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## Students step into Green Triangle to consider future career pathways

COVER STORY P13



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# Australia to build and burn a full-scale exposed mass timber building in world ‘first’ fire project

## Ambitious research program uses computer modelling and scaled investigation of fire dynamics

WITH the growth of mass timber, the boundaries of its use are being pushed, as seen by the various proposal for very tall mass timber buildings.

The beauty of timber is seeing architects and building owners prefer it to be exposed within the structures, which highlights the Achilles’ heel of mass timber – fire performance.

It is only 10 years since CLT was first used in the Forte building in Melbourne, but since then there has been a growth in knowledge in fire performance. Initially focused on encapsulated timber for fire protection; however, the demand for exposed mass timber is deafening, requiring solutions.

To this end, an ambitious project is being planned to build and attempt to burn down a full-scale open



1/ *There has been a growth in testing and knowledge in fire performance..*

2 *Andrew Dunn... by no means have the issues around fire performance in an exposed mass timber compartment been resolved.*



planned exposed mass timber building. With a 400 sq m footprint (20 x 20 m), this proposed building will be the most extensive full-scale test in the world.

So confident of a successful outcome, the full-scale burn is proposed to be conducted at Fire and Rescue NSW testing facilities in western Sydney.

The research team, led by Timber Development Association, has extensively researched and interviewed various leaders in timber and fire research worldwide. This investigation included the University of Queensland,

Research Institute, Sweden, FPInnovations, Canada, New Zealand, UK, USA and Arup to understand the current status of research.

“The exercise proved that by no means have the issues around fire performance in an exposed mass timber compartment been resolved,” TDA CEO Andrew Dunn said.

“The ambitious research program includes various activities such as computer modelling and scaled investigations of fire dynamics – all to provide confidence of a successful outcome when the full-scale burn is conducted.”

Mr Dunn said the fundamental outcome was a better understanding and confidence in using exposed mass timber under fire conditions. The tangible items included data on the fire dynamic of exposed mass timber compartments, available initially only to project partners.

“This data will improve computer modelling of fire

“EXPOSURE THE ACHILLES’ HEEL OF MASS TIMBER”

Cont P 9



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# Bob Leicester a powerful keynote to launch first SWST international convention held in Australia

Students from around the globe addressed a central theme: Utilisation of Renewable Materials

**JIM BOWDEN**

NEITHER centre stage or age were of any concern for Dr Robert Hocquard Leicester, 87, the keynote speaker at the Society of Wood Science and Technology's 65th International Convention which opened this week at Kingscliff, a coastal beach community in North NSW.

Knowledge is power and his presentation was certainly a powerful lift-off for the convention – the first in Australia – sponsored by the National Centre for Timber Durability and Design Life at Queensland's University of the Sunshine Coast.

Dr Leicester, with more than 70 years devoted to wood engineering and science, has accepted more than 50 overseas-funded invitations to be a conference keynote,

**“A NEW DISCIPLINE REQUIRES AN ENORMOUS AMOUNT OF TIME AND MONEY**



A section of the global assembly... Dr Bob Leicester delivers the opening keynote address.



Old friends remember the good times at CSIRO forestry... Dr Harry Greaves and Dr Bob Leicester from Melbourne.

publishing more than 200 papers in journal and conference publications. His ground-breaking work earned him the prestigious Marcus Wallenberg Prize, often referred to as the “Nobel Prize of the timber world”.

Dr Leicester addressed more than 150 wood scientists and students from 25 countries as the six-day program got under way.

“To push forward, a new discipline requires an

is the only one of its kind in the world.”

Dr Leicester said a brief resume of this work, especially the difficulties in trying to develop total systems, would be a feature of all such projects, some of which were to be found

enormous amount of time and money,” he said, “and to the bounds of my knowledge the national durability and design project in Queensland

in the convention papers.

“Without a formal

Cont P 4

## The united voice for Australia's forest industries



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From P 3

engineering methodology for durability aspects we would see some spectacular failures as we continue to try out different and new types of timber construction," he said.

Convention presentations confirmed wood remains the most important renewable structural material and it will be increasingly important to make the most out of this precious resource. Both Australia and New Zealand are blessed with abundant and sustainable timber resources, but will still need to take advantage of global advances to meet growing demand for the resource.



Delegates addressed topics such as basic timber properties, mass timber construction, plantation resources, timber certification and timber processing.

The convention provided students the opportunity to give presentations about their work on the international stage with more than 160 abstracts delivered.



**1/ Professor Jeff Morrell, director, National Centre for Timber Durability and Design Life, welcomes PhD forestry science student Anne Wekesa from the University of Canterbury in Christchurch on the first day of the conference..**

**2 Dr Chris Lafferty, Forest and Wood Products Australia, shares a laugh with Rameez Rameezdeen, University of South Australia, and the photographer.**

We were fortunate to meet many of them, like Kenyan Anne Wekesa who hopes her research into harvested New Zealand trees will help the country meet its climate change targets.

Anne has been studying for a PhD in forestry science for the last three years at the University of Canterbury, researching the carbon life cycle of New Zealand harvested trees which remained in the domestic market.

timber exported to Asia. She has talked to sawmills, manufacturers and pulp plants, but found many of them had little idea where wood products went after being processed, so it had taken considerable research to track timber.

She has spoken to international conferences in Brazil and the US and was not aware of any other countries that had gathered this type of data to assist in planning to meet carbon recording targets.

She said Kenyan forestry was mostly native, which was protected under conservation legislation.

"We have some plantation forestry, so I came here to learn about how it is managed in New Zealand and to learn the skills and technology which can be applied in Kenya.

"We do have radiata pine plantations, cypress and eucalyptus trees. They are exotics for us as well."

With the overall theme of 'A Global Perspective of the Present and Future Utilisation of Renewable Materials' the convention was supported by Forest and Wood Products Australia, AKD, Wesbeam, Responsible Wood, and the Engineered Wood Products Association of Australasia.

**“CONFERENCE WINS STRONG SUPPORT FROM INDUSTRY”**

"It used to be thought that when a tree was harvested the carbon entered the atmosphere, so in New Zealand the information has been lacking for how long carbon stays in wood products," she said.

"I'm hoping my research will be used in developing policy in New Zealand, but it could be applicable in other countries, including Kenya."

Her work will complement a project by her thesis supervisor Prof Bruce Manley and his colleague Associate Prof David Evison, who have tracked New Zealand



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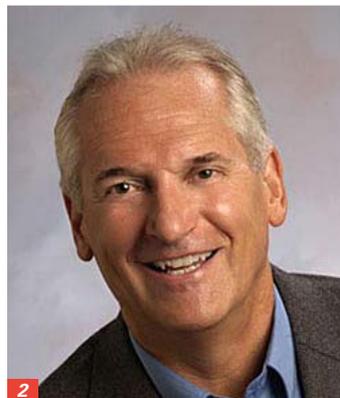
# Noted US wood scientist offers Qld workshops on quality control and value-adding wood composites

THE Centre for Timber Durability and Design Life is collaborating with Forest and Wood Products Australia and the Engineered Wood Products Association of Australasia to offer a three-day interactive course and workshop on statistical process control.

The workshop, to be held from August 2 to 4 at the University of Sunshine Coast campus at Sippy Downs in Queensland, was announced this week at the Society of Wood Science and Technology 65th International Convention in Kingscliff, NSW.

The course and workshop will be offered by Professor Tim Young from the Centre for Renewable Carbon at the University of Tennessee, USA (Department of Forestry, Wildlife and Fisheries), who has extensive experience working with the forest

**“ OPPORTUNITY TO WORK WITH A WORLD LEADER IN THE FIELD**



**1/ David Tanton, Centre for Sustainable Architecture with Wood, University of Tasmania (centre) meets up with Troy Edwards, technical officer, and Gavin Matthew, CEO, at the Engineered Wood Products Association of Australasia exhibit at the SWST convention this week.**

**2 Professor Tim Young... linking key process variables with critical products.**

products industries to help them obtain more value from the massive quantities of processing data they routinely collect.

Professor Young has taught highly successful industry courses in advanced analytics and data mining;

process analytics; statistical process control; and design of experiments for R&D and manufacturers.

He has four years of manufacturing experience with Georgia-Pacific Corporation and has participated in grants from the private and public sectors totalling more than \$48 million. He has successfully

mentored more than 31 M.S. and Ph.D. graduate students combined.

The course and workshop will cover some basic statistics and then move into topics that include foundations for variation reduction and linking key process variables with critical products.

“This is a great opportunity to work with a world leader in this important area to help improve your data analytics and add value,” said Professor Jeffrey Morrell, director of the National Centre for Timber Durability and Design Life.

“The course and workshop will focus on composite wood products, but the basic elements are useful to anyone dealing with quality control in the timber industry,” Professor Morrell added.

For more information and a copy of the conference brochure, contact Jeff Morrell at [jmorrell@usc.edu.au](mailto:jmorrell@usc.edu.au)

The link to register can be found at [//payments.usc.edu.au/onestopweb/Statistical\\_Process\\_Control](http://payments.usc.edu.au/onestopweb/Statistical_Process_Control)

White-eared Honeyeater (Photo Birdlife Australia)

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- 1/ Dr Chris Lafferty, research and development manager, FWPA, with Dr Graeme Palmer and Dr Michael Powell, University of the Sunshine Coast.
- 2/ Ilona Peszlen, North Carolina University, Henry Quesada, Purdue University, USA, and Luke McEvoy, manager, Radial Timber, Dandenong, Vic.
- 3/ Dr Harry Greaves of HG Consulting/TPAA, Melbourne, and wife Sandra with Dr Tripti Singh, team leader (wood science design) and project leader bioactives and wood protection, Scion, New Zealand.
- 4/ Khamtan Phonetip, National University of Laos, with Bill Legatte, principal research scientist, Forest Products Innovation, QDAF, and Simon Dorries, CEO, Responsible Wood..
- 5/ Queensland AKD group... Kim Harris, Marina Milic, and Dave Gover.
- 6/ Sitting in on all the sessions... Dr Bob Leicester, convention keynote speaker, and Professor Keith Crews, school of civil engineering, University of Queensland.
- 7/ Benoit Gilbert, Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, and Jon Shanks, University of Tasmania.
- 8/ Juan Roberto Vargas Garcia, University of the Sunshine Coast, and Iliesa Koroi, Ministry of Forstry, Fiji.



**JULY**

**10-15: 65th The Society of Wood Science and Technology annual meeting – Salt/Peppers Mantra complex, Kingscliffe, NSW.**

SWST activities include publishing wood and fibre science and accrediting undergraduate wood science programs in North America, South America, Asia and Europe. Registration open at [www.swst.org](http://www.swst.org)

**13: Weathertex Building a Circular Economy. – Caroma on Collins, 39 Collins St, Alexandria, NSW.**

Live event in Sydney. 9.30 am-3.30 pm. Business and political leaders alike are coming to the realisation that continuous economic growth through endless consumption is not a sustainable way forward. Join industry leaders as we explore how circular economies may provide hope for sustainability and economic prosperity to co-exist. Speakers include Davina Rooney, CEO Green Building Council of Australia, Amy Hogan, national manager of sustainability, Stockland, David Rowlinson, Make it Wood Program manager, Planet Ark, Jason Ross, marketing

and communications officer, Responsible Wood. All profits donated to <https://walk-a-while-foundation.raisely.com/deborah-de-jong>. Contact 1800 040 080. [www.weathertex.com.au/building-a-circular-australia](http://www.weathertex.com.au/building-a-circular-australia)

**18-19: Engineering Training Institute of Australia two-day timber design workshop: Module 2 – live stream**

**ZOOM.** 8:30 am - 5pm. Latest advances in timber design and engineering in multi-storey buildings and commercial constructions. Targeted at design professionals interested in furthering their skills and confidence to design with timber materials in large scale buildings. It presents Australian and international design practice for mid-rise buildings and long-span structures (floors and portal frames). Cost: \$1490. Further information (02) 9899 7447 or +61 413 998 031. [registrations@etia.net.au](mailto:registrations@etia.net.au)

**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)

**14: AFPA's gala dinner – Great Hall, Parliament House, Canberra, ACT.**

Time: 6 pm-10 pm. Dress code business attire. To take advantage of the 15% discount, guests can visit their web sites directly and follow the links to make a reservation. Enquiries 0408 404 764 or email [enquiries@ausfpa.com.au](mailto:enquiries@ausfpa.com.au)

**26-29: Malaysian Timber Council (MTC) Marketing Mission – Great Hall, Sydney and Melbourne.**

Executives from MTC will be visiting to liaise with timber supply chain representatives, including hosting meetings and visiting wholesale and manufacturing facilities. Further information to follow. Enquiries to John Halkett on 0417 421 187 or email: [john.halkett@atif.asn.au](mailto:john.halkett@atif.asn.au)

**OCTOBER**

**20-22: Forestry Australia Symposium – Mantra Hotel, Albury, NSW, and online.**

Theme: Leading, Adapting and Reimagining the Future

for Forestry. Closing keynote address by corporate speaker James O'Loughlin, one of Australia's most respected, entertaining and experienced corporate speakers, Early bird registrations extended to Friday, July 24. Contact Forestry Australia on +61 3 7065 4252 or email: [conference@forestry.org.au](mailto:conference@forestry.org.au)

**26-28: DANA-Ginkgo Global Woodchip and Biomass Trade Conference – Marriott Singapore Tang Plaza Hotel, Singapore.**

Includes post-conference field trip to inspect chip and wood pellet mills in Vietnam. Field trip places are limited and preference will be given to those registering for the conference. Information on the conference and field trip is on [danaevents.co.nz/2022singapore/](http://danaevents.co.nz/2022singapore/) or contact Mariela Ferrari at [marielaferri.e@gmail.com](mailto:marielaferri.e@gmail.com) (See notice, P 16)

**28: TABMA Australia NSW awards gala evening – Le Montage Lilyfield NSW.**

Nominations and ticket sales open later this month, so look out for further information. Contact Alicia Oelkers on 0418 449 031 or free phone 1300 693 483.



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From P 6



- 1/ Slovakia delegation... Jan Matyasovsky, VIPO, Jan Sedliacik, Technical University of Zvolen, and Peter Jurkovic, CEO, VIPO.
- 2/ Tengfei Yi and David Lee, University of the Sunshine Coast, and Armando McDonald, University of Idaho, USA.
- 3/ Vilius Gendvilas, University of the Sunshine Coast, and Nathan Kotlarewski, University of Tasmania.
- 4/ Maryam Shirmohammadi, Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, chats with conference keynote speaker Dr Robert Leicester, retired CSIRO scientist.
- 5/ Adegoke Idowu Abimbola, National University of Fiji, meets up with Graham Palmer, Southern Cross University..
- 6/ Rupert Wimmer, University of Natural Resources and Sciences, Vienna, Austria, and Andreja Kutnar, University of Primorska, Slovenia.
- 7/ Mauricia Acuina, University of the Sunshine Coast, and Luis Yerman, University of Queensland.
- 8/ Lech Muszynski, Oregon State University, USA, and Barbora Vojackova, Mendel University, Czech Republic.



**SOCIETY OF  
WOOD SCIENCE &  
TECHNOLOGY**



From P 6

dynamics and be used as evidence to support a code change for a deemed-to-satisfy solution for exposed mass timber compartments," Mr Dunn said.

Additionally, a procedure to investigate the fire dynamic performance of exposed mass timber compartments at a scaled level will be developed. This procedure, if successful, would allow a cheaper means to investigate fire performance.

For a better understanding of this proposed event, a WoodSolutions webinar on Arup's full-scale exposed mass timber research is

**“HALF OF FUNDING HAS BEEN FOUND BUT MORE IS REQUIRED”**



1/ **The demand for exposed mass timber is deafening, requiring solutions.**  
2/ **Paul England**

available for information and background. Included within the webinar is a description of the project by Paul England, managing director, EFT Consulting in Melbourne. Mr England has executive and engineer experience in the establishment and management of test laboratories, fire safety, product development, testing

and business development and engineering consultancies. He has worked successfully in small to medium-sized enterprises and large multinationals with a capability to adapt approaches to suit the environment.



The current budget estimate to conduct this research is \$2.2 million, Making this happen requires funding. The Forest and Wood Products Australia has expressed interest in the project but will require matching cash from the timber industry and users of mass timber.

Around half of the funds have been found at this stage, but more is required. So, if there is an interest, please get in touch with Andrew Dunn (andrewdunn@tdansw.asn.au)

Seeking funding is the last step before the project can commence. Initially, the project will conduct the modelling and the scaled work. Hopefully, the activity will occur in the second half of 2022 to early 2023. A full-scale burn is expected to occur in mid-2023.



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# Architecture awards: continually improving quality of New Zealand's built environment

## Locally-sourced LVL components prefabricated off-site contributed to the speed of construction

THE New Zealand Institute of Architects works continuously to improve the quality of the country's built environment. It stages public events to promote the awareness and importance of design ... and runs a peer-reviewed awards program that sets the standards for New Zealand architecture.

The institute's annual regional awards are currently taking place across eight constituent branches, leading to national awards, which are traditionally held later in the year.

Prominent among the Nelson and Marlborough entries is Waimea College (new teaching blocks) by Arthouse Architects and Sheppard & Rout Architects.

Given the school's large catchment area and the need to cater for demand from new residential developments, the Ministry of Education commissioned an eight-classroom teaching block with a nod to the region's extensive experience with timber construction methods.

The project features locally-

**“ INNOVATIVE POST-TENSION SYSTEM TO RESIST SEISMIC FORCES**



**Waimea College... most of the LVL components were prefabricated off-site using locally-sourced timbers.** Photo: Virginia Woolf

sourced LVL and ply hybrid walls, timber floors and decking and often-exposed LVL beams – emphasising the structural integrity of the build.

Both the architects and builders noted the significant carbon sequestration achieved (and carbon avoidance measured) throughout the construction process.

Architect Jasper van der Lingen, a director at Sheppard & Rout, says his firm has some experience designing with engineered wood.

“For example, we completed a three-level office building in Christchurch involving an LVL structure – columns, beams and floor joists – which employed an innovative post-tensioning system to resist seismic forces,” Mr van der Lingen said.

He notes that working with

demand.”

Nevertheless, he was pleased with the speed of construction given that most of the LVL components were prefabricated off-site at nearby Nelson Pine from locally-sourced timber.

The project's innovative LVL floor and roof panels were provided by Potius Building Systems. Structural engineer Gavin Robertson says, “they are what we call our ‘box beam’

configuration. All components work in composite, like a stressed skin panel. The sides of the box are webs, while the ply on top and LVL on the bottom act as flanges. The flooring also provides a diaphragm for wind/seismic actions.

“Fire-rated GIB ceilings provide protection to the flooring above and the sides of the boxes. The bottom portion of the box panel is exposed to the fire and protects the rest of the panel above through timber charring.”

A winner in the Canterbury region's public architecture category is Kohinga St Albans Community Centre by Christchurch City Council. The all-timber project – which replaces a previous resource facility damaged in the 2011

### ACROSS THE DITCH



With MICHAEL SMITH

engineered timber in large-scale commercial projects is still relatively new.

“Unlike steel there are no standard sizes or details which have become industry norms yet,” he said. “This tends to mean most designs are more bespoke, which can add to cost and design time.

“In addition, the capacity of the engineered timber industry is stretched at times to meet the increasing

From P 10

earthquakes – features a large hall, several meeting rooms, and an open-plan kitchen.

The judges noted the centre's beauty and warmth "gained throughout from the radiata cladding, spruce glulam beams, and cross laminated timber walls, ceilings and floors."

Brent Smith, head of Vertical Delivery, says the community facility is the council's first completed design that involves extensive use of engineered wood as both the structure and finish.

He adds that off-site prefabrication required early and extensive coordination of all aspects of design, including acoustics, fire safety and services penetrations – so engineered timber costs became comparable with other structural systems.

"Once the prefabricated timber arrived on site, the



**St Albans Community Centre... using wood increased seismic resilience due to the lightweight nature of the structure.** Photo: Crispin Schurr

installation was seamless, which minimised crane time, and reduced overall construction time and exposure to health and safety risks."

Mr Smith says finding a reasonably priced local supply was challenging. "In the end,

it had to be imported, which had a small impact on the project's carbon footprint."

“THEY ARE WHAT WE CALL OUR 'BOXED BEAM' CONFIGURATION”

Overall, he believes there is much to recommend designing with engineered wood. "There was no specific fire resistance requirement due to CLT's stable and predictable charring rate. All beams and panels have sufficient strength to resist a fire as prescribed by the building code.

"Using wood reduced the complexity and cost of the foundations; and increased seismic resilience due to the lightweight nature of the structure ... negating the poor ground conditions encountered by the structural engineers."

# JOB VACANCY



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- Formal qualifications in a science or engineering based discipline will also be looked upon favourably
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# Tasmania choice for \$1bn Porsche-backed fuel plant

PORSCHE-backed e-fuels group HIF Global will build a \$1 billion facility near the north-western Tasmanian town of Burnie.

The commercial e-fuel facility will be the first of its kind in Australia, using wind power, recycling bio waste and recapturing CO<sub>2</sub>. The firm secured \$386 million in equity investments in April to fund its e-fuels projects in USA, Chile and Australia.

Strong winds and a focus on renewable energy make Tasmania the perfect place for the billion-dollar facility, which will produce up to 100 million litres a year of carbon-neutral e-fuels once fully operational, says HIF Global.

About 12.5% of the company is owned by German car manufacturer



*The planned e-fuel plant on the Magellan Straits in Chile*

Porsche and the plant in Burnie will be modelled after a pilot facility in Chile.

E-fuels, which are made using green hydrogen and electricity, offer the added bonus of recycling carbon dioxide in the manufacturing process. Presenting a greener alternative to petrol

and diesel, e-fuels can be used in internal combustion engines which are expected to still be common, even with the global shift towards electrification.

The 250-megawatt capacity e-fuels plant will use renewable energy to separate water into hydrogen

and oxygen by electrolysis, where the green hydrogen will then be combined with CO<sub>2</sub> extracted from the atmosphere. Using technology licensed by ExxonMobil, a methanol to gasoline process will produce fuel for use in combustion engines with all of the water for the process coming from bio waste.

Carbon is still emitted by combustion engines using e-fuel, but the process of extracting it from the atmosphere and reusing it means net emissions are greatly reduced.

Construction on the major project is expected to start in mid to late 2024. Earlier this year, HIF Global indicated it was looking at establishing e-fuels facilities in Northern Queensland and Victoria.

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# Students step up to help resolve biggest challenges for forestry sector as they weigh up career choices

STRATEGIES to recruit more female foresters, new solutions for fire management and raising revenue to plant more trees are among the innovative solutions Mount Gambier High School students have presented in the Green Triangle Forest Industries Hub's inaugural Hackathon event.

More than 120 Year 7 students joined with hub member companies last week for an exploratory three-day education session designed to expose the students to the various career pathways the sector offers from truck driving to conservation management.

Held in conjunction with Nature Glenelg Trust and University of South Australia, GTFIH executive general manager Liz McKinnon said the experience included a full-day industry excursion at a OneFortyOne plantation estate in Mount Burr followed by various conservation activities at Mount Burr Swamp. This was followed by a two-day Hackathon hosted by social enterprise group the Young Change Agents to resolve some of the sector's

most challenging issues at the UniSA campus.

"The hub recognises the need to generate greater engagement with the broader community and this starts with the next generation," Ms McKinnon said.

"While most of these students live surrounded by plantation estate, for many they have never had the opportunity to go behind the scenes to meet the people managing our forests, seeing first-hand the new technologies and innovations that are used to grow and harvest our trees, including the extensive efforts made to enhance and protect our environment."

Mount Gambier High School is one of five entrepreneurial specialist schools (ESS) in South Australia, delivering learning programs that promote and encourage



**Adrian Flowers from Tabeel Trading gives students the chance to experience a world-class industry from the forest floor.**

entrepreneurial mindsets in students.

Assistant principal Josh Praolini said the partnership with the forestry sector was an exciting opportunity to lift aspirations and awareness of opportunities in the region.

"Active learning connected with local and relevant industry and community organisations allows for students to stretch their knowledge and skills," Mr Praolini said.

"Giving students the chance to experience a world-class

industry, in a regional setting, highlights how many amazing opportunities are available in emerging industries, ensuring our students have been exposed to the knowledge and skills to continue to grow the Green Triangle's future capacity."

The industry excursion was directly hosted by GTFIH member companies including Tabeel Trading, OneFortyOne, SFM, ABP, Timberland and PF Olsen in addition to conservation partner Nature Glenelg Trust. The Rotary Club of Mount Gambier West also generously hosted a barbeque lunch for the students at the Mount Burr Swamp.

**On the cover: Lexi Merrett from OneFortyOne, a member of the Green Triangle Fire Alliance, explains fire equipment during a three-day education session helping students to choose various career pathways in the forest industry.**

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# Premier's Federal Oak planted in 1890 symbolised Australia's strong colonial ties with federal system

## Quercus tree planting at Parliament House gardens in Melbourne marked Empire's solidarity

THE strong colonial ties with Australia's foundation continue to be evident in the selection of trees planted to mark formal occasions, such as visits by British royalty or a commemoration by early Sydney-based governors and other dignitaries.

When the NSW Premier Sir Henry Parkes presided over the first all-Australian conference in February 1890 to discuss the introduction of a federal system of government, he planted an oak tree in the gardens of what is now Parliament House in Melbourne to symbolise the Empire's "superiority and solidarity".

Still present today and known as the Federal Oak, the tree stands, in Sir Henry's words, for: "The crimson thread of kinship that runs through us all. Even native-born Australians are Britons. We know that we represent a race, which for the purposes of settling new colonies, never had its equal on the face of the Earth".

Ironically the tree, a Canary oak (*Quercus canariensis*), sometimes also called the



1/ *The Federal Oak in Melbourne's Parliament House grounds symbolises the value of Australia's British origins.*  
 2/ *Stamp of approval... Sir Henry Parkes presided over the first all-Australian conference in February 1890 to discuss the introduction of a federal system of government.*

Algerian oak, does not occur in the Canary Islands, as perhaps Sir Henry and others thought, but is native to Portugal, Spain, Tunisia, Algeria and Morocco.

An Englishman by birth, Sir Henry was a staunch advocate of English customs and traditional values. His planting of an oak tree was seen as emblematic of everything good and noble about being English ... "even for those born in Australia at the time".

Sir Henry (1815-96) was instrumental in shaping the fledgling Australian Federation, its values, priorities and policies in the early years of the 20th century. A colonial

considered the 'Father of Federation' due to his early promotion for the federation of the six colonies of Australia. He was an early critic of British convict transportation and was a proponent for the expansion of the Australian continental rail network.

The Canary oak is a medium-sized deciduous to semi-evergreen tree growing to 20-30 metres tall with a trunk up to 1.5 metres in diameter. The leaves are 10-15 centimetres long and 6-8 centimetres broad. The flowers are catkins, the fruit is an acorn 2.5 centimetres long and 2 centimetres broad, in a shallow cup.

Oak trees all belong to the genus *Quercus* and are native to the northern hemisphere. They represent a significant family of trees and include both deciduous and evergreen species. Oak trees extend from cool temperate to tropical latitudes in the Americas, Asia, Europe, and North Africa.

The famous English oak, *Quercus robur*, extends across Europe and is also called French oak and European oak, which are the same species.

North America has the largest number of oak species, with about 160 species in Mexico.

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# Wind turbines: power projects in plantations could deliver a major boost for NSW energy production

INSTALLING wind turbines in just five sites in State-owned pine plantations could generate up to 2.5 gigawatts of energy a year, a registration of interest process has revealed.

This has prompted Forestry Corporation NSW to formally call for expressions of interest to develop renewable energy generation and storage in plantations near Oberon, Sunny Corner, Bondo, Orange and Laurel Hill.

Strategy and risk manager Gavin Jeffries said close to 50 providers had responded to a registration of interest process, identifying enormous potential to boost renewable energy production

in NSW and power more than 1.5 million homes annually.

“We see co-locating renewable energy developments within timber plantations as an innovative opportunity to boost renewable energy production in the state and the renewable energy market agrees, with 47 providers registering their interest,” Mr Jeffries said.

“Overwhelmingly, wind



**Gavin Jeffries... an innovative opportunity to boost renewable energy production.**

operate in softwood forests overseas and in Australia, state forest pine plantations are ideal locations because they are often remote from local communities and homes but have good connections to the existing high voltage transmission network. They are located in windy areas and have an existing road network.”

Mr Jeffries said wind turbine projects in these five sites could together produce 25% more clean energy than the Snowy 2.0 project, or enough to provide power to more than 1.5 million homes. Other technologies could further increase generation capacity.

power has emerged as the most feasible technology and these pine plantations have been identified as prime locations for wind turbines, pumped hydro systems and battery storage.

“Wind farms successfully

Cont P 16

“ENORMOUS POTENTIAL TO PRODUCE RENEWABLE ENERGY”



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From P 15

“While this is an exciting prospect, we are still in the very early stages of assessing these opportunities and we will use the EOI process to help us to understand more about what these developments might look like and which are suitable to investigate further,” he said.

“We will only ever consider a renewable energy project that is compatible with our activities to produce renewable timber, provide community access, manage fire and maintain sustainable forest management. We also have strict requirements limiting the footprint of developments and ensuring we maintain an ongoing supply of renewable timber from plantations.”

Mr Jeffries said local communities would be very interested in any potential



*Wind farms operate successfully in softwood forests overseas and in Australia, state forest pine plantations are ideal locations.*

developments in their local communities.

“We assure them that if any suitable opportunities are identified, like any other development, normal planning applications and approval would be required.

This included community consultation as well as consideration of the environmental impact, noise, landscape and visual

impacts, traffic and transport issues, hazard and risks, cultural heritage, water and soil impacts and waste management.

“Our state-owned pine plantations produce enough

**“IMPACT ON ENVIRONMENT WILL BE CONSIDERED”**

renewable timber to build around 35,000 homes a year and by producing renewable energy we will also be able to power those homes.”

The Forestry Corp has estimated that around 225,000 ha of state forest pine plantations in NSW are located near existing energy infrastructure. Also, the corporation is interested in projects that might combine wind energy, for instance, with the ‘renewable timber’ that can also be used for energy projects.

Other state governments have already been looking at opening up parts of their state pine plantations to wind energy projects.

In Queensland, in early 2020, the state government gave development approval for a massive wind project of up to 1200 MW that would be located in state pine forest in the Wide Bay-Burnett region.

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# Kia Sorento hybrid power challenges the herd

OUR friends at Beef Central report South Korea has leaped over both China and the US as Australia's second-largest beef export destination.

Now the East Asian nation is doubling its domestic cattle numbers to keep up with the demand for protein turning to hybrid bulls for faster weight gains and quicker 'plug-in' rates for higher pregnancy scores across the cow herd compared with their purebred Lotharios. The country's Kia Corporation knows all the advantages of plug-in hybrids – stamina, energy and improved performance.

Many drivers still believe additional gas mileage offered by hybrids is not worth the cost of driving the slowest car on the road. In fact, hybrids are faster than you might think – they have multiple engines. In addition to the conventional engine, hybrids contain 1-3 electric motors that provide greater horsepower and a lot more torque.

Kia's head of global operations Ho-sung Song has been promoted to president, spearheading his Plan-S, the company's mid- to long-term strategy aimed at progressively establishing a leadership position in the future automotive industry.

Mr. Song's Plan-S will



1/ Kia has added a hybrid model to its seven-seat Sorento SUV range.



2/ Entertainment on the Sorento includes a 12-speaker Bose stereo operated via a 10.25-in. centre touchscreen.

be a tremendous asset in the company's transition to future businesses, which will encompass electric vehicles and mobility solutions. The strategy targets a shift toward electric and autonomous vehicles from a business system focused on internal combustion engine vehicles. By the end of 2025, Kia plans to offer a full line-up of 11 battery electric vehicles, looking to achieve a 6.6% share of the global EV market (excluding China), while also attaining a 25% share of its sales from its eco-friendly cars.

Kia and its compatriot Hyundai have been chucking challenges to European and Japanese carmakers, trying out hybrid, plug-in hybrid – most recently with the 2022 Kia Sorento large SUV – and all-electric vehicles.

Kia has added a hybrid

model to its seven-seat Sorento SUV range, throwing down the gauntlet to Toyota's petrol-electric Kluger.

The hybrid Sorento is available in top-spec GT-Line grade only and buyers can choose between front or all-wheel drive for about \$72,400 and \$75,500 drive-away respectively.

That represents a premium of about \$7000 over the front-wheel drive GT-Line petrol and all-wheel drive GT-Line diesel. It's also about \$12,000 cheaper than the plug-in hybrid Sorento that brings a bigger battery and can be driven up to 68 km on pure electric power.

Kia claims the front-wheel drive hybrid draws 5.3L/100 km and while the heavier all-wheel drive model runs on 5.8L per 100km.

On the road, the Sorento is

built for comfort, with well-sorted suspension that soaks up bumps and corrugations with ease. Accurate steering and an all-wheel drive grip provide confidence in the wet.

The hybrid set-up in the Sorento blends a 1.6-litre turbo petrol engine with a small 44 kW electric motor for a combined 169 kW of power and 350 Nm of torque.

Entertainment includes a 12-speaker Bose stereo, operated via a 10.25-in. centre touchscreen that is compatible with Apple CarPlay and Android Auto. A slick, high-resolution 12.3-in. digital driver display provides helpful info.

Safety is sure with auto emergency braking, lane-keep assist, blind-spot monitoring, rear cross-traffic alert and 360-deg. camera.

Kia again rolls out its seven-year unlimited km warranty.

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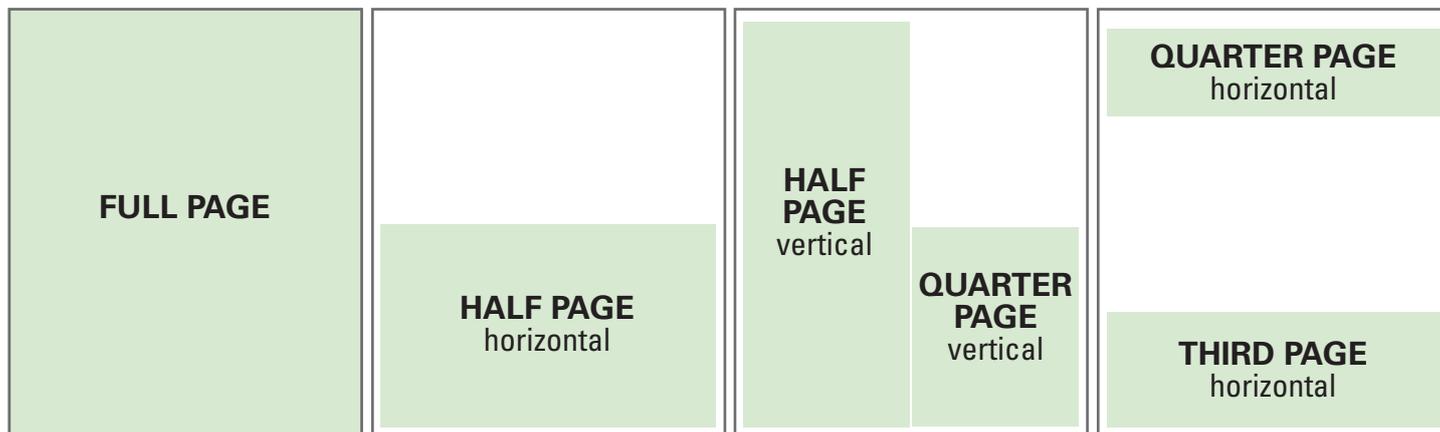
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**THIRD PAGE: \$215**

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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