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In the flower of youth: Hayley emerges leader of year in forest awards

COVER STORY P15



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Ric Sinclair steps down and steps up to a new direction in his industrious career

AFTER more than 13 years as the managing director of Forest and Wood Products Australia, Ric Sinclair has decided the time is right to hand over to the next leader of the company and he has formally tendered his resignation to the board.

“We are proud of the achievements of the FWPA team under Ric’s leadership over the last 13 years and although these are challenging times, we have continued to deliver an enormous amount of great work despite Covid, lock downs, devastating fires and significant market fluctuations,” FWPA chair Craig Taylor said.



Ric Sinclair... “it’s time to think about the next stage of my life”.

“Ric leaves the company in a strong position following the

recent independent review that strongly endorsed our performance, the signing of a new 10-year funding agreement with the federal government and the development of a new strategic plan,” Mr Taylor said.

“Ric has committed to the board to ensure a smooth transition to his replacement during his notice period.

“On behalf of the board I

wish Ric all the best in the next stage of his career.”

Ric said this morning: “This is my decision and it is time to think about the next stage of my life.”

Ric’s remarkable career embraced many top and influential positions in all sectors of the industry, including being a trustee of the J.W. Gottstein Memorial Fund – industry education being close to his heart.

Ric came to FWPA with a Master’s degree in Business Administration from the University of British Columbia, and a BSc (Forestry) from the Australian National University.

Anger continues on ACT building lock down

THE housing industry has expressed both disappointment and anger on behalf of the thousands of small businesses in the ACT building and construction industry that will be impacted by the decision to delay reopening of residential building sites, while allowing large sites including

government projects to reopen next week.

“The last two weeks has been very challenging for the industry,” HIA executive director ACT-southern NSW Greg Weller said.

“Builders and trade people working from home is not an option, and when the industry

is not working, people are not getting paid,” Mr Weller said.

“Not only has this taken a toll on builders and tradespeople, there are many Canberrians waiting to get into their new homes that are now under financial stress, or feeling pressure to move out of their existing

accommodation.”

HIA says it incredibly disappointing that the ACT government has given a blessing to large civil and commercial sites to reopen from next week, but has left the small businesses in housing out in the cold.

Cont P 16



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‘Australia doesn’t have a timber supply problem – it’s more a demand problem’

Housing approvals are in the middle of biggest boom in history

AUSTRALIA’S dwelling approvals boom is crazy... and it’s in the middle of a boom that is among the largest ever recorded.

“For houses and townhouses at least, this is the biggest boom in history,” says Tim Woods, managing director of professional business analyst IndustryEdge in a housing industry briefing for the Frame and Truss Manufacturers Association of Australia.

Mr Woods says approvals for houses and townhouses have never been higher than over the last year and are more-or-less exactly at the long-term average for all dwelling approvals.

As the pandemic has progressed, dwelling approvals have continued to grow much faster than normal rates, adding more and more work to the enormous pipeline. Perhaps most important, the additional dwelling approvals are massively skewed towards houses, ahead of all other housing formats.

“We all know it is houses where the most timber is used.” Tim Woods says.

“IT WILL TAKE AT LEAST ONE YEAR FOR THE PIPELINE TO ‘BUILD OUT’”



build that pipeline.

“Our view is that the pipeline will take at least one year to build out, assuming everything goes back to normal on the demand side and the supply side

1/ Queensland’s Sunshine Coast is shaping as the busiest hub for housing development in Australia following record building approvals this year. The local council has given the nod to \$1.9 billion worth of commercial and residential works around Caloundra South, Baringa and the new CBD at Maroochydore. Confidence in the building and construction industry had remained high through the Covid pandemic with around 18,500 development applications lodged, ranging from renovations to extensions, subdivision and more.

2 Tim Woods... “if you are overly reliant upon imports, there will come a point where you are going to be short on supply”.

continues to build flat out.” Mr Woods said.

Cont P 4

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Minister sticking to billion trees goal yet to take root 3 years after target set

In 2050 we will have quadrupled demand for timber resources: senator

DESPITE the slow progress, the federal government maintains the billion-tree goal is achievable this decade.

"We have to be reasonable about this," the Assistant Minister for Forestry Jonno Duniam told ABC Country Hour this week.

"I want to stick to that goal, and I think the respective state forestry ministers also want to stick to the goal," he said.



Senator Jonno Duniam talks up the billion tree program with journalists. Photo ABC News: Luke Bowden

When asked about the plan's progress in parliament, Agriculture Minister David Littleproud said "the reality was that that whole program was displaced because of the Black Summer events. It's as

simple as that."

However, the stagnation in new plantation land came well before the 2019-20 bushfires destroyed 130,000 ha of commercial plantations.

"ABARES is on the verge of updating those numbers and there are a number of things to take into account," Senator Duniam said.

"Since [the Black Summer fires] NSW has planted 4000 ha; some of that is replacement, some is new.

"There are plans for a further 7000 ha."

To reach the billion-tree milestone, around 1 million ha will be needed.

Historically, much of Australia's plantation timber has been grown on state- and territory-owned land.

"The big disadvantage [the

Cont P 8

“AROUND A MILLION HA WILL BE NEEDED”



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From P 3

"In reality, with building industry lock-downs, supply chain disruptions and so on, we can expect the pipeline will take until at least the end of 2022 to be built out."

For that to occur, there must be sufficient timber available. Mr Woods says the data shows Australian consumption is closing in on record levels, with reported local production at 3.116 million cub m in 2020, just below the 3.138 million cub m recorded in 2016. At the same time, international conditions have resulted in far lower imports than in previous years.

"At its simplest, if you are overly reliant upon imports, there will come a point where you are going to be short on supply, especially when demand ramps up so

quickly," he said.

"But while housing demand is the problem now, lack of it will be a problem soon enough."

In its briefing for the FTMA, IndustryEdge advised it expects the following factors, after about mid-2022, to result in a sharp reduction in approvals and building activity:

- Pent up demand will have been met (everyone who wants and can afford a house has one).
- Zero net overseas migration (means the population will be lower).
- Less new households will be formed (less new demand).
- No fiscal stimulus for housing (we can't afford it).
- Likely higher interest rates (dampening demand unless there is an unlikely wage explosion).

Timber industry says formaldehyde proposal will cost jobs in Queensland

TIMBER industry leaders in Queensland and across Australia are calling on Safe Work Australia (SWA) to change its proposal to drastically cut acceptable workplace exposure levels to formaldehyde, a component in commonly used wood glues, to the most stringent levels in the world.

“It will cost jobs and lead to the market being flooded with imported, unregulated products instead,” says Laminex operations manager Scott Beckett.

Safe Work Australia has proposed drastically slashing Australia’s existing workplace exposure level for formaldehyde – a move which would enforce the “most stringent limits in the world”.

Formaldehyde-based glues are used in pressed and combined timber products worldwide and the current workplace exposure limit in Australia is 1 part per million (ppm) time weighted average (TWA).

Safe Work Australia has proposed this be cut to 0.1 ppm, a 10-fold decrease.



Timber Queensland CEO Mick Stephens says SWA has “doggedly” tried to push through a “ridiculously” low proposed exposure level.

Mr Beckett said Laminex would have to take a close look at the costs and overall viability of running its Gympie plant under SWA’s very low proposal.

Laminex would have to outlay a significant amount to bring the factory, taken over from Carter Holt Harvey in 2019 and a reliant on older technology, to try to achieve very low levels.

Mr Beckett said there was “no way we’re not committed to provide better,

safe workplaces for staff” but the SWA proposal is unachievable.

“Making such a drastic cut would create a supply gap in the country’s timber market too,” Mr Beckett said. “This would be filled by wood imported from countries such as China where formaldehyde exposure was unregulated.”

He supported a counter proposal by the Engineered Wood Products Association of Australasia to cut the level

“DRASTIC CUT WOULD CREATE SUPPLY GAP IN TIMBER MARKET”



1/ Scott Beckett... fears for a flood of imported, unregulated products.
2/ Mick Stephens... regulator trying to push ridiculously low exposure level.

to a low but achievable 0.5 ppm and implement the change over three years.

EWPPAA’s counter proposal says this would put Australia on a par with other world leading regulated countries. It said Sweden and Austria’s levels were set at 0.3 ppm, and France was 0.5 ppm. In comparison, the US level was 0.75 ppm, UK was 2 ppm, and China, Thailand and Malaysia had no limit at all.

Hyne Timber, which opened a new laminate factory at Maryborough in 2020, said it had “serious concerns” over the proposed cut and joined the chorus of calls for it to be reconsidered.

A Safe Work Australia spokeswoman said the proposal was still with SWA members for consideration.

“No decision has been made,” she said.



Ballarat Region Treegrowers, a recipient of the 2020 Responsible Wood Small Grants Program.

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Grants awarded for community projects

PROJECT funding up to \$15,000 is available to local community groups across Australia that 'connect' to forests certified by Responsible Wood.

In its second year, the grants program supports collaborative community-based forest projects, providing between \$2000 and \$15,000 for individual projects.

Community groups will need to apply for grants before November 1 and, if successful, projects must be completed by the end of May 2022.

Applications will be assessed by an independent panel of judges with an announcement at the end of November.

Experienced forester and Responsible Wood external



1/ Kevin Harding, president, Australian Forest Growers, David Fiske, Central Victorian Farm Plantations, and Gib Wettenhall, secretary, Ballarat Region Treegrowers, at the launch in March of the 21st century drop slab hut in the ImLaL bio-rich plantation at Ballarat, Vic – the first project completed under Responsible Wood's community small grants initiative.

2/ Megan Graham ... applications from across Australia.

relations manager Megan Graham will administer the successful grants.

"The Responsible Wood Small Grants Program is a good opportunity for community groups to obtain support to undertake small-scale projects," Megan said.

"We are excited to see what ideas will be proposed, which could, as an example, be applications for a Men's Shed, creation or restoration of a picnic or bush walking

area or a bike club," she said.

"Local Landcare groups could also apply for a grant to improve forest connectivity."

Reflecting on the 2020-21 program, Megan added: "We were overwhelmed by the number, quality, and creativity

“EXCITED TO SEE WHAT IDEAS WILL BE PROPOSED”

of applications from across Australia."

Applications will only be accepted from local community groups, not-for-profit organisations, registered charities or schools or education institutions.

Responsible Wood has set up a dedicated community grants web page and encourages all interested groups to direct inquiries to communitygrants@responsiblewood.org.au

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Timber Trade Industrial Association



SEPTEMBER

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

15: Materials and Embodied Carbon Leaders Alliance event. – ONLINE EVENT. Working group chaira report on progress to achieve agreed objectives, outputs and the next steps. Speakers: Steve Mitchell, principal consultant, Thinkstep-ANZ, Caryn Streeter, architect with Kirk Studio in Brisbane, and Jeremy Mansfield OAM, sustainability manager (Queensland and

NT) with Lendlease. Two-part session 1 pm - 3.30 pm Registration at https://utsmeet.zoom.us/join/zoom/register/tZlkfuqtqD8qHtzf13lwMq_IIZDTS0sTC4_9 Contact Monica Richter, senior manager, Low Carbon Futures. For further details contact mecla@wwf.org.au

TBA: 22nd Australian Timber Design Award. Entries now closed. More than 90 submissions this year. Judging of People's Choice Awards starts late September. Last year was a virtual event. Traditional awards dinner will be held if Covid restrictions allow. More details and venue to be announced. Contact info@tdansw.asn.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

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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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/>

27-28: LIGNA Innovation conference – ONLINE EVENT – Hannover, Germany. Streamed live from Hannover Exhibition Centre from 9 am to 6 pm on both days. Registrations for digital participation now open: www.ligna.de/en/for-visitors/tickets/index-2

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

OCTOBER-NOVEMBER

31/10-12/11: 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties – Glasgow, UK. The COP26 summit will bring parties together to accelerate action towards the goals of the Paris Agreement and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. The UK is committed to working with all countries and joining forces with civil society, companies and people on the frontline of climate change to inspire climate action ahead of COP26.

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

From P 4

commonwealth has] is we don't manage a single hectare of the land," Senator Duniam said.

State-owned land allocated to timber plantations has steadily decreased over the years.

"The land is being converted to other uses – it might be residential development, it might be lost through fire, it might be competing land uses," said Melissa Haslam, executive director of the Forestry Industry Federation of WA.

To compensate for its loss and for new plantations, Ms Haslam said "we're either talking about low-yielding agricultural land or we're talking about more crown land"

Securing private agricultural land for long-rotation plantations is the basis

of the commonwealth's plan, although it has yet to announce incentives for farmers to invest.

"The clean energy regulator is reviewing [the funding] plantation foresters can access to account for the carbon they sequester with new trees," Senator Duniam said.

"I'm hopeful this will make it more attractive for them."

Wilderness Society policy manager Tim Beshara is sceptical any further Crown land will be allocated to sustainable plantations.

"There hasn't been a track record of plantation rollouts that haven't had enormous subsidies," he said.

Without a consistent supply of logs, sawmills will be forced to close and risk losing their skilled workforce.

"Western Australia used to have an estate of about



Melissa Haslam... "we're either talking about low-yielding agricultural land or we're talking about more crown land".

90,000 ha [and is] on track to hit about 45,000 ha in the next 10 years," Ms Haslam said.

"If that happens, we will see a collapse of domestic processing."

Other states have similar problems, exacerbated this year by inconsistent supply of timber to mills.

Because structural timber takes decades to grow,

planting in the short term is essential to ensure an adequate supply in decades to come.

"In 2050, we will have quadrupled demand for timber resources," Senator Duniam said.

"If we want to transition from plastics, we need something to transition to, and that's going to be paper and cardboard products," Ms Haslam said.

Tim Beshara agreed that wood products played a role in sustainability, but did not believe current plantations were being used to their maximum environmental benefit.

"[Australia] hasn't been very good at plantations historically," he said.

"The sector needs to establish its environmental credentials — all land care changes have an impact."

Quality assurance of radiata pedigree for more productive plantation forests

SINCE the early 1980s, Tree Breeding Australia has managed our national tree breeding improvement programs, collecting and analysing data and supplying genetic evaluation services, tools and systems to the forestry industry.

The goal is to enable the industry to maximise genetic gains by helping to accurately determine which trees are best suited for growing under different conditions. This will ultimately increase the profitability of plantations, while also promoting ongoing improvements to the Australian radiata pine resource.

While the genotype (or genetic make-up) of a tree is inherited from its parents, its phenotype (or observable characteristics) can be influenced by external environmental factors.

To support smart grower decision making, TBA uses TREEPLAN – a leading analytical system for genetic evaluation. This software has been built and enhanced by TBA over many years.

Until now, the tool has been used to combine tree

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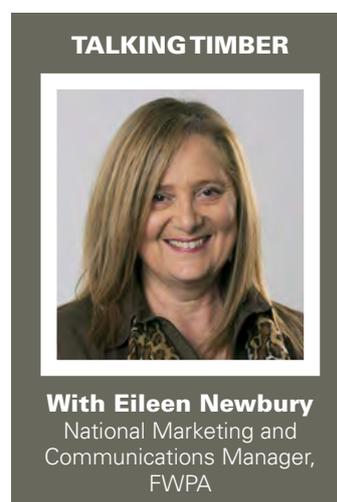
Tony McRae... using genotype data to refine pedigree data.

pedigree and phenotypic data collected in-field to generate breeding values that can be used by growers during tree selection.

By combining this information with genomic data, the tool can now be used to generate 'single-step' genetic evaluations, offering a single set of objectively comparable breeding values. These values have the potential to strengthen the accuracy of predictions and improve the process by which growers select suitable trees.

In fact, recent studies conducted by TBA and industry collaborators demonstrated that when genomic data is added to the analysis, not only is the accuracy of prediction improved, but genetic gain could increase by as much as 10 to 15%.

A recent analysis of the national radiata pine tree



improvement program database – which currently contains more than a million genotypes from 17,126 different families – indicated the error rate may be higher than expected. These errors can be problematic for single-step evaluation accuracy, resulting in misalignment of genotype and phenotype, reducing the genetic gains associated with traits of

commercial importance.

To rectify this, TBA is undertaking a quality assurance strategy comprising extensive sampling, DNA analysis and diagnostics. The work will investigate the degree and scale of errors in the pedigree data, allowing for correction.

"[...] if errors are detected in pedigree data, they can now be rectified using genomic data. This new capability will provide an immediate lift in realised genetic gain."

"Based on the results of recent studies, we expect that by using genotype data to refine pedigree data before it is combined with phenotypic data, we will not only see improved accuracies and boosted genetic gain in the long-term, but also an immediate, one-off boost of between 10 and 15%," says Tree Breeding Australia general manager Dr Tony McRae.

The national radiata pine tree improvement program is ongoing, meaning TBA is capturing new data on a daily basis.

This FWPA-supported project is one element in a series of planned research projects that aim to double the rate of genetic gain in pine breeding within Australia.



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Grants for big ideas from young foresters

GRANT applications are now open for the 2022 Science and Innovation Awards for Young People in forestry, agriculture and fisheries.

If you're 18-35 and want to make a difference for Australia's agriculture industries, this is a chance to apply for a grant of up to \$22,000 to fund your project.

The Science Awards support young innovators, scientists, researchers, extension officers, industry advisers and others actively engaged in the agriculture sector who have an original project that will contribute to the ongoing success and sustainability of Australia's agriculture industries. To be eligible entrants must be aged 18-35 and be an Australian citizen or permanent resident.

There are 12 industry

award categories – forest and wood products; biosecurity and digital innovation; cotton; eggs and poultry (layers); established, new and emerging rural industries; fisheries and aquaculture; grains; horticulture; pork; red meat processing; viticulture and oenology; and wool.

Each category includes a \$22,000 grant, and is generously supported by Science Award partners from research and development corporations and industry organisations.

Winners of the industry



Megan Warner... 2020 winner of a Science Award for her research on Tasmanian blue gum colonisation.

Award partners include Forest and Wood Products Australia and Australian Wood Innovation.

Last year's recipient of the FWPA-sponsored forest category was Megan Warner, seed production manager at Australian Bluegum Plantations in Albany, WA, recognised for her research project that investigated whether adding beneficial root-colonising bacteria and fungi to soil can support the root development of Tasmanian blue gum (*Eucalyptus globulus*).

Applications for the 2021 Science Awards close at 5 pm (AEST) on Friday, October 1.

Contact the Science Awards team via email scienceawards@awe.gov.au or phone (02) 6272 2260 or (02) 6272 2303.

category Science Awards are then invited to apply for the Minister for Agriculture and Northern Australia's Award, which provides additional funding for an extended research project.

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Qld builders advised to check ‘claim of compliance’ on use of structural timber

THE Queensland timber industry has released technical advice reminding builders of the information they must look for when using structural timber and how to maintain relevant records.

Timber Queensland strategic relations manager Clarissa Brandt said the timber industry was proud of its record as a responsible supplier of high-quality, fit-for-purpose structural timber products.

“Given there is a broad supply chain including from imports, there have been reports of some timber products being used that had not been properly graded or marked,” Mrs Brandt said.

“This prompted the release of an advisory note to explain how to check structural timber building products have the correct claim of compliance.

“By law builders and certifiers must check that any structural timber product used on a job complies with Queensland’s non-



Builders and certifiers need to prove structural timber products have the correct claim of compliance.

conforming building product (NCBP) regulations.”

Timber Queensland’s new Advisory Note on Structural Timber Product Identification and Traceability provides examples of the brands, labels, stamps or marks required on a product to claim compliance. Typically, this includes compliance against relevant Australian standards, CodeMark certification or via a performance solution.

Mrs Brandt said if a structural timber product could not be identified it should be rejected as

non-conforming.

“Check the claim of compliance, if it’s not correct don’t purchase the product, or return the delivery to the supplier,” she said.

“Then you need to notify the Queensland Building and Construction Commission of a suspected non-conforming

building product. Failure to do so is also a specific offence under NCBP legislation.”

Mrs Brandt said builders and certifiers needed to be able to prove structural timber products used on a job had the correct claim of compliance.

“We recommend taking photos of products, keeping dockets and maintaining files to ensure you can prove to the regulator that you have ‘done the right thing’.”

Timber Queensland reminds the building industry they must pass on information regarding product use and application, through the supply chain to the homeowner.

“To avoid possible action by the QBCC it is imperative that all in the supply chain, including builders, pass on required information to the ‘next in the chain’, and maintain and file accurate and detailed product identification and traceability information so the use of the product remains conforming for each job.”

“ TECHNICAL ADVISE ON MAINTAINING RELEVANT RECORDS



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NZ land and forest owners ‘delighted’ with the government’s carbon largess

Tree carbon will be ‘the gift that keeps on giving’ for many years to come

DENNIS NEILSON

IN 2007 the then Clark Labour Government introduced the world’s first full government legislated carbon emissions trading system, which provides for the crediting and trading of carbon sequestered by trees.

Fast forward to 2021, and it is still the only one. California and some eastern US states have a version, but that’s all

The largest ETS for European carbon units does not allow tree carbon sequestration to be traded.

“THERE ARE CONDITIONS THAT MUST BE MET TO ENJOY CARBON PROFITS



Timber plus carbon tree farming in New Zealand is now around 7-10 times more financially attractive than growing sheep and cattle on pastoral hill country.

More and more countries – including Australia, UK, Russia and China – are looking, but there has been no legislated action so far.

Both the National and Labour governments have supported the New Zealand ETS in various guises for the last 14 years.

The now Leader of the National Opposition Judith Collins actually signed

the Paris Accord for New Zealand in 2015, and the previous Leader of the Opposition Todd Muller worked closely with the government to formulate a zero carbon act which was passed in 2019, and which commits New Zealand to reduce to net zero carbon dioxide by 2050.

Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern called climate change

“New Zealand’s nuclear moment” immediately after she was first elected in 2017.

The new Act says it will keep global warming to 1.5 deg. Of course it will not and it will do nothing globally. But never mind, it’s a ‘feel good and wellbeing’ law which the NZ government loves to pass.

However, recent NZ government moves have ensured that tree carbon will be ‘the gift that keeps on giving’ for land and trees owners for some years to come.

Already holding NZUs has been about the best investment available to Kiwis – both to buy and trade on the private or public markets, or to sequester by owning trees. The NZU price

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has risen from less than \$5 to more than \$50 in recent years.

There are some conditions that must be met to fully enjoy carbon profits but these are clearly set out in regulations and are easy to comply with – that is, as easily as dealing with government bureaucrats will allow.

The NZ government has set an ETS trading cap. It has been \$50, above which the government will issue its own NZU holdings, or release newly ‘printed’ NZUs onto the market to ‘cap’ the trading price.

But last week it issued a new carbon cap structure which will likely see the market price for NZUs almost immediately jump from \$50 to \$70 some time next year. But further, the



Jacinda Ardern... climate change New Zealand's nuclear moment.



Judith Collins... signed the Paris Accord for New Zealand in 2015.

new announcement is that the cap will increase by 12% a year to 2026 and the capped price will be \$110.15.

We expect the market price will closely move along to the cap price, and indeed over time might move closer to the EU price which is already in 2021 around \$NZ100 a tonne.

Last week the market price was already exceeding the existing 2021 cap of \$50, and NZU holders will

be reticent to sell now as further riches await them from January 2022.

Even a \$50 market price has encouraged dozens – and soon to be hundreds – of farmers to decide to

“FUND MANAGERS WANT TO BUY LAND TO PLANT TREES

plant some of their farms in pine trees, and/or to sell out totally to a rapidly increasing number of NZ and international fund managers who want to buy forests or land to plant in trees.

The latest entrant is UK-based Gresham House with its own forest and carbon funds. It was the investment manager for the recent >\$700 million acquisition by French AXA IM of 24,000 ha of Global Forest Partner’s forest estate in Australia’s Green Triangle.

Indeed, timber PLUS carbon tree farming in New Zealand is now around 7-10 times more financially attractive than growing sheep and cattle on pastoral hill country, and more than twice as attractive as growing trees for harvesting logs alone.

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Five outstanding Australians recognised in forest industries awards for excellence

AFPA shines a light on worthy achievements across the nation

FIVE outstanding Australians have been recognised in the 2021 National Forest Industries Awards of Excellence announced in Canberra on Wednesday.

Organised by the Australian Forest Products Association, the awards were presented in five categories – woman in forest industries; emerging leader of the year; health and safety; business innovation; and training.

• **The Midway Woman in Forest Industries** – Suzette Weeding, general manager, conservation and land management, Sustainable Timber Australia, who was recently appointed chair of the Gottstein Memorial Trust and is a director of the International Program for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC), an alliance of national forest certification systems which includes Responsible Wood in Australia.

Ms Weeding had developed a reputation for solid, thoughtful, and soundly-based contributions to the workings of the board and the success of PEFC. She is a member of the FSC working group developing the Australian FSC

“ DIVERSE RANGE OF OCCUPATIONS ”



1/ **Suzette Weeding... Woman in Forest Industries Award.**

2/ **Toni Kirkup: Innovation Health and Safety Award.**

standard and is a steering committee member of the Launceston National Institute of Forest Products Innovation.

Ms Weeding’s extensive involvement with industry groups includes membership of the Tasmanian State Fire Management Council and the Forest Practices Advisory Council.

AFPA CEO Ross Hampton said, “On behalf of Australia’s forest industries I warmly congratulate Suzette on receiving this terrific award. She was selected from an amazing group of applicants, all of whom would have been deserving winners.

“It just shows how lucky we are to have so many fantastic women working across Australia’s forest industries. Congratulations Suzette!”

Integrated forestry business Midway sponsored the award and CEO Tony Price said it was terrific to have such



as strong field of women nominate for the prize.

“We know forest industries have come a long way championing our women and I’m thrilled we had a such a magnificent field of contenders,” he said.

“Congratulations to Suzette and all of the applicants who are doing our industries proud in their diverse range of roles.”

• **Lonza Forest Industries Emerging Leader of the Year** – Hayley Filipovic, who joined C3 Australia (part of LINX Cargo Care Group)

as operations manager in Portland, Vic, in 2019. In April she assumed the role of regional manager, Green Triangle.

Today Hayley oversees all C3 operations in the area which include in-field chipping, haulage, log marshalling, and support services. Under Hayley’s leadership the Green Triangle has become one of C3’s best performing regions with 95 employees supporting five customers. Her leadership has resulted in tangible safety improvements with forest owners and service providers.

Hayley also sits on the Green Triangle Timber Industry Awards committee. Hayley’s leadership was best demonstrated by her management, at the local level, of the global downturn in demand for woodchip in early 2020, which was closely followed by Covid-19. During this time she led the charge to cross-train and upskill staff.

• **NSW Forestry Corporation Innovation Health and Safety** – Toni Kirkup, AKD Softwoods’ national health and safety manager. Toni is completely safety minded, holding the philosophy that safety doesn’t start or stop at the gate and that it’s a collective responsibility. This mindset has allowed Toni to drive a cultural safety shift, resulting in a 20% reduction in lost time injury frequency rates (LTIFR) in 2019-20 and further 40% reduction in 2020-21.

Toni implemented a national safety interaction program

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ensuring all of AKD's leaders were introduced to the process. She also initiated a process where employees provided statements and photos about why safety was important to them and their families. During the Covid pandemic in 2020 where Colac case number grew to 130, in a town of just 12,000, Toni provided leadership, not only to AKD, but in the wider community, including through the Keep Colac Safe campaign.

•Visy Innovation in Business – Ben Sawyer, Forest Products Commission of WA, has been with FPC for 25 years and is the organisation's Aboriginal engagement manager. He created 'Sandalwood Dreaming' as an innovative way to engage traditional owners and support Aboriginal businesses to build forestry capacity and seek out Aboriginal entrepreneurs within Aboriginal communities to work out business opportunities.

Ben has now established contracts that are working across Yamatji and Wongai Lands from Carnarvon to Laverton and has extended the concept into plantations in the Noongar Southwest. The supply chain includes contracting an Aboriginal



1/ **Ben Sawyer...**
Innovation in Business Award.
2/ **Wespine...**
working as a team in safety and innovation.



engineering business to supply transport infrastructure and developing markets with customers by featuring and promoting forest products produced by traditional owners from traditional lands.

Ben's future goals include increasing the number of sandalwood services supplied

by Aboriginal businesses as well as developing products, certification, and markets to enable Aboriginal value-add of forest products.

• ForestWorks Innovation in Training – Wespine which secured the award off the back of a massive training program focusing on the

culture of the leadership team, supervisors and shop-floor employees undertaken over a four-year period with surveys conducted throughout.

Since 2018, Wespine has achieved a business-wide reimagining with remarkable results. The leadership team was diversified to bring in a broader range of people of different ages and genders, to develop and implement a comprehensive change program throughout the whole organisation.

All employees have attended a two-day 'You Can Count on Me' workshop, which focused on improvements in worker skills and the key personal reasons for work safety such as safety culture, risk identification and rules- based verses independent thinking.

Wespine has achieved record safety results and record sales volumes in the 2021 financial year. Its softwood sawmilling operation has been providing high quality timber for housing, packaging, and landscaping products for the Australian market since 1985.

On the cover: Hayley Filipovic, operations manager in Portland, Vic, for C3 Australia, who was awarded Lonza Forest Industries Emerging Leader of the Year in the National Forest Industries Awards of Excellence.

From P 2

"HIA in good faith has accepted the initial shutdown, despite its challenges and we have worked with the government to outline a simple, and what we believe would be an effective and safe pathway, to reopen small scale residential building sites," Greg Weller said.

"HIA's plan accepted reduced numbers of workers on sites and the adoption of

all the same Covid safety measures now proposed for large sites. If some building sites can open safely, then why can't others?"

"To suggest that a large commercial sites which have hundreds of workers attend on a daily basis can operate with a lower risk than detached home building with three or four people is just nonsensical," says Mr Weller.

"No other jurisdiction has locked down home building



Greg Weller...
lockdown takes toll on builder and trades people.

in this way for this length of time, and there has been no evidence that the industry has been a source of transmission."

Meanwhile, building and construction has resumed in

Greater Sydney with safety measures such as controls on movements between sites, reduced contact between workers within sites, improved tracing capability and a focus on encouraging workers to get vaccinated.

Also, as part of a plan to reopen construction, worksites will be able to operate on Sundays and public holidays for the remainder of the year, up until Christmas, to make up for any time lost."

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Terry on the Higgins Road to retirement

A RETIRING OneFortyOne employee has been gifted a special surprise after 43 years of service – a forestry road named in his family’s honour.

Higgins Lane, north of Nangwarry, has been named after the Higgins family following a collective 55 years of work in the Green Triangle forestry industry by 68-year-old Terry and his late father John.

Terry described the naming of the road in the plantations where his family had lived and worked for decades as ‘a real honour’.

“My family are quite taken by it after all our history here,” he said.

The location of the plantation track holds special significance for the Higgins family – it’s situated near the forest reserve Muddy Flats where the family lived for several years after emigrating

from London in the mid-1960s.

Following in the footsteps of his father John, who worked for the department in the forests around Penola and Nangwarry, Terry also began working in his school holidays, clearing firebreaks and hand weeding in the nursery.

During his 43-year career, Terry performed nearly every role imaginable, working his way up from maintenance to machinery operator to geographic information services work and then supervisory roles.

In 2016, he was made the area foresters and district manager for the Penola forests – the pinnacle of his career and what he referred to as his ‘spiritual home’.

Terry found his forte in silviculture, saying he found creativity and satisfaction in seeing the growth



Terry Higgins... forestry, it’s the best job in the world.

“Terry is so proud of the OFO plantations that he and his family have worked on for more than 50 years,” he said. “His dedication and commitment shows through in everything he does. He has always made a conscious effort to pass on his knowledge to the next generation and to mentor and

develop people.”

and development of the plantations. OneFortyOne fire manager Justin Cook said Terry always put his heart into his work and had earned respect of his many colleagues over the years.

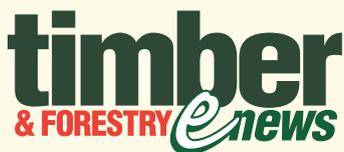
Terry encouraged anyone considering a career in forestry to take the opportunity, saying the sky was the limit.

“Honestly, it’s the best job in the world,” he said.

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Vida Wood now fully operational at modern 12,000 sq m warehouse facility in Hemmant

VIDA Wood Australia is now fully operational at its new 12,000 sq m warehouse at Hemmant, a suburb north-east of central Brisbane.

The move strengthens Vida Australia's position in the Queensland market alongside its commitment to the Australian market over many years.

The new undercover warehouse along with wide open hardstand space allows the company to unload its own containers and improve docking facilities. A treatment plant will be fully operational with the next six to 12 months assuring wood durability, greater flexibility and quicker product flow.

Vida Wood first entered the Australian market in 2014 operating out of Narangba and over time, as market share grew, improved logistics and closeness to a container port was the next logical step. The new location also allows competitive and easy access

EASY ACCESS TO EASTERN SEABOARD



to the eastern seaboard.

In February 2019, Canfor – one of the world's largest producers of sustainable lumber, pulp and paper – confirmed its acquisition of 70% of the Vida Group to develop the business and the value of the Vida brand on a

global scale which in turn has strengthened Vida's strong customer relationships and their stamp in Australia.

Vida/Canfor is a global supplier of refined products from sustainable Swedish and Canadian forests, recognised as a stable

1/ Strategic location... Vida Wood Australia moves to 41 Inghams Place, Hemmant.

3/ Vida Wood Australia's new 12,000 sq m undercover warehouse in north-east Brisbane.

supplier of roof trusses, wall elements and finished modules in wood.

All raw material from Vida/Canfor sawmills is produced under the highest quality and environmental conditions, certified by both PEFC and FSC schemes.

Vida Wood Australia is offering a wide range of products, including structural framing (F5, MGP10 and MGP12); primed weatherboards; solid battens; decking; and DTL facilities.

Contact sales director Jacinta Colley for further information on 0427 209 807.

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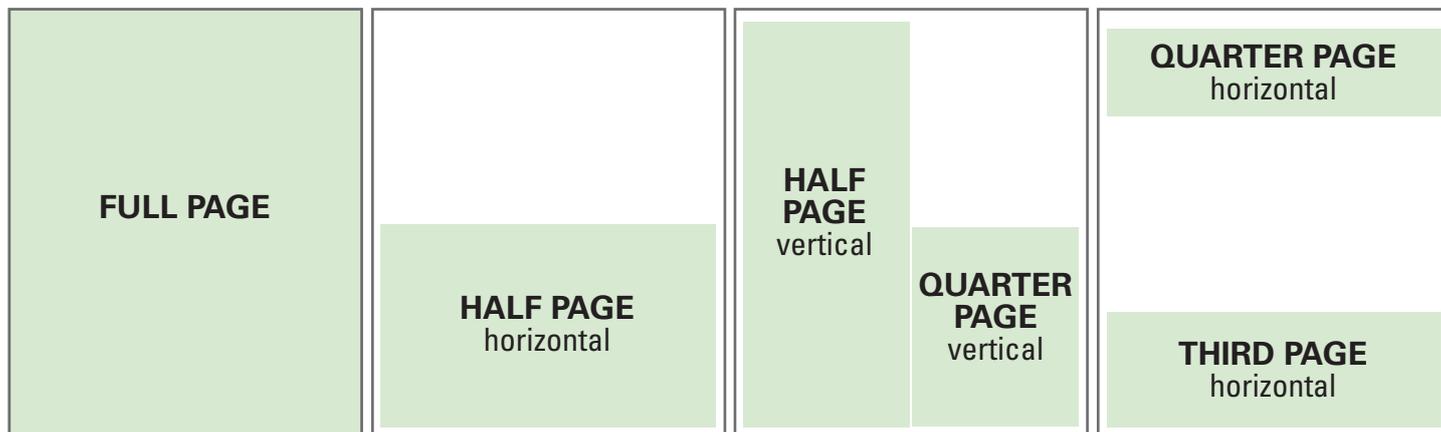
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PAGE 1 Front cover strip: Contract booking

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PAGE 1 Front cover module: Contract booking

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