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ISSUE 674 | September 9, 2021

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## Swinburne acacia study to impact on climate and rain

COVER STORY P3

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# Hunter Valley energy developer signs \$15m joint venture deal with Singapore

EMERGING renewables energy business Sweetman Renewables Ltd has signed a multi-million dollar joint venture agreement with CAC-H2 Private Ltd of Singapore to establish a hydrogen production centre of excellence in then NSW Hunter Valley.

The \$15 million deal aims to establish Australia's first woodfed hydrogen production plant, and the country's largest green bio-hydrogen production eco-hub.

CAC-H2 brings proven gasification technology that converts woodchip into 99.999% pure hydrogen via a proven proprietary process.

CAC-H2 also brings off-take agreements for 100% of Sweetman hydrogen and biochar production. The deal is likely to create 40 full time jobs at the new facility to be named Hunter Valley One.

The joint venture deal involves investment from CAC-H2 in return for 80% ownership of the new enterprise to establish the first two production lines on a 12-ha site adjacent to the



**Gary Millar... joint venture will pave the way for a viable, new eco-friendly future for the Hunter Valley.**



**Arman Massoumi... shaping as Australia's largest green bio-hydrogen production eco-hub.**

Sweetman's Millfield timber mill. Sweetman will provide the biomass feedstock, EPC engineering services, and land access in return for 20% equity in the joint venture.

Sweetman will provide 30,000 tonnes a year of wood biomass. The initial deal will produce an estimated \$170 million in revenues over 15 years, based on a conservative wholesale price estimate of \$6/kg. Construction is due to commence soon given planning applications have been approved.

"We are excited by the opportunity to partner with

Sweetman to establish what we want to become the first wood to hydrogen, and Australia's largest green bio-hydrogen production eco-hub," director of CAC-H2 Group Arman Massoumi said.

"We initially planned to start with just two production lines but due to large demand from both Japan and Korea, we envisage to quickly scale

up the Sweetman operation to multiple lines producing hydrogen and biochar for export markets via a new facility at the Newcastle Port," Mr Massoumi said.

The Hunter region is set to become home to one of the state's first green hydrogen hubs with the NSW government committing at least \$70 million to their development.

Hydrogen hubs will provide groups of hydrogen users common infrastructure for the local production, use and distribution of hydrogen. They will reduce costs by delivering hydrogen in a coordinated fashion. Developing green hydrogen hubs aligns with the state's renewable energy zones under the electricity infrastructure roadmap, ensuring they become thriving precincts.

Sweetman Renewables director Garry Millar said the joint venture would pave the way for a viable, new eco-friendly future for the Hunter Valley.

**“ECO-HUB FOR AUSTRALIA'S FIRST WOOD-FED HYDROGEN PLANT**

Cont P 4



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# World-leading Swinburne acacia study will influence climate modellings, rain

## Woodlands in inland Australia well placed to increase carbon capture efficiency

GROUND-breaking research about the ability of trees and vegetation to acquire carbon and contribute to rainfall is likely to have major implications for climate modelling.

Published in one of the world's leading science journals, the research – led by Swinburne University of Technology's Professor of BioScience and Innovation Mark Adams – is the culmination of three years' work and is the third major study his group has published.

Professor Adams says the study shows that in dry climates like Australia, trees and other forms of vegetation respond to rising carbon dioxide in the atmosphere by increasing their efficiency in using water to acquire carbon.

"Vegetation that thrives in drier climates, such as Acacia woodlands found throughout inland Australia, are particularly well placed to increase their carbon capture efficiencies," says Professor Adams.

"They have the ability to acquire nitrogen from the atmosphere, bypassing soil nitrogen."

These findings counter previous understandings of water use efficiency, which were based largely on research in Europe and eastern USA, where humid conditions and histories of



**Collecting acacia seeds in the Outback. Almost half of Australia is arid country.**

nitrogen pollution mask the underlying effects of aridity.

The majority of the world's terrestrial surfaces are considered arid and lack the nitrogen pollution found in Europe and the US.

The Swinburne research is also significant for climate models used to predict future rainfall, which is critical for tropical regions where rainfall can be dictated by terrestrial conditions, not necessarily by oceans.

**“CLIMATE MODELS TO PREDICT RAINFALL**

"Water use efficiency is now built into most modern climate models used to predict future rainfall," said Professor Adams. "The greater understanding of how water use efficiency in trees and vegetation varies across the globe will help improve the models."

Data was painstakingly collected from 343 individual

sources and more than 10,000 observations of the abundance of stable isotopes of carbon. The

public availability of the data collected by Professor Adams and his research group will improve the scientific community's ability to rapidly and positively influence climate modelling into the future.

This research was published in Nature Communications, which is an open access, multidisciplinary journal dedicated to publishing high-quality research in all areas of the biological, health, physical, chemical and Earth sciences. Papers published by the journal aim to represent important advances of

Cont P 4

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From P 3

significance to specialists within each field.

The long-term focus for Professor Adams is on the biology and ecology of Australia's forests, woodlands and rangelands. His work has been recognised with fellowships and awards in Australia, Germany, France



*Acacia thriving in Marble Bar, a town and rock formation in the Pilbara region of north-western Western Australia, considered to be the hottest region in Australia.*

and New Zealand, over more than three decades. He has supervised to successful completion more than 40 PhD students, and has raised in excess of \$20 million nationally competitive, Category 1 funding. His published output has attracted more than 7500 citations for research with a distinctly Australian flavour.

**“LONG-TERM FOCUS ON AUSTRALIAN FORESTS**

**On the cover: Professor Mark Adams among acacias. Leading research about the ability of trees and vegetation to acquire carbon and contribute to rainfall will have major implications for climate modelling.**

From P 2

“We have heard the call from both state and federal government to make the Hunter Valley a centre of excellence for the production of hydrogen,” Mr Millar said.

Glenn Davies, CEO of CAC-H2, added: “Over the

next two years our joint venture will establish new hydrogen hubs in every state in Australia. Sweetman has already obtained expressions of interest to establish another hydrogen hub at Newcastle Port and in additional hubs in Queensland and Victoria.”

In a recent report the

International Energy Agency (IEA), global demand for hydrogen would need to more than double from its existing level of consumer to 212 million tonnes by 2030 if the world is to attain climate change goals.

The market size for hydrogen in 2022 is projected to be \$154.74 billion.

By 2050, driven by a burgeoning global demand for zero-carbon emissions, the hydrogen market is expected to be valued at \$12 trillion.



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*Biomass feedstock at Sweetman's Millfield timber mill in the Hunter Valley.*

## Builders back to work after lockdown

THE residential building industry in ACT has welcomed the news that they will be back to work on September 10. However, the HIA has warned that it is essential the lockdown does not go beyond this date.

“Unlike many in the community who are able to work from home, when building trades are not working, they are not getting

paid,” said executive director Greg Weller.

“Equally when building trades are not out there onsite, the economic benefits of new home building and renovations for the ACT economy are lost.”

The lockdown meant hundreds of Canberrans have been unable to get into their new home, or to complete their home renovation.

# Ric was always a team player at FWPA: well-wishes from friends and associates

## ‘Forest sector owes a great debt to Ric Sinclair for his exceptional leadership’

JIM BOWDEN

FRIENDS and associates across the national forest sector and in the workplace have contributed messages wishing Ric Sinclair the best in any path he takes after his resignation and 13 years as managing director of Forest and Wood Products Australia.

FWPA team member Eileen Newbury as head of marketing and communications, is well-positioned in extending to Ric her appreciation and indebtedness:

“This is a great disappointment to the FWPA team who have learned so much under his leadership. He was always proud of what the team has achieved during his time at FWPA and looks forward to seeing them continue to grow relationships with stakeholders and communication channels and with our markets, and new opportunities for sustainable forest and wood products.



**At the Ultimate Renewable brand launch in Brisbane... Ric Sinclair (right) with Phil Little, sustainable residential house builder, Brisbane, Andrew Knox, Pollinate, and Beth Welden, program manager for FWPA's ForestLearning.**

“Asked to nominate his key achievements, Ric listed the following, but there are so many more: Building a great team focused on collaborating to deliver results; establishing a partnership with Planet Ark to tell wood’s carbon and renewability story through consumer advertising; creating WoodSolutions, a world-leading activity promoting the use of wood

and wood products to material specifiers in the construction sector and forging strong stakeholder relationships.

**“WE HAVE LEARNED SO MUCH UNDER HIS PROVEN LEADERSHIP”**

“Ric was quick to add, that the achievements were not solely his, but the whole team’s.

“Other significant achievements during Ric's leadership included ensuring changes to the National Construction Code that reduce impediments to the use of wood and wood products in mid-rise projects; establishing an advisory service to help realise mid-rise opportunities; developing a statistics resource for the industry; creating ForestLearning to provide teaching materials to schools; implementing the WoodSolutions Campus, an online training centre; launching an industry leadership program; using wide-ranging research to inform evidence-based decisions and founding the National Centre for Timber Durability and Design Life.

Cont P 6



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

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From P 5

“Ric has also been instrumental in building stronger relationships with government and other Rural Research and Development Corporations. Three independent assessments commissioned by FWPA during Ric’s leadership showed that the forest and wood products industry received exceptional returns for each dollar invested and the company’s external audits have continued to confirm exemplary financial management.”

Eileen added: “Ric, you have been a true leader to the FWPA team and we thank you for your dedication to the industry – and especially to your team.”

**• John Simon, chair, Forest and Wood Products Australia (2015-2020) and immediate past chair Gottstein Memorial Trust:**

Like many in the industry I was disappointed to hear that Ric has decided to leave FWPA. As a director and the immediate past chair of FWPA, I enjoyed working with Ric and am very proud of what FWPA achieved under his leadership.

Ric’s intelligent and strategic approach to the challenges facing our industry resulted in many achievements during his tenure. Just a few of the long list of outstanding initiatives that Ric has led include the ‘The Ultimate Renewable’ campaign; the changes to codes that allowed timber to capture a share of the mid-rise construction market; the Wood Solutions communications program; the partnership with Planet Ark; and the funding of numerous important research projects around the nation.

His contribution, and that of his team at FWPA, have

resulted in FWPA growing into an internationally respected and important part of our industry.

**• Rob de Fégely AM, co-chair, Forest Industry Advisory Council, and chair, Sustainable Timber Tasmania:**

Ric Sinclair has been a fantastic leader for Forest and Wood Products Australia. He had a hard act to follow from Dr Glen Kile who essentially stabilised after a difficult start the role of a forestry and wood products research and development corporation within the Australian industry.

Ric’s background in forestry and marketing was perfect to lead the transition from a government to an industry-based organisation and it is testimony to his leadership that FWPA remains one of the few model performers among Australia’s rural Research and Development Corporations. Ric’s breadth of experience and personable style allowed him to successfully build a strong connection with all sectors of the Australian wood products supply chain and he understood the connections and capability of various research organisations that could support and provide innovative solutions to the many challenges faced by the Australia forest and wood products industry.

Ric’s insight, good humour and continual questioning of the status quo will be missed.

**• Suzette Weeding, chair, Gottstein Memorial Trust:**

On behalf of all Gottstein trustees, I acknowledge the



*Eileen Newbury and John Simon celebrate the launch of the ‘The Ultimate Renewable’ brand in Sydney in 2019.*

significant contribution to the trust by Ric Sinclair. Ric’s personal contribution as a voluntary Gottstein trustee stretched over 12 years from 2007 to 2019. He generously provided a wealth of knowledge and experience to the trust’s activities and we thank Ric and send him every good wish as he departs FWPA for new horizons.

**• Bob Gordon, president, Institute of Foresters of Australia-AFG:**

I first met Ric in the mid-1980s when he was a young forester in the Tasmanian Forestry Commission. He even stayed at our place while he was finding somewhere to live. As CEO of FWPA Ric did an outstanding job building on the work of Dr Glen Kile and focusing the organisation on outcomes of benefit to the sector. On a personal level I greatly enjoyed my sometimes robust interactions with Ric.

**• John Halkett, general manager, Australian Timber Importers Federation:**

ATIF has been particularly supportive and encouraging of the emphasis that, under Ric’s tenure, FWPA has put into areas such as codes

and standards, statistics and data plus timber advocacy and marketing.

The value of the WoodSolutions website to the industry, architects and specifiers is also an outstanding achievement for Ric’s leadership.

FWPA is now very widely regarded as an integral component of a more sophisticated timber products value chain.

ATIF wishes Ric every success in the next phase of his career and looks forward to continuing to work with the FWPA board, the incoming managing director and staff as the forest industry is increasingly seen as being much more centre stage in terms of sustainable building products as Australia and the international community becomes increasingly attentive to climate change abatement measures.

**• Andrew Dunn, CEO, Timber Development Association:**

During Ric’s time at FWPA, he has achieved many ‘firsts’ for the forest and wood products industry, and the industry owes him a debt of thanks for leading the team to these achievements. We will remember you with warm thoughts and memories. Best wishes to you in the future.

**• Mick Stephens, CEO, Timber Queensland:**

High praise is well earned by Ric Sinclair and his contributions to FWPA and the industry more broadly over the years.

Cont P 8

**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/register/tZlkfuqtqD8qHtzf13lwMq\\_IIZDTS0sTC4\\_9](https://utsmeet.zoom.us/join/register/tZlkfuqtqD8qHtzf13lwMq_IIZDTS0sTC4_9) Contact Monica Richter, senior manager, Low Carbon Futures. For further details contact [mecla@wwf.org.au](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://www.forestry.org.au) or phone (03) 9695 8940.

**NOVEMBER**

**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](http://www.timberoffsiteconstruction.com)

**APRIL 2022**

**NB. REVISED DATE 2-8: Gottstein Trust Understanding Wood Science Course – April 2, 2022, in Albury, NSW, for the field trip component, ending on Friday, April 8, in Canberra.** The course is fully booked and a wait list is operating on a first-in-first-served basis. Delivered in partnership with the ANU, the course timing prior to next Easter matches up with the semester break. The course program can be downloaded at [www.gottsteintrust.org](http://www.gottsteintrust.org)

**Stacey Gardiner resigns from top post at AFCA**

GENERAL manager of the Australian Forest Contractors Association Tracey Gardiner who was responsible for establishing the organisation's first strategic plan and restructuring the administration and service delivery functions has resigned.

"Stacey has made a significant contribution to AFCA and has led the organisation through significant change," chairman Adan Taylor said.

"Stacey was responsible for establishing AFCA's first strategic plan, which gave a new focus and communicated clear commitments to members and sponsors on how we would support and represent them throughout forestry and with governments," Mr Taylor said.

"Her efforts in restructuring AFCA's administration and service delivery functions have greatly streamlined the



**Stacey Gardiner farewells AFCA.**

organisation, and she certainly leaves the AFCA in a great position to move forward," Mr Taylor said.

"We all sincerely thank Stacey for her efforts leading forest contracting

businesses, on the ground in forests, and on the road with haulage," Victorian Forest Products Association CEO Deb Kerr said.

Tracey Gardiner joined AFCA in March 2015. Previously she worked within the agricultural sector and in land use planning within the public sector.

She holds a Bachelor of Agricultural Science and a Master's degree in Land Use Planning.



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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](http://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](http://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](http://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>

[accounting-and-economics-conference-in-january-2022-in-sydney](https://www.tradefairdates.com/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](http://www.fba-events.com) or contact [karolina@forest-analytics.com](mailto:karolina@forest-analytics.com)

**• Please send events to John Halkett: [johnh@timberandforestrynews.com](mailto:johnh@timberandforestrynews.com)**

From P 6

I remember a fresh-faced Ric as far back as his time with the National Association of Forest Industries in Canberra advocating for industry outcomes. This put him in great stead when he took over the helm at the FWPA. Ric's passion, intellect and leadership were a hallmark of his approach as well as his ability to be ahead of the curve when it came to R&D and market trends.

Ric has left the FWPA in great shape and I will be watching his next move with great interest.

**• Simon Dorries, CEO, Responsible Wood:**

The Australian forestry and forest products sector owe a great debt to Ric Sinclair for his exceptional leadership



**Mixing as always with industry... Ric Sinclair (right) with Patrick Warrand, managing director, Wespine Industries, and Evan Dunstone, Gottstein fellow, at the 50th Gottstein Trust anniversary in Canberra in June.**

of FWPA over the past 13 years. FWPA has become a world leader in promoting and developing sustainable forestry and the sustainable products originating from these forests. I am sure the industry recognises Ric's incredible contribution and his

insight and leadership will be greatly missed.

**• Maree McCaskill, general manager, Timber NSW:**

Timber NSW wishes to recognise the significant impact Ric Sinclair has made in reshaping research and

development in the forest and wood products industry.

He has worked tirelessly with a small budget to produce outcomes that matter while maintaining a delicate balance between significantly different and often competing parts of the sector.

The issues around native forestry and softwood plantation production are substantially different, and in a small R&D budget make priority rankings quite vexed.

Ric managed that process well and straddled his portfolio with expertise and knowledge.

Timber NSW wishes Ric well in his future career and he leaves knowing he has left an admirable legacy for the industry.

# Glulam turtle rookery neck and neck choice for top architect prize



*Kate Fowden of Hyne and Dr Andrew Magub of Kirk Studio admire spotted gum glulam at the Mon Repos Turtle Centre.*

THE World Architecture Festival has short-listed the Mon Repos Turtle Centre, an impressive glulam timber structure in Queensland's Wide Bay-Burnett region, for the 2021 PEFC Best Use of Certified Timber prize.

The Mon Repos Conservation Park is an important turtle rookery located near the beach at Bargara. The research, conservation and visitor centre dedicated to nesting sea turtles was designed by KIRK architects.

The centre was envisaged from the outset as being constructed of locally-grown and manufactured glulam timber. Hyne, a world leader in glulam timber manufacture, is based nearby in Maryborough. The prefabricated timber structure was delivered and fully erected in two weeks which saved valuable constructed time.

This year's shortlisted projects highlight the work of practices across the world, from Australia to Denmark, that push new boundaries in the use of certified timber

in terms of construction, sustainability and aesthetics.

Also on the short list is the Ariake Gymnastics Centre, a purpose-built venue for the Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games by Nikken Sekkei + Shimizu Corporation. The 12,000-capacity building is defined by a striking timber floating vessel that wraps around it, and extensive timber throughout, a commitment to sustainability paying homage to the district's historical connection to the timber industry.

Eight shortlisted architectural teams will present their projects to the jury at the festival in Lisbon, Portugal, from December 1 to 3.

The PEFC prize rewards architects and project teams for using certified timber as the main construction material for buildings outstanding in sustainability, innovation, quality or aesthetics.

CEO Ben Gunneberg said it was inspiring to see the large variety of buildings in the finals, benefitting from the use of certified timber in so many ways.



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# It's third time lucky for Gottstein Trust's Understanding Wood Science course

WITH a packed program to look forward to, it's third time lucky for the Gottstein Trust Understanding Wood Science Course with a new starting date announced.

Because of ongoing Covid disruption, the course will change from November this year to new dates in 2022 – Sunday evening, April 2, in Albury, NSW for the field trip component and ending on Friday afternoon on April 8 in Canberra.

Participants and speakers are coming from all over Australia. The course is fully booked and a wait list is operating on a first-in-first-served basis.

Delivered in partnership with the ANU, the course timing prior to next Easter matches up with the semester break.

Dr Matthew Brookhouse from the Fenner School of Environment and Society is leading the wood science laboratory day program, taking over this mantle from Dr Jugo Illic.

Dr Brookhouse is well



**Professor Peter Kanowski...**  
presentation on the circular economy.

known for his research on the extensive dieback in the NSW Alpine region snow gum. The course program can be downloaded at [www.gottsteintrust.org](http://www.gottsteintrust.org)

A top lineup of industry speakers are donating their time and expertise to deliver presentations. Professor Peter Kanowski from ANU will deliver a session on the circular economy and forest products honorary Associate Professor Cris Brack will also lead a session.

The Gottstein Trust thanks the Institute of Foresters of Australia-Australian Forest



**Dr Matthew Brookhouse.. to lead wood science laboratory day program.**

Growers for its great support in awarding two scholarships for early career graduates to attend the course. Congratulations are extended to the scholarship awardees Bonnie Galbraith and Leigh Tomkins.

Bonnie works with Timberlands Pacific in Tasmania and Leigh works with Australian Sustainable Hardwoods in Victoria. They

**“SPEAKERS AND PARTICIPANTS FROM ALL OVER AUSTRALIA**

will join three university students who are awarded annual Gottstein course scholarship places from the Steve Stevenson Memorial Trust Fund.

Maddie Shelton, a masters student in forestry at ANU, was the first recipient of this 2020 scholarship and her participation is still delayed due to Covid disruption.

Two new Steve Stevenson Memorial Trust Fund scholarship places are now open for one student each from Southern Cross University and the University of Sunshine Coast. Interested students should email [team@gottsteintrust.org](mailto:team@gottsteintrust.org) to express interest in being considered.

A reminder... a rich repository of information about timber and forestry supply-chain matters can be downloaded from the Gottstein Trust website. Dozens of Gottstein fellowship project reports are now easier to navigate at [www.gottstein.org](http://www.gottstein.org)

Along with the recent reports, many older reports have present day relevance.



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# Celebrating winners of the



Australian  
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Association

The National Forest Industry Awards winners were announced last Wednesday, September 1, during the Australian Forest Products Association's (AFPA's) National Forest Industries Symposium.



## **Suzette Weeding** – Midway Woman in Forest Industries Award of Excellence.

As General Manager for Conservation and Land Management with Sustainable Timber Tasmania, Suzette works alongside her team to navigate complex issues which often require significant public attention and scrutiny.

Recently, Suzette was appointed as Chair of the Gottstein Trust, a national educational trust for the forest and forest wood products sector. Suzette is a director of PEFC, a leading alliance of national forest certification systems which includes Responsible Wood in Australia. She has developed a reputation for solid, thoughtful, and soundly-based contributions to the workings of the board and the success of PEFC and is highly valued by her co-directors. Suzette also sat on the FSC working group developing the Australian FSC standard and is on the steering committee of the Launceston National Institute of Forest Products Innovation. Her extensive involvement with industry groups includes membership of the Tasmanian State Fire Management Council and the Forest Practices Advisory Council.



## **Hayley Filipovic** – The Lonza Forest Industries Emerging Leader of the Year Award.

Hayley joined C3 Australia (part of LINX Cargo Care Group) as an Operations Manager in Portland Victoria in 2019 and in April 2020 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. Hayley's leadership has resulted in tangible safety improvements with forest owners and service providers. She is also building her presence within the industry, sitting 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 the COVID-19 pandemic. During this time Hayley led the charge to cross-train and upskill staff.



## **Toni Kirkup** – NSW Forestry Corporation – Innovation in Health and Safety Award of Excellence.

Toni is AKD Softwoods' National Health and Safety Manager who has driven a cultural safety shift, resulting in a 20 per cent reduction in lost time injury frequency rates (LTIFR) in 2019-20 and further 40 per cent reduction in 2020-21.

Toni implemented a national Safety Interaction Program and ensured that all 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 numbers 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.

# national forest industry awards



Australian  
Forest  
Products  
Association

**On behalf of Australia's forest industries,  
we congratulate the recipients!**



## **Ben Sawyer** - Visy Innovation in Business Award.

Ben has been at 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 engineering business to supply transport infrastructure and developing markets with customers by featuring and promoting forest products produced by Traditional Owners from Traditional Lands.



## **Wespine Industries** - The ForestWorks Innovation in Training Award.

Wespine is a key part of Western Australia's forest industries. Its softwood sawmilling operation has been providing high quality timber for housing, packaging, and landscaping products for the Australian market since 1985.

The company secured this 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. Following leadership development for the leadership team and supervisors, significant change and increases to employee engagement were achieved.

All employees also 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. As a result of these efforts, Wespine has achieved, among other things, record safety results and record sales volumes in the 2021 financial year.



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**Lonza**

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Midway

# Green Triangle awards postponed but preparing for exciting revival in 2022

ORGANISERS of the Green Triangle Timber Industry Awards that were scheduled for October 19 in Mount Gambier have postponed the popular event until early 2022 as circumstances due to the Covid-19 health crisis continue.

“Over the past 18 months we have confronted significant challenges due to Covid, and while conditions remain uncertain and with the health and safety of our attendees in mind, the committee has agreed to the postponement,” GTTIA chairman Adrian Flowers said.

“The committee recognises that our valued sponsors, attendees and nominees from Victoria are significantly impacted by current government-imposed restrictions,” Mr Flowers said.

“To continue forward and hold the event in their absence would undermine the event’s primary purpose to unite industry players and celebrate the outstanding achievements of award nominees and winners.”

The committee is looking



1/ Flashback... Green Triangle Timber Industry Awards evening at The Barn, Mount Gambier, in 2018.

2 Adrian Flowers... GTTIA awards a true celebration of the achievements of the forest sector in the region.



forward to announcing a revised event date and continuing with plans to once again hold an extremely successful evening celebrating award winners and showcasing the industry’s innovative, sustainable, and environmentally friendly practices within the region.

“We will now use this time to launch a new and exciting initiative for the GTTIA awards which celebrate finalists across nine all-new award categories at the traditional venue The Barn at Mount Gambier,” Mr Flowers said.

“Over the coming months, each award and finalist group will be featured over various platforms highlighting their contribution and impact across their employer, co-worker an industry networks.

“SHOWCASING  
INDUSTRY’S  
FINEST ACROSS  
FOREST SECTOR

“With the support of the GTTIA committee, I would like to take this opportunity to thank our sponsors, judges and suppliers. Their continued support has been instrumental to the ongoing success and reputation of the awards.”

The GTTIA awards have seen the single largest gathering of industry folk in the country. The event is designed to be an all-inclusive occasion embracing and recognising participants from the entire forest industry supply chain across the region, from forest owners, contractors harvesting, logistics, sawmilling, manufacturing and support industries.

“It is a true celebration of the strength of the forest sector in this part of the country and a tribute to industry companies, leaders and workers,” Mr Flowers said.

## Macquarie divests Lawson Grains to New Forests

MACQUARIE Asset Management has reached an agreement for New Forests and Alberta Investment Management Corporation on behalf of certain clients, to acquire Lawson Grains Pty Ltd.

Lawson Grains is one of Australia’s leading corporate grain growers, comprising a 90,500 arable hectare agricultural land estate across NSW Western Australia.

It is one of Australia’s largest grains and oilseeds businesses, producing more than 200,000 tonnes a year of wheat, barley, canola and pulses.

Macquarie Asset Management is divesting Lawson Grains at the conclusion of a 10-year investment mandate with its investors. During its ownership Macquarie Asset Management built the Lawson

Grains management team and business, and implemented the strategy to invest in the latest technology, farming best-practices and in the communities in which it operates, setting the business up for its next phase of ownership.

Head of agriculture Liz O’Leary said the transaction demonstrated the natural evolution of agriculture as an increasingly mature

and attractive alternative investment class.

It provided a vote of confidence for investors regarding the opportunity to invest in agriculture businesses.

Macquarie Asset Management maintains a significant presence in Australian agriculture through its Paraway Pastoral Co. and Viridis Ag operating companies.



# 2021 GALA EVENT POSTPONED TO EARLY 2022

With the health and safety of our attendees in mind, the GTTIA committee have made the decision to postpone the awards gala evening.

The event will be rescheduled to early 2022 and we are looking forward to celebrating the award winners and showcasing the industry's innovative, sustainable, and environmentally friendly practices within the region.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT [www.gttia.com](http://www.gttia.com)



# New FSC core labour requirements aim to further protect workers in certified forests

THE Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) has introduced new labour requirements in its chain-of-custody certification standard to provide added protection for the rights of workers in FSC-certified operations across the world.

While the protection of workers' rights has always been mandatory for FSC-certified forest managers, the new requirements in the standard extend protections to workers in FSC-certified supply chains. The new requirements ensure the protection of workers' rights is firmly tied to a company's FSC certificate – a 'first for the forest certification industry.

"The FSC core labour requirements represent a big

step forward for workers in more than 130 countries and for the companies that employ them," FSC Australia-ANZ CEO Damian Paull said.

"These companies can now demonstrate their commitment to respecting the rights of their workers."

Mr Paull said the UN had declared 2021 the International Year for the Elimination of Child Labour. It was very timely that this was the year where FSC had taken this important step towards contributing to the elimination of child labour while also demonstrating FSC's commitment to safer and more decent working conditions.

On the benefits of the new



**Damian Paull... a big step forward for workers in more than 130 countries.**

requirements for Australian and New Zealand businesses, Damian Paull argues that "a benefit of the new standard for local businesses is that it mitigates sourcing risks related to issues such as child labour and forced labour and enables businesses to meet the expectations of domestic consumers that are increasingly concerned about these issues."

Similarly, Mr Paull points out that "the new social requirements in the FSC chain-of-custody standard help level the playing field between

businesses in Australia and New Zealand and competitors in other countries where the protection of workers' rights is less rigorous"

The FSC core labour requirements came into effect on September 1 and will be in transition until December 31 next year.

To help Australian and New Zealand organisations implement the new requirements, FSC ANZ has made a range of resources available on its webpage, including a self-assessment template for Australian organisations with one soon for New Zealand. Further, FSC ANZ is delivering training sessions on the new requirements on September 20 for Australia and September 28 for New Zealand.

FSC operates globally in 81 countries with headquarters in Bonn, Germany and five regional offices bringing together 46 national initiatives.

FSC Australia is a national office of FSC International.

## Natalie Heazlewood to leave AFPA to take up senior ACCI policy role

GROWERS Chamber senior policy manager Natalie Heazlewood has announced her resignation from AFPA to take up a senior policy adviser position with the Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Canberra.

Natalie joined the AFPA team in 2018 and has been responsible for major policy development during her time steering the Growers Chamber, including submitting

a proposal to the Assistant Minister for Forestry to increase the forest growers levy, the creation of the Forest Industries Diversities Charter and the Regional Forestry Hubs.

The entire AFPA team and membership sincerely thank Natalie for her work and wish her the best on the next step in her career.

Natalie's last day with AFPA will be October 1.

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# Tigercat's 880 logger a multi-purpose carrier can be configured for specific forestry needs

TIGERCAT'S 880E series logger is a multi-purpose forestry carrier that can be configured for loading, shovel logging, or processing applications.

The 880E introduces several new features including an updated operator's station and various grapple configurations to tailor the machine to specific needs in forestry operations.

The machine is powered by a Tigercat FPT N67 engine, producing 230 kW. The F7-163 undercarriage is designed and built to withstand rigorous, full-time forest duty with exceptional stability for heavy timber applications.

The spacious cabin has a new heated operator's seat. Controls are integrated into both sides of the joystick pods, eliminating the need for any bolt-on control pods. The optimally positioned controls and large machine control system touchscreen interface improve ergonomics and machine monitoring. The quiet interior helps the operator enjoy the auxiliary audio input port, Bluetooth audio and hands-free calling. Additional new features



**Tigercat 880E... built to withstand rigorous, full-time forest duty.**

include a standard equipped rearVIEW camera system, emergency stop button, and a key fob to turn on exterior lights remotely when entering the cab in the dark.

The 880E can be configured as a loader equipped with various power clam, butt-n-top and log grapple options. Equipped with a live heel boom system, the 880E is a highly capable shovel logger with excellent stability, tractive effort and swing torque. The carrier can also be

configured as a high-capacity processor capable of running large harvesting heads in demanding duty cycles.

Some of the many advantages over excavator conversions include better service access, higher cooling capacity, a better operating

**“EXCEPTIONAL STABILITY FOR HEAVY TIMBER APPLICATIONS”**

environment with superior sightlines, more robust undercarriage components and extremely efficient hydraulic circuits. The result is higher production, uptime and fuel efficiency.

Tigercat Industries designs and manufactures premium quality forestry and off-road equipment with manufacturing facilities in Canada and worldwide distribution.

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# WA forestry 'blindsided' by government's heartless decision to end sustainable native hardwood sector

THE WA forestry industry has been blindsided by the state government's sudden decision to end the native forestry sector by 2024.

The announcement came with no industry consultation, leaving businesses, employees and regional communities shocked.

The sustainable industry employs more than 500 people and contributes over \$220 million to the state's economy each year, as well as underpinning many small businesses, suppliers and service providers.

Forest Industries Federation WA executive director Melissa Haslam said the \$50 million Just Transition Plan offered by the state government as

compensation was miniscule compared to the level of investment in the sector.

Mrs Haslam said one company alone had invested well over \$50 million in the past two years and there was a further \$100 million of investment pending, which would now be lost.

"This is heartbreaking for our industry, and the biggest initial impact is likely to be felt in our regional communities, but this will impact most West Australians – anyone who enjoys products from timber furniture right through to firewood," Mrs Haslam said.

"We are shocked at this rushed and bizarre decision, which came without any consultation. The irony is this



**Melissa Haslam... shocked at a rushed and bizarre decision.**

does not even protect our forests; forest management protects our forests."

Mrs Haslam said for forests to cope with a drying climate, to control and minimise dangerous wildfires, they still needed to be thinned

and managed. This would now come at a huge cost to taxpayers where previously the costs were offset by timber production.

She said while industry welcomed the \$350 million investment in the plantation sector, that investment would do nothing to help the native timber sector, as the two were not interchangeable.

"This decision will result in an increase in timber imports from countries which do not share our high environmental and management standards," Mrs Haslam said.

"Right now, we need more detail about what comes next for these businesses, who have been shattered by a reckless decision."

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# Ascent 'leisure in the age of technology'

STEPPING out of the exclusive Brisbane Expo 88 Club on a Saturday evening, a few days before the incredible six-month event ended, printer and publisher mate Kevin O'Grady glided in behind the wheel of his luxury dark blue Toyota Crown Royal Saloon G.

A select crowd of VIPs were also departing, accompanied by Expo Oz the platypus mascot. I can only guess the look and credentials of the saloon convinced officials that my 'chauffeur' was meant to be there!

That was 33 years ago and this week I tested the new Camry Ascent, Toyota's medium-class luxury sedan. The name 'Camry' derives from the Japanese word kanuri, meaning 'crown', which follows Toyota's naming tradition for primary models starting in 1955.



1



2



- 1/ **Toyota Camry Ascent... beating traditional competitors since 1993.**
- 2/ **Safety and comfort... inside Camry Ascent**

The theme of Expo 88 was 'Leisure in the Age of Technology' which could well describe the attributes

of the 2021 Camry Ascent.

It remains a prolific seller in Australia and has profited within its medium-sized class where it has been sales leader since 1993, beating traditional competitors including the Mazda 6 and Kia Stinger. In the US, except for 2001, the Camry was the best-selling passenger car from 1997 through 2020.

The base Toyota Camry Ascent is the only grade that

can be chosen as either a 2.5-litre four-cylinder, or as a hybrid. The standard model comes at \$30,990 (\$1000 extra for sat nav and \$575 for premium paint) and is equipped with 17-in. alloy wheels and a 7 in. multimedia touchscreen with Apple CarPlay and Android Auto connectivity.

To this can be added LED headlights, a driver's instrument screen, manual air-conditioning, cloth interior trim, and a wide-angle reversing camera.

The Ascent is powered by a 2.5-litre four-cylinder petrol engine producing 152 kW/243 Nm driving the front wheels

via an eight-speed automatic transmission.

Safety-wise the Ascent scores auto emergency braking, adaptive cruise control, traffic-sign recognition and auto high-beams. A pre-collision safety system detects potential collisions with vehicles, pedestrians and, during daylight, cyclists (they're everywhere). Seven SRS airbags include a driver's knee airbag.

For the first time, the base grade has been upgraded to include lane-keep assist and lane-departure warning, as well as an auto SOS and stolen-vehicle-tracking function.

I saw where an eighth generation 1987 Crown Royal auto sold for \$2500 in Brisbane recently.

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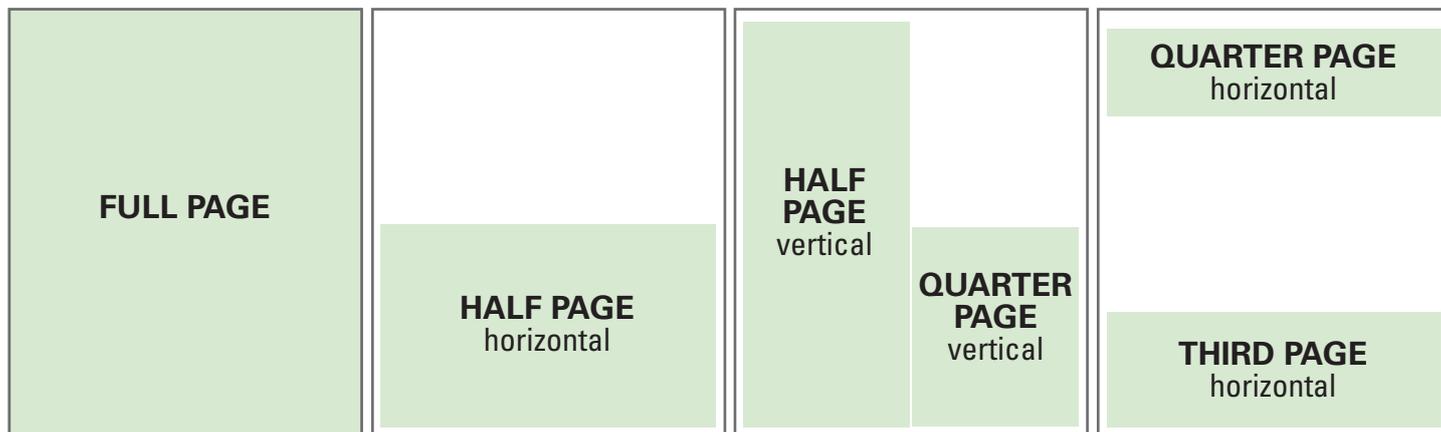
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