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## African hardwoods: certified and ready for markets crying for supply

COVER STORY P4



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# Brain storming in Vietnam on forest sustainability

## APAC Hub supporting supply-chain transparency beyond our borders

THREE representatives of Responsible Wood have returned from a landmark meeting with PEFC Asia-Pacific in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, where the APAC Hub reviewed performance and development of the regional work plan for 2023.

The delegation – CEO Simon Dorries, independent board director Dr Tony Bartlett, and Jonathan Tibbits, marketing and communications officer – addressed the surging global and regional demand for timber and the need to further strengthen forest governance.

“Brainstorming to help support forestry sustainability and supply chain transparency beyond our borders was highly rewarding,” Jonathan Tibbits said.

“What became clearer was that sustainability outcomes are intrinsically linked with economic, social, cultural and environmental issues,” he said.

“Each cannot be considered in isolation.”

Simon Dorries, who chaired the APAC Hub meeting, said the Vietnam visit facilitated new ideas and developed KPIs for the region



**1/ Dr Kieu Tuan Dat, director of the Forest Science Institute of South Vietnam, confers in Ho Chi Minh City with Responsible Wood representatives Simon Dorries, CEO, and Dr Tony Bartlett, independent board director.**

**2/ Eyes on supply-chain transparency... Responsible Wood was joined in Vietnam by PEFC national governing bodies from Malaysia, Indonesia and Thailand and representatives from countries developing forestry sustainability infrastructure including Laos, Cambodia and Myanmar.**

and a strategy for further supporting sustainable forest management.

The APAC work plan for 2023 will help national members in the region

work to support a PEFC global alliance, demonstrate sustainability impacts, lead through innovation and promote market acceptance of certification and certified

products.

“This was the first time our national teams have gathered together in person,” Mr Tibbits said.

“Although not all national members and international representatives were able to attend in person, a hybrid and video conferencing approach was a successful substitute.”

Responsible Wood, the governing body in Australia for PEFC, was joined in Vietnam by other national governing bodies from countries including Malaysia, Indonesia and Thailand. Attending also were representatives from countries that are developing forestry sustainability infrastructure including Laos, Cambodia and Myanmar.

The Responsible Wood visit also included participation in PEFC’s For-Trade review of key milestones and learnings from the UN-REDD Lower Mekong initiative. This project has responded to surging global and regional demand for timber and forest products and is aimed at strengthening forest governance, and ensuring that trading of wood products is legal and sustainable.



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# Mass timber a sustainable and certified building solution: architect Kim Baber wins Stanton Award

**JIM BOWDEN**

NOTED Brisbane architect Kim Baber has been awarded the coveted Richard Stanton Award for his work as principal architect for the \$12.1 million replacement of the Maryborough fire station showcasing the capability of certified mass timber construction.

The announcement was made at the annual general meeting of Responsible Wood held in Albury, NSW, last month and recognises the design and application of chain of custody certified wood products. This was the eighth year of the award, paying tribute to the late Richard Stanton, a previous CEO and national secretary of the Australian Forestry Standard Ltd (now Responsible Wood).

The Maryborough complex used timber certified under the Responsible Wood certification scheme, using timber sourced from forests certified to the Australian standard for Sustainable Forest Management.

The project developed from an unusual request from leading research institution The University of Queensland

UQ used a number of laser scanning technologies to map and photograph the existing building and surrounds of the 1950s fire station. The task was conducted as part of initial work to develop a detailed proposal for Hyne Timber's Market-Led Proposal to design and build a new fire station and emergency response centre using sustainably-grown engineered timber.



*Sustainable and certified architecture... Kim and Monique Baber at their Baber Studio in Brisbane.*

Scanning technology was successfully used in complex activities such as the preservation of world heritage sites and exploring the interior of the Leaning Tower of Pisa.

The state government-supported building involved project partners Hutchinson Builders, Baber Studio, XLam and the University of Queensland who worked collaboratively to bring this sustainable building design to fruition.

The project was considered an exemplar project by the University of Queensland Centre for Future Timber Structures which carried out a full 3D scan of the existing structure bringing a range of

intellectual property to the design team.

Kim Baber is a fellow in civil engineering and architecture at the University of Queensland. He was awarded the Queensland 'Emerging Architect' Prize by the Australian Institute of Architects and in 2016 was selected by the Gottstein Trust Fellowship to research timber architecture and fabrication technologies in Europe and Japan.

Mr Baber is also a member of the UQ Centre for Future Timber Structures, and the Australian Research Council Future Timber Hub.

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**“FIRE STATION CHAMPIONS CHAIN-OF-CUSTODY CERTIFICATION”**

# World-first regional certification endorsement gives African hardwoods an opening to Australian market

JIM BOWDEN

THE world's first regional certification system has been endorsed by the Program for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC).

The regional system, which encompasses the International Tropical Timber Organisation member countries Cameroon, the Congo and Gabon, stems from nearly two decades of ITTO-assisted work.

As reported on the PEFC website, recent work on the Pan-African Forest Certification (PAFC) Congo Basin regional certification system was led by Association Technique Internationale des Bois Tropicaux (ATIBT)



*African Equatorial Hardwoods has created a sustainable forestry and timber processing powerhouse in southern Gabon, which has had a concerted policy of protecting its forests since 2002. The new company, which will operate 400,000 ha of concessions in the south of the country, plans to practice sustainable forestry, where trees are cut down on a rotational basis every 25 years. It also plans to reforest 13,000 ha of previously degraded land.*

hardwoods on the Australian market next year," Mr Halkett said.

The endorsement follows the recent announcement by global investment strategist New Forests, which along with investment partners British International Investment, Norfund and Finnfund, has signed subscription agreements for investment in a dedicated African fund, the African Forestry Impact Platform for \$US200 million (T&F enews October 27).

It also announced AFIP's first acquisition, Green Resources, East Africa's largest forest development and wood processing company.

AFIP will continue to raise long-term institutional capital to support the sustainability and development of Africa's growing forestry sector, with the aim of raising \$US500 million for the platform in the next two to three years.

**“VERY LIKELY THESE IMPORTS WILL BE ON THE MARKET IN 2023**

New Forests CEO David Brand says Africa has growing economies and rising timber demand but it is also home to some of the world's most biodiverse forests.

New Forests' new Africa platform would expand the plantation forest sector while seeking to also support forest conservation,

in collaboration with three national-level organisations – PAFC Cameroon, PAFC Congo and PAFC Gabon – and the agribusiness Olam.

Development of the new certification system was initiated in a three-phased regional ITTO project spanning 2003-2016.

Commenting on the PEFC endorsement, Responsible Wood CEO Simon Dorries acknowledged "the great work that has been done by our African colleagues"

General manager of the Australian Timber Importers Federation John Halkett says that since announcements by the Victorian and Western Australian governments that their native hardwood operations were to cease, interest in other sources of high-quality hardwoods has increased.

"It is very likely that we will see African-sourced

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Cont P 8

# McGowan’s greenwash: state’s draft new forest management plan gives WA mining a free pass

Absence of any work on measuring carbon shows lack of substance behind the crocodile tears

**GAVIN BUTCHER**

THE WA government is true to its word. It has every intention of abandoning the native forest timber industry.

Ministers have tried to justify its fatuous claims as protecting our forests. Yet these are obviously insincere as the greatest threat to the forest – mining – is about to expand to record proportions.

The draft Forest Management Plan looks to expunge forestry from the map by proclaiming on its cover that the state’s best-known forest, Boranup, is “old growth”. This forest, clear-felled and regenerated in the 1880s, is regrowth and represents one of the best examples of sustainable forestry in the state.

Boranup stands in defiance of the ‘alternative facts’ promoted by government ministers that timber harvesting is not sustainable and no longer viable.

In the future, timber will only come from mine



*WA Premier Gavin McGowan... every intention of abandoning the state’s native forest timber industry.*

clearing, and that is about to increase under the government’s policy of “protecting the forest”, and from a new treatment called “ecological thinning”.

This thinning is loosely defined and it is unclear as to what it will seek to achieve, both ecologically and, as a secondary benefit, production of timber. Trials have taken place in the high rainfall zones, and modest volumes of small regrowth trees have been produced.

The main benefit there will be to reduce transpiration and help recover the stream zones. To have any effect this will require treatment on a landscape scale. It is hard to see the environmental movement supporting this activity, or in fact Treasury bankrolling thousands of

hectares of non-commercial disturbance.

The area most at threat from climate change, the eastern jarrah forest, is not attracting any attention and unlikely to benefit as it is mostly in the parks and reserve system. It is one of the perversities of the government approach that it will do nothing to protect its most valuable conservation assets in reserves from climate change, yet it may spend millions protecting lower-value, low-risk areas elsewhere.

Mining in the forest is again given the free pass under the draft new plan. After 60 years of bauxite mining, it has failed to produce any acceptable rehabilitation, yet the FMP is silent in raising expectations. Even worse, the rate of mine clearing will accelerate with new lithium and heavy mineral discoveries.

“SPENDING MANY MILLIONS TO PROTECT LOW-RISK AREAS ELSEWHERE

Cont P 6

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From P 5

For those hoping to keep their timber business going based on this plan, it will be an act of faith. The FMP contains no specific volume to supply. As a consequence there cannot be any guaranteed timber contracts. No business can realistically invest in new technology or take any risk if the government, the monopoly timber supplier, won't commit to a quantity. This offhand treatment is contrary to the principles of ecologically sustainable forest management, which is meant to underpin WA's system and the regional forest agreement.

The approach taken by the state snubs its nose at the commonwealth and the timber industry. In 2019, the current government signed the extension to the RFA under which it agreed to



**Boranup forest, clear-felled and regenerated in the 1880s, is regrowth and represents one of the best examples of sustainable forestry in Western Australia.**

several measures to protect all values from the forest. This included a commitment to review future timber yields through the FMP process. Obviously this was one of their "non-core promises".

Elsewhere, the plan seeks to deny productive use of

the forests. It is aiming to actively discourage the

**“A SACRIFICE OF TIMBER INTERESTS, JOBS IN THE STATE**

use of native timber for firewood, and will convert most of the forest to parks and reserves, where apiary sites are generally not permitted.

The plan provides no details about the carbon storage in the forests, one of the main reasons given for ending timber production. This is due to the absence of any work on measuring carbon in the past 10 years, demonstrating the lack of substance behind the crocodile tears.

The draft plan and the sacrifice of timber interests are just the populist greenwash being used to divert attention from record levels of forest destruction by mining.

• *Gavin Butcher is a forester and former director of the WA Forest Products Commission*



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## Africa ramps up timber shipments to Vietnam at record levels and prices

AFRICAN wood suppliers are ramping up exports to Vietnam and in August they were at record levels, says the International Tropical Timber Organisation.

Major suppliers Cameroon and Equatorial Guineas contributed up to 90% of the total import growth. In particular, in August, Cameroon shipped 63,300 cub m to Vietnam with a value of \$US27.86 million, up 69% in volume and 87% in value compared to July 2022 and an increase of 773% in volume and 863% in value compared to August 2021.

Over the first eight months this year, Cameroon shipped 375,630 cub m to Vietnam



with a value of \$US159.67 million, up 18% in volume and 19.5% in value against the same period of 2021.

Imports of log and sawn wood from Equatorial Guinea in August reached 19,080 cub m valued at \$US7.22 million, up 4000-plus percent in volume and 6000-plus percent in value compared to July.

Total imports from this source in the first eight

Cont P 8

**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).

**29: AFPA's gala dinner – Hyatt Hotel, Canberra.** 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)

**18: Rural Press Club of Queensland National Ag Day – Rydges South Bank, Brisbane.** 12-2 pm. Guest speaker Murray Watt, Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and

Forestry and Minister for Emergency Management. Tickets online via the link, with discounts available for tickets purchased as a table of 10. Members \$110 p.p, or \$1050 table of 10 (includes gst). Non-members: \$120 p.p or 1150 table of 10 (includes gst). Dress: business attire. Contact [admin@ruralpressclub.com.au](mailto:admin@ruralpressclub.com.au)

**DECEMBER**

**8: 23rd Australian Timber Design Awards – Crown Sydney, Barangaroo, NSW.** The awards are distinguished by a proud heritage of innovation and achievement,

promoting and encouraging outstanding timber design. It has been a few years since we last celebrated the awards together, so come and join us for the evening to find out the best in timber design for 2022 – and enjoy a three-course meal and drinks while being entertained by The Ultimate Renewable brand ambassador Adam Dovile, resident builder on Channel Seven's Better Homes and Gardens. Visit [www.tdawns.asn.au](http://www.tdawns.asn.au) or call 0420 232 253. Tickets at [ticketstripe.com/events/1030921](http://ticketstripe.com/events/1030921)

From P 3

Speaking at his Baber Studio, Mr Barber said international benchmarks of similar facilities built using mass timber in Europe and North America were researched ahead of the design for the fire station getting under way.

“It was important for us to understand what has worked well overseas with a number of similar use facilities already demonstrating mass timber



Site visit... Maryborough Fire and Emergency Services crew Jenny Millers and Shaune Toohey (left) and James Gill (right) with Bruce Saunders, MP Maryborough, and Katie Fowden and James Hyne, Hyne Timber.

as a sustainable and ideal building solution,” he said.

Hyne timber executive director James Hyne said: “From the local plantation forest through to the Tuan sawmill and ending in our new glue laminated timber plant, this building in the heart of our hometown is a showcase of contemporary, mass timber capability, grown and processed right here in the Wide Bay region of Queensland and it champions chain-of-custody certification.”



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From P 4

restoration of degraded land and expansion of community-based forestry programs.

The demand for forest goods and services in Africa is rising exponentially, driven by an increasing population and a developing economy. Domestic demand for industrial roundwood could double or even triple by 2050, according to United Nations Environment Program.

The report calls for greater incorporation of the predominantly informal forest sector into national planning and accounting. This will improve the efficiency of the sector while encouraging sustainable forest resource

**“AFRICAN FORESTS MOVING INTO GREEN ECONOMIC PLANNING**



**Gabon on the west coast of Central Africa is bordered by Equatorial Guinea to the north west, Cameroon to the north and the Republic of Congo on the east and south. The country gained independence from France in 1960.**

management and helping to accommodate the increasing demand for forest products.

About 35% of Africa’s soil, forests and woodlands play a very important role in its economy, which is not completely represented in official statistics. Economic policymaking continues to focus mainly on the formal

timber industry, which contributes less than 1% to GDP of the continent.

Meanwhile, according to the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation, the largely informal charcoal and fuelwood industry accounts for 90% of timber consumption in Africa. It contributes an estimated

2% of the continent’s GDP and hires almost 5% of its population. Forests make important contributions to GDP in other fields by delivering critical environmental services, such as carbon storage, watershed security and biodiversity conservation.

The study recommends a policy package that could lead to stronger incorporation of forests into green economic planning. Resolving ambiguous forest resource rights, determining biodiversity products and services, and improving local control and participation by collaborating with the informal sector could all precipitate the continent’s transition to a green economy.

**On the cover: PEFC-certified African-sourced hardwoods seen as the continent’s transition to a green economy.**

From P 6

months of 2022 were reported at 25,910 cub m valued at \$US8.98 million, up 892% in volume and 494% in value over the same period of 2021.

Imports from Equatorial Guinea were mainly logs (accounting for 99%), of which, the two most imported woody species were tali and

padouk. The imports of these logs in the first eight months of 2022 increased significantly compared to the same period in 2021.

The average price of imported logs in August 2022 was \$US389/cub m, up 9.3% compared to July 2022 and up 5.6% compared to August 2021.

In the first 8 months of 2022 the average price of logs imported from Africa to Vietnam was \$US368/cub m, up 1.2% over the same period in 2021. In August this year, imports of logs from Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea, Democratic Republic of Congo and Nigeria increased against July 2022 and August 2021.

Cameroon and Equatorial Guinea are now the two biggest suppliers of tropical hardwood for Vietnam.

In the last months of each year demand in the domestic market for tropical hardwood often rises. Imports of logs and sawn wood from Africa are expected to continue to rise.



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# Strategies for coping with Covid-related delays to NZ planting season: implications for forest sector

## Researchers used well-established sites, tapping into knowledge from across the industry

LOCKDOWNS over the past two years put the spotlight on planting delays and prompted an investigation into the implications for the forestry sector.

Emily Telfer, manager, research and science with the New Zealand Forest Service, spoke to Timber&Forestry e news about the results:

“Planting trees is a very seasonal activity. It normally occurs in the middle of the year, with significant work required in nurseries leading up to winter to prepare crops of trees – and by landowners to prepare sites for planting.

“We wanted the research to investigate what happens when we need to delay a planting season; how long it can be delayed; and how we can look after plants in the nursery.

“Research contracts were awarded to Landcare Research, Scion, and Tane’s Tree Trust and the work was funded by the One Billion Trees Partnership Fund.”

Emily says trial sites were established on both islands. “One trial, in particular, used drought-prone sites as a proxy for delayed planting into the drier summer months – and looked at the nutrient-poor soils of Canterbury.

“A short turnaround of the research was necessary to provide guidance that could be utilised quickly by the sector. The researchers also used existing, well-established sites and tapped into knowledge from across the industry.”

She adds that both exotic



*Emily Telfer... much of the research was undertaken as a response to disruptions caused by Covid-19.*

and native plantings were investigated.

“In some respects, native trees were easier to hold back for an extra six months as they grow slower than our main exotic forestry species. That said, they can be harder to establish if planting is undertaken outside of the wetter winter months.

“One of the techniques to initiate slow growth in the nursery is to ‘top’ the trees... cut them back from the main growing stem. But this can have implications for form later on, if the tree is grown for harvestable timber.”

An investigation into the impact of applying the plant hormone ethylene to induce dormancy in late-planted radiata pine resulted in limited success. The treatment did not produce any significant effects in the nursery – but “moderate levels of application did consistently produce better growth rates in the forest”.

a negative effect on survival and growth in the forest”.

More promising was the testing undertaken at a dry Canterbury site using a range of additives (including a hydrogel, rooting hormones and micronutrients) ... in an effort to increase seedling survival in late spring plantings.

Dipping roots into the hydrogel substantially increased root water uptake and survival rates some two months after planting. And by the end of summer (mid-February), “survival and growth responses confirmed the earlier trends”.

Further research was recommended in an effort to reduce planting shock or increase resilience. This would most likely provide improved outcomes at sites across the country with similar risks of moisture stress in late spring.

A survey of forest managers indicated that just over 50% were interested in using hydrogels in future operations, but cost and ease of application were important considerations. (It should be noted that the use of hydrogels is ideally suited to machine planting, now a widely-used option for establishing new crops on cutover sites).

Meantime, surveys undertaken by Tane’s Tree Trust investigated the management of production and planting of native seedlings due to the lockdowns.

### ACROSS THE DITCH



With MICHAEL SMITH

Extended chilling to maintain seedling dormancy (well beyond the maximum one-month standard) was also included in the trial. The plants were kept watered and appeared healthy, but researchers determined that “a critical threshold of time was crossed which produced

“ BOTH EXOTIC AND NATIVE PLANTINGS INVESTIGATED

Cont P 10

From P 9

Nurseries endorsed all major existing strategies for coping with delays – topping, repotting into larger containers, and storing more seed – but also noted the associated labour and nursery infrastructure costs.

Planters identified a

**“METHODS TO EXTEND A PLANTING SEASON IDENTIFIED**



Planting delays can have major implications for nurseries, given that they carry 50-60 million seedlings heading into a season. Photo: Scion

number of methods to extend a planting season – notably planting larger stock, using plant protectors, mulching, and planting a higher proportion of hardier species.

Strategies for coping with delays at planting sites included spraying for invasive woody weeds, maintaining grazing, and grassing sites if they were recently clear-felled of exotic forest or prepared by machine.

As ever, costs can limit the extent to which these methods are applied.

## ABS latest report: rate hikes hit lending for new home construction

LENDING for the purchase or construction of a new home fell 9.3% in September to its lowest level since April 2019.

Latest ABS data provides sobering statistics on housing finance commitments.

The total value of housing

loans also fell by a further 8.2% in September, to be 18.5% lower than at the same time in the previous year.

“The RBA’s tightening is weighing heavily on demand for housing and the full impact will not emerge until

the second half of 2023,” says HIA senior economist Nick Ward.

“If these trends are sustained, which is expected, then the 2.75% increase in the cash rate so far will have brought this boom to an end,”

Mr Ward said.

“There is still a significant volume of work under construction that is sustaining employment across the economy, helping to keep the unemployment rate at exceptionally low levels.”

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# Directors maintain momentum at Forestry Australia

NEW Forestry Australia director appointments have been announced following a member vote at the AGM held during the National Symposium, held in Albury from October 20-22.

CEO Jacque Martin welcomed new director Matt de Jongh and returning director Blair Freeman to the board.

“With the vital role members play in ensuring forests and their many values can benefit society for generations to come, Matt joins us at an exciting time for Forestry Australia,” Jacque said.

“His combination of operational and policy knowledge stands to add a new dimension to an already diversely skilled board which is strongly representative of our membership.



Jacque said that after a tremendous contribution in his first term, the re-appointment of Blair Freeman was another big win for the organisation.

A forester with more than 20 years’ experience in both operational and policy roles, Matt de Jongh is the sustainability manager for Responsible Wood and holds a Bachelor of Science (Forestry), ANU and a Graduate Certificate in Business Management, UNE.



1/ **Matt de Jongh**  
2/ **Blair Freeman**

“I am grateful for the opportunity to serve as a director with Forestry Australia,” Matt said. “I am passionate about forestry and a very proud advocate for the continued sustainable management of our forests.”

Blair Freeman is a professional forester with more than 25 years’ experience in providing advisory services on forest policy development, strategic planning and natural resource management across Australia

and the Asia Pacific region. He is head of strategy and sustainability with Indufor, an international forest sector consulting firm with offices in Australia, New Zealand, Finland and North America.

“The national symposium in Albury highlighted again the exciting opportunities and challenges ahead for forestry in Australia,” Blair said.

“Key to this will be building on our partnerships and collaborations across a wide range of areas of knowledge and expertise.”

Jacque Martin also thanked retiring director Dr Lachie McCaw for his service to the organisation, which included a term as vice-president.

Current vice-president Dr Michelle Freeman is on maternity leave and is set to resume her role in early 2023.

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# Isaac Newton's apple tree the 'core' of scientific knowledge that started with his theory of gravity

## Seeds travelled into orbit when an astronomer carried them to the International Space Station

IN 1666 Isaac Newton asked: "Why should that apple always descend perpendicular to the ground? Why should it not go sideways, or upwards, but constantly to the earth's centre? Assuredly, the reason is, that the earth draws it".

With that the origin story of Newton's theory of gravity was born.

The 17th century philosopher William Stukeley records that after dinner with his friend Isaac Newton, the two of them went outside to relax "under the shade of some apple trees". At the time Newton was staying at his mother's home Woolsthorpe Manor in Lincolnshire to avoid the ravages of the plague sweeping across London.

Indeed, an apple tree (*Malus pumila* Rosacea) has now grown at Woolsthorpe Manor for hundreds of years, honoured as the inspiration for Newton's celebrated science.

When a storm blew the tree down in 1820 devotees came to see it lying in the orchard. Sketches were made of it and the broken wood was used to make snuff boxes and small trinkets. However, it remained rooted and re-grew from the base. This tree can still be seen at Woolsthorpe Manor, confirmed as being of the right age, and the United Kingdom Tree Council has certified it as one of 50 Great British Trees.



1

The fruit from the tree is a rare variety called Flower of Kent, a greenish cooking apple that reddens as it ripens. Its seeds have travelled into orbit and back when British astronomer Tim Peake carried them to the International Space Station.

But trees sprouting from this tree's seeds will not bear the same fruit. Only clones grown from twigs or rootstock bear Flower of Kent apples.

Cuttings grown from the famous Woolsthorpe tree have now been transported to dozens of locations on every continent but Antarctica. Offspring of the tree grace many a university campus and research parks, reminding

1/ *Young students stand beneath a clone of the Newton Apple Tree that is located on the campus of the US National Institute of Standards and Technology in Gaithersburg, Maryland, USA. The plaque at the bottom of the tree reads: "This tree is a direct descendant of the original tree whose fruit gave inspirational impetus to Isaac Newton's theory of gravitational forces. It was nurtured by the US Department of Agriculture and transplanted on the grounds of the National Bureau of Standards and Technology in April 1966"*

2/ *Isaac Newton... his science is still taught to students today.*



Isaac Newton was born at Woolsthorpe on Christmas Day 1642 and died on March 20, 1727 in London. A celebrated physicist and mathematician, he was a prominent figure of the Scientific Revolution of the 17th century.

Newton's contributions to mathematics and physics set the agenda for the development of physics until the modern physics revolution in the 20th century. Indeed, Newton's work is still taught to students today.

The Flower of Kent is a culinary pear-shaped apple, mealy, and sub-acid, and of generally poor quality by today's standards. As its name suggests, this cultivar likely originated from Kent, England. Though now largely gone from commercial cultivation, a handful of Flower of Kent trees remain. Most, if not all, are said to descend from trees at Newton's Woolsthorpe Manor, and nearly all currently in existence descend from a single tree in Kent.

### TALKING TREES



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21st century scientists that although physics may have evolved far beyond Isaac Newton, today's ideas originated from his observations under an apple tree.



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# Responsible Wood AGM in Albury recognised wide growth in certified forests across Australia

HOSTED to coincide with the Forestry Australia Symposium in Albury from October 20-22, the Responsible Wood annual general meeting maximised the opportunity for staff and board members and others to interact in person – some for the first time since the abandonment of border closures.

Chair Dr Hans Drielsma MA reported on “a very successful year with significant progress in growing the Responsible Wood scheme.”

He added: “The contribution that sustainably grown wood products make to our global and national well-being is being increasingly recognised as the implications of climate change, energy transition and global instability become more apparent.”

The Responsible Wood Community Grants Program, which was again a great success in its second year, saw an increased number of applications with five successful community organisations working in



Dr Hans Drielsma



Dr Kerrie Catchpoole



David Little

partnership with certified forests funded across four states.

Project manager Megan Graham provided updates on the current applications and presented several success stories from the previous year's applicants.

Jorge Chapa, head of market transformation for Green Building Council Australia, presented at the AGM. Of note has been the formal recognition of Responsible Wood certification following several years of close engagement with the GBCA in the development of its new assessment framework.

The total area of certified forests in Australia has

increased to 19.7 million ha, primarily with new areas of forest for VicForests and the Western Australian Forest Products Commission brought into the scheme. This represents an almost 20% increase in DFAs over the 2020–21 period.

There has also been growth in the chain-of-custody scheme, with the total number of certified sites increasing from 329 to 363 as at June 30.

Two new directors were

“SUCCESS OF COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM”

elected to the board – David Little, CEO, TABMA, and Dr Kerrie Catchpoole, senior project officer, Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Board members also include Dr Hans Drielsma AM (chair), Stuart West, Katie Fowden, Craig Smith, Mark Thomson, Dr Tony Bartlett and Mark Gauthier with CEO Simon Dorries.

Dr Drielsma acknowledged the contribution of retiring directors Patrizia Torelli and Judy Alexander and thanked them for their dedication and valuable contributions.

While in Albury, CEO Simon Dorries addressed the Forestry Australia symposium and the theme ‘Leading, Adapting and Reimagining – the Future of Forestry’, updating delegates on Responsible Wood certification standards and the growth of the chain-of-custody scheme.

• **Brisbane architect wins Richard Stanton Memorial Award, Page 3.**

## Timely native forest management field day in South Burnett

PRIVATE Forestry Service Queensland is staging a native forest management field day in the South Burnett on December 10.

Presenters Bill Schulke, Sean Ryan and Sam Slack will address the impacts of thinning on forest health, productivity, economic returns and grazing within spotted gum and Gympie messmate plantations and adjacent private native forest.

“With severely restricted timber supplies forecast

for the next 10 years, we need to ramp up productivity now,” Sean Ryan said.

Discussions will centre on the impacts of a change to the code of practice for private native forests; category F, private timber reserves – securing your right to manage your timber;



Sean Ryan... with severely restricted timber supplies forecast for the next 10 years, we need to ramp up productivity now.

current timber products and what they are worth;

an inspection of extensive thinning; and long-term timber production on tree health and improved ground cover.

The field day runs from 9 am to 3 pm, located at 128 Sandows Road, Binjour (turnoff 18 km west of Gayndah on the Burnett Highway and follow the field day signs. Bring a water bottle, lunch and a chair.

RSVP by email: admin@pfsq.org.au  
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# Building designers loved talking timber at festival

MORE than 500 building designers attended the Building Design Association of Australia's national festival of design and conference on the rebuilt environment in Melbourne through October 27 to November 1.

"With building specification, building designers are playing a greater role in influencing the selection of materials in residential and commercial projects," conference emcee Jason Ross said.

"It was Australia's biggest festival of building design and overwhelmingly timber was a much-loved and cherished material with wood-focused presentations from David Rawlinson, Planet Ark Make It Wood campaign manager, Mark Thomson, eco-architect, Tim Woods, managing director, Industry Edge, and Paul Haar, School of Architecture and building at the University of Melbourne.

Highlights included the launch of 'Tools for Success', simplifying the National Construction Code and Australian standards into easy-to-understand interactive graphics.

Andy Russell, general manager of Proctor Group Australia, explored the



*The national festival of building featured more than 15 presenters, five master classes and seven workshops.*

new NCC Condensation Management Provisions around condensation and the emergence of leaky building syndrome in Australian dwellings.

The emergence of the dreaded leaky building

**“DESIGNERS ARE PLAYING BIGGER ROLE IN INFLUENCING BUILDING MATERIAL SELECTION**

syndrome follows a similar home crisis in New Zealand.

In total, the festival featured more than 15 presenters, five master classes and seven workshops, and was pre-recorded for thousands of BDAA members to view in the weeks and months to come.

The festival was supported by principal partner Weathertex along with ICI (Australia), AWS, Lysaught and Colourbond, DDEG, James Hardie, Texo, Unitex, Webber

Insurance Services, Keystone Lawyers, Hebel (CSR), My Building Certifier and the Lifestyle Store.

Significantly, timber featured prominently across more than 30 categories in the 2022 BDAA National Design Awards, hosted by Australian broadcaster Libbi Gorr with 250 special guests celebrating the best in Australian building design.

In coming weeks the Timber&Forestry enews will provide extended coverage of the National Festival of Design, including the 2022 BDAA National Design Award winners.

The festival emcee and host Jason Ross was a recipient of a 2021 Gottstein Fellowship that is focusing on marketing Australian forestry and forest products in the circular economy.

Jason will be attending a number of similar events which will be included in his Gottstein research.

The report, which will be published in 2023, will focus on communication and provide the Australian forest industry with several principles that will help position the sector for survival and future growth.

## It's every which way as log trucks confront flooded roads in NSW

AS logging truckers and timber transporters daily check their satnavs for diversion routes around flood-damaged roads in central and northern NSW, the state government has found a \$50 million 'fix' to help regional and rural councils fill pot holes.

Locals reckon this is as useful as a boy in the sand with a bucket of water playing on an ocean beach.

"We appreciate it won't do much, except fill another

420,000 potholes," says Roads Minister Sam Farraway.

Applications for funding open for another week and lucky councils will be notified later this month for work to be completed by January 2024.

Dubbo regional council mayor Mathew Dickerson says his local government precinct will need an extra \$40 million on top of what is already budgeted. Even though it costs \$1 million per kilometre to construct and seal a road,



*Where there's a will there's a way.*

the \$40 million may be just a drop in the bucket.

After the rain event in early October the council closed the Saxa Road to all traffic at Mitchell's Creek after culverts were severely

weakened by flood water.

The road is a vital corridor for sawlog haulage from Queensland and northern NSW with some 180,000 tonnes going to the Oberon mill and about 40,000 tonnes of dressed timber for the return journey to Brisbane.

Wellington Council invited locals on a 353 council committee help fight for funds to upgrade the road from dirt to bitumen in the early to mid-2000s.

SCAN TO WATCH



*Enabler of the transition from green metric tonnes to cubic metres, and reduction of the required number of log truck movements. (Forico, Tasmania)*



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# OneFortyOne sponsorship helping to build affordable homes for underprivileged families ‘Top of the South’

A NEW sponsorship provides a much-needed funding boost which will help Habitat for Humanity Nelson build more affordable homes in New Zealand’s ‘Top of the South’.

Forestry company OneFortyOne launched the new sponsorship this week at Habitat Nelson’s new community housing project in Stoke, a suburb of Nelson.

General manager OneFortyOne’s Kaituna Sawmill Tracy Goss said the sponsorship was a natural fit for his company.

“Our timber is being used as internal timber framing, fencing and other hard landscaping, all provided by our local customer ITM. There’s a great connection knowing the trees grown to make the timber, have been grown locally for the last 28 years in the Golden Downs Forest and can now be enjoyed by families for decades to come,” Tracy said.

**“BUILDING MORE THAN 40 HOMES IN WORTHY PROJECT”**



**Representatives from OneFortyOne, Habitat for Humanity Nelson, ITM and Tasman Homes celebrated the sponsorship announcement.**

Habitat Nelson general manager Nick Clarke added: “We are excited to be partnering with OneFortyOne. Affordable housing is one of our region’s biggest issues and it requires collaboration and investment from strong partners. Having crucial partners such as OneFortyOne supports us in the access of affordable materials through ITM, thus helping to make these decent homes affordable.”

Habitat Nelson has been supported by ITM for almost 30 years and was instrumental in instigating this partnership.

So far 14 houses have been

built, with more than 30 more homes to be completed by 2025, and other projects to follow.

“These are life-changing projects for families in need; building self-reliance, families’ self-worth, increasing their hope for the future, enhancing community inclusion, and providing young children the stability and safety they need in order to succeed at school and in life,” Mr Clarke said.

“For many families in the Nelson Tasman region, decent and affordable housing is becoming difficult to find. This is having a negative impact on the mental and emotional

health and wellbeing of families and the young.”

Research shows that beyond causing severe emotional and mental strain, unaffordable and substandard housing influences the quality and quantity of interactions within neighbourhoods, affecting social cohesion, trust and a collective sense of community.

Besides Habitat Nelson’s focus on affordable housing initiatives, it promotes community wellbeing, inclusion and connection.

“By partnering with like-minded supporters such as OneFortyOne we are able to provide decent, affordable and healthy homes, and subsequently we have been able to reduce the incidence of sickness within our community and provide hope and security,” Mr Clarke said.

OneFortyOne is a vertically integrated trans-Tasman business that manages both forests and sawmill operations in New Zealand and Australia. In New Zealand it manages 80,000 ha of certified sustainable plantation forests in Nelson Tasman and Marlborough and the Kaituna sawmill near Blenheim.

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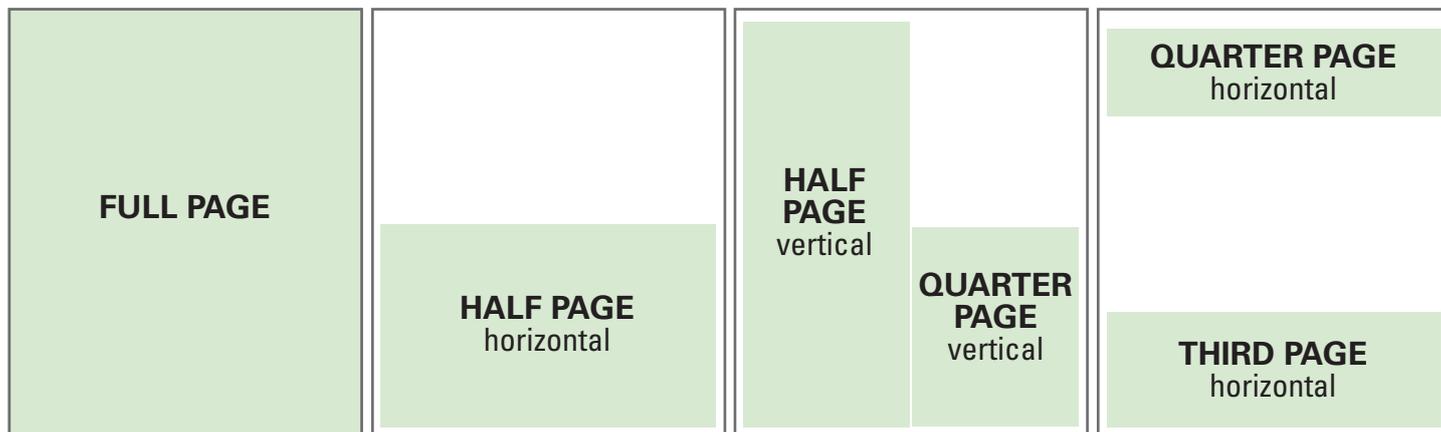
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