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ISSUE 755 // May 18, 2023

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Sarawak urged to become Southeast Asia engineered timber hub

COVER STORY P6



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Student photos show love for forest

OneFortyOne's 2023 Forest Photo Competition winners have been selected.

AT the end of March, local students were invited to enter OneFortyOne's annual photo competition. Over 150 photos were received from students across the Limestone Coast and South Western Victoria regions, making choosing just two winners a challenge.

The judging panel included a team from OneFortyOne – Andrew Burston, Amanda Amoroso, Kyle Thomas, Tania Barrett-Rhind, Lily Marshall, Trent Moulden and Symone Williams, together with local photographer Tim Rosenthal, and South Australian MLC Ben Hood. After much deliberation, they awarded the honours to Year 5 Student Jack Freckleton, and Year 12 student Alex McCarthy.

The students were asked to accompany each photo with a story about why

they loved the forest. Jack Freckleton said, "What I love about the pines is when I go for walks with my two dogs in the magical forests around Dartmoor. I took this photo one morning with the sun shining



The Primary School Winner was Jack Freckleton, a Year 5 student.

When I visit a forest, I am reminded of the substance and abundance of life. From the smallest insect to the largest tree, all life has its own unique and fascinating place."

OneFortyOne External Affairs Manager Charlene Riley said, "A recurring theme in the stories we

received was peacefulness. A number of students said the forest was a place they spent time in to relax and spend quality time with their families. The stories are a reminder of how important forests are to local people, beyond economic value, and for the value in connecting with family, themselves, and with nature."

through the trees, which is beautiful. This area around my house is a great way to relax and calm down and have some time where it's peaceful after a big day." Secondary School winner Alex McCarthy wrote: "The photos I have captured illustrate my love for the local forests and the importance of the ecosystem. My photos are of a slug hanging down from an old mushroom, which I think beautifully capitulates the intricate web of life that exists within the local forests.



Year 12 student Alex McCarthy won the Secondary School category.



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Housing supply unaddressed by government and private sector

Australia faces a crisis of housing affordability and availability, and the key issue lies squarely with supply.

IN an interview with the *AFR* this week, Susan Lloyd-Hurwitz, former MD of Mirvac and now chair of the federal government's new advisory council on housing, was dismissive about complaints immigration is behind Australia's housing shortage, calling demands from some politicians to lower immigration to ease pressures on housing a "short term sugar hit".

Lloyd-Hurwitz told the *AFR*'s Jennifer Hewett: "The far greater good is to get on and fix the real problem which has been decades in the making – fundamentally a housing supply issue. The far greater good is having the labour we need in this country that we've been missing over the past two years."

The data is solidly behind her. Not only has Australia fallen woefully behind in the supply of public and social housing (an estimated 500,000 units would be



The extreme lag in housing supply has led to a huge amount of work in the pipeline, making it harder for builders to complete within historic timeframes.

required to meet demand), but housing starts overall have not kept pace with population growth over the past 15 years and have gone significantly backwards over much of the past five years.

ABS data for March 2023 shows total dwellings approved fell 0.1%, private sector houses fell 2.8%, while private sector dwellings excluding houses rose 5.6%.

The 2023 Federal Budget recognises the problem and includes some measures designed to help, such as lifting the National Housing Finance and Investment Corporation's (NHFIC) liability cap by \$2 billion to \$7.5 billion in order to support the building of affordable and

social housing, tax relief for build-to-rent projects and an expanded Home Guarantee Scheme. However, while the schemes are welcomed, they are seen as insufficient by most.

Mission Australia said: "As a homelessness services and community housing provider, we know these actions aren't enough to end Australia's housing and homelessness emergency."

Hayden Groves, president of The Real Estate Institute of Australia, said: "The widely previewed commitments of the Home Guarantee Scheme rule changes, recommitment to the Housing Accord, an extra \$2 billion for the NHFIC mandate and taxation rule

changes for the niche Build-to-Rent sector are welcome but will not in themselves address the elephant in the room which is building more homes for Australians.

"We hope the long-awaited National Plan for Housing and Homelessness puts all options on the table to truly unlock housing supply and the hotly debated Housing Australia Future Fund finally gets off the ground."

Alas, both the Greens and the Opposition are currently refusing to pass the \$10 bn fund, which aims to build 30,000 social and affordable rental homes over five years, including 4000 properties for women and children facing family and domestic violence, as well as for older women at risk of homelessness.

The Greens say the fund is inadequate, while the Opposition calls it inflationary.

Meanwhile, one practical solution is being pushed by leading voices in the timber sector, developing new building methodologies and regulatory frameworks to speed up safer end more economical timber construction, see the story on page 5 of this issue.

“THE REAL PROBLEM HAS BEEN DECADES IN THE MAKING – A HOUSING SUPPLY ISSUE

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New regulations for NSW construction amid housing overhaul

The Minns Government has announced a NSW Building Commission as the first step to update and improve construction in the state.

THE New South Wales Government has announced the establishment of a NSW Building Commission by the end of this year. The goal of the body is to strengthen the quality of building and construction in NSW – a state that has had several notable building failures in recent years.

The Commission is designed to build on the work already done by Building Commissioner David Chandler since his appointment in 2019 and also aims to tackle the housing and rental crises in the state through increased supply.



New South Wales Premier Chris Minns (right) with Minister for Regulation Anoulack Chanthivong (left) and Building Commissioner David Chandler.
Photo credit: Jenny Evans

The ABC reported Premier Chris Minns as saying: “New South Wales will have greater

density and more apartments.

“To do that properly there needs to be greater confidence in buildings in New South Wales.”

As part of the announcement, the government said it recognised the pressing need for more homes to ease pressure on the housing market and keep young people in NSW: “But the Minns Government is committed to ensuring the tens of thousands of new homes that our state requires are quality homes.

“Building Commissioner David Chandler has sent a strong message to the high-rise apartment sector that there is a tough regulator policing the industry. The NSW Building Commission

will elevate and strengthen this work, ensuring people who purchase any property in NSW can have even greater confidence in the quality of the work.”

Chandler welcomed the announcement. “We’ve got fantastic momentum to build on,” he said. “So this will bring the pieces, that are currently not as connected as they could be, together.”

Chandler says buyers have lost confidence in apartment buildings, and as a result only about 15,000 apartments are being built in NSW each year. “We really need to get back to about 30,000 apartments year-on-year being constructed in New South Wales,” he noted.

The commission is one part of a multi-pronged set of changes from the new Labor government. The premier also outlined a goal to stop Sydney sprawling further west and instead increase urban density in the east of the city. As part of this goal, the state government announced it had ordered an urgent audit of public land to find new sites for housing, particularly along rail corridors. Each new block would have to include 30% social, affordable or inclusive housing.

The government will also this year introduce to parliament its new, plain English Building Act, which will consolidate and modernise the many pieces of legislation scattered throughout the state’s statute books.

Source: abc.net.au

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“WE NEED TO GET BACK TO ABOUT 30,000 APARTMENTS A YEAR BEING CONSTRUCTED

Timber industry discusses future timber framing

Experts came together in Melbourne to plan what is needed for timber framing to take up more of the market.

A MEETING was held in Melbourne on 10 May by the Technical Timber Advisory Group (T-TAG), a group of senior national timber-framing technical experts interested in developing timber-framed buildings. Over 30 representatives attended (face-to-face and online) from all over Australia, and the meeting was facilitated by the Timber Development Association, Wood Products Victoria and supported by Forest and Wood Products Australia.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss what is needed to advance timber framing as the preferred building system. It was noted that timber framing design had not significantly changed over the past 50 years, with the last major change

“ URGENT ACTIVITY NEEDED TO ENABLE UPTAKE OF THIS KNOWLEDGE



Attendees at Technical Timber Advisory Group, 10 May 2023

to building practice and design occurring in response to Cyclone Tracy, which devastated Darwin.

There was collective support to look at what future timber framing might look like. A key focus was given to bringing the design process of timber framing into the modern digital world away from the traditional paper-based system now in place. Consideration was also given to expanding the prescriptive building regulatory solutions beyond housing. It was noted that many house-size

buildings are constructed across Australia that aren't houses, providing an opportunity for more take-up of timber framing.

In addition, houses have changed during this period. They are now taller, wider and longer, in many cases, and now beyond prescriptive building standards and regulations. It was identified that the process of achieving this outcome did not necessarily involve significant research. There already exists a body of knowledge from past and present research,

as well as from other timber-framed-rich countries. It was also identified that urgent activity was needed to enable uptake of this knowledge and make it usable and accessible by the construction industry through its acceptance in building regulations.

To this end, it was agreed to consider forming a mechanism to take this initiative forward. The goal is to advance timber framing ahead of competitive materials, a positive step towards creating better and more sustainable buildings.

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STIDC and KIRK drive Sarawak's engineered timber transformation

Malaysia is encouraged to take up the role of engineered timber leader in Southeast Asia.

SOUTHEAST Asia has been slow to join the global timber transformation, with fewer than 1700 mass timber projects commissioned as of December 2022. The Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation (STIDC) and KIRK, leading architects in engineered timber, are hoping to change this with an event in Kuching this week.

The International Engineered Wood Conference 2023 brought together global experts in timber to speak on the immense economic opportunity of engineered timber. Regional experts included Dr Zakiah Ahmad, a

timber engineering specialist at the College of Engineering, Universiti Teknologi Mara; Peter Ayers and Callum Lilywhite from Aurecon; and Ling Tiing Tchin, forest resource and plantation general manager of Ta Ann Group, as well as Yang Berbahagia Datu Haji Hashim Bin Bojet, general manager of STIDC and Richard Kirk, founder and director of KIRK.

"We're on the precipice of a global timber revolution," said Kirk. "Timber's remarkable sustainability credentials make it the carbon-neutral building material of the future. With countless large-



Richard Kirk, founder of KIRK architects, sees Sarawak as the ideal hub for Southeast Asia's engineered timber sector.

scale developments in the woodworks now in the west, it's only a matter of time before the rest of the world catches up. Now's the time to act."

KIRK, in partnership with Arkitek KDI, is spearheading several ground-breaking timber projects in Southeast Asia, which will require the rapid development of the local timber industry and could position Sarawak as a hub for engineered timber distribution and construction.

Southeast Asia is fertile ground for industry growth. It

possesses the ideal tropical climate, land, and economic conditions for sustainable timber plantations, engineered timber manufacturing, and construction. Despite these advantages, the region has yet to realise the potential of their timber industry. The total plantation area in key forestry countries of Southeast Asia is estimated at only 5-6 million hectares. While timber is already one of Malaysia's top exports (0.4% GDP in 2021), it is predominantly used for low-value, non-structural elements.

Kirk says Southeast Asia's adoption of this burgeoning technology requires shifting public misconceptions around timber's sustainability and performance. "Replenishment of timber stock is possible through commercial timber plantations, cultivating fast-growing hardwood species like Acacia – which Malaysia has in abundance."

On the cover: KIRK designed multiple mass timber buildings for the Moreton Bay Campus Expansion at the University of the Sunshine Coast.



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MAY

24: Forestry Australia Science Session: Tree Breeding Webinar – ONLINE.

11:30am – 1:00pm (AEST) RFP CPD points: 1.5. In this Science Session, speakers will discuss different aspects of Tree Breeding. Dr Tony McRae, General Manager at Tree Breeding Australia (TBA) will give an overview about Tree improvement in plantation forestry. TBA's breeding programs are guided largely by economic objectives – to improve productivity, resource quality, and plantation resilience. Rolling front strategies with overlapping generations of breeding and testing have generated efficiencies and increased rates of genetic gain. Robert Southerton, Managing Director/Co-Founder at Gondwana Genomics will provide insights on his experience with Gondwana in the commercial applications for genetics. Dr Heidi Dungey, Leader of the Genetics Research Programme at Scion will provide an update on tree breeding advances from New Zealand. Forestry Australia Member: \$10; Non-Member: \$50; Student members: Free. Registrations close: 10:00am (AEST) Tuesday 23 May. Register at www.forestry.org.au/webinar-science-session-tree-breeding/

24: WoodSolutions x Timber Framing Collective Webinar, Residential Timber Construction – 7-Star

Solutions and Managing the Weather – ONLINE. 4:30pm-5:30pm. Sponsored by the Timber Framing Collective, this WoodSolutions webinar focuses on these two important topics, providing practical information for builders and other building professional groups. Dr Philip Christopher, Research Fellow in Infrastructure Engineering at the University of Melbourne, will be talking about his research activities for WoodSolutions examining the impact of the new 7 Star Energy Efficiency provisions on residential homes throughout Australia. Christopher specialises in sustainable materials for construction and the thermal performance of building fabric. Nick Cui, design services manager – ANZ, Pryda Australia, will be talking on Best Practices for Caring for Timber Frames During Construction and Delays. RSVP Link <https://us06web.zoom.us/join/993638> or email info@woodsolutions.com.au for details

25-26: NTHA National Conference and Awards – Crowne Plaza - Hunter Valley, NSW. The new National Timber and Hardware Association is hosting a national conference and awards program in 2023. NTHA is proud to announce the 2023 Timber & Hardware National Conference to be held

in the Hunter Valley. Offering members and industry representatives an opportunity to connect as industry leaders and come away with information and tools to take back to your business to help you today and succeed in the future. As part of the National Conference, TABMA Australia and Hardware Australia will be hosting the National Awards program for the industry to participate in. The awards recognise the outstanding achievements of individuals and organisations in delivering or producing high quality products and services. For any queries contact events@tamba.com.au. For bookings: <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/993638>

28-2 June: International Research Group (IRG) on Wood Protection – Cairns, QLD. The IRG is the world's peak world body on timber durability research and will be hosting more than 250 researchers from 30-40 countries to discuss new developments in the field. Information about the conference and registration is available at: www.irg-wp.com/IRG54/index.html

31-1 Doing Timber Business in Queensland Symposium & Field Tour – Brisbane. The 4th Biennial symposium Doing Timber Business in Queensland 2023: Preparation, Opportunity, Success will delve into where growth potential for Queensland's forest and timber industry

is most likely to occur. This special event will commence with an industry research and development tour on 31 May, followed by a symposium and networking event on 1 June. For more information admin@timberqueensland.com.au

JUNE

11-17: WoodSolutions 2023 six-day Study Tour – Falkenberg, Sweden, to Oslo, Norway (by luxury coach).

WoodSolutions will be hosting a select group of architects, engineers, developers and building professionals on Timber Construction Study Tour to Sweden and Norway. The tour is scheduled to take place ahead of the World Conference of Timber. Get ready for six days and six nights of outstanding inspiration, information and fun as you travel from Falkenberg, Sweden to Oslo, Norway. Your tour leaders are Andrew Dunn, timber engineer and CEO of the Timber Development Association and Eileen Newbury, Head of the WoodSolutions Program. For more information visit <https://www.woodsolutions.com.au/events/woodsolutions-2023-study-tour-sweden-and-norway>

18-20: Malaysian Wood Expo – Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Malaysian Timber Council, International Wood & Woodworking Expo. For further information see: www.malaysianwoodexpo.com.my or email: info@malaysianwoodexpo.com.my



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Post-Cyclone Gabrielle forestry report

It's clear that New Zealanders are calling for change, but finding the balance of jobs, sustainability and safety is going to take work.

NEW Zealand forestry voices have responded to a government report titled "Outrage to Optimism," led by ex-National Cabinet Minister Hekia Parata and collaborators Matthew McCloy and Dave Brash. The report advocates a temporary cessation of large-scale logging. It urgently demands an immediate end to extensive felling across New Zealand, focusing on the damaging aftermath of forestry slash – the leftover woody debris from logging.

The report draws attention to an environmental crisis in the making, flagging that woody debris and sediment threaten lives and livelihoods. Ngāti Porou, a local community, is on the brink of becoming "homeless and landless".

Even though the report acknowledges more than half of soil sediment is caused by pastoral farming, it

“OUR COUNTRY'S IDENTITY AND ECONOMY ARE TIED TO FORESTRY”



Cyclone Gabrielle flattened thousands of trees around the Taupo district.

emphasises the need for strict action due to the forestry sector's environmental footprint on soil erosion and water quality. A source from the report states, "There is a need to reassess how we manage our forests in the wake of growing climate concerns. We can't afford to ignore the repercussions anymore."

The cyclone left the forestry sector in the Tai Rāwhiti region grappling with extensive damage and financial implications for industry workers. Yet, despite these adversities, the locals exhibit a sense of resilience and a forward-

looking approach. The report's recommendations and findings provide hope for a brighter future for the sector and the affected communities.

Peeni Henare, the NZ Forestry Minister, addressed the impact of the forestry sector on the region. He told the *NZ Herald* that he recognised forestry had been a significant source of income for many locals but also stressed the need to evaluate the sector's future in the region, especially in the light of the recent cyclone's impact.

Henare said, "That is a balance that we are going to have to come up with, but the

locals have made it quite clear that they are looking towards other opportunities, and we've got to look at what those opportunities might be."

NZ FOREST OWNERS ASSOCIATION RESPONDS TO REPORT

In response to these concerns, Grant Dobson, the NZ Forest Owners Association (NZFOA) President, released a statement saying the NZFOA was reviewing the recommendations.

In a radio interview with RNZ, Dobson admitted that the social acceptance of forestry in Tairāwhiti had taken a hit, but practices had improved "dramatically" since 2018.

The slash problem has been a century in the making and requires a "significant amount of work," Dobson said. But, he added, "That disaster started 100 years ago when the native trees were cleared off that land and, ever since then, we've been chasing our tail with farming eroding into the sea,

Cont P 9





Enormous build-ups of logs like this one at Mangatokerau bridge took out bridges across forestry areas in New Zealand.

From P 8

forestry washing down, water supplies damaged, roads damaged, bridges damaged, sedimentation... it's been going on for a long time, and you're quite right; time is running out. Climate change is making it worse."

Dobson praised the commission for their work over the last three months but was cautious. The inquiry has recommended several strategies that could significantly enhance the region's resilience. However, the collective implementation has implications. One recommendation proposes a more strategic approach to felling by harvesting smaller areas of forests at a time. Dobson expressed mixed feelings about this, as it could considerably reduce the sustainable cut from the region, impacting the productivity and job market of the East Coast.

These sentiments mirror the concerns raised in the report, underscoring the necessity for a sustainable approach to forestry.

Kerre Woodham, a host on Newstalk ZB, also shared her perspective on the issue: "Forestry is woven into our national fabric. The question is not about discarding it; rather, it's about enhancing it,"

she declared on her morning show. "We've got the brains, and we've got the resources. We need to put those into action and find a way to make forestry work for us, not against us," she added.

The sector's future could witness a shift towards more sustainable practices that protect the environment while also providing job security for the people of New Zealand.

"There's a lot to be learned from the cyclone and the devastation it brought to our forests," said Henare. "We need to view this as a lesson and start working on creating a more resilient and sustainable sector that can withstand such challenges in the future."

Woodham, too, emphasises the need for balance and innovation. "New Zealand has always been a leader in many aspects, and there is no reason we can't lead the way in sustainable forestry," she stated. "Our country's identity and economy are tied to forestry. It's time we revolutionise the sector with better practices ensuring sustainability."

Read the full story at WoodCentral here, download the report here and listen to the Dobson interview here or Woodham interview here.

Source: WoodCentral

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Changes at FWPA Marketing

After a decade at the helm, Eileen Newbury is stepping down from FWPA and WoodSolutions.

FEW people in the Australian timber sector wouldn't know the name Eileen Newbury. The indefatigable force behind many of the most successful timber education programs of the past decade, Newbury has driven campaigns including Make it Wood, run in conjunction with Planet Ark and focused on the health benefits of timber, and The Ultimate Renewable, sharing the sustainability of timber framing with homeowners and builders.

FWPA's CEO Andrew Leighton said, "Eileen has an energy and a passion for FWPA and for the industry that was felt by all and will be greatly missed. Data and research have always underpinned her marketing and education of the industry.

"As the head of the

WoodSolutions program, Eileen was integral in lifting the recognition of wood and wood products in the design and build industry. Testament to this influence was the introduction of The Ultimate Renewable brand and its ongoing success informing the consumer audience about the clear environmental benefits of wood and wood products."

The role of FWPA Head of Marketing and Communications will be taken up by Sarah Downey, who has been senior marketing and communications manager since 2021. She, too, had high praise for her predecessor, saying "Eileen



Eileen Newbury's next challenge is relaxing on a beach for a few months.

has been a powerhouse in the organisation and along with her team has overseen several important initiatives that have helped reframe the industry and how it is perceived."

“EILEEN HAS BEEN A POWERHOUSE IN THE ORGANISATION”

Leighton said Sarah had shown leadership and exemplary performance in her current role, quickly grasping the nuances of the organisation and industry.

"Sarah was the ideal choice," he said. "She is familiar with the role and all elements of FWPA's diverse range of marketing programs. Her knowledge and experience will ensure a seamless transition for the organisation. The step up for Sarah also comes at an important time in our organisation's future as we roll out our new strategic plan."

Downey has already been working on the next exciting projects up FWPA's sleeve. As for Newbury, she plans to relax for a few months, with hopes to spend some time as "a beach bum".



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Logging haulage tender announced

FORESTRY Corporation is inviting bids from interested parties for the loading and haulage of logs from softwood plantation forests in the Bathurst, Walcha, and Bombala areas to sawmills across the state.

The open tender process is designed to select the most efficient and safety-focused contractors for this large-scale transport task, with contracts set to start on July 1, 2024 and run for a period of five years, with two one-year extension periods.

"With the announcement of this tender, Forestry Corporation is not only supporting the responsible management of a valuable renewable resource, but also providing long-term contract opportunities that will benefit regional businesses and

communities across the state," said Rachel Johnson, general manager softwood products division.

The quantity of logs to be handled each year will be between 600,000 and 900,000 tonnes, transported across multiple freight lanes.

Safety is a top priority for Forestry Corporation, and contractors will be required to fully comply with the Heavy Vehicle National Law (NSW) (HVNL) and Chain of Responsibility (CoR) obligations, integrating CoR requirements into their operations and fostering a safety culture consistent with that of Forestry Corporation.

In addition to safety, cost efficiency is also expected, and Forestry Corporation is seeking innovative



Mangan Logging and Haulage providing haulage services at Oberon. Photography by Five Hours West.

solutions for the delivery of services. The use of higher mass limited vehicles and multi-modal rail and road solutions is encouraged, as Forestry Corporation seeks to minimise environmental impact and optimise transport efficiency.

"By investing in the responsible management of softwood plantations, Forestry Corporation is demonstrating

its commitment to both the environment and the local economy. We are excited to see the positive impact that these long-term contracts will have on regional businesses and communities,"

Dean Anderson, regional manager Snowy Region, said.

The open tender process is expected to attract strong interest from transport operators across South-eastern Australia.

Tender documents are available on the NSW Government eTender website; tenders close on 21 June, 2023.

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Tool Skills Day aims to encourage more gender diversity

ONEFORTYONE together with Empowered Women in Trades is hosting a tool skills day at the Jubilee Sawmill in Mount Gambier on 30 May.

Empowered Women in Trades (EWIT) Head of Programs Melinda Davis said it will be an opportunity for women and non-binary people interested in trades to explore beyond the sawmill gates. "The program will be highly interactive," Davis said.

"Participants will tour the Sawmill, have the opportunity to see OneFortyOne's operations, meet the team, and hear about the range of roles available across the business."

Part of the experience will include practical sessions with OneFortyOne Jubilee's maintenance team. Manager

Andrew Hoath said that the team was excited about introducing new people to the site and being able to give a practical glimpse into the industry.

"We are really looking forward to hosting, meeting new people and taking them through some of the activities we do day to day," Hoath said. "Our maintenance team includes electricians, fitters, technicians, apprentices and support staff. Supported by our team, the group will learn how to put together an extension lead and use our thermal imaging cameras.

"Sawmilling and forestry are very male dominated, and we're working with EWIT to see how we can change that."

A key element of the day

is learning about the principles of applied positive psychology, and helping people discover the tools to support a thriving career.

"It can be very daunting for women and non-binary people to enter a very male dominated workplace," Davis said. "We give people the tools to navigate this and feel more confident.

"You could be a school leaver, looking to change careers, coming back into the workforce – if you're interested in taking up a trade and finding out more about the jobs available locally, we'd love

to meet you."

The OneFortyOne and EWIT Tool Skills Day will be held on Tuesday 30 May, 9:30am–2:30pm, with lunch provided.

To find out more or sign up, contact Melinda Davis via melinda.davis@ewittrades.com, or visit <https://form.jotform.com/EWIT/tool-skills-day-mt-gambier>.



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Koppers Performance Chemicals announces promotions

KOPPERS Performance Chemicals has announced changes in its high-performance local team. Steve Crimp, general manager of KPC New Zealand, has accepted a promotion to the role of managing director, KPC Europe from 1 December 2023, based in Denmark.

Crimp has been with the business in Australia and New Zealand for 28 years in various leadership roles, including the last 15 years as general manager of KPC New Zealand.

KPC said: "Whilst Steve's contribution to the KPC businesses in Australia and New Zealand will be missed, this promotion represents a tremendous opportunity for Steve to further develop his career and take on new and



Elias Akle (left) with Jessica Douglas and Cameron McDonald from OneFortyOne at the Joint AFPA/TQ Dinner last year.

exciting challenges."

As a result, there will be a number of changes to the KPC New Zealand business structure. Terry Smith will be promoted to the role of general manager – sales. Smith is very well known within the New Zealand timber and timber preservation industries having held various roles over the last

36 years including 22 with KPC (and previously Osmose).

Crimp has also been heavily involved in the day-to-day operations of the KPC production facility in Wiri Auckland. To ensure the continued smooth operation of the facility, KPC NZ has hired an experienced Operations Manager who will commence

employment later in May and will have five to six months working alongside Crimp, ensuring a smooth transition.

Finally, Elias Akle will take on the newly expanded role of managing director, Performance Chemicals Australasia, with overall responsibility for the Performance Chemicals New Zealand business in addition to the KPC Australian and Asian businesses. The company said, "Akle will work with the KPC New Zealand staff with the aim of maintaining the high standard that has been set by Steve, Terry and the KPC team over many years. New Zealand is a very important market for KPC and a market that KPC is very committed to for the long term."

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English oak, early arrival in Botany Bay

Tree was reputed to have been planted by Second Fleet mariner Edward Powell.

THE first English oak tree in Australia that we have details for was planted near Windsor, reputedly by by Second Fleet mariner Edward Powell from acorns he brought with him on his return to Australia in 1793.

An extensive search for Edward Powell's oak tree in 2008 was unsuccessful.

Locals reported that the tree had succumbed to lightning damage and old age. However, several trees have been planted in the district from acorns gathered from under Powell's oak to continue the region's proud early convict and colonial settlement connections.

The oldest surviving oak was planted by Sarah Hawkins around 1864 in the Adelaide Hills, where it has been sheltering picnickers for over 150 years.

English oak (*Quercus robur*), is also known as common oak, pedunculate oak or French oak. It is native to most of Europe. The tree is widely cultivated in temperate regions and has escaped into the wild in



1



2

- 1/ This oak grown from Edward Powell's acorns in Windsor, NSW, continues the region's early convict and colonial settlement connections.
- 2/ The oak planted by Sally Hawkins in 1864 is at the National Trust's Stangate House.

scattered parts of China and North America.

English oak is a large deciduous tree, with a trunk circumference of grand oaks from 4m to an exceptional 12m. The Majesty Oak with a circumference of 12.2m is the largest diameter tree in the UK.

It is a long-lived tree, with a large wide spreading crown of rugged branches. While it

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may naturally live to an age of a few centuries, many of the oldest trees are pollarded or coppiced, both pruning techniques that extend the tree's lifespan.

Two individuals of notable longevity are the Stelmužė Oak in Lithuania and the Granit Oak in Bulgaria. They are both believed to be more than 1500 years old, possibly making them the oldest oaks in Europe.

In England, the English oak has assumed the status of a national emblem. This has its origins in the oak tree at Boscobel House, where the future King Charles II hid from his Parliamentarian pursuers in 1650 during the English Civil War. Since then, this tree has been known as the Royal Oak. This event was celebrated nationally on 29 May as Oak Apple Day, and is continued to this day in some communities.

The 'Royal Oak' is the third most popular pub name in Britain (with 541 counted in 2007) and has been the name of eight major Royal Navy warships. The naval associations are strengthened by the fact that oak's long-lasting and durable heartwood was the main construction material for sailing warships for several centuries.

The Royal Navy was often described as 'The Wooden Walls of Old England' and the Navy's official quick march is 'Heart of Oak'. In folklore, Sherwood Forest's Major Oak is where Robin Hood is purported to have taken shelter. An oak tree has been depicted on the reverse of the pound coin (the 1987 and 1992 issues) and a sprig of oak leaves and acorns is the emblem of the National Trust.



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Abodo showcases panelised building in remote location

The Aotearoa-based specialists prove timber's versatility and economy.

FAMILY-OWNED New Zealand company Abodo has long been famous for its sustainable, locally grown, thermally modified timbers. Its most recent collaboration with New Zealand builders and designers eloquently shows the adaptability, quality and cost-saving potential of timber builds.

Three new eco-villas have gone up at Cardrona Alpine Village near Queenstown, the first of 12 accommodation units planned. Designed by First Light Studio in collaboration with FLiP Healthy Homes, the villas are a liveable example of how Abodo's products can be used in a residential setting.

"The villas are a chance to see how the product might work for homes at an affordable level," explains First Light designer Eli Nuttall.

Each of the three villas has a slightly different look and feel inside, with a range of Abodo products and finishes used for everything from ceiling and wall linings, to cabinetry, decking and fencing.

"Part of the brief was to test a range of products in what is really one of the harshest environments we have here in this country," Nuttall says, explaining that



The villas were prefabricated in Christchurch and trucked to site.

the highly efficient homes were designed to achieve a Homestar 7 rating. This was accomplished through double framing stud walls with an air tightness layer through the centre, sheepswool insulation, and thermally broken double glazed windows, which are

recessed back to the thermal line to boost performance.

In order to make this project affordable in a location where access can be difficult, the homes were prefabricated in Christchurch and carefully moved to site by truck. They were then carefully transferred



Timber, wool and double glazing ensure durable comfort in harsh conditions.

to the site using a rail system, which meant there was no need for cranes.

For the First Light and FLiP teams, this was a special project. "We've been specifying Abodo products and telling their story as a part of our story for many years," says Nuttall. "So it was great to partner up with Abodo and come up with a design solution that would best showcase the products."

Abodo founder and managing director, Daniel Gudsell, says, "It was important for us to not only showcase our range of timbers, profiles and finishes – but also to show that low budget housing in New Zealand is possible. And we've chosen one of New Zealand's harshest climates to demonstrate that in.

"Cardrona's alpine location is known for its dry hot summers and is also a famous ski area, so our thermally modified timbers are really put to the test here. We're proud to have built such high-performance homes on a comparatively modest budget."

Two of the three villas are available to book on Air BNB, click for the Abodo Alpine Eco Villa or Abodo Alpine Eco Villa (Spa).

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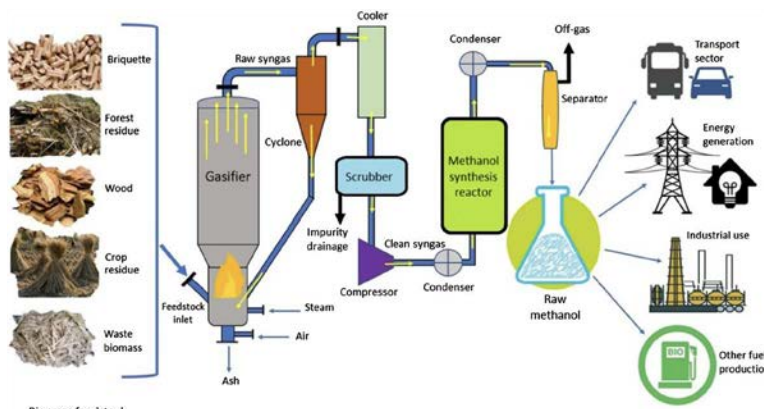
Green methanol project at the Port of Melbourne

A consortium of partners across the shipping supply chain has come together to plan powering ships with forestry waste.

INTERNATIONAL shipping currently accounts for about 700 million tonnes of CO₂ emissions per annum. These are almost entirely powered by fossil fuels, which have a significant impact on air pollution in areas around ports and shipping channels. Ships can contribute as much as 80% of nitrogen oxide and sulphur dioxide pollution to areas around busy ports as well as 20-30% of fine particulate matter pollution.

Major shipping lines know these problems need to be addressed and are working in conjunction with leading ports and power companies to find solutions that deliver the reliable energy sources they require.

Accordingly, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between Port of Melbourne, Maersk, ANL (a subsidiary of CMA-CGM), Svitzer, Stolthaven Terminals, HAMR Energy and ABEL Energy to explore the commercial feasibility of establishing a green methanol bunkering hub at the Port of Melbourne.



The green methanol production process. From Methanol fuel production, utilisation and techno-economy: a review.

The collaboration will examine a potential project involving the transportation of green methanol from production sites in Portland, Victoria (HAMR Energy) and Bell Bay, Tasmania (ABEL Energy) to Port of Melbourne for storage and bunkering services.

Green methanol is an attractive alternative fuel due to its physical properties being similar to existing fuels. It is produced by first making synthetic gas from the residue of the sustainable forestry industry, then adding renewable hydrogen and finally reacting the synthetic gas over a catalyst to make renewable methanol.

HAMR Energy describes it as “a market-ready,

decarbonised solution that will ... generate employment opportunities locally and eliminate dependence on fuel imports.”

The MoU provides a starting point for the parties to work together to explore the various elements of establishing a green methanol bunkering hub and identify any challenges that would need to be addressed.

Portland and Bell Bay have been selected as production sites due to their proximity to the timber industry and the low cost of fuel transport – timber waste from forestry and milling – as well as straightforward movement of the methanol produced to the Port of Melbourne. HAMR aims to have fuel in tanks

by 2027 and one million tonnes of green methanol under production by 2030, expecting to deliver 80 jobs for the Portland region.

Port of Melbourne CEO Saul Cannon said, “Decarbonisation of the maritime industry is really gaining pace. As Australia’s largest container port with around 3000 ships visiting annually, it makes sense that we look at ways to work together with customers, service providers and producers to understand the needs of the market.”

Maersk regional head of market, Oceania, My Therese Blank expects the MoU to deliver in the near future, saying: “Maersk has already ordered container vessels that will be operated on green methanol, which is a proven solution for reducing the shipping industry’s carbon emissions and mitigating its impact on the environment. As an island nation with high dependency on ocean transport, it’s vital that Australia takes a leadership role to enable the fuel transformation from fossil to green fuel.”

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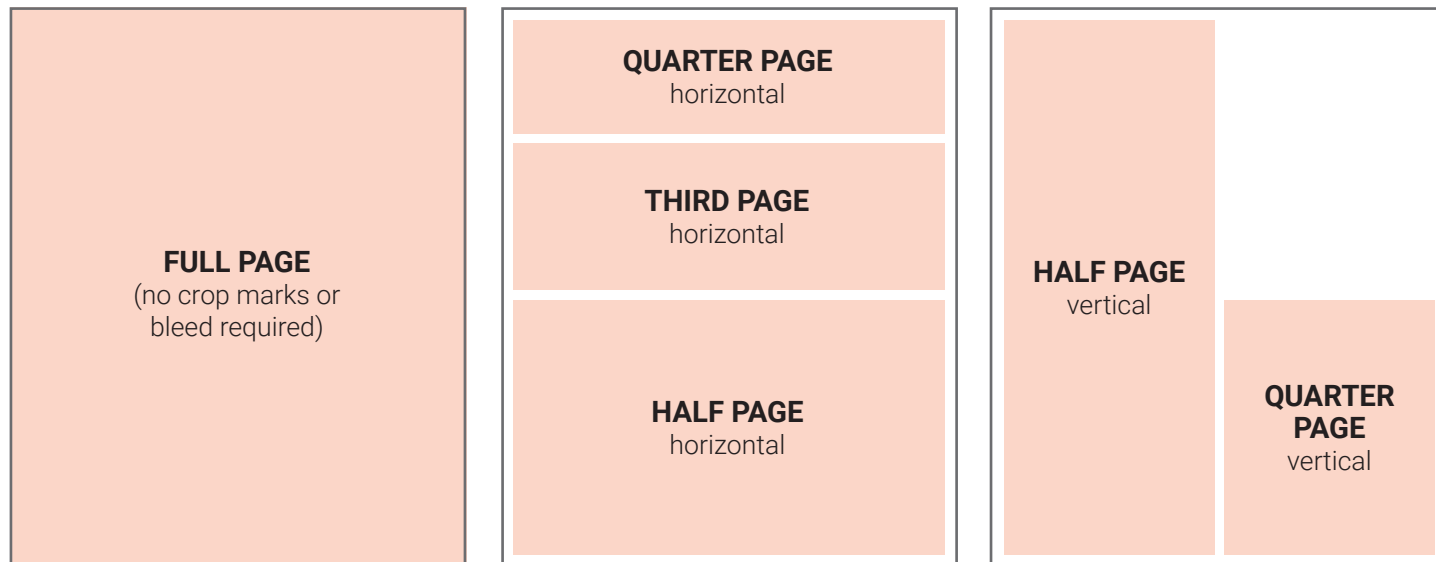
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Timber & Forestry eNews is published by Timber Media Australasia
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Delivered every Thursday, 48 weeks of the year to industry decision makers in Australia, New Zealand, the Asia-Pacific, North America, UK and Europe.

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