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Boral divests interest in timber, sells to Allied Natural Enterprises for \$64.5m

GLOBAL building products group Boral Ltd has entered into an agreement with Allied Natural Wood Enterprises Pty Ltd (Pentarch) to sell its Australian hardwood and softwood timber business for \$64.5 million.

The divestment of the timber business, which is expected to be completed this year, is in line with Boral's strategy of resetting its portfolio of assets and building a stronger core business.

Allied is a wood products export marketing and logistics company concentrating on woodchips and other wood products to the international market, drawing on certified natural and plantation-grown public and private forests.

Director Malcolm McComb said the Eden-based company's plantation development and new wood processing technology were key strategies for the future.



- 1/ Boral's divestment in the timber business is expected to be completed this year
- 2/ Zlatko Todorcevski... a good outcome for ANWE and its customers.
- 3/ Malcolm McComb... new opportunities to develop the business.

"We will be actively exploring these new opportunities to develop our business along the far south coast of New South Wales and throughout eastern Victoria," he said.

The regional forest industry employs about 400 people from Bairnsdale in eastern Victoria to Nowra on the NSW south coast.

ANWE is in partnership

with Australian logistics business Pentarch which has been operating out of Eden for nearly 20 years.

ANWE and Pentarch have secured a significant scale in hardwood processing with

“BORAL IS RESETTING ITS PORTFOLIO OF ASSETS

their Eden sawmill soon to be commissioned. The business will control seven green mills, five in NSW and two in Victoria, four dry mills in NSW and an automated pallet manufacturing operation in Victoria.

When combined with the Burnie and Eden woodchip processing sites, ANWE and Pentarch will process more than one million tonnes of hardwood logs a year.

Boral CEO and managing director Zlatko Todorcevski said the sale to the Pentarch Group, a private company with growing interests in the forest products sector, was a good outcome for this business and its customers.

"Boral has owned and operated the timber business for many decades and I want to take this opportunity to formally recognise the enormous contribution employees and management have made over the years to the wider Boral group," he said.

Boral employs around

Cont P 4



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Long-term investment a ‘must’ for a sustainable industry to meet demand

IF feed-back was a meal, participants in a Queensland strategic forest industry review workshop on Monday enjoyed a banquet.

Response from the workshop run in Maryborough by the South and Central Queensland regional forestry hub “was incredible”, said hub manager Kerry Fullarton.

The workshop was the hub’s first step in engaging industry, bringing together 40 industry leaders. Priorities were identified and tasks allocated to the most suitable organisation.

Discussion centered on the \$775 million industry economic activity within the Wide Bay and Burnett region where wood processing and timber manufacturing accounts for about 70% of 11,760 direct timber industry jobs.

“There was a clear message that the timber industry must improve its advocacy, promotion and marketing – and its awareness and understanding of its contribution to the economy, jobs and career opportunities,” summed up workshop facilitator Scott Rowe, director, Regional Development Australia, Wide Bay and Burnett.

“There are real skills shortages impacting the industry and there needs to be better communication and collaboration with the education and vocational sector to close this gap,” he said.

Mr Rowe said lifting the industry’s profile and projecting career pathways in forestry and wood products



Facilitator Scott Rowe, director, Regional Development Australia, Wide Bay and Burnett, welcomes participants at the South and Central Queensland regional forestry hub workshop in Maryborough this week.

would clear any lack of understanding about the industry’s environmental and sustainability practices.

“Bioenergy is a real opportunity, but there needs to be co-investment in the infrastructure to support it,” he said.

The industry must advocate to government for the identification of land and large-scale opportunities for future timber plantations. There were also ongoing freight and transport issues that would impact the industry’s future viability and ability to compete with imports.

“REAL SKILL SHORTAGES IMPACTING INDUSTRY”

“There remains a lack of research and development around the hardwood industry,” Mr Rowe said.

“There is a great need for long-term investment for industry sustainability and

to meet growing demand [realising] there is a lack of certainty and attraction for investors.”

Mr Rowe said the

agriculture versus tree debate still raged for landowners; there seemed to be a bias from government towards agriculture.

“The timber industry must work hand-in-hand with farmers to better educate them about the resources on their land,” he said.

Hub members attending the workshop included Dave Gover, AKD, Sue Joseph, Bassett Barks Pty Ltd, Curley Tatnell, DTM Timber, Greg Phipps, EcoCottages, Steve Worley, HQPlantations, James Hyne, Hyne Timber (chair), Ross Lakin, Parkside, Mick Stephens, Timber Queensland and Clarissa Brandt, Timber Queensland (observer).

COVID-19 ANNOUNCEMENT: WE WILL GO AHEAD, BOTH LIVE AND VIRTUALLY



1 SEPTEMBER 2021, CANBERRA

**NATIONAL FOREST INDUSTRIES SYMPOSIUM
MORE SPEAKERS ANNOUNCED**



THE HON. JONNO DUNIHAM
Assistant Minister for Forestry
KEYNOTE SPEAKER



AKHIL ABRAHAM
Head of Climate Diplomacy at the British High Commission
UK Forest and Fibre Industries contribution towards Net Zero by 2050.



GINA CASTELAIN
Director, Wik Timber
The journey towards sustainable management of their timber resources.



DEREK NIGHBOR
CEO Forest Products Association of Canada
Working to maintain social licence whilst intersecting with caribou and grizzly bears.



DAVID BRAND
CEO New Forests
How Net Zero climate positions will impact trees growing in Australia.



RIC SINCLAIR
Managing Director of Forest & Wood Products Australia
Converting emissions from ASX Top 50 to commercial forestry.



SANDRA TOSTAR
Lead Biomaterials Scientist for Volvo
Volvo’s race to biomaterials and the track to wood-fibre in our cars.



DENITA WAWN
CEO Master Builders Australia
The vital role of timber for housing.

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‘Jolly Jumper’ demonstrates strength of wood by reinforcing timber beams

OVER the summer of 2020-21 four lucky University of Queensland undergraduate engineering students were selected to complete a summer research program, six weeks of learning supervised by Dr Cristian Maluk, Abdulrahman ‘Abed’ Zaben (ARC Future Timber Hub PhD student) and Dr Henri Bailleres (industry partner at Hyne Timber).

The research project was formulated from the ARC Future Timber Hub project ‘A prototype hybrid Timber-FRP with enhanced fire and serviceability performance’.

UQ student Simeon Gover explains: "Reflecting on my time over the summer, I've come to realise that I learnt more than technical

skills in civil and fire safety engineering. The hands-on experience taught me so much more.

“I learnt about the day-to-day of academic research. I learnt about the struggles associated with self-management when completing a project with no associated curriculum or learning outcomes for guidance.

“A project which is now finished, ‘The ‘Jolly Jumper’



The Jolly Jumper jumpers... Dr Cristian Maluk (left) with University of Queensland undergraduate engineering students Simeon Gover, Fraser Reid, Stewart Matthews, Van Thuan Nguyen, Julia Cepon (standing on The Jolly Jumper), Jason van der Gevel, Abed Zaben, Jack Batsaikhan, and Ho Yin Lam.

The Jolly Jumper is a demonstrative set-up of this which allows for the common user to ‘feel’ the contrast in bending stiffness for a normal laminated timber beam compared to a timber beam manufactured using the new technology.

“Bending stiffness is a key design consideration in the design of floor

rig helps demonstrate the strength granted by reinforcing timber beams in a kinaesthetic manner for users.”

The hub project investigates the use of advanced composites to develop new hybrid timber-advanced composites with enhanced fire and serviceability performance.

timber systems, most times governing the depth and maximum allowable span of timber floors,” Dr Maluk said.

“The user experience when using The Jolly Jumper is actually quite simple – bending stiffness is felt by simply jumping while hanging with one foot on the

Cont P 11

From P 2

17,500 employees and contractors in 650 operating and distribution sites in Australia and North America.

Boral and AKD have a 50-50 joint venture in Highland Pine Products, based at Oberon. Latest figures show HPP processes 600,000 cub m of sawlog a year from about 1.5 million logs, mostly secured

from Forestry Corporation NSW.

The log yard has capacity to hold 12,000 cub m of logs, the equivalent of four full day’s production.

The original Boral sawmill was commissioned in 1941. CSR expanded its operations at Oberon in the NSW central tablelands in 1995 and built a sawmill as part of that development. In 2000, the sawmill was purchased by Carter Holt Harvey along with other sections of the CSR site in Oberon and the same year a joint venture was formed between CHH and Boral.

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A Gentle reminder, Mr Marshall, timber and construction are essential industries

THE 2500 member-strong Carpentry Australia has applauded the efforts of the Frame and Truss Manufacturers Association for its support during the Covid-19 pandemic.

“We would like to acknowledge the fantastic effort by executive officer Kersten Gentle and the team at FTMA during this difficult time,” Carpentry Australia CEO Jake McArthur said.

Last week the South Australian government labelled sawmilling and structural timber as a non-essential industry. This meant the OneFortyOne mill in Mount Gambier and the Timberlink mill in Tarpeena would be closed for seven days, starting July 10.

“The closure of the mills would have been catastrophic for timber supply to carpenters across Australia,” Mr McArthur said.

“For those that don’t understand the enormity of the situation, these mills provide about 30% of Australia’s timber supply and most likely more than 50% of



Kersten Gentle... FTMA action helped overturn the South Australian government's decision to fob off construction as a non-essential industry.

Victoria’s timber supply.”

Mr McArthur said South Australian was the only government that had closed down an essential industry like sawmilling.

“The second this news broke, Kersten Gentle rallied industry experts, timber suppliers, builders and FTMA members to lobby for the immediate reopening of the plants,” he said.

This proactive and immediate response resulted in action by Chris McGowan, CEO, SA Health, and Nick Reade, CEO, Department of Premier and Cabinet, to overturn the Marshall

government decision.

“This was an excellent outcome for our industry,” Mr McArthur said.

“Instead of losing minimally seven days of production, the industry lost only one day of production.

“As an industry support organisation we are always fighting in the background to support carpenters, and in this case all the credit is due to Kersten and her team.”

“ALL CREDIT IS DUE TO KERSTEN AND HER TEAM”

Meanwhile, in Sydney, a roadmap to re-opening home building and renovation sites is an important first step as the city transitions back to full capacity.

“The journey ahead, however, remains extremely difficult for builders, tradies, manufacturers, suppliers and their customers,” says David Bare, HIA’s NSW executive director.

He said yesterday’s announcement that home building could restart in a staged way on sites across Greater Sydney would help thousands of businesses start to plan how they returned to work.

Home building and renovation will be allowed to restart on Saturday subject to restrictions on the number of trades on site and the movement of trades between sites. Greater Sydney is also home to Australia’s major building product manufacturers, supplying core building materials and products to the city, and in many cases, the whole eastern coast.



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2021 GREEN TRIANGLE TIMBER INDUSTRY AWARDS

Nominate and celebrate someone who deserves to be recognised for their contribution to the Timber Industry in 2021. To view the new nominations categories and criteria, visit www.gttia.com

KEY DATES 2021

JUNE 10	Nominations Open
AUGUST 15	Nominations Close
SEPTEMBER	Judging Process
OCTOBER 29	Green Triangle Timber Industry Awards

2021 NOMINATIONS OPEN

JUNE 10-AUG 15



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/grants-courses/understanding-wood-science-course>

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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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

JANUARY 2022

28-29: International Conference

on Forest Resources Accounting and Economics – Australia World Academy of Science, Engineering and Technology, Sydney, Australia. Forest industry accounting, methodological and issues and environmental accounting for forestry. For further information see; <https://waset.org/forest-resources-accounting-and-economics-conference-in-january-2022-in-sydney>

MAY 2022

23-24: International Forest Business Conference – Sheraton Sopot Hotel, Poland. A two-day conference on megatrends that shape responsible forest and wood industry investments for climate action. The conference aims to bring together leading forest management organizations (TIMOs), investors interested in forest assets and carbon offsets (e.g., public and corporate pension funds, wealth managers and private banks, sovereign wealth funds, foundations and endowments) and sustainable wood industry representatives in order to exchange and share experiences and ideas about challenges and opportunities for forest sector as a natural climate solution. The main theme of the conference is New Forest Business Frontiers. Register at www.fba-events.com or contact karolina@forest-analytics.com

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



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GREEN TRIANGLE
TIMBER INDUSTRY AWARDS**

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New paper finds little evidence that timber harvests worsen fires

A NEW paper reviewing the science behind claims that forest management and timber harvesting worsened the 2019-20 bushfires has been welcomed by the association representing some 1000 scientific and professional forest land managers.

The Black Summer fires and the huge efforts of forest management personnel and agencies to limit the impacts to life and property will be etched in Australia's memory.

Unfortunately, in the months immediately after the fire, opportunistic claims were made that the fires were 'made worse' by forest management and timber harvesting.

Institute of Foresters of Australia and Australian Forest Growers president Bob Gordon said the paper found there was very little evidence to support these claims. He called for a more mature discussion of how fire and forests were managed.

"A single factor, like timber harvesting, cannot by itself give rise to the scale of devastating fires," Mr Gordon said.

"Such suggestions mislead the public by oversimplifying the complex task of forest and fire management. Right now, our forests need real



Professor Rodney Keenan... new bushfires review supports forest management and timber harvesting.

and scientific solutions, not simplistic ones."

Mr Gordon said forest and fire management must be viewed and managed at a landscape scale, over long time frames, using expert knowledge of forests and their processes.

"In order to achieve this, and overcome Australia's wicked bushfire problem, we need all forest stakeholders to work together to manage our forests in a planned, strategic and considered manner, guided by comprehensive evidence," he said.

"The IFA/AFG supports and promotes the use of rigorous science as a basis for forest management decisions and is calling for Australia's forests to be managed through active and adaptive land management across all land tenures, using long-term thinking and a range of management techniques informed by the latest science."

Mr Gordon said these approaches needed to be taken to ensure future fires are not repeats of the devastating 2019-20 season.

This paper has been authored by six eminent scientists, led by Professor Rodney Keenan.

“CLAIMS ARE MISLEADING THE PUBLIC

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AXA IM buys 24,000 ha of radiata plantations

INVESTMENT house AXA IM has taken control of 24,000 ha of pine plantations across the Victoria-South Australia border in a \$775 million deal with US fund manager Global Forest Partners.

This is considered the biggest timber transaction in the country for more than a decade.

The acquisition is the first investment in Australian forestry for AXA IM, which manages almost 60,000 ha of plantations across France, Ireland and Finland. The deal illustrates AXA's appetite for sustainability-themed investments as institutional investors worldwide align their portfolios to climate change issues.

"Investing in alternate real estate has been a focus of ours for some time now," says



1/ **Big deal... \$775 million gives AXA IM Green Triangle plantation forests.**
 2/ **Kumar Kalyanakumar... "investing in alternate real estate".**

Kumar Kalyanakumar, who heads the Australian arm of AXA IM

Investing in forestry assets is a key ingredient of the group's sustainable investments.

The estate now under AXA's control is one of the largest in the Green Triangle region,

which includes more than 22,000 ha of managed land with a mixed-age portfolio of radiata forests.

The range of the mixed plantations allows for continuous harvesting and replanting as well as supply of saw logs, ultimately providing a steadier cash flow.

The Green Triangle region encompasses about 350,000 ha of forestry land, including more than half devoted to softwood plantations. Along with the Green Triangle Forest Products estate, the region is dominated by the Future Fund-backed OneFortyOne Plantations and New Forests, an Australian-headquartered global player.

AXA IM edged out these larger players to win the auction for the estate. Hancock Timber Resource Group also showed interest in the asset.

The transaction is the biggest in the timber industry since the South Australian government sold its harvesting rights to state-owned plantations for \$670 million in 2012 to OneFortyOne.

(With extracts from Australian Financial Review)

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Farmer George and the 'Georgics' of growing trees

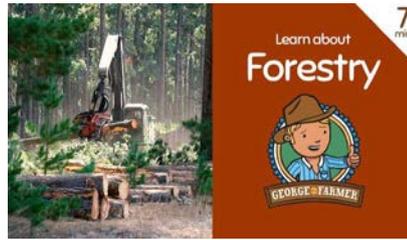
YOUR article 'Wood is good, just ask Farmer George who is teaching children about our sustainable forests' (Timber&Forestry enews July 22) piqued my interest on two counts.

First, the first well-known named Farmer George died 201 years back, and second, the name George is derived from the Greek word *geōrgos* (γεωργός) meaning 'farmer, earthworker'. Readers fortunate to have studied Latin in their youth will similarly recall Vergil's 'The Georgics'

with emphasis on Book 2 covering the growing of trees.

During his long reign (1760-1820) George III acquired his nickname affectionately and ostensibly for his sustained interest in agricultural pursuits as a core component of the wealth of the British nation.

The 'George the Farmer' example of nominative determinism, created by the founders Simone Kain and



Ben Hood, is, we are informed on the home web page, "a fun brand which is making agriculture cool".

George has now branched out into the radiata forests of South Australia and his new interest in trees makes a welcome inclusion to

the children's books and videos in the suite. (www.georgethefarmer.com.au/collections/books)

In exit I cannot pass up the opportunity of quoting a splendid example of nominative determinism to which older Latin scholars in particular can relate. It is a 1977 article on incontinence in the British Journal of Urology, 49 (2): 173-176 by A. J. Splatt and D. Weedon.

Dr GARY BACON AM BSc (Hon), PhD, Brisbane.

From P 4

normal timber beam and the other foot on a timber beam manufactured using the new technology. This happens while the user watches data plots (on a large live display) from the displacement and force sensors on each of the beams."

UQ student Julia Cepen further noted: "The Jolly Jumper provides a tangible demonstration of how carbon fibre reinforcing can improve the structural integrity of timber beams.

"This project excited me from the outset, as I had previously researched

reinforced timber in the context of designing a Green Bridge.

"This project allowed me to deepen my understanding of structural and fire safety engineering, experience the trials and tribulations of academic research, and gain an appreciation for the interconnectedness of the design and fabrication process."

The idea for the tangible rig demonstration came from Dr Maluk. In 2012, while at the University of Edinburgh, he spent a month at Swiss Federal Laboratories for Materials Science and

Technology. Outside EMPA's laboratory, there was the rig based on a similar setup showing the benefits of using advanced composites for external retrofitting of steel structures. Only with this information, the team at UQ carried the required structural engineering calculations, design, and construction of what would become The Jolly Jumper at UQ.

The setup at UQ includes sensors and live digital graphics which allows for the forces acting on the beams and the resulting deformations to be shown live when someone jumps on it.

The UQ students have expressed immense thanks to Dr Cristian Maluk and Abed Zaben as mentors throughout the process and to Stewart Matthews, Jason van der Gevel, Van Thuan Nguyen, and Fraser Reid (staff at UQ's structures lab) for their continuous technical support, and to Dr Henri Bailleres, industry partner at Hyne Timber.

The Jolly Jumper will be unveiled to the public at the UQ Open Day on Sunday, August 1. The public will be able to test the rig and immediately feel the difference in timber beam strength.



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Green Triangle event back on agenda: a great time to celebrate together again

LAST month, I was enthusiastic about the prospect that AUSTimber 2021 would be held in Traralgon, Vic, in November of this year.

So, fingers and everything else crossed that Covid won't derail these plans which were long in the making and delayed last year on two occasions by the pandemic. I said at the time the persistence and complex planning was a testament to the tenacity of AUSTimber organisers.

So, this month I want to highlight another major event now back on the industry's calendar following another Covid-created delay last year. We will be positive ... and hope the pandemic won't interrupt proceedings again.

I think it's fair to say that the Green Triangle Timber Industry Awards have, in the past, been the single largest gathering of industry folk in the country. And they're scheduled for Friday, October 29, again at a great venue The Barn in Mount Gambier, SA.

The event is designed to be an all-inclusive occasion embracing and recognising participants from the entire forest industry supply chain across the region, from

“LARGEST GATHERING OF INDUSTRY FOLK IN THIS COUNTRY”



1/ Green Triangle Awards set for October this year... a chance to celebrate together the forest industry's innovative, sustainable and environmentally-friendly practices in the region.

3/ Adrian Flowers... awards recognise the accomplishment of companies and the people who make the Green Triangle great.

forest owners, contractors harvesting, logistics, sawmilling, manufacturing and support industries. It is a true celebration of the strength of the forest sector in this part of the country and a tribute to industry companies, leaders and workers.

Nominations are now open for the 2021 Green Triangle Timber Industry Awards. This year there are nine new award categories. The event is set to celebrate the industry's innovative, sustainable and environmentally friendly practices in the Green Triangle. The nominations process is simple, just visit the Green Triangle Timber Industry Awards website to complete the online form at www.gttia.com

Nominations close on August 15.

Green Triangle awards



TRUNK LINES



With **CHERYL FORREST**

chairman Adrian Flowers is encouraging everyone in the industry to get involved and nominate someone or a company they feel deserves recognition and celebration.

Categories include:

- Sawmilling and Processing Excellence (individual award).
- Operations – Harvesting

and In-Field Chipping Excellence (individual award).

- Operations – Silviculture and Timber Support Services Excellence (individual award).
- Logistics Excellence – Port Operations, Marshalling and Timber Haulage (individual award).
- Trainee Award (individual award).
- Timber Legend (individual award).
- Environment and Sustainability (individual award).
- Safety Excellence – less than 30 staff members (company award).
- Safety Excellence – more than 30 staff members (company award)

Mr Flowers said companies sponsoring the awards reiterated their importance in bringing the event to fruition.

“Many of our sponsors enthusiastically return each year and show their dedication to elevating the industry both locally and further afield,” he said.

As with AUSTimber 2021, Timber & Forestry enews is a gold sponsor of the Green Triangle Timber Industry Awards and will be on the ground with camera and notebook in hand to record the festivities and award winners that will serve as testimony to the importance of the Green Triangle, one of the greatest and most sustainably productive forest industry regions in Australia.

That's all from me for now. Catch up again next month.

Cheryl

The MARKET Leader...



Komatsu 875 & 895

Komatsu Forest have maintained a very strong market position with their two most popular forwarders being the Komatsu 875 (16 tonne) which really compliments the 895 (20 tonne).

These two current models have been further refined to meet expectations and to cover all the contractors' extraction requirements with the latest developments in these key areas.

- New transmission system for greater traction and control.
- Improved crane performance with a large bunk area.
- Introducing Maxifleet to provide the ultimate service and production tool.
- New electric engine hood and new access panels for much improved serviceability
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The latest Komatsu forwarders have been taken to another level in lifting the overall standards for forwarding which make them the best in their class.

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Capitalising on artificial intelligence as support base for regional forests sector

Joint proposal: informed discussions with growers and timber processors

WORK continues on a collaborative research initiative enabling communities, universities and government to ensure the benefits of artificial intelligence are maximised in Australia's regional areas.

The Smarter Regions Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) works with commercial partners from various sectors including forestry, agtech, mining, retail and IT.

FWPA and the University of the Sunshine Coast (USC) are working on a joint proposal outlining potential areas of focus for forestry, informed by discussions with growers and timber processors.

Optimising knowledge and knowledge transfer across the entire industry supply chain is highlighted in the proposal as a key area of priority, due to its potential to support better decision-making.

Artificial intelligence techniques are also identified as having the potential to uncover nonlinear relationships between the many factors impacting wood

KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER ACROSS THE SUPPLY CHAIN



- 1/ **Artificial intelligence techniques have the potential to uncover nonlinear relationships between the many factors impacting wood quality such as genetics, site conditions, rotations and management activities.**
- 2/ **Professor Mark Brown... opportunity to predict the likelihood of bushfires and implement strategies to minimise their impact.**
- 4/ **Professor Paul Salmon... first-of-its-kind collaboration between experts in human factors, forestry and machinery learning.**

quality such as genetics, site conditions, rotations, management activities and environmental inputs.

The proposal will recommend the Smarter Regions CRC gathers and uses such insights to develop predictive models that will help ensure the implementation of short and long-term management strategies to allow regional Australia to grow the highest quality timber resource



TALKING TIMBER

With Eileen Newbury
National Marketing and Communications Manager, FWPA

possible at a rate that will satisfy future demand.

Currently, the team is awaiting the CRC to officially

open its call for submissions, at which stage the joint FWPA and USC proposal will be put forward for consideration. You can find out more about the Smarter Regions CRC by visiting smarterregionscrc.com.au.

As the researchers await the call for bids from the Smarter Regions CRC, further work in the AI space has been ongoing in the background. This includes testing the application of AI for the purposes of supply-chain

tracking, as part of a separate FWPA-supported USC research project focused on improved information flow.

As part of this work, the team has brought in Swedish technology developed by OTMETKA, a leading company that develops solutions to simply and efficiently digitise large amounts of forestry data to create global timber traceability.

The technology being tested stamps logs with a pattern, which can then be

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An industry services company working to grow the forest and wood products market
Visit us at fwpa.com.au

From P 14

used for information storage.

The same research team has also been awarded a federal government citizen science grant of almost \$500,000. This funding will be used to design and implement a citizen science app for people living in bushfire prone areas, to help predict the likelihood of bushfire events and minimise their devastating effects.

Citizen scientists from around the country, including people who hike, work and camp in forest areas, will therefore be encouraged to use the app to collect vital data in the form of photos and forest fuel samples.

The app, known as NOBURN – or the National



The NOBURN app – or the National Bush Fire Resilience Network – will use data gathered and match it with satellite imagery, before training AI systems to predict the probability, severity and burn area of potential bushfires

Bush Fire Resilience Network – will use the data gathered and match it with satellite imagery, before training AI systems to predict the probability, severity and burn area of potential fires.

“While naturally occurring bushfires cannot be avoided,

there is an opportunity with this project to predict their likelihood and implement

“\$500,000 GRANT FOR FOREST RESEARCH TEAM”

strategies to minimise their impact on the environment, property and life,” says Professor Mark Brown, deputy director of USC’s Forest Research Institute.

The USC team is working in cooperation with AI experts at the Australian Institute for Machine Learning at the University of Adelaide.

Professor Paul Salmon, director of USC’s centre

for human factors and sociotechnical systems says the NOBURN app project will be a highly innovative, first-of-its-kind collaboration between experts in human factors, forestry and machine learning.

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Swamp restoration a cultural experience

ENVIRONMENTAL education and biodiversity improvements at a wetlands habitat reserve in southeast South Australia have been a cultural experience for Year 7 students, led by local First Nations elders.

Mount Burr swamp restoration reserve, about 55 km southwest of Mount Gambier, is the vision of non-profit Nature Glenelg Trust and the Native Vegetation Council. Both have partnered with OneFortyOne on the project.

The trust's senior ecologist Byran Haywood

“CONSISTENCY AND RELIABILITY IN A PERIOD OF UNCERTAINTY”



Students from Tenison Woods College at Mount Gambier plant trees along the trail at the Mount Burr swamp restoration reserve.

says the support of a small grants sustainable forest management program, initiated by Responsible Wood, Australia's largest forest certification scheme, has been welcomed by the trust.

The small grants program supports collaborative

projects that connect communities to their local certified forests.

“The Mount Burr Swamp reserve is embedded within a Responsible Wood certified forest and, with annual support from OneFortyOne, we were successful in obtaining funding to continue

education and biodiversity improvements over the past eight months,” Mr Haywood said.

The project, now completed, commenced in November last year and aims to:

- Facilitate a cultural camp experience for Year 7 students led by local First Nations elders and/or experts.
- Create carvings to display Boandik Creation stories.
- Coordinate contractors to make improvements to the education facility increasing suitability for holding education activities.
- Grow and plant indigenous use and bushfoods along a trail weaving around the creation stories carvings.

Cont P 18

FOREST GROWER LEVY

If you object to the proposed changes to the forest grower levy, this is your opportunity to express your objection. The deadline is the 26th of August.

You can provide your feedback via the three contact options listed

Details of the levy proposal can be found by scanning the QR Code



Australian Forest Products Association
(02) 6285 3833 or
forestgrowerslevy@ausfpa.com.au

Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment
leviestaskforce@awe.gov.au

Assistant Minister Duniam
duniam@aph.gov.au

Australian softwoods sector has risen to challenges of timber demand surge

WoodSolution webinar: the supply chain from a sawmiller's perspective

THE Australian softwood sector has risen to the challenge of the current demand surge, but the pipeline of new home construction work requires ongoing patience.

AKD stresses the importance of proactive and respectful communications throughout the whole supply chain.

This is the first of a two-part summary of AKD's presentation at the recent WoodSolutions seminar with contributions by Christine Briggs, national marketing manager, and Liam Buchanan, general manager sales.

AKD is an integrated forestry and timber processing company processing more than 1 million cub m of sawlog a year from over 9000 ha of radiata pine plantations in Victoria and South Australia.

Taking a long-term focus, Liam Buchanan says the data speaks for itself in terms of AKD's consistency and reliability during this past 12 months of uncertainty. "The key ingredient that really sustains our long-term customer relationships across the cycles is values compatibility between AKD and its partner customers," he said.

“CONSISTENCY AND RELIABILITY IN A PERIOD OF UNCERTAINTY”



AKD team member at Colac... John Stephens works as dry mill day shift supervisor.

It is from this perspective that AKD, with six large-scale sawmills across Victoria, NSW and Queensland,

provides an overview of the current softwood market in Australia.

The domestic softwood

sawmilling sector has total annualised sales of some 3.1 million cub m, with the largest category being indoor structural framing at 48% of total sales.

Sawnwood softwood is currently manufactured into products other than structural framing. The importance of product solutions for the heartwood, an historically lower-value part of the sawlog going into packaging or low grade, accounts for almost 30% of production.

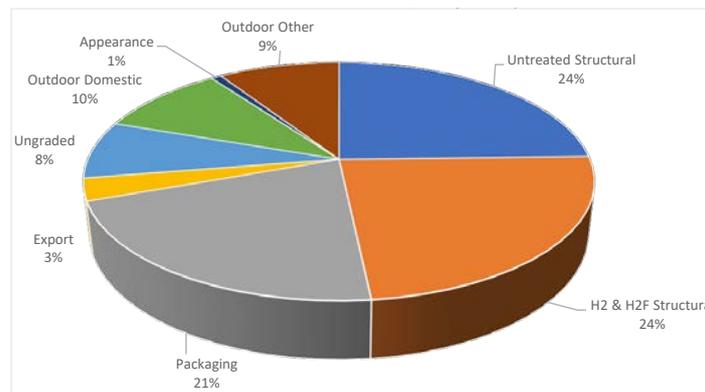
Also, as the pie graph shows, there has only been 3% sold to export markets in lower-value products which are not demanded locally. Most recently, exports are running at about 2%.

"As manufacturers, our focus is not only on the products we make but more importantly a view of where these products are then used and how they form part of a system solution in the built or other equipment manufacturing environment," Ms Briggs said.

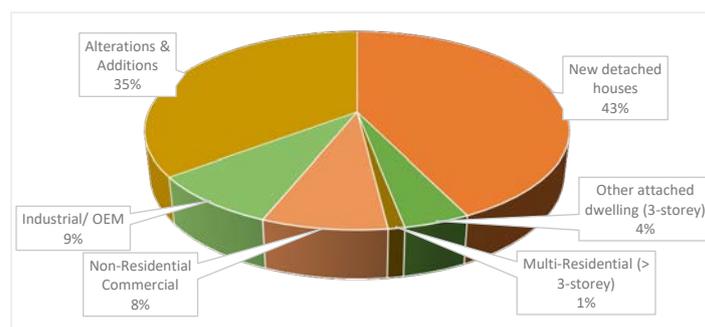
"The majority is used in new dwellings, which are 43% of total softwood products used in Australia, while alterations and additions consume up to 35% of the balance."

Besides being a significant local manufacturing sector the local softwood processing is the major employer within the industry supporting some 45,000 jobs. The estimated

FWPA DOMESTIC SOFTWOOD SALES: MAY '20-APR '21



AUSTRALIAN SOFTWOOD CONSUMPTION BY END-USE MARKET



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economic benefit has been around \$25 billion for the last 12 months.

“AKD believes most Australians have stronger support for locally manufactured products as a result of the pandemic impacts on global supply chains,” Ms Briggs observes.

“But the heat currently is really all about structural pine so how do we understand what’s happening here?”

Ms Briggs says there is a direct link between the new detached home building surge and structural pine demand in Australia currently.

“The industry faced

“DIRECT LINK WITH BUILDING SURGE AND DEMAND FOR STRUCTURAL PINE



Shelli Catterall... an operator working in the treatment plant packaging station at AKD, Colac.

uncertainty mid last year, potentially confronting a drop off in demand. Twelve months later we are grappling with an almost unserviceable level of activity in the short to medium term ... for labour and all building materials, not just timber,” she said.

“It’s obvious when you look at new detached home builds in FY21 compared to FY20 m – up 32%, which our whole construction supply chain is now grappling to deal with

and it’s likely to hold for FY22 too.

“Government stimulus has worked but has created issues for all building material supplies; lead times have increased and labour is in short supply.”

AKD has developed a market demand model to project structural usage. This model shows two years of reduced demand in FY19 and FY20. This annualised demand reduced

by some 340,000 cub m cumulatively over these two years from a peak demand in FY18 of some 2.1 million cub m. This contrasts to FY21 demand which increased 30% on FY20 and AKD believes that demand will be at a similar level in FY22.

Ms Briggs says the cyclical nature of new house demand in Australia is problematic – it creates short-term competitive dynamics that don’t align with the long-term approach of growing trees.

“So, we know demand is the issue and that structural timber is getting negative PR as it is supplied early in the construction phase before other building materials,” she said. “Structural pine is just one of the many products unable to meet increased demand.”

• **Next week: How supply has responded to deal with the demand surge.**

From P 9

- Encourage indigenous and non-Indigenous community members to be involved during camps experiences, trail development and plantings.
- Paint stepping stones with local flora and fauna and/or interpretation of culture by students to line the trail.

“Future camps will further develop displays highlighting the restoration site, First Nations peoples’ values, and significant flora and fauna,” Byron Haywood said.



Carvings depicting Boandik Creation stories carved into the trunks of trees left behind from an ex-pine plantation – artist Matthew Brookes (local Boandik descendant)

Visit www.natureglenelg.org.au

On the cover: Nature Glenelg Trust senior ecologist Byron Haywood with Boandik indigenous people descendants Sarah Wilson and Matthew Brookes after laying stepping stones painted at the Mount Burr swamp restoration reserve during a three-day camp by Year 7 students from Tenison Woods College, Mount Gambier.

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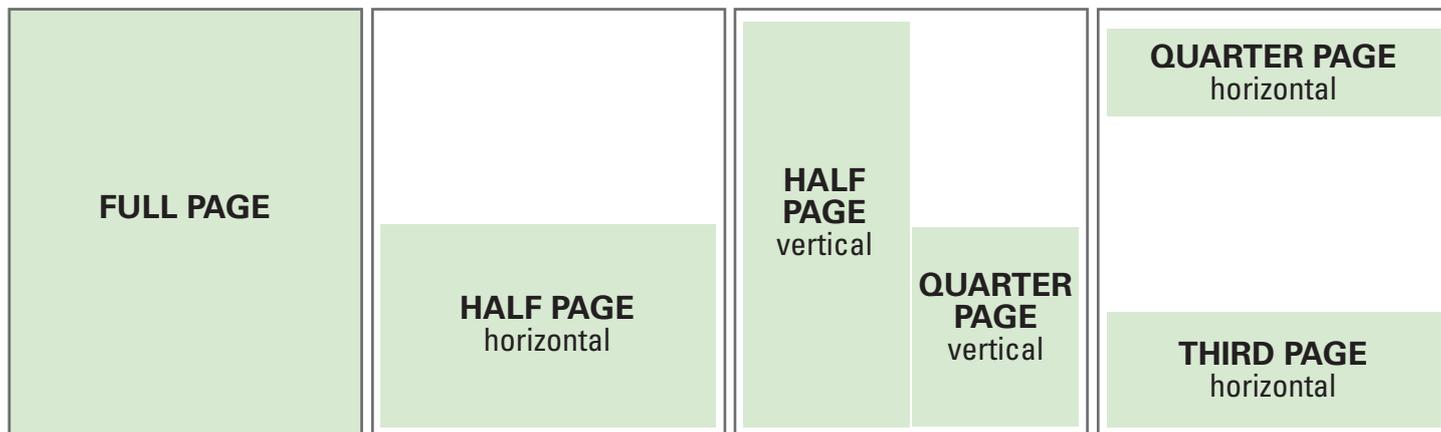
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