

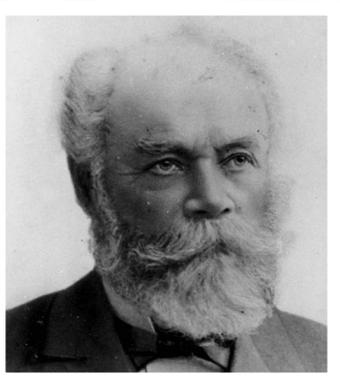
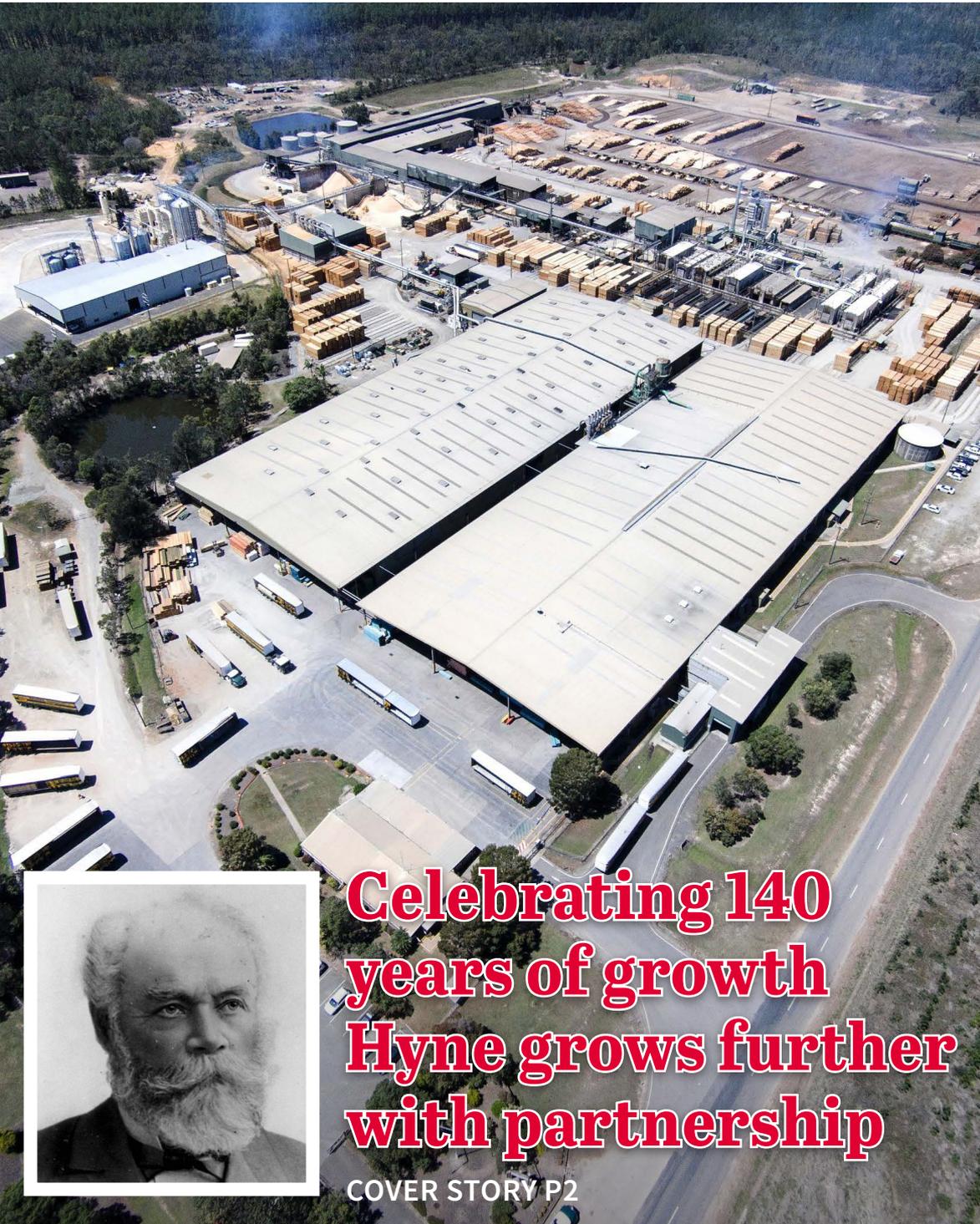
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COVER STORY P2



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Hyne celebrates 140 years of growth and announces partnership with UK sawmiller

JIM BOWDEN

CELEBRATING its 140th anniversary this year, Hyne Timber, a sixth generation family timber business based at Australia's 'timber capital' Maryborough, has merged with a UK-based sawmilling pioneer.

The partnership of the Hyne Group, which includes XLam, between James Jones & Sons Ltd brings together a combined 320 years of family-owned sawmilling heritage to pursue growth opportunities.

Under the terms of the partnership, James Jones & Sons will hold the majority interest, almost 60%, with more than 40% retained by the Hyne Group's existing shareholders, including the Hyne family.

Fifth generation Hyne family member James Hyne said the partnership was a significant milestone in Hyne Timber's 140 years of growth.

"With this exciting partnership, we are bringing together two multi-generational family-owned



James Hyne... partnership a significant milestone in Hyne Timber's 140 years of growth.

and operated companies with a shared commitment to world-class product quality, service, safety, innovation and sustainability," Mr Hyne said.

"The partnership will concentrate on identifying and developing growth opportunities in our region and beyond."

Tom Bruce-Jones, the chair of James Jones and Sons,



Tom Bruce-Jones... a strong platform for further consolidation and growth in Australia and New Zealand.

will be the new chair of the Hyne Group board.

James Jones & Sons has been involved in similar, successful partnerships, including a 25-year joint venture and ownership of

“CONSOLIDATING GROWTH IN NZ AND AUSTRALIA

Stella-Jones Inc in North America.

The company traces its history back 180 years and five generations and is recognised as one of the most innovative and efficient timber producers in Europe, with seven mills across the UK.

Tom Bruce-Jones said the partnership provided a strong platform for further consolidation and growth in Australia and New Zealand.

"We choose our partners very carefully and in the Hyne Group we have found a culture of integrity and excellence that mirrors our own," he said.

"In an increasingly corporate and private equity dominated industry, we believe that family culture and values not only provide differentiation but are a key competitive advantage. Together, we believe there are enormous opportunities to use our combined know-how, experience and

Cont P 8



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Prices continue upward for softwood imports as pipeline of building work appears endless

Expect construction costs to increase in Australia's housing boom, says FWPA report

AS demand runs rife and the pipeline of building work seems endless, imports of sawn softwood lifted 36.6% to reach 630,278 cub m over the year-ended November 2021.

The FWPA's statistic count newsletter circulated this week shows supply of all the major grades to Australia – mainly from European producers – lifted at a time when they have been at their most needed in history.

The ramping down at the end of the prior boom and bottoming in May 2020, annualised imports commenced a slow, but steady program of increases that is continuing as the pipeline of work continues to expand.

As expected in a housing boom, imports of mouldings, decking and related products have surged across several grades in the last two years. Coniferous moulding imports are up a solid but unremarkable 7.6% year-ended November, while broadleaved hardwood tongue and groove lifted 145.2%. There is, however, some churn in hardwood market definitions that warrants consideration.

In total, imports of mouldings lifted 9.8% over the year-ended November, totalling 347,822 cub m. Of that total, coniferous



Pressure on the timber supply chain ... further price increases in building materials anticipated.

mouldings accounted for 201,869 cub m, up 9.3% and driving the total to these new heights. The significant supplier – around 58% of the total – remains China.

The FWPA report shows tropical hardwood tongue and groove grades have fared quite differently over the last year. Imports declined 18.2% year-ended November, totalling 75,604 cub m, down around 17,000 cub m on the prior year.

Shipments from the main supplier Indonesia fell 21.2% over the year, slipping back 17,000 cub m to total 63,079 cub m. It is clear that shipments from Indonesia account for all this grade's import decline over the last

year.

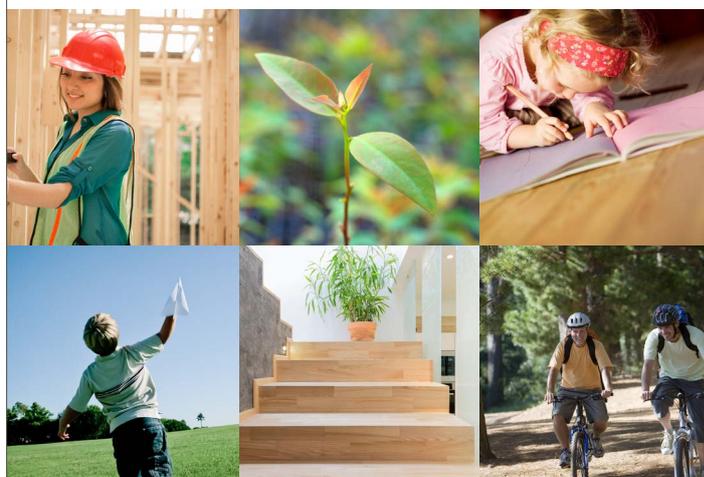
This micro-saga does not end here however.

Imports of the very similar broad-leaved hardwood tongue and groove grade rose 145.2% over the same period, lifting to 51,158 cub m. Shipments from the main supplier Indonesia lifted more than 360% to 27,179 cub m, up around 21,000 cub m on the prior year.

FWPA's surmise is that some reclassification of imports (and probably it is an inadvertent misclassification) from Indonesia has occurred, with the total volume of

Cont P 6

The united voice for Australia's forest industries



\$300m timber boost

PM Scott Morrison will pour \$300 million into low emissions timber as he moves to bolster the

government's environmental credentials ahead of the federal election.

• Full story next edition.

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Decision Tree will show if farm forestry is a potentially profitable choice for WA farmers

JANUARY 25 marked the official launch of a new, innovative farm forestry program, Decision Tree, in Bunbury, WA.

Decision Tree has been designed to rapidly assess the suitability of farms for plantation forestry, as well as provide information and assistance to landowners seeking to plant trees.

Through Decision Tree's unique assessment tool, farmers or landowners simply add in a few details such as their location and rainfall and the result will tell them if farm forestry is a potentially profitable crop choice. From there, landowners have a choice of investment models and how



Federal Member for Forrest Nola Marino MP (right) and South West Timber Hub project manager Wendy Perdon.

closely they choose to work with industry professionals to manage the trees and assist in maximising carbon credits.

With the South West Timber Hub being one of the key drivers of the program, project manager Wendy

Perdon recognised the significance of the launch.

"Decision Tree is a culmination of industry collaboration and a lot of hard work, so we are extremely proud for today's official launch," she said. "Decision Tree will allow farmers and landowners to quickly assess if forestry is a profitable option, factoring in their local conditions, distance to mill, alternative land uses and carbon prices to generate a potential profit margin.

"If the result generates interest, Decision Tree has different investment models to select from depending on how hands-on the landowner wishes to be in their farm forestry project."

Mrs Perdon said this was just the first phase of Decision Tree, with further development and program

expansion planned for the next 12 months, including turning the assessment tool into a web-based application.

The phase two expansion will utilise funding of \$500,000 from an agreement between the federal and WA governments. Examining and overcoming barriers to private forestry was a key activity

for the timber hub, with that work being fundamental in the creation of Decision Tree.

Input and resources from Wespine and the Forest Products Commission have also been critical to the creation of the project.

"Integrating commercial tree planting on farms will be vital for farmers looking to reduce their carbon footprint while still generating profits," Mrs Perdon said.

Federal Member for Forrest Nola Marino, who launched the program, said Decision Tree would help landholders determine how beneficial commercial plantations could be on their land.

"It will take into account the particular circumstances of their land and how well suited it is for timber production," she said. "It will enable the commercial interests of landholders to align with the needs of the forest products sector. The emergence of carbon markets adds an exciting dimension to this decision process. "This new tool is particularly crucial given the historic lack of accurate objective information to guide farm forestry enterprise decisions."





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“ LANDHOLDERS HAVE CHOICE OF INVESTMENT MODELS ”

FWPA podcast takes deep dive into artificial intelligence, a science making forests smarter

THE latest episode of FWPA's WoodChat series of podcasts takes a deep dive into some exciting Australian projects focused on the fusion of forestry and technology to help shape and strengthen the forests of the future.

Listeners are invited to discover how scientists are working to make smarter, healthier and more productive forests, utilising everything from artificial intelligence (AI) to genomics and airborne sensors.

Among the interviewees is Professor Mark Brown of the University of the Sunshine Coast and program leader of the Smarter Regions Cooperative Research Centre, which is leading an initiative to support projects designed to ensure the benefits of AI are maximised for forestry in Australia's regional areas.

"For the most part, Australia's rural industries

are not keeping pace with the levels of AI development observed in other industries," Professor Brown said.

"We are therefore looking to make sure forestry is equipped to enjoy the competitive advantages offered by AI."

Prof. Brown said by collecting and interpreting the large amounts of data that existed across the forestry industry, AI could help inform forest management decisions that would give the best outcomes for forest products at the end of the supply chain, now and in the future.

"AI can be used to identify the genetic, management and environmental patterns that impact timber quality," he said. "In simplest terms, it's about getting the right products to the right markets, while minimising wastage or loss along the supply chain."

Prof. Brown added "Using AI to effectively manage data means we can say with confidence what volume and quality of timber is available today, as well as what volume and quality of timber will be available in five to 10 years,



Professor Mark Brown... looking to make sure forestry is equipped to enjoy the competitive advantages offered by AI.

based on what has been planted and how we manage that resource over the next decade."

Listeners will also hear from Dr Christine Stone of the NSW Department of Primary Industries about remote platforms equipped with sensor technology that are being used to capture high resolution data and characterise the structure of native forests, in support of better forest management.

Podcast presenters will also speak to Dr Richard Kerr, research geneticist at Tree Breeding Australia, about a tool developed to help

Australian growers select radiata pine trees for planting based on attributes associated with their pedigree that make them suitable for the conditions of their plantation.

The latest episode in the WoodChat series follows a diverse array of Australian forestry-related topics, including efforts to future-proof the industry against the impact of bushfires; a re-imagining of the log and woodchip export supply chain for improved efficiencies' and the monitoring of the impacts of forestry on endangered species in Tasmania.

Link to the latest episode: soundcloud.com/woodchat/episode-23-how-technology-is-being-used-to-make-australian-forests-smarter

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From P 3

tropical and broadleaved tongue and groove lifting from around 113,000 cub to about 127,000 cub m over the year.

Australia's exports of softwood chips lifted 84.7% over the year-ended November, totalling 1.011 million bone dried metric tonnes (bdmt), while the mainstay hardwood chips saw annual exports up 9.1% to 4.258 million bdmt.

Meanwhile, the price of locally-produced sawn softwood products continued to rise in the December quarter, reflecting the ongoing tight market conditions, says the FWPA report.

The key structural product MGP10 <120mm saw east coast prices up 6.7% on the prior quarter and 35.2% compared with the December quarter in 2020. For treated MGP10 <120mm, east coast prices lifted 10.5% on the prior quarter



As expected in a housing boom, imports of mouldings, decking and related products have surged across several grades in the last two years.

and 37% compared with the same quarter in 2020.

Other products significant to the local market experienced similar price movements.

Reflecting the strong market conditions evident since the June quarter of 2020, weighted average prices have been increasing

steadily, which stands in direct contrast to other major markets, especially the North American market,

“ EXPECT FURTHER PRICE INCREASES IN THE TIMBER SUPPLY CHAIN ”

where similar demand conditions have been met with extraordinary peaks and troughs.

It's not entirely clear why these two relatively open markets have arrived at the same end point – higher prices, via different means. A factor may be the market structure in North America where shorter-term arrangements with greater reliance on the spot sales is the norm compared to the generally longer-term supply arrangements in Australia.

For all that, timber is not the only product exhibiting what are very large price increases. Recent analysis reported in the Australian Financial Review shows all states can expect construction costs to increase by a greater amount than they increased in 2021.

The FWPA report says this no surprise, and for the timber supply chain, it might suggest that stable though they may be, further price increases can be anticipated.

ATIF Melbourne meeting: face-to-face on import issues

ALONG with many trade associations, ATIF has had a second year of predominantly remote communications with the board.

A face-to-face board meeting is now scheduled for February 23 in Melbourne.

“This will provide an opportunity to review a number of issues central to the importing and wholesaling sector of the industry,” ATIF general manager John Halkett said.

Also the board is hopeful that recently appointed FWPA CEO Andrew Leighton can join the meeting for an introductory chat and lunch.

“More broadly, this year should also provide an

opportunity for ATIF and other timber trade associations to interact to advance mutually beneficial issues,” Mr Halkett said.

“ATIF will continue to explore further avenues of supply, particularly of structural softwoods, including interaction with trade associations.

“The trade consultation country list includes Indonesia, Canada and Russia.”

Mr Halkett said the timber supply chain and building and construction industries could be assured that importers and wholesalers would employ their best endeavours to supply the timber needs during the year, and to work

when others to improve supply chain issues that were a major feature of concern during 2021.

ATIF has been established for more than 40 years and is responsible for coordinating the national and some state activities of timber importers and wholesalers, including identifying and progressing issues within the purview of the federal government, such as relevant policies and legislation, customs and boarder protection and trade matters.

ATIF is also involved in a range of other matters including generic marketing, research and innovation development, shipping, port services and industry

advocacy.

The ATIF represents its timber importing and wholesaling sector on the Forest and Wood Products Council chaired by the federal Minister for Agriculture. It also represents the timber and wood-based product importing sector on various committees of Forest and Wood Products Australia and on a number of industry standards and other technical committees.

ATIF continues to protect and improve domestic market access for its members and their products and to work towards removing impediments to enhanced market access and competitiveness.

FEBRUARY

23: ATIF Board Meeting – Melbourne, VIC.

Contact John Halkett at john.halkett@bigpond.com

MARCH

7: Australian Farm Institute Conference – Strangers Room, NSW Parliament, Sydney.

Where to next for ag advocacy? The event will be held both in person and online. Inquiries to 0427 458 034 or email info@farminstitute.org.au

29-30: International Conference on Forest Resources Accounting and Economics – Australia World Academy of Science, Engineering and Technology, Sydney, NSW. For further information see; <https://waset.org/forest-resources-accounting-and-economics-conference-in-january-2022-in-sydney>

APRIL

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

20-21: Centre for Future Timber Structures 2022 Australian Timber Design Workshops in Launceston, Tasmania and Brisbane, QLD.

Created for building design professionals interested in timber construction to develop skills, confidence and networks in a unique, hands-on environment. Registration and cost: Early bird discount (ends February 28): \$900. Standard: \$1100 (single day \$650, student price: \$250). For further information Professor Keith Crews email: k.crews@uq.edu.au Event re-scheduled from early February.

MAY

10-12: Environmental Forestry – Rotorua, New Zealand.

Forest Industry Engineering Association. Improving environmental performance across the forest industry. For further information see: www.environmentalforestry.events

18-19: DesignBUILD – Melbourne Convention & Exhibition Centre, Melbourne, VIC.

Event will bring together Australia’s architecture, building, construction and design communities. For further information see: designbuildexpo.com.au

23-24: International Forest Business Conference – Sheraton Sopot Hotel, Poland.

A two-day conference on megatrends that shape responsible forest and wood industry investments for climate action. The conference aims to bring together leading forest management organizations (TIMOs), investors interested in forest assets and carbon offsets

(e.g., public and corporate pension funds, wealth managers and private banks, sovereign wealth funds, foundations and endowments) and sustainable wood industry representatives in order to exchange and share experiences and ideas about challenges and opportunities for forest sector as a natural climate solution. The main theme of the conference is New Forest Business Frontiers. Register at www.fba-events.com or contact karolina@forest-analytics.com

JUNE

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

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Hyne founder earned title 'father of forestry'

THE partnership between James Jones & Sons and the Hyne Group partnership comes 140 years after English carpenter Richard Matthews Hyne set up his "national saw and planing mill" in Maryborough on the banks of the Mary River in the final months of 1882.

Timber was no strange product to R.M. Hyne when he left his home in the village of Stoke Flemming in Devonshire, England, for Australia in 1864.

Along with his wife, he arrived in Brisbane aboard the ship Fusilier in August 1864. His trade was that of builder, and with him came his tools in a wooden tradesmen's chest.

He moved to Maryborough in 1870, buying the Building of the Bush Inn (now the

“R.M. HYNE BLASTED THE GOVERNMENT ON ITS IGNORANCE OF FORESTRY



The Hyne Timber story began in 1882, when Richard Matthews Hyne (second from left) opened his National Saw and Planing Mill in Maryborough on the banks of the Mary River.

Royal Hotel) in Kent Street, the headquarters today of the Hyne Group. In the early 1880s he started a timber business in Kent Street from which flourished the large sawmilling complex of Hyne & Son Pty Ltd.

As Parliamentary Member for Maryborough in 1889, R.M. Hyne earned the title 'Father of Forestry' when he moved a successful motion calling for the creation of a Department of Forestry to

meet the challenge of an approaching timber shortage.

Raising the matter in the Legislative Assembly, he indicated how ineffectual government forestry policies had been in the past. Although in the 1880s an attempt had been made to establish a 500-acre pine plantation on Fraser Island, the government soon cut short the experiment. A paltry 60 pounds was allocated annually for the forest project.

R.M. Hyne blasted the government for its ignorance about forests and timber; it knew the value of only four main trees – gum, ironbark, pine and cedar – and would not specify lesser-known trees. Consequently, farmers were irresponsibly burning out good stands of timber which could have had commercial use.

He urged the government to educate itself, as well as the public, on the valuable timber reserves of the colony. He regarded forests as a heritage and saw the need to control unrestricted exploitation.

Another bill introduced by Mr Hyne in 1890 would "confer the elective suffrage upon women" to allow them to vote. Regretfully, Mr Hyne's bill failed and it took more than 20 years before women won the right to vote.

R.M. Hyne died in 1902, the year his grandson Richard Lambert Hyne was born.

From P 2

financial strength to grow the business by delivering even better products and services."

Hyne Group CEO Jon Kleinschmidt confirmed there were no plans for any changes to the Hyne Timber and XLam brands.

"It will be business as usual for Hyne Group operations with no changes to the company's team members, customers, suppliers and the ongoing

“BUSINESS AS USUAL FOR HYNE GROUP OPERATIONS

commitment to supporting the communities in which we operate."

James Jones & Sons is the UK's most diversified, family-owned timber processor with annual sales in excess of \$AUD625 million.

The company operates from 27 sites across the UK with more than 1220 staff members and seven sawmills located strategically across Scotland and North England, with a sawn capacity of 800,000 cub m on a single-shift basis consuming 1.4 million tonnes of roundwood.

Its timber systems division is Europe's largest I-joint producer with capacity of 20 million lineal metres per annum.



Jon Kleinschmidt... no changes to the Hyne Timber and XLam brands.

Tom Bruce-Jones joined James Jones & Sons in 2002. He was joint managing director of the group between 2007 and 2019, before becoming chairman in 2019. He is also chair of Scottish Woodlands Ltd, and a director of the recently

acquired GT Timber Ltd.

Mr Bruce-Jones graduated from Newcastle University in 1990 with a Degree in History and completed an MBA Degree in 1998 at Imperial College, London. Prior to joining the family business, he was employed by UPM-Kymmene, a Finnish pulp and paper group.

The James Jones-Hyne partnership has secured Foreign Investment Review Board approval and all other regulatory approvals.

On the cover: The Hyne sawmill at Tuan, 28 km from Maryborough in the Fraser Coast region. Inset: Richard Matthews Hyne, founder in 1882 of Hyne & Son.

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The ingredients in Scomo's 'magic pudding' are still unknown long after Glasgow summit

Carbon stored in our forests and timber products the obvious solution on climate change

WELL, here we are in 2022 having survived the last 12 months and the Christmas hoopla – just!

It's such a delight to be back among the trees and working.

No doubt I've put on a few kilos after the festive feeding, and not forgetting that bottle of bubbly or two, so I'm looking forward to a bit of exercise now that I'm back on the forwarder. Hopefully, I'll be able to squeeze back into my favourite jeans a bit more comfortably in a few weeks' time.

I sincerely hope this year will be infinitely better for our industry than the last one. Yes, it was disappointing that the good folk in the Green Triangle have, using their words, "hit the pause button" on their much-awaited and celebrated feature industry awards event at the Barn in Mount Gambier.

But the gala dinner and awards evening has been re-scheduled for later in the year, based on advice from SA Health. So it's still a stellar night in-the-making with black ties and evening dresses to the ready for a well-deserved night of celebration for this important forest industry region.

“HOW THE PM HOPES TO GET TO NET-ZERO BY 2050 REMAINS A MYSTERY

Call me boring if you like, but over the Christmas break I had a read of the net-zero plan the Prime Minister took to the Glasgow climate change summit. A number of commentators have described it as Scott Morrison's



Can anyone up there tell me what's in this magic pudding?



Planting trees is an obvious solution to climate change.

'magic pudding' – strong on platitudes, but absent on detail. So how he plans to get to net-zero carbon by 2050 remains pretty much a mystery.

I was a bit more encouraged by Anthony Albanese's alternative plan. At least it does contain some detail. Significantly, the climate change goals in the Labor Party's plan relies heavily on, as I understand it, at least 50% of the carbon abatement to be achieved via carbon offsets. So,

TRUNK LINES



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regenerative agriculture or lots and lots more trees in the ground have got to be the obvious requirement.

Some among us are forecasting at least half a million additional hectares of trees will be needed, plus a lot more emphasis on sustainable management of natural forest systems and recognition of the carbon stored in timber structures and wood products. Any way you look at it it's a real chance for the forest industry to capitalise on this opportunity. Hello David Littleproud, Jonno Duniam and state premiers ... are you listening?

I suggest that a central strategy either to support Scott Morrison's 'magic pudding' plan or the Labor Party's

alternative is going to involve a much greater focus on tree planting, beefing up the forest industry and manufacturing a lot more wood products.

All this points to a great opportunity for the forest industry this year to contribute to national climate change abatement goals. Are we ready to take advantage of this opportunity?

That's the first column for the year done. See you again next month.

Cheryl

The MARKET Leader...



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Vietnam, New Zealand and Russia dominated China wood imports in 2021: DANA statistics

NZ producers hoping for better demand and prices for their logs through year 2022

DENNIS NEILSON

VIETNAM, New Zealand and Russia dominated China wood imports in 2021.

Statistics are now available for imports of wood products into China for the full 2021 calendar year.

While China imports a myriad of wood products from scores of countries, the three major markets – or at least those of indirect interest to many Australians and New Zealanders – are hardwood woodchips, softwood logs and softwood sawn timber.

Once again Vietnam has dominated the supply of hardwood woodchips. With (yet again) the total volume confounding the many 'talking heads' experts (including the author) who for decades have under-estimated the ability of the two million Vietnamese tree farmers to come up trumps each year to supply ever more and more logs for woodchip exports.

In 2021, Vietnam shipped 8.9 million bone dry tonnes (bdt), or a full 60% of the total Chinese hardwood woodchip imports of 14.8 million.

Australia was the second largest supplier, but a distant 2.5 million bdt or 17% of total Chinese imports.

The author Dennis Neilson has just completed interviewing more than a dozen Australia woodchip exporters about their 2021



1/ *Russia logs bound for China by rail.*

2/ *Dennis Neilson has just completed interviewing Australia woodchip exporters about their 2021 exports, and their expected 2022 deliveries.*

exports, and their expected 2022 deliveries.

After a record 2019 when a total of 5.3 million bdt was shipped to North Asia (China, Japan, South Korea and Taiwan) from Australia, exports plummeted in 2020 to only around 3.5 million bdt.

They increased again in 2021 to 4.2 million bdt – but still far less than the predicted 4.9 million bdt, for various reasons.

Predictions by different Australian exporters for 2022 range from 4.5 million bdt to more than 5.3 million bdt.

DANA/Gingko will make its own 2002 prediction (and for the next five years) in a multi-client review to be published

future.

Increased sawmill and wood processing capacity in Australia, coupled with big pine forest bushfire losses in NSW, and (at the margins) a currently super-heated softwood chip export market absorbing most of the previously exported 'U/MIS grade pulp logs' means the loss of Australian log exports to China appears now to be barely missed by Aussie forest owners.

In 2021, more than 20 country suppliers exported softwood logs to China, but only two dominated.

New Zealand, the previous single 'elephant in room', continues to be a lap ahead of the others, with exports totalling 19.6 million JAS cub m in 2021 or 43% of the total imports of 45 million cub m.

Most (or more) of the loss of Australian logs was made up by a rampant Germany which shipped 11.7 million cub m in 2021, or 26% of the total.

In addition many other European countries, previously only minor players, are now bigger suppliers to China.

However, just the two big exporters accounted for almost 70% of the total.

If other European country exports are added to those from Germany, the total shipments equated almost exactly to those of New Zealand.

“ONCE AGAIN VIETNAM HAS DOMINATED WOODCHIP SUPPLIES

Cont P 16

A POWERFUL LEGACY A BOLD VISION



PM pledges \$50 million to save koalas ‘that don’t need saving’ says professional forester

Research shows populations five times higher on NSW north coast than previously thought

EVERYONE loves koalas, so the weekend’s announcement that the Morrison government has earmarked another \$50 million “to save them” was never likely to ignite a raging controversy.

It should, though, as koalas don’t need saving.

“They are in much higher numbers across a much wider area today than when Europeans arrived and disrupted Aboriginal burning,” says Vic Jurskis, a former NSW Forestry Commission forester who was in charge of the regional research centre at Eden and is one of very few scientists who’ve studied natural low-density koala populations

“Koalas eat soft young shoots which are scarce in healthy mature forests,” Mr Jurskis said.

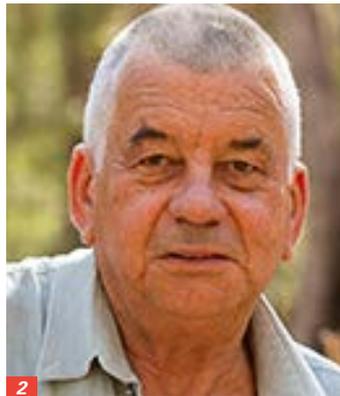
“Thick young forests grew, nutrient cycling was disrupted, mulch/fuel accumulated, roots deteriorated and sick trees kept resprouting soft shoots. Koalas bred up and reinforced the process.”

The Prime Minister said the funding would bring together the best of the best researchers, land managers, veterinarians and citizen scientists to protect one of the most special species in the world.

“Our \$50 million investment will enhance the protection



1/ **Scott Morrison and friend announce a national koala plan at Australia Zoo in Queensland.**
Photo: The Courier-Mail



2 **Vic Jurskis... Victoria’s last natural koala population in the Strzeleckis is still in unnaturally high densities after 20 megafires in 200 years including Black Thursday, Red Tuesday, Black Friday and Black Saturday.**

of koalas by restoring koala habitat, improving our understanding of koala populations, supporting training in koala treatment and care, and strengthening research into koala health outcomes,” Scott Morrison said.

“This new package will take the government’s koala investment to more than \$74 million since 2019. Minister for the Environment Sussan Ley says the \$50 million package will also provide significant flow-on benefits for other native species.

Current funding is already supporting eight strategic habitat restoration projects that target thousands of

to do more research about the non-existent impacts of forest operations they found even higher densities of koalas in wildfire and logging regrowth near Bega, where supposedly only 45 survivors were hanging on in a ‘climate refuge’.

He says in 1990, the National Parks and Wildlife Service

compared data over two years 1985-87 against sightings over 60 years 1920s-1984 and reported that koalas had disappeared from hundreds of localities. They hosted a Koala Summit and launched an anti-logging campaign to create more parks.

In 1991, scientific research found that north coast koalas were concentrated in dense young regrowth forests and in eucalypt plantations where there were three times more koalas than in old growth.

In 1992, NSW listed koalas as vulnerable. In 1995, regrowth forests and plantations near Coffs Harbour were locked up to ‘save’ them. By then, increasing national parks and restrictions on burning were causing forest health problems and koalas were increasing in young, old, logged and unlogged forests.

During the Millennium Drought, some dense populations crashed. In 2011, the Senate accepted claims by multi-million-dollar

hectares in significant koala areas in eastern Australia that include commercial forest operations.

Vic Jurskis refers to a \$45 million koala strategy in NSW four years ago which aimed to “stabilise and then increase koala numbers” by creating 24,000 ha of new koala parks. But NSW DPI scientific research shows koala numbers are five times higher than previously thought on the north coast and are not affected in any way by forest harvesting.

Mr Jurskis said after NSW DPI received more funding

“NEW PACKAGE TO TAKE KOALA INVESTMENT TO MORE THAN \$74M

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multinational ‘charities’ that there were 10 million koalas in 1788. Supposedly they were nearly exterminated by the fur trade and were now endangered by climate change, harvesting, clearing, dogs, disease and cars.

The Senate asked the Threatened Species Scientific Committee to provide new advice and population data to the Minister. In November 2011, the TSSC recommended that Queensland, NSW and ACT koalas be listed as vulnerable under the EPBC Act.

In February 2012, 17 koala experts gathered to ‘synthesise’ population data, and the northern koalas were listed in April. The experts later published their ‘data’ in a scientific journal, effectively boasting that they had made it up: “A quantitative, scientific method for deriving estimates of koala populations and trends was possible, in the absence of empirical data on abundances”.

In 2016, an ‘independent review’ by the NSW chief scientist found that three irrupting populations at Campbelltown, Coffs Harbour and Eden were respectively: stable or increasing; stable to slowly declining; significantly reduced to about 45 koalas. The dense Pilliga-Liverpool



Watch out ... koalas ahead.

Plains population, which crashed in the Federation Drought and again in the Millennium Drought, was said to have suffered a dramatic decline.

In 2019, the NSW Koala Inquiry heard that a population in the Blue Mountains had started “popping up” during the 2013 fires. Now “everywhere we look we find a lot of koalas – a young and expanding population.” A former national parks and wildlife expert told the Inquiry that koalas reoccupied areas incinerated by 1994 fires at Port Stevens within months and produced young within a year.

Supposedly Victoria’s last natural koala population in the Strzeleckis is still in unnaturally high densities after 20 megafires in 200 years

including Black Thursday, Red Tuesday, Black Friday and Black Saturday. The first was around 1820 after Aborigines were decimated by smallpox.

The NSW inquiry found that, after Black Summer, koalas would soon be extinct unless there was urgent intervention to protect habitat. The 2021-22 NSW budget ‘committed’ \$193 million to doubling koala numbers by 2050.

ABC Catalyst reported that koalas and joeys just born when the Black Summer megafires ripped through their habitat are in great condition.

“KOALAS WERE IN GREAT CONDITION AFTER MEGAFIRES RIPPED THROUGH THEIR HABITAT

At the same time, the World Wildlife Fund was running a sustained multi-media campaign and proposing a four-year, \$55 million plan “grounded by good science” to save koalas. This was additional to a \$50 million Great Koala National Park to save them from logging

Consequent to the megafires, the Threatened Species Scientific Committee released an assessment that northern koalas are eligible for listing as an endangered species. Minister Ley’s Environment Department invited public comment with a deadline of July 31, 2021. Several submissions identified the deficiencies of the assessment.

Now, seven months after the deadline, there has been no public report or ministerial decision. Nevertheless, the Prime Minister announced a four-year, \$50 million plan to ‘save’ koalas. The plan includes \$30 million for habitat restoration and protection (creating more overcrowded and explosive scrub); \$10 million to extend monitoring (more ineffective surveys and expert pronouncements); and \$3 million to research and treat diseases and injuries (symptoms of dense and expanding populations)

“Truth is stranger than fiction,” Vic Jurskis concluded.

Owner-occupiers bounce back: record housing loans

THE total value of housing loans issued in 2021 reached almost \$370 billion, up by 51% on the previous year and the strongest year since records began in 2002, accordings to ABS figures.

This was driven by owner-occupiers, accounting for more than \$260 billion of the total in 2021, up by 43% on the previous year.

HIA economist Tom Devitt

says while loans to first-home buyers have come down in recent months, this cohort remains much more active in the market than it did before the pandemic.

“First-home buyers accounted for \$74 billion worth of housing loans in 2021, up by 30.3% on the previous year,” he said.

“The boom in renovations also looks set to continue

with lendings of \$5.4 billion in 2021, almost double the level in 2020.”

Mr Devitt said while investor loans were another growing sector, they remained a relatively small share of the market.

Investors accounted for \$106 billion worth of housing loans in 2021, up by 75.1% on the previous year. This still represents 28% of the total

market, compared to more than 40% 2015.

“Australians are remaining very active in the housing market,” Mr Devitt said.

“The pandemic has forced people to spend a lot more time at home, resulting in demand for greater amenity. This is being found in both moving to a new home or renovating the home people already have.”

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Thus supplies from the New Zealand and European 'pivoting duet' accounted for 86% of total China softwood imports last year.

With softwood sawn timber the boot is on the other foot. Here Russia, the previous dominant softwood log exporter to China, has now just about totally fallen from grace, with 2.9 million cub m of logs shipped in 2021 or only 6% of the total – and the Russian government has announced a total log export ban from January 1 this year.

However, Russia has more than made up for this reduction by massively growing its wood processing sector over the last decade

with a number of world-scale, hi-tech mills opening each year.

Last year, Chinese imports of Russian timber totalled 11.3 million cub m, two-thirds (67%) of the total softwood timber imports of 17.1 million cub m.

China's gain was most likely helped immensely by the political (daily) mega-dramas between Russia and the US, which imported vast amounts of Canadian, European and Latin American timber. But it would take a mega-brave and probably stupid US importer to touch Russian timber (the best in the world), while not knowing at which random hour the American government is going to get its knickers in a twist, raise the

drawbridge and send Russian ships full of timber destined for Savannah to the bottom of the sea.

Canada, the second largest supplier to China is now very minor supplier at 0.9 million cub m, or only 5% of the total. This change from being a major supplier only five years ago is largely the result of rapidly falling log harvesting levels coupled with a very strong US export market in 2021 at much better

prices than China is offering.

New Zealand is now an inconsequential 'also ran', with shipments in 2021 totalling 170,000 cub m or a paltry 1% of total China imports. This is a far cry from 2000, when New Zealand supplied 25% of the total Chinese softwood timber import volumes, and was exactly on a par with Russian exports.

Those were the days, my friends.

But finally. When will an Australian timber importer figure out how to import vast quantities of the highest quality Russian softwood sawn timber for its construction sector?

Perhaps they have, and are just waiting to pounce.

“MANY OTHER EUROPEAN COUNTRIES ARE NOW BIGGER SUPPLIERS TO CHINA



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AFPA addresses ag-advocacy at conference

AFPA's climate policy manager Natasa Sikman will join a panel of 12 industry leaders at the Australian Farm Institute Conference in Sydney on March 7 to address Australia's agricultural advocacy and its positioning for the inevitable challenges.

Ms Sikman is skilled in policy development, communication, strategy, and advocacy. She is passionate about climate policy and for evidence-based scientific policy development, particularly focused on sustainable nature-based solutions and the opportunities in the bioeconomy to combat climate change.

Prior to commencing with AFPA, Ms Sikman spent 20 years in federal



Natasa Sikman



Fiona Simson



Kelly O'Shanassy



Emma Germano



Georgie Somerset

politics working with a diverse range of primary industry stakeholders delivering legislative and policy outcomes both in government and opposition. She is a strong advocate for grassroots engagement and wants to provide a voice and opportunity to those who are not familiar with political and legislative systems when seeking to instigate change.

Agricultural advocacy is a critical tool for industries to

successfully navigate through economic upheaval and social shifts.

Speakers at the conference include Fiona Simson, president, National Farmer Federation, and chair of the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research; Kelly O'Shanassy,

CEO, Australian Conservation Foundation; Emma Germano, president, Victorian Farmers Federation; and Georgie Somerset, general president, AgForce.

The conference and dinner will be held at the NSW Parliament House. The event will be held both in person and online.

Inquiries to the Australian Farm Institute on 0427 458 034 or email info@farminstitute.org.au

“PROVIDING A VOICE AND OPPORTUNITY”

Canadian lumber giants continue to expand into US forests

The US South is becoming an increasingly important lumber supplier in North America, bolstered by Canadian companies gaining easy access to forests and the side benefit of escaping US tariffs on softwood.

The US Lumber Coalition says punitive tariffs against



lumber producers in Canada since 2017 are the reason production has ramped up

in the US. But industry experts in Canada say higher output south of the border has much more to do with the availability of timber supplies than duty rates against Canadian producers.

The main driver of investments is gaining access to timber in forests, also

known as the 'wood fibre basket'.

Industry experts forecast that production capacity in the US South, where acquiring logs costs much less than in British Columbia, will continue to rise from privately-owned plantations of southern yellow pine over the next three to four years.

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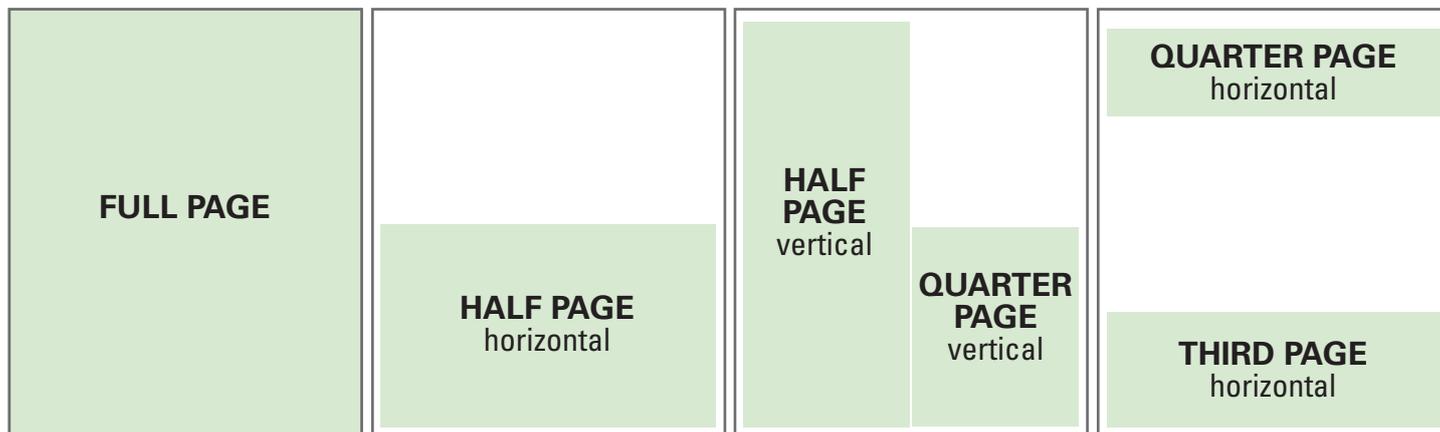
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THIRD PAGE: \$215

Horizontal • 73mmH x 190mmW

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PAGE 1 Front cover module: Contract booking

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PAGE 2 below story: Contract booking

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