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Solving the timber shortage: let's grow our plantation estate

COVER STORY P3



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Littleproud had little to say on one billion trees plan in IPCC response

AFPA is on the front foot promoting the climate mitigation potential of Australia's forest industries after Monday's release of the International Governmental Panel on Climate Change report which warns the world needs to take action now to avert disaster.

"The IPCC report should prompt urgent action on Australia's one billion trees plan," CEO Ross Hampton said.

"Unfortunately, the Prime Minister and Energy Minister failed to mention forestry and timber as a solution during their press conference on Tuesday," Mr Hampton said.

"Furthermore, and disappointingly, Agriculture Minister David Littleproud did not mention forestry or the government's one billion trees plan in his answer to a question on the IPCC report during parliament's question time.

IPCC has previously stated that: "A sustainable forest management strategy aimed at maintaining or increasing forest carbon stocks, while



Scott Morrison forgets to mention his government's one million trees plan at a press conference in Canberra on IPCC's warning on climate change.

producing an annual sustained yield of timber, fibre or energy from the forest, will generate the largest sustained mitigation benefit"

Mr Hampton said Australia's sustainable and renewable forest industries had significantly contributed to reducing CO2 levels but could do a lot more, while also providing more timber for houses, sustainable products to replace plastics and

emissions-intensive building materials, and renewable bioenergy to replace fossil fuels.

"The federal government understands the importance of forest industries and in 2018 committed to a billion more plantation trees over the next decade," he said "This goal is a win-win to meet the demand for timber and wood fibre as well as reducing CO2 levels."

Unfortunately, since that commitment, only 2800 ha of new plantations has been planted.

"The one billion trees goal can be achieved sooner by enabling timber plantations to fully participate in the

Emissions Reduction Fund, and by prioritising the development of a new ERF methodology to incentivise the use of timber and engineered wood products to replace more emissions-intensive building materials in the construction sector," Mr Hampton added.

The Institute of Foresters of Australia and Australian Forest Growers president Bob Gordon said that the IPCC has previously noted that "sustainable forest management aimed at providing timber, fibre, biomass, non-timber resources and other ecosystem functions and services, can lower GHG emissions"

Mr Gordon said as climate change continued to impact our forests and communities, better and more effective year-round land management and wildfire prevention activities were required.

"To do this, we need to ensure we continue to invest in human capital and support those equipped with the

“ PM FAILS TO MENTION FORESTRY AS THE SOLUTION

Cont P 4



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How can we solve the timber shortage?

Trees need land and also policies to get them across the first 10 years when it is all outgoings and no incomings

ROSS HAMPTON

IMAGINE you transported yourself in a time machine to the year 2050 and found a future where the Aussie dream of home ownership has moved out of reach for most Australians. And, it's not just because of property prices.



Under the last 20-year RFA agreements another 3 million ha was added to national parks and zero added back into productive forestry.

In this newfound future, building times and costs have skyrocketed due to a lack of Aussie timber and timber imports which have dried up as the rest of the world fights over a critically short global wood supply.

Sound far-fetched? That is actually the bleak reality Australia could face unless our federal and state governments take immediate action to grow our plantation timber estate.

Right now, we have a supercharged housing construction industry because of very successful (and welcome) government building stimulus initiatives combined with a Covid-induced desire to build or renovate to enhance our 'lock down lives'. Consequently, there has been a massive hike in demand for timber framing and timber imports have slowed dramatically, sucked into even more buoyant overseas markets.

We, like a receding tide revealing the rocks, the coming together of these

things has starkly exposed a failure over the last decade by successive governments to ensure our timber supplies keep up with our needs.

But perhaps this timber 'shortage' could have a silver lining? Finally, we have the attention of politicians at all levels and on all sides. And finally, many members of the public are asking, mostly in shock, 'how can a nation as big as Australia not be supplying enough timber for our homes?'

“COULD TIMBER 'SHORTAGE' HAVE A SILVER LINING?”

In times past, timber supplies were seen as a matter of sovereign capability; just as crucial as food or fuel. It's why, as the available native forestry estate shrunk dramatically in the latter part of last century, politicians scrambled to develop an aggressive growth plan for

million ha of plantations in the ground by 2020. It was called Vision 2020.

But in 2021 the sad truth is that ball was dropped a decade ago. As predicted, the sustainably-managed native estate has kept shrinking. Under the last 20-year RFA agreements another 3 million ha was added to national parks and zero added back into productive forestry. But over on the plantations side of the equation the Vision 2020 growth project spluttered to a stop at 2 million ha; a million hectares short of its target.

Cont P 4

COVID-19 ANNOUNCEMENT:
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Australian Forest Products Association

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NATIONAL FOREST INDUSTRIES SYMPOSIUM



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 tree 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.

AND THE AWARDING OF THE NATIONAL FOREST INDUSTRY AWARDS

BOOK NOW









From P 3

The current federal government is to be applauded for agreeing we need to kick planting back into gear. In 2018 it released a plan for one billion new trees. But here's the sobering thing. The Department of Agriculture, Water and Environment told Senate Estimates recently that only 2800 ha had been planted in the last three years.

But if the timber demand is so evident, you ask, what's the problem?

The uncomfortable fact

“WORLD DEMAND FOR WOOD FIBRE IS EXPECTED TO QUADRUPLE BY YEAR 2050



If we miss the chance to have policies which surge us forward into growth it will be too late and we could bequeath a shameful legacy of timber shortages to our children.

is trees need land and also policies to get them across the first 10 years when it is all outgoings and no incomings. That's the story all over the world.

Consider this: we produce three times as much food as we need as a nation, but we run a trade deficit in timber products of some \$2

billion a year. There is about 368 million ha of agricultural land in this country. Adding another billion trees to the 2 million ha of plantations we have wouldn't even move the dial in terms of percentage of land used by trees.

And if that very modest increase is spread across the eleven regional forestry hubs in key forestry localities around Australia the new trees will be close to processing opportunities and nestled in communities where the growth is welcome.

We are a big friend of imported timber at AFPA; the alternative is steel and concrete for construction.

But if we think that relying on imports to fill an increasingly large gap in our timber needs is a viable option for our children, we are crazy.

World demand for wood fibre is expected to quadruple by 2050. I expect that number to get even larger as the globe pivots aggressively to biomass-based plastic replacements, biofuels and climate-friendly building materials.

It isn't too late to fix this.

The current boom will recede, imports will probably free up somewhat. Things will settle. But if we miss the chance to have policies which surge us forward into growth – and that starts with governments acknowledging out loud that modest land use change will be welcomed – it will be too late and we will bequeath a shameful legacy of timber shortages to our children.

• Ross Hampton is CEO, Australian Forest Products Association.

On the cover: Ross Hampton, chief executive, Australian Forest Products Association, which is celebrating its 10th anniversary this year.

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From P 2

required specialised skill sets and knowledge.

“More investment in forest science and forest managers, and the right policy settings, would enable us to implement the active management approaches required to conserve and restore resilient forests and carbon stocks.”

The IPCC report released in Geneva on Monday provides new estimates of the chances of crossing the global warming level of 1.5°C in the next

decades, and finds that unless there are immediate, rapid and large-scale reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, limiting warming to close to 1.5°C or even 2°C will be beyond reach.

“This report is a reality check,” says the IPCC working group.

“We now have a much clearer picture of the past, present and future climate, which is essential for understanding where we are headed, what can be done, and how we can prepare.”

Australia still active supplying timber and wood panel products for housing

New export sales to India, Korea and Vietnam ... spot trade or ongoing business?

JIM HOUGHTON

AT the time of writing, many parts of Australia are in various stages of lockdown with one big positive: it coincided with the Olympic Games in Tokyo.

Who would have thought a year ago we would develop a first-name relationship with the medical experts and epidemiologists providing the daily briefings on the battle with the virus ... let alone become experts in BMX freestyle and watching our new hero Logan Martin from the Gold Coast win Australia's first gold medal in the event. One only has to look at the BMX track he has built in his backyard to see where all those building materials are going (See Page 6).

So, while Covid and the Olympics understandably

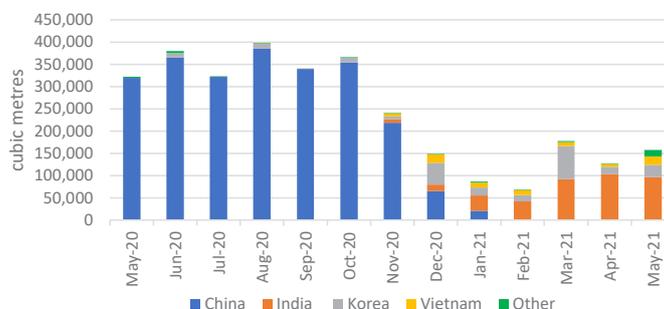
“EXPORT LOGS GENERATED BY SILVICULTURE ACTIVITIES



Logs unloaded at Port of Portland for shipment to ... where?

dominate the news cycle, it surprises that our industry is

CONIFEROUS LOG EXPORTS - COUNTRY OF DESTINATION



Source: HireThinking Pty Ltd, IndustryEdge Pty Ltd, ABS

still very active in supplying fibre to the region and timber and wood panel products for the local housing market.

As recently as October 2020, the softwood export log trade was running at some 300-400,000 cub m a month with China the main destination. However, as can be seen in Graph 1 this trade hit the wall late last year due to trade disruption which has affected a number of Australia's exports to China.

The good news is the trade has evolved with new markets emerging in India, Korea and Vietnam. Also of note in May 2021 was the increase in sales to other countries which stepped up from some 1000 cub m to just under 15,000 cub m the month, mainly the result of new sales with Malaysia and Thailand. It will be interesting to see if this is spot trade or the development of ongoing business.

Cont P 6



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From P 5

The change in markets and the lower volumes has also impacted the ports where logs are passing through for export. Based on the recent trade data for May, a comparison for the period January to May for the past three years highlights the changes in main ports (Graph 2 below).

“HAVE AUSSIE LOST EXPORT SALES BEEN PICKED UP BY NEW ZEALAND?”

The aggregate softwood log sales for January to May 2019 shows strong export activity from Queensland (ports of Brisbane and Gladstone), Victoria (ports of Melbourne and Portland) and NSW (ports of Sydney and TwoFold Bay).

In the equivalent period in 2021 activity is more concentrated with exports mainly shipped from the



World ‘first’ for BMX rider Logan Martin who won gold for Australia in the men’s BMX freestyle at the Tokyo Olympics. Logan trained on a BMX ramp built at his home in the Gold Coast hinterland by mate Jason Watts, another pro-BMX rider who sidelines as a carpenter. The 30 m x 15 m training ramp is a like-for-like replica of Tokyo’s Ariake skate arena and cost \$70,00 to construct, using mostly locally-sourced plywoods.

ports of Melbourne, Portland and TwoFold Bay. It will take time to understand where the displaced export sales end up. Many of these logs were generated from silviculture activities or out of specification logs for domestic processing. So it will be interesting to see if this current trade challenge impacts thinning operations

and/or results in changes in domestic processing.

However, at a macro level, trade with China couldn’t be stronger. Australia’s exports to China reached some \$A145 billion in 2020 which was 2.16% less than the 2019 total of \$A148.4 billion, which was the highest since 1988. The bulk of this has been iron

ore which has seen record prices providing a windfall for Australian mining companies.

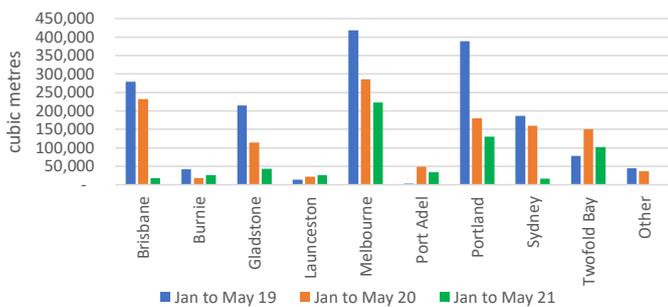
Nevertheless, China continues to purchase record levels of logs ... just not from Australia. New Zealand, which has been a major supplier of softwood logs to China over the past decade, has recovered from Covid-affected trade in 2020 to see solid increases in volume in 2021 (Graph 3 below).

It would be hard to know if Australia’s lost export sales have been picked up by New Zealand other than to observe that New Zealand’s export volumes continue to grow.

However, to put that all in perspective, in terms of trans-Tasman rivalry we can measure, it’s important to note the Matildas, the Kookaburras and the Hockeyroos all got the right result in Tokyo.

• **Jim Houghton is director of HireThinking Pty Ltd. Email: jim@hirethinking.com.au**

CONIFEROUS LOG EXPORTS - PORT OF LOADING



Source: HireThinking Pty Ltd, IndustryEdge Pty Ltd, ABS

CONIFEROUS - CHINA IMPORTS FROM NEW ZEALAND



Source: HireThinking Pty Ltd, GTA

Regions benefit from Sydney and Melbourne exodus

MORE than 60,000 people departed Sydney and Melbourne to other parts of the country in the 12 months to March 2021

New ABS data includes housing finance, building approvals and interstate migration. “The exodus of residents from Melbourne is a trend that has emerged

following the Covid recession with more than 32,000 residents departing in the year to March,” says HIA’s chief economist Tim Reardon.

Sydney lost 31,600 residents to other parts of the country over the same time. However, this is consistent with the trends of

the past 20 years.

“This shift in population is the main driver of the tight rental market that exists across the country, other than in Sydney and Melbourne,” Mr Reardon said.

“Regional areas have seen a greater increase in building approvals than capital cities

as the population shifts toward lower density areas.”

The 220,000 building approvals in 2020-21 is the most in a financial year since 2017-18. Given that the population is moving interstate and building new homes it is unlikely that they intend to return to Sydney or Melbourne.

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

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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Another million seedlings to grow hardwood plantations

SEED collection is now under way to grow another million native seedlings to replant another 1000 ha of hardwood timber plantations in state forests on the NSW north coast next year.

Forestry Corporation's nursery manager Kath French said Grafton Nursery staff were currently collecting seeds from specially selected

trees in preparation for the 2022 planting season.

"We have doubled the capacity of Grafton nursery, allowing us to grow a million eucalypt seedlings this year to replant hardwood timber plantations, and we're now getting ready to plant another million eucalypt seedlings in 2022," Ms French said.

Forestry Corporation hardwood plantation manager Craig Busby said the seedlings would restock plantations that have recently been harvested.

"Unfortunately, many of the hardwood timber plantations we manage were impacted by fires in 2019-20, so we have been working to harvest and replant

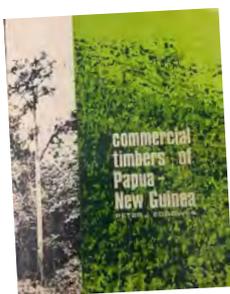
the affected plantations as quickly as possible. We have also increased the amount of timber we have been harvesting from plantations over the past couple of years following the fires while we've been carrying out environmental assessments and monitoring recovery in the native forests that produce timber," Mr Busby said.

Peter Eddowes leaves a wealth of knowledge on PNG forest resource

RENOWNED forester Peter Eddowes has died but a wealth of scientific wood technology researched in Papua New Guinea remains preserved in the valuable reference work he has written.

Mr Eddowes, who passed away on July 18 aged 86, was remembered at a special service in Port Moresby with tributes paid by PNG Prime Minister James Marape, the Minister for Forests Walter Schnaubelt, and Bob Tate, executive officer, PNG Forest Industries Association.

Peter John Eddowes joined TPNG Forests in June 1961 as a forest ranger before moving to TPNG Forests-Forest Products Research Centre Hohola. He became chief wood technologist at the Department of Forests rising to officer in charge of the timber utilisation and marketing section. He authored the book, 'Commercial Timbers of Papua New Guinea'.



In 1981, Mr Eddowes left the PNG Department of Forests, entering private practice in PNG and working with the Forest Industries Council until 1993.

After 1993, he returned to Australia where he was actively involved in private consulting and timber importation activities from PNG.



Peter Eddowes... a wealth of knowledge on wood technology in Papua New Guinea.

For some years, Peter Eddowes has been working on his forthcoming publication titled 'The Forest Resources of Papuasiasia' covering the major and minor commercial timber species of Papua New Guinea and including species from Irian Jaya and the Solomon Islands.

“NEW BOOK ON RESOURCES IN PAPUASIA WILL BE PUBLISHED”

His wife Gabbie advises that his son Matthew is coordinating activities to ensure the book is published.

(Prepared from notes by Richard (Dick) McCarthy, a highly experienced operational forester, with post graduate qualifications in forest management. His many years' experience, especially in Papua New Guinea with the Department of Forests and his knowledge of plantation development is recognised globally).

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HYNE TIMBER

Boxing on – new preservation standard puts all the information into one basket

Australia-NZ 1604 finally hatched after a long gestation period

BEFORE about 1994, to get a new preservative system into the standard you had to convince a number of state and federal authorities and groups that your system would provide the protection promised.

There were all sorts of arguments about whether or not a test method was good enough or that a set of data did or did not prove that a preservative system worked. There was an element of ‘turf wars’ as one of the group may have generated the supporting data.

During this period, researchers from Australia and New Zealand used to meet regularly to compare research and share the fruits of their labours with representatives from the timber protection industry. The group was called the Australasian Wood Preservation Committee or AWPC. These were the days when R&D meant ‘research and development’ and not ‘reduce and destroy’!

The AWPC got together and drafted a set of test protocols, which if followed would generate data that was acceptable to all and produce

“THERE WAS AN ELEMENT OF ‘TURF WARS’”



All the eggs in one basket...a lot of thought and effort has gone into the verification part of AS/NZS 1604.

numbers for the various boxes in the standard. The protocols provide certainty to preservative supply agencies wishing to introduce new products and have been updated over the years and the latest version of the AWPC Protocols is freely available off the TPAA website under the publications tab.

To get a new preservative into the system you don’t have to follow the protocols but it certainly helps.

After an awfully-long gestation period, a new joint Australian and New Zealand wood preservation standard (AS/NZS 1604) was finally published in May this year. It was a long and rocky road.

The numbers in the boxes along with the associated penetration patterns are

JACK’S RANT

With JACK NORTON
Secretary, TPAA

essentially the same as for the old standard so what I hear you ask is the difference?

The old standard had specifications set out in five parts or booklets. Each part or booklet applied to specific commodities such as solid wood, plywood, glued laminated timber etc. The new standard crunches all the

information into one booklet. It saves paper I guess.

A really important addition which now makes up part two of the standard is the specification of a number of different verification requirements. In the olden days, every piece had to pass the specifications in the standard. This new verification part of the standard makes allowance for sampling error or the occasional ‘marginal fail’. Four methodologies are specified for verifying preservative retention.

A lot of thought and effort has gone into the verification part of the standard and more information is available by contacting TPAA.

The third and final part of the new standard sets out the analytical test methods that should be used to determine compliance (or otherwise) with specifications. Part three replaces the old AS/NZS 1605. The reason you need to have specified test methods is because the number in the box in Part 1 depends on the chemical analysis method used. Different analysis methods produce different reproducibility and accuracy results.

So you see ... it all does hang together!

Email Jack Norton at jak.norton@gmail.com



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Australian CLT research presented at world timber engineering conference

WCTE 2021 event in Santiago was the first held in Latin America

AUSTRALIAN speakers contributed significantly on research and science at the four-day virtual World Conference on Timber Engineering which concluded today (Thursday) in Santiago, Chile.

With the framework based on Chile País Forestal – Chile Forestry Country – this was the first WCTE held in Latin America. It was put off last year due to Covid-19 restrictions.

Chile is not only one of the major timber manufacturers in the world with around 15 million ha of forest, it is also a natural laboratory for the exploration of diverse technologies of timber engineering.

The WCTE is the main event for the dissemination of the latest developments, technologies, and innovations in timber construction and design, globally.

From its beginning, the conference attracted a broad international representation



Professor Keith Crews



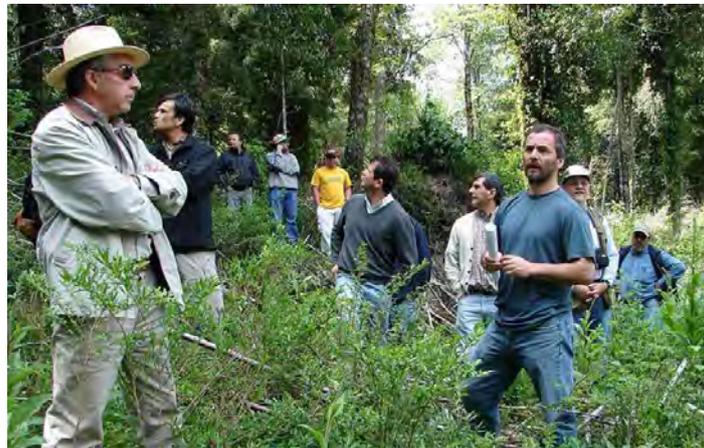
Dr Paola Leardini



Marcus Strang



Mateo Guitierre



Foresters of the Southern University of Chile of San Pablo de Tregua. Chile is one of the world's major timber manufacturers with around 15 million ha of forest.

and participation, aiming to disseminate new findings, generate debate around the most appropriate public

policies that help a green agenda, both for the country and for the region, as well as reaching out to young people,

to generate awareness and encourage and strengthen their investigations and projects on wood.

The novelty of this year's WCTE program was, for the first time, the topic of 'Sustainable Forest for Lumber Production'. The topic dealt with stock management, predictive growth models, planning and product development, forestry products manufacturing, sustainable forest management towards timber production, innovative certified forestry products, and the particularity of native,

Cont P 12



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From P 11

tropical and fast-growth forests.

A number of Australians were involved in the conference, including Professor Keith Crews, honorary professor, School of Civil Engineering, University of Queensland, who serves on the international advisory committee which underpins the WCTE conference series. Australian presenters were South American-born Mateo Guitierre, technical development manager at CLTP in Tasmania, Marcus Strang, UQ PhD candidate, and Dr Paola Leardini, senior lecturer in architecture at UQ.

Dr Leardini and Marcus Strang have designed a



durable multi-storey CLT passive house for hot and humid climates. In their presentation to the conference, the study showed high occupant comfort and energy performance as defined by the PH standard can be achieved in Australian subtropical and tropical climates, and that sufficient drying capacity can avoid moisture risks by adapting mechanical systems and envelope assemblies.

A passive house design considers the climate and site conditions of a house to make it more energy efficient. In Tasmania passive heating and appropriate levels of insulation have drastically reduce winter heating costs.

consider interior insulation solutions with WRB's of Class 2 vapour permeance in conjunction with good storm-water practices during construction and thorough taping of the WRB to limit imperfections.

The transfer of moisture over the CLT adhesive glue-line in hot and humid climates will also be further evaluated.

The Passive House standard was originally developed in Germany and has since spread throughout Europe. In recent years it has been implemented in diverse climatic regions.

To date, more than 40,000 houses, schools, offices and other building types have been built to the PH standard around the world, but only a few in Australia.

The research project aims to verify if and to what extent this standard can be applied in Australia under its specific climatic and socio-economic conditions.

The hygrothermal study evaluated the performance of external and internal insulation solutions, with three off-the-shelf water resistive barriers.

“MECHANICAL SYSTEMS TO AVOID MOISTURE RISKS WITH CLT”

The north and south orientation was simulated with driving rain penetration to represent any imperfections during construction.

Results show how mass timber buildings located in hot and humid climates should

More power to wood in Finland

A MATERIAL found in wood is being trialled as a way to produce sustainable battery power.

Finnish designer Stora Enso has built a new production facility costing \$A16 million that will create renewable bio-based carbon by turning trees into batteries. This will be achieved by the use of a wood-based material called lignin. The plant is based beside the company's Sunila Mill in Kotka, southern Finland, which specialises in biofuels such as tall oil and turpentine.

The company is responsible



Wood providing hard carbon on a commercial scale.

for developing a number of wood and biomaterial-based solutions for everyday problems that require eco-friendly solutions.

Lignin-based carbon could go on to be used to power everything from consumer electronics to automotive systems.

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Entries open for AFCA's Hall of Fame

NOMINATIONS are open for the Australian Forest Contractors Association's Hall of Fame, which recognises and celebrates the important contribution those in industry have made over a long period of time.

Three award categories – to be announced at a special dinner later this year – are invited:

- Industry Icon: A Hall of Fame life member can be elevated to Industry Icon level, which acknowledges additional outstanding contributions and achievements. The primary nominator must be a Hall of Fame member and there must also be a second nominator.

- Hall of Fame: Nominated for admittance to the Hall of Fame Life Members Roll. Harvesting and/or haulage contractors must have been working in the industry for at least 25 years as a principal/director. There must be at



Stacey Gardiner, general manager, AFCA, with previous Icon Award winners Karen Hall, forest contractor, Scottsdale, Tas, and Aden Taylor, general manager, GMT Logging, Imbil, Qld.

least two clear examples of their contribution to industry and there must be a nominator and a seconder.

- Recognition of service to industry: A Service to Industry nomination is awarded to those who have worked within the industry for at least 20 years, have supported forestry contracting businesses and have contributed to the

ongoing success and progress of the industry. There must be at least two clear examples of their contribution to industry and there must be a nominator and a seconder.

To nominate a member of industry for an award, download the nomination form from www.afca.asn.au/static/uploads/files/hof-nomination

Hall of Fame dinner inquiries should be directed to office@afca.asn.au

In further AFCA news, expressions of interest are invited for the pilot ForestFit Certification program. The pilot will be used to test the standards and criteria with a diversity of forest contracting businesses prior to the national roll out. The pilot will also test the processes and the digital technology developed to support the certification.

Feedback and input will influence the final certification framework, processes and criteria.

Forest contractors will have the opportunity to be one of the first ForestFit certified businesses in the country, highlighting their commitment to work health and safety, environmental practices and business sustainability.

Most European softwood lumber taken by US, Asia

THE outlook for lumber demand is likely to be strong worldwide in the coming decade in most world regions, including North America and Asia.

Supply from Russia will be curtailed as fires rage across forests in the Chelyabinsk region and Yakutia province that have spread across 14,000 ha caused by the worst heat wave the country has endured in a millennia.

Few countries in the world can significantly expand lumber exports, and Europe will play an increasingly important role as a wood supplier in the future.

Tighter lumber markets will impact not just the sawmilling industry, but also forest

owners, pulp companies, wood panel manufacturers, and pellet producers.

The latest Focus Report: Global Lumber Markets – The Growing Role of European Lumber – from Wood Resources International examines the forces driving the tightness of global lumber markets, including the demand outlook in the US and China and the supply potential from Europe, Russia, and other regions. It also analyzes the possible implications of near-term changes in the lumber markets for all players in the value chain.

The US is the world's largest lumber market and is dependent on imports which have consistently



Hundreds of firefighters, volunteers and emergencies ministry personnel are tackling the fires on the ground across Russia.

accounted for about 30% of consumption over the past 10 years. There is expected to be continued demand growth long-term, driven mainly by new house construction and solid consumption of wood products in the repair and remodeling sector.

US imports from Canada have fallen over the last five years, a gap filled mainly by European timber.

Asia remains a rapidly growing market for softwood timber, with China in particular driving growth. Countries in the rest of Asia

(India, Vietnam, Australia and southeast Asia) are likely to grow from low levels, while importation of lumber to Japan trends downward.

European sawmills, already the source of almost half of global exports, will become even more important.



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



Vickie pulls rug from under \$40m port plan

‘Difficult decision’ will have a long-term impact on local timber industry

SOUTH Australia’s Planning Minister Vickie Chapman has rejected plans by Kangaroo Island Plantation Timber to build a \$40 million port at the island’s Smith Bay.

This is despite her department recommending that the project, which has longstanding ‘major development’ status, could be approved.

Ms Chapman announced this week that she had vetoed the project due to the potential for long-term environmental damage, impact on local businesses and the island’s character.

She said her decision came after a State Planning Commission’s Assessment Report found the application to be “finely balanced”.

“This was a difficult decision and one I have not made lightly,” Ms Chapman said.

“The assessment report was line-ball,” she said. “However, I have come to the conclusion that the possible long-term and irreparable damage the wharf could cause to the island is a risk I am not willing to take.”

The publicly-listed timber company’s port proposal at Smith Bay was first declared a development of major environmental, social and economic importance in February 2017.

Ms Chapman said she was aware her decision would have an impact on the local timber industry.



Vickie Chapman... finding a way to get timber burnt in bushfires in early 2020 off the island.

“However, I am not satisfied that the impacts identified can be monitored, managed or mitigated to a degree that would warrant development approval,” she said.

The minister said she

would continue to search for a sustainable solution for the industry on Kangaroo Island and to also find a way to get timber burnt in the major bushfires in early 2020 off the island.

KIPT has about 14,200 ha of plantations, about 80% hardwood (blue gum) and 20% softwood pine, which is used to produce structural timber. This represents close to 10% of the state’s plantations.

About 95% of it was damaged in the Kangaroo Island fires that began on December 20, 2019, and burnt 210,000 ha – almost half of the island – across a 612-km perimeter before being declared contained on January 21 last year.

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A Genesis of a good idea in pure luxury

“SPEAK into that shoe box,” said Ted Gay, Queensland’s first television news editor who had joined Channel 9 the state’s first television station when it opened 62 years ago this month.

The 17-year-old cadet cleared his throat, hesitated, then announced “Good morning Queenslanders ...” into the faux microphone as a hand-held celluloid camera captured the event.

Ted, a wise-cracking cigar-chopping Cockney and former Fleet Street journalist, had invited the young reporter to the top of Brisbane’s Mount Coot-tha to test for a job as a TV news reporter and announcer.

Not game to tell his crusty but much-loved editor at Country Life that he was contemplating a career in television he stayed with the paper to continue writing about cattle, sheep and wheat.

This trip in 1959 to Mount Coot-tha, a spectacular 1600-ha eucalypt forest reserve above the city, had been in a £350 1955 English Standard Eight. On a day this week we arrived at the Summit café in Hyundai’s luxury



Genesis GV80 ... throws down the gauntlet to other large premium SUVs.

\$103,800 Genesis GV80 3.0D which has truly thrown down the gauntlet to other large premium SUVs.

The Genesis GV80 is offered in four variants, with three powertrains, rear-wheel drive and all-wheel drive, five or seven seats, and an optional luxury package. It is following stealthily in the tyre treads of the Lexus.

The 3-litre turbo-charged six-cylinder 3.0D diesel engine produces 204 kW and 588 Nm, paired with an eight-speed automatic and all-wheel drive and uses 8.8 L/100 km on the official combined cycle with power from rest to 100 km/h in 6.8 seconds.

The highly rigid body

structure cocoons occupants with the safety of 10 airbags, including a pioneering centre side airbag, which prevents or reduces injuries caused by head clashes between front occupants in the event of a side collision.

The safety control system uses a windshield-mounted camera to monitor positioning within the lane, as well as radar sensors on either side of the rear bumper to detect vehicles next to and diagonally behind.

All of this is finished off with heated and cooling

“ WINDSHIELD CAMERA MONITORS POSITIONING

seats, a heated steering wheel and a Lexicon premium audio program with 21 speakers in 17 locations that in quiet mode plays music in the front seats only. There’s support, too, for Apple CarPlay and Android Auto. Gears are managed through a glass dial selector, and there’s an automatic handbrake. Self-closing doors round out some of the stand-out technology.

The GV80 features

12-way driver and front passenger seats with a four-way lumbar support function and driver position memory system.

A dual-panel panorama glass sunroof features a power-operated tilt and slide front panel for open-air driving, along with a powered sun-shade.

Convicts following cattle tracks built the first road up to Mount Coot-tha. Later loggers floated timber down the river from the western side of Taylor’s Range to sawmills in Brisbane.

We turned the Genesis around and back-tracked to the city. I still wonder if a turn to television would have been a better career option.

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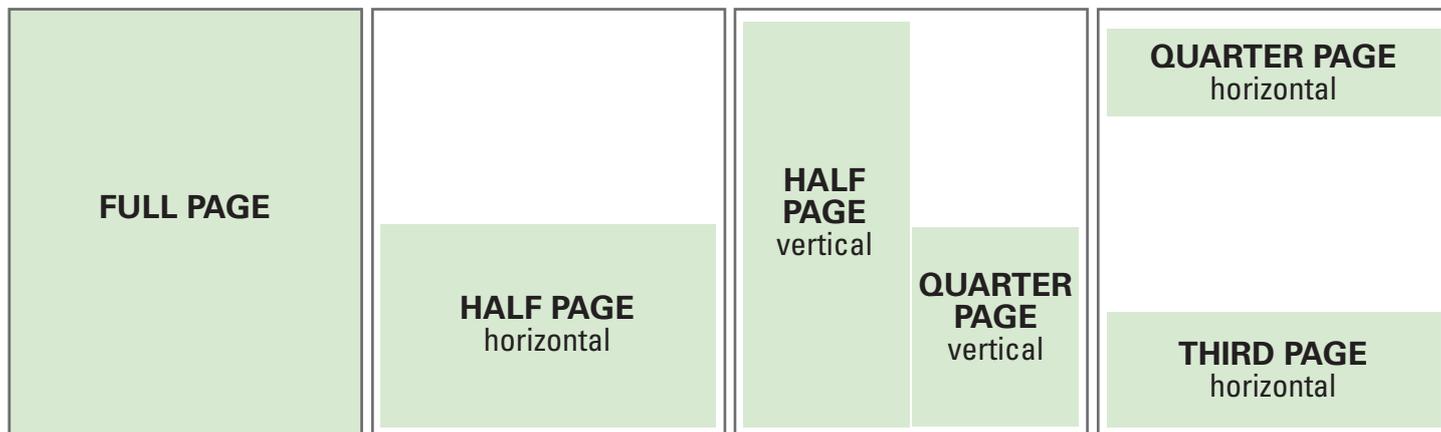
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