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ISSUE 716 | July 21, 2022

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COVER STORY P4



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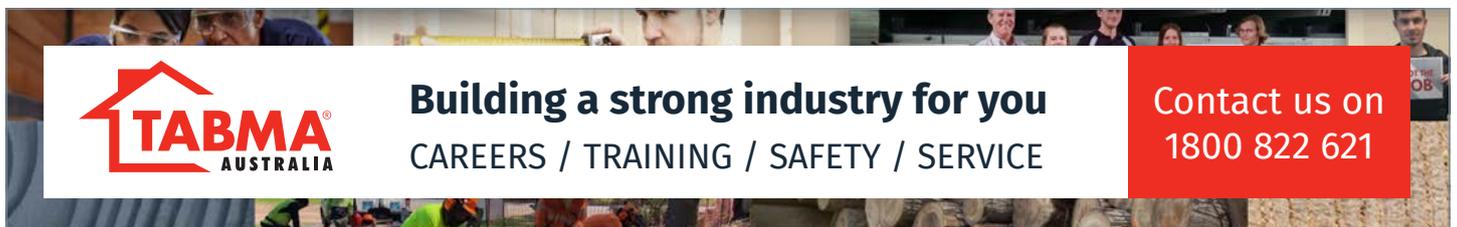
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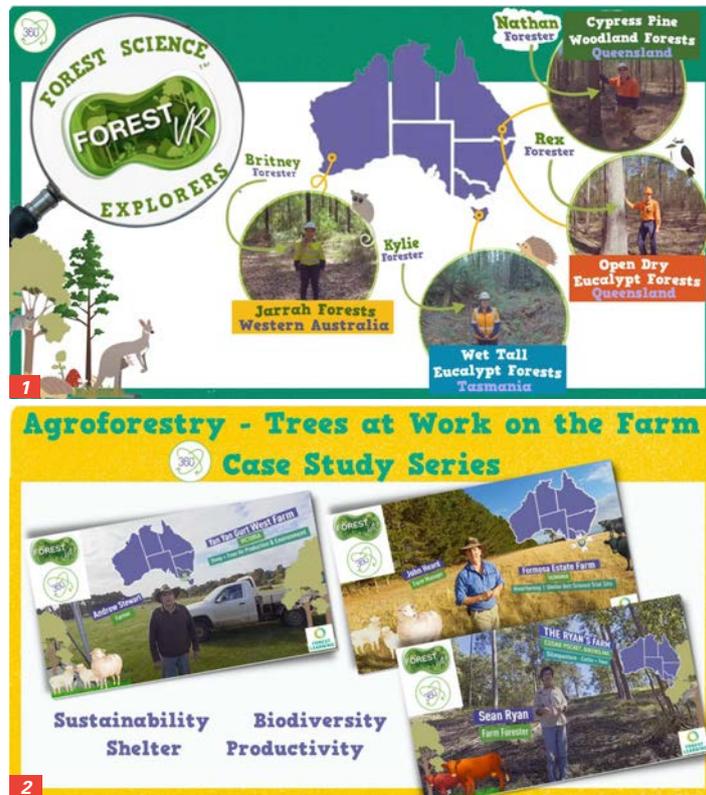
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Australian forests are entering the classroom thanks to new resources

NEW resources have been launched that will allow teachers to take school students of all ages into the heart of Australia's forests, without leaving the classroom.

The new video experiences are embedded across three themes that include Forest Science Explorers that explores the different adaptations of Australian trees to suit their unique environments; careers in the forest and wood products industry, and the concept of putting trees to work on agricultural farms for multiple benefits, also known as Agroforestry.

By offering students 360-degree video experiences and soon to be launched 360-degree interactive virtual tours, they are transported directly into Australia's forest and wood products industry and farming landscapes to discover why our forests grow in different regions due to their special adaptations, how forests are managed sustainably based on this science, the people working within the industry, how trees can benefit farms



1/ Forest VR are bringing new experiences to Aussie school kids.
2/ Programs expand into careers in forestry and exploring farms.

for productivity and the environment, and why wood is the ultimate renewable resource.

"Teachers around Australia have told us how they have found ForestVR™ to be a technology-rich and highly effective way of engaging

school students, by allowing them to visit places they wouldn't normally have the opportunity to access during a school field trip," explained Beth Welden, ForestLearning program manager.

"With this latest suit of videos, we hope to provide

even more meaningful educational opportunities, developed specifically to align to the Australian Curriculum, that educate students on a range of exciting new topics."

The new ForestVR™ experiences include the Forest Science Explorers series, developed for primary school students. This video series invites students to visit four of Australia's unique forest types and gives a 360-degree look at the environment.

Additionally Careers in Forests and Wood and Agroforestry: Trees at work on the farm have also been launched.

"I have used the existing ForestVR™ experiences in the classroom to great success, with students highly engaged around an environment they might not otherwise get to experience," said Grant Dooner, Technology Educator at Champagnat Catholic College in Pagewood.

"It's fantastic to see these resources and experiences continue to expand, and I look forward to using them in the coming year."



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Workplace safety reaffirmed as forest industries top priority

NATIONAL Farm Safety Week 2022 is here and Australia's forest industries have reaffirmed that workplace safety is the number one priority sector wide. From tree harvesting operations in the forest to the sawmill floor and product transport, forest industries strive for the safest working environment for all employees, Chief Executive Officer of the Australian Forest Products Association (AFPA) Ross Hampton said.

This year, National Farm Safety Week theme is 'Recipe for Averting Disaster', highlighting awareness of the potentially dangerous and hazardous working conditions the broader agriculture sector, including forest industries, that do operate in farm environments, are presented on a daily basis.

Ross Hampton said forest industries have made workplace safety the sector wide first priority for many years now and are happy

“SAFETY IS THE #1 WORKPLACE PRIORITY”

to continue promoting awareness this week.

“Without the careful workplace, health and safety planning and hazard mitigation our sector works so hard at, our industries would present many dangers for employees, from operations in the forest to the sawmill floor and in product transport. Thankfully we have a sector that continues to place workplace safety at the top of the priority list, so risks are reduced.

“That said, we can always improve our awareness and safety practices, so supporting initiatives like National Farm Safety Week 2022 are so important. I encourage all forest industries operations to review their safety practices this week, to ensure that everything possible is being done to mitigate risk to safety.”



AFPA's Forest Industry Safety Manager Amanda Bell says safety is number one.

AFPA's Forest Industry Safety Manager Amanda Bell said when it comes to safety, "Anything higher than zero as the number of workplace fatalities and serious injuries

is unacceptable. Our sector continues to work to ensure all employees go home safe and healthy every day.

“AFPA's Work, Health, and Safety (WHS) Committee will continue to identify and deliver industry wide health, safety and wellbeing programs aimed at improving workers health and reducing incidents, noting that, safety is more than just physical safety and we need to consider the psychological safety of our workforce as well.

“I commend National Farm Safety Week 2022 and our sector's attitude to safety as the number one workplace priority,” Amanda Bell concluded.

The united voice for Australia's forest industries



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For the love of trees: photographers capture magic of our forests in national competition

Three Responsible Wood placegetters now eligible for PEFC International award

THREE rural shutterbugs devoted to the Great Outdoors and each with a “long-time love of our forests, trees and timber” are the winning placegetters in the 2022 national Responsible Wood photo competition.

“The exceptional response to the competition from across Australia was truly heart-warming with more than 700 photographs – a record entry – competing for the three top positions,” Responsible Wood marketing and communications officer Jason Ross said.

“Indeed the rally call for photos taken in Responsible Wood certified forests



Second placegetter... mountain bike rider Charmaine Grobler who photographed a plantation of pines in the early morning behind Wild Horse Mountain in the Beerburum state forest.

for entry in the 2022 PEFC International Photographer of the Year Award.

Fiona and her husband David have planted all types of trees including ornamentals, pines and young eucalypts across their property that blend with well-established mature hardwoods.

“We love everything about trees ... their purity, strength and sustainability,” Fiona enthused. “In fact, more than people, trees and the birds and animals that live among them have always been my photographic favourites.

Born in Wooster, Cornwall, Fiona met and married her English husband in Australia. Both had arrived as children in 1959 under the ten-pound-pom assisted migrant program but on separate voyages and separate ships – Sitmar Line’s twin steam vessels the Fairsky and Fairstar. Years later as a married couple they settled and adapted quickly into the NSW countryside and are now in the process of renovating their timber and mud-brick home.

illustrates the depth of the positive feeling for sustainable trees among many communities,” he said.

Individual entries lodged through Instagram attracted more than 6000 comments and 25,000 ‘likes’ and ‘shares’

The winning entry was a photo of young natural regrowth spotted gums (Corymbia citriodora variegata) captured by Fiona Ford on her Canon Eos 90D that splashed the warm colours of a sunrise across a property at Collombatti, west of Kempsey on the mid-NSW north coast, near the Responsible Wood-certified NSW Forestry Corporation state forest.

The entry also wins a \$1000 cash prize and qualifies

“ILLUSTRATING THE DEPTH AND POSITIVE FEELING OF SUSTAINABLE FORESTS

Mountain bike rider Charmaine Grobler took second prize with a photo of plantation pines in the early morning behind Wild Horse Mountain in the Responsible



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Cont P 5

From P 4

Wood-certified Beerburrum east state forest in the Glass House Mountains, managed by HQPlantations.

Charmaine and partner Jerry, who live in Gympie, are full-time volunteers "for all causes" and enjoy introducing as many new friends as they can to bike-riding and walking through forests "that we reckon bring the magic of healing".

Taking third spot in the contest was Ang Chandler who photographed her daughters walking through the snow at Responsible Wood-certified Mount Cole state forest near the town of Beaufort in western Victoria.

Ang and husband Tim operate Cave Hill Creek, an outdoor recreation venue near Beaufort.

"We took over a family business built up by Tim's parents just over 12 years ago, relocating from Canberra, changing career, and deciding this was a pretty amazing spot to raise an active crew of five kids," said Ang.



Third prize... sisters walk through the snow-clad Responsible Wood-certified state forest at Mount Cole in western Victoria.

The couple also run school holiday camps and educational forest walks for children.

"We are surrounded on three sides by the state forest and a two-day overnight forest adventure walk for school groups along the Beeripmo Walk is a popular exercise."

The state forest is noted for its majestic messmate (*Eucalyptus obliqua*), manna gum (*Eucalyptus viminalis*), and blue gums (*Eucalyptus*

globulus). In the north, which is drier, there are yellow box (*Eucalyptus melliodora*), and red stringybarks (*Eucalyptus macrorhyncha*) with snow gums (*Eucalyptus pauciflora*).

Entries in the contest were assessed by a judging panel comprising Simon Dorries, CEO of Responsible Wood, David Rowlinson, Planet Ark Make It Wood campaign manager, and Jim Bowden, managing editor of the on-line trade journal Timber&Forestry enews.

Simon Dorries said the contest theme enabled participants to submit photos that fitted the theme ... 'responsible forests, responsible certification'.

Entries embraced such diversified topics as forest landscapes, individual trees and plants, families hiking in the woods, from indigenous people to rural village life, from wooden buildings to photos of PEFC/ Responsible Wood-labelled products.

More than 90% of Australia's commercial forests are Responsible Wood certified and include state forests, plantation estates and those run by forestry agencies along with many privately-owned forests.

– JIM BOWDEN

On the cover: Warm Dawning, the winning entry in the national Responsible Wood photo competition, entry by Fiona Ford showing young regrowth spotted gum trees on a property at Collombatti, west of Kempsey on the mid-NSW north coast.

White-eared Honeyeater
(Photo Birdlife Australia)

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Responsible Wood would like to congratulate the 2021 PF Olsen Australia and Birdlife Australia NSW Softwood Plantation Pilot Surveys.

RW/1-10-1

Responsible Wood

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Industry leaders gathered at Weathertex event to raise awareness of an Australian circular economy

Architects, designers and construction companies focused on business and the environment

AUSTRALIAN-owned manufacturer of zero-carbon external timber cladding, Weathertex has brought together industry leaders to explore, educate and drive awareness on Building a Circular Australia.

Architects, designers, developers and construction companies gathered in Sydney last Wednesday to hear how a circular economy can benefit business, society and the environment.

Speakers included Davina Rooney, CEO Green Building Council of Australia, David Rowlinson, Make it Woods program manager, Planet Ark, Jason Ross, Responsible Wood's marketing and communications officer Amy Hogan, national manager of Sustainability, Stockland.

The event covered the foundations of what a circular economy is and how circular economies may provide hope for sustainability and economic prosperity to co-exist. It showed the importance of product stewardship, certification and chain-of-custody certification, significance of renewable resources, supply-chain analysis and sustainable business models.

"The event was a great success," Weathertex managing director Jason O'Hagan said.

"We thank you to all those who attended and presented and Weathertex has more live events coming soon."

Visit www.weathertex.com.au

Responsible Wood's Jason Ross presented on how



Andrew Savage, business development manager, architecture and design at Weathertex (left) with speakers at the Weathertex Building a Circular Australia event Amy Hogan, national manager of sustainability, Stockland, Davina Rooney, CEO Green Building Council of Australia, David Rowlinson, Make it Woods program manager, Planet Ark, and Jason Ross, Responsible Wood's marketing and communications officer.

timber in construction can be part of the circular economy with sustainable (and responsible) wood products.

"Timber is the ultimate renewable material, but we need to make the very best use of this valuable resource," he said. "Ensuring timber products and buildings are sourced from sustainable (and certified) forests, last for their required design life and that they can be reused or remanufactured at the end of use, are key circular economy solutions.

"By ensuring timber products meet the circular economy agenda, we can continue to incorporate these renewable, low-carbon materials into the buildings of the future and help increase the overall carbon storage in buildings."

David Rowlinson gave a brief overview of the Australian forestry sector, one of the most highly regulated and regarded in the world.

He detailed the environmental benefits of certified timber, the only

major building material that helps tackle climate change, and the role timber can play in the development of the circular economy.

Mr Rowlinson's presentation also highlight the importance of connecting buildings with the natural world and how with 'biophilic design' and using wood "we can bring the benefits of nature indoors" His presentation included some exemplar wood projects from Australia and around the world.

Davina Rooney, a property professional with a passion for sustainability, has led the Green Building Council of Australia since 2019. As a qualified engineer, Davina worked on large-scale construction projects in Sydney and London, and spent nearly a year building an award-winning school in the Himalayas.

She has devoted a decade to driving sustainability at one of Australia's largest diversified property companies, Stockland, which culminated in Stockland's

recognition as the world's most sustainable property company.

Now leading a member organisation with 550-plus members with a combined value of \$46 billion, Davina brought together practical knowledge, on-the-ground experience and a systematic approach to champion leadership in sustainable design and construction at the Sydney event.

Davina works with government and industry to advocate for supportive policy and transform complex supply chains. Building on a strong legacy of leadership, Davina is elevating the GBCA's reach and impact into new markets. She is on the board of Evolve Housing and the Australian Sustainable Built Environment Council, as well as chair of the Sustainable Procurement Roundtable for the Sustainable Built Environment National Research Centre.

Amy Hogan's role is to shape and lead the sustainability strategy at Stockland, embedding ESG practices across all parts of the business to deliver tangible and long term value for its stakeholders.

An authentic and experienced senior sustainability leader, she is passionate about creating a positive impact to shape a better way to live. Her professional career has included an enormous range from head of sustainability at Stockland, sitting on the Stockland senior leadership team and as chair of the Stockland reconciliation working group.

JULY

26-27: Residues2Revenues – Rotorua, New Zealand & ONLINE. This event will help forest owners and managers, harvesting contractors, sawmills and wood manufacturing companies better understand the real value of wood residues and the opportunities in supplying this growing market. More information: <https://woodresidues.events/>

29: 23rd Timber Design Awards entries close. The Australian Timber Design Awards are open to builders, designers, architects, engineers and landscapers: to anyone involved in the design or building of structures that feature timber. A Rising Star Award is available to students and entrants aged 35 or under.

30: National Tree Day. Australia's largest tree planting and nature care event. Join the community to help plant 1 million native trees in 2022. To host and join a tree planting event visit <https://treeday.planetark.org/>.

AUGUST

3-4: Standards for Sustainable Forest Management Workshops – Wednesday, 3 August in Melbourne, VIC, Thursday, 4 August in Mount Gambier, SA. Hosted by Responsible Wood. Contact Matt de Jongh for more information at

mdejongh@responsiblewood.org.au

9-10: Forestry Australia's 2022 Virtual Fire Forum webinar. – ONLINE. 11.30 am-1.30 pm (AEST). Focus will be perspectives on prescribed burning and restoration and regeneration. **August 9: Perspectives on prescribed burning;** Speaker Racheal Cavanagh, Firesticks. Working with traditional owners to meet land management objectives. Speaker Trevor Howard, national manager, prescribed burning strategy, AFAC. **August 10: Restoration, regeneration & communication; August 10: Raising giants, ash forest restoration post black summer.** Speaker Caitlin Cruikshank, program manager, strategic fire planning & forest restoration, DELWP. Regeneration burning and smoke management. Sustainable Timber Tasmania. Right skills, people and resources ready at the right time. Speaker: Shaun Lawlor, regional manager, forest and fire operations, DELWP. Registration (inc. GST) \$40 Forestry Australia members; \$95 non-members. Students free. Contact Andrea Diem, branch, events & communication officer 03 7064 4251 or events@forestry.org.au

9-10: Carbon Forestry 22 – Rotorua, New Zealand. Carbon Forestry is an industry-led event discussing the future of forestry and carbon markets.

It covers new opportunities and policies in carbon planting, investment and the growing carbon offset markets. More information: <https://carbonforestry.events/>

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

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

26-29: Malaysian Timber Council (MTC) Marketing Mission – 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

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

26-28: DANA-Gingko 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/ or contact Mariela Ferrari at marielaferriari.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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Timber to play a big role in a net zero future for the built environment

A NEW training centre which aims to transform building and construction industries in Australia has received much-needed funding.

The Engineered Wood Products Association of Australasia has welcomed the announcement by the Federal Minister for Education, Jason Clare and Australian

Research Council, of \$3 million in research and development (R&D) funding to establish an ARC Research Hub to 'Advance Timber for Australia's Future Built Environment' based at the University of Queensland (UQ).

The Timber Hub (led by UQ Professor Keith Crews) aims to support the transformation of Australia's timber and construction sectors by stimulating growth in innovation, increasing the uptake of timber products used in buildings, and establishing a roadmap for change.

"This new funding and industry's strong support for the Timber Hub recognises that our renewable timber products can reduce emissions and waste, store carbon, provide skilled jobs, and build the types of new homes and businesses needed in a net zero future," Chief Executive Officer, Gavin



1/ The University of Queensland will be the location for the new research hub.

2/ Funding for a new Research Hub will support the transformation of Australia's timber and construction sectors.

Matthew said.

"Timber is a renewable biological resource that can be manufactured into a range of essential products, including many innovative engineered wood products, which should be the preferred building materials in a low emissions and circular economy that can also provide many social, environmental, and economic benefits."

"We are proud to be a partner organisation and see the Timber Hub's identified R&D themes of manufacturing innovation, building product performance, supply chain optimisation, low emissions, and circular economy closely align with our industry's strategic objectives," Mr Matthew concluded.



300 new fire fighters will boost forest fire management in Victoria

AROUND 300 new project fire fighters are to be recruited for the 2023 fire season in Victoria according to Chris Hardman, Chief Fire Officer of Forest Fire Management Victoria.

In his latest update, Mr Hardman revealed the department would recruit the additional crews to ‘help keep Victorians safe in the upcoming fire season’

“Applications are now open for FFMVic’s seasonal firefighter roles,” Mr Hardman said.

“I’m really looking forward to meeting the new PFF

“LOOKING FORWARD TO MEETING THE NEW PFF RECRUITS

recruits when they start later this year. I am sure each and every one of them will bring unique skills and perspectives to their work.”

Mr Hardman also commented that current weather conditions have not been favourable to conduct many planned burns across the state we have been very much in planning stage for their spring program.

“However, if opportunities arise over the coming months our Forest Fire Management Victoria (FFMVic) crews are ready,” he continued.

“The winter months also provide us with the opportunity to complete mechanical fuel treatments such as mulching and slashing in those areas where planned



Chris Hardman, Chief Fire Officer of Forest Fire Management Victoria is looking forward to welcoming new fire fighter recruits.

conditions ever experienced across Victoria.

“Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning and FFMVic personnel were there right from the very start, working alongside our fellow emergency services both in the field and in control centres.

“All agencies can

be very proud of what they have achieved throughout the emergency and the recovery effort.”

Find out more at www.jobs.careers.vic.gov.au/pff

burns can’t be done.

“Last month saw the anniversary of the storms and floods emergency that struck large parts of Victoria 12 months ago. They were some of the most severe storm



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Portland Airport to build mass timber roof structure using glulams and plywood

WHEN carpenter-builder William Smith got a chance to work reconstructing the Portland International Airport, the largest air terminal in the US state of Oregon, he left another job to take it.

That's because the project's centrepiece, a mass timber roof, used timber from PEFC/FSC Douglas-fir (Oregon) forests.

Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*), perhaps the most common tree in Oregon, is the most important conifer in the state because of its ecological and economic significance. The Oregon legislature recognised this when it designated Douglas-fir the official state tree in 1936. Eight of ten conifers

west of the Cascades are Douglas-fir.

The widely accepted common name – Douglas-fir – commemorates David Douglas, the Scottish botanist who identified plants in Oregon in the 19th century.

Smith was lured to the airport project by its unique features, such as the 24.3 m glue laminated beams, some of which are 9 m wide and the mass plywood panel roofing.

"This is a project that's going to be here for a lifetime," says Smith, who



The mass-timber roof is being built in 18 sections on the airfield at Portland International Airport.

works for the construction contractor California-based Swinerton.

"You know, our kids' kids' kids may be walking through here one day."

"I came out here because it's a legacy project. Everyone

we know is going to see it," said Michael Peck, another Swinerton employee and member of the local carpenter's union.

"It's different from most of his jobs, where the woodwork gets mostly covered by structural concrete," he said.

The terminal roof is part of a five-year \$2 billion upgrade at the airport which accounts for 90% of the state's passenger air travel and 95% of its air cargo.

The roof was actually built in 18 sections on the airfield.

JOB VACANCY



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It is envisaged that the successful applicant will spend a period of time working in Australia and being trained in all aspects of the business prior to relocating to Thailand.

The successful candidate should possess the following attributes:

- It is desirable (though not essential) that the candidate will have experience in wood products, including engineered wood products, or forestry related areas with a preference for this experience to be in timber preservation.

- Formal qualifications in a science or engineering based discipline will also be looked upon favourably
- Experience in a management and / or sales role in a business to business environment
- Good written and verbal communication skills
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Schools and councils roll up their sleeves for National Tree Day

THE Nation and Planet Ark are ramping up for another National Tree Day.

Councils, community organisations and schools around Australia will be gathering for the annual event which has fast become one of the nation's most popular environmental days.

Established in 1996, National Tree Day has grown into Australia's largest community tree planting and nature care event.

According to Planet Ark, the program is a call to action for all Australians to get their hands dirty and give back to their community.

"Australians understand they can make a personal

difference through positive environmental action and National Tree Day provides a fantastic opportunity for them to do just that," said Planet Ark co-CEO Rebecca Gilling.

"There are clear benefits to spending time in nature and by planting a tree you can help cool the climate, provide homes for native wildlife, and make your community a better place to live."



Local community groups and schools will come together to plant a number of trees on National Tree Day.

Each year, around 300,000 people volunteer their time to engage in environmental activities that educate

Australians about the world around them.

Schools Tree Day (July 29) and National Tree Day (July 31) are Australia's largest annual tree-planting and nature care events, with plantings taking place across the country on the last weekend of July.

The last Friday in July is dedicated to Schools Tree Day. Each year, more than 3000 schools participate nationwide in environmental activities that educate individuals about the world around them. Activities range from planting bush tucker gardens, building habitat for native wildlife, nature play and more.

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Each generation will reap what the former has sown.



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Bright future ahead for Australia's young foresters

FORESTRY Australia has announced the appointment of two new co-chairs to lead its Future Foresters Initiative (FFI) Committee.

Alannah Rowe and David Faluyi will head up the committee made up of young forestry professionals and forest science students which aims to support career growth and foster the next generation of forestry leaders.

Ms Rowe and Mr Faluyi replace outgoing co-chairs Pat McCarthy and Tegan Brown.

Forestry Australia President Bob Gordon welcomed Ms Rowe and Mr Faluyi to their roles, saying they represented a bright future for young foresters in Australia.

"The Future Foresters Initiative aims to provide support to students and early career forestry professionals, as well as highlight the wide-ranging career pathways available within the forestry field," Mr Gordon said

"Forestry is such a diverse sector, and the committee is made up of talented young foresters with wonderfully diverse skillsets and backgrounds to match the many opportunities ahead for the next generation.

"Both Alannah and David are highly skilled and extremely passionate young professionals and together with the committee, represent a bright future for the forestry profession in Australia.



1/ FFI Committee members (L-R) Alannah Rowe, Zoe Lawrence, Oliver Andrews, Jack Davis, Jenna Hammond, David Faluyi, Tara Pederson, Maddie Shelton at the recent Leadership & Planning weekend.

2/ New FFI co-chairs Alannah Rowe and David Faluyi with Forestry Australia CEO Jacquie Martin in the Australian National University's Wood Library.



"I'd also like to thank outgoing co-chairs Pat McCarthy and Tegan Brown for their commitment and leadership of the committee, particularly throughout the challenges presented by the pandemic."

“FORESTRY IS SUCH A DIVERSE SECTOR

Alannah Rowe is currently working as an Environmental Consultant and conducts botanical surveys for mining clients throughout Western Australia.

Ms Rowe said her desire to address the need for climate change adaptation through ecologically sustainable forest management practices led her to pursue a bachelor's degree in environmental management.

"I am honoured to represent the Future Foresters Initiative as co-chair," she said.

"Being a part of a wonderful and amazingly talented group of like-minded individuals and discussing forestry at a national level is pretty remarkable, and I'm delighted to continue to collaborate, share and explore my passion, which is more than just a job to me."

Mr Faluyi is a GIS and Spatial Systems Officer at Sustainable Timber Tasmania and is passionate about improving environmental outcomes through sustainable Forestry, Agriculture and Energy

production.

"I am excited about the opportunity to work with the community of students, young professionals, and other young people who are interested in our sector," he said.

"I'm looking forward to fostering collaborations and contributing to the resilient and thriving forestry sector that we all love, as well as growing our own individual skillsets, together."

Nine FFI committee members including Ms Rowe

and Mr Faluyi met in Canberra last weekend for a Leadership and Planning weekend, funding for the weekend was provided through the Department of Agriculture's Leadership Grant.

The group refined the FFI's mission, planned their strategy for the coming years and developed their leadership skills.



FFI field trip.

Looming timber shortages and booming house demand a danger for the future

TO start this month, let me just say, along with most, I am completely bewildered and angered by the recent decision of the US Supreme Court to wind back the clock decades on woman's reproductive choices in America!

This from a country that had the audacity to bomb Afghanistan because the Taliban were treating woman poorly. Not to mention there is the repetitive horror show of uncontrolled gun violence, that in 2021 alone resulted in more than 20,000 deaths. And the US continues to point the finger at the Chinese for human rights abuses! Come on! Why we in Australia continue to be faithful servants of America is, in my opinion, increasingly questionable!

Saying that does makes me feel better, but I am still angry! However, I digress from the issue I wanted to talk about this month.

An article in eNews a couple of weeks ago referred to a Forest and Wood Products Australia report that talked about timber imports. This one was prepared by two of the industry's

“FACING A REAL AND PRESENT DANGER OF A SERIOUS SHORTAGE OF TIMBER



Timber imports ... now alarmingly the ongoing capacity of imported timber products to continue, as they have done over recent decades to prop up domestic demand is failing.

acknowledged pointee-heads in the shape of Tim Woods from IndustryEdge and numbers man Jim Houghton..

The report is more than somewhat alarming. It points out that with Australia's population growth and housing demand projections, combined with a lack of plantation investment, the country is facing a real and present danger of an extremely serious shortage of timber products. The report qualifies the magnitude of this problem, and again for the umpteenth, umpteenth time stresses the need for an immediate plantation expansion program. Given past evident, and current practice we all know that this simply isn't going to happen anytime soon.

And now alarmingly the ongoing capacity of imported



timber products to continue, as they have done over recent decades, to prop up domestic demand is failing. This in large measure because of the atrocious Russian invasion of Ukraine, and the resulting dislocation of timber supplies across Europe. Looks like Australia's building and construction industries may now not be able to continue to rely on increasing timber

imports.

The Forest and Wood Products Australia report Future market dynamics and potential impacts on Australian timber imports makes it clear that Australia will have a substantial shortage of softwood timber and says that because of a persistent and growing gap between demand and supply, on

current trajectories Australia faces the prospect of being unable to meet the demand for new housing.

The report predicts that by no later than 2050 Australia will have a population between 33 and 40 million, and a new housing demand of around 260,000 homes a year. Also, a gap between demand and domestic production of 2.6 cubic metres a year, equivalent to 40 per cent of total demand. To bridge the supply gap, Australia should establish as much as 460,000 hectares of additional softwood plantations, commencing immediately. Do you think this is going to happen – what do you reckon

Best I can manage this month – catch you next time.

Cheryl



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Timbeter opens new office in Brazil

TIMBETER has now opened its first LATAM office in Pernambuco, Brazil.

The Company has been working with some of the largest companies in Latin-America since 2017 including CMPC (Chile), Suzano (Brazil), Klinge (Brazil), Faber-Castell (Brazil) and many others.

Last year, during the Climate COP26 in Glasgow, the Governor of the State of Pernambuco, Paulo Câmara, Anna-Greta Tsahkna, CEO of Timbeter and José Bertotti, Secretary of Environment of the State of Pernambuco, signed an agreement to start a cooperation project focusing on strengthening legal and sustainable practices for the forest industry in Brazil.

The main goal of the cooperation project between Timbeter and the Government of the State of Pernambuco was to use Timbeter's

innovative technology for measuring timber as an efficient supervising tool for the environmental inspection teams.

"For us it was a logical step to expand our activities in the Latin-American market and be near to our customers," a spokesperson for Timbeter said in a statement.

"We see a lot of potential for growth as we have a very good experience working with Brazilian and Chilean companies that are open to adopt new innovative technologies in their operations.

"Thanks to Timbeter they are benefiting from higher efficiency, transparency and accurate digital data.

"Our goal is to contribute to sustainable forest management as much as possible. The need for



Exchanging experiences on how the use of artificial intelligence can contribute to sustainable and responsible management in forestry operations, implementing Timbeter's technology.

green digital transformation in the public sector is also an important step for the Brazilian government towards innovation and development plans to reach the climate goals.

"Timbeter's goal is the cooperation with different agencies in order to use the digital transformation for implementing sustainable forestry practice – efficient use of natural resources,

better overview, monitoring and control against illegal logging activities.

"Furthermore, we see a lot of interest from the Brazilian side towards the e-Estonian experience in regards to digital transformation so hopefully we

can help to intermediate cooperation, knowledge-sharing and capacity building between the two countries," they said.

Timbeter is also partnering with academic institutions in Brazil like Universidade de São Paulo, UFRRJ, Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina to contribute to the education of the future foresters.



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Tackling real threats: sustainable forestry part of the solution to Australia's growing environmental crisis

THE State of the Environment report released this week paints a sobering picture of the challenges facing the Australian landscape, and highlights the need for sustainable forest industries to play a greater role in the solution, says Australian Forest Products Association CEO Ross Hampton.

"The report highlights the urgent need to tackle the real threats to our environment and threatened species, such as invasive flora and fauna, disease, climate change, and catastrophic bushfires," Mr Hampton said.

"It also highlights the opportunity for sustainable forest industries to help address these threats. The federal government's goal to plant one billion new timber plantation trees by 2030 will have a significant climate mitigation benefit from the carbon stored in the growing trees and in the renewable timber and paper products made from them.

"And as Australia moves to eliminate single-use plastics, the paper, cardboard, and wood fibre-derived plastic replacement products made right here in Australia will



1/ **Wood-fibre insulation... sustainable and carbon neutral.**
2/ **Ross Hampton.**

become ever-important in our war on waste."

Mr Hampton also cautioned decision makers not to conflate Australia's modest, sustainable native forest industries with land clearing and habitat loss, as forestry was regulated to the highest environmental standards in the world.

"Our native forest industries use the equivalent of just six trees in every 10,000 out of Australia's 132 million ha of native forest, and regenerate after harvest to ensure no net loss in forest area," he said.

"They also ensure the continued supply of essential

timber products for our homes, pallets for our supermarkets, and firewood to heat our homes.

"Studies show that timber harvesting has not been a 'major threat factor' in the extinction of any Australian mammal since European settlement."

Mr Hampton also urged decision makers to heed the advice of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which says sustainably managing our native forests for timber delivers the best climate change mitigation results:

"A sustainable forest management strategy

aimed at maintaining or increasing forest carbon stocks, while producing an annual sustained yield of timber, fibre or energy from the forest, will generate the largest sustained mitigation benefit," he said.

AFPA looks forward to working with the federal government on addressing the findings of the report and ensuring our environment is preserved for future generations.



Meanwhile, the role of forest products as industries of the future has been affirmed with this week's announcement of funding from the Australian Research Council for new research hubs and training centres.

AFPA acting CEO Victor Violante said the funding highlighted the essential role played by forest industries in delivering clean and smart solutions for big challenges including addressing climate change and developing next generation products and processes for the building and construction industries.

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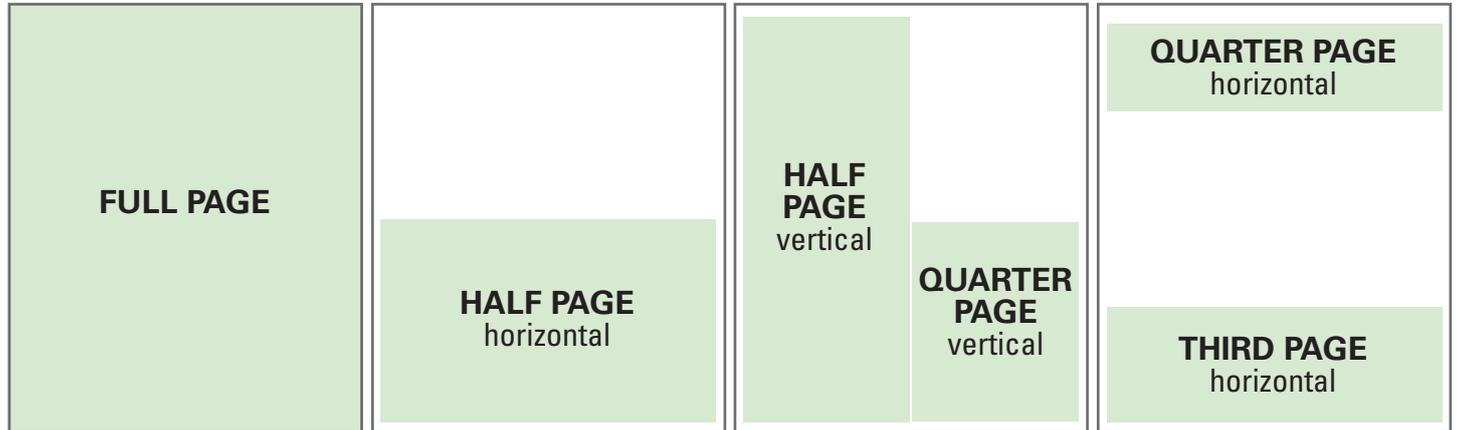
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Timber & Forestry eNews is published by Timber & Forestry eNews PO Box 69, Potts Point, NSW 1335, Australia. Phone: 0417 421 187.

Delivered every Thursday, 48 weeks of the year to industry decision makers in Australia, New Zealand, the Asia-Pacific, North America, UK and Europe. Ad rates shown are based on a weekly booking and are subject to GST being added. Overseas bookings are exempt from GST.

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