouraged freedom of speech, but was concerned that current intimidation of forestry workers by militant

protesters had gone way beyond environmental concern.

“The men and women who work in forestry operations are constantly dismayed by the level of irrational vitriol they are subjected to on an almost daily basis,” he said.

“It is the result of corporate

activist organisations using the tens of millions of public dollars in donations and the concessions they receive under the Charities Act to fund professional marketing spin.

“Make no mistake, corporate activism is big business in Australia and the Charities Act is being exploited.

“They don’t want people to know that Australian forestry meets the most rigorous standards in the world and is conducted in a miniscule 0.06% of our forests each year. Instead they want to make people believe that unless they donate to their organisations, trees won’t grow back.”

Steve Dobbys added: “Meanwhile, they encourage radical activists to break the law and engage in activity which directly contravenes the Charities Act.

“It’s time forest workers and communities were given the comfort of knowing regulators will stop protecting activism and start enforcing fair and reasonable regulations.”

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Timber trade in a 'twilight zone' on price and supply in a volatile market

Shipping charges continue to be a nightmare for Australian importers

JIM BOWDEN

CONSTRUCTION remains an essential industry in Victoria, NSW and Queensland and as such is exempt from Covid lock-downs in the three states.

Good news for the timber trade, but which exists in a "twilight zone" as the sector confronts the unknown – the availability of supply, particularly imports and the price they will have to pay if and when the overseas supply stream opens.

"It's certainly an interesting time," TABMA Australia president Peter Hutchison said.

"First the NSW fires that took out 40% of the resource and the record prices traders are prepared to pay for engineered wood in the US, Canada and Europe.

"This is coupled with the annual crazy summer shut-down of European manufacturers – France in July and August, Sweden from mid-June to July for example, regardless of how the industry

"TIMBER, LIKE STEEL, IS A GLOBAL PRODUCT"

is travelling."

Mr Hutchison agrees engineered wood producers in Britain and Europe will stay with local markets while they can get four times the price and without the cost of overseas freight.

"We have to realise at some



The cost of ocean freight has quadrupled in a matter of months, driving up charges for deliveries.

point that timber, like steel, is a global product," he said.

But another issue, says Mr Hutchison, is what the supply chain – fabricators, builders and merchants – is now quoting on 'locked-in' projects that may well be 20-30% higher when the cost of imported EWPs is realised in two to three months. Who knows?

"It's a peculiar situation where we are quoting on a price without really knowing what the project will eventually cost," he said.

"It's certainly an unprecedented pricing structure at the moment."

Meanwhile, the Australian Timber Importers Federation has raised the timber supply challenges with federal government ministers and is involved in ongoing discussions with officials to identify what might be done to improve the supply of imported timber products.

"These supply shortages

are putting a significant amount of pressure on the

supply chain as a whole; not only in Australia but the world is using building and construction to stimulate economic activity post the Covid pandemic," ATIF chairman Nils Koren said.

"While this is just a snippet of some of the challenges that importers are

Cont P 4

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From P 3

facing, it is important to understand that these matters are out of importers' control, but our members are doing their best to get on top of the issue."

The cost of ocean freight has quadrupled in a matter of months, driving up charges for deliveries. Soaring demand, labor shortages, port congestions, and incidents such as the Suez Canal blockage, are fueling high surcharges and sealing steep rates into contracts.

With more than nine billion tonnes of cargo expected to cross our oceans before year's end, the skyrocketing shipping costs in major affected lanes will remain inflated throughout this year.

It's doubly worrisome because about 60% of all global goods are shipped by container.

In an open letter to ATIF



Peter Hutchison ... it's certainly an unprecedented pricing structure at the moment.

members, Mr Koren said demand was continuing to outstrip supply in both domestic and international markets.

Record new builds were under way in all states due to the stimulus and low interest rates.

The US housing market still needed 5.5 million more units and demand had peaked in UK and Europe.

Mr Koren said shipping (sea



Nils Koren... raising timber supply challenges with federal government ministers.

freight) was continuing to be a nightmare for importers.

"A shortage of containers all over the world has caused an internal fight for the shipping lines to prioritise and focus on containers to markets that are paying the freight that is meeting the demand of transport," he said.

"This is a simple supply and demand situation.

"What is negative for us is that comparing with China, there are not as many exports from Australia that pay the same amount as China. This means imports to Australia will have to pay for a potential empty positioning up to China for the shipping line to get the empties to the 'right' places, that is high-paying areas."

Mr Koren said that in addition, all vessels to Australia were fully booked on a weekly basis and only at a contracted volumes, while more high-paying spot cargo received empty containers and space on vessels.

Mr Koren encouraged ATIF members to communicate openly with suppliers and stay up to speed on developments in both supply and shipping.

Parliamentary push for UK to use more wood in construction

THE UK Climate Change Committee's progress report to parliament has criticised the UK government for failing to support "important statements of ambition" on decarbonisation.

The committee has again recommended the government "implement policies to drive more resource-efficient construction and use of existing low-carbon construction materials, including a substantial increase in the use of timber in construction"

British Timber Trade Federation CEO David Hopkins says this has been a repeated call, but the policies which would support more wood; like those we recommend with the Confederation of Timber Industries were still to be implemented.

"Regulating embodied carbon, a coherent retrofit policy, and encouraging the use of low-carbon sustainable construction through government procurement are going to be important tools for taking on the climate challenge and changing the way we build in the UK," he said.

"Despite the widespread industry support and acknowledgement, getting policies into parliament is a time intensive process are building powerful tools to advance the interests of timber construction, and help move these policies forward."

Mr Hopkins said while in the timber industry knew the benefits of building with wood and how timber businesses bring economic prosperity in every region of the UK, not all politicians were aware.



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Ministry changes great opportunity to secure Australia's future timber needs

THE federal Coalition government has a great opportunity to use the latest Nationals' ministry changes to secure Australia's future timber needs and turbocharge regional manufacturing jobs by backing sustainable forest industries, the Australian Forest Products Association says.

CEO Ross Hampton says now is the time for the government to future-proof housing construction needs and harness the climate and economic benefits of sustainable forest industries.

"On behalf of Australia's forest industries I congratulate the new Nationals ministers, especially Senator Bridget McKenzie who has been a tireless advocate for our timber industries, especially in her home state of Victoria, over the past year," Mr Hampton said.

"Senator McKenzie is a great choice to lead the government's regional economic development agenda."

The senator also



Barnaby Joyce



Bridget McKenzie



David Littleproud



Johnno Duniam

gains responsibilities for Drought and Emergency Management.

Mr Hampton said as well as a passionate voice for the regions, Senator McKenzie recognised the importance of the \$24 billion forest industries and their potential to play an even greater role in regional Australia.

Senator McKenzie, who is the Nationals leader in the Senate, returns to Cabinet as Minister for Regionalisation, Regional Communications and Regional Education and gains responsibilities for Drought and Emergency Management

Mr Hampton congratulated new Deputy Prime Minister Barnaby Joyce and new

ministers, Andrew Gee, David Gillespie and Kevin Hogan, all of whom have vital forest industries resources and processing facilities in their electorates.

Deputy Nationals leader David Littleproud stays as Agriculture Minister and gains the portfolio of Northern Australia. His assistant minister Jonno Duniam is responsible for forest industries.

Mr Hampton said Australia's forest industries

were primed for growth to add to the 80,000 existing forest industry jobs around the nation.

"Our plantations already replant 70 million trees every year and our sustainable native forests are replanted after use," he said.

"With modest growth in the plantation estate to provide house frames and a secure future for our modest native estate to add the hardwood floors and windows, we can offset even more emissions, secure our future timber needs and create new advanced manufacturing industries to replace non-renewable plastics and energy-intensive building materials."

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\$2m support for manufacturing in SA

THE South Australian government's announcement last week of \$2 million to support the manufacturing of additional structural timber for home builders has been applauded by the South Australian Forest Products Association.

CEO Nathan Paine said the announcement showed the government was listening to industry and committed to supporting forest products and building and construction industries in South Australia.

"SAFPA and the Master Builders Association have been working closely with the government on a suite of



1/ **Unlocking additional structural timber supplies in South Australia.**
 2/ **Nathan Paine... a window into the future.**



urgent measures to unlock additional structural timber supplies to support the state's builders," Mr Paine said.

"The announcement delivers on a key tranche of these measures."

Mr Paine said South Australia's post-pandemic housing construction boom, spurred by

welcome incentives such as HomeBuilder and exacerbated by a sharp decline in imported timber, had created serious challenges for small to medium builders in the state and the announcement should be positively received.

"More importantly though, the current shortages highlight just how important

it is to grow our own timber for housing," he said. "This is really a window into the future where unless we can get more trees in the ground, we will not have enough timber to put roofs over the heads of our kids and our kid's kids.

"This experience should be a wake-up call for policy makers that domestic supply of timber for our homes is as vital for our nation as food and fuel."

Mr Paine said industry would continue to work with the state and federal governments on the other measures needed to unlock this additional supply.

The 2021 National University Wood Challenge is supporting teams of university students and academics to demonstrate innovative ideas for using wood to produce new, sustainable everyday products.

NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

Find out more at fwpa.com.au/nuwc2021 or scan the QR code!



SEPTEMBER

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

10: Tasmanian Timber Awards – Launceston, TAS. Celebration of excellence and best practice within the state's timber industry. Winners announced at a gala dinner at Albert Hall. Contacts: Phone 0439 336 511. Email naomi.will@tffpn.com.au. Visit www.tffpn.com.au

OCTOBER

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.

NOVEMBER

10-13: AUSTimber 2021 – Gormandale in eastern Victoria between Yarram and Traralgon. Nov. 10: Field trips. Nov. 11: Field trips (site visits by invitation). Welcome dinner.

Nov. 12: Show day (9 am - 5 pm). Nov. 13: Show day (9 am - 3 pm). Contact Dionne Olsen on +61 429 202 929 or email austimber2020@afca.asn.au

14-19: 2021 Gottstein Trust Understanding Wood Science Course – Albury, NSW. November 14-15 based in Albury with field trips to northern Victoria. November 16-19: Guest lectures and field trip, then relocate by coach to Canberra for three days including a laboratory day and guest lectures at ANU, and a formal course dinner celebrating 50th Anniversary of the trust. Detailed information,

registration and the draft program: <https://gottsteintrust.org/course/wood-science-courses/>

16-17: Frame Australia Timber Offsite Construction – Crown Promenade Melbourne, VIC.

New global 'hybrid' format will retain avital face to face element. Choose from a selection of half-day and full-day programs. Virtual delegates can register for just one or more conference sessions.

For further information and registration visit the website www.timberoffsiteconstruction.com



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JUNE

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/>

7-11: New Forest Folk Festival – Powells Farm, Salisbury Road, Plaitford, Romsey, UK. For further information see: www.newforestfolkfestival.co.uk

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

17-21: Prowood Ghent – Flanders Expo, Maaltekouter 1, 9051 Ghent, East Flanders, Flanders, Belgium. For further information see: www.tradefairdates.com/Prowood-M9728/Ghent.html

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>

26-29: Woodworking Minsk – Sports Complex, Pobeditelei 20/2 Minsk, Belarus. International exhibition of woodworking and furniture production. For further information see: www.tradefairdates.com/Woodworking-M3361/Minsk.html

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



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Nominations open for Green Triangle awards set for Mount Gambier

NOMINATIONS are now open for the 2021 Green Triangle Timber Industry Awards recognising the standout contributors within their sectors across the Green Triangle.

The awards are back on the calendar after being cancelled last year due to Covid-19. They will be presented on October 29 in Mount Gambier.

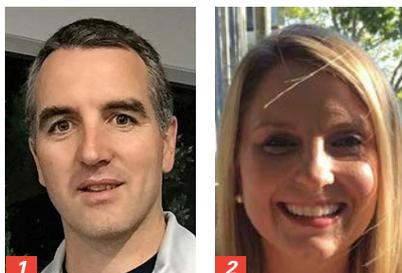
“Now is your opportunity to nominate someone or a company you know who are outstanding at what they do,” event manager Gaylene Newton said.

“CELEBRATING
INDUSTRY
INNOVATION

“With nine all-new award categories, the event is set to celebrate the industry’s innovative, sustainable and environmentally friendly practices within the region,” Ms Newton said.

The nominations process is simple ...visit the Green Triangle Timber Industry Awards website and complete the online form. With new judging criteria delivered in an easy-to-answer format the time to submit a nomination has been reduced and simplified.

Anyone can submit a nomination and support the industry’s outstanding



1/ Adrian Flowers... shining a light on industry’s quiet achievers.

2/ Gaylene Newton... nine all-new award categories.

contributors.

GTTIA chair Adrian Flowers said the committee was excited to launch this year’s nominations.

“These awards shine a light on the quiet achievers of our industry, especially those that continually show up and strive to improve their daily practices.” Mr Flowers said.

“It’s not often that employers and team members are able to publicly acknowledge a colleague for what they do, and these awards give us the perfect platform to do so.”

Mr Flowers encouraged everyone in the industry to get involved and nominate someone or a company they felt deserved recognition and celebration.

The Green Triangle Timber Awards will be held on Friday, October 29, at The Barn in Mount Gambier where category finalists and winners will be celebrated with a gala dinner by industry leaders and colleagues. Nominations close on August 15, so start your submission now, visit www.gttia.com.



Victorian government ‘partnership’ in creating sustainable timber ‘GovHubs’

OVER the past two years, the team at the WoodSolutions Mid-rise Advisory Program (MAP) – a voluntary matching initiative – has worked closely with Development Victoria, their consultants and contractors, to support the design and construction of two new regional government precincts, or ‘GovHubs’.

The recently-completed Ballarat GovHub, and an equivalent now under construction in Bendigo, represent the state government’s ‘new way’ of doing business in regional Victoria, with a focus on enhancing customer service, revitalising CBDs, and delivering economic benefits to the local community.

The vision for the Ballarat GovHub was to provide a state-of-the-art community asset and workplace, supported by sustainable solutions that would decrease running costs, improve environmental outcomes, and enhance the wellbeing of its occupants.

The relationship with MAP commenced at the feasibility stage, and the



2

1/ Jennifer Cunich... a focus on sustainable and flexible workplaces were factors that made the project unique.

2/ Timber the choice... the Ballarat GovHub a catalyst for job creation and economic growth in the city.



1

undertaken by Development Victoria. Its primary structure is a combination of CLT and glue laminated timber, radically reducing its carbon footprint. Once fully occupied, the state-of-the-art space will house up to 1000 Victorian government workers.

team remained on-hand throughout design, tender and construction processes to provide all timber-related information and advice requested, and ensure optimal outcomes from the use of wood.

Since its establishment in 2016, the unique and innovative WoodSolutions voluntary matching program has engaged and educated the Australian construction industry on the benefits of timber, with a view to accelerating the adoption of timber in mid-rise construction.

[A list of program supporters can be found at <https://www.woodsolutions.com.au/mid-rise>]

Initially, Development Victoria explored the possibility of using wood for the Ballarat GovHub by commissioning two designs

TALKING TIMBER

With Eileen Newbury
National Marketing and Communications Manager, FWPA

Lead program development manager at the WoodSolutions Mid-rise Advisory Program Jennifer Cunich said the architectural quality of the building, adoption of timber as a renewable structural framing material, and focus on sustainable and flexible workplaces were all factors that made the project unique.

Due for completion in 2022, the Bendigo building will become Victoria’s third GovHub, and the second to choose timber as its primary construction material.

“The goal of the MAP team is to ensure decision-makers in the design and build sector are fully aware of the many advantages of wood as a construction material, while dispelling timber-related myths and misconceptions,” Jennifer Cunich said.

at the tender stage — one using timber, the other concrete. This approach allowed the market to test the timber alternative. When contractors were appointed, they ultimately opted for the timber design.

The five-storey mass timber building in the City of Ballarat is the first mass engineered timber commercial building



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Stanton Award recognises excellence in forest management and chain of custody

NOMINATIONS are open for this year's coveted Richard Stanton Memorial Award for Excellence in Forest Management or Chain of Custody.

This is the sixth year of the award, sponsored by Responsible Wood, which pays tribute to a man who devoted his life to sustainable forest management in Australia and internationally.

Nominations for the award are open to individuals who have contributed significantly to either forest management or chain-of-custody certification under the Responsible Wood certification program. The award nominees will be those who have contributed to sustainable forest management under AS4708 or chain of custody under AS4707.

The Richard Stanton Award is open to, but not restricted to, forest owners

NOMINATIONS NOW OPEN FOR COVETED PRIZE



Simon Cook... winner of last year's Richard Stanton Award.

and managers; chain-of-custody certificate holders; staff of certification bodies; forest scientists and researchers; and designers of products manufactured from sustainable timber.

The award also carries a \$2000 bursary prize.

Applicants for the award will have demonstrated excellence in the following areas:

- A significant and valuable contribution to sustainability.
- Innovation, improvement or excellence in forest management or chain-of-custody certification.

- A strong commitment to the Responsible Wood certification scheme and sustainable forest management.

- Innovation and improvement in the promotion and marketing of Responsible Wood certified products

The selection of the successful applicant will be made by the Responsible Wood marketing committee and announced at the Responsible Wood annual general meeting later this year.

Nominations for the award close at 5 pm (AEST) on

Friday, October 1.

Nominations can be forwarded to: Responsible Wood, PO Box 786, New Farm, Qld 4005 or email sdorries@responsiblewood.org.au

The award winner last year was Simon Cook, sustainability manager for Forico, who leads a five-member sustainability team. He has worked tirelessly to initiate and drive sustainable forest management activities in the areas of biodiversity, carbon, and cultural values.

The inaugural winner of the award in 2015 was Dr Marie Yee, senior conservation planner at Sustainable Timber Tasmania. Dr Yee helped develop a system of forest management planning which provides a high level of certainty that biodiversity is being managed effectively within the forest at a landscape scale.

Richard Stanton was CEO and national secretary of Australian Forestry Standard Ltd (now Responsible Wood) and had a number of key roles across Australian industry.



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AUSTimber 2021: is this the biggest forest machinery show on the planet?

Shaping as a spectacular ANZAC event over four days at Traralgon

HURRAH, hurrah ... AUSTimber 2021 is now well and truly on the forest industry's agenda for the year.

Absolutely full marks to organiser Dionne Olsen for the persistence she has shown with COVID derailing the event a couple of times. However, her tenacity is about to pay off big time!

In the forest harvesting game it is more than critical to be across the latest trends and innovations in machinery developments, energy efficiency measures, and harvesting technology ... so how to stay informed about what's hot and what's not is a continuing challenge.

As the advertising and advice in enews says AUSTimber will be held in Traralgon, located in the east of the Latrobe Valley in Victoria's Gippsland region, from November 10 to 13.

“THE LATEST TRENDS AND INNOVATIONS IN HARVESTING TECHNOLOGY”

This is one of the forest industry's hallmark events, held just once every four years. It will be the largest forest industry show in



2

1/ **AUSTimber 2021... this is the BIG one.**

2/ **AUSTimber 2021... the wonder of it all.**

the southern hemisphere, if not globally, as much of the world continues to grapple with the impacts of the pandemic.

With restrictions on international travel likely to persist for the rest of the year, AUSTimber will be an ANZAC affair. Nonetheless it will be a spectacular industry showcase with all exhibitors and supporters committed to making the event an outstanding happening.

For more information visit the AUSTimber 2021 website: www.afca.asn.au/www-austimber-org-au.

AUSTimber certainly will be a well-deserved industry celebration and learning experience, including field trips and live demonstrations. In excess of 10,000 participants are expected to attend over the four



1

event. Also, as planned, there will be social and entertaining events to enjoy, including the ever-popular timber sport of wood chopping and the forwarder competition to test your skills.

Perhaps, more than anything else, AUSTimber will be an opportunity after Covid shutdowns to catch up with workmates and colleagues from across the industry and to demonstrate solidarity and

commitment – particularly for the industry in Victoria with the Andrews government still showing little regard for the importance of the industry and the thousands of people who give it energy and life.

TRUNK LINES



With **CHERYL FORREST**

I hope to meet up with some of you over the four days. It will be an exciting and rewarding time to celebrate industry successes.

I see that enews, if I can presume to be one of the family, now have a clear feedback loop. So rather than some anonymous person putting a somewhat impolite notice on the side of my forwarder, you are welcome to express your views. Send me a note via feedback@timberandforestryenews.com. I'm always interested in your thoughts.

Catch you again next month.

Cheryl

days including a large Kiwi component from across the ditch.

Timber&Forestry enews is an AUSTimber 2021 media partner and of course will be strongly represented at the

The MARKET Leader...



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One million seedlings: a critical role

THE BEST nursery in Inverell has received around one million radiata pine seedlings from Forestry Corporation of NSW in preparation for a bumper 2021 state forest planting program.

The nursery, in northern NSW, will manage the seedlings on behalf of Forestry Corporation to acclimatise to local conditions before they continue their journey to the Walcha region for planting.

Forestry Corporation's Grafton nursery manager Kath French said the path from seed to planted seedling relied on the support of countless local businesses such as the BEST Nursery.

"We have now moved our Walcha area seedlings to the nursery for four months of cold hardening prior to



NSW Forestry Corporation staff grade radiata pine seedlings at the BEST nursery at Inverell... Cheryl Simpkins, Brad Hodge, Megg Young, Aileen Wilson and Anna Morris.

planting," Ms French said

"These will be sorted in June, ready for a dispatch of 700,000 seedlings into the Walcha region in July.

"Inverell has the perfect climate for propagation and hardening of native species along with the cold hardening

of radiata pine for northern NSW areas.

The BEST Nursery has two permanent staff committed

“THE PERFECT CLIMATE FOR PROPAGATION”

to care for the pine crop to ensure the healthiest seedlings are available to the grading teams to dispatch.

This third year the nursery has used this operation to harden radiata pine seedlings, allowing supply to site-specific seedlings for the Walcha area.

"As we can't supply cold hardened seedlings from Grafton, the BEST Nursery is the critical link for the Walcha sites," Ms French said.

Seedling production at the Grafton nursery has been boosted for the 2021 planting program after a \$1 million expansion last year.

The expansion was part of the NSW government's stimulus funding and will fast-track efforts to replant timber plantations affected by the 2019-20 Black Summer fires.

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Talented trainees and apprentices are new leaders emerging from workforce

TABMA Australia's dynamo and conference organiser Alicia Oelkers said feedback on the inaugural national event at the Oaks Cypress Lakes Resort in the NSW Hunter Valley from June 16 to 18 had been "overwhelmingly positive."

"In large part I think this was because people were just so pleased to be able to see each other face-to-face after the lockdowns and the Covid pandemic," she said.

"Social activities and TABMA's 80th birthday gala dinner were added highlights".

Alicia said TABMA would consider staging another national conference in a

couple of years. [Timber&Forestry enews last week covered some of the highlights of the conference and TABMA's 80th year].

Speaking on behalf of TABMA apprentices and trainees ahead of award presentations, CEO David

Cont P 17



1/ TABMA CEO David Little and president Peter Hutchison with Gary Walker (centre) at the recognition of Gary's father John Walker, who was founder and managing director of Belmont Timbers. Mr Walker, 91, who passed away in 2014, turned a hardwood crates and pallet business into a flouing timber and hardware and truss and frame operation.



2/ The Hyne Timber team at the TABMA presentations after the Maryborough-based company was recognised at the gala dinner. TABMA CEO David Little is on the right. Hyne has been operating since 1882 and is one of Australia's largest producers of sawn timber products.

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From P 16

Little said everyone was proud to acknowledge this talented new generation coming through the workforce as our future leaders in timber.

“Over the years TABMA has successfully supported a huge number of individuals who started their career in the timber industry through a cadetship, traineeship or apprenticeship,” Mr Little said.

“We cannot underestimate these programs in the longevity of sustaining our industry. Since October, we have placed more than 100 new apprentices and trainees across the country and the quality of these candidates has never been higher.

“A well-deserved congratulations to all our finalists and winners of these awards. Special thanks also to all our host employers who support us in our training and



1/ Bree Hicks of Apprentice Support Australia presents the TABMA Apprentice of the Year Award to Timothy Gillies.



2/ Key participants in the timber supply panel discussion at the TABMA conference were Rina McLaughlin, ADM Global, and moderator and former ABC personality Philippa McDonald.

development endeavours into the future.”

Receiving the award for Trainee of the Year 2021, after recently completing a Certificate III Business in 2020 and now training for a Certificate IV in Business (Procurement), was Rachel Leicht.

Hosted by ForestOne in Melbourne, Rachel was recognised for her dedication

to learning and continued growth over the past year. The judges commented on “Rachel’s determination and resilience which shone through to make her a stand-out for this recognition”.

TABMA’s Apprentice of the Year 2021 was Timothy Gillies who was hosted by Artarmon Joinery, NSW. Timothy has just finished his Certificate III in Joinery and his host

organisation remarked “he is a worthy winner because of his great work ethic, ability to always help others and his reputation as a team player.”

On the cover: Mother and son... Emma Gillies proudly congratulates her son Timothy on his 2021 Apprentice of the Year Award at the TABMA Australia dinner held during the national conference in the NSW Hunter Valley.

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Reflections on the Joseph William Gottstein Memorial Trust Fund which celebrated its 50th year in Canberra on June 22.

Gottstein: career-changing opportunity

I WAS fortunate to be awarded a Gottstein fellowship in 1993. This allowed me to study an industry issue of professional interest which had been brewing in me for a number of years.

It simply involved taking a few weeks to travel throughout Australia and discuss all aspects of the topic with a range of relevant experts. A simple report was then compiled reflecting my discussions and findings. 'Improving the reliability of durability design methods for timber structures' was my chosen topic and surprisingly it remained highly relevant

throughout my timber engineering career.

I travelled to Perth, Melbourne and Sydney in 1993 and met with key engineers and industry experts, many with divergent views who prompted a deeper understanding of the topic.

The Gottstein fellowship proved to be a very effective way to immerse myself into an important industry problem, which I may not have spent as much time on otherwise. The take-away from the study tour was an improved knowledge of industry needs as well as clarity regarding desirable



Geoff Stringer

long term outcomes and how they could be achieved.

I am forever grateful to the Gottstein Trust for supporting my chosen topic in 1993. Although this was a generation ago, the importance of durability performance to the Australian Industry and the broader community, remains very high due to increasing failure risks and the corresponding

consequences in a new generation of timber building structures.

The fellowship also led to my invitation to give a keynote address on the topic at the Pacific Timber Engineering Conference in 1994. The report has also been referenced in the Australian Timber Structures Code since 1997.

Many thanks to the trust for this truly wonderful industry initiative that perpetuates the memory of Bill Gottstein, a great Australian timber scientist.

GEOF STRINGER, University of Queensland, Brisbane.

Scotland study important career trajectory for Julianne

THE Gottstein fellowship was the start of an important career trajectory. In 2003 I was awarded a fellowship to travel to Scotland following the completion of my PhD in the School of Zoology at the University of Tasmania.

This was an exciting opportunity for a recent PhD graduate to take the skills I had gained in understanding natural plant defences against herbivores in a eucalypt/possum system to investigate similar questions in a different system on the other side of the world. The Gottstein fellowship took me to the Macaulay Land Use Research Institute in Scotland (now the James Hutton Institute) to work with Dr Glenn Iason and his team to investigate natural plant chemical defences of Scots pine against native pests.

At the time, this research group was the largest group

of researchers in Europe studying the interactions and consequences of herbivores in heterogeneous landscapes. What do Scots pine and Scottish pests have to do with our Australian systems? The anti-herbivore chemical defences in Scots pine comprise similar compounds to those found in our major temperate plantation trees



Julianne O'Reilly-Wapstra

- the eucalypts and radiata pine. I investigated natural plant resistance in the Scots pine system and returned to Australia to apply new

insights, knowledge, and techniques to our systems.

The Gottstein fellowship set me on an important career trajectory. This research trip laid the foundation for further collaborative research with the Scottish team culminating in multiple papers, an invitation to present a keynote presentation and lead a book chapter for Cambridge University Press. I have continued to develop as a leader in forest industries research in Australia and have fostered a successful 20-year career working closely with many industry partners to address questions in pest browsing research in the eucalypt and pine systems.

JULIANNE O'REILLY-WAPSTRA, Director, Australian Research Council Training Centre for Forest Value, University of Tasmania



Celebrating the J.W. Gottstein Trust's 50th anniversary in Canberra... trustees Brian Farmer and John Simon (former Gottstein chairs), and Carlie Porteous, Visy fibre team member, with expertise in FSC and PEFC certification systems, Suzette Weeding, general manager, conservation and land management at Sustainable Timber Tasmania (current chair), and Cara Pearson, head of legal at OneFortyOne

Mazda 6 rates 10 for stunning good looks

AS I walked through Brisbane's Karawatha Forest Park on a misty early winter morning I startled a bunch of nearby hikers with a sudden outburst from Longfellow's famous song.

"On the shores of Gitche Gumee/O'er the water pointing westward/See the mighty bear in forest..." etc, etc. Or something like that.

I was soon walking alone.

Karawatha introduced Hiawatha into my thoughts. But the 19th century American poet's massive 1648-word-long tribute to the American Red Indian is connected by rhyme only to the 1000-ha nature reserve, one of the largest remnant bushlands in the city.

Anyway, Karawatha originates from an Aboriginal word meaning place with many pine trees. Parked not far from the Karawatha's Poet's Rock, a sandy outcrop above a creek that flows into a lush, lily-filled lagoon, was the new 2021 Mazda 6 GT Sports sedan.

The first-generation Mazda 6 was launched in Japan as the Mazda Atenza in 2002, a re-birth that tracks back to the MX-5 sports that brought renewed credibility to the name and put the ailing



Mazda 6 GT Sports... a good-feeling vehicle and improved refinement into the bargain.

manufacturer (at that time) on a new course with a catchy 'zoom-zoom' theme.

Priced perfectly with its arch-rival Honda Accord at \$34,590 (manufacturer's listing) the 2021 Mazda 6 is no doubt one of the most attractive sedans on the road. And with a gently-curved body, slim grille and sharp and sleek rear end, and, on this occasion, touched with an electric blue blush, it looks like it came out of the same beauty parlour as the \$85,000 2021 Lexus ES.

Low to the ground like its higher-priced contender, it has a surprisingly roomy interior – plenty of head space and ample leg room in both the front and rear seats with

a bundle of amenities. The cabin features new burgundy leather seat upholstery as well as front and rear seat heating which carries through to the side lower centre console where you can stretch the legs on a long journey.

The biggest addition is Mazda's GVC technology, which Mazda claims reduces fatigue and increases stability by altering the amount of torque delivered to each front wheel, resulting in smoother steering inputs and less roll movement

Infotainment is from a 7 in. Mazda Connect touchscreen for all digital media applications with Android Auto and Apple Carplay compatibility controlled by a

push-button rotary dial-control in the centre of the console area.

Entry-level versions feature a 2.5-litre naturally-aspirated four-cylinder petrol developing 140 kW and 252 Nm, driving the front wheels via a six-speed auto. Fuel economy is a worthy 7 L/100 km combined city and highway driving.

The standard safety kit includes dual frontal, side chest and side head (curtain) airbags, as well as autonomous emergency forward and reverse braking; blind-spot monitoring; driver attention alert; intelligent speed assistance lane departure warning; adaptive cruise control with stop/go; rear cross-traffic alert; traffic sign recognition; and tyre pressure monitoring.

Also standard are 17-in. alloy wheels, LED headlights, electric park brake, leather-wrapped steering wheel, dual-zone climate control, distance-keeping cruise control, auto-dimming interior and heated exterior mirrors.

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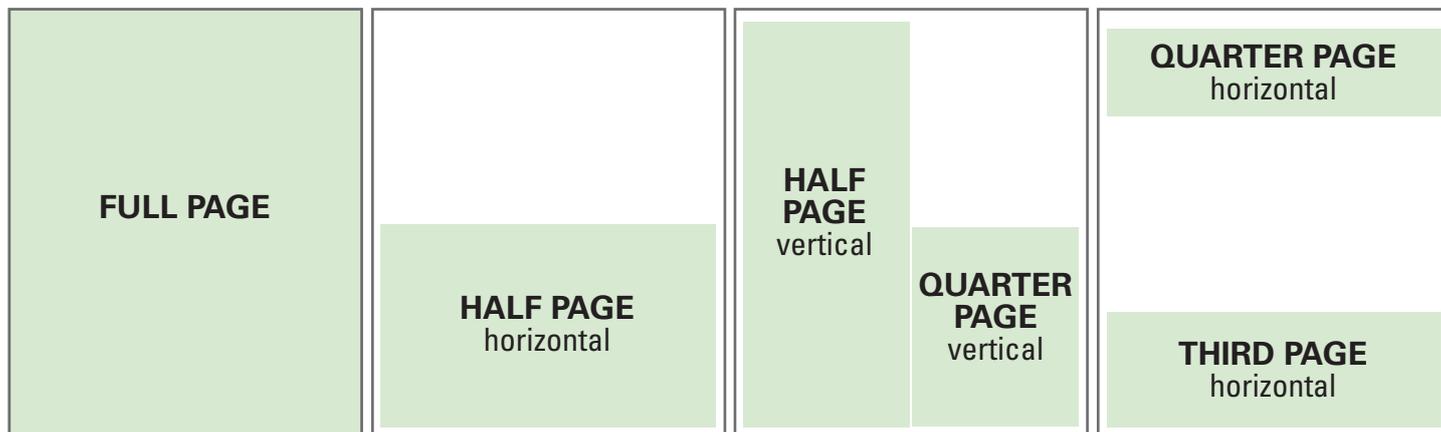
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