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COVER STORY P 16

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Ross Hampton leaves AFPA after decade of service to forest industry in Australia and around the globe

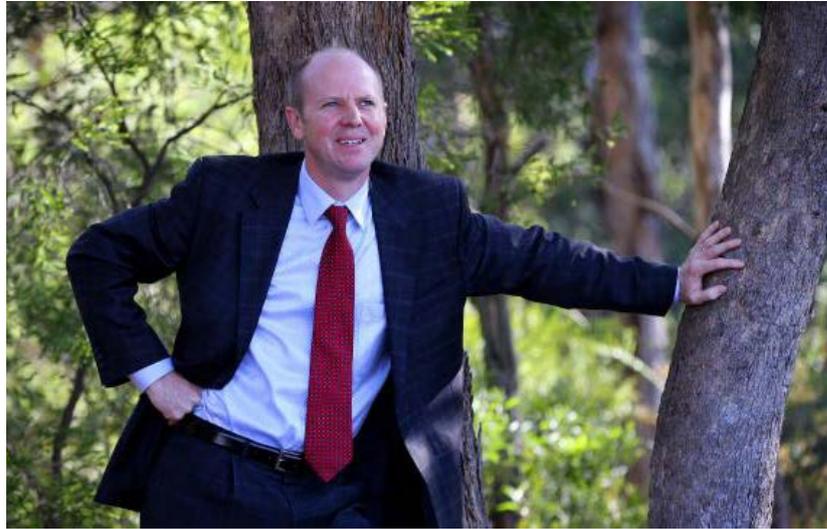
THE chair of the board of directors of the Australian Forest Products Association regretfully announces the coming departure of long-standing CEO Ross Hampton. Diana Gibbs also announced the appointment of Joel Fitzgibbon as interim CEO who will guide AFPA while a search is conducted to fill the position.

“After a decade guiding AFPA in the role of CEO, Ross Hampton has announced that he plans to move to the UK,” Ms Gibbs said.

“AFPA and the whole industry were very fortunate to secure Ross 10 years ago when the association was less than two years old.

“Ross has overseen the growth of AFPA from modest beginnings to being truly the influential, pan-industry, advocacy body the founders envisaged.”

“HELPED SHAPE THE FUTURE OF INDUSTRY FOR MANY YEARS TO COME



Ross Hampton contemplates his future after AFPA.

Ms Gibbs said Mr Hampton had led AFPA into a deep and mutually supportive relationship with agriculture and helped place forest industries in the centre of the vital work of climate mitigation.

Under his guidance, AFPA helped secure more than \$300 million in new commitments for forest industries in the last election, including \$100 million for a National Institute for Forest Products Innovation in partnership with UTAS. The NIFPI will help shape the future of our industries for

generations to come.

“Ross leaves with our thanks and best wishes,” Ms Gibbs said.

Ross Hampton said, “It has been a great honour and privilege to work with the incredibly talented AFPA team members, our dedicated directors and the hundreds I have met in our member companies.

“To a woman and man, they believe passionately in the place for sustainable forest industries in the environmental, social and

economic life of our nation. There are some 80,000 people employed across the full value chain of forest industries from the truck drivers and machine operators to the scientists in their lab coats.

“Every morning I have gone to work thinking of them and how we can better their lives and help secure their futures. If

the last decade has had one overriding theme it has been that our national leadership, processes and systems need to better recognise the miracle of forestry.

“Done sustainably, as we do in Australia – with every tree we use replanted or regrown – our nation and the world, has access to the ultimate renewable and a big part of the solution to the greatest environmental challenge of our generation in climate change.

Cont P 8



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Last-ditch stand at Morwell: thousands vent anger over government's decision to close native forests

VICTORIA is engaged in a civil war – a battle between state government politicians who see a rich, sustainable forest industry as expendable and rural communities in a last stand for survival – the survival of jobs and livelihoods of families who have the blood of a century of sawmillers in their veins.



A blunt message for Dan Andrews.

The conflict reached its zenith on the battleground at Morwell in the Gippsland last Friday when more than 100 log trucks and hundreds of people representing 10,000 timber jobs turned up at ANC Forestry Group's log haulage depot – nine days ahead of the critical state election.

Job figures are based on ANC managing director Daryl Hutton's 'rule of thumb' fact that 100 jobs are associated with each truck across the value chain from seed through harvest, haulage to mill processing.

Truck convoys came from Orbost, Rosedale and Warragul. A mock funeral procession was staged to mark the imminent death of timber towns ... a 'wake in the wake' of the state government's decision to shut the native timber

industry by 2030.

The rally was addressed by Daryl Hutton, ANC Forestry; Peter McConachy, with 50 years in the harvest contracting and sawmilling business; Brett Dennis, a faller with Rob Brunt harvest and haulage at Orbost; Shane Phillips, an Orbost family member now living in Melbourne; and Felicia Stevenson, Forest and Wood Communities Australia and Heyfield festival organiser.

With polling opened for the state election on the day of the rally, Tim Bull, MP East Gippsland, said saving the timber industry in East Gippsland was only one reason to vote against Labor.

"We know the timber industry is the backbone of the local economy and this government wants to close it down with no alternate jobs plan – it is just a disgrace," he said.

"We have a native timber industry with some of the strongest oversights in the world that produces a carbon-storing building material that grows back. Even the

Williams joined the rally to defend an industry where you work hard, long hours in the bush as a harvester. And she says she loves every day of it.

But Loressa hasn't had any work since May ... "because (legal) injunctions have locked us out of coupes."

Morwell haulage contractor Brian Batchelor joined the rally not just for himself but for his two boys who also work in the industry out of Yarram.

"I want the Greens to pull their heads in and realise the reality of what's happening," he said.

Many at the rally highlighted that they were

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change supports the use of timber as a building material.

Skidder operator Loressa

Cont P 4

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CONTRACTOR: I WANT THE GREENS TO PULL THEIR HEADS IN

From P 5

harvesting timber from between less than 6000 ha a year from 3 million ha of forest in Victoria.

On a brighter note, new polling in the hotly-contested seat of Melton, a cultural satellite city 35 km west of Melbourne, shows not even Greens supporters agreed with the Victorian government's policies on native forestry, while independents are shaping up as the new Greens.

With the state election just three days away, CEO of the Victorian Forests Products Association Deb Kerr says UComms polling of Melton voters, commissioned by



Native forest industry supporters out in force at Morwell rally.

VFPA, found that seven in 10 voters in the key seat are more likely to vote for a candidate committed to a sustainable native hardwood timber industry.

A further 85.6% of voters agreed that Victoria should grow more trees for timber production.

"It might come as a bit of a

shock to the Greens that their own voters are not backing their policies; 57% of Greens voters in Melton are more likely to vote for a candidate committed to ongoing access to native forests to supply hardwood timbers," Ms Kerr said.

This is the second poll confirming that Labor and

Greens policies are out of step with voter expectations.

"Now is the time for all sides of politics to support forestry," says Ms Kerr. "Voters agree, and Victorians only stand to win. Locally-grown and processed timber means more local jobs and less reliance on imports."

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State election: Coalition supports forest industries

AN analysis by the Victorian Forest Products Association on its election asks reveals that the Liberals and Nationals Coalition policies show the most overall support for forestry.

CEO Deb Kerr said it was extremely disappointing that neither the Victorian Labor Party nor the Victorian Greens thought the industry was important enough to respond formally to VFPA's election platform. Consequently, these parties have been assessed on publicly available information on their policies.

"VFPA has scored the Coalition ahead of Labor because of the leadership and prominence the Coalition has given forestry," Ms Kerr said.

"While plantation forestry has seen strong support



Deb Kerr... forest industries need policy and resource certainty

from Labor with the recently announced \$120 million Gippsland plantation investment program, an incoming Labor government would still be committed to phasing out native forestry by 2030."

Cont P 6

COP27 recognition: wood is part of the solution and AFPA's presence in Egypt is shifting the dial

There were many opportunities 'on the ground' to strongly link forestry as 'part' of agriculture

AS I write down these thoughts on my attendance at COP27* in Egypt, I can't help but reflect on the many conference pavilions on site in Sharm El Sheikh and notice how full they were of timber and other fibre products.

The products our sector creates are obviously highly valued as sustainable building materials. Many of the tradeshow-like stands used EWP, MDF, OSB, plywood ... and there were even cardboard chairs!

So, wood is seen as being part of the solution to fighting climate change. But there appears to be no recognition of the role of forests as the source of that material. I am also surprised that the role of trees, and thus forestry, as carbon



At the Australia stand at COP 27... Natasha Sikman, climate policy manager, AFPA, Mark Wootton from agroforestry operation Jigsaw Farms in south-western Victoria, Diana Gibbs, AFPA chair, Chris Bowen, Minister for Climate Change and Energy, Joel Fitzgibbon, non-executive director, AFPA, Sara Bray, senior policy manager, AFPA, and Ross Hampton CEO.

that delivers social benefits, not economic costs.

The launch of the Dalberg Report, commissioned by AFPA from a South African consultant, was the basis for a particularly successful AFPA event at COP27. The report clearly demonstrated that the demand for timber and wood products

will increase into the future. A panel of ministers and other senior decision-makers discussed how their countries are developing strategies to ensure that deforestation can be halted – with future wood fibre resources being supplied from sustainably managed forests and new plantations. The panel consisted of:

sinks was not more widely recognised.

This shows why AFPA's attendance was so important here. This was supposed to be the 'implementation' COP, but I am not seeing much about developing actions to meet climate goals. This is a big opening for us. Forestry can make a major contribution on the path to net zero, and is a decarbonisation strategy

FORESTRY CAN MAKE A MAJOR CONTRIBUTION ON PATH TO NET ZERO

By

DIANA GIBBS
Chair, Australian Forest Products Association

Cont P 6

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From P 5

- Senator Jenny McAllister, Assistant Minister for Climate Change and Energy (Australia).

- Professor Lee White, CBE, Minister of Forests, Oceans, Environment and Climate Change (Gabon).

- Mairi McAllan, Minister for Environment, Biodiversity and Land Reform (Scotland).

- Jose Carlos da Fonseca, executive director IBA (Brazilian Tree Industry).

The forecasts of increasing demand for wood makes it clear that our task now is to ensure that this demand is met from an expanded forest estate, and no longer from deforestation. And when we consider the carbon benefits delivered by growing trees, the case for an expanded forest estate becomes even stronger.



Jenny McAllister



Prof. Lee White



Mairi McAllan



Jose Carlos da Fonseca

This is the case that AFPA will be making over the coming months.

Another observation is that our collaborative approach with the National Farmers Federation has been an excellent plan. We have had several opportunities to strongly link forestry as 'part' of agriculture while on the ground at COP27.

I attended a meeting of the World Farmers Organisation and was able to address the representatives in the room, to say that

we were delighted to hear them talk about forestry as a component of agriculture, and that they see the carbon market offered by trees as an opportunity for farmers.

Strong collaboration with agriculture is also essential as it may help to defuse land-use conflicts.

“CONNECTING THE DOTS TO PLANT MORE TREES

There was a lot to take in, but there is no doubt that AFPA's presence is shifting the dial. Now we need to help everyone 'connect the dots', to plant more trees so that we can increase the supply of the ultimate renewable, and move to net zero in a beneficial way, without imposing undue costs.

** 27th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.*

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From P 4

This is a position VFPA rejects due to the benefits of active forest management for bushfire risk mitigation and improved ecological outcomes, and the UN's IPCC pointing towards the climate benefits of sustainably managed forests, including for timber production.

“GOVERNMENT OUT OF STEP WITH VICTORIAN CONSUMERS

"The position of Labor and the Greens is also completely out of step with Victorian consumers, who have clearly shown support for both plantation and native forestry in polls conducted in Melton and Keysborough recently," Ms Kerr said.

"If elected, the Coalition has

pledged to overturn Labor's decision to phase out native forestry, and to continue supporting a sustainable, renewable industry that produces essential goods for Victorians."

Unlike in Tasmania, NSW, Queensland, and federally, Victorian forestry is still not seeing bipartisan support.

"Our forest industries need policy and resource certainty which, in turn, means cost certainty for consumers," Ms Kerr said.

"Just as important are the commitments from all sides to progress the growth of the timber plantation estate. This will ensure that we meet Victoria's future timber and wood fibre needs."

VFPA has run a full page advertisement in Melbourne's Herald Sun, calling on Victorian voters to support native forestry at the state elections on Saturday.

NOVEMBER

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

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.tdansw.asn.au or call 0420 232 253. Tickets at ticketstripe.com/events/1030921

10: Native forest

management field day. – 128 Sandows Road, Binjour, QLD (turn off 18 km west of Gayndah on Burnett Highway and follow the field day signs).

9 am-3 pm. Presenters Bill Schulke, Sean Ryan, Sam Slack. Impacts of thinning on forest health, productivity, economic returns and grazing within spotted gum and Gympie messmate plantation and adjacent private native forest. RSVP admin@pfsq.org.au Tel: (07) 5483 6535 or 0428 457 322 Bring a water bottle, lunch and a chair. Tea, coffee provided.

2023

FEBRUARY 7-8: 6th European Biomass Trade and Power Summit – Copenhagen. On

site and virtual. Attractive economics and spreads for wood pellet burn across Europe has boosted biomass demand, despite record high pellet prices. High power demand and a rebound in carbon prices has been the catalyst but a shortage of wood pellet supply will likely reduce industrial wood pellet consumption in Europe. Visit www.cmtevents.com/aboutevent.aspx?ev=230202& or email huiyan@cmtp.com.sg

AUGUST 29-30: Timber & Forestry enews Australian Timber Supply Crisis Summit – Melbourne. Early warning alert. For any queries relating to the conference, please contact CORP COMM. Email: info@corp-comm.com.au Phone: +61 3 5977 0244

Call for major overhaul of forest management strategy

A COMPREHENSIVE report into the 2019-20 Victorian bushfires highlights the need for a major overhaul of current forest management strategies, according to the peak association for forest scientists, professionals and growers.

the Victorian and federal governments as parties to the RFA, and conducted by an independent expert panel, a 'major event review' examined the impacts of the devastating bushfires on a wide range of forest uses and a range of forest values.

extensive consultation with stakeholders, communities and Traditional Owners, and presented the two governments with 37 recommendations.

forest management strategies so appropriate resources could be allocated to provide for the full range of forest uses and values in a balanced and holistic way.

Forestry Australia vice-president Jim Wilson said the report highlighted the need for a major overhaul of current

"This report confirms that to avoid future repeats of 2019-20 and protect human

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The review undertook

Cont P 19



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From P 2

“My work has necessarily involved deep and ongoing connections with federal politicians and I am deeply indebted to each and every one of them as they have listened to our arguments and helped us co-create outcomes which are for the good of Australia.

“My special thanks go to the ministers and shadow ministers, and assistant



Ross Hampton doing what he does best ... confronting the media and talking up the benefits of sustainable forests and the wood products they produce.

ministers and shadow assistant ministers, as well as the co-convenors of our Federal Parliamentary Friendship Group, who have

had responsibility for forest industries across the last decade.”

Mr Hampton also paid tribute to the members of the

cross bench “who had been so willing to open their doors to us.”

Ross Hampton has earned respect globally as chair of the FAO Advisory Committee on Sustainable Forest-based Industries which has brought him in contact with forestry leaders in many countries.

Diana Gibbs said while Mr Hampton would remain as CEO until early next year, the search would begin immediately for the next CEO.

“We will cast the net very widely and look to ensure continuity and even more successes for AFPA in the years to come.”

Scientist asks: where have all our Aussie Christmas beetles gone?

OUR old festive fiend *Anoplognathus* won't be home for Christmas this year, thankfully.

The Christmas beetle, a significant threat to young eucalypt plantations, can cause severe leaf loss in trees before canopy closure. Adult beetles emerge from the soil during the summer and feed on eucalypt foliage. They are hungry feeders and large swarms can defoliate trees rapidly.

Swarms of iridescent Christmas beetles used to mark Australia's summer

season every year. But today, they seem as scarce as mixtapes and crochet swimsuits. (Although the editor found a lone scout upside down with six legs in the air on the porch a few days ago).

“People remember them being around in huge numbers around Christmas, but that just doesn't seem to happen anymore, particularly on the east coast of Australia,” says association professor



Here he is... *Anoplognathus* spp.

Tanya Latty, an entomologist at the School of Life and Environmental Sciences at the University of Sydney.

Christmas beetles are a group of iconic Australian insects, large, colourful beetles that were once bountiful in December and January. Usually 20-30 mm long, they are members of the scarab family that are noisy and clumsy fliers and

are an important food source for birds like currawongs, magpies as well as wasps and possums.

Professor Latty is calling for volunteer 'citizen scientists' to join the university's Christmas Beetle Count, by downloading an app to their mobile phones or jumping on the web. The app, iNaturalist, allows users to instantly capture a picture and location of each Christmas beetle they see, and the app helps identify the species.

The count is being undertaken in collaboration with Invertebrates Australia.



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Happy to keep working in a dynamic field: new chief of forest practices in Tasmania

A SOUND knowledge of forest operations follows Anne Chuter into her new role as incoming chief forest practices officer at Tasmania's

Forest Practices Authority.

The FPA is the state's independent regulator of forest activities and a key part of ensuring Tasmanian forestry operations are sustainable.

Ms Chuter will replace Dr Peter Volker who retired on November 18 after more than 40 years in various roles within the state's forestry sector.

During his time Dr Volker has been a strong advocate for sustainable native forest management to supply timber products, support rural communities and provide a healthy ecosystem.

Ms Chuter has extensive practical experience in environment management within a wood production landscape, technical biodiversity knowledge, and a sound understanding of forest operations. She has been working with the FPA

**“PETER VOLKER
A STRONG
ADVOCATE OF
NATIVE FOREST
MANAGEMENT**



1/ Anne Chuter



2/ Dr Peter Volker

for more than 15 years and brings a wealth of experience within the authority.

“I would like to thank Peter for his dedication to the role of CFPO over the last six years, and the knowledge he has generously shared with everyone at the FPA and throughout the forest industry,” Ms Chuter said.

“I have been fortunate to work in Tasmania's forests for most of my career, and over that time I have developed a deep appreciation for the skills and experience of people working within and contributing to the industry.

“Tasmania's forests have many diverse values and I look forward to the opportunity to continue working in this dynamic field, and to lead the FPA to meet the challenges ahead.”

Dr Volker told Timber&Forestry enews: “I am slipping into semi-retirement and I hope to keep my oar in the water (an appropriate pun for a rowing coach) working on forestry projects with government and industry.

Kirsty Kay will be acting biodiversity manager from November 21.



HYNE.COM.AU

Sarah leaves TQ but will still be communicating

POPULAR industry personality Sarah Porter Dix in a career shift has resigned as communication officer at Timber Queensland ... "after nine incredibly fulfilling years"

Sarah announced the decision in her last TQ Newsletter to members: "I have thoroughly enjoyed connecting with you all at and through the hundreds of newsletters, events, workshops, online courses, webinars, tours and cocktail events that I have had the pleasure of attending and hosting over this near decade."

“OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO INDUSTRY

Sarah said she had derived great purpose in her work championing The Ultimate Renewable, debunking deforestation, providing timber training and education and, most recently, opening the eyes of students to the wonderful world of forestry.

"It has also been one of the highlights of my career serving on the Women in Forests & Timber Network committee and I will cherish and miss the connections – both professional and personal.

Sarah thanked the Timber



Sarah Porter Dix... hostess with the mostest.

Timber Queensland CEO Mick Stephens said "it has been amazing to work with Sarah over the past six years. She has made an outstanding contribution to the organisation and the forest and timber industry in Queensland and indeed more broadly across Australia.

"Sarah is leaving with our very best wishes to take on more opportunities to grow and expand her professional career in the communications space," Mr Stephens said.

"We will be recruiting shortly to fill the valuable roles and responsibilities she has been undertaking in the areas of communications, specifier events and member information services."

Queensland team "who have supported and guided me through the most formative periods of my career, and especially to Clarissa Brandt for her mentorship. Together we made a formidable communications team"

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Welcome back: Rotorua rain no problem for five countries exhibiting at fast-forward forestry expo

DENNIS NEILSON

THE inaugural Fast and Forward Forestry Expo at Rotorua Racecourse on November 18 and 19 welcomed back the forest industry, after more than two years of shut-outs, lock-downs, supply chain, and market disruptions never experienced before in the last 70 years.

Held under the banner of the NZ Forest Industry Contractors Federation, the expo was organised by the ultra-energetic CEO Prue Younger, well-known on both sides of the Tasman, and who runs her own professional marketing company Public Impressions.

Prue took on the role after



DANA NZ and Timber&Forestry enews director Dennis Neilson with Matthew Bidois, product manager, construction and forestry, of AGrowQuip (John Deere distributor), in front of a 1979 Timberjack skidder lovingly restored from a wreck found in a farmer's dump by John Deere apprentices with new John Deere forestry equipment exhibited at the Expo.

some encouragement by two industry stalwarts Glen Marley, the Australasia and

southeast Asia manager for Tigercat, and Mark Hill of AB Equipment NZ

It took Prue and the FICA board, including a FICA 'sponsors advisory group' a year to put the exhibits and the program together.

The Rotorua racecourse has been the venue for several previous events, but this was the first for over a decade, and the inaugural event in this format.

FICA put together a value-add sponsorship package that attracted 13 large-stand sponsors, eight medium-stand sponsors and 20 'marquee-stand' sponsors.

Trade stand sell out enabled FICA to provide free admission to visitors.

Cont P 19

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- A reducing hardwood plantation area
- **Australian construction and building industries increasingly at the mercy of timber imports**
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- **How bad can it get?**
- Where to from here?

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Conflict timber and due diligence

Certification, illegal logging legislation ... and the likelihood of conflict timber from Russia and Belarus entering Australia

SIMON DORRIES

CONCERNS have been raised regarding wood fibre of Russian origin in products entering Australia with certification claims.

In March 2022, PEFC International declared all timber originating from Russia and Belarus would be 'conflict timber', meaning that this timber cannot be used in PEFC and Responsible Wood products.

Categorising timber from Russia and Belarus as conflict timber followed the adoption of the Resolution on Aggression against Ukraine by the United Nations General Assembly, which "deplores in the strongest terms the aggression by the Russian Federation against Ukraine [and] the involvement of Belarus".

The question is how does a chain of custody certified organisation investigate or respond to these types of concerns?

The chain-of-custody standards PEFC ST 2002:2020 and AS 4707:2021 have requirements for certified organisations to investigate concerns or complaints related



1/ Simon Dorries... risk assessment is performed on both the origin and supply chain to establish that the materials supplied are of negligible risk.

to the origin or certified status of wood where evidence substantiating these concerns has been provided. The certified organisation needs to take additional steps to establish the validity of the concerns and ensure that controversial materials are excluded from their products.

To conduct the required due diligence, as a minimum, the following steps are required:

- Verification of country of harvest. This could be established through provision of documentary evidence such as verified harvest permits, forestry concessions, other credible forestry documentation or through organising DNA testing.

- Verification of all species used in the product. For species that commonly originate from Russia, further investigations are required to confirm that Russia is not the source of the material in the products in question.

- Identify of all suppliers in the supply chain and establish if any parties have been involved in any controversial activities or have had their certification terminated or suspended.

Based upon the information gathered and assessed, a risk assessment is performed on both the origin and supply chain to establish that the materials supplied are of negligible risk.

Where negligible risk cannot be established, the certified organisation would also have to have an on-site verification program. Certified organisations would have to carry out extensive whole-of-supply chain mapping,

using a qualified organisation to conduct inspections of supplier operations.

Without being able to properly complete the risk assessment process the timber would be considered a significant risk of being from a controversial source. Simply put, timber from Russia and Belarus harvested after March 2022 should not be entering the Australian market with claims of certification.

More information on chain of custody certification at: responsiblewood.org.au

• Simon Dorries is CEO of Responsible Wood, the Australian arm of the Program for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC).



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A taste and a toast: timber pioneers meet in Brisbane

MEMBERS of Queensland's Timber and Forestry Pioneers last Friday gathered at Brisbane's Grand Central Hotel – a venue with a history going back to the 1880s – to enjoy a pre-festive luncheon.

The gathering was also an opportunity to offer best wishes to Jim Bowden who steps down this week as managing editor of Timber&Forestry enews after 13 years with the digital on-line weekly.

Jim, an agricultural writer and public relations consultant for more than 60 years, was founding publisher and editor of Australian Timberman in 1977.

"I'm not retiring," he insisted, "just moving on to new endeavours – or should I say new adventures? – that will keep me aligned to the



Gathering in the coach bar of the hotel are, clockwise from left, Bill Philip, (Bill Philip Specialised Timbers/ Responsible Wood Company), Graeme Miles (H.F. Palmer Transport), Don Towerton (Bretts/Thora Wholesale Timbers), John Muller (Tasbeam/Wood Addiction), Laurie Gardner (North Coast Sawmills/Wilco), Tim Evans (timber industry consultant), Dr Gary Bacon and Richard Pegg (Queensland Forestry), Harvey Goodchild (Yuleba Cypress), Jim Bowden (industry writer), Alfred and Beverley Chapple (Nerang Frames and Trusses), Neal Weston (Brims Distributors/Zenith Timber Industries), Peter Mort (Wilco/Resource Services), Graeme Ferrow (Timbeck Architectural), Worrall McCarthy (WAB Transport), and Gerry Gardiner (Bretts/ITreat Timber).

forest and forest products sector."

Ten or more pioneers were unable to attend for various reasons but have 'booked' for the next gathering early in 2023 to be held at Maleny in the hinterland above the Sunshine Coast or nearby historic Landsborough.

Russian timber bypasses US sanctions by way of Vietnam

RUSSIAN birch wood has continued to flow to American consumers, disguised as Asian products, despite US economic sanctions imposed on Russia over its invasion of Ukraine, a Washington Post report says.

The Environmental Investigation Agency, a non-profit watchdog group based

in Britain, has found that most birch products currently being exported from Vietnam to the US originate in Russia. According to Vietnam customs data, roughly 40,000 cub m of birch wood is transported every month from Russia and China into Vietnam, where it's assembled into

furniture and plywood.

These chairs and bed frames ended up on the shelves of major American retailers, the EIA said.

The group's investigators spoke to five Chinese companies accounting for 60% of China's birch veneer exports to Vietnam and

concluded that more than 90% of their birch is sourced from Russia.

One Chinese wood factory owner told the group that all of the birch their company uses comes from Russia but is repackaged in China and re-exported to Vietnam with China listed as the country of origin.



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Totara re-measurement: silvicultural intervention boosts New Zealand's timber production potential

Permanent sample plots yield valuable information on growth rates and carbon sequestration

IN this follow-up to last week's story on the prospects for a sustainably-managed farm-totara industry in New Zealand's Northland, Paul Quinlan of Northland Totara Working Group discusses further developments.

Paul says a recent project (funded by the Ministry for Primary Industries) involved the re-measurement of silviculture trial plots established across a range of pole and semi-mature regenerating totara forest since 2007.

Data from 50 permanent sample plots yielded valuable information on growth rates, carbon sequestration, and management prescriptions for totara timber production.

"The results show that silvicultural intervention – thinning and pruning – enhance timber production potential, indigenous biodiversity and under-storey development when compared with un-thinned plots," Paul said.

He adds that management of naturally regenerating pole-stands indicated lower mortality rates, and a significant increase in volume growth and sequestration rates.

"Most of the totara stands still have considerable potential to sequester

“ADVANTAGES IN THINNING STANDS TO SLIGHTLY LOWER STOCKING RATES



Totara re-measurement...Paul Quinlan and David Bergin, along with Helen Moodie, are the founders of the Northland Totara Working Group. Photo: Peter Bruce-Iri.

more carbon – but because these forests would have established before 1990, they are ineligible to enter the Emissions Trading Scheme," he said.

"However, the concept of 'additionality' comes into play when active management can demonstrate some significant and measurable improvement in carbon sequestration/and or biodiversity outcomes above no-management interventions. It would be great if such additionality in pre-1990 forests could be recognised by the ETS."

Paul says another aspect of the project reviewed previous recommendations for thinning totara stands based on Stand Density Index [SDI].

"The latest measurements suggest there may be

ACROSS THE DITCH



With MICHAEL SMITH

advantages in thinning stands to slightly lower stocking rates than previously thought," he said. "A revised thinning schedule has therefore been included in the project report.

"Overseas experience indicates that – for a wide range of species – stands are likely to benefit from thinning [down to 25%] when the stocking is greater than 55% of the maximum SDI.

"Ideally, this network of permanent sample plots will be periodically re-measured – say every five to 10 years – for the next 50 years or more. However, each re-measurement relies on a successful application for research funding to enable the work to be done."

It's interesting to note that the ministry had previously approved allowable harvest rates (via sustainable forest management plans) referencing growth models of totara from the Nelson and Wellington area, which were much more conservative than rates observed in Northland.

Elizabeth Heeg, director of forestry system at New Zealand Forest Service, says that in 2018 the service commissioned the creation of a number of growth rate

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co-efficients that can be used for calculating the growth of totara regenerating on Northland farms.

“These tend to predict higher growth rates than the Wellington and Nelson models,” she said.

“The data set was a combination of diameter estimates calculated from tree ring assessments from core samples and permanent sample plot data from the Northland region. The NZ Forest Service currently uses these co-efficients to assess the harvest rates on sustainable forest management plans for totara in Northland.”



Significant under-storey development five years after thinning and no grazing. In comparison, an adjacent un-thinned permanent sample plot still has a relatively bare understorey. Photo: Michael Bergin

forestry generally.

“However,” he says, “many landowners are also waiting to see how the situation evolves ... for example, what will emerge from the discussions concerning the Primary Sector Climate Action Partnership.”

This is a partnership with aims to reduce agricultural greenhouse gas emissions at farm level and build the sector’s resilience to climate change.

“PARTNERSHIP AIMS TO REDUCE FARM GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

Paul Quinlan hopes the NZ Forest Service will consider if those growth rate co-efficients should be reviewed

again, given the results of the latest re-measurements.

He detects strong interest in the potential for native

On the cover: Anna Manning, forest engineering student at the University of Canterbury, remeasures a permanent sample plot.

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Most of the large international forestry equipment brands were represented, with owners, directors and managers at their stands from Australia, the US, Canada, Japan and host country New Zealand.

Some of the bigger and best populated stands included, directly or via their Australasian distributors, Tigercat (with owner Canadian Ken MacDonald fronting), Komatsu, John Deere, Caterpillar, Hitachi, Volvo and Waratah.

It was interesting to see four felling head manufacturers/distributors featuring at the expo, including Waratah Felling



1/ Tigercat owner Ken MacDonald (centre) from Brantford, Ontario, Canada, with Jeff Loton and Dave Hughan of Plantation Logging contractors in Western Australia.



2/ At the expo dinner... Rotorua Mayor Tania Tapsell (left), Jeremy Corbett expo dinner MC, expo organiser Prue Younger, and FICA chair Ross Davis.

Heads and Satco (both with their manufacturing operations in Tokoroa), Woodsman Pro manufactured by Engineering Services Rotorua Ltd and Quadco felling heads, manufactured by Canadian company Southstar.

As well as the expo itself, FICA held its 20th anniversary AGM, at which outgoing chair Ross Davis, owner of Loglease, and

retired contractor Ross Wood were awarded Lifetime Membership Awards.

The new Rotorua Mayor Tania Tapsell addressed 500 guests at a sold-out expo dinner where FICA raised \$40,000 at a charity auction.

This will go to the 'Be a Mate in Forestry' charity to help it expand the Hawkes Bay pilot program Mates4Life to a national coverage, in its efforts to work with suicide

awareness and prevention programs in the industry.

While the rain gods did not help the two-day event, this really impressive forestry equipment expo signalled the recommencement of regular such events in Rotorua, with FICA already talking about dates for the next event in 2024 or 2025.

• Report and more pictures, next issue.

From P 7

life and biodiversity, forest and fire management must be viewed and managed at a landscape scale, with active management over long time frames, using expert knowledge of forests and their processes," Mr Wilson said.

"In order to achieve this, and overcome Australia's wicked bushfire problem, we need all forest stakeholders to work together to manage our forests in a planned, strategic and considered manner, which unfortunately is not happening across the board right now.

"Through these strategies, we can conserve forests for a broader range of values, and proactively manage current pressures and increasing threats to the environment from climate change and the interrelated impacts of bushfires and invasive species."

Forestry Australia member Dr Tony Bartlett ASFM (Australian Fire Service Medal), who was part of the review's panel, said the report showed that old growth and fire-sensitive forests would be lost if the extent and frequency of severe bushfires were not reduced.

"The review found that of the 1.5 million ha burnt in the 2019-20 bushfires, 1.39 million ha of this was forested land, about half of which was burnt at high severity," Dr Bartlett said.

"A total 62,000 ha, or 15% of Victoria's old growth forest is thought to have been lost in the fires, of which 40,800 ha was within dedicated reserves and special protection zones."

A copy of the review is available at www.agriculture.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/vic-rfa-mer-bushfires-report-2022.pdf

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Quality of imported material is a bit like Russian roulette, but the organisation can't be an enforcer

THOSE of you who have been reading my articles may remember that in earlier times I lamented the lack of representation of actual timber preservation organisations on the board of TPAA.

Well that has changed quite a bit and it is just great that the people doing the work are actively having input to the direction of the organisation. I reckon it is just great to have timber preservers 'on board'.

We had a board meeting on Wednesday this week, and while there was quite a bit of procedural stuff, then board agreed to progressing two major initiatives.

TPAA as an organisation cannot enforce anything. What we do is provide the wood protection industry with a (collective) voice. We provide technical expertise to anyone who is prepared to listen, advice to government at all levels, and a service to industry in the form of maintaining a list of brands that help the end user identify where the wood came from, what it was preserved with, and the level of protection the preserved piece is meant to have. A regular part of my TPAA job is to help out in disputes which are often misunderstandings or an inappropriate setting of specifications.

Preserved wood quality has been a personal focus all my working career and now



Gathering at Timber House in Brisbane for a recent general meeting of TPAA are, standing from left, Andrew Davies, Dale and Meyers, Dr Harry Greaves, Harry Greaves Consulting, Melbourne, Dr Laurie Cookson, ex-CSIRO, and Professor Jeffrey Morell, director, National Centre for Timber Durability and Design at the University of the Sunshine Coast. Sitting is Jack Norton, TPAA secretary. The meeting, which blended face-to-face with Zoom contact, included members of the TPAA technical committee. Twenty-two industry representatives joined the meeting. The major outcome was a decision to determine the volume of preserved wood being produced annually in Australia.

my non-working (??) career. I used to be responsible for enforcing the specifications of the Timber Utilisation and Marketing Act of Queensland and while we could always have done more, it did have an impact on maintaining product quality. Now we are in the world of Industry self-regulation, and although the bigger producers have pretty good systems in place, the big boys are only a handful of the 270 listed brands in Australia and the 230 plants listed from overseas. If you are really keen I can provide more numbers.

Quality of imported material is Russian roulette (perhaps a bad choice of terms) whereas in Australia we have somewhat more of an idea what is going on.

This week's board meeting

some form of quality related process.

The devil, as they say, will be in the detail but I reckon it is a great way for the industry to support its product.

The second initiative from the meeting involves the gathering of data on the volumes of preserved wood produced in Australia. I spoke in an earlier article about the importance of metrics and this decision is a step closer to obtaining existing data or generating our own data to obtain the level of information that would be useful to our industry.

Stay tuned.

And a reminder... the Timber Preservers Association of Australia represents the nation's wood protection industry. It is made up of timber treaters, preservative suppliers, research organisations, and individuals and bodies having an interest in the production and use of preserved timber.

The TPAA promotes a knowledge of the principles and methods of timber preservation within the industry, helps with establishing and adhering to standards for the treatment of timber, and promotes best practice in the production of preserved wood.

The TPAA encourages its members to comply with national Standards and applicable legislation.

JACK'S RANT



With JACK NORTON
Secretary, TPAA

agreed to progress an initiative where a listed preservation plant has the opportunity to show that the wood it produces has a level of process control and/or third party quality checks. The idea is that the plant's web page on the TPAA site will be able to show whether it uses

'Band' of players build first mass timber fire station

THE opening of Australia's first mass engineered timber fire and emergency services complex was celebrated in Maryborough, Queensland's timber capital, on Tuesday.

The design and construction of the Queensland Fire and Emergency Services North Coast region headquarters and Maryborough Fire and Rescue Station is a story of innovation, collaboration, restoration, and carbon sequestration.

Hyne Timber's strategic relations manager Katie Fowden said the whole project started as an idea at an innovation forum held in Maryborough.

"From a light-bulb moment inspired by innovative discussion, through to the opening of the completed building, this has been an extraordinary journey, bringing together many people who knew this would deliver a great outcome for



Celebrating... chief superintendent James Gill, Peter Hyne, Hutchison Builders MD Russell Fryer, and Hyne's Katie Fowden.

our front-line responders," Ms Fowden said.

Entering the Queensland government's market-led proposal process, Hyne Timber brought together partners XLam, Hutchinson Builders, Baber Studio, the University of Queensland's Centre for Future Timber Structures and Bligh Tanner.

"Together, we progressed through stages until we were officially working with the client to ensure we were designing and delivering a contemporary, state-of-the-art and fit-for-purpose mass

timber hybrid solution," Ms Fowden said.

XLam engineers, supported by the broader team, developed XLam's first 'band beam' solution which improved overall head height in the lower level allowing easy installation for mechanical services while improving the overall

“ DELIVERED EXCELLENT FIRE PERFORMANCE QUALITIES ”

performance of the floor system above.

"This is possibly the first of its kind in the world," XLam's business development manager Robert Mansell said.

The design included the restoration of the original brick façade, which is considered of heritage value to the Fraser Coast community, while specifying materials to ensure the right use of the best 'building ingredients', prioritising XLam's LVL and Hyne's locally sourced and manufactured glulam beams for the new structure.

Robert Mansell said the mass engineered structure delivered excellent fire performance qualities, carbon sequestration, aesthetic appeal and prefabrication for faster construction.

"All the materials from walls, floors, ceilings, stairs and even the tower were delivered on trucks in the correct order for immediate construction..

Independent analysis by V-Quest has found this project saved 1742 tonnes of CO2 compared to using conventional building materials – equivalent of removing 375 cars off the road every year.

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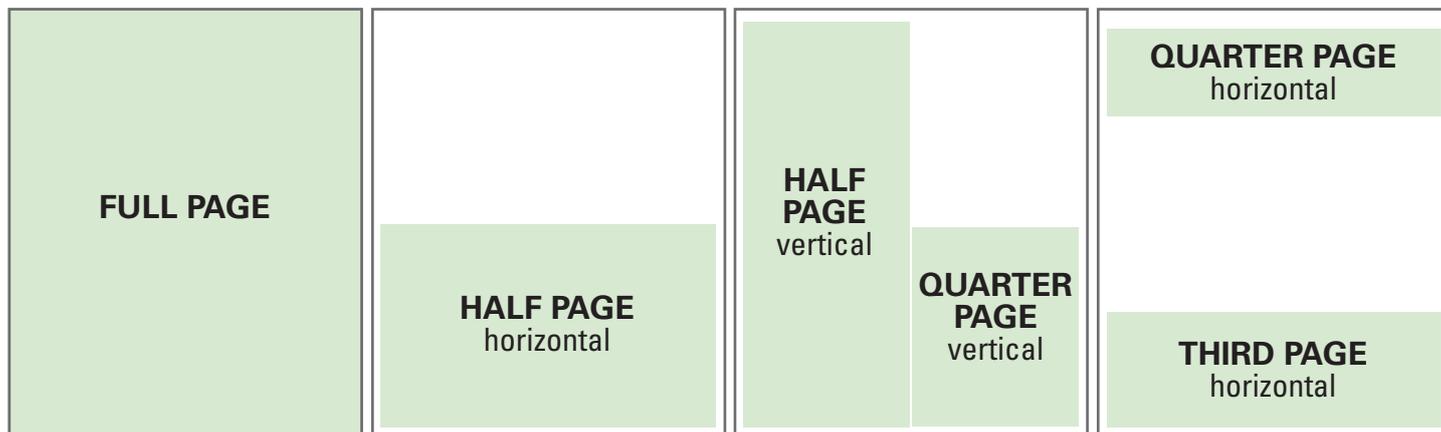
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