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**Go Gottstein! Amazing  
Wood Science program**

COVER STORY P 3

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# NSW Parliamentary Friends of Forestry group launched this week in support of forest industries

**‘Important forum raises awareness of how connected we all are to the sector across the state’**

NSW parliamentarians from across the political spectrum joined yesterday to establish the inaugural Parliamentary Friends of Forestry group, co-chaired by Agriculture Minister Dugald Saunders and Shadow Minister for Natural Resources Tania Mihailuk.

NSW forest industries representatives met with the parliamentarians to welcome the establishment of the group.

Australian Forest Products Association NSW chief executive Victor Violante said the strong parliamentary support shown – with around 20 parliamentarians attending – was testament to how important and prevalent NSW forest industries were to the community.

“NSW’s sustainable forest

**“IMPORTANT ROLE TO PLAY IN NET ZERO EMISSION**



**Dugald Saunders**



**Tania Mihailuk**



**Victor Violante**

industries provide so many essential products and services in our everyday lives – from timber for our homes, paper and cardboard for our food, firewood to heat our homes, pallets to transport essential goods – they are everywhere,” Mr Violante said.

“The NSW Parliamentary Friends of Forestry will be an important forum to raise awareness about how connected we all are to our timber, paper and forestry industries. Our lives literally depend on a strong forest industries sector.”

Mr Violante said NSW forest industries also had an

important role to play in the state’s net zero emissions and zero waste goals, and that growing the timber plantation estate to secure a future timber resource, support tens of thousands of regional jobs and store more carbon was a ‘win-win-win’.

“As the recent NSW Legislative Council inquiry into the future of NSW forest industries found, the state is facing a timber supply crisis as global and local demand for sustainable construction and packaging products increases and the NSW forest resource fails to keep pace with demand. The impact of

recent bushfires and floods have compounded these challenges.

“We need all decision makers to recognise the importance of forest industries, and the urgency in implementing the right policies to ensure we have enough forest timber and wood fibre resource for future generations.

“We thank the inaugural members of the Parliamentary Friends of Forestry, especially the co-chairs, and look forward to working with all members of parliament on growing our forest industries.”

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# Value of Gottstein Understanding Wood Science course was fully understood and appreciated by all

## 35 enthusiastic participants enjoyed site tours, presentations over 6-day educational program

THIRTY-FIVE enthusiastic people enjoyed site tours of three prominent northern Victoria timber processing operations at last week's six-day Gottstein Trust Understanding Wood Science Course. It went without a hitch.

"It was so good to bring everyone together for this newly updated program, so long in the making after two years of Covid delays," said course convenor and MC Helen Murray.

"It was a great group of people and the deep expertise of the speakers brought so much to the course," she said.

The speaker program featured industry experts interspersed with other program activities. The first part of the program at Wangaratta and Albury featured presentations on softwood sawmilling, the challenges of fire-affected timber in the 15 months post-2019-20 bushfire salvage operation at Tumut/Tumbarumba, wood composites and building product conformity.

Speakers were Belinda Lengenber, national fibre supply manager, and Ange Pappin, Tumbarumba green mill manager, both from Hyne Timber, Kim Harris, a director of EWPA, and Colin Stone from XLam.

Three site tours were spread across two days – to Alpine Truss, which makes



**Gottstein Trust wood science course contributors...** Tania Hoffman, forestry policy officer, NSW DPI, David Rowlinson, wood campaign manager, Planet Ark, Dr Fabiano Ximenes, senior research scientist, NSW DPI, and Keiran Hayes, structural engineer, XLam.

frames and trusses at Wangaratta, XLam, which makes cross laminated timber outside Wodonga and Alpine MDF at Wangaratta, which manufactures MDF, mouldings, door components and vertical joinwall panels.

After travelling the Hume Highway up to Canberra, the course took in three days of sessions delivered in partnership with the ANU Fenner School of Environment and Society.

In the timber-constructed forestry lecture theatre Vince Hurley, managing director of Australian Sustainable Hardwoods, presented on hardwood sawmilling. He commented, "As a person deeply involved in Australia's timber industry, it was great to see the enthusiastic and inquisitive group that joined the Gottstein wood science course.

"The industry's future is in good hands," he said.

At ANU, Professor Peter Kanowski spoke about timber and the circular economy

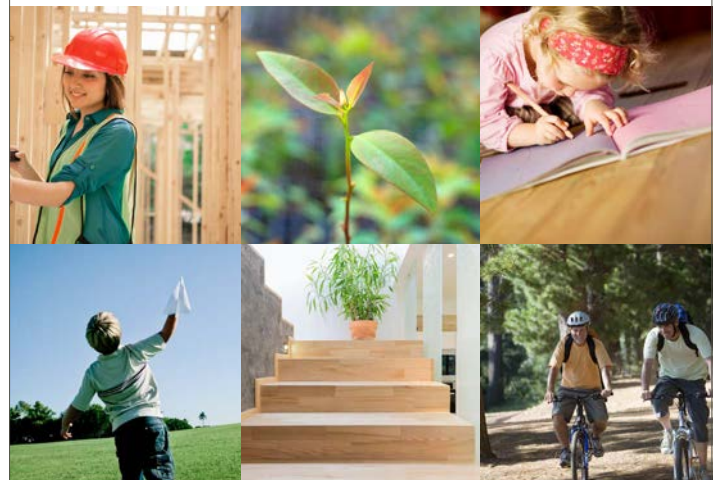
mitigation.

He provided sources to enable Gottstein participants "to gain a deeper understanding of this important concept, as escalating global population growth puts pressure on the planet's natural resources."

Professor Kanowski also delivered a thought-provoking dinner address about the future role of forestry and forest products in society and the need to integrate First Nations peoples' expertise and aspirations together with Australia's regional timber communities and economies.

Cont P 4

## The united voice for Australia's forest industries



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“INDUSTRY'S  
FUTURE IS IN  
GOOD HANDS



**Jeff Moss, national sales manager, Timberlink Australia, Amanda Slater, manager people and culture, Forico, and Tim Duncombe, site manager, Forico.**

From P 3

The wood biology lecture focused on the fundamentals of cellular components and wood structure. The biological role of wood as a means to transport water that supports the growth and survival of a tree was pointed out.

Then followed a big afternoon in the laboratory where tour participants

worked in pairs to use microscopes and examine wood samples. This was under the command of senior lecturer Dr Matthew

“INDUSTRY ENCOURAGED TO APPLY FOR GOTTSTEIN TRUST GRANTS



**Relaxing at the Gottstein celebration dinner... Darren Wright, Hyne Timber, Tumbaramba, Conway Johnson, Timberlink, Tarpeena, and Emmanuel Samiento, Wespine, Dardanup, WA.**

Brookhouse.

“Matt’s enthusiasm was infectious and he has kindly stepped up to fill the big shoes of Dr Jugo Illic who in 2019 retired from the course after many years.”

Among many other speakers were Jeremy Tompson, head of design and project management at Lendlease, Dr Fabiano Ximenes, senior research scientist with the NSW Department of Primary Industries, Craig Taylor and Dr Bill Hurditch, directors of The Fifth Estate, Kim Baber a Gottstein Fellow, architect and principal of Baber Studio in Brisbane, David Rowlinson, wood campaign manager with Planet Ark, Professor Jeff Morrell, head of the National Centre for Timber Durability and Design Life, and honorary

associate professor Cris Brack, ANU Fenner School of Environment and Society.

A course celebration dinner hosted by Gottstein chair Suzette Weeding in Canberra was enjoyed by all. She said it was a privilege to chair the trust in its 51st year – continuing work to provide a living legacy to the great innovator Bill Gottstein whom it honours.

She also encouraged guests to consider applying for one of the Gottstein Trust grant categories when the annual grant rounds are announced.

Charmaine Miciano, who recently graduated from Southern Cross University, was sponsored by the Steve Stevenson Memorial Trust

Cont P 5



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**In Albury... Lee Bourke, Masslam product supervisor, Australian Sustainable Hardwoods, Heyfield, Vic, presenter Colin Stone XLam Group quality leader, engineered wood and Amanda Cawthorn, business excellence leader, Hyne Timber.**





1/ Gottstein Trust chair Suzette Weeding and David Rowlinson, wood campaign manager, Planet Ark, enjoying the course presentations at the Kambri precinct, ANU.



2/ Dr Matt Brookhouse, senior lecturer, ANU Fenner School of Environment and Society, leads the Gottstein wood biology presentation.



3/ Teaming up for the Gottstein laboratory session are NSW Local Land Services staff Sarah Fay and Alison Matheson.



The Gottstein Trust management team... course convenor Helen Murray, principal, Kurrumbene Projects & Advocacy, Judy Pearce from Canberra, and Jocelyn Carpenter, from Melbourne.

From P 4

Fund under a Gottstein alliance to enable more students to attend the courses. So too were Leanda Garvie who is doing a PhD program with the University of Sunshine Coast, and Inga Mueller an undergraduate in Environmental Science at ANU. Ms Miciano works as a graduate forester with AKD in Coolac in Victoria.

"I learned a lot about the forest products industry and was able to build networks,

which was a wonderful experience," she said.

Forestry Australia provided two sponsored places for early career professionals to attend this course.

"The sponsored places are a brilliant way for young people to keep learning and build up their understanding of the scope of this industry," Helen Murray said.

"You can sense it provides motivation when people

Cont P 6

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[responsiblewood.org.au](https://responsiblewood.org.au)

Responsible Wood 

RW/1-10-1

Gang-gang Cockatoo  
(Photo Birdlife Australia)



From P 5

gather together like this," she said.

Course participants included personnel from NSW Local Land Service's private native forestry arm, Timberlink, Davids Timber, Hyne Timber, Australian Sustainable Hardwoods, Queensland and NSW departments of primary industries, AKD, Wespine, Arxada, HVP, Koppers, Forico, Midway, SFM, Active Acre, The Fifth Estate, XLam and African Mahogany Australia.

Helen Murray said, "The variety of roles within the group seemed to boost the learning experience because

participants conversed and networked together.

"In the Canberra elements of the course, we also welcomed a further three students who are presently

studying at ANU," she said.

"Every opportunity for industry people to get together and for students to network and mingle with industry is good for all concerned."



*In the shade of a mighty gully gum outside the Fenner School, ANU, are, from left, ANU students Astor Lee, Inga Mueller, Tim Chan and Avi Diego with Patrick Siavalua, key accounts manager, Davids Timber, Melbourne, and Maryam Shirmohammadi, research scientist with the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries.*



*Representing AKD on the Gottstein tour... Charmaine Miciano, graduate forester, and Kim Harris.*

*On the cover: Enjoying the microscope work during the Gottstein visit to Canberra are Leanda Garvie PhD student at the University of the Sunshine Coast, and Aaron Midson, project officer and research officer in wood sciences at ANU.*

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## Quotes: Thank you Gottstein

"Thank you to the Gottstein Trust for the effort and time that went in to preparing the wood science course. For anybody involved in the industry, whether new, or seasoned, the knowledge, insights and training that was shared was invaluable and relevant to any roll in an industry that's involved in this space. Whether you're in a marketing, design, technical, R&D, plantation or a processing/applications role there's something for everyone. Not to mention the connections formed with others that are in the industry which will last well in to the future. I'd highly recommend the Gottstein Wood Science Course to anyone considering enrolling"

– DANIEL PALM, Arxada

\*\*\*

"Wood science is such a diverse topic and the Gottstein Course provides the perfect environment to build relationships, develop foundational knowledge, understand emerging technology and network with an inspirational group of industry advocates."

– AMANDA SLATER, chief people officer, Forico.

\*\*\*

"It was great to be involved with the Gottstein wood science course again. As a person deeply involved and invested in Australia's timber industry, it was great to see the enthusiastic and inquisitive group attending the course. The industry's future is in good hands."

VINCE HURLEY, managing director, Australian Sustainable Hardwoods.



## SEPTEMBER

**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](mailto:john.halkett@atif.asn.au)

## OCTOBER

**6: Forestry Australia webinar – ONLINE.** Australia's timber supply: the role of imports, impacts of war and what do we do now? 1-2 pm(AEDT). As national population grows, demand for timber and wood products will continue to expand. However, domestic supply is severely constrained, let alone being able to meet the additional demand from the expected population increase. Presenter: Tim Woods, managing director, IndustryEdge. Information and registration: [www.forestry.org.au/webinar-australias-timber-supply/](http://www.forestry.org.au/webinar-australias-timber-supply/)

**12: Australian Timber**

**Importers Federation Board meeting – Brisbane, QLD.** For further information contact John Halkett on 0417 421 187 or email: [john.halkett@atif.asn.au](mailto:john.halkett@atif.asn.au)

**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 close August 10. Take advantage of discounted fees for in person and virtual registration and register early. Contact Forestry Australia on +61 3 7065 4252 or email: [conference@forestry.org.au](mailto:conference@forestry.org.au) Visit [www.forestry.org.au](http://www.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/](http://danaevents.co.nz/2022singapore/) or contact Mariela Ferrari at [marielaferriari.e@gmail.com](mailto:marielaferriari.e@gmail.com)

**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.

## NOVEMBER

**10: AFCA's Hall of Fame dinner – Gippsland Performing Arts Centre, Tarlton, VIC.** Celebrating industry achievers and new accolades for emerging leaders. Event kicks off inaugural AFCA mentoring program next day (November 11). Visit [www.afca.asn.au](http://www.afca.asn.au).

**18-19: Fast & Forward Forestry Expo – Rotorua, New Zealand.** New Zealand's first event of its kind, Fast & Forward Forestry brings the forestry industry together, showcasing the contribution the sector makes to the New Zealand economy. Visit: [www.fica.org.nz/fast-and-forward-expo](http://www.fica.org.nz/fast-and-forward-expo) or contact the Forest Industry Contractors Association Email: [office@fica.org.au](mailto:office@fica.org.au) or phone (New Zealand only) 0800 342 269.

**29: AFPA's gala dinner – Hyatt Hotel, Canberra, ACT.** With the cancellation of the AFPA forest industries gala dinner scheduled for September 14 and the mourning of the passing of the Queen, AFPA will now focus on enlarging the dinner arranged for November 29 at the Hyatt Hotel in Canberra., which will celebrate the decade-long chairmanship of Greg McCormack with political leaders in attendance. Tickets purchased for the gala dinner can either be refunded or transferred to the November dinner. Please advise your preference via [events@ausfpa.com.au](mailto:events@ausfpa.com.au)

## DECEMBER

**Australian Timber Design Awards – date and venue TBA.** Award entries have been extended by two weeks. Entries are pouring in so make sure to get ready, or sneak in a last-minute entry. Don't miss this great opportunity. Visit [www.tdansw.asn.au](http://www.tdansw.asn.au) or call 0420 232 253



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# New biosecurity role focuses on forest health

IN a move to recognise the heightened importance of effective biosecurity across the sector, the Australian Forest Products Association has recruited forest health and biosecurity expert Paco Tovar as its new national forest biosecurity manager.

"Paco's role will be responsible for improving forest industries' awareness, preparedness and management of biosecurity issues," AFPA CEO Ross Hampton said.

"We look forward to his expertise making a real impact protecting our forest industries from biosecurity

threats," Mr Hampton said.

"Australia's working forests need to be as pest and disease free as possible to protect their health, ensure maximum yields, guarantee timber and fibre product quality, and to protect access to export markets," he said.

"I'm excited to have joined AFPA and to contribute to the organisation's leading role in improving forest biosecurity in Australia," Mr Tovar said.

"Over the coming months work will commence with AFPA members and the growers chamber's forest



**Paco Tovar... program will deliver better forest pest surveillance.**

health and biosecurity sub-committee to develop improved biosecurity procedures and business continuity arrangements.

"AFPA's successful partnership with Plant Health Australia will continue as we work together to implement

a national forest pest surveillance program."

Mr Tovar said the program would deliver better forest pest surveillance from our ports and airports to our working forests and improve the chances of detecting and managing biosecurity threats before they significantly impacted our forests.

"Healthy forests that remain shielded from biosecurity threats are better for industry, for timber and fibre product consumers and, of course, the environment that forest industries are committed to effectively managing and protecting."

Paco's employment demonstrated AFPA's continued and growing commitment in this area, Mr Hampton said.

**“SHIELDING FORESTS FROM BIOSECURITY THREATS**



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# Spindleless lathe technology to strengthen the capacity of forest products sector in Gippsland

VICTORIAN-based sustainable hardwood sawmiller Radial Timber Australia has teamed up with the University of Melbourne and the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries to evaluate commercial opportunities for LVL from the under-utilised forest resource in Gippsland

The Gippsland region has had a long history of economic activity in wood products and processing based on public native forest and private plantation timber resources.

Trees on farms and private native forests are potentially significant timber and veneer resources, but little is known about the quantity or quality of this resource or its potential for use in new types of veneered timber products such as laminated veneer lumber.

Resource is also potentially available from ecological thinning on public land, council reserves and land under Traditional Owner management.

A collaborative R&D project funded by the National Institute for Forest Products Innovation centre at Gippsland



**DAF research technician Dan Field veneer processing Gippsland plantation hardwood logs at the Salisbury Research Facility in Brisbane.**

aims to develop new and improved EWPs from low-grade and underutilised timber resources in the region.

The research team will test the potential to process smaller, underutilised, and low-quality hardwoods using spindleless lathe technology to produce LVL. The project represents an opportunity for the forest products sector in Gippsland to play a vital role in providing the building sector with locally produced high-quality EWPs to meet the timber demand and secure Gippsland's role in driving forestry research. Ultimately, such products will generate higher value for tree growers

and processors, support the development of new industries, meet the shortfall in supply of processed timber products to meet local and national demand and provide new markets for private tree growers.

The initiative will act as a catalyst in developing a sustainable timber manufacturing strategy to address supply-chain issues.

"I firmly believe this project

**“GENERATING HIGHER VALUE ENGINEERED WOOD FOR PROCESSORS”**

has the potential to change the face of forestry and timber production not just in Gippsland but throughout Australia, managing director of Radial Timber Chris McEvoy said.

"Turning small low-grade thinnings into high-value, much-in-demand engineered timber products has enormous potential and we will have a commercial facility at our Yarram mill that will help fast track these developments," Mr McEvoy said.

"I am really excited to be working with R&D partners in Melbourne University and Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries to help realise this potential."

Two MPhil opportunities for domestic Victorian students are also attached to the project. Working closely with the project partners and stakeholders, the candidates will be responsible for underpinning and providing evidence of the feasibility of absorbing and processing under-utilised timber resources to produce high-value sustainable and renewable wood products and create economic opportunities for grower communities.



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# Brisbane eco-architect Mark Thomson says 'fast fashion' runs rampant through the furniture sector

Procurement systems influenced by price, rather than quality, as the major driver of sales

JASON ROSS

BRISBANE eco-architect Mark Thomson is an author, sustainability consultant and recipient of multiple architecture, building and design awards.

As founder of Eco Effective Solutions, a research, education, and design practice, he strives to deliver healthy and regenerative work environments.

Mark is a regular judge of the World Architecture Festival and the Australian Banksia Sustainability Awards and serves as a company director on multiple non-profit organisations including Responsible Wood and Micah Projects. He is also co-author of The Environmental Brief: Pathways to Green Design.

Mark emphasises the importance of a good project brief and client communication for project outcomes. This is often achieved through great teamwork, a persistent focus on the critical issues and managing project risks.

Earlier this year, Mark was appointed project leader for the Furniture 360 project after the Australian Furniture Association secured a federally-funded grant on product stewardship.

Coming after the successful AFA Chemicals of Concern Project, which was finalised in 2021, Furniture 360 was conceived to address 'design and chemicals of concern issues' which required incorporation into a future Circular



**Mark Thomson... a circular economy would challenge the linear approach which most Australian manufacturing adopts.**

Economy framework.

"The reality is that an excessive amount of commercial furniture is sent to landfill each year and past industry product stewardship systems have been largely ineffective," Mark Thomson says.

"Our research has identified that more than 90% of commercial furniture (and much of this is timber) sold in Australia has been disposed of in landfill sites across Australia. This has become an unacceptable societal problem.

"A circular economy would challenge the linear approach which most Australian manufacturing adopts."

Furniture 360 aims to explore the process to transform and engage industry stakeholders toward circular economy outcomes.

Mark says all meaningful change occurs when people can envisage a better solution to a problem. Climate change

and environmental problems are now becoming alarmingly obvious and the desire to find solutions is now driving not only government but also our community to take strong action to adapt and mitigate outcomes for our future.

Mark says the existing furniture sector has some great examples of sustainable and circular products, but that some parts of the industry have adopted solutions similar to the fast-fashion phenomenon which has become a problem. Consumers are encouraged to just buy new and discarded past products which is not only wasteful in materials, but it is uneconomical for both society and the environment.

"We collectively need to identify better solutions," Mark insists.

**FURNITURE 360  
AIMS TO EXPLORE  
DESIGN CONCERNS**

For many stakeholders, the solutions may be simple. However, for others, there may need to be changes in some of the materials and methods used.

Furniture 360 has been engaged to complete seven stages or milestones which include:

- Ascertain and review the current industry issues and product stewardship schemes.
- Audit examples of challenges and opportunities to establish baselines.
- Identify potential areas of training and accreditation necessary to implement change.
- Create an industry network to support future opportunities.
- Establish a council to oversee activities and implement appropriate change.
- Develop a website and establish a media presence to share knowledge.
- Develop a business plan to support ongoing activities for a minimum three-year period

To date, it has uncovered some alarming insights, including that the Australian commercial furniture manufacturing sector currently operates under different conditions and standards to imported products.

This has created an environment where cheaper

Cont P 11



From P 10

and often inferior imported products are chosen over and above the well-made and regulated processes which local manufacturers are required to meet.

“Our procurement systems

**“WE COLLECTIVELY  
NEED TO IDENTIFY  
BETTER SOLUTIONS**



*The existing Australia-made furniture sector has some great examples of sustainable and circular products.*

are not working to deliver quality to the market, with price rather than quality often being the major driver of sales,” Mark believes.



• **Jason Ross is the Australian Furniture Association's head of partnerships and marketing. He also coordinates WiFM, an educational webinar for AFA members and stakeholders.**

## Wisconsin building now world's tallest mass timber structure

AN 86.6-m, 25-storey building in Wisconsin, USA, has been certified as the tallest mass timber structure in the world in two categories—the tallest timber building overall, and the world's tallest timber-concrete hybrid building.

The Council on Tall Buildings and Urban Habitat has approved the claim on the Ascent building in Milwaukee.

In 2019, the council certified Mjøstårnet in Brumunddal, Norway, as the tallest timber building at 85.4 m. The previous tallest concrete-timber hybrid building was the 84-m HoHo building completed in 2020 in Vienna.

The multi-family Ascent building has a concrete base, which serves as a parking garage, along with elevator

and stair shafts, while the remaining structural elements make use of CLT and glulam. The design exposes the mass timber construction whenever possible, most visible on the inside in the apartment ceilings and columns.

This has been another success story for trials in building with mass timber. While Ascent broke ground

in August 2020, it took about two years of research, testing, planning and collaboration with external stakeholders to get it there.

It is estimated the use of mass timber for the structural system decreased construction time by 25%, compared to a conventionally constructed concrete building of the same scale.

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# Foresters recognised in prestigious NZIF awards

AT an awards dinner held in Auckland last week, the New Zealand Institute of Forestry (NZIF) announced the winners of its three most prestigious awards.

The 2022 recipients were acknowledged for their diverse range of skills and experience – from hard graft and commitment at grass roots level, to high level policy planning and execution, and academic leadership.

Forestry continues to be a significant contributor to the New Zealand economy,” NZIF president James Treadwell said. “The industry is working hard to benefit New Zealand, and we are particularly proud of the high calibre of this year’s award contenders.”

The Prince of Wales Sustainability Award presented to Jake Palmer



**The Forestry of the Year Award was presented to Don Hammond who was unable to attend the Auckland event.**

recognises the achievements of a young New Zealand forest professional who lives and breathes the principles of sustainable forest management.

In addition to the sound science-based land



**Jack Palmer receives the Prince of Wales Award for sustainable Forestry from James Treadwell, NZIF president.**

stewardship, the awardee must demonstrate a commitment to raising the profile of the wise use and conservation of forests and their ecosystems.

The award was instigated by Prince Charles in 2017

who becoming king on the death of his mother Queen Elizabeth II, continues to champion environmentally positive forestry practices.

The New Zealand Forester of the Year Award winner is Don Hammond. This highly coveted industry prize rewards a person’s exceptional contribution to the forestry sector throughout the past year.

Mr Hammond’s work this year has been fundamental to ensure that log export markets have remained open

Cont P 10

## MALAYSIAN TIMBER COUNCIL AUSTRALIAN MARKETING MISSION

26-30 September, 2022  
Melbourne and Sydney

The long awaited MTC Marketing Mission will be held in association and supported by Australian trade entities and MATRADE Melbourne will underscore the commitment to strengthen the already close ties and mutually beneficial relationships with Australia companies.

Face-to-face meetings and factory visits planned by a high-level Malaysian Timber Council delegation of

timber and furniture industries business executives.

Enquiries regarding the upcoming Malaysia Timber Council marketing mission may be directed to

**Campbell McInnes** on 0406 223 007 or email [campbell@mitimber.com.au](mailto:campbell@mitimber.com.au) or

**Ms. Noor Ateeqah**, email [noorateeqah@mtc.com.my](mailto:noorateeqah@mtc.com.my)

[www.mtc.com.my](http://www.mtc.com.my)





From P 3

to forest owners.

Presenting the award, Mr Treadwell said the entire forestry sector was very fortunate to have had the right person in the right place.

Mr Hammond has navigated through very difficult waters to improve the lot of foresters across the nation," he said.

The Kirk Horn Award, New Zealand's oldest science award, was awarded to Ian Page, a highly successful professional forester for more than 40 years.

Mr Page has made a distinguished contribution across the industry: in research, as a forester, in forest contracting, and as a forest consultant in one of the country's first forest consulting companies.

NZIF also appointed two new Fellows, Simon Rapley



**The Kirk Horn Award, New Zealand's oldest science award, was awarded to Ian Page, a professional forester for more than 40 years.**

and Tim Thorpe.

"We're fortunate with our high-calibre industry professionals who have set the standards for others to aspire to," James Treadwell said.

Kent Chalmers and Murray Parrish received recognition for his services on the NZIF Council and Treen Hawker was presented with a foundation Mary Sutherland scholarship.



**1/ Kent Chalmers**



**2/ Murray Parrish**



**3/ Treen Hawker**

NZIF has also appointed two new Fellows, Simon Rapley and Tim Thorpe for their tireless work over decades to help grow and improve the NZ forest sector.

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# English oak, the ruling majesty of the woods, has carried queens and kings for more than a century

## 123-year-old royal carriage linked to the final journeys of Elizabeth II and Queen Victoria

JIM BOWDEN

THE ruling majesty of the woods, the wise old English oak, holds a special place in Britain's culture, history, and hearts.

The tree supports more life than any other native tree species in the United Kingdom and can live for a thousand years.

*Quercus robur* 'figured' dramatically in the events surrounding the last farewell to Queen Elizabeth II in London on Monday, none more so than the 123-year-old gun carriage towed by 98 Royal Navy sailors in a tradition dating back to the funeral of Queen Victoria in 1901.

Removed from active service in 1901, the 3000 kg carriage was used for the funerals of several monarchs, including King Edward VII, King George V and the Queen's father, King George VI, in 1952, carrying atop the caskets the Imperial State Crown, the Sovereign's Scepter and the Sovereign's Orb.



*Finishing the assembly of the 123-yearold oak gun carriage for Queen Elizabeth's funeral in London.*

The gun carriage featured in the funeral of the Queen's first Prime Minister Winston Churchill and was last used in 1979 for her cousin Lord Louis Mountbatten.

The carriage was built at the Royal Gun Factory at the Royal Arsenal in Woolwich to carry the standard light field gun of the Army at the time, a breech-loaded 12-pounder. But it was converted into a ceremonial gun carriage by fitting a catafalque, a raised platform with horizontal rollers for moving the coffin.

The gun carriage is stored at HMS Excellent on Whale Island in Portsmouth where its upkeep is the responsibility of custodian Lieutenant Commander Paul "Ronnie" Barker.

"We try to keep it at a constant temperature between 16 and 20C and

between 40-70% humidity to prevent it becoming dry and brittle and to stop fungal growth," said Paul Barker who goes in once week and turns the wheels a quarter turn to stop them from going egg-shaped with gravity.

The Queen's coffin is also made of English oak taken from Sandringham, the Queen's private estate. The Duke of Edinburgh took on overall responsibility for its management in 1952 at the start of Elizabeth's reign. Some 200 people make their living from the estate, including gamekeepers, foresters, gardeners and farmers, as well as workers for Sandringham's sawmill and its apple juice pressing plant.

More than 5000 trees are planted each year and 10 wetland areas have been created along with sympathetic farming practices to encourage many

“THE ENGLISH OAK CAN LIVE FOR A 1000 YEARS”

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## Growing the future of Gippsland forestry

### \$500,000 research funding investment to boost sustainability, jobs and economic benefits in partnership with industry

With the support of the Australian and Victorian governments, the Gippsland Centre of the National Institute for Forest Products Innovation has up to \$500,000 available for research grants to grow the future of forestry.

Research projects could include: developing new and improved products in relation to composites, extractives and bioenergy; improving workplace and supply chain innovation, safety and efficiency; enhancing tree growing including forest health and genetic gain; maximising precision management and applying new technologies; development of new non-timber forest products and services; improving forest industry social licence; and identifying opportunities with robotics, automation and artificial intelligence. Priority will be given to projects that are Gippsland-based and supported and have emphasis on building research and educational capacity in the Gippsland region.

Individual research grants will range from \$50,000 – \$500,000 and will be for periods of up to one and a half years in duration. Funding proposals close on Friday 11 November 2022 and should be lodged via email to [funding.vic@nifpi.org.au](mailto:funding.vic@nifpi.org.au). For further information, including a proposal template and briefing document, see [www.nifpi.org.au](http://www.nifpi.org.au)

**About us** The Gippsland Centre of the National Institute for Forest Products Innovation is a joint venture between the Australian Government, the Victorian Government and the forest and wood products industry with the goal of growing forestry into the future.



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From P 14

different species of wildlife.

In 2022, a Major Oak was selected as one of 70 ancient trees from around the UK which took their place in the Queen's Green Canopy, a 70th Jubilee program to inspire the planting of new trees across the country.

Timber used to build the Diamond Jubilee State Coach for the Queen has a significant connection to Australia – it was built by William James Frecklington OAM, from Parkes, NSW.

After working in the Arctic, he moved to England and was engaged at Windsor Castle and later moved to the Royal Mews in London caring for the Royal ceremonial horses and driving the carriages on ceremonial occasions.

The coach is the product of a decade of work. Taken on as a personal endeavor rather than a royal commission, the project was financed entirely from Australian government grants and personal loans.



**1/ King George VI's coffin atop the gun carriage led the funeral procession to St. George's Chapel in 1952 which was accompanied by the Queen Mother, Queen Elizabeth II, Princess Royal and Princess Margaret.**

**2/ Prince Charles and his mother Queen Elizabeth II strolling through the woods of their estate at Sandringham, Norfolk, in 1969.**



The carriage was intended as an 80th birthday present for the Queen, but was delivered eight years late because of financing issues and heavy interest from contributors.

It's a museum on wheels. Frecklington used more than a 100 pieces of British history to decorate the interiors and exteriors of the carriage, including oak fragments of Henry VIII's warship the Mary Rose and Lord Nelson's ship the Victory, as well as pieces of wood from Westminster Abbey, St Paul's Cathedral, Kensington Palace, and even a supposed piece of Sir Isaac

Newton's apple tree.

But the coach contains modern history in the form of wood from the royal yacht Britannia, on which the Queen travelled many times before it was decommissioned in 1997.

English oak is a very common tree in deciduous woods in southern and central Britain. In fact, it's so frequent that it has assumed

**“AUSTRALIAN BUILT ROYAL DIAMOND JUBILEE COACH FOR THE QUEEN**

the status of a national emblem.

Druids practised rituals in oak groves and cherished the mistletoe that grows in oak-tree branches. It's also linked with royalty: ancient kings and Roman Emperors wore crowns of oak leaves.

In England, the oak is a national symbol of strength. Couples were wed under ancient oaks in Oliver Cromwell's time and oak is the emblem of many environmental groups, including the Woodland Trust.

Oaks produce one of the hardest and most durable timbers on the planet. However, it takes up to 150 years before an oak is ready to use in construction. It has been a prized hardwood timber for thousands of years and is still used for furniture, flooring and barrels.

## Why 'Jack Tars' were pulled into service at Queen's funeral

IN the care of the Royal Navy since 1901 and in keeping with tradition, the gun carriage, which set off on Monday from Westminster Hall where the Queen had been lying in state, was drawn by 98 Royal Naval Ratings, all service personnel.

The tradition of sailors pulling the coffin was brought in after the horses used to pull Queen Victoria's coffin in 1901 for her funeral were spooked and almost tipped her coffin.

The carriage was being flanked by the bearer party – pallbearers made up of the Queen's service equerries, as well as detachments of

the King's Body Guards of the Honourable Corps of Gentlemen at Arms, The Yeomen of the Guard and the Royal Company of Archers.

Captain Prince Louis of Battenberg, the future First Sea Lord of the Royal Navy, intervened and suggested to the new monarch Edward VII that the senior service should step in.

Once this was agreed, the horses were unharnessed



**Royal Navy Ratings follow a tradition.**

and improvised ropes were attached to the gun carriage, which weighs 3000 kg, and the team of sailors was brought in to ensure the coffin was carried safely for the rest of the route.

Only nine years later, at

the funeral of Edward VII, the new routine became enshrined as a tradition which has been followed at all state funerals since including those of Kings George V and VI, Sir Winston Churchill and Lord Louis Mountbatten, the son of Captain Prince Louis of Battenberg.

With such close ties to the Navy, it would be hard to come up with anyone having closer links with the Royal Navy than the late Queen. She was the daughter of a naval officer and she was married to a naval officer and two of her sons served as naval officers.



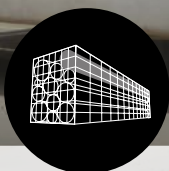
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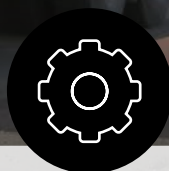
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# Sequestration rates spark debate about merits of planting exotics and natives to achieve carbon zero

**'Little return from planting native species for carbon storage this side of the next century'**

DETERMINING how New Zealand should reach net carbon zero by 2050 has prompted robust discussion about the sequestering abilities of exotic and native trees, which has resulted in a number of divergent views.

Don Carson, communications manager for the Forest Owners Association, says there isn't much return on planting native species for carbon storage this side of the next century.

By way of contrast, two retired University of Auckland lecturers, Dr Neil Mitchell and Dr John Craig, say native forests come into their own after 20 years – in terms of sequestration.

Professor Euan Mason, from the School of Forestry (University of Canterbury) says a definitive answer is difficult to establish given the number of variables at play.

Some commentators bemoan the current lack of information in the Ministry for Primary Industries' carbon look-up tables for native species, noting that they only cover manuka and kanuka.

Professor Mason says we need more biomass studies accompanying stand inventories for a wider range of species, sites and management strategies.

"Some papers have been



written, but they often record carbon sequestration rates on mostly good sites – and we only have a few biomass studies for very large trees," he says.

"Nevertheless, they show that having a single look-up table for a species or set of species on a wide range of sites is misleading, and focuses debate in a way that promotes public misunderstanding of the situation."

He adds that, "it's also well established that the look-up tables for many exotic species often grossly underestimate carbon sequestration rates actually achieved.

"Essentially, the rate of sequestration after establishing a new forest sink

**"WE NEED MORE BIOMASS STUDIES ACCOMPANYING STAND INVENTORIES"**



**Professor Euan Mason... more biomass studies are needed for a wider range of species, sites and management strategies.**

## ACROSS THE DITCH



**With MICHAEL SMITH**

depends on the quality of the site, the species established, and the way the forest is managed – especially stocking, expressed as trees per hectare."

Professor Mason says the bottom line is that, given the current estimated rates of carbon sequestration, we would need a much larger area of native forest than of our mostly rapidly-growing exotics to meet the country's 2050 commitments.

"Moreover, establishing native forest plantations is

a much more expensive process," he says.

"Natural regeneration of native forests would take too long to make a significant contribution on many sites unless a very large area was regenerated.

"I know of no evidence that carbon sequestration rates of native forests exceed

those of exotic forests given the same sites and management. And there is plenty of evidence of more rapid site occupancy and higher growth rates of exotics.

"However, native forests are our heritage and better provide other benefits such as aesthetics, recreation, landscapes, and habitats for native fauna."

Professor Mason notes that using pine trees to transition to native forests has merit.

"It's well established that on some, but not all, sites pine stands can develop a flourishing native forest understorey."

He says many of our native forest species are shade-tolerant, but radiata pine isn't – so natural succession is likely to lead to native forest on unharvested sites.

"We need more research to identify three site categories:

Cont P 10





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- Those where succession to native forest will occur more or less naturally.

- Those where active management is required to ensure we ultimately get a native forest.

- Those sites where succession to a native forest is unlikely to be successful.

"In general terms, the last category is likely to include mostly harsh sites that are



**Native species are shade-tolerant, so natural succession will likely lead to native forests on unharvested radiata pine sites.**

similar stem volume growth to, and higher density wood (and therefore higher sequestration rates) than radiata pine ... and redwoods have a longer life span.

"Both alternatives are more site-specific than radiata pine, and eucalypts have the added threat of Australian pests crossing the Tasman.

Nevertheless it's likely that some landowners will choose to use them to help fill gaps in our national carbon accounts."

**"POLICY TO ENSURE OUR UNHARVESTED CARBON FORESTS ARE ACTIVELY MANAGED AND PROTECTED**

too dry, too cold, or perhaps too exposed.

"We also need policy that ensures unharvested carbon forests, both exotic and native, are actively managed

and protected over decades."

Professor Mason says eucalypts and redwoods could also help in the transition to native forests.

"Some eucalypts have



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# TABMA team joins initiative: just ask 'are you OK?'

SEPTEMBER 8 was R U OK Day, a relatively new addition to our calendar – and with special significance to the TABMA Australia team.

"The national day of action reminds us that every day is the day to ask 'Are you OK?' and start a meaningful conversation whenever we spot the signs that someone we care about might be struggling with life," Alicia Oelkers, TABMA general manager membership, said.

"For the TABMA team, especially our field officers, R U OK? is a part of our day, every day," Alicia said.

"A nationally registered group training organisation, TABMA focuses on mentoring and providing 'pastoral care' to ensure the apprentices and trainees we employ and place with host employers are provided with the support and guidance they need to give them the best opportunity to complete their qualifications."

Alicia said TABMA field officers visited their apprentices and trainees regularly. These visits ensured that training progress was where it should be, that the apprentices/trainees were doing well in the workplace and personally and that their overall skill development was



1/ Certificate III in Timber Systems Design trainees Gus Leckie and Jacob Zoller-Bellette with TABMA senior field officer Darren Hooper (middle) at Advanced Truss Systems in Brisbane.

2/ Trainee Tiffany Watson, hosted by Williams Group in Murwillumbah, NSW, is undertaking a Certificate IV in Leadership and Management.



building their abilities in their chosen vocation.

Supporting R U OK Day? each year was important to the TABMA team: demonstrating the intent of the message each and every day.

Research has found that four in 10 Australians feel asking someone, 'Are you OK?' is a conversation better had with an expert. However, you don't need qualifications to have an R U OK? conversation.

The work of health

professionals is vital, and their value cannot be underestimated. However, we can all play a supportive role.

To discuss donation options and how you can help this worthy initiative visit [www.ruok.org.au](http://www.ruok.org.au)



1/ School-based trainees from the Men of Business Academy on the Gold Coast... Jessie Somers and Riley King. Their traineeship is a Certificate III in Timber Building Products Supply hosted by Southport Timbers.

2/ Jacob Cane, furniture finishing apprentice, hosted by S and M Kitchens, Smithfield, NSW.



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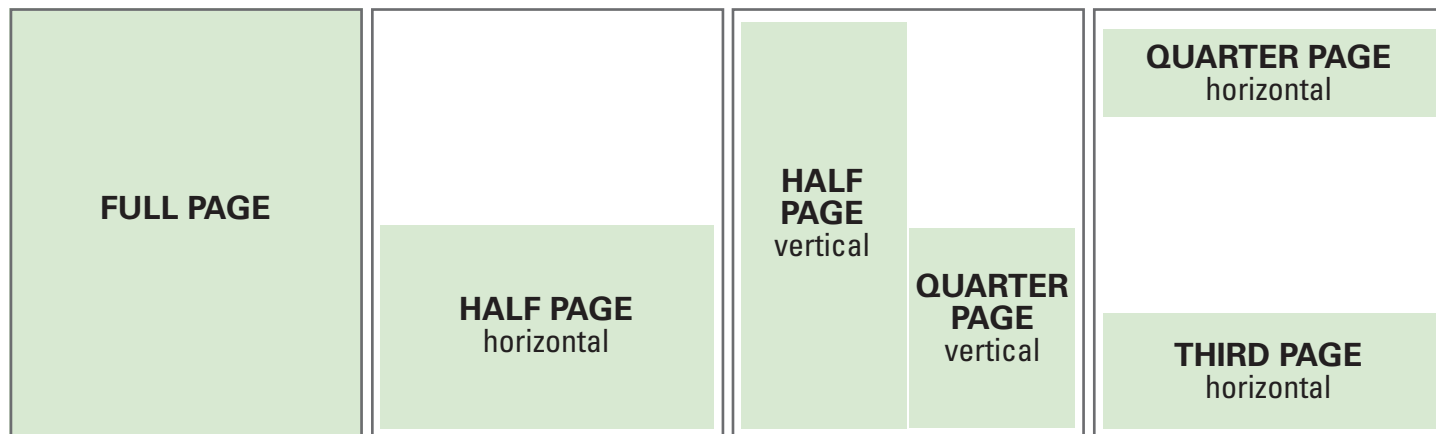
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