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COVER STORY P14

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# Victoria faces timber deficit of more than 76,000 house frames in less than 15 years

VICTORIA faces a major sovereign capability gap in the production of timber house frames by 2035, further signalling how crucial it is for the federal and state governments to deliver policies to urgently drive new production tree plantings.

A landmark new report by Master Builders Australia and the Australian Forest Products Association shows Australia is headed towards a major cliff in timber framing production, concluding Victoria will be 76,602 house frames short by 2035. Victoria will be hardest hit by the supply shortage, compared with Queensland (56,175) and New South Wales (51,068).

CEO of the Victorian Forest Products Association Deb Kerr called on state and federal forestry ministers who were meeting in Canberra on Wednesday to commit to a national plan that delivers an increase in the plantation estate.

“To tackle this substantial shortage, dramatic action is needed. Australia-wide, this requires the planting of



1/ Gap widening in supply of timber house frames.  
2/ Deb Kerr.. dramatic action needed.

400,000 new hectares of plantations by 2030,” Ms Kerr said.

“Not only will this create certainty in the supply for new homes and buildings, but it will increase supply of a sustainable building material that stores carbon and fights climate change,” Ms Kerr concluded.

The MBA-AFPA report shows Australia's timber mills massively increased production to meet demand during the Covid-induced building boom, producing more timber than ever before

in 2020-21 – more than 3 million cub m. Despite this, Australia is currently experiencing severe timber shortages as demand soars and timber imports dry up.

“This is only a glimpse of what the future holds if we don't plant more trees to increase timber supply,” the report said.

**“SECTOR IS HEADED TOWARDS A CLIFF”**



Meanwhile, the Victorian industry is protesting against the state government's Bill targeting forest contractors

Last week the Victorian

Government tried to rush new laws through parliament as part of the Forests Legislation (Compliance and Enforcement) Bill 2019. The changes proposed could have had a devastating impact on members of the Australian Forest Contractors Association, the forest contracting business and their crews including significant fines and possible jail time.

“The government tried to do this with no consultation with industry and that is simply unacceptable,” the AFCA said.

“The Bill was debated and did not go to a final vote, which is a small win for the industry. However the danger remains and we need to make sure it doesn't get passed.”



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# Forestry is not land clearing: Timber NSW calls out misleading environmental report

It's dishonest and stands in the way of community understanding of the sector

TIMBER NSW has called on Matt Kean the NSW Minister for Energy and the Environment and John Barilaro, Deputy Premier and Minister for Industry, to instruct their NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment cluster to rectify its misleading 2019 Woody Vegetation Change, Statewide Landcover and Tree Study (SLATS report), which continues to lump sustainable forestry in with land clearing.

"The latest report updated for 2019 figures was released last month with yet another blatant misrepresentation of forestry," Timber NSW general manager Maree McCaskill said.

"Forestry in the twenty-first century is not land clearing ... and it's not deforestation," Ms McCaskill said.

"This false characterisation in the SLATS report must stop. It was acknowledged as incorrect by the NSW government in 2016. Our industry would appreciate this being fixed urgently so the public is not misled."

Timber NSW has continually made this point to the Deputy Premier and the NSW government.

Ms McCaskill says every tree harvested under an authorised native forestry operation must be regenerated – that's the law in NSW.

"There is no net land clearing. There is no deforestation. Yet this report



1/ Multi-use state forests are a public forest, managed for community recreation, environmental conservation and timber production. Like many native forests managed by the NSW Forestry Corporation, it is a regrowth forest, which means it has been harvested in the past and regenerated naturally.

Photo: Forestry Corporation of NSW

2/ Maree McCaskill... government needs to fix the definition of forestry under land clearing in its NSW industry road map.



has the opposite conclusion," she said.

"This misleads everyone. It is dishonest and stands in the way of community understanding about forestry."

The peak NSW timber body has also called on NSW Independent MP Justin Field asking that he retract his statement reported in many media outlets that land clearing and deforestation were "out of control in NSW"

**"A SLOW BUT CONTINUOUS CYCLE OF TREE ESTABLISHMENT AND GROWTH"**

"For the sake of clarity we must keep repeating that all land under the NSW native forestry land use category comes with the obligation

that all trees harvested for timber are then regenerated," Ms McCaskill said.

Cont P 4

## The united voice for Australia's forest industries



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From P 3

“This means every tree harvested is regrown. There is no net loss of trees, there is no deforestation. It is a slow but continuous cycle of tree establishment, growth and harvest,” she said.

“The cycle of our remarkable NSW native timbers is 60 to 100 years,” Ms McCaskill said, pointing to one prominent example is the Tarkeeth forest near Lismore which was former dairy farming land planted to native species specifically for future timber harvest.

“This is a man-made plantation of native species trees developed purely for eventual harvest to add wood into Australian’s timber supply.”

Ms McCaskill said the simple act of correcting this report (because there was no deforestation) would ensure



**Matt Kean**



**John Barilaro**



**Justin Field**

the community was no longer misled. It would mean accurate information on the public record.

She said the government continued to include forestry operations and plantation clearing in the land use change statistics termed as land clearing when the Biodiversity Review Panel in 2014 recommended they be removed on the basis that forestry was regenerated or replanted and therefore was not a land use change.

Additionally, Ms McCaskill observed, the government stated the need to fix the

definition of forestry under land clearing in its 2016 NSW Forestry Industry Road Map, jointly endorsed by the Minister for Forestry and the Minister for the Environment. Under the road map’s regulatory pillar was a statement that, “the sustainable harvesting of native forest timber will no

**“PUTTING ACCURATE INFORMATION ON THE PUBLIC RECORD”**

longer be treated as a form of land-use change such as clearing.”

“We think five years is more than enough time for the government to do what it said it would do,” Ms McCaskill said. “That’s why our members are now publicly calling for it to urgently fix this report.”

NSW Farmers has also raised objections that the SLATS report misleads about agriculture vegetation loss.

“We can appreciate the frustration for farmers,” Ms McCaskill said. “Indeed hundreds of NSW tree producers are farmers too.”

“It is completely unacceptable to turn a blind eye to official public funded reports that contain misleading data.”

Timber NSW looks forward to the NSW government correcting this incorrect report – very soon.



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## Major players in trade, transport bring largest ship to New Zealand

A DEAL has been finalised that will see the largest vessel to ever call at New Zealand for the loading of logs.

The deal between South Pacific Shipping (SPS) and Oldendorff Carriers was brokered by Braemar ACM’s Bruce McFarlane, a Mount Maunganui local. Braemar also negotiated the deal with ISO Stevedoring that delivered the mobile cranes from the manufacturer in Germany to the port of Tauranga last year.

“We saw an opportunity to bring together two major players from the logs trade and dry bulk shipping to create new economies of scale through the utilisation

of new mobile shore cranes and larger vessels at Tauranga,” Bruce McFarlane said.

Oldendorff Carriers has been part of the New Zealand logs trade for decades. The opportunity to partake in the first Post-Panamax to load logs from New Zealand suited Oldendorff’s flexibility and diversity.

With more than 700 vessels in its operating fleet that range from 11,000 mt deadweight through to 210,000 mt deadweight, Oldendorff has been able to draw from its extensive fleet to quickly adjust to developing shipping requirements.

# ‘Safe and Skilled’ now more accessible to forestry employees across Australia

THE key forest industry safety training program, Safe and Skilled, has been enhanced to deliver even more safety awareness for employees across workplaces.

The changes come after the Australian Forest Products Association's growers chamber ratified a suite of program improvements designed to ensure employees are correctly trained on safety.

“With the assistance of skills development organisation ForestWorks, Safe and Skilled now has an additional list of approved predecessor units which means that prior training will receive the recognition that it deserves,” the general manager of the Australian Forest Contractors Association Stacey Gardiner said.

“Furthermore, the program



**More safety awareness for employees across the forest sector.** Photo: Forestry Corporation of NSW

will now annually review and revise units to ensure that they are current, and their prior status is recognised,” she said.

General Manager of ForestWorks Yvette Nash said one of the biggest changes was that employees who had completed training at the higher level in implementing safety, health and environment policies and procedures



**Stacey Gardiner**



**Yvette Nash**



**Ross Hampton**

would no longer need to complete units at the lower level in following policies and procedures for environmental care (FWPCOR2203) and for health and safety (FWPCOR2205).

“This will make it more convenient to obtain the right qualifications in a timely manner,” Ms Nash said.

ForestWorks will provide an updated list on its website for industry to use a resource as required.

AFFA CEO Ross Hampton said the the growers chamber unanimously agreed on a suite of improvements to

“STRIVING TO DELIVER WORLD BEST PRACTICE

the program which would make it easier for industry to ensure their employees had the correct safety training. Another key change is the extension of the deadline for the Safe and Skilled program to December 31, 2021.

“Australia’s forest industries are striving to deliver world best practice in ensuring employees’ awareness and safety, and the program will continue to be refined as required,” Mr Hampton said.

Safe and Skilled program launched in September 2018 committed members of AFFA and AFCA to ensure that their forest workers hold a statement of attainment in approved and nationally recognised units of competency, relevant for forest operations.



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LET'S be clear ... the endangered species in Australia's forests are the sawmillers who supports thousands of families and communities.

Shock government announcements of the end of native forest harvesting in Victoria and Western Australia paint a bleak future for the sustainable, renewable sector in both states – the start of a domino effect that will be felt nation-wide.

Timber&Forestry news asked professional NSW forester Eden-based Vic Jurskis to highlight major areas of concern after a lifetime in the sector. He listed three that have risen to the top of the list. Formerly a silviculturist with the NSW Forestry Commission with a B.Sc. (Forestry), Mr Jurskis is a recipient of the British Commonwealth Forestry Book Prize.

**Number 1 – Workers in sustainable industries:**

In the Pilliga, Bob Carr locked up a resource created by thinning woody weeds. Kristina Keneally gutted communities who'd



turned useless scrub into beautiful red gum forest. Now, Mark McGowan in Western Australia is killing a sustainable native forest industry to supposedly preserve carbon stocks and biodiversity.

Foresters in WA have maintained healthy landscapes by mild burning for six decades. At least 8% must be treated each year to prevent megafires. Dangerous fuels accumulate in six years. So, unless half the landscape receives careful maintenance, disasters will occur, as they do in the east whenever there's bad weather.

**Number 2 - Academics using the scientific method:**

Carbon emissions from wildfires aren't brought to account. Academics say mild burning doesn't help in bad weather. In the few places they think it works under normal conditions, the 'leverage' is supposedly too small. There they say total emissions are increased by burning.

The claims rely on computer models and false assumptions. They are dumbfounded and contradicted by real data and by the experience of

**“TURNED USELESS SCRUB INTO BEAUTIFUL RED GUM FOREST**

bushies who've made friends with fire. Foresters know that burning recycles nutrients and keeps the bush healthy. But it's restricted now, to a miniscule proportion of the landscape – a fatally flawed approach.

Carbon accounting ignores basic science. Young trees grow quickly. Carbon sequestration declines before they reach

usable size, when carbon can be stored in durable products. Uptake is boosted in regrowth and residues can be used as renewable energy.

Our universities are captured by environmental activists. They have the ears of government. So we've suffered Black Saturday and Black Summer. Native forestry is nearly extinct, and behind the hype about climate change and extinctions, our history has been torched.

No native species is extinct through forestry. Ask any academic activist for an example and judge for yourself.

Cont P 10



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**OCTOBER**

**TBA: 22nd Australian Timber Design Award.** Official judging early October. More than 90 submissions, a remarkable result through the ever-changing Covid restrictions and lockdowns. People's Choice Award will remain open until October 17. Contact Timber Development Association at info@tdansw.asn.au or 0420 232 253.

**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 3-8: Gottstein Trust**

**Understanding Wood Science Course – Sunday evening, April 3, 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)

**EVENTS LISTS MAY CHANGE DUE TO CORONAVIRUS. PLEASE CHECK THE RELEVANT WEBSITES FOR UPDATES.**

**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>

**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)

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# Fonterra wood pellet energy milking every opportunity to reduce greenhouse emissions

## New Zealand cooperative meeting environmental and human resources targets

**COOPERATIVE**  
New Zealand dairy group Fonterra, which is responsible for about 30% of the world's dairy exports, says it has reduced its greenhouse gas emissions from coal by 11% this year primarily due to the conversion of its North Island site to renewable wood pellets.

The reduction was reported as part of its yearly sustainability scorecard, which shows progress towards environmental and human resources targets.

Based at Te Awamutu in the Waikato region, Fonterra is owned by more than 10,500 New Zealand farmers with revenue exceeding \$NZ17.2 billion.

The 11% reduction in emissions from coal was a big contributor to Fonterra's global greenhouse gas reduction of 6.5% from manufacturing emissions, chief operations officer Fraser Whineray said.

"Having committed to get

**“REDUCING SOLID WASTE IN LANDFILL**



1

**1/ New Zealand dairy group Fonterra has reduced its greenhouse gas emissions by 11% this year, primarily due to the conversion to renewable wood pellets.**

**2/ Fraser Whineray... biggest decarbonisation project in the country last year.**

out of coal by 2037 from the nine remaining sites, Te Awamutu provided material GHG reductions and further confidence to undertake our next project at our Stirling cheese site in the South Island. Stirling will become our first 100% renewable thermal energy site," Mr Whineray said

"The Te Awamutu project was the biggest decarbonisation project in the country last year."

Fonterra's scorecard and sustainability reporting was independently audited by Bureau Veritas.

Fonterra was also rewarding farmers for sustainability improvements



2

with its new milk payment "the cooperative difference". On-farm demonstration of care for the environment, animals, people and community could earn farmers an extra 10c per kilogram of milk solids.

"The average farmer does 170,000 kg, so that's \$17,000 a year," Mr Whineray said.

Fonterra had sent 4000 tonnes of solid waste to landfill in the last year, a reduction of 24.6% in one year. The cooperative's goal is zero waste to landfill by 2025.

Another target set out in

its sustainability scorecard was a 36% reduction in water use at manufacturing sites in water-constrained regions by 2030 (from its 2018 financial year baseline).

Just over half of all Fonterra suppliers have

developed a tailored farm environmental plan, up from 34% last year and the co-op is on track to meet its target of 100% by 2025. Farm plans were provided free of charge to all Fonterra farmers.

Global wood pellet fuel market is expected to grow at a steady annual growth rate during the forecast period, 2022-2026.

Rising awareness of the harmful impact of the carbon emissions emitted from the non-renewable sources of energy and the adoption of eco-friendly energy sources is accelerating the demand for renewable energy sources.

The growing use of wood pellet fuels for electricity generation to reduce the level of carbon emission in coal-based power plants is expected to boost the growth of the product globally in the next five years.



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# PEFC chief among key presenters 'zooming' to Responsible Wood's AGM at Timber Hub

IN Paris on June 30, 1999, European small-forest owners came together to create an international forest certification system that had their needs at heart ... and PEFC was born.

Today the Program for the Endorsement of Forest Certification is the world's largest forest certification system with more than 330 million ha certified and 750,000 individual forest owners allied under the scheme.

Governing body in Australia, Responsible Wood will present PEFC International CEO Ben Gunneberg as keynote speaker at its 18th annual AGM on October 19.



**Ben Gunneberg**



**Kelli Northwood**



**Gib Wettenhall**

The meeting will connect by Zoom conferencing or in person at the Brisbane office.

"Responsible Wood is delighted that Ben Gunneberg will address the meeting and provide an update on PEFC initiatives," CEO Simon Dorries said.

Kellie Northwood, CEO of the Real Media Collective will

be discussing the Australian Love Paper campaign, and Gib Wettenhall, a Responsible Wood Community Grants recipient, will also address the meeting.

Responsible Wood will announce the recipient of the coveted Richard Stanton Memorial Award for forest management, marking

the seventh year of the presentation.

The AGM will take place at the 'Timber Hub', headquarters for both Timber Queensland and Responsible Wood. The hub has achieved Responsible Wood project certification through SCS Global Services.

Attendance at the meeting will be managed in accordance with Covid-19 social distance guidelines and requirements.

If you or your organisation are current members of Responsible Wood and have not received the notice of the meeting, send a message to [info@responsiblewood.org.au](mailto:info@responsiblewood.org.au)

## Stephen Macaulay appointed new CEO at WPMA in NZ

RESPECTED rural industry lobbyist Stephen Macaulay has been appointed new CEO of the Wood Processors and Manufacturers Association in New Zealand.

He replaces Dr Jon Tanner who has taken up a new role as chief executive of a larger entity.

Mr Macaulay was formerly CEO of the New Zealand

Institute of Primary Industry Management, the peak industry body representing more than 1100 farm advisers and rural professionals that provide advice and services to the sector.

He has developed an impressive record in building and developing high performing organisations within primary industries.



**Stephen Macaulay**

During his time with NZIPIM, he was instrumental in establishing and implementing the strategy, drive and enthusiasm that transformed

the organisation into a highly recognised and influential body representing the interests of its members.

Stephen Macaulay will start at WPMA in January.

WPMA is a whole-of-industry organisation supporting wood processing and manufacturing firms and companies of all sizes and in all regions.



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From P 6

Our infamous small mammal extinctions were a consequence of scrub growth after mild burning was disrupted in dry areas where forests never grew.

Incredibly, bureaucrats now intend to put koalas on the endangered list.

There are many more koalas over a much wider area than there were when Europeans arrived.

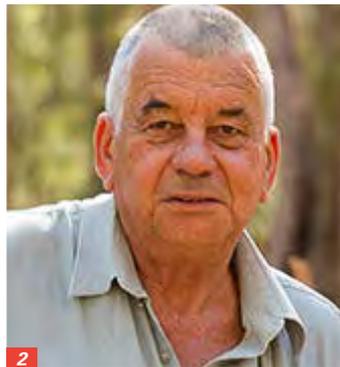
Activists use them to stop forestry, despite the fact that it actually promotes them. The koala food supply is enhanced in regrowth or plantations, just the same as carbon capture. The effects begin immediately at harvest, from growth flush in retained trees and edge trees.

**Number 3 – Politicians in touch with reality:**

Political power resides in inner-city electorates



1/ Incredibly, bureaucrats now intend to put koalas on the endangered list.  
2/ Vic Jurskis... the solution is sustainable management of natural resources.



2 where people are isolated from nature and primary production – a fertile ground for the wilderness cult.

Our 'Lock It Up and Let It Burn' conservation paradigm is the greatest single contributor to carbon emissions, erosion, siltation, pollution and loss of biodiversity.

The solution is sustainable management of natural resources.

**Main picture:** Sawmill workers Mark Hack and Mick Swain at Longwarry Sawmilling Co, 83 km north-east of Melbourne. Co-owner Bruce Craig says he expects a "hard landing" from the decision by Daniel Andrews to close the state's hardwood industry.

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# New research emerges in the battle to control and eradicate ‘wildings’ in NZ

## Confronting relentless spread of wind-blown, regenerating exotic pines

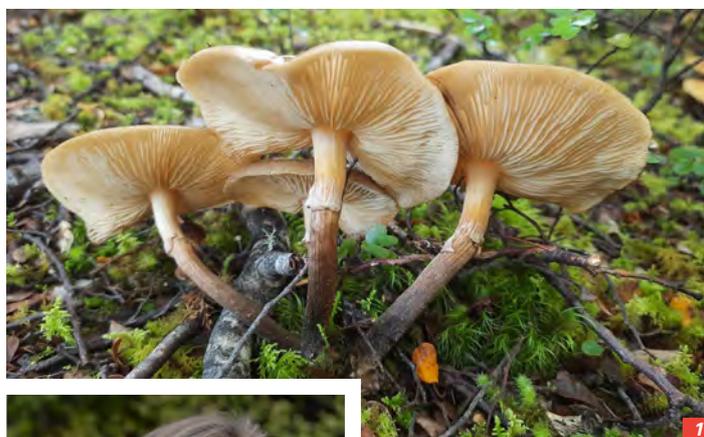
THE relentless spread of wind-blown, naturally regenerating exotic pines across the New Zealand landscape is prompting increasingly innovative research into methods of control and eradication.

Timber & Forestry e news took the opportunity to talk to Genevieve Early, a postgraduate student at the University of Canterbury, who is investigating the possibility of using an indigenous fungus to control ‘wilding’ infestations.

Genevieve majored in biological sciences (with a minor in environmental science), and then got involved with Bioprotection Aotearoa at the end of 2019.

“I was offered the chance to work on Armillaria fungi and wilding pines as part of a

**“SCHOLARSHIPS A GREAT WAY TO GET YOUR HANDS DIRTY”**



1/ *Armillaria* occurs naturally in the ecosystem of New Zealand’s native forests. Photo: Genevieve Early  
 2/ Genevieve Early... researching the use of an indigenous fungus to control wilding infestations. Photo: Matt Walters

summer scholarship over the university holidays,” she said.

“The scholarships are a

**ACROSS THE DITCH**

**With MICHAEL SMITH**

great way to get your hands dirty, undertaking scientific research before starting a postgraduate degree.”

Her attention was

immediately drawn to the current methods used to control wilding pines. “They are a mixture of manual felling, uprooting seedlings, and basal trunk drilling for herbicide filling – where the terrain allows for access of workers on foot. Where this is not possible, the main method of control has been by aerial herbicide application from helicopters.

“Based on what I have read, and heard from those involved, none of these methods seems to be 100% effective.

“Manual felling is extremely labour-intensive. It’s hard to remove every single tree, especially if they are in difficult terrain – or other vegetation like grass is obscuring some of the seedlings. Herbicide spraying is expensive but very efficient in densely populated areas. However, some trees always seem to survive.”

Genevieve says another issue in the battle for eradication is the speed at

Cont P 12



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From P 11

which pines can reproduce.

“Pinus contorta, especially, can reach reproductive age in just a few years, coning and spreading seeds all over the landscape. Seed banks left in the soil are another problem, with pine seedlings still popping up even after really good control has been undertaken.

“If we don’t keep visiting control sites and removing the next generation of pines, the trees can reinvade in just three or so years.”

She adds that wildings are most commonly taking over alpine areas and grasslands.

“In alpine environments, they are able to grow above the natural treeline – tolerating higher altitudes and harsher weather conditions better than native tree species,” she says.

Grassland spread of wildings compromises water catchments, replaces native vegetation and reduces land use options ... costing farmers both time and money to control.

“On conservation land, wildings are altering the look and feel of our landscapes,” Genevieve says.



**The relentless spread of wildings... Clarence River, South Island.**  
Photo: Biosecurity New Zealand

“Pine-covered mountains and hills may be a common sight in Europe and North America – but that’s a totally different look to the natural bush and forest for which New Zealand is famous. And in areas such as the Mackenzie Basin, the iconic golden tussock landscapes have a good chance of being replaced

by pine forests if the spread is left unchecked.”

Genevieve says the research aimed to increase our understanding of Armillaria – which occurs naturally in the ecosystem of native forests, helping to decay fallen trees – and to investigate whether it could be used as a biological

control agent.

“For example, can Armillaria be introduced to grassland areas that are susceptible to wilding pine invasions, where it doesn’t currently exist? And would introducing it at the same time as pines are felled prevent reinvasion?”

She took various samples of wilding pines (ranging from live and freshly harvested wood to old and decayed wood) to test the growth prospects of the fungus. “The exact site I sampled was a grassy hillside in the Craigieburn area of northwest Canterbury, which is part conservation land and part high-country farming land.

“The site has had lots of control,” she said. “There are dead pines everywhere, both from chainsaw felling and herbicide application – but there are plenty of pines still alive, and many seedlings emerging.

“It really highlighted to me the difficulties of controlling wildings when you see how many new pines are emerging, and the number of mature pines still alive.”

• *Next week we talk further with Genevieve about the promising (and enterprising) results of her research.*

LETTERS

## Scribbly bark: a road map for southern tribes to enter Qld?

YOUR quiller John Halkett usually informs via his ‘Talking Trees’ column in your august publication.

Let me assure him and your readers that Sydney scribbles on Eucalyptus haemastoma (Timber&Forestry e-news Sept 26) would never be allowed into Queensland even if HRH Palaszczuk lifted the border police patrol.

We have our own scribbly bark tree thank you – Eucalyptus racemosa.

What though is more disconcerting is the ‘mud’ map provided in the article of the road network used by southern tribes attempting to thwart surveillance and travel illegally into our safe Queensland lands.

And on climate change ... a term that means different things to different people. The fact that temp, wind, humidity, et al change regularly, even diurnally, is not contested. The causal agents involved in variability are.



The term has become a dumping ground for all manner of environmental and landscape managerial challenges. Greg Mullins in his ‘Firestorm’ book is just the latest to include wild fires

as climate change in action.

The ethos of city firefighters is to go to a point source raging fire and put it out by flooding.

The ethos of landscape managers is to prepare so that they minimise any encounter with raging fire fronts.

Rural Fire Brigades, therefore, need to be separated from City Brigades.

– **DR GARY BACON, AM, forester, Brisbane.**

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# Thick CLT panels woven like leaves in moveable Tokyo hybrid timber pavilion

## Building materials sourced from forests surrounding Japan's 'biomass city'

JAPANESE engineer Kengo Kuma has designed a 'moveable' timber and steel hybrid pavilion in Tokyo using CLT panels 'woven like leaves' measuring 160 cm x 350 cm and 21 cm thick.

Called CLT Park Harumi, the 1631-sq m space was designed to be used for events and performances for an open area in Harumi, Tokyo.

Kengo Kuma has used diagonal pieces of CLT in different angles that are joined with a steel frame. The timber pieces wrap around the pavilion and distribute light and shadow in "a mysterious way".

The interior of the pavilion is not easily perceived because of the complexity and the use of timber pieces, but visitors entering the pavilion are welcomed with a light-filled and airy structure.

Mr Kuma is professor in the Department of Architecture (Graduate School of Engineering) at the University of Tokyo. He designed the controversial Japan National Stadium at the Summer Olympics.

He was in Sydney recently to inspect the early construction of The Exchange, Darling Square, a building he designed standing six storeys high



**Japanese architect Kengo Kuma looks over the construction of The Exchange at Darling Square, Sydney, a building he designed standing six storeys high and wrapped in 20 km of Accoya timber.**

and wrapped in 20 km of sustainably-sourced Accoya timber.

Powering Sydney's start-up culture, The Exchange includes a dedicated IQ hub and makerspace providing flexible spaces for events, seminars, meetings, workshops and cross-disciplinary creativity and invention.

Kengo Kuma said the CLT panels for the timber hybrid building in Tokyo were all sourced from the Meiken Lamwood Corporation in Maniwa City in Okayama, 725 km from Tokyo, an area of 830 sq km which is about 80% forest.

Mr Kuma says that after their period of use in Harumi comes to an end, the panels will be transported back to the Hiruzen National Park in

and bark produced in the lumbering process.

Maniwa's biomass plant is fuelled by 90,000 tonnes of wood a year from forest thinning and other unused lumber from the region, as well as 58,000 tonnes of general lumber such as woody waste from lumber mills, producing some 10,000 kW, enough electricity to power around 22,000 ordinary households.

"Maniwa City has been actively planting cypress trees since 1950.

Maniwa and reassembled.

The studio used super-transparent kite-shaped pieces made from TEFKA (high-performance fluororesin film) to close off the gap between the CLT panels. Also they protect visitors from rain and wind, allowing light to filter through the CLT leaves like trees in a forest.

The forestry industry has long flourished in Maniwa and cedar and cypress, planted as saplings and cultivated by local people, account for around 60% of the total forest area.

Among these forestry resources, Maniwa City has paid special attention to the effective utilisation of unused wood as biomass, in particular wood from forest thinning and woody waste such as the branches, leaves

Meanwhile, Kengo Kuma had joined a team of engineers at Japan-based firm Kozo Keikaku Kunkyo to develop an earthquake-resistant CLT checkered block wall at a kindergarten in Tokyo.

The system comprises CLT panels organised in a checkered pattern, steel plates and drift pins. The solution accounts for seismic integrity, daylighting and passive ventilation.

The team hopes to further develop its application of CLT seismic design and construction.

“DIAGONAL PIECES OF CLT USED AT DIFFERENT ANGLES

**On the cover: CLT Park Harumi in Tokyo, a removable timber hybrid pavilion using diagonal pieces of CLT in different angles with a steel frame.**

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# A century of sawmilling: how sweet it is

A MOMENTOUS occasion for the Sweetman family this month was a celebration of 100 years of sawmill and timber processing in the NSW Hunter Valley.

A fourth generation company, R.A. Sweetman & Sons has the longest, continuous log supply contractual arrangements with the government in NSW.

Sweetman's Timber has been a remarkably successful timber supply company that is testament to the legacy of generations of Sweetman family members



Four generations of the Sweetman family gather to mark 100 years of hardwood sawmilling in the Hunter Valley... Ken Sweetman (centre) with trade mark hard hat and wife Maree flanked by family members at the Millfield sawmill.

who have managed and operated this sawmilling complex over the decades.

Sweetman is one of the founding pioneer families in

the Hunter Valley. The district was settled early in the colonisation of Australia when soldiers, sailors, ex-convicts, and new settlers travelled up the Hawkesbury River and crossed overland into the Hunter Valley region.

The family's hardwood timber business has customers across Australia in heavy industrial development, and also in a wide range of construction and commercial and residential building projects. Sweetman's Timber also has a long, successful relationship supporting mining operations in the Hunter Valley, and major infrastructure initiatives in Sydney and beyond.

Sweetman family sawmilling and timber business enterprises have been a stand-out commercial success that has allowed the family to expand its business activities beyond the timber industry into farming and transport.

\*\*\* \*\*

A TRIP around Sweetmans Timber at Millfield reveals an efficient mill in a picturesque

setting that has been operating for over 100 years providing quality timber for construction, flooring and decking and fencing.

As one of the closest mills to the Sydney metropolitan area, Sweetmans has a reputation for quality and service.

Originally obtaining their timber from around the Watagans, Sweetmans Timber operated in an ecosystem that encouraged careful stewardship of the forests in which they operated.

They have now reached a milestone of 100 years operating with what was the Forestry Commission and now Forestry Corporation under all the various licences.

Amazingly, the family patriarch Ken Sweetman, who is about to turn 90 years of age, is still actively overseeing the business. He has three generations of the family working in different aspects of the mill and haulage.

Ken has watched as the forest supply has diminished due to annexures of production forest into national parks and experienced many major fires and floods.

With a diversified business, Ken can proudly look back on his quiet but passionate defence of the forest industry and its importance to the supply chain in building and construction.

For decades Ken and Sweetmans Timber have been active and loyal members and supporters of Timber NSW and its predecessors.

A brilliant achievement to be in business for more than 100 years.

**- MAREE McCASKILL, general manager, Timber NSW.**

# Work begins to grow replacement for iconic Sugar Pine Walk in NSW's Bago state forest

MORE than 1000 pine seedlings have started their decades-long journey to replace the iconic Sugar Pine Walk in the NSW Bago state forest, which was sadly lost in the 2020 Black Summer bushfires.

The former site was planted in 1928 as a range of different exotic species were being trialled for the forestry industry, later growing to become a majestic landmark for tourists and locals alike.

"These tiny seedlings have a long way to go, but this is an important step in rebuilding the site and the tourism experience of the area," Forestry Corporation of NSW silviculture manager Roger Davies said.

"The new site will also incorporate a number of large towering radiata pines that survived the bushfire to form part of the new Bago state forest tourism precinct," Mr Davies said.



1/ Forestry Corporation of NSW silviculture manager Roger Davies... the new Sugar Pine seedlings literally grew from the ashes.

2/ Kerryanne Reiners happily joins in the seedling plantings at Sugar Pine Walk.



"This project is funded by the NSW government to enhance visitor experience in the forest."

Around 1500 new seedlings

were planted at the site last month – these initially self-seeded after the devastation of the bushfire, and later collected and propagated to form the 2021 Sugar Pine Walk planting cohort.

"The new Sugar Pine seedlings literally grew from the ashes, so are somewhat symbolic for the region's recovery and also necessary for the replacement walk," Mr Davies said.

"The species is threatened in its native North America and biosecurity prevents seed from being imported into Australia.

"Locally, the hefty cones are also a favourite food source for cockatoos, so getting replacement seedlings has been no small feat.

"I am excited that future generations will be able to experience the magic of walking amongst giants."

Deputy Premier and Minister for Regional NSW John Barilaro said upgrades and replanting of trees at the Sugar Pine Walk was made possible through the Regional Growth - Environment and Tourism Fund.

"The Black Summer bushfires dealt a huge blow to eco-tourism fire-affected areas and the NSW government is backing projects that will bring nature-based tourism activities back to life and support regional economies," Mr Barilaro said.

Grant-funded works include new and upgraded visitor areas, amenities and sculpture works under the guidance of project partners including Sculptures by the Sea.

“SEEDLINGS SYMBOLIC OF THE REGION'S RECOVERY”

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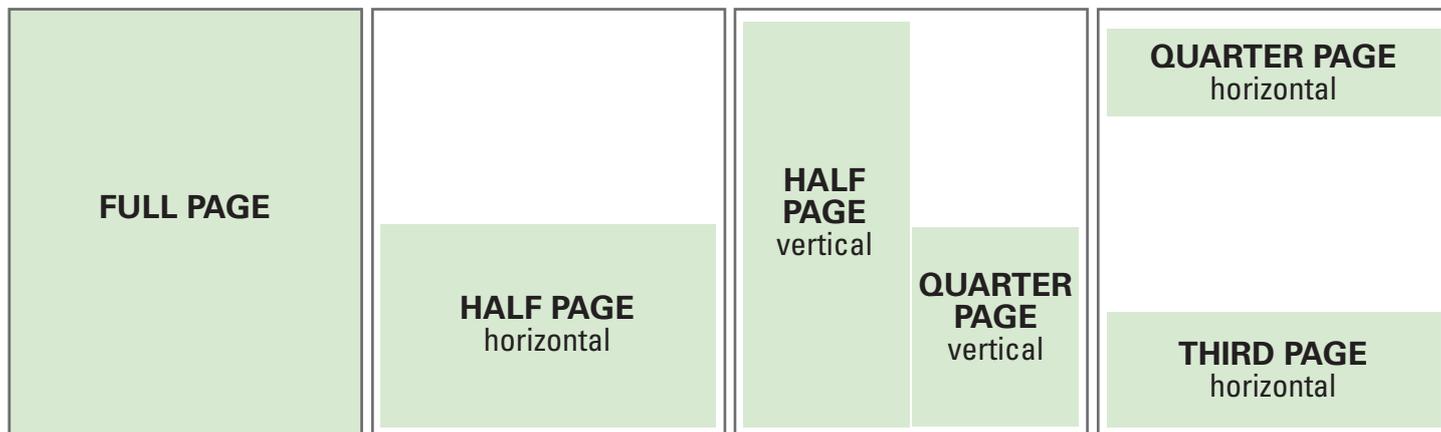
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