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Immediate halt to timber harvesting in areas proposed for Koala Park

LOGGING will cease at 106 'koala hubs' sites in the NSW mid-north coast while the state government consults experts about its plans to establish a Great Koala National Park.

The announcement came Tuesday with Minister for the Environment, Penny Sharpe saying the creation of the park is essential to saving koalas from extinction in New South Wales.

"The Government is taking serious steps towards its creation and will work closely with the community, Aboriginal organisations and industry as the areas for inclusion in the park are assessed," she said.

According to the State Government, the creation of the Great Koala National Park on the NSW Mid North Coast is the Government's largest environmental commitment and a crucial part of the overall strategy to save koalas from extinction in New South Wales.

"The NSW Government's action will balance our commitment to protecting environmentally sensitive areas with the development of a plan to sustain a viable timber industry and jobs," a



A decision to halt logging in the koala sites has been made with the agreement of the Forestry Corporation.

statement read, "While the work to establish the park is carried out, the government will implement a halt to timber harvesting in koala hubs within the assessment area for the park. Operations were paused on Friday 1 September 2023 by agreement with Forestry Corporation of NSW."

In a statement, the Australian Forest Contractors Association (AFCA) said this week's announcement can be read as an effort by Environment Minister Penny Sharpe to find a middle ground.

"The Minister's release notes the balance between protecting environmentally sensitive areas alongside the development of a plan to sustain a viable timber

industry and jobs."

"Forestry Corporation NSW has provided assurances about their overall objective to keep contractors working, noting it is an increasingly

difficult task given a wide range of disruptions.

"A key objective for the broader industry is to maintain a seat at the table with the NSW Government while discussions and negotiations about the park continue, with an ultimate outcome being no loss of productive timber volume. For contractors, this also needs to take into account accessible areas of operation."

AFCA say they will continue to find further clarity on the decision and the next steps.

The 106 koala hubs cover more than 8,400 hectares of state forest. Koala hubs are areas where there is strong evidence of multi-generational,

high-density populations of the iconic animal. Koala hubs cover approximately 5% of the Great Koala National Park assessment area but contain 42% of recorded koala sightings in state forests in the assessment area since 2000.

The NSW Government says it will immediately discuss with the Forestry Corporation of NSW the next steps of the cessation and determine timber supply options.

The process of establishing the park will involve three key components:

- An independent economic and social assessment which will consider the impacts on local jobs and communities
- The establishment of industry, community and Aboriginal advisory panels to provide input to the creation of the park
- An expert environmental and cultural heritage assessment to safeguard the unique environmental and cultural heritage of the region and ensure the Great Koala National Park aligns with the highest standards of environmental protection and respect for cultural heritage.



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WTFN 'Cocktails for Charity' event raises \$20,000

AN impressive \$20,000 was raised last weekend to support Brisbane Domestic Violence Services (BDVS) as the industry came together for the annual Women in Forests & Timber Network's charity event in Queensland.

The annual event, which was celebrating its 10th anniversary, was hosted on Saturday the 9th of September at the Rose Room in Brisbane and saw a wealth of industry members, family and friends come together to support the worthy cause.

"We put a call out to the industry to assist us in putting together the event with the majority of the funds going straight towards the charity," Jacinta Colley, Vida Wood and WTFN committee member said.

"We were blown away by the support!"

Before doors had even opened Jacinta said the 'cocktails for charity' event had raised \$16,500, with further funds to be raised throughout the afternoon.

Alicia Langfield of NTHA formally welcomed guests and put the challenge out to break the \$20K mark by purchasing raffle tickets and bidding on a

number of auction prizes.

Guests enjoyed an afternoon of drinks and canapes along with the raffles and auction as the funds for the Brisbane charity soared.

"We were lucky enough to hear from a lady who had experienced how BDVS changed her life and we also learnt what \$20K in funds could

pay for," Jacinta continued.

"This was anything from having the hotline manned 24/7, furniture or a couple of nights at a hotel for several families in need, escaping violence."

Jenni Day of Versace Timbers captured everyone's



1/ WTFN Qld event committee Tahlia Bellotti (NTHA), Jenni Day (Versace Timbers), Alicia Langfield (NTHA) & Jacinta Colley (Vida Wood) put the call out to the sector with extreme welcoming!
 2/ Ria Wong of BDVS was very impressive & passionate in expressing gratitude for the support from this event to help.
 3/ Tracy, survivor & representative from BDVS told her story of escaping DV, couch surfing, living out of her car & coming out the other side.

Cont P 7

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Responsible Wood's Community Grants now open

AS of Monday, September 4, the Responsible Wood Community Grant program is open for applications with funding available per project between \$2,000 and \$15,000.

The Responsible Wood Community Grants Program is set to return in 2023, building on the success of previous years and continuing its vision to foster deeper connections between local communities and their forests. Over the last three years Responsible Wood, an organisation committed to supporting sustainable Australian forests and their communities, has already allocated over \$140,000 to various community groups associated with Responsible Wood-certified forests. With

this year's program, they aim to further enhance these connections and promote the value of responsible forest management.

The program focuses on supporting regional and rural Australian communities in undertaking projects that facilitate physical connections between people and forests or wood products. It also encourages communities to collaborate with Responsible Wood-certified forest growers and chain of custody producers,



Landfall Farm, East Tamar Highway... one of a number of funded community projects.

forest projects that might otherwise be unfeasible. Grants ranging from \$2,000 to \$15,000 will be awarded to community groups across Australia, with a total budget of \$40,000 available for the program in the 2023/24 period.

Since its launch in August 2020, the Responsible Wood Community Grants Program

thereby strengthening local relationships and promoting responsible forestry practices.

One of the program's key objectives is to support communities by providing resources to complete small

has successfully engaged with more than 50 community groups connected to Australian-certified forests. This year applications are

Cont P 9

national safe work month

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Industry dinner reinforces critical sustainability and regional values

Peter Dutton pledged the Liberal-National Party Coalition’s long-term support for the country’s sustainable forest industries.

FOREST industry leaders and supporters gathered in Canberra last Tuesday night for dinner hosted by the Australian Forest Product Association (AFPA).

The Opposition Leader Peter Dutton gave a keynote address and also in attendance was the Parliamentary Friends of Forestry co-convenor and Shadow Minister for Forestry Senator Jonathan Duniam, plus other Federal and state politicians.

Mr Dutton pledged the Liberal-National Party Coalition’s long-term support for the country’s sustainable forest industries. And made a commitment to continuing to work with the sector to reach



Opposition Leader Peter Dutton delivering the keynote address at the AFPA event.

its full potential.

He said that the industry had been unfairly vilified and that a callous disregard for the sustainable attributes and world-class management practices of the industry was evident in some quarters.

“I want to pledge our continuing support and friendship to your industry, to



Former Agriculture Minister and now Chair of AFPA Joel Fitzgibbon delivers a vote of thanks to Peter Dutton.

your sector. The resources you manage are the ultimate renewable, and the products

“LONG-TERM SUPPORT FOR SUSTAINABLE FOREST INDUSTRIES”

you produce are relied upon daily,” he said.

“The contributions our forestry sector makes to our nation are truly significant, whether its products that Australians rely on every day, timber for construction... whether it’s the jobs you create, the revenue you generate, it helps make our economy, or whether it’s your sustainable practices, which help to protect and nurture our environment”

“The most commendable attribute of Australia’s forestry industry is your ability to balance economic and environmental imperatives and frankly I think there is a very strong argument that you

Cont P 6

Supporting regional forest communities... through our small grants program.

responsiblewood.org.au



- 1/ Forest and Wood Products Australia trio Kevin Peachey, Sarah Downey and Andrew Leighton join Wespine's Julie Pelliari
- 2/ Senator Jonno Duniham, Shadow Minister for Forestry catches up with Diana Gibbs, AFPA director and forestry luminary Bob Gordon..
- 3/ Supporting Natasa Sikman, Acting CEO AFPA (centre) are Steve Walker and Shona Heading from HQ Plantations.
- 4/ Old friends catch up Warwick Ragg, National Farmers Federation and Kersten Gentle, CEO Frame and Truss Association.
- 5/ Showing solidarity for the forest industry Tony Mahar, CEO, National Farmers Federation joins Peter Dutton, Leader of the Opposition.



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ForestWorks is an industry-owned not-for-profit organisation offering services to support the skills development of the forest, wood, paper, timber and furnishing industries.

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From P 5

do it better than any of your international counterparts, the Australian standard here is world-leading," Mr Dutton said.

Acting Chief Executive Officer of the AFPA, Natasa Sikman commented that backing in the future of the forest products supply chain was critical for the environment, jobs and economy.

"AFPA will continue to work with both the Albanese Government, the Coalition Opposition and crossbench politicians to ensure Australia's forest products sector reaches its full potential, for the climate, economy and communities," Ms Sikman concluded.

On the cover: industry leaders were joined by opposition leader Peter Dutton for a dinner supporting the forestry industry.

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SEPTEMBER

28: Wood You Like To Know Summit - ONLINE EVENT. The event promises to 'transform the way you approach design'. Multiple streams of panel discussions on topics shaping the future of the industry will be headed by industry experts. Topics include Digital Evolution In The Building Industry: BIM, Robots & Prefab Homes; Unpacking the Latest NCC Changes and Designing for Bushfire Prone Areas. Online expo and networking sessions included, with exhibitors including ITI Australia, Intergrain and Weathertex. Tickets from \$49 for half day live to \$99 for full day and on demand, earn up to 10 CPD points. For more, visit www.event.woodyouliketoknow.com.au

OCTOBER

2-6: 30th Session of the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission (APFC) – Hyatt Regency Sydney Hotel. Formulation of

forest policy and to review and coordinate its implementation on the regional scale; to exchange information and advice on suitable practices and action in regard to technical problems. Further details www.fao.org/events/detail/apfc-30/

11-12: 71st International Softwood Conference – Hilton Vienna Park Hotel Vienna.

The conference will offer the opportunity to scrutinise trends in the timber market focusing on facts and figures showing softwood production as well as consumption. Further more info visit <https://isc2023.com/>

15-18: 2023 ANZIF Conference – Twin Towns Conference Centre, Tweed Heads, NSW.

The Conference is an exciting joint event from both Forestry Australia and The New Zealand Institute of Forestry. The theme of the conference, "Embracing Our Natural Capital: The Science, Technology and Art of Managing Forests For All Values", will

facilitate conversation and collaboration – highlighting the need for active and adaptive management of our natural capital using evidence-based and emerging innovation, technology, skills and knowledge to support our forests and secure our future. For full details, visit www.forestryconference.com.au

23-25: Global Woodchip And Biomass Trade Conference And Networking Event – Singapore.

Following on from the inaugural 2022 DANA-Gingko event last year, the organisers are once again bringing together international experts to discuss the issues facing the trade. The three-day event includes comprehensive networking opportunities and will be followed by a post-conference field trip. For more details and to book, visit <https://danaevents.co.nz/2023singapore/home>

NOVEMBER

9-10: Sustainability summit and awards 2023 – Sydney.

The event begins with the summit, with its topics ranging from the Brisbane 2032 Olympics builds to Designing for Resilience and Sustainability Certification and Compliance, held at Allianz Stadium in Sydney and online. Then on Day 2, the prestigious awards will be held at the Sydney Cricket Ground. Tickets start at \$149. Visit www.sustainablebuildingawards.com.au/#s-summit

12-17: Gottstein Understanding Wood Science Course – Canberra.

Companies and interested individuals are encouraged to register their place/s soon to ensure they do not miss out on this respected learning opportunity. Full details at <https://gottsteintrust.org/grants-courses/understanding-wood-science-course> or email team@gottsteintrust.org

From P 6

attention and worked the room with her auctioneering skills raising an impressive amount with two gifts that were generously donated.

Brilliance Gems donated a pearl necklace and Sascha Drake donated a gift voucher and a styling session.

"After many happy prize winners, collected their gifts and with the bubbles flowing, the WFTN Committee were able to announce the great news that after everyone's



All lucky raffle & auction prize winners! L-R: Zoey Dixon & Jacinta Colley (Vida Wood); Leanne De Waal (Archer Truss) & Jacinta Colley (Vida Wood); Issac Palin (Big River - Sabdias) & Jacinta Colley (Vida Wood)

very generous support, the \$20K challenge was met," Jacinta said.

Overall it was a highly

successful afternoon with many smiles on faces, a wonderful networking opportunity and all for a

great cause.

"WFTN would like to thank everyone who was able to attend, the sponsors and the WFTN QLD Event Committee; Tahlia Bellotti – NTHA, Jenni Day – Versace Timbers, Jacinta Colley – Vida Wood and Alicia Langfield – NTHA who donated many hours to put together a very successful event."

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Malaysian hardwoods to the rescue

Opportunities for bilateral engagement in relation to the supply and import of a wide range of sophisticated, certified hardwood timber products.

A BUSY and action-packed Malaysian Timber Council (MTC) lead marketing and trade mission to Australia concluded last Sunday. The trade mission was designed to provide a further update to the Australian timber supply chain about the opportunities for bilateral engagement between Australian and Malaysian companies in relation to the supply and import of a wide range of sophisticated, certified hardwood timber products into the Australian market.

Australian Timber Importers Federation (ATIF) general manager John Halkett said the federation was pleased to support and assist with the mission and noted that a number of ATIF companies participated in the mission in various ways.

“It is widely held that the Malaysian timber industry delegation was valuable in the context of the abruptly declining supplies of domestically sourced hardwood timber products in the Australian market.”

“It is expected that the supply of high-quality, certified hardwood solid wood and engineered wood products from Malaysian suppliers into Australia will become increasingly essential in coming years as a domestic supply of hardwood reduces because of politically



Inspecting Tilling Timber's world-leading smart frame manufacturing operation at Kilsyth, Victoria.



MTC's Khairul Anwar, David Leonard, Tilling Timber gets an appreciation gift from Madam Noraihan Abdul Rahman and John Halkett

motivated native forests closures by state governments,” said Mr Halkett.

Commencing in Melbourne the Malaysian delegation visited the Bowens store and head office at Hallam and the Beaconsfield Mitre 10 store at Beaconsfield. These visits were followed by an inspection of

Tilling Timber's smart frame manufacturing operation at Kilsyth where the delegation learned about the company's significant expansion plans that include LVL manufacturing in Australia and Malaysia.

The trade mission was designed to allow delegates to attend the Australian Timber Supply Summit held at the Crown Promenade in Melbourne where MTC CEO Madam Noraihan Abdul



Matt Greene, Bowens site manager briefs the Malaysian delegated about the company's Victorian operations

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Rahman gave one of the keynote speeches in the summit's opening session. Delegates also joined with other summit attendees on a field trip to the Big River Group frame and truss manufacturing plant at Geelong and also inspected the Midway woodchip export operations.

The Malaysian delegation then travelled to Brisbane where they visited the Simmonds Lumber complex at Banyo and the Hurford Wholesale and Manufacturing operation at Stapylton.

Following an MTC-hosted dinner with guests, including the CEO of Timber Queensland Mick Stevens, a business-to-business seminar was held on Friday that was attended by representatives of a range of timber importing and wholesaling companies. The



1/ Mark Affleck, General Manager, Hurford Wholesale addresses Malaysian visitors at the beginning of the site tour.



2/ Inspecting kiln-dried sawn timber imported from Malaysia, in Hurford's warehouse complex at Stapylton, Queensland.

seminar was also addressed by the CEO of MTC and the general manager of the ATIF general manager. Following the seminar, the Malaysian delegation visited the ITI Australia complex at Bundamba and the mass timber building at 25 High Street.

MTC's Director of

International Business Development Khairul Anwar said he was confident that the timely and important

“SUPPLY WILL BECOME INCREASINGLY ESSENTIAL”

mission assisted in stepping up the Malaysian timber industry's promotional efforts in Australia. He confirmed that MTC was contemplating further missions to Australia in an endeavour to assist with the future supply needs of hardwood timber products in the building and construction industries.



1/ Simmonds Lumber's Mal Goatham briefs members of the Malaysian delegation at the company's Banyo warehouse.



2/ Brisbane business-to-business seminar ... attended by representatives of a range of timber importing and wholesaling companies.

From P 4

encouraged from a diverse range of organisations, including Indigenous groups, Landcare and local environmental organisations, Men's sheds, registered bike or bushwalking clubs, sporting clubs, art clubs, councils, education institutions, locally incorporated groups, and more.

The possibilities for community projects are vast, encouraging communities to brainstorm ideas in collaboration with certified forest growers. Examples of eligible projects

include the construction or enhancement of recreational facilities, interpretive signage installations, forest rehabilitation initiatives, habitat improvement projects, bushfire-related commemorations, forest-based art installations, and various other events that celebrate the connection between communities and forests.

Sustainability Manager Matt de Jongh highlighted the importance of continuing to build social licence through fostering stakeholder relationships, "As we support strengthening these important

community-forest bonds, it sets a great example towards a more sustainable and interconnected future for Australian forests and their surrounding communities."

Applications for the Responsible Wood Community Grants Program opened on September 4, 2023, and close on November 3, 2023. Applicants can expect to be notified of their application status in early December. Successful recipients will be officially announced in early February, with projects set to be developed and completed by May 31, 2024.

Responsible Wood's website contains comprehensive information about the application process, key selection criteria, details about past grant recipients, and an extensive FAQ section for potential applicants.

Responsible Wood CEO Simon Dorries reflected on the program's success, "This program embodies Responsible Wood's commitment to fostering sustainable forests and building stronger, healthier, and happier communities through a connection with local forests."

NZ awards celebrate excellence and advances in timber construction

By MICHAEL SMITH

AFTER a three-year COVID-related absence, the widely acclaimed Timber Design Awards have made a triumphant return. The record number of entries across 12 categories (some new and others reconstituted) cover projects completed in the period July 2019 to December 2022.

Debbie Fergie, spokesperson for the organisers Timber Unlimited (formerly the Timber Design Centre), says all the finalists “show innovation, aesthetic appeal, creativity and practicality – made possible through the use of timber”.

The judges commented that “the combinations of materials, forms and technological advances will pave the way for the future of sustainable and resilient buildings in Aotearoa New Zealand. Structural systems, interior finishes and exterior applications have all been considered as opportunities for showcasing the unique and beneficial applications of timber.”

One of five outstanding projects nominated for the ‘Residential Design Award for a single-family dwelling’ is Adventure Whare by Studio Well Architecture.

Located in the Canterbury high country some 100 km west of Christchurch, this holiday home provides a comfortable place of shelter, relaxation and connection for its adventurous owners.

According to the architects, the aim was to create a structure that utilised sustainably grown New Zealand timbers, whilst retaining a highly architectural



Adventure Whare: utilises “renewably grown and locally fabricated PLT mass timber panels”. Photo: Stephen Goodenough

form within a reasonable construction budget.

“The exterior shape is a reinterpretation of traditional A-frame huts that are renowned throughout the country for their historically alpine aesthetic.

“In collaboration with the structural engineer and Woodspan, we were able to utilise renewably grown and locally fabricated PLT mass timber panels to provide a durable and warm roof structure.

“The overall geometry and orientation of the panels enabled them to be self-supporting without introducing long-span ridge members, or

other steel connections, with the whole structure being secured with engineered screws.”

Macrocarpa cladding was selected for its chemical-free and locally sourced qualities – while the interior features exposed timber roof panels, radiata plywood wall linings and renewably grown cork flooring.

Among the five projects nominated for the ‘Innovation timber engineering award’ is the University of Canterbury’s Beatrice Tinsley Building – designed and developed by a team from the university, BECA and architects Jasmax.

This impressive structure

is the tallest moment-framed, post-tensioned LVL building to be constructed in the southern hemisphere.

It features Potius timber floor cassettes, CLT exterior wall panels and stairs, and Pres-Lam – a patented timber-framing technology developed at the university. This damage-resistant system is capable of self-righting, and reduces the need for major structural repairs following a seismic event.

Using timber kept disruption to campus-wide operations to a minimum by enabling the entire frame to be constructed at ground level and lifted into place. Because of the tight nature of the site, this would have been difficult to achieve with heavier construction materials.

One of this year’s new categories is the ‘Innovative timber manufacturing & technology award’, which focuses on projects that use design and manufacturing solutions due to advances in technology.

Te Whare-iti – Dorking Road House, by Aonui Architecture, responds to the need for affordable homes to fit diverse buyer requirements – even on challenging slopes without vehicle access. In essence, Te Whare-iti is an offsite-manufactured, crane-delivered modular home that uses Pinus radiata cross-laminated timber as the primary structure.

Richard Wright, Principal of Aonui Architecture, says the modular home is delivered to site 90% completed. “The assembly programme for a

Cont P 11

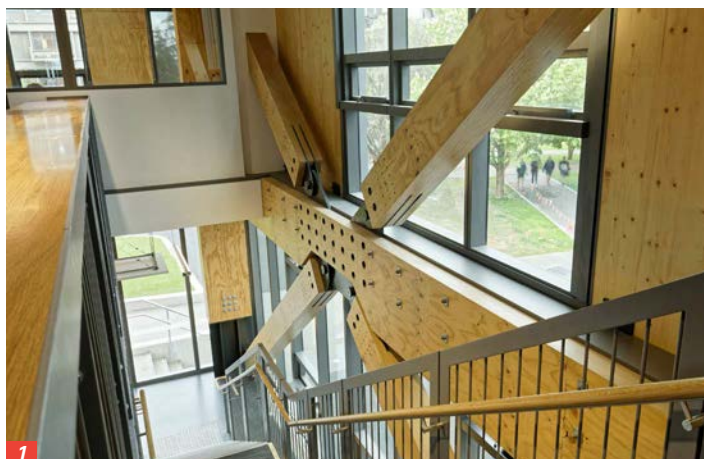
From P 10

typical two- or three-bedroom Te Whare-iti is nine weeks – from contract signing to completion at the offsite manufacturing facility.

“Trucking and crange occur on a single day, and installation on most sites takes four weeks. That time is spent connecting modules to modules, modules to piles, in-ground services, and decks and steps.”

He explains that the panel-to-panel fixings are a simple system of high-performance

“ INNOVATION, AESTHETIC APPEAL AND CREATIVITY ”



1/ **Beatrice Tinsley Building: features a damage-resistant system capable of self-righting.** Photo: Andre Kirstein

2/ **Te Whare-iti – Dorking Road House: demonstrates the numerous benefits of modular timber design.** Photo: Baptiste Marconnet

screws driven by hand tools through unseen external or strapped internal walls.

“Joints incorporate a proprietary acoustic tape applied during assembly, creating a pleasing negative detail that is a feature of these houses. Continuing the stripped back aesthetic,

skirtings and architraves are omitted with doors and windows where the monolithic quality of CLT provides a simple and attractive alternative.”

A typical two-bedroom modular house comprises 24 separate CLT panels, which



Mr Wright says is a small production run at the CLT plant.

Timber Design Award winners will be announced at a gala dinner in Auckland on 2 November.

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Regional businesses and communities are undervalued by governments and city folks

Critical importance to keep regional towns and communities strong and healthy and generating the country's primary wealth.

I WAS saying to Derrick the other day that one thing that really gets up my nose – in fact, both nostrils – is the dismissive way in which governments and city folks view and treat rural communities and critical primary industry businesses.

There has been lots of agitation by government employees of almost every stripe for pay rises and better working conditions. All these employees have the benefit of being on the government's ticket, with no real understanding of the relationship between revenue and costs. We know of course that the money to pay for all these government workers comes from the good old taxpayer.

This tax is, in large measure, generated by regional businesses and their workers who produce the primary wealth of the country. So, to get right down to it, it's the farmers, miners, forest workers, truck drivers and other rural workers. Without those regional warriors working in agriculture, resources and forestry, associated support industries and services would not exist. Regional towns and communities would collapse

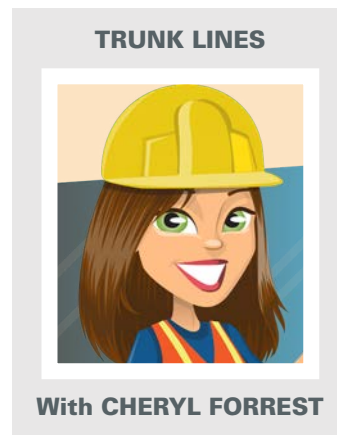


Regional businesses and their workers produce the primary wealth of the country.

– plenty of examples to prove this point.

Equally city-based primary industries dependent on support and service workers on the government payroll would be in trouble. This reality is apparent in the disconnect between the perceptions of many city dwellers and governments. They appear to have lost the reality of the critical importance of keeping regional towns and communities strong and healthy and generating the country's primary wealth. In particular state Labor governments appear to be only too willing to persecute regional businesses and

“SUPPORT IS VITAL TO ECONOMIC SUCCESS”



communities for political advantage, and by so doing adversely impact the primary wealth generation of this country.

This is clearly apparent in Victoria and Western Australia where state governments seem to be fixated on closing down regional resource and forest-based industries. With them will go supporting industries and services like schools and hospitals. Close

down primary wealth-generating industries – on farms, in mines and in forests – and the rest of the community collapses like the proverbial house of cards.

It is essential therefore that national and state-based primary industry groups continue to promote the critical contribution that these industries

make to the country's economy and endeavour to build bridges between country and city and stop politicians from sacrificing country folk, their businesses and towns to garner short term support from inner-city dwellers in marginal seats.

City service workers enjoying the largesse of the government purse do need to answer the uncomfortable question of who really pays the taxes. Strong, supported farmers, miners and foresters are vital to the economic success of Australia and must be recognized as underpinning city lifestyles. That's what I reckoned anyway - what do you think?

See you here again next month.

Cheryl

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Recycled timber gifts in demand for Man Cave Creative

NESTLED in Lismore in Northern NSW, a husband and wife team is forging the way in recycled timber gifts specially made for men.

After creating a number of male gifts that were misplaced in his wife's gift store, Lismore local Brad Ambridge decided it was time to take a leap and do his own thing, Man Cave Creative.

"My desire came because I was always incredibly disappointed with the lack of options for male gifts," Brad said.

"If you didn't want beer, a wallet or some socks, you were pretty much left with nothing more than a gift voucher! We have products that reference beer etc in our signs, but wanted to be able to offer personalisation on everything, without charging through the roof for the privilege.

"Knowing that we would be making the products ourselves and not buying in bulk from China, the personalisation was an easy add-on. One of the key selling points for the male gift range is the number of products made from recycled timber."

According to Brad, the recycled timber range is at the heart of the business.

"I've always loved recycled timber and natural products," he said.

"We live in Lismore NSW so are completely surrounded by trees and bushland. And from a business perspective, the look fits in perfectly with our environment and the local lifestyle.

"The fact that every single piece is completely unique is something that I am so proud of. We've all become guilty



1/ One of Brad's favourite signs were created with the drawings from grandchildren etched into recycled timber.

2 Man Cave Creative owners Brad and his wife are forging the way with recycled gifts for men.



Man Cave Creative uses recycled timber to create personalised signs and so much more.

of wanting things quick and cheap, which tends to mean buying something made in bulk overseas, but being able to produce something that has been created individually, for a specific person and can never be repeated, is incredibly rewarding," Brad continued.

"In terms of sourcing the material, we have partnered up with an amazing local timber yard that bring the trees into their facilities and turns the majority into kitchen worktops, chopping boards, cabinets etc.

"Naturally, they have plenty of offcuts in all shapes and sizes and felt bad simply burning them or turning to sawdust. We now take all

of their leftovers and get to repurpose them into something special. And the fact we don't have to pay top dollar for the offcuts means that we can pass these savings onto the customer - it's a win-win for everybody!"

Brad says his passion for using recycled timber, which has now become his business also has endless benefits

"There are benefits for the business, for the customer, for the environment," he said.

"It really is the perfect solution. I actually recently created a blog on our website highlighting the key benefits -

<https://www.mancavecreative.com.au/recycled-timber>

For Brad, the idea all started when he began working on standard recycled timber signs, with laser-etched personalised detailing.

"Our first machine was only small so we were limited to not much more than A3 in size, but as soon as we upsized to a 900x600mm machine (with the option to extend outwards) the results were incredible," he continued.

"I'll be honest, I absolutely love making anything personalised for people.

Whether it is something as simple as "Dave's Shed" or more detailed involving family jokes, images and anything in between, the fact that I know it will be loved so much by the recipient makes it so enjoyable.

"My favourite was actually on an incredible piece of

timber that the customer had from their original family home. The grain was stunning, as were the edges! They then got each of the nine grandchildren (ranging in age from 2 to 12) to draw a picture of Mim (nan) and we etched these onto the timber. The end result was so special and something that will definitely be treasured forever!"

"More recently, we have introduced a range of home decor pieces, still from recycled timber. Individual floating shelves, candle holders, bottle openers, photo

GREEN TRIANGLE TIMBER INDUSTRY AWARDS



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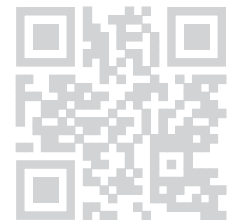
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Authorities warn of dangerous bush fire season

Areas of NSW enter an early danger period with a hot, dry spring expected to increase fire risk.

AUSTRALIA has been put on notice and advised to prepare for a potentially dangerous bushfire season after a horror summer in the Northern Hemisphere.

Thirty-two local government areas in NSW have commenced their Bush Fire Danger Period early with unseasonably warm, dry conditions increasing the fire risk.

Commissioner of the RFS Rob Rogers said that 11 of the 32 areas in NSW began the danger period in September, a full month earlier than normal due to the prevailing dry conditions.

"Wet weather over the last three years has caused prolific growth, and as we move out of this incredibly wet period the bushfire risk is returning to NSW," Commissioner Rogers said.

"Fire activity in recent weeks has increased as the landscape dries, forests and grasslands become more susceptible to fires.

"Since 1 August firefighters have responded to more than 2,031 bush and grass fires compared to 638 for the same period last year.

Minister for Emergency Services Jihad Dib MP has



Heavy undergrowth and forecast dry, hot conditions are leading to an increased concern for the fire season

reinforced the need for all landowners to take the time now to prepare for the bushfire season.

"The warm and dry conditions have put landholders on heightened alert. Preparing for the season is a shared responsibility, and everybody needs to think now about their plan and preparation as we head into bushfire season."

"It's important to have a plan, even if it's a conversation with your family about what you will do during a fire – including where you will go when you will go and what you will take."

"As the weather starts to heat up, it's time to take simple steps like reducing

vegetation around properties and cleaning gutters to reduce the amount of fuel."

Landholders in these LGAs now need to apply for a permit to burn off and notify their neighbours and local fire authorities 24 hours before lighting up. Free permits are available by contacting your local Fire Control Centre.

While the official bush fire season may not have yet commenced for Victoria, a similar warning has been issued with a drier and warmer spring expected. Key areas of concern include the central, western and northern parts of the state.

Despite below average rainfalls for winter, grass growth is expected to be

higher than usual following three years of wet La Niña conditions.

A strong drying trend in far east and central Gippsland has resulted in higher-than-normal potential for fires, including communities close to bushland, especially where vegetation was unburnt during the 2019-20 fires.

Following on from its northern counterpart, there is also a high likelihood that bushfire season will start earlier, compared to the past two years, across much of central, western and northern Victoria. The remaining parts of the state are expected to see normal fire potential. However, hot, windy conditions can still pose a fire risk.

"Victorians can expect a warmer spring and earlier start to the fire season this year, however, CFA crews across the state are prepared to protect their communities once again," Country Fire Authority chief officer Jason Heffernan said.

"Our members are continuously working very closely with their communities and our interagency partners to prepare for the high-risk weather season.

From P 14

frames, key hooks and even a giant noughts and crosses game. By offering a variety of finishing touches from natural to walnut stain and from tarnished to charred, we have a look suitable for every home environment," he said.

It's no surprise that the

response to Man Cave Creative has been nothing but positive with Brad and his wife now selling online, running their own store in Lismore as well as stocking at ten other local businesses. Brad runs the business alongside his full-time job.

"There are definitely a lot

of very late nights and early mornings at the moment. I think last week was the fourth 75+hr week in a row."

Away from recycled timber, they also make other products from 3mm timber, such as puzzles, keyrings, bag/dog lead hooks etc etc, however, personalisation is where they

pride themselves.

"We believe in providing an honest, professional and personal service at all times," Brad said. "Our slogan is CUSTOM.QUALITY. AFFORDABLE."

Find out more at www.mancavecreative.com.au and on Instagram

Get inspired at HIA's Building and Renovation Show

Full of inspirational ideas and trends the show is the largest for the Hunter region in NSW

THE latest timber trends will be on show this weekend in the NSW Hunter Valley as the HIA host their Building & Renovation Show.

With over 100 exhibitors onsite and many more attractions on display thousands of budding homeowners and renovators will head to this Saturday's event for the latest in housing inspiration.

"Whether you are planning to renovate or build, a first home buyer, investor or someone looking for inspiration, attending the Show will ensure you see the very best of the home, lifestyle and building sector," HIA Hunter executive director Craig Jennion said.

"Being held on 16 September, the HIA Building & Renovation Show brings together a sensational group of exhibitors to showcase the latest trends in renovation, building, home improvements and outdoor living and best of all it's free to enter," he said.

All attendees will have the opportunity to go into the draw to win the major prize drawn on the day, a \$20,000 kitchen package courtesy of award



1/ The building and renovating event will be held this weekend at the HIA building in Newcastle.

2/ One show feature is the 'ask and expert' area - a chance to ask the professionals your trade and DIY questions.



winning exhibitors Kitchens for Living.

For visitors seeking expert advice, the 'HIA Ask an Expert' areas will feature free consultations with leading HIA members. Visitors simply need to arrive and make an appointment at the Show, but don't forget to bring your plans, a notepad and ideas.

The event will also include live seminars and demonstrations by centre exhibitors, all day Colour Consultants compliments of Bristol and pop-up lifestyle markets. You can also meet the HIA team at the 'HIA You're in Good Hands Stand', with information about apprenticeship pathways, industry training and HIA

Membership benefits available.

Another recently added feature in the centre is the Hunter Alfresco Living display, which showcases the latest products and trends designed specifically for outdoor living.

The Show has always been a family-friendly event and this one will be no different with lots of free children's entertainment including games, face painting and special guest appearances by The Pretty Amazing Jono, Bob the Builder and Raymond the Ram. All your food and beverage needs will be covered with a barbecue for charity and a fresh coffee van onsite.

"With the diversity of

exhibitors and experts available, attendees will be able to compare an enormous range of products and services all under one roof.

"If you're thinking of starting a project or are in the middle of one and need advice on how to proceed, the HIA Home Inspirations Centre continues to be the premier destination for Hunter renovators, new home buyers and trade," Mr Jennion concluded.

The HIA Building & Renovation Show will be held on Saturday 16th September 2023. Doors open from 10am - 3pm and the HIA Home Inspirations, 17 Murray Dwyer Circuit, Steel River Estate, Mayfield West

Entry is free for all.

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