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ISSUE 696 | **March 3, 2022**

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COVER STORY P11



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# \$4.5m government funding for forestry research via Gippsland innovation centre

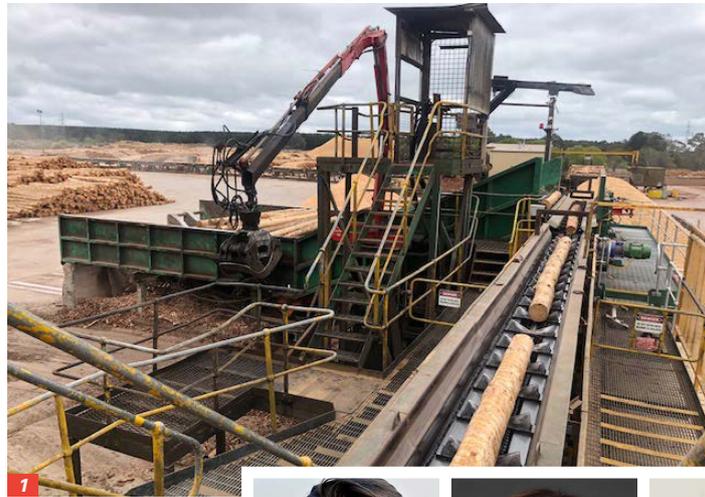
FUNDING of \$4.5 million for five new research projects for forestry through the National Institute for Forest Products Innovation Centre in Gippsland have been announced by federal Assistant Minister for Forestry Jonno Duniam and Victorian Minister for Agriculture Mary-Anne Thomas.

Welcoming the announcement, Victorian Forest Products Association CEO Deb Kerr said the projects would invest in research focused on innovative nursery solutions, improved productivity and soil health, along with novel pruning options and improving the use of underutilised small trees.

“Trees are a sustainable, renewable resource right at our doorstep,” Ms Kerr said.

“We appreciate the investment and support of the federal and Victorian governments to support research innovation in forestry that will help stretch this valuable resource further.

“Victoria’s forestry regions are in a unique situation to be part of the global shift to renewable, low-emission



wood products, and investment in these projects will underpin the future demand by Victorians for Victorian wood.”

Meanwhile the National Farmers Federation has launched its Regional Development Precincts with Regionalisation Minister Senator Bridget McKenzie.

The initiative is supported by the Business Council of Australia; Regional Australia Institute; Australian Food and Grocery Council, Regional Capitals Australia, and others.

VFPA’s Deb Kerr said



1/ *The National Institute for Forest Products Innovation is committed to promoting and encouraging innovation in Australia’s forest and wood products industry.*

2/ *Jonno Duniam*

3/ *Mary-Anne Thomas*

4/ *Deb Kerr*

capital cities is essential,” she said.

The national initiative includes the key forestry precincts of the Latrobe Gippsland region and Warrnambool, promising wide-

reaching benefits for those areas.

“The benefits outlined in the NFF initiative are essential to making rural and regional Victoria

more attractive to a

the initiative, which recommendeds more than \$1.4 billion in new investment, aimed to improve coordination between the three levels of government to create meaningful, long-term change.

“Clearly making Victoria’s regional centres appealing to both people and industry will overcome a significant hurdle for attracting both workforce and industry – a vibrant centre with facilities comparable to

forestry workforce,” Deb Kerr said.

“Victoria’s forestry regions are in a unique situation to provide an essential, renewable and high-quality product. Investment in these precincts, from infrastructure to housing and education, helps support us in our mission to strengthen local manufacturing capabilities and create local jobs.”



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# Sawmillers, merchants dodge worst of ‘rain bomb’ impact across SE Qld, northern NSW

## Russia-Ukraine conflict threatens closure of LVL exports to Australian suppliers

**JIM BOWDEN**

THE Russian-Ukraine crisis, flooding over a wide area of forest operations in Queensland and Northern NSW and ongoing Covid restrictions are making life difficult for the timber industry.

Widespread flooding that devastated southeast Queensland on Monday after a ‘rain bomb’ dumped more than 400 mm on an already-sodden Brisbane has swept into northern NSW, inundating homes and businesses and forcing some residents onto



**Widespread flooding that devastated southeast Queensland has swept into northern NSW, inundating homes and businesses and forcing some residents onto their roofs to be rescued.**

their roofs to be rescued.

Southeast Queensland is bracing for a week of floods, with dam release and storms to smash already inundated areas.

Eight Queenslanders have lost their lives, three people are still missing and hundreds of rescues have been carried out. The body of an elderly woman was discovered in a flooded house in Lismore.

Major flooding continues in Maryborough and Gympie in

the Wide Bay-Burnett region after widespread rainfall

saturated the area with totals of 200-600 mm over four days.

The old original sawmill at Kent Street and the Granville Bridge at Maryborough on Wednesday were completely under water.

James Hyne, stakeholder engagement manager at Hyne, says pelting rain and floods had taken a little shine of the company’s 140th anniversary this year.

“But we were prepared,” he said after flood rains only six week ago affected the

Cont P 4

**“SOUTH EAST QUEENSLAND BRACING FOR ANOTHER WEEK OF FLOODS**

### Flood drama at Lismore closer to home

AND closer to home ... editor Jim Bowden’s eldest son Mark and youngest daughter Jessica were evacuated from their homes in Lismore on Monday night only hours before a swirling torrent engulfed their homes and personal belongings .

Mark, who works in bush regeneration and ecological restoration, and Jessica, who is employed by a wholesale nursery group at Alstonville,

escaped with just two backpacks and a dog to a storage shed on high ground outside Lismore as the family provides support and works to find them temporary accommodation.

They join the thousands of homeless residents looking for shelter ... and food. This is their second confrontation with the Wilson River which this time reached 14.36 m surpassing the 1954 peak of 12.17 m.

## The united voice for Australia's forest industries



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From P 3

company's sawmilling and bush operations.

"We have closed some sites, including a total shut-down of the Tuan mill with road closures preventing staff access. How soon we get Tuan back into full gear will depend on any added flows from the Mary River 78 km away in Gympie."

The new chair of the Hyne Group Tom Bruce-Jones who flew into Brisbane a few days ago was able to inspect the Tuan mill and the \$23 million glulam plant at Maryborough ahead of the deluge.

Mr Bruce-Jones is also expected to visit Hyne's Tumarumba sawmill in NSW and the XLam CLT manufacturing plant at Albury.

"Standing outside the dry mill I'd say we've done pretty well ... but it's far from dry," said Ian Haynes, general manager of Dale & Meyers



**The Ilim Group's engineered wood factory in eastern Siberia has processing capacity of more than 2 million cub m a year of Ultralam LVL.**

operations in Maryborough, which had a good flood plan in place.

"The mill is an 'island' surrounded by water on the banks of the Mary River in Kent Street alongside the sunken Granville Bridge."

Mr Haynes said the Tiaro mill was producing timber but at least 16 staff were stranded at their homes.

"With road closures and power cuts we're trickling along OK," he said. "The bush guys are taking advantage of a few clear days before expected rains fall again. There's about 3000 cub m in the yard at Tiaro, about a month's supply I reckon," he said.

Superior Wood's Imbil hoop pine sawmill, 35 km from Gympie, has been lashed by rain ... "but timber stocks and machinery are safe, although most of our staff who live in Gympie are 'locked up' in the town," principal Michael Finlayson said.

AKD's Caboolture sawmill and processing site north of Brisbane "went under this week".

CEO Shane Vicary said all employees were evacuated safely and AKD's primary concern was the safety of employees and their families.

The impact of the flood event at Caboolture operations is still being assessed. Many roads in the area remain flooded making movement in and out of the site difficult.

Meanwhile, Australia's move with other western nations to impose financial sanctions on Russia as punishment for its actions in Ukraine, will likely see an abrupt end to imports

of engineered wood imports from the world's biggest manufacturer of laminated veneer lumber.

The supply of EWPs to building and construction projects across Australia from Russian manufacturers is in the range of 40%-50% of total domestic consumption. These products also include formwork and I-joint beams and other LVL-based products. Solid wood, notably softwood framing and truss products, are also imported from Russia by Australian suppliers.

Also the decision to exclude Russia from the SWIFT financial transactions payment system is likely to impact on Australia's trading arrangements with Russian suppliers.

This global payments system facilitates messages between 11,000 financial institutions to enable the transfer of trillions of dollars for business and retail customers.

**“OUR MAJOR CONCERN IS FOR THE SAFETY OF OUR EMPLOYEES**

{An update on this scenario will be covered in next week's Timber&Forestry enews}.

It would be difficult to overestimate Russia's contribution to the global wood industry – it has the world's largest area of forests growing pine and spruce, durable larch, elastic and solid birch and oak.

Every year in Russia, the number of new trees is larger than the amount of timber harvested.

One of the most illustrious engineered wood processors is the Ilim Group which also

Cont P 8

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# ATIF meeting: supply and non-compliance issues challenge Australian timber importers

TIMBER supply was a prominent agenda item for board members of the Australian Timber Importers Federation at their meeting in Melbourne last week.

ATIF noted that many first-time aspiring timber product importers generally did not appear to have any experience in timber product imports, but often do have a background in other product imports.

Some indicated that they have a prospective supplier and always want to be given an understanding of compliance requirements.

ATIF general manager John Halkett said such inquiries appeared to be motivated by an understanding of the current demand for structural timber products, and the shortage of supply, plus the perception that there are significant commercial opportunities from such imports.

“Such callers appeared to demonstrate an inadequate understanding of the illegal logging due diligence



**ATIF board members meet with new FWPA CEO Andrew Leighton (centre) ... Jacinta Colley, Vida Wood and Canfor; Nils Koren, ATIF chairma, David Meyer, Meyer Timber, Chris Woodhouse, Woodhouse Timber, and Robert Cairns, associate.**

requirements, and other statutory and building code requirements,” Mr Halkett said.

Further, Mr Halkett alleged that such imports have given rise to concerns being expressed by ATIF member companies, others in the timber supply chain and builders that they do not always comply, notably with the requirements of the building code requirements.

ATIF chairman Nils Koren affirmed that complaints received about possible non-compliance were taken very

seriously by ATIF members to protect the overall reputation and credentials of the timber supply chain.

Mr Koren said the sector faces ongoing challenges around the issue of sourcing additional supplies.

“Supply sourcing and supply continues to be acerbated by the shortage of containers, shipping space

“CONTINUING SHORTAGE OF CONTAINERS

availability and delays, port congestion and industrial action,” Mr Koren said.

“This was resulting in steeply climbing costs and charges collectively contributing to serious difficulties across the whole supply chain and for the building and construction industries.”

Mr Koren said ATIF would also continue to explore further avenues of supply, particularly of structural softwoods, including interaction with trade associations through 2022.

At the meeting, the ATIF board resolved to write to the federal Minister for Trade to raise concerns regarding the potential negative impacts on the Australian timber supply chain, and building and construction activity if trade sanctions are imposed on Russia.

At the meeting the board welcomed the newly-appointed CEO of Forest and Wood Products Australia Andrew Leighton who joined directors for an introductory chat and lunch.



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# ‘No one predicted torrential rain from an east coast low would cause catastrophic destruction’

**MAREE McCASKILL**

NO one could have predicted the torrential rain from an east coast low falling on an already wet sodden landscape, would cause such catastrophic destruction on the Northern Rivers catchment.

Everyone is saying the same thing – they have never seen flooding at this level before and it is the biggest flood on record.

Flood levels in Lismore – the Wilson River – reached 14.4 m, more than 2 m over the last record height in 1954. Surrounding areas in the entire catchment reached flood record levels and now the east coast low moves slowly south to the mid-north coast, central coast, Sydney city and south coast areas right down to Bega and Eden.

The native forest industry has been particularly hard hit. While most of the mills are safe and on higher ground, the roads are cut. Staff are coping with major flooding and flood damage to their homes and no feedstock. The rainfall has been steady for months making it very difficult for



**Logging and stripping yard at Notaras Timbers at Grafton was flooded after water rose in the Clarence River and peaked a fraction under the levee. Donna Layton tells us she has a water view from her office. Like others, some of her production has closed.**

harvest and haul operations to operate in approved coups in state forest and equally difficult for private property.

Hurford Hardwood has sites in Casino, Kyogle, Tuncester and Kempsey. They are mostly on higher ground and have survived the flooding so far. However, on Tuesday night Andrew Hurford was under evacuation orders for his own home in Ballina on the Richmond River having witnessed the old sawmill site and corporate storage area in Lismore suffer water over the first floor of the building.

Donna Layton at Notaras Timbers nervously waited as the water rose in the Clarence River in Grafton and peaked

a fraction under the levee. Her log and stripping yard is flooded and in her words – she has a water view from the office. Like others some of her production has closed.

Big River Group, Koppers Wood Products, Pentarch and Henson Sawmilling are all located around Trenayr and Junction Hill just out of Grafton and appear to be safe.

Haydens Timbers at Gum Scrub is suffering a similar fate

**“EVERYONE IS SAYING THEY HAVE NEVER SEEN SUCH FLOODING**

with minor flooding of roads cutting off access and no resource supply. Wauchope has localised flooding but are preparing for the onslaught of the east coast low.

Similarly Ironwood Australia at Pampoolah near Taree is preparing for the storm cell moving down the coast and flooding the Manning River while Machins

Timber at Wingham and the Dorney family operating SA Relf and Newells Creek at Bulahdelah are in similar preparation.

With an already perilous situation of supply post the 2019-20 bushfires, where harvesting has been severely curtailed by the NSW EPA requiring a significant overlay of additional prescriptions on top of the existing IFOA, the sawmills and harvest and haul contractors were already facing a difficult business environment without catastrophic flooding.

• **Maree McCaskill** is chief executive officer of TimberNSW.

## Industry update: Queensland has 206,7600 ha of plantations

AN update on Queensland’s plantation estate shows there is a total of around 206,700 ha of plantations in the state, comprising around 89% softwood plantations, 10% hardwood plantations and 1%

mixed species.

HQPlantations is the state’s dominant grower, owning around 96% of the plantation estate, with the remaining 4% mostly hardwood plantations owned by small-

scale private growers.

The update compares the 2021 findings with those from 2016, and shows that around 35,150 ha of plantations has been lost over that time.

The main losses were due to the continuing conversion of failed hardwood plantations established under managed investment scheme arrangements in the early 2000s.

**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

**21: United Nations International Day of Forests.** Countries are encouraged to organise activities involving forests and trees, such as tree planting campaigns.

**23: National Eucalypt Day.** Help us find Australia's favourite gum tree. There are over 900 eucalypt species across the continent – Eucalyptuses, Corymbias and Angophoras – from the towering Mountain Ash of south eastern Australia, to the haunting ghost gum of the outback, to the West Australian Mottlecah – The Rose of the West. You have until March 20 to vote.

Details for entry at [www.eucalyptaaustralia.org.au/eucalyptoftheyear/](http://www.eucalyptaaustralia.org.au/eucalyptoftheyear/)

**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**

**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](mailto: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](http://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](http://designbuildexpo.com.au)

**JUNE**

**21-22: Frame Australia Timber Offsite Construction**

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**SEPTEMBER**

**11-16: Gottstein Trust Understanding Wood Science Course – Sunday evening, September 11, 2022, in Albury, NSW, for the field trip component, ending on Friday, September 16, 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 program can be downloaded at [www.gottsteintrust.org](http://www.gottsteintrust.org)

**New certification standard submitted to PEFC for assessment.**

THE Responsible Wood Forest Certification System has been submitted to PEFC for assessment.

The system, which uses the Australian-New Zealand Standard for Sustainable Forest Management (AS / NZS 4708), has been assessed against the revised

2018 PEFC sustainable forest management standard.

The new standard supports the sustainable management of Australia's native and plantation forests as the forest regenerates and regrows on a continuous sustainable basis.

Responsible Wood CEO Simon Dorries and sustainability manager Matt de Jongh introduced the new forest certification system to PEFC members this week. Stakeholders now have until April 28 to provide feedback on the revised system.

Native and plantation forest harvesting when conducted in accordance with Responsible Wood standards, is managed to best practice management guidelines, sequestering and storing carbon and protecting plants and animals.

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# Forestry Australia's tribute to Kevin Harding as organisation takes on new leadership team

FORESTRY Australia has paid tribute to outgoing vice-president Dr Kevin Harding who will retire from the board as part of an ordered and planned transition to encourage fresh leaders to continue to grow the sector's future. Dr Lachie McCaw was elected to fill Dr Harding's position which he will serve alongside current vice-president Dr Michelle Freeman who remains in the role.

President Bob Gordon thanked Dr Harding for



Dr Kevin Harding



Dr Lachie McCaw



Bob Gordon



Dr Michelle Freeman

establishment of Forestry Australia and drove the integration process that ensured the voice of farm forestry continues to be heard."

his "huge contribution" to Forestry Australia and its predecessors the Institute of Foresters of Australia (IFA) and Australian Forest Growers (AFG).

"Kevin's encyclopedic knowledge of farm forestry

and his willingness to pitch in and get things done led to the survival of the AFG in extraordinarily challenging times," Mr Gordon said.

"He championed the merger with the IFA that led to the successful

Mr Gordon said Dr Harding's career as a research scientist had been important in providing scientific rigour to Forestry Australia's deliberations ... "and we look forward to

Cont P 13

From P 4

has the three largest pulp and paper mills in Russia. The group's LVL factories in eastern Siberia have a processing capacity of more than 2 million cub m a year of Ultralam LVL.

Scott Morrison has voiced concerns over the "lack of strong



**Flashback...** Charles Achilles, former manager of Hyne's cypress and hardwood sawmill at Chinchilla on Queensland's western downs recollects the flooding of the site in 1983. Major repair work followed with an odd snake or two left after water receded. The mill's burner can be seen standing over the water-logged site.

response" from China and he has criticized Beijing about reports it had eased trade curbs with Moscow by allowing imports of wheat from Russia.

"You don't go and throw a lifeline to Russia in the middle of a period when they are invading another country. That is simply unacceptable," he said.

Could it be that Russia is an almost exclusive supplier of chopsticks to China, with exports reaching almost \$10 million a year!



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# Global pallet shortage worsens as suppliers grapple with timber shortages, freight costs

JIM BOWDEN

TRANSPORT and logistics group Brambles has warned that a global pallet shortage will probably drag on for another year, after it raised prices by 8% in the December half to help claw back \$377 million in soaring timber costs.

The company has been battling to secure enough timber pallets because the pandemic has led retailers to lift stock levels in warehouses to ward off product shortages and stockpile empty pallets as a safeguard as supply chains buckle.

Brambles, which operates a pool of 345 million pallets, crates and containers across 60 countries – says timber prices are at record levels in Europe and Latin America.

“Unlike historic lumber cycles, which typically have been driven by either supply or demand factors, the current inflationary and timber availability pressure is driven by both supply and demand factors,” says chief financial officer Nessa O’Sullivan.

“On the demand side, we’ve seen housing booms and DIY increases while supply has been impacted by global shipping and transport bottlenecks, capacity constraints across sawmills and other inefficiencies due to scarcity of raw materials and labour shortages.”



Prices for timber pallets in Australia, Europe and Latin America are at record levels.

The problem has been made worse by retailers and manufacturers holding increased ‘safety’ stocks of goods on pallets in warehouses and hoarding empty pallets. And while timber inflation impacts repair cost, the biggest impact is on capital expenditure investment, with timber representing more than 80% of the cost of a new pallet.

Chief executive Graham Chipchase said the company’s sheer size was a positive in such a tough market, and it was not losing any market share, but there would be no short-term let up in shortages.

“Everyone is struggling to get hold of pallets,” he said.

Lorraine Hughes, general manager of Pallet masters, which has been established in Brisbane for more than 35 years, understands the scenario.

“We’re looking after regular clients, but on longer lead times – three to five weeks because flooding has impacted road deliveries to

the factory at Clontarf. But the crunch is on for suitable pallet materials as timber shortages widen across Australia.”

Ms Hughes said scattered debris after heavy rain over the past week and signs of mould had been a problem ... “but we’re keeping our heads above the water.”

Craig Nisbet, CEO of Mount Gambier-based sawmill NF McDonnell & Sons, which supplies timber to pallet manufacturers, expects demand for pallet timber to outstrip production.

“If you take the Victorian example the government policies around native forestry probably aren’t consistent with what industry would say is sustainable forestry,” he said.

“Without [native forestry] we really need more trees in the ground and more

investment in processing on a domestic front.”

Mr Nisbet said it was imperative the industry worked out the supply-demand imbalance.

CFMEU national secretary Michael O’Connor says the Australian Food and Grocery Council has warned unions and the Victorian government that

supermarkets are continuing to face a critical shortage of household goods.

“Victoria is facing a dire shortage of timber due to the state government’s decision to end native logging by 2030,” Mr O’Connor said.

“The Premier needs to act urgently to get pallet production back up and running in Victoria, so the problems impacting pallet supply nationally aren’t being made worse by a log supply crisis here,” he said.

In a statement, a spokeswoman for the Victorian Government said the worldwide shortage of pallets and other timber products was due to a number of factors including trade issues, bushfires and the coronavirus pandemic.

The current litigation against the state logging company Vicforests was also placing additional strain on the availability of timber in the state.

“EVERYONE IS STRUGGLING TO GET PALLETS

# ‘Zapper’ makes the use of X-ray technology more accessible to the preservation industry

## One of the first tasks will be to get the XRF technique into the AS/NZ 1604.2 standard

BACK in May 2020 (was it really that long ago?), I rattled on about a hand-held x-ray machine that could be used to determine copper chromium and arsenic (CCA), copper in ACQ or copper azole and tin tracers in light organic solvent wood preservatives in wood preserved with these formulations.

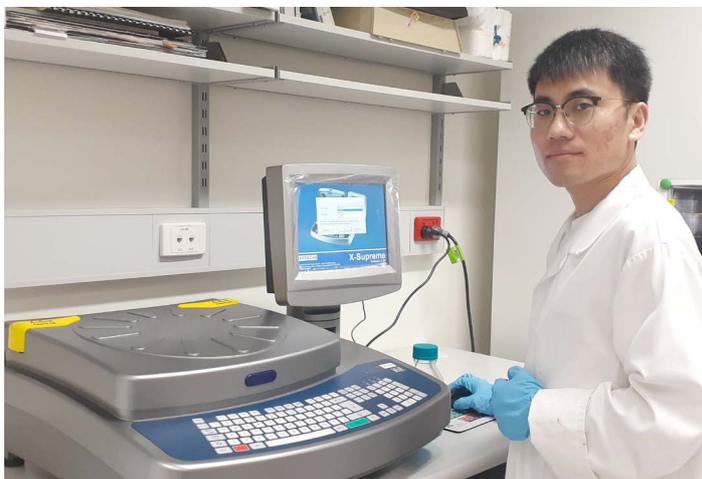
A major hurdle to managing quality in a timber preservation plant is the time it takes to carry out an analysis on the treated product. This instrument fixes that problem because an analysis can be carried out before the freshly preserved charge leaves the drip pad.

Most plants in the US use one of these gadgets and I am really keen to see the technology adopted by Australian timber preservation plants.

There is still a need for third party i.e. non-plant testing, and different ways of doing this are described in Part 2 of the preservation standard AS/NZS1604.2.

However, there is a problem!

“THE BIG ADVANTAGE OF XRF IS THAT IT IS QUICK”

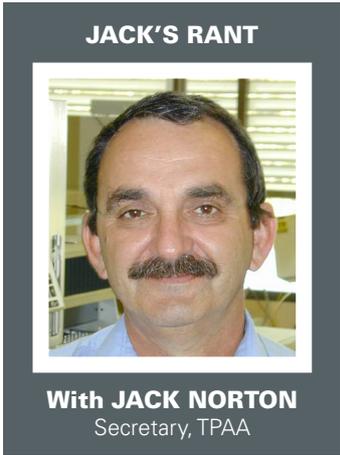


University of the Sunshine Coast PhD candidate Tengfei Yi with the Hitachi Benchtop XRF Analyser.

The x-ray method of analysis is not described in the test methods or Part 3 of the standard. By the way, the correct name for the instrument is an X-ray Fluorescence Spectrometer or XRF.

While the hand-held XRF can be applied directly to the surface of preserved wood, the grown up or laboratory instrument, which is more accurate, relies on the wood being ground into sawdust or wood flour before being zapped.

Traditional methods for determining the copper or tin in preserved wood also start with grinding the wood but after that there is an extraction process before the extract is presented to a different sort of instrument for measurement.



The big advantage of the XRF method is that it is quick. You zap (x-ray) the wood flour.

The disadvantage of the technique is that it can't be used for determining organic molecules such as DDAC in ACQ or azoles in copper azole or in systems containing tebuconazole and

propiconazole (also called teb-prop).

Jeff Morrell from the National Centre for Timber Durability and Design Life bought and installed a laboratory scale Hitachi X-ray fluorescence analyser (NewSpec Pty Ltd, Myrtle Bank, SA) earlier this year. A couple of weeks ago I was lucky enough to be a part of a group of scientists to be trained in its use. To use the instrument, a set of standards is used to calibrate the instrument and then the unknown is zapped and the response is compared against the calibration curve prepared earlier.

The laboratory XRF is located at the EcoSciences Precinct in Dutton Park Brisbane and work is already queuing up for its use. One of the earliest tasks of course is to get the XRF technique into the standard and this should make the use of X-ray technology much more accessible to the preservation industry for its in-house quality management.

I am convinced that tighter control in the preservation plant saves money but that is a topic for another time.

• Jack Norton is national secretary of the Timber Preservers Association of Australia.



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# Hyne's 140th celebration takes the cake at annual gathering for Tumbafest



*Fran Brown, Glenn Muller, Uncle John Casey and Auntie Loma enjoy the celebrations at Tumbafest.*

ESTABLISHED in 1882, this year marks Hyne Timber's 140th birthday and to kick off celebrations fifth generation family member James Hyne hosted a community event last Saturday as part of Tumbaramba's annual Tumbafest.

"Hyne Timber has proudly sponsored Tumbafest for many years and this year's event was perfect timing to mark our milestone along with some of our key community supporters," Mr Hyne said.

"We wanted to give back to the wider community that has supported us through the 21 years we have been part of the town, so we sponsored the Hyne Community Markets.

Hyne Timber hosted a small marquee by the creek, with invited guests including Justin Clancy MP and Snowy Valleys Mayor Ian Chaffey.

James Hyne thanked the Tumbafest committee for getting in the birthday spirit.

"This is a particularly

historic year for my family where we reflect on our ancestry, the trials and tribulations through wars, financial crisis, bushfires, pandemics and floods including the one right now impacting Maryborough operations again for the second time this year," he said.

During the celebrations, one of the Tumbaramba mill's longest serving team members Doug Peel cut the birthday cake using a novelty timber-handled hand saw.

"I have been working at the site 42 years, double the time Hyne Timber has owned it," Doug said.

Forty-one years ago, at the age of 19, Doug lost an arm in the sawmill ... "but I have remained committed to working in the industry, and for the last 21 years, to Hyne Timber."

*On the cover: Tumbaramba mill's longest serving team member Doug Peel was invited by James Hyne (left) to cut the birthday cake celebrating Hyne's 140th anniversary.*



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From P 8

continuing to collaborate with him.”

Kevin Harding thanked all members for the generous support and assistance they gave him during a period of significant organisational change that had resulted in a stronger, healthy and expanding Forestry Australia.

He strongly supported the chair and the board’s succession planning to stagger exits of more senior members of the board to create opportunities to grow the next generation of leaders.

“I encourage all members to consider their capacity to serve on the Forestry Australia Board and committees or to contribute as a volunteer,” he said.

Mr Gordon welcomed Dr McCaw to the Vice President role, noting his expertise in landscape management and



**Encouraging fresh leaders to continue to grow the sector’s future.** Photo: Forestry Australia.

fire would be of great benefit to the organisation.

Dr Lachie McCaw AFSM has had a distinguished career as a respected landscape manager of fire over multiple land tenures.

“A previous chair of the WA division of the IFA and an active member of AFG he brings a perspective of

both forest scientist and farm forester to the role of vice-president which will continue to be very valuable to our future,” Dr Harding said.

Lachie McCaw has worked in forestry since 1980 and is a registered forestry professional with skills in native forest management. He has extensive experience

in bushfire research and management with a focus on forests, woodlands and shrublands in Western Australia and has published more than 80 journal articles and book chapters on fire.

His professional interests include fire behaviour, fire climate and weather, and the role of planned fire in sustainable land management. He has been involved in a many aspects of native forest management including regeneration processes, thinning of regrowth stands and forest health. Dr McCaw was awarded the Australian Fire Service Medal in 2021 and is an active volunteer firefighter with his local bush fire brigade.

His spare time is occupied managing a 15-ha family forest at Manjimup in the southern forests of Western Australia.

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# COP 26 a cop out? Industry closures and job losses contradiction on climate change goals

CAN someone please help me out here! In the lead up to the COP 26 climate change summit in Glasgow last year the finalised Australian net zero 2050 plan was strong on supporting regional jobs and related industries.

The necessary transition from fossil fuel-based businesses to sustainable renewable activities sounded like a federal government-sponsored ad for the forest industry.

As we know, it is regionally based, supports substantial value-added manufacturing with sustainable and renewable commercial businesses as cornerstones, not to mention the huge potential to be at the centre of a national carbon storage and trading scheme.

I would have thought that forestry folk around the country would be doing cartwheels in celebrating this ringing endorsement of the industry – regional jobs, sustainability and a valuable contribution to the country's climate change goals. But apparently some state premiers weren't listening.

Labor governments in Victoria and Western Australia appear to be completely oblivious to this national climate change imperative. And stunningly, this in states that purport to be about championing working people

and jobs.

Both states have declared their intention to close down forest industry activity and dependent jobs, allied businesses and regional towns. There is clearly a major rift between the climate change aspirations of the federal government and state governments in Victoria and Western Australia.

No wonder forestry folk are angry and bewildered!

Unfortunately, it is yet another example of state Labor government's being quite prepared to sacrifice regional jobs and country people to shore up votes in inner city electorates. The 2002 election in NSW serves as a salutary reminder. The then NSW Labor government minister Frank Sartor travelled to Deniliquin to tell locals that the government was going to declare a national park over a vast tract of red gum forest that had been sustainably managed for well over a century.

It wasn't about sustainability or science, minister Sartor told locals, but pure politics. At least he had the decency – if I can stretch



**Jobs in the forest ... not to mention the huge potential at the centre of a national carbon storage and trading scheme.**

Photo: Forestry Corporation

## TRUNK LINES



With **CHERYL FORREST**

the meaning of the word – to tell forestry workers and dependant businesses that the government was prepared to sacrifice them to support the electoral prospects for the government in inner city Sydney areas like Balmain and Leichhardt. Some degree of honesty I guess, not presently shared by the premiers in Victoria or

Western Australia as they line up regional workers for the sword.

Forest industry advocates have an opportunity to remind the federal government in this election year of their climate change related regional jobs and sustainable, carbon storage commitments. Also, to rally regional opposition to Victorian

and Western Australia governments as these states also face electors in the near future.

We know that the country cannot afford short-term parochial politics for sustainable, climate change friendly ... policies not to mention regional jobs, businesses and communities.

It's time for forestry folk to make their voices heard.

Meanwhile, I welcome the Australian Forest Contractors Association to this page. This hard-working body has taken up monthly sponsorship of our 'comments in the forest'. We're all in this together, so I sincerely welcome AFCA's support.

See you again next month.

**Cheryl**

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# TABMA rating recognises Tash's timber talent

MITCHELL BADELLES

BEING the youngest sister among five girls, Natasha Southey has developed, over the years, the ability to manage and negotiate with people, and maintain relationships.

Recognising Natasha's abilities, and in line with Big River Group's policy of growing and enhancing its crew's potential, Big River Hillcrest branch manager Kylie Bradley encouraged Tash to go through the process of acquiring a certificate that would get her recognised by the timber industry ... in Australia and New Zealand and the rest of the timber and construction world.

Tash's office mates witnessed her starting early and sometimes finishing late so she could go through

the studies.

"This was not easy and could have been done much sooner but Covid played its hand so I had to adapt," Tash said.

"It makes me feel that I can achieve anything I put my mind to. For businesses that deal with me at Big River Hillcrest, this means that I can better help and understand their project, and our large customer base."

Tash has been doing this kind of work for nine years. Around 2013, her brother, who then worked at a Hudson Building Supplies, asked her to assist with stock control. She also assisted with installing

and restocking some racking. The state manager recognised Tash's abilities and offered her a job on the spot. From sweeping floors and making sure that the racks and shelves were always stocked, Tash eventually became yard and dispatch manager.

A Timber and Building Materials Association

Certificate III in Timber Truss and Frame Design and Manufacture recognises Natasha Southey's ability to work effectively in the forest and forest products industry, able to contribute to team effectiveness, communicate and interact effectively in the workplace, implement

customer service standards, safety, health and environmental policies and procedures, and conduct quality and product care procedures.

• Mitchell Badelles works at Big River Group's Hillcrest building trade centre in Brisbane.

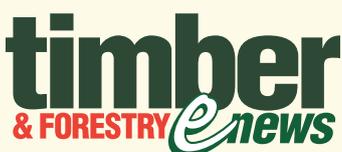


Accepting the job challenge... Natasha Southey (right) with Big River Hillcrest manager Kylie Bradley.

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# Genesis 'sits comfortably' as a luxury SUV

A RISE in the production of electric vehicles and a growing inclination toward low-emission and fuel-efficient vehicles will drive the EV charging system market to hit \$42.62 billion by 2030, says a report by Allied Market Research.

Developing wireless charging technology and incorporating vehicle-to-grid (V2g) EV charging stations is anticipated to create lucrative opportunities in the sector.

South Korean automaker Hyundai has linked with British oil and gas supermajor Shell to make Shell's EV charging solutions company the charge point operator and mobility service provider for Hyundai's luxury vehicle division Genesis.

This aside, we ran with the Genesis 3.0D AWD luxurious six-seater diesel – the market flagship trim level.

Customers have four drivetrain options – 2.5T RWD, 2.5T AWD, 3.0D AWD, and 3.5T AWD, all featuring an eight-speed automatic transmission.

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Genesis 3.0D AWD SUV...Hyundai's big luxury flagship.

With a fuel consumption of 8.8 litres/100 km and a curb weight of 2267 kg, the 3.0D AWD has a turbo-charged inline six-cylinder diesel motor.

This engine produces a maximum power of 204

kW at 3800 rpm and a maximum torque of 588 Nm at 1500 rpm. The power is transmitted to the road by the all-wheel drive with eight-speed automatic gearbox.

Genesis has raised prices



Inside the Genesis 3.0D AWD,, open-pore real wood trim and one-touch rest mode.

across the GV80 for the first time since the luxury SUV launched in late 2020, increasing by \$1400 to \$92,000 before on-road costs for the entry-level model, with the flagship variant up by \$900 to \$109,500.

Previously reserved as a range-topping 3.5-litre model, every GV80 now features upgraded front brakes, featuring 380 mm discs with four-piston calipers.

The six-seat luxury flagship includes individual seats on the second row with power slide function, comfortable wing-type head rests, and a one-touch rest mode.

The fixed centre armrest between them sports open-pore real wood trim and incorporates the Genesis integrated controller, a wireless smartphone charger, additional ambient lighting, headphone jacks, storage space, and two cupholders.

Rear passengers also have access to dual 9.2-in.HD touchscreens mounted on the front seats.

Last but not least, the front passenger seat gains 18-way power adjustment and Ergo-motion massage functionality, matching the driver's seat.

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Vertical • 125mmH x 93mmW

Horizontal • 63mmH x 190mmW

**THIRD PAGE: \$215**

Horizontal • 73mmH x 190mmW

**PAGE 1 Front cover strip: Contract booking**

Horizontal • 30mmH x 190mmW

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

Horizontal • 45mmH x 49.5mmW

**PAGE 2 below story: Contract booking**

Horizontal • 73mmH x 190mmW

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