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on women who work in  
the sawmill business**

COVER STORY P4



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# Door open for renewable energy projects to work alongside renewable timbers in NSW

RENEWABLE energy and renewable timber may soon be produced side-by-side, with the passage last Friday of legislation to enable clean energy developments such as wind energy to be established in state forest pine plantations.

NSW parliament passed amendments to the Forestry Act 2012 as part of the Energy Legislation Amendment Bill to facilitate the opportunity to establish renewable energy infrastructure in state forest pine plantations.

Forestry Corporation CEO Anshul Chaudhary said the opportunity to add to the sustainability of the already renewable timber resource was exciting.

"State-owned pine plantations produce enough renewable timber to build around 35,000 homes a year, and we can now explore opportunities for these plantations to also produce renewable energy to power those homes," Mr Chaudhary said.

"We've seen great examples of renewable energy



**Anshul Chaudhary... supply of essential timber products from the state forests remains a primary focus.**

being produced in plantations interstate and overseas while maintaining a strong supply of timber and it's exciting to open the doors to this new opportunity to grow renewable energy production in NSW.

"As well as boosting the state's renewable energy production, new renewable energy developments such as wind energy within pine plantations will also augment the strong regional employment in the forest and wood product industries with new employment opportunities in renewable energy development."

Mr Chaudhary said maintaining a sustainable supply of essential timber products from the state forest pine plantations remained a primary focus so, importantly, any renewable generation infrastructure would be limited to a small area of the softwood plantation estate.

In addition, any plantation trees removed would be offset with a 'two-for-one' deal, actually increasing the area

**“REAL WIN FOR RENEWABLES IN STATE FORESTS**

of public land dedicated to growing pine plantations for future timber needs.

"So this is a real win-win for renewables in NSW," Mr Chaudhary said.

"Forestry Corporation is not currently considering any specific proposals for renewable energy production, but with state forest pine plantations located across more than 230,000 ha, and many near existing energy infrastructure, there is a lot of potential to explore."

The legislative change is the first step in a process that allows Forestry Corporation to go to the market for proposals for new renewable energy opportunities.

"Any opportunities within pine plantations would be required to follow the existing planning approval process, which must consider the environmental impact, noise, landscape and visual impacts, traffic and transport issues, hazard and risks, heritage, water and soil impacts, waste management and complete community consultation," Mr Chaudhary added.



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# Forests in the path of an unprecedented alien attack on native wildlife and the environment

## CSIRO report says damage by invading species is costing \$25bn a year

YOUNG trees, seedlings and even more mature forests are in the path of an unprecedented alien attack on native wildlife and the environment, with experts warning unique flora and fauna is in danger of disappearing by 2050 unless urgent action is taken.

Feral animals can severely damage exotic forestry by trampling seedlings, browsing young trees and stripping bark from older trees.

A new CSIRO report released this week shows the environment is facing a "sliding doors" moment, with two possible futures for Australia, "depending on the decisions made today".

It highlights a looming wave of new extinctions and outlines two futures for Australia – one based on an unsustainable 'business-as-usual' approach and the other on implementing targeted actions that will help save our unique biodiversity.

The report pegs the conservative cost of damage caused by invasive species in Australia – predominantly feral pigs and cats, rabbits and fire ants – at \$390 billion over the past six decades and around \$25 billion each year and growing.

There are up to six million feral cats and 23 million feral pigs in Australia.

**"THERE ARE UP TO 23 MILLION FERAL PIGS IN AUSTRALIA"**



*Threat to forests... there are more than 20 million feral pigs in Australia.*

{The US Forest Service says wild pigs were observed destroying young trees "at the rate of six per minute per hog" and attributes a complete failure of planting longleaf and slash pine to wild pigs with damage also to planted hardwood seedlings].

Eight in 10 nationally-listed threatened species are endangered by invasive species and more than 70% of Australia's native animals are found nowhere else on earth.

Launched by Australia's national science agency CSIRO along with the Centre for Invasive Species Solutions, the report highlights the need for emerging biosecurity technologies to be fast tracked and for the urgent development of new techniques to prevent, eradicate and control invasive pests.

Report co-author CSIRO scientist Dr Andy Sheppard said while many Australians were aware of the havoc caused by the recent mouse plagues in NSW, Queensland and Victoria, they had no

idea of the magnitude of the invasive species issue for Australia.

"Urgent, decisive, coordinated action is crucial to stopping the spread of

invasive species and to protect our extraordinary, irreplaceable native animals and plants," Dr Sheppard said.

He said many more smart decisions and interventions were needed to ensure resources were invested where they were most effective.

"Prevention will be much cheaper and more effective than trying to control the spread of pests and weeds once they are established," he said.

"We need to safely harness emerging technologies, revitalise our biosecurity

*Cont P 7*

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 Australian Forest Products Association

# Award winner Donna shining light for women and the tough challenges of running a sawmill

JIM BOWDEN

A WOMAN who has devoted much of her life to the sawmilling industry and the communities it serves has won the Dedication Award in the prestigious national Shine Awards announced this week.

Donna Layton, general manager of the Notaras sawmill at Grafton, NSW, joined the company in 1978 after schooling, rising up the ranks as one of a small handful of female sawmillers in the country.

This year the Shine Awards, sponsored by The Weekly Times and Harvey Norman, share stories of female achievement,



**Modern Notaras sawmill at Grafton... one of Australia's best producers of kiln-dried hardwood flooring.**

entrepreneurship, dedication, leadership and triumph — as well as stories of hardship and heartache.

No one felt the devastation

of the 2019–20 Black Summer bushfires harder than Donna who shouldered the burden of maintaining a vital local business while grieving the loss of her own property.

So she devised a plan ... a plan so workers could keep their jobs after the sawmill suffered a 40% downturn overnight with a shortage of logs and work drying up instantly. A major employer for Grafton and its surrounds, Donna wracked her brains on how she could keep the business afloat and keep paying people's wages.

"You go home and think about all these different scenarios on how to keep the business running in such tough circumstances," she said. "One day might seem really hard, but you come up with another idea, or something positive happens and sparks you back up so you go on again."

Donna says the business is still suffering from the timber shortage, with supply dwindling down to zero twice

already this year. It's going to be a long haul, but as always, Donna is determined to push through the challenges, a shining light for her community.

Donna paid tribute to her first employers Brinos and Spiro Notaras, no longer with us, who turned the sawmill into one

of the world's best producers of high-quality kiln-dried hardwood flooring and a major economic driver in the Clarence Valley region.

Two important applications of Notaras timber flooring are in the South Australian Art Gallery and the Speaker's Podium at Parliament House, Canberra.

**“A TRIBUTE TO THE NOTARAS BROTHERS**

The Notaras story is one of two brothers of Greek heritage who, in 1952 with the help of their father, bought the Lawrence sawmill in Grafton.

"Spiro's tenacity still shines through," Donna said of the timber industry icon who died, aged 83, in 2016.

"His long-term staff reflect his business philosophy – treat everyone like family and embrace quality, right down to the smallest detail as, after all, quality will always find its



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# UN lays down a blueprint for forest and wood with COP26 release of global economy report

THE NZ Forest Owners Association says the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation has laid down a blueprint for the forest and wood industry, with the release of 'Forest Products in the Global Economy', as part of COP26 in Glasgow.

CEO David Rhodes, a former chair of the UN advisory committee on sustainable forest industries, says while trees are best known for their ability to sequester carbon from the atmosphere, the future of forest products, as a replacement for petrochemical sourced materials, is equally important.

**FAO IDENTIFIES RESISTANCE BY VESTED INTERESTS**

"This just released FAO report details what can be done with both timber itself, and what can be achieved as well using wood materials," Mr Rhodes said.

"Much of it is already well-proven technology. What has been lacking is the realisation of the dreadful consequences on the environment if we continue to use vast volumes of fossil fuels, steel, concrete and plastics."

"The FAO identifies what it calls resistance by vested interests in making way for a sustainable bio-economy, and it says the inertia these interests create 'should be actively addressed and tackled'."

The UN FAO report cites a New Zealand MPI report, issued in 2017, which identified desired potential developments, in particular



**David Rhodes... wood derived materials and products bring rethink of the global economic system.**

"new forest ecosystem services such as bio-refinery forests, the use of short-rotation trees for biomass and bioenergy products."

David Rhodes says MPI has updated and begun to act on the 2017 report with a 'Forest Industry Transformation Plan', designed to lessen New Zealand's dependence on

log exports, increase timber production and develop new sustainable technologies to utilise large amounts of wood which otherwise may be left in the forest after harvest.

"We are already seeing a move in New Zealand towards using wood fuel to replace coal in school and dairy factory boilers, but the transformation is going to be huge from now on," Mr Rhodes said.

"The FAO cites all sorts of developments, such as using wood fibre to replace viscose and polyester, through ventures such as the Swedish-based Tree to Textile AB.

"Put together, wood derived materials and products will constitute what the FAO Report calls a necessary 'rethink of the global economic system'."



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# 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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GREEN TRIANGLE  
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**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)

**JUNE 2022****NB. REVISED DATE**

**13: AFPA gala dinner. –TBA. POSTPONED EVENT.**  
[www.ausfpa.com.au](http://www.ausfpa.com.au)

**NB. REVISED DATE**

**21-22: Frame Australia Timber Offsite Construction –Crown Promenade Melbourne, VIC.**

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

**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)

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

From P 3

research and innovation (R&I) system and continue to invest in long-term, strategic research and development," he said.

Co-author and CISS chief executive Andreas Glanznig, said the report offered a pathway to a pest and weed-proof Australia and showed that every Australian had a role to play in achieving that outcome.

"Invasive species have

contributed to the extinction of 79 Australian native species," he said.

The single biggest vertebrate menace to native species is European rabbits, which infest two-thirds of Australia, followed by feral cats, pigs, foxes and cane toads and the report recommends Australia increase its focus on breakthrough solutions to major ferals – rodents, wild cats and pigs – within the next 30 years.



1/ *Dr Andy Sheppard.. Australians have no idea of the magnitude of invasive species.*

2/ *Andreas Glanznig... single biggest vertebrate menace to native species is European rabbits.*

in farmlands, forests and savannas. Australia now has more than 2700 established weed species – which grew by 20 new species every year – or one new weed every 18 days.

Andreas Glanznig said technology existed to establish a national, coordinated community surveillance network, making it possible for everyone to get involved, to help find new invaders early before they can become a problem.

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# OneFortyOne invests \$11m at Kaituna sawmill for greater log value and reduction in emissions

AUSTRALIA-based forest grower and wood processor OneFortyOne has committed to invest \$11 million in its Kaituna sawmill at Blenheim at the top of New Zealand's South Island.

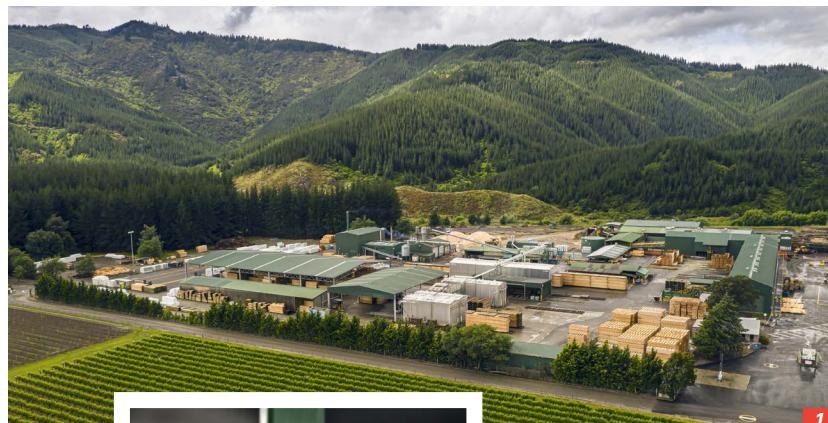
General manager Tracy Goss says the \$11 million investment consists of three major projects to increase the sawmill's drying and treating capacity.

"By purchasing new equipment, we will be able to extract greater value from each log, meaning more local timber can be produced for New Zealand's housing market," he said.

"With an improvement in our processing capability onsite, it also means 20 fewer trucks on the road every month, reducing our emissions by 9% annually.

"In the past 10 years the sawmill has achieved a 46% reduction in the site's greenhouse gas emissions."

A suite of environmental improvements has been made, from small to



significant at the mill. A state-of-the-art biomass energy centre and continuous drying kiln installed in 2016 have reduced the sawmill's carbon footprint by 934 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalents a year.

"Reducing our footprint by another 265 tonnes annually is significant and a great example of where actively deciding to monitor and invest in reducing our carbon footprint leads to better

**1/ Kaituna sawmill... three major projects will increase drying and treating capacity.**

**2 Tracy Goss... sawmill has achieved a 46% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions.**

business and community outcomes," Mr Goss said.

"It's an exciting project and it represents the first major capex investment from OneFortyOne since acquisition of Nelson Forests."

Speaking at the announcement, regional MP Stuart Smith congratulated OneFortyOne and the

**“ DRYING KILN HAS HELPED REDUCED MILL'S CARBON FOOTPRINT BY 934 TONNES**

industry but Donna has a 40-year history, and she doesn't make a song and dance about her achievements, she just gets on with it.

"But she a rare bird indeed – now one of the few senior women leaders in the industry, Donna is a director on the Timber NSW board and an executive officer

Kaituna sawmill for making a significant investment in the region and in New Zealand's timber industry which will increase supply and create local jobs.

"The majority of the timber products will be consumed by the local building and construction industry," Mr Smith said.

The Kaituna sawmill has been in operation since 1985. OneFortyOne purchased Nelson Forests (including the Kaituna sawmill) in September 2018.

The sawmill has increased its capacity by 40% over the past two years. Some 70% of production is sold domestically.

OneFortyOne, as a vertically-integrated trans-Tasman business, manages 80,000 ha of certified sustainable plantation forests in New Zealand and 82,000 ha in the Green Triangle where the company's Jubilee sawmill is located at Mount Gambier.

The combined log sales of both Australia and New Zealand are in excess of 2 million cub m a year, with most logs sold domestically to support jobs and local processing.

at the Grafton Chamber of Commerce and is involved in goodness knows what at home after work ... helping the community, raising cattle and caring for elderly parents among them."

**On the cover: Shine Award winner Donna Layton... out in the timber yard doing what she loves best.**

From P 4

own doorstep."

Among those congratulating Donna were Andrew Hurford (chair) and Maree McCaskill (general manager) of TimberNSW and Helen Murray, principal of Kurumbene Projects, who nominated her for the award.

"One thing Donna doesn't brag about is that she was the only woman ever to graduate and was top of her class in the former sawmill management course run at Southern Cross University," Helen said.

"Some people seem to think women have only recently arrived in this

# AFPA chairman, board directors confirmed ahead of critical federal elections in 2022

THE Australian Forest Products Association has confirmed long-serving chair Greg McCormack will continue in the role alongside a reaffirmed board of directors at its 2021- 2022 annual general meeting on Wednesday.

Greg McCormack said AFPA's board was in lockstep on the association's priorities to advocate for Australia's forest industries in 2022, a critical federal election year.

"Not only are our forest

**“ INDUSTRY IS ESSENTIAL TO NATIONAL ECONOMY**

industries essential to the national economy, providing vital products and employment for thousands of people, we are part of the climate change solution and it's important the federal and state governments recognise that," Mr McCormack said.

"AFPA will put its best foot forward ahead of the 2022 federal election to ensure all sides of federal politics recognise that our industries need to stay strong for Australia to remain strong in an uncertain world."

AFPA confirmed Greg McCormack (chair), Jean Yves Nouaze (deputy chair), Ian Telfer (treasurer), Diana Gibbs, Jon Kleinschmidt, Stephen Dadd, James Malone, Jessica



***Greg McCormack... all sides of federal politics must recognise that our industries need to stay strong.***

Douglas, Mark Rogers, Craig Dunn, and Steve Whiteley, as the new AFPA Board for 2022-2023.

Greg McCormack said the Association had gone from

strength to strength in recent years.

"With a united voice, AFPA powerfully represents the vast majority of Australia's forest industries value chain. The work we do and the products we produce has never been as important as it has during the Covid pandemic and a time where the world is taking action to fight climate change.

"From timber framing to feed a national building boom, to paper, cardboard and fibre products that replace single use plastics, our forest industries are delivering."

He added: "AFPA will work to ensure Australia's governments deliver for our industries moving forward."

## Top Sydney architect to MC Australian Timber Design Awards

THE principal and design director of Hare + Klein, a five times winner of the prestigious Australian Interior Design Awards, will MC the Australian Timber Design Awards on November 30, starting at 7.30 pm.

Meryle Hare is a fellow of the Design Institute of Australia and has won a citation for services to the design industry. She was inducted to the DIA Hall of Fame in 2011 and House & Garden Hall of Fame in 2018.

Sydney-based Hare + Klein has won an Australian Timber Award, the inaugural Future Home Green Interiors Award and H&G's Top 50 Rooms.

The studio received the IDEA Gold Medal in 2020 and has been selected for the prestigious Andrew Martin



***Meryle Hare... to guide Australian Timber Design Awards program.***

International Design Review in 11 volumes.

"With Covid restrictions and travel constraints still upon us we appreciate the strong and wide support by entrants this year," said Andrew Dunn, CEO, Timber Development Association, which is organising the event.

"The quality of the entries this year is exceptional and we would like to thank all of those involved for taking the time to put forward their submissions for the design awards. Mr Dunn said.

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# Trees the way to net zero carbon future

## Practical solution to recruit the services of plants, especially forests

ON from the much-heralded Glasgow summit, climate change is emerging as a top-of-mind public policy issue.

There is almost universal condemnation of Australia's climate change abatement position. Simply, as a developed and affluent country Australia is not doing enough – or making an adequate contribution to global efforts to slow the adverse impacts of climate change and the global push to a net zero carbon position by 2050.

The Prime Minister's 2050 net zero plan has been described as both irresponsible and something of a 'magic pudding' – full of platitudes about reducing emissions while maintaining mining and all other regional jobs, but scant on details about practical measures that the country will be taking to reduce carbon emissions.

Scott Morrison's plan seems to be on a wing-and-a-prayer, relying as it does on technology yet to be discovered and practically implemented.

Fossil fuel-based energy in the form of coal and oil has been dug up or pumped out of the ground and burnt for decades. At a basic level,

**“ PM'S 2050 NET ZERO PLAN BIT OF A 'MAGIC PUDDING'**



both these types of energy have been stored deep underground for millions of years. Burning them means their stored carbon is pumped back into the atmosphere as carbon dioxide. It doesn't take a climate scientist to tell you that all that carbon has gone up into the atmosphere and its 'blanket effect' is the primary reason why the planet is warming alarmingly.

If we believe that the planet is going to get anywhere near a net zero carbon emissions position by 2050, we just have to stop burning ancient fossil fuels and releasing their stored carbon back into the atmosphere from whence it came all those millions of years ago.

So, we have instead to use energy sources that are

**1 / Forests and timber...the future must include placing a value and a price on carbon as a key element of a renewable energy future.**

**2 / Scott Morrison's presentation at COP26 seemed to be on a wing-and-prayer, relying on technology yet to be discovered.**

### COMMENT



**JOHN HALKETT**

renewable and sustainable and have an overall net zero carbon impact for our future energy needs.

Really the practical solution is to recruit the services of plants, but particularly of trees.

We know that through the remarkable process of photosynthesis plants, or more particularly their leaves, suck carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere and turn it into complex carbon-based sugars that form the trunks of trees

and parts of other plants.

The chemistry tells us that the difference between coal and wood is really just a few million years of pressure and concentration that improves calorific value of coal when burnt volume-for-volume relative to wood.

Plants, particularly trees, will be central to achieving anything near net zero carbon emissions by 2050. We must therefore have a stronger, renewed focus on more efficient management of trees and forests. This must include the sustainable utilisation of natural forest communities, and the establishment of extensive tree plantations.

The future must also include placing a value and a price on carbon as a key element of a renewable energy future.

There is an essential need like never before for federal and state governments to provide incentives for landowners and companies to enhance and sustainably manage plant communities and to develop related energy systems. Also, there is a need to incentivise forest-based industries to expand the management of forests and tree plantations.

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# Calling Gottstein Trust fellowship alumni

## Virtual event caps off 50th anniversary year for industry's educational fund

HELEN MURRAY

CAPPING off its special 50th anniversary year, the forest products industry's own education trust fund, the Gottstein Trust, is holding an alumni event for all holders of the prestigious Gottstein fellowships.

Email invitations are going out for the festive season virtual (online) event to be held on Wednesday, December 15. The event is exclusively for the former and current fellowship recipients who will be joined by the seven governing trustees of the Gottstein Trust Fund, hosted by the chair Suzette Weeding.

Gottstein fellow Gavin Matthew, who is CEO of the Engineered Wood Products Association of Australasia, will be guest speaker.

Gavin will kick off the attendees' discussion with a short talk on contemporary issues for the sector. Gavin's background gives him a broad perspective on emerging dynamics on both raw timber supply and processed timber demand.

"There are direct links between the EWPA and Bill Gottstein and his work leading the CSIRO forestry products research team," Suzette Weeding said.

"In fact, we understand

the Plywood Association of Australia started in 1966 as a result of their work and over the years it transitioned into what is now EWPA.

"Many fellowship alumnus hold leadership roles in their fields, while others are emerging and others are former leaders. The trust is proud of all their achievements, so bringing them together is something we very much look forward to."

Also invited to this special gathering are representatives of the 50th anniversary event major sponsor Wesbeam and sponsors ForestOne, Forico and Hyne Timber.

Ms Weeding said this

generous support enabled the trust to host a special 50th celebration in Canberra mid-year which included the launch of the new website and new branding and we thank them sincerely for that."

The Joseph William Gottstein Trust Fund was established by industry and CSIRO in 1971 specifically to honour the legacy of wood scientist Bill Gottstein, after his sudden and tragic accidental death.

**“THE TRUST IS PROUD OF ALL THEIR ACHIEVEMENTS”**

More than 190 talented people have been granted a total of \$1.4 million in funds to support them with opportunities to advance their knowledge and build their networks – all raised from industry donors. The whole focus of the trust is to

**1/ Past Gottstein Trust fellows at the 50th anniversary celebration in Canberra in June... Mick Stephens, CEO, Timber Queensland, Dr Julianne O'Reilly-Wapstra, ARC Timber Training Centre for Forest Value, Gavin Matthew, CEO, EWPA, Cameron MacDonald, chief operating officer, HVP Plantations, Evan Dunstone, Dunstone Design Furniture (pictured with a sample of his work), Dr James Hague, Australian Forest Research Company (former trustee), and Jodie Mason, forest research manager, FWPA.**

**2/ Suzette Weeding... many fellowship alumnus hold leadership roles in their fields.**

build human capacity for the advancement of the forestry and wood products sector.

Recipients of the various types of Gottstein Trust Fund awards contribute to the success of Australia's renewable forests and wood products economy. They do a vast array of things in different fields within industry and research. Among them are former scholarship holders, skill development award holders and World Forestry Centre interns.

Fellowship recipients can contact [team@gottsteintrust.org](mailto:team@gottsteintrust.org) for further details or to book their attendance.

The 2022 round of Gottstein Trust awards will open in mid-2022 and interested people are welcome to contact the management team and discuss their anticipated project submissions at [team@gottsteintrust.org](mailto:team@gottsteintrust.org)

**• Helen Murray is a member of the Gottstein secretariat and is based in Canberra.**



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# Forestry in spotlight for primary schools as industry celebrates National Agriculture Day

## More than 360 students from across Australia logged into online sessions

NATIONAL Agriculture Day on November 19 was a great opportunity to celebrate the importance of agriculture including forestry, and the immense opportunities available for Australia's young people to engage in the wide variety of careers on offer.

This year, ForestLearning again partnered with a number of forestry and education organisations including Timber Queensland, Responsible Wood, Vic Forests and OneFortyOne Plantations, the Primary Industries Education Foundation (PIEF) and the AgForce School to Industry Partnership Program, to offer primary schools a range of forestry education virtual and face-to-face incursions during National Ag Day Week.

ForestLearning and PIEFA's virtual forester program brought two foresters, Kent Bennett, tactical planning forester with Vic Forests and Taylah Martin, forester with OneFortyOne, streaming live into Australian classrooms via Google Meet.

The two sessions November 15 and 16 covered a range of topics including the questions where does wood come from, what are the uses of wood, and why is it important that wood is grown sustainably.

More than 360 primary students from nine primary schools across five states and territories logged into the online sessions, with the recordings of both sessions soon to be hosted on the ForestLearning website Forester Time library for schools to access on demand



*Face to face with students... Jason Ross of Responsible Wood and Sarah Porter Dix of Timber Queensland present at National Ag Day on behalf of ForestLearning.*



around their timetables.

Students asked many questions and showed their interest and enthusiasm for learning more about sustainable forestry and renewable wood products.

Last Friday 180 grade 3-7 primary students from Calvary Christian College enjoyed the first face-to-face ForestLearning supported forestry incursion since Covid-19 restrictions began with Jason Ross of Responsible Wood and Sarah Porter Dix of Timber Queensland.

The event was organised by AgForce SIPP and saw class groups of students rotating through a wide variety of primary industry



education stations including the sustainable forestry Ag-Venture.

Many students were surprised to learn that foresters are like farmers and tend and harvest tree plantations just like farmers do with their crops. A table display full of different wood products including toilet paper, structural timber, paper, plastic alternative wooden cutlery, and viscose clothing, also surprised students by showcasing the diverse range of everyday products students use and love in

**“IT WAS FANTASTIC TO SEE THE ENTHUSIASM”**

their school, homes and find in the supermarket made from renewable wood from sustainably-managed forests.

Students also learned about working in the forest, sustainable forest management, how wood is a renewable and climate-positive resource, and importantly, how to identify Australia's two certification schemes – PEFC/ Responsible Wood and FSC.

"We were very encouraged to hear the foundational knowledge that the students already had about trees and the carbon cycle, and it was fantastic to see the enthusiasm the next generation has for learning, engaging in sustainable practices, and potentially working on the land," Sarah Porter Dix said.

The ForestLearning National Ag Day events build on the new "George the Farmer" forestry teaching resources, videos, Forestry VR and other virtual classroom activities conducted through the year and developed for primary schools. ForestLearning is an initiative of Forest and Wood Products Australia to provide Australian teachers with curriculum aligned teaching resources from F-12. ForestLearning also coordinates the ForestLearning Forest Industry Education Champions to equip and prepare industry volunteers for school presentations such as these.

For more information or to get involved in 2022 contact Beth Welden, program manager ForestLearning at [beth@forestlearning.edu.au](mailto:beth@forestlearning.edu.au)

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# The human race and its gamble with climate

SYDNEY author John Halkett's seventh book raises concerns about the potential catastrophic impacts of the increasing threat of climate change.

*Planet of the Trees: The Human Race and its Climate Gamble* is Halkett's seventh book

A topical edition as it was published during COP26 climate summit in Glasgow as it attempted, many say unsuccessful, to reduce carbon emissions and move the planet towards a net zero carbon emissions position.

The book includes an extended, hard-hitting preface from John Hewson, former leader of the Liberal Party and a professor at the Crawford School of Public Policy at the Australian National University.

As the world experiences

dramatic bushfires, hurricanes, storms and floods at an ever-increasing rate the effects of a changing climate become harder to ignore, says Halkett.

"How did we get here and what can we realistically do about it?"

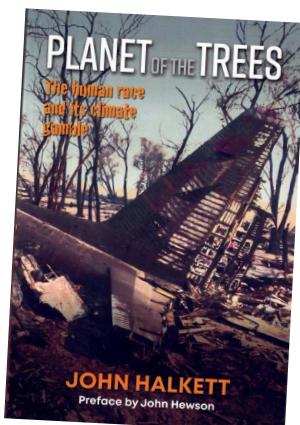
Described as a book for climate alarmists and deniers *Planet of Trees* suggests practical solutions for an ongoing habitable world.

The book explains the consequences of increasing greenhouse gases and what we can learn from one of the greatest allies – trees.

The climate has fluctuated over aeons and life has adapted or perished. While humanity has the benefit of understanding and shaping the environment better than any



**Professor John Hewson ...**  
hard-hitting  
preface to John  
Halkett's *Planet  
of the Trees: The  
Human Race  
and its Climate  
Gamble*.



other form of life that has ever existed, will we adapt. Will we be the next dinosaurs?

Published by Halstead Press, John Halkett's book is available in leading bookshops and online book retailers for \$37.95. Bulk copies, with a minimum order of 10 are available at \$22.50 a copy, plus postage. Inquiries can be sent to [john.halkett@bigpond.com](mailto:john.halkett@bigpond.com)

John Halkett runs a forest consultancy business in Sydney and has expertise in temperate and tropical forest management and forest-based industries. He also serves

on the board of the Global Timber Forum and has held senior positions in government forest and conservation agencies in Australia and New Zealand. He has worked in the US, Canada, Papua New Guinea, across southeast Asia, Myanmar, China and Africa.

In addition to his books, he has written numerous scientific papers and writes for trade publications.

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# Responsible Wood recognised as the leader in growth of PEFC-certified forests globally

FOREST management champion Responsible Wood has achieved the greatest increase in PEFC-certified forest area globally – 5 million ha, an increase of more than 40%, taking the total area under PEFC certification to over 40%.

The Australian governing body for PEFC, Responsible Wood's gold milestone was recognised at the 26th PEFC General Assembly last week as representatives met remotely due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic.

"It's a great credit to the PEFC system and its effectiveness, so thank you very much for the award," Responsible Wood CEO Simon Dorries said.

Second place went to PEFC Russia, with an increase of more than 1.3 million ha, with PEFC Germany in bronze position thanks to a growth of more than 900,000 ha.

Eduardo Rojas Brailes, former Assistant Director-

**“** IMPORTANT ‘TRUST MARK’ FOR SUSTAINABLY MANAGED FORESTS

General and head of the forestry department at FAO and chair of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, was elected the new chairman of PEFC International.

"The past years have put forests at the centre of key global debates, especially in combating climate change," Mr Rojas Brailes said.

"This unprecedented fact provides huge opportunities to share broadly the expertise accrued in the PEFC family with key stakeholders in these deliberations."

He said although PEFC's main instrument was certification, its mission and grounding values were much broader and went much further.

"Locally-anchored forest management by families, communities, or indigenous peoples, as well as by other private and public players, is the backbone of PEFC," Mr Rojas Brailes said.

"There is no other organisation world-wide that represents the forest community in an integrated manner like the PEFC."

Eduardo takes over the chairmanship from UK-based



***Virtual congratulations... outgoing PEFC chair Peter Latham (top) and CEO Ben Gunneberg congratulate Simon Dorries, CEO, Responsible Wood on Australia's global leadership in the growth of PEFC-certified forests.***

Peter Latham, who has held the position since 2016.

Mr Rojas Brailes thanked Peter Latham, "for his leadership, wisdom and integrative skills in the growing PEFC family, ensuring that everybody felt a part of it while preserving the key PEFC grounding values."

PEFC International CEO Ben Gunneberg recognised Responsible Wood chair Dr Hans Drielsma AM and

CEO Simon Dorries at the assembly.

Reflecting on the award, Mr Dorries noted the important role Australia had played in growing the scheme.

The Australian Forestry Standard (now Responsible Wood) and 'CERTFOR' in Chile, were the first forest certification schemes outside of Europe mutually recognised and internationally endorsed by PEFC International.

"This marked an incredibly important milestone and, from 2004 onwards, the PEFC family has grown globally with many countries joining the PEFC alliance," Simon Dorries said.

Today, PEFC has more than 325 million ha of global forest area under certification with more than 16 million ha of defined forest area in Australia alone. In Australia, more than 90% of all commercial forest area is covered by Responsible Wood certification, a combination of native forest and plantation forests.

"Responsible Wood is recognised as an important trust mark for sustainable forest management," Mr Dorries said.

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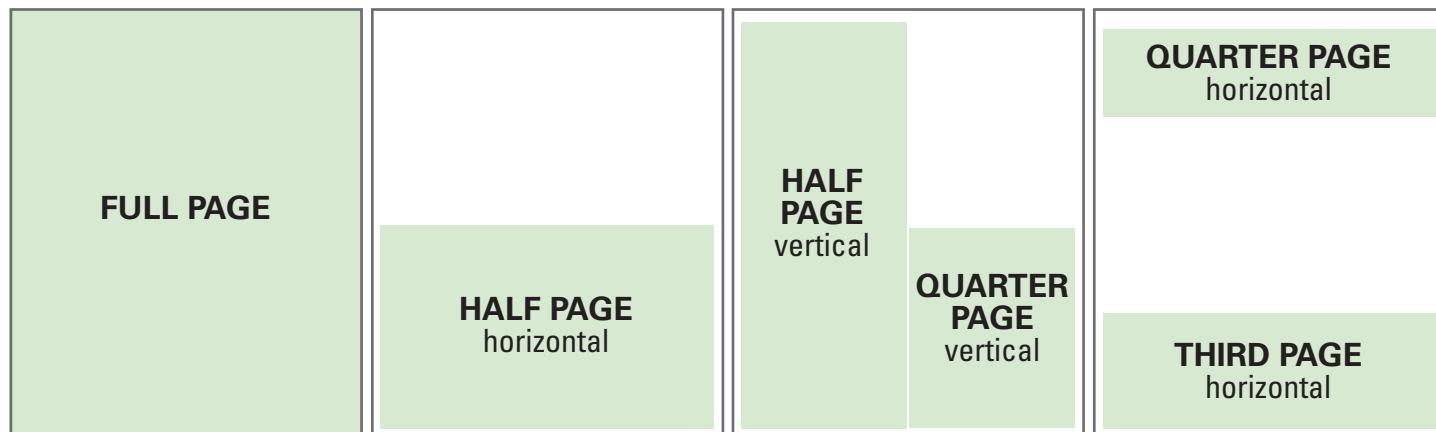
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#### PAGE 1 Front cover module: Contract booking

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