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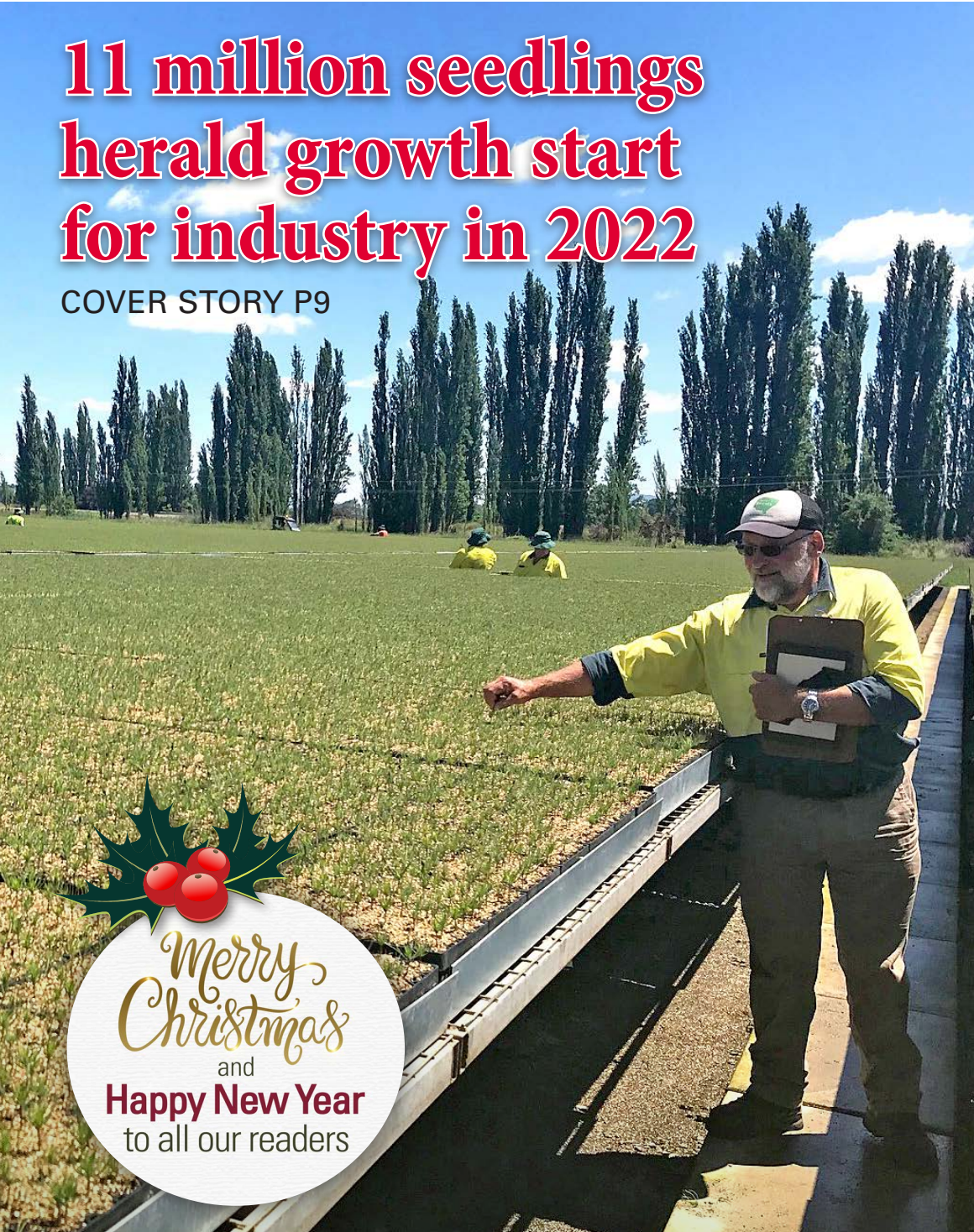
ISSUE 688 | December 16, 2021

timber & FORESTRY *e*news

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11 million seedlings herald growth start for industry in 2022

COVER STORY P9




*Merry
Christmas*
and
Happy New Year
to all our readers



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CSIRO-RFS advanced modelling to predict speed and behaviour of eucalypt forest fires

NATIONAL science agency CSIRO and the NSW Rural Fire Service have released Australia's most advanced model for predicting the speed and behaviour of eucalypt forest fires.

Eucalypts make up more than 70% of forests and some of the most extreme fire events, such as the 2009 Black Saturday fires and the most severe of the 2019-20 bushfires, occurred in this type of vegetation.

The Vesta Mark 2 model, a mathematical description of how a fire responds to environmental conditions, will be rolled out nationally this summer to help fire control rooms across the country to predict and suppress bushfires as they spread across the landscape.

CSIRO bushfire behaviour researcher Dr Andrew Sullivan said although much of eastern Australia was expecting a wetter than normal summer this year, bushfires were an ever-present danger and were increasing in frequency and severity.



Supervisor, fire behaviour analysis, David Field, and fire behaviour training coordinator Geoff Goldrick, run bushfire models at the NSW RFS headquarters in Sydney.

“Forests have critical ecological and socio-economic roles, and often connect to areas where large numbers of Australians live,” Dr Sullivan said.

“Forest fires are complex and difficult to control and extinguish, and firefighters often have to battle steep terrain and challenging conditions just to reach the fire.

“Critically, this model can accurately predict the speed that a fire front will advance across a landscape, which is

essential to enable authorities to efficiently identify threats, issue bushfire warning messages, signal evacuations, and plan fire suppression actions.”

Data inputs such as forecast weather and wind information come from the Bureau of Meteorology, while information on the state of

“VESTA MARK 2 MODEL TO BE ROLLED OUT THIS SUMMER

fuels within the forest and existing behaviour of a fire can come from vegetation databases and fireground reports. Fire behaviour analysts in an incident management team, often stationed at an operations centre near the fire, collate this information and then run the model to generate a prediction of the likely progression of the fire across the landscape.

CSIRO bushfire behaviour researcher and leader of the project Dr Miguel Cruz says the model uses the latest available science on bushfire behaviour.

“This model was built using analysis of the most extensive set of data gathered from observations of large high intensity experimental fires and wildfires, collated from around the country over the past 40 years,” Dr Cruz said.

“Our research and findings during the 2019-20 bushfire season were also instrumental in the development of this tool.”



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Goodbye 2021 ... a brighter light shines for our sector as we prepare for next 12 months

Getting tired of Zoom, so let's get out and meet each other face to face again and at last!

JOHN HALKETT

THE year 2021 has been extremely challenging for the country, including forest-based industries, dependent businesses, communities and employees.

I seem to recall saying at the end of 2020 that the following year would have to be a vast improvement on the concluding Covid pandemic-impacted year. Well, that has proved decisively not to be the case. We can all attest to the reality that 2021 has been an extremely challenging one for the country, including forest-based industries, dependent businesses, communities and employees. But there were a lot of successes.

Now there is hope that 2022 will be an improvement on the tribulations experienced over the past 12 months – the high vaccination status, the fact that border walls are mostly coming down and businesses are returning to some sense of normality. We certainly hope so.

In spite of lockdowns, border closures and travel restrictions Timber&Forestry enews has beavered away each and every week to produce an edition going into more than 16,000 email boxes, globally – as it has done for some 14 years now.

Staying in touch across the various industry sectors has been difficult, especially with most industry events repeatedly postponed or just flat-out cancelled. We are completely over Zoom!

So here at enews, along

with everyone else, we are sincerely hoping for better times ahead in 2022.

The Green Triangle Timber Industry Awards have the green light to go ahead on March 11 at Mount Gambier (see notice page 10) and Kevin Ezard's Timber Offsite Construction 'hybrid' conference and exhibition in Melbourne is set for June 21-22.

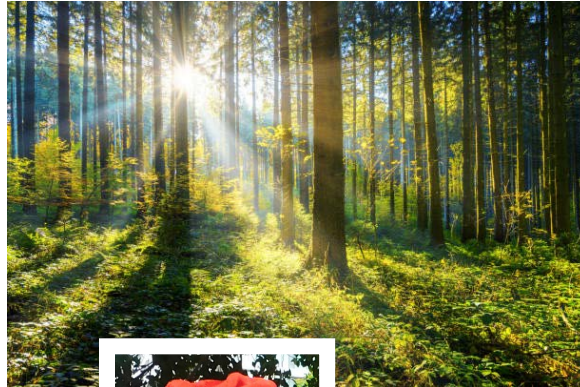
We are extremely grateful that during the tough times in 2021 enews advertisers have continued to support the magazine. This has allowed us to bring topical news to industry participants every Thursday.

We sincerely thank you – our readers and advertisers for this support and encourage you to keep the faith next year when, hopefully, we can again get out and about at industry events where we can talk face to face with industry people, rather than on a screen.

I particularly want to thank editor Jim Bowden and our superwoman Zonya Bird for their stellar efforts this year.

Jim entered the industry via Australian Timberman which he founded in 1977, following almost 20 years as an agricultural journalist. (Note his editorial reflection on Page 6).

Also, thanks to the many others who have contributed, including co-publisher Dennis



John Halkett... best wishes for Christmas and the New Year and sincerely hoping for better times ahead in 2022.

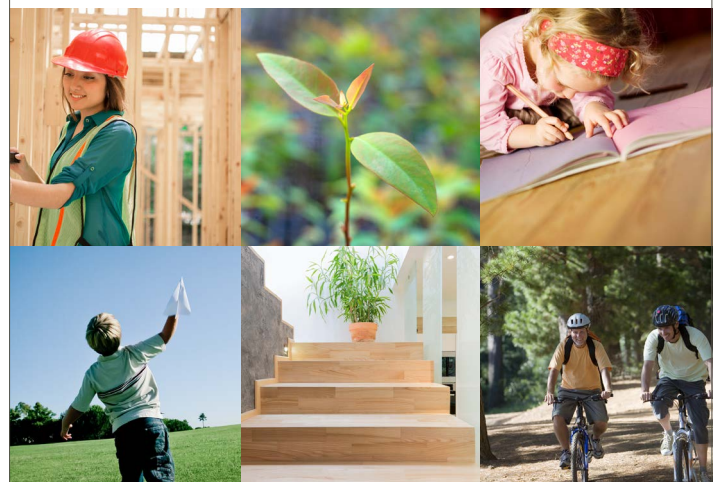
Neilson and Michael Smith from New Zealand and our Australian columnists who have made regular contributions throughout the year.

And thanks to you, our readers. We are looking forward to bigger,

better and happier times next year.

Best wishes from the enews team for the festive season and every success in 2022.

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Sunchip celebrates 25th anniversary with 26m tonnes of log volume harvest across two states

TIMBER Queensland has congratulated the Sunchip Group on its 25th anniversary of commencement of harvest and haulage operations in Queensland and New South Wales.

Attending the 25th anniversary celebrations in Hervey Bay, Timber Queensland CEO Mick Stephens said Sunchip had made an outstanding contribution to the health and prosperity of the Queensland timber industry over the past two and a half decades.

“The driving force behind Sunchip’s growth and performance is managing director and principal Mark Blackberry,” Mr Stephens said.

“He has already been



1/ **A green and gold emblazoned Mack Truck does what it does best for Sunchip’s haulage operations in Queensland.**

2/ **Mark Blackberry... celebrating an incredible achievement over 25 years.**



perspective, this is almost equivalent to Australia’s entire annual plantation softwood harvest over a year and is an incredible achievement.”

Some key facts about Sunchip’s activities over the past 25 years: 24 million tonnes of log and woodchip hauled; 10 million tonne of chipped volume including in-field and fixed

site; 175 million km travelled in truck and light vehicle; \$187 million in wages paid for harvest and haulage; and \$1.25 billion in turnover.

“These are staggering numbers and testimony to the valuable contribution the harvest and

nationally recognised when he was inducted into the Australian Forest Contractors Hall of Fame in 2016.

“Mark’s passion and commitment to his team and staff across the organisation was clearly evident at the celebrations which included many long-term service awards for employees. Mark is also focused on training and skills development initiatives for the future, and Timber Queensland is keen to promote this shared vision in the Wide Bay Burnett region and beyond.”

Mr Stephens added: “‘Incredibly, Sunchip has harvested almost 26 million tonnes of log volume over the past 25 years. To put this into

haulage sector makes to the timber supply chain,” Mr Stephens said.

“The flow-on benefits to local communities and suppliers is equally impressive; Sunchip has purchased more than 259 prime movers at a value of \$65 million and has invested \$150 million on forestry harvesting machinery.

“Sunchip continues to haul up to 1.5 million tonnes of plantation softwood a year and we wish Mark and his team all the best in the New Year and look forward to working with them and other supply chain partners to further innovate and grow this wonderful industry.”



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Floods in the south and drought in the west: but Queensland cypress mills say it's go, go

JIM BOWDEN

OFFICE manager at family-owned Inglewood sawmill in southern Queensland Anna Bartholomew says she was lucky only a grannie flat under her high-set house was washed away in the region's massive flooding event earlier this month.

"But many friends in the town saw their homes and belongings go under," said Anna who also told us the mill, which has been cutting cypress for more than 70 years, was spared any real damage.

"The mill is on higher ground and was on the right side of the Macintyre Brook at Inglewood Bridge, which peaked at 11.2 m, shattering the 1988 level record of 10.5 m."

"Production at the mill stopped for a few days while our staff cleaned up their

TOWN RALLIES TO HELP LOCALS WHOSE HOMES WENT UNDER



Floods at Inglewood saw 800 locals evacuated.

homes and helped the less fortunate."

More than 800 people were evacuated in one night as wider flood waters approached. Locals have been rallying around the local supermarket after it sustained more than \$50,000 worth of damage.

"We're in full swing now," Anna said. "Although the flooding rains stopped forest operations we never got to the point where there were no



Orders running hot at Yuleba Cypress.

logs in the yard. But we were pretty close to running out, so thanks to our new contractor who has a good road train, we are loaded with logs again.

"We're sourcing all timber from state forests, although

we have had to go a little further at times to get the wood."

Most of Inglewood sawmill's cypress is transported to Melbourne where it is distributed to merchants and Bunnings stores through parent company Outdoor Timber Wholesale.

"Even with Covid disruptions, it's been go, go, go to meet a growing demand in Melbourne as supplies of treated radiata run out and we benefit from higher prices for cypress," Anna said.

Mitchell Goodchild at Yuleba Cypress, based at Miles on Queensland's Western Downs, has his own take on the vagaries of the weather in the state.

"The effects of a long drought are showing up in many of our cypress trees that are dying or dead," Mitchell said. "But the wood is still OK and you've got to load and unload them carefully for fear of splitting as they're very brittle."

Cont P 7



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Responsible Wood would like to announce the release of the new AS/NZS 4708 Sustainable Forest Management Standard.

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RW/1-10-1

Remembering the past and preparing for the future

MY editorial below penned 45 years ago in Australian Timberman brings a sense of déjà vu, a realisation that problems in the past mirror similar situations in the present ... as the forest and forest products industry knows only too well.

So again we prepare for, you bet, a better 12 months ahead.

And there can be no future without a past. Our current mission is to prepare for the future

through our publishing, while also honouring our past. To this end, we have undertaken the important task of carefully preserving the recent history of the industry viewed through the magazine, cataloguing each edition from the first printed copy of Australian Timberman 45 years ago and all those digitally produced editions of Timber&Forestry enews since 2007 – a rich history I refer to often.

On the subject of the

future, we think of the practical wisdom that is so essential in forestry. When the talk turns these days to the young crop, foresters and timber cadets becoming CEOs, this is really what it means. Just consider the Gottstein Trust and its goals to produce future leaders. They're driving a straight line into the future, being able to convince others that you can do it, and making them want to buy into where you're going.

It fills me with confidence for the next generation and, frankly, makes me glad to see the strengthening role of women in our industry.

Finally, with less than 15 days left in the year, I would like to personally thank the Timber&Forestry enews 'family' and all our readers and advertisers, both clients current and future.

Have a Happy Christmas and a bountiful New Year.

– JIM BOWDEN

Laying the bogeys to rest: an editorial published in Timberman during its foundation year 1977

MANY of the bogeys associated with the timber industry are about to be laid to rest, whether or not the commonwealth government adopts the draft report of the Industries Assistance Commission.

These are the stories from the sixties and earlier years, which carry with them the comment that the industry is incapable of obtaining finance at the same ratio as other more glamorous sections of the manufacturing sector.

That it is labour intensive, fragmented, lacking in management skills and so divorced from the market it cannot therefore provide proper regard to it.

Labour intensive, short on training, rural-based, lacking in long-range and short-term planning skills – for too long all these criticisms and others have been the bogeys of the timber industry, rising spasmodically on an ill wind from mountains of past academic theorising, which plays scant regard to the



No present without a past... Jim Bowden, editor, Timber&Forestry enews and founding editor-publisher of Australian Timberman in 1977, looks over past editions at Timber House in Brisbane with Sarah Porter Dix, communications officer, Timber Queensland.

practical hard-headed business survival history of the industry and the enormous role which it has played in the development of the nation.

It is time they were put to rest. Labour intensive – YES! Rural-based – YES! We don't call that a problem. We're proud of it and we're not about to forget it.

As much as 30% of Queensland's workforce, as an example, is drawn from many other now sadly uneconomic, local rural industries caught

up in the general rural slump. In this area alone the timber industry is providing a major stabilising influence throughout the community.

It's also the backbone of the Australian home-building industry.

The real fact of the matter is that the industry provides a livelihood for about 60,000 Queenslanders, both directly and in dependent industries.

Nationally, it efficiently supplies and services a market ranging in value from \$1500

million to \$1700 million, based on 1975-76 ex-factory prices.

It has survived since settlement without government handouts or subsidies and with little or no resource security. Yet it continually makes a contribution towards the economic prosperity for communities.

In terms of direction the industry has possibly done more to assist itself during the last decade than in its entire history.

Its future, now brighter than ever before, rests upon its unique renewable resource – the capability of its innovative workforce with its specialised expertise and skills, and the 40-year afforestation commitment already undertaken to provide self-sufficiency in timber products by the turn of the century.

The latter goal is only 23 years away and in forest industry language, 23 years is short-term planning. Everything else is happening now.

JANUARY 2022

28-29: International Conference on Forest Resources Accounting and Economics – Australia World Academy of Science, Engineering and Technology, Sydney, Australia. For further information see; <https://waset.org/forest-resources-accounting-and-economics-conference-in-january-2022-in-sydney>

FEBRUARY

9-10: Australian Timber Design workshop – two locations, Queensland & Tasmania. Organised by the Centre for Future Timber Structures at UQ St Lucia campus for building design

professionals interested in timber construction to develop skills, confidence and networks in a unique, hands-on environment. The University of Tasmania and the University of Queensland are collaborating to deliver this course with concurrent workshops running on both campuses. Early bird price of \$900 until December 24, then standard fee of \$1100. Contact The Centre for Future Timber Structure k.crews@uq.edu.au

MARCH

11: Green Triangle Timber Industry Awards – The Barn, Mount Gambier, SA. Visit www.gttia.com or email info@gttia.com

Tickets available for purchase in the new year. (See notice, Page 10).

APRIL

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

gottsteintrust.org

JUNE

NB. REVISED DATE 13: AFPA gala dinner. –TBA. POSTPONED EVENT. www.ausfpa.com.au

NB. REVISED DATE 21-22: Frame Australia Timber Offsite Construction –Crown Promenade Melbourne, VIC. New global 'hybrid' format. 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

From P 5

He reckons 15% to 20% of cypress trees in an area stretching 300 km north to Injune are affected and unable to recover even after rain ... "although, interestingly, a lot of dead trees have green leaves."

Another issue from left field, says Mitchell, is a likely unexpected hike in government royalties.

“GOOD SPOT OF CYPRESS KEPT READY FOR A RAINY DAY



Cypress... a wider range of uses including flooring, decking, pergolas and fencing.

"There's talk of increases around 13% or 15%, an adjustment because of Australia's general timber

shortage and the subsequent high prices being paid for radiata and other softwoods, so we will have to sit down

and think how we absorb this," he said.

"I guess higher prices paid now for cypress – used for all sorts of outdoor uses, structural as well – will help balance the issue but nobody likes sudden dramatic moves in costs."

Mitchell says that generally the market is pretty good, in Melbourne mostly, although some cypress operations are running short of logs so it will be an early Christmas break for them.

"We've kept plenty of logs in the yard and we have a good spot kept aside at Yuleba for a rainy day."



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Evolution not revolution: collaboration on revisions of timber preservation standards

The efforts of timber treaters should not go under-appreciated by industry

AS we come to the end of 2021, it is useful to pause and consider some of the relatively unsung collaborative industry efforts that have occurred, including the long-awaited finalisation of a review of the AS/NZS 1604 standard series (Preservative-treated wood-based products).

AS/NZS 1604 Parts 1, 2 and 3 were released in May, replacing the various 2012 AS and AS/NZS 1604 standards and the 2018 Methods of Test standard AS/NZS 1605.

How is this new version different, I hear you ask? Good question. It looks similar but there are important changes – changes that combine related standards and include new technologies, new treatments, and new verification methods.

The objective was a standard suite that was flexible, incorporated more performance approaches, and will provide the market with continued confidence in treated timber products.

A brief explanation of the AS1604 changes is detailed below (more detail at www.evp.asn.au). Apologies it's going to get a little technical but stick with it:

Part 1 – products and treatment: All timber products are now contained in this one

“ PROVIDING THE MARKET WITH CONTINUED CONFIDENCE IN TREATED TIMBER ”



Dr Rob McGavin, project manager, DAF Salisbury Research Facility, and Jack Norton, national secretary, Timber Preservers Association of Australia, complete trials on timber treatment in Brisbane.

part, whereas the previous version of AS/NZS 1604 had parts 1 to 5 dedicated to a different timber product grouping.

Part 2 – verification requirements: Statistically-based verification methods have been introduced for the first time. The previous version of AS/NZS 1604 set absolute minimum retention requirements that timber products had to comply with 100% of the time, with no allowance for sampling error or occasional marginal “fail”.

Part 3 – test methods. This part mirrors what was in AS/NZS1605 previously.

Apart from the new format where all timber products and hazard classes are now contained in Part 1 and the introduction of verification methods in Part 2, the content remains relatively unchanged, with a few exceptions:

- Removal of references to obsolete legislation and

- Introduction of procedures to verify penetration and retention compliance for routine quality assessment. There is one standard method of verifying penetration and four (4) standard methods of verifying retention. These are detailed in Appendices A through D in AS/NZS 1604 Part 2.

- Obsolete methods of testing

for retention were removed. More detail is provided on spot testing.

- A minimum retention percentage of 66% of the retention requirement for a preservative has been introduced for samples that fail an individual retention test. This is in the context of verification allowing occasional ‘fails’ within a much larger dataset of ‘passes’.

- There is now a requirement to perform an annual check on the ability of the verification method used to establish product compliance. The purpose of the check is to calibrate and if necessary, adjust the verification method. This involves sampling 40 specimens throughout the year of a single high-volume product (e.g., size, grade, and hazard class) from regular production

By GAVIN MATTHEW

CEO, Engineered Wood Products Association of Australasia

treatment plant registration information.

- Penetration is established by spot testing in the standard. The standard does not preclude the use of other methods of verifying penetration, but the onus is on the organisation deviating from the spot test procedures detailed in AS/NZS 1604 part 3 to ensure that the alternative method provides equal or better confidence in verifying penetration.

Cont P 9

Forestry starts with a seed: 11 million plantings

ON the back of a record 2021 planting season, Forestry Corporation of NSW's 2022 seedling crop is well and truly under way with 11 million radiata pines sown in the Blowering nursery at Tumut in the NSW Riverina.

Over the past eight weeks, nursery staff had sown around 300,000 seeds a day to supply the 2022 planting program, plantation improvement manager Phil Green said.

"The process starts in September and moves through cycles of seed stratification, sowing, crop tending, topping, consolidation and ultimately dispatch in the winter months between May and September," he said.

"All up, 430 kg of seed were sown at Blowering



All up, 430 kg of seed were sown at Blowering nursery this year.

nursery this year for the 2022 forestry planting program.

"We've dispatched more than 70 million containerised seedlings from Blowering nursery over the last 10 years, which have ultimately

helped build people's homes and vital infrastructure."

Over the coming year, the crop will be carefully hand-weeded, fertilised, nurtured and watered to produce seedlings in time for planting next winter.

"Our nursery staff will also regularly sample the stem diameter, height and nutrient status of seedlings throughout the nursery before being individually assessed to make sure they meet our high standards," Mr Green said.

"The ongoing plantation cycle means the community has access to renewable forestry resources for decades to come.

"The seedlings we plant today will grow into the trees that are used in paper, packaging, new houses, home extensions and backyard fences when the plantations are harvested 15 to 35 years from now.

"It is exciting to see it start with one tiny seed."

From P 8

that the verification system has classified as compliant. More detail is in Section 2.3 of AS/NZS 1604 part 2. Note: This requirement applies irrespective of which verification method is used.

Standards development is not glamorous, but it is important, and the efforts of industry representatives should not go under appreciated by the timber industry.

Revision of AS/NZS 1604 took over five years and hundreds of comments were made to improve

the standard, showing the importance that producers and users of treated timber place on a well-written standard. The revised AS/NZS 1604 is seen as a significant evolution not a revolution of an important standard series.

Continued investment by industry in timber durability is essential, including developing high-quality standards, effective R&D, and other initiatives, such as the collaborative National Centre of Timber Durability and Design based at the University of the Sunshine Coast.

The centre has established a strong research program to help deliver new treatments, improved quality systems, and a better understanding of treatment systems to help support the continued growth of this important market sector.

“ON-GOING INVESTMENT IN TIMBER DURABILITY IS ESSENTIAL



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Court decision victory for sustainable forestry

NATIONALS senator for Victoria Bridget McKenzie has welcomed the recent High Court decision to refuse to grant leave to an anti-native forestry activist group who sought to appeal the decision of the Full Bench of the Federal Court in their case against VicForests.

The decision follows ongoing green lawfare by Friends of Leadbeater's Possum against VicForests

native forest operations.

Senator McKenzie said supporting forestry was not anti-environment; native forestry operations are strictly regulated to the highest environmental standards and every tree used is replaced as the areas are regenerated and regrown by law.

"The decision gives certainty to industry that their future is viable and this is



Bridget McKenzie

something I have long worked to achieve, including through my Private Senator's Bill which I introduced to federal parliament last year," the senator said.

"While the High Court decision is a 'win' for industry, more still needs to be done to prevent green extremists shutting down native forest harvesting on the back of nonsensical activism."

Senator McKenzie said the Andrews government was opening the door for repeated litigation being brought on by activist groups who would not stop until they shut down native forestry.



NEW EVENT DATE FOR GALA AWARDS CEREMONY

11 MARCH 2022

The Barn, Mount Gambier

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Tickets available for purchase in the new year

First trans-Tasman forest management standard is approved for publication

UPDATED and reviewed by Responsible Wood every five years, the AS/NZS 4708 standard for sustainable forest management has been approved for publication by the standards reference committee and working group chaired by Dr Gordon Duff.

Published for the first time as a trans-Tasman standard, it provides common benchmarks for sustainably-managed forests in Australia and New Zealand.

The standard and the chain-of-custody standard (AS/NZS 4707) are key components of the Responsible Wood certification scheme.

“The scheme is recognised as a world leader for certification of native and plantation forests,” Dr Duff said.

The reference committee is a broad range of trans-Tasman stakeholders involved in forest management, forest research, auditing, government, community and the environment, as well as indigenous organisations and labour unions.

The new standard has been designed to meet all requirements of PEFC International for sustainable forest management (PEFC ST 1003).

Responsible Wood CEO Simon Dorries said PEFC was



Responsible Wood chair Dr Hans Drielsma, AM (left), and CEO Simon Dorries, look over the operations of Juken New Zealand at the company's Masterton plywood and LVL facility.

an international system of mutual recognition whereby standards such as AS/NZS 4708 were compared against international benchmarks.

“As an endorsed Australian and New Zealand standard, it can be used for PEFC and/or Responsible Wood claims and to meet timber legality requirements for import and export,” Mr Dorries said.

Responsible Wood is the governing body in Australia for PEFC International, the world's largest forest certification authority with more than 20,000 companies certified under the sustainable forest management and chain-of-custody standards.

PEFC provides mutual recognition across a diverse number of countries allowing effective and efficient access to international markets. It also provides best practice international benchmarks for sustainable forest management ensuring that global forests are protected while providing environmental, economic and social benefits.

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NZ's robust biosecurity systems fight constant battle to improve detection of hitchhiker pests

FOLLOWING on from last week's interview with Dr Steve Pawson, senior lecturer at the University of Canterbury, he talks further about biosecurity, biodiversity and invasive species.

Dr Pawson says New Zealand has excellent systems in place to mitigate 'known' pest and disease risks.

"For example, we have contributed to the development of the ISPM 15 guidelines, which deal with the treatment of wood packaging material – a major global pathway for wood boring and bark beetles," he said.

"For example, by contributing to the development of the ISPM 15 guidelines, which deal with the treatment of wood packaging material – a major global pathway for wood boring and bark beetles," he said.

"Research shows the international standards have reduced the spread of such species, thus greatly benefiting our forest industry.

"However, there are a number of weak spots in our defences ... inherent risks associated with an import/export-based economy. Two

“ FINDING MORE SENSITIVE WAYS TO DETECT STOWAWAYS IS A PRIORITY ”



Sirex wood wasp... potentially damaging to overstocked carbon forests.
Photo: Scion (NZ Forest Research Institute)



Red needle cast (present in NZ since at least 2008)... recurring infection can cause significant economic loss.

things spring to mind that are difficult to control.

"First off are hitchhiker pests. In the last five years we've received two species of paropsine leaf beetles, which feed on eucalypts. It's most likely they were hiding out among cargo, inside shipping containers or generally on ships. Upon arrival they moved undetected across the border and established populations. Hitchhikers are so unpredictable and most that arrive are species we've not seen before.

"Biosecurity New Zealand is constantly looking for them ... so finding more sensitive methods to detect these stowaways is a priority."

Dr Pawson says asymptomatic pathogen

importing plants of a species completely unrelated to forestry, which may be harbouring unwanted forestry pathogens. The relationship between pathogens and their full suite of

hosts is comparatively poorly understood ... although modern molecular detection techniques are helping to close the gap.

"For example, by contributing to the development of the ISPM 15 guidelines, which deal with the treatment of wood packaging material – a major global pathway for wood boring and bark beetles."

Dr Pawson is also concerned about the forest industry's heavy reliance on radiata pine.

"I continue to teach my 4th Year School of Forestry students about this issue – i.e. monocultures versus polycultures. It would be interesting to consider introducing more mixed species stands in a New Zealand context.

"Internationally, it's reasonably well established that mixed forests are more productive, although not necessarily in terms of the economic value of extractable timber.

"However, from a total biomass perspective a mixed stand can capture more of the potential of a site by planting different species that have

ACROSS THE DITCH

With MICHAEL SMITH

infections are another area of risk.

"We can detect disease from the symptoms a plant is exhibiting – but some pathogens live happily in a number of plant species and never cause disease, making them difficult to detect," he said.

"Thus we might be



"Logmeter was the critical piece of infrastructure that we needed", FORICO.

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Here's lookin' at you 2022 – and the chance to rub shoulders again with industry friends

SO lucky ... looks like I can just squeeze in another column for the last edition of Timber&Forestry enews for the year.

I could use some colourful language here, but let me just say it'll be good riddance to 2021 and, hopefully, 2022 will be a much better year for Australians, more broadly for the forest industry in particular.

As we know all too well the Covid pandemic has been a major disruption throughout 2021. The associated lockdowns, border closures, cancellations and impact on the economy and communities have, to put it mildly, been devastating.

It has been a great testament to enews editor Jim Bowden and the staff that they have been able to pump out an edition of enews every week, despite the difficulties of travel restrictions and an ability to communicate with the various participants across industry sectors. So well done Jim and let's hope that next year is a bit less challenging. Also, that you will be able to get out and about as you have in the past. I will look forward to seeing you down this way at some stage. I will have a cuppa and a scone ready – you bring the wine!

While I am on the job

“INDUSTRY EVENTS BACK ON THE AGENDA



A Christmas gift wrapped in hope for a better and more bountiful New Year.

of handing out bouquets, it would be remiss of me not to acknowledge the contribution that enews advertisers make to this weekly publication. So, in my sector of the industry, I salute the contribution of people such as Brett Jones from Komatsu Forests, David Hazell from Onetrak and Tigercat, Caterpillar, and the many advertisers who have continued to support the publication throughout a difficult year.

We are told that enews is now firmly established as the forest industry's weekly intelligence bulletin with more than 16,000 deliveries every Thursday morning. We are all very proud of this achievement.

So, thank you all and if I can say so on behalf of the enews family – if I can presume to be a 'little sister' – we certainly appreciate your ongoing support and

TRUNK LINES



With CHERYL FORREST

look forward to it continuing next year.

Certainly, from down here, next year does look more hopeful than this one with some industry events now back on the agenda after multiple postponements, including the Green Triangle Timber Industry Awards at Mount Gambier and Kevin Izzard's FRAME conference in Melbourne to name a few.

Also, I think that the important advocacy role played by Ross Hampton

and his staff at the Australian Forest Products Association will again be front and centre of industry gatherings in Canberra allowing industry networking and to rub shoulders with a politician or two. Would be good Ross if you could send me an invite next year. I promised to come along and I won't wear my high-viz shirt and will behave myself! So as this is the last edition of enews for the year, can I thank the sometimes, but not always encouraging, feedback received. I look forward to continuing to talk to you next year and wish you, your family and work colleagues a happy and safe Christmas and please, please let next year be a more positive one for all of us.

So, catch you on the other side in 2022. Merry Christmas to you all.

Cheryl

The MARKET Leader...



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Future-proofing the forestry industry against the impact of bushfires: a new FWPA ‘chat’

THE latest episode of FWPA’s WoodChat podcast series places a focus on research efforts to increase the Australian timber industry’s bushfire preparedness, and capacity to minimise the adverse impacts of future fire events on forestry plantations.

The unprecedented bushfires of 2019-20 resulted in the destruction of many properties, a devastating impact on our wildlife, and the tragic loss of human life. Sadly, climate modelling predicts the extent of wildfires will continue to increase in Australia, and as a result the economic impacts of wildfires are also likely to rise.

In the forestry sector, fire poses a significant business risk for plantation companies, wood processors and manufacturers.

This edition of WoodChat showcases a number of



Stepping through all the processes and impacts from bushfires.

interesting and important forestry-related projects being conducted in response to the recent catastrophic fires.

Among the interviewees is Dr Tim Smith of the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, who discusses proposed efforts to create a national network of research fire expertise, and generate salvage management options for harvest and storage operations following a fire event.

exposing ourselves to a degree of risk given that we trade with an ever-increasing number of countries – and that biosecurity risks are spreading among the countries we trade with. One only has to look at the widespread damage being caused by *Lecanosticta acicola* to radiata stands on the Iberian peninsula.

We need to recognise the ease with which natural dispersal of small insects and pathogen spores can occur on air currents between countries.

Dr Pawson also notes that we may not fully appreciate

“We as an industry needed to have a better handle on how we dealt with post-wildfire events,” Dr Smith said.

“Consequently, FWPA was looking for a program that would step through all the processes and impacts from a fire, and how the industry might respond to minimise fire impact and resource losses.”

The program would look to incorporate the findings of studies conducted previously and build on those to help

the difficulties associated with fulfilling our climate change commitments by planting more native forests.

“The lack of a cost-effective method to establish native seedlings into rank grass at scale is a big impediment,” he says “And from a pest/pathogen perspective, there are indeed complexities in that our native flora has evolved in tandem with herbivores and pathogens.

“INSECTS THAT FEED ON NATIVE TREES LIKELY TO IMPACT GROWTH

develop clear guidelines for the industry to manage trees in salvage operations.

“It’s about providing a decision support tree that can be used for optimised post-fire salvage response, customised to different regions and conditions,” Dr Smith said.

During the episode, the presenters also speak to Braden Jenkin, lead author of recently guidelines offering a summary of the collective knowledge of the Australian forestry industry around previous experiences in the salvage, storage and processing of fire damaged timber.

Listeners will also hear from Dr Dean Williams of Sustainable Timber Tasmania about the potential for fire detection and prediction technologies to be installed permanently within forest environments to inform better decision making around fire management.

The various insects that feed on native tree species are likely to have an impact on growth.

Plant-and-leave *P. radiata* carbon forestry is also problematic.

“Maximising short-term economic value from carbon requires high stocking rates ... so trees won’t be thinned as they would be in a production timber stand,” says Dr Pawson.

“Overstocked stands include many stressed trees, which become more prone to pest and disease outbreaks ... including the potentially damaging *Sirex* wood wasp.”

From P 12

complementary strategies. And there is increasing evidence that mixed species stands are more resistant to pests and diseases, and other potential threats like wind.”

Dr Pawsom says the counter-argument is that, despite our reliance on pine, we’ve developed genetic diversity within the species and, most importantly, are actively managing our forests. For example, by selecting genotypes best suited to certain sites, and thinning stands to ensure vigorous growth.

He believes we are still

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Christmas tree in the House a display of forestry's value and a historic link with past

A CHRISTMAS tree grown by Forestry Corporation of NSW proudly sits in Government House in the centre of Sydney as a visual reminder of the forestry industry and the value it provides.

In the spirit of Christmas, Forestry Corporation donated the 5 m tall tree – a radiata pine sourced from Penrose state forest – where it takes pride of place in the building's iconic foyer.

Forestry Corporation's Moss Vale area supervisor Tom Bagnell said the tree started its life as one of around nine million seeds sown at Tumut nursery in 2016. From there it spent the next five years in the Penrose state forest pine plantation, before being harvested for this special role.

Penrose state forest has a significant Christmas history. By the early 1950s the sale of Christmas trees to the Sydney market was a viable enterprise with some 90,000 trees supplied by the Forestry Commission in one year alone."

Forestry Corporation has grown pine on the site ever since, with extensions to the



plantation area through the 1960s and 70s.

Forestry Corporation operations in both plantations and native forests, are certified sustainable to international standards, which guarantees that timber has been grown and harvested from a sustainable forest.

"This tree is one of the countless that cover the 1 million ha of NSW State Forests," Mr Bagnell said.

"Around half of our estate is managed solely for community enjoyment and environmental outcomes, and a small percentage of the remaining forests are harvested each year to help build our homes and supply timber products."

Klassic get-together for timber types at Kirkfare

MOTORING writer Jim Bowden (aka Orson Whiels) was a kid in a lolly shop when a bunch of timber types assembled at Kirkfare Klassics in Brisbane to salivate over one of Australia's greatest collections of British motorcars.

Their host and long-time friend Colin Galley left a stellar career in the timber industry to build his private collection of more than 70 British classics with a focus on Jaguars, Rolls Royces, Bentleys and Jensens, immaculately housed under 800 sq m in assorted showrooms... and all registered for the road.

Colin's collection began with the purchase of a 1964 Jaguar S-Type in 1982. The car has undergone extensive restoration work over many years and keeps company with many other Jags.

The vehicles are from the post-World War 2 period, through to modern machines.

"They have been preserved for the future – a record of the huge advances in the motor industry, through the heyday of British cars during the fifties, sixties and beyond," Colin said.

The collection also includes vehicles modified for competition or participation



in rally events.

This also enables Kirkfare Klassics to contribute to charities through events such as the Classic Adelaide Rally, the Great Endeavour Rally and the Road Boss Rally and their association with GIVIT, the community help group that connects those who have with those who need, especially this Christmas as the struggles of the lonely, the homeless and the jobless kick in as Covid continues its tragic toll.

Colin Galley's career in the timber business includes key management roles with Forest Products Marketing and ABI Timbers in the 70s and 80s before he formed Perma Log, a softwood treatment facility, in a joint venture with the late David Wilkinson.

Then came the family-owned Allied Timbers which was expanded to Bathurst after an exhaustive site search of the NSW Central Tablelands by Colin's son Richard looking for his 'dream' operation.

Construction of a new softwood processing facility started in November 2004 and two years later the Galley family had established a \$12 million state-of-the-art timber processing complex incorporating a log yard, sawmill, timber drying kilns, treatment plant and dry mill.

The Bathurst Allied Timber operation was an offshoot of the family's long-established processing operation at Burpengary, north of Brisbane, now run by Colin's sons Richard and Stephen.

The Bathurst mill was eventually bought by the AAM Investment Group for about \$25 million.

Talking of dreams, Jim Bowden got a chance to sit behind the wheel of a 1934 Crossley Sports Saloon ... under the bonnet a 3.2-litre straight-six engine, producing around 50kW/68hp, coupled to a four-speed preselect transmission driving the rear wheels. What a beauty.

This model turned out to be Crossley's last car design to enter production and it involved fitting a Golden engine and a larger type 150 ENV pre-selector gearbox into the 2 litre saloon. It was manufactured between 1933 and 1934 and exhibited at the 1934 British Motor show, priced at £795.

No official photographs of the car seems to have been taken – until now.

• *Pictured sharing the limelight with the Crossley at Kirkfare Klassics are, from left, Tim Evans, Coast to Coast Pacific, Jim Bowden (aka Orson Whiels), Patsy Evans, Colin Galley, John Muller, Wood Addiction, Don Towerton, Thora Wholesale Timbers, Dr Gary Bacon and Peter Forster, Queensland foresters, and Ross McDonald, Colin Galley's long-serving right-hand man.*

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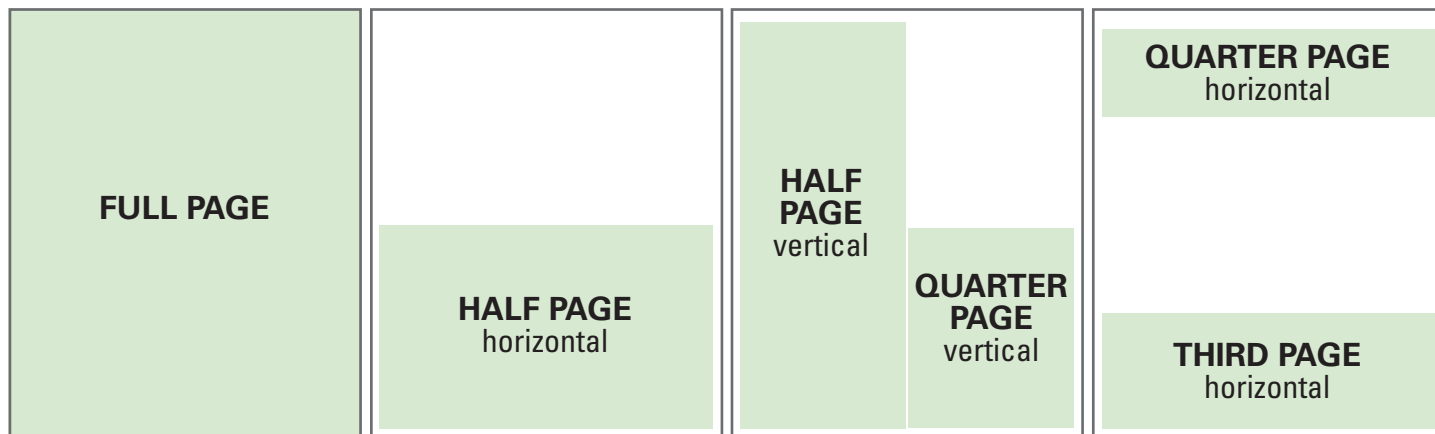
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