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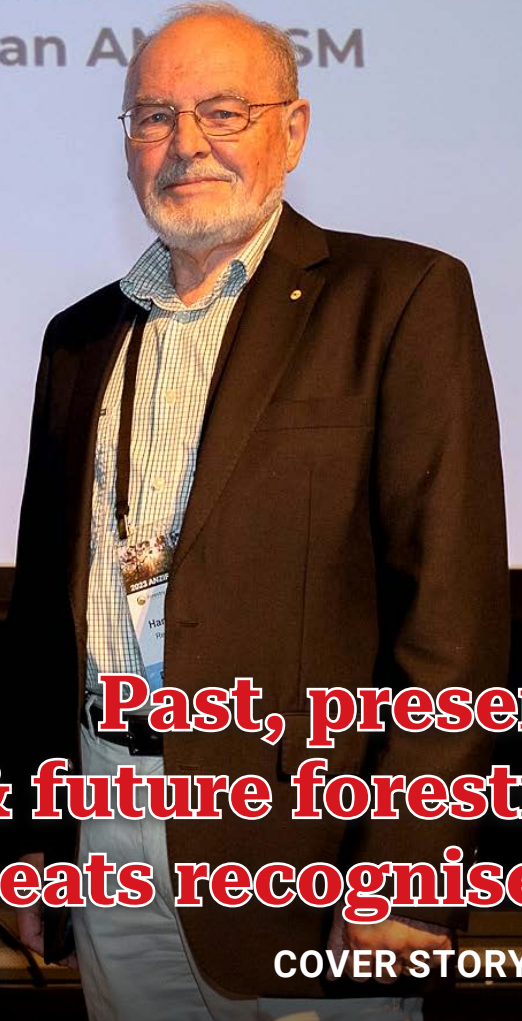


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timber & FORESTRY *e*news

Dr Kevin Tolhurst AM

To be accepted by Gary Morgan AM SM



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COVER STORY P 4

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Forico and Tasmania's largest hardwood estate acquired

AUSTRALIAN superannuation fund UniSuper, the UK's Pension Protection Fund (PPF), and APG Asset Management N.V (APG) on behalf of its Dutch pension fund client ABP, have announced the acquisition of Forico and a 170,000-hectare plantation forestry estate in Tasmania, from a New Forests managed fund.

Forico is Tasmania's largest private forest management company. The forestry estate is one of Australia's largest plantation hardwood estates by productive area and consists of vertically integrated assets and operations spanning approximately 90,000 hectares of productive plantation forest. It also owns key infrastructure along the supply chain consisting of two wood processing mills, a seedling nursery, fibre technology laboratory, and port access via a freehold facility at Long Reach, Tasmania.

The estate is the largest freehold land estate in Tasmania and a key contributor to the supply of sustainable hardwood domestically and abroad for end uses such

as packaging and tissues.

Under the agreement, the three investors will each own 33% of Forico and the forestry estate. New Forests will be retained to provide investment management services.

In 2013, a New Forests' managed entity acquired the estate with co-investors, and over the past decade, working closely with Forico, has helped to transform the asset into what is today one of Australia's leading sustainable timber producers.

Forico's market-leading approach to valuing natural capital and sustainability reporting has demonstrated that the estate is sequestering more than 123 million tonnes of CO₂e. The current plantation rotation is expected to remove from the atmosphere and sequester a further 24.7 million



1/ The forestry estate is one of Australia's largest plantation hardwood estates.
2/ Forico CEO, Evangelista Albertini.

tonnes before it is harvested and replanted for another rotation.

In December 2022, Forico became the first forestry manager in Australia to achieve FSC® Ecosystem Services certification for its approach to protecting the biodiversity values across its estate.

Sandra Lee, Head of Private Markets at UniSuper commented, "We're delighted to be investing in an asset of this scale and quality.

"This adds further momentum to our growing private markets and forestry portfolios, as we continue to be on the lookout for quality investments that help our members grow their retirement savings over the long term*.

"Not only is forestry a portfolio diversifier, but it also supports the global transition towards decarbonisation through carbon storage as well as substitution to sustainable timber material.

"We look forward to working closely with New Forests and our co-investors as we further develop this asset," Ms Lee said.

Hans-Martin Aerts, Head of Infrastructure & Natural Resources at APG Asset Management Asia said, "Investing in the forestry asset class provides an opportunity to deliver strong returns for our pension fund client ABP and its participants, while contributing to sustainable development goals around climate action, improving livelihoods and sustainably managing land.

Financial details of the transaction are confidential.



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“Grow Your Own” timber workforce planning program for Wide Bay

ADDRESSING the need to attract and retain workers in the Wide Bay region, Timber Queensland is partnering with Jobs Queensland to develop a workforce plan and action-based initiatives for the forest and timber industry through a new state government-funded ‘Grow Your Own’ program.

Local stakeholders and industry representatives will work together to identify workforce needs, plan what skills will be required and map how the region and industry can meet the needs of the sector and support the region’s economic goals.

Minister for Employment and Small Business, Minister for Training and Skills Development Di Farmer said the Queensland Government is helping regions to ‘grow their own’ strong workforce—supporting tailored plans which

will help regional industries address workforce risks and challenges.

“In Wide Bay, the forestry and timber industry – Queensland’s third most valuable agricultural processing industry – plays an important role, supporting jobs in the Gympie and Maryborough communities,” said Minister Farmer

“‘Grow Your Own’ will ensure regional industries have the right people, with the right skills, in the right jobs, at the right time.”

Timber Queensland CEO Mick Stephens said the ‘Grow Your Own’ program is industry-driven.



Timber Queensland CEO Mick Stephens

“Representatives from employers in the Wide Bay region are meeting regularly to pinpoint and endorse focus areas, assist with gathering information, identify key issues and help find solutions to develop, implement and monitor the regional workforce plan,” said Mick Stephens.

“This group has been working on developing a Wide Bay forestry industry snapshot, a document that provides an analysis of employment and training trends in the Wide Bay region and forestry-related industries,” he said.

“Jobs Queensland and Timber Queensland will be hosting a forum in Gympie on 14 November bringing together regional and industry stakeholders to present the findings of the snapshot and facilitate discussion to identify strategies and workforce planning actions to be adopted.”

Mr Stephens said the skills and experience Timber Queensland is gaining from working with Jobs Queensland on the Wide Bay ‘Grow Your Own’ program can be applied in other major forest and timber industry regions in Queensland.

Strategic moves for International Paper

INTERNATIONAL Paper (NYSE: IP) has announced a series of actions to further strengthen and optimize its manufacturing system to

meet customers’ needs. The company will permanently close its containerboard mill in Orange, Texas, and will permanently cease

production on two of its pulp machines - the #20 machine in Riegelwood, N.C., and the #4 machine in Pensacola, Fla.

“Decisions like these

are extremely difficult, because of the impact on our employees, their families

Cont P 5

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Highest honours awarded for outstanding service to the forest science profession

THE late, great Dr Kevin Tolhurst AM was awarded the N.W. Jolly Medal, the highest honour for outstanding service to the forest science profession in Australia, at the recent ANZIF Conference.

Forestry Australia President Dr Michelle Freeman said the award was a timely opportunity to celebrate the achievements of Dr Tolhurst, following his sudden passing this month.

"The loss of Kevin has been felt deeply by many in our community and beyond," Dr



Jenna Hammond is a forest steward standout, the recipient of the Prince of Wales Award.

Freeman said.

"Kevin's contribution to forest and fire management has been phenomenal, and his knowledge and passion were truly awe-inspiring.

"Generations of foresters and forestry scientists were inspired and influenced by Kevin.

"He was generous with his knowledge and time, and ever the gentleman who was always considerate and kind.

"It speaks to Kevin's intellect that he was nationally and internationally recognised as an expert in a wide range of areas – fire ecologist, fire scientist, professional forester, lecturer, practitioner, academic and collaborator.

Cont P 5

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From P 4

“Kevin’s legacy will continue to endure through the practices that he created that continue to shape how we manage fire, and through today’s N.W Jolly Medal.”

Dr Tolhurst’s award was accepted by Gary Morgan AM AFSM.

Two other awards were also announced at the 2023 ANZIF Conference, which was held on the Gold Coast earlier this month. Forestry scientist and world-renowned agroforester Rowan Reid joined Dr Tolhurst in receiving the 2023 N.W Jolly Medal.

“Rowan is a visionary, and an exceptionally deserved recipient of the highest honour in the forestry profession,” Dr Freeman said.

“Rowan has authored numerous books, articles and reports on silviculture, integrating trees into farming systems, agroforestry economies and extension.

“He has put his knowledge into practice with his family farm in the Otway Ranges, Bamba Agroforestry Farm, a 42-hectare outdoor classroom



Forestry scientist and world-renowned agroforester Rowan Reid, joined Dr Tolhurst in receiving the 2023 N.W Jolly Medal.

visited by more than 12,000 farmers, scientists, students and tree lovers.

“Arguably his finest achievement is the Master Tree Grower Program, which runs across Australia, and has been adapted and delivered in Africa, Indonesia, Vanuatu and East Timor.”

The Prince of Wales Award was also awarded at the

conference, in recognition of the achievement of an outstanding young to mid-career forest professional.

“Tasmania’s Jenna Hammond is a forest steward standout, and an exceptionally worthy recipient of the Prince of Wales Award,” Dr Freeman said.

“Jenna’s enthusiasm, authenticity and highly

engaging approach both in her role as Senior Engagement Advisor with Sustainable Timber Tasmania and in her volunteer contributions within the sector including Forestry Australia.

“Jenna is a role model for young forest professionals and has helped to develop and deliver a highly successful communications campaign that aimed to attract, retain, and support women in the forestry sector.

“Within the wider forest sector, Jenna is an active collaborator with the Forest Education Foundation and has worked in partnership to deliver multiple successful work programs over several years, including a highly successful and engaging Schools Tree Day Program across Tasmania.

“Jenna’s dedication to communication and inclusivity makes her a truly special member of Australia’s professional forest community and a very worthy recipient of the Forestry Australia Prince of Wales Award.”

On the cover caption: Dr Kevin Tolhurst AM was recognised with the N.W. Jolly Medal, accepted by Gary Morgan AM AFSM.

From P 3

and the communities in which we operate,” said Chairman and CEO Mark

Sutton. “We are grateful to our employees in Orange, Riegelwood and Pensacola for their significant contributions

to the company over the years. We are committed to providing severance benefits, outplacement assistance and

more to help employees during this time.”

In total, approximately 900 positions will be impacted.

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MoU to develop EWp's for building systems using forest plantations

INTEGRATED timber giant Samling Timber Group has announced it had signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in Sarawak with Loggo IP Pty Ltd, an Australian developer of competitive Engineered Wood Products (EWP) using planted wood species such as Acacia and Eucalyptus for building systems aimed at housing, commercial and government buildings, three-storey walk-ups, shop top housing as well as mid-rise, and multi-residential apartments blocks.



1/ Gathering for the historic signing of an MOU between the Samling Group of Companies and NSW-based Loggo IP Pty Ltd are, in the centre, Pat Thorton, Loggo, Datu Bojet, representing STIDC, and Samling CEO Lawrence Chia, along with Malaysian timber industry stakeholders. Loggo consulting engineer Peter Blair, project director, Structured Project Management (Australia), is on the far left.



2/ Samling CEO Lawrence Chia (right) and founder and managing director of Loggo IP Pty Ltd Pat Thornton (left) at the signing of the MOU in Miri, Sarawak, witnessed by Datu Bojet, representing the Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation (centre).

The MoU was signed on 18 October by Lawrence Chia, Samling Group's Chief Executive Officer and Pat Thornton, founder and managing director of Loggo IP Pty Ltd.

"We will work together on a

pilot project in Sarawak using Loggo IP's patented engineered wood technology focused on a burgeoning forest recovery industry to develop small-diameter true rounds or peeler cores." Lawrence Chia said.

"As the world shortage of timber hits home, we are convinced Samling, long respected globally for its high standards of sustainable forest management, can develop these cost-competitive systems across southeast Asia and beyond," Pat Thornton said.

Lawrence Chia further explained that every year millions of peeler cores are produced as 'waste' from plywood production. These were largely used in low-value recovery options such

as packaging and as fuel for thermal energy processes.

"However, in a world 'first', Loggo has developed and patented three versatile engineered wood products as well as columns and each can be made from low-value forest 'thinning' or peeler cores," Chia continued.

"Two of these beams can use Samling's ply as a web."

"Apart from the financial benefits, Loggo's low-tech, minimal processing and set-up costs and the economic advantage of these low-value plywood by-products is a green and sustainable way to increase returns," Pat Thornton said.

Cont P 7



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OCTOBER

27: GTTIA Gala Dinner and Awards Night – The Barn, Mt Gambier, SA. Tickets now on sale at www.gttia.com

NOVEMBER

2: New Zealand Timber Design Awards 2023 – Cordis Hotel, Grafton, Auckland, New Zealand. 5.30pm. The Timber Design Awards highlight the latest advances in New Zealand's timber construction capability, proving that the degree of creativity and innovation in wood-based design is accelerating at pace. Tickets on sale at <https://twelve.eventsair.com/tda2023/tickets/ Site/Register>

2: Australian Timber Design Awards 2023 – Cargo Hall, Melbourne. 6.30pm. Tickets on sale at <https://ticketstripe.com/events/1036859>

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>

14-15: Foresttech – New Zealand.

21-22: Foresttech – Melbourne. ForestTECH is Australasia's premier forestry technology

series. It's run annually for forest resource managers, remote sensing specialists, inventory foresters, forest establishment and tree crop managers

This event will showcase the very latest forest industry developments including; Remote sensing, Data capture, In-forest UAV applications, Forest inventory, Precision planting, Precision fertilisation and spraying, Mechanised silviculture and Mechanised tree planting

More details: <https://foresttech.events/ft23/>

16: AFCA AGM – Albury, NSW.

This year's AGM will be followed by an engaging AFCA Members luncheon and conference, focusing on the future of forestry and the role of technology in shaping the industry. Speakers include: Joel Fitzgibbon – Chair of AFPA, Tim Woods, Industry Edge – Forestry for a changing housing market and Jonathan Crellin.

The event cost is \$255 for AFCA members or \$295 for industry guests, with the ticket including all meals, wine, beer, cider and soft drinks.

Any queries regarding this event please contact either Terese Minall at office@afca.asn.au or Tim Lester at tim@afca.asn.au

DECEMBER

15: International Conference on Community Forestry and Conservation (ICFCF - 23) – Melbourne. Hosted by one of the most trusted organizations, SAIRAP, the conference provides a premier global platform for exchanging ideas and insights on the latest developments across various fields. Our goal is to offer a competitive venue for industry professionals and academic researchers to showcase and discuss cutting-edge advancements in their respective fields. More details <https://sairap.org/conf/index.php?id=1871959>

From P 6

Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation (STIDC) is a corporate body having been mandated by the State Government to regulate and facilitate the advancement and sustainability of the timber industry in Sarawak. Datu Haji Hashim Haji Bojet, Advisor, in witnessing the MOU signing said, "STIDC is very happy that the industry players are taking initiatives to develop EWP

using planted wood in Sarawak. This is aligned with our vision to utilize more planted logs for high-value wood-based products like engineered wood. This is also in line with the State's aspiration for the timber industry as one of the most important sectors to transform Sarawak into a developed State by 2030.

"We are confident that this MoU will allow Samling to progress from the initial stage of assessment to later



Pictured at FRAME Australia in Melbourne .. Peter Blair, executive director, Structural Management Australia, Loggo's structural engineer working on the Loggo engineered wood systems (left) and Pat Thornton, founder and managing director, Loggo IP Pty Ltd.

manufacture these high-quality structural components, first for local and then for global markets.

"This effort is fully complementary with STIDC's overall EWP vision which includes laminated veneer lumber (LVL), glued laminated (Glulam) and cross laminated timber (CLT) products."

The Asia-Pacific floor 'coverings' market alone is estimated to exceed \$US250 billion by 2027.

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Innovative modular wall systems snags shortlist spot at awards 2023

THE 2023 Sustainability Awards are fast approaching with one nomination hailing from the Northern Rivers area in NSW. Northern Rivers Recycled Timber has been shortlisted for the prestigious awards in the Innovation: Green Building Material category.

This recognition highlights the company's outstanding commitment to sustainability, environmentally responsible practices, and its dedication to considering the impact of its products over its entire lifetime.

The Sustainability Summit Awards celebrate and honour businesses and initiatives leading the way in sustainable practices and innovation. Northern Rivers Recycled Timber is proud to be among the exceptional companies that have been shortlisted for this prestigious award.

Northern Rivers Recycled Timber, founder, Claudia Mitchell expressed her excitement about being shortlisted for this prestigious award, saying, "This is our first award shortlist, and we are thrilled to be recognised for our dedication to sustainability and innovation. Our Modular Wall Systems represent a significant step toward a more sustainable construction industry."

Their innovative Modular Wall Systems have revolutionised the construction industry by seamlessly combining sustainability, functionality, and aesthetics. These wall systems cater to commercial and residential projects, simplifying the design and installation process for architects, designers, builders, and DIY enthusiasts.

Crafted from carefully selected recycled and reclaimed timbers, sourced



1/ Artisan sleeper modular wall. The company based in Northern Rivers has been shortlisted for a coveted award. Photo: courtesy of homeowner

2/ The innovative Modular Wall Systems have revolutionised the construction industry combining sustainability, functionality, and aesthetics.

3/ Rough sawn sleeper wall. The recycled timber panels provide charm and character.

from a variety of origins such as demolished structures and disused railway sleepers, these panels offer a distinct blend of character and history. Their modular design simplifies assembly, allowing for swift and efficient installation while

minimising material wastage. Despite their modular nature, each timber piece boasts its own unique characteristics, resulting from both natural and human-made elements, ensuring a personalised and distinctive aesthetic.

These panels can be further customised with complementary finishes, including wire brushing, sanding, staining, painting, or coating, which not only enhance the natural beauty of the timbers but also add depth and visual interest. Each piece becomes a truly one-of-a-kind addition, making it an appealing choice for those seeking stylish and eco-friendly design solutions.

"These wall systems provide numerous advantages, from bespoke appearances and fast installation to minimal waste generation and easy transportation. Our commitment to sustainable manufacturing practices further underscores the eco-friendliness of these modular wall systems," added Ms Mitchell.

By incorporating these recycled timber panels into new builds or renovations, Northern Rivers Recycled Timber is enhancing the charm and character of spaces and promoting a greener and more sustainable construction industry. Their commitment to reducing waste, reusing valuable resources, and reducing the demand for new timber is evident in the innovative Modular Wall Systems.

The Sustainability Summit Awards ceremony will take place on November 9, 2023, in Sydney, where Northern Rivers Recycled Timber eagerly anticipates the announcement of the winner in the Green Building Material category.

For more information about the Recycled Timber Modular Wall Systems and their sustainability features visit northernriverstimer.com.au

New food waste composting facility opens

AN American mulching company, which specialises in taking mill waste and turning it into landscape products, are diversifying with a mission to remove food waste from landfill and re-purpose it.

Brady Trucking Co. in Shelton Washington, is operating a new food waste composting system at their existing mulch production facility.

The composting facility uses an advanced "covered aerated static pile" process, or cASP, with technology and facility design services from Green Mountain Technologies of Bainbridge Island.

"Once we looked closely at the numbers and conceptual operating plans, we realized this was just the natural next step for our business," said Evan Brady, co-owner of Brady Trucking.

"For years we've been purchasing compost in bulk to have availability for our mulch clients who also need compost. Now we're able to efficiently make our own compost while keeping food waste out of landfills."

Brady Trucking has run a successful mulch production facility and trucking company for decades. The company saw an opportunity to meet the growing need for diverting food waste from landfills driven in part by Washington law SB1799.

The new cASP composting facility is designed and permitted to process 50,000 tons per year, with current constructed peak capacity of 30,000 TPY. Up to 10% of the annual volume is food waste. Food waste currently comes from 3rd party collection services in Thurston County, Washington.

"To design, permit and



1/ The Brady blower - GMT's aeration valves controlled by WebMacs determine volume of airflow to each composting zone.

2/ Brady Trucking in Shelton, Washington. Removing food waste from landfill and aerating with wood mulch accelerates the composting process.

build a large food waste composting facility in one of the wettest regions of the US, all in less than one year, was a pretty impressive achievement," said Ashley Brady, co-owner of Brady Trucking.

"We are grateful for the team at Green Mountain Technologies, they've done a great job on the overall facility design, including stormwater management and ongoing operating support."

The aerated compost processing system is built under a covered roof structure. Compost feedstock materials are blended and formed into piles over the aeration outlets built into the concrete floor, and then the material is capped with a "bio layer" of wood mulch to contain odours.

The WebMacs aeration system from Green Mountain Technologies is computer-controlled to optimize temperatures across multiple zones to accelerate the composting process while keeping pile temperatures at the optimum levels. This reduces the need for mechanical turning of the material, speeds up the process and ensures low

operating costs of the facility, while mostly eliminating odours and anaerobic gas emissions such as nitrous oxide and methane.

"We have really enjoyed working with Evan, Ashley and the team at Brady Trucking," said Jeff Gage,

Director of Consulting for Green Mountain Technologies. "They saw this opportunity and took a very pragmatic approach to get it operational on an ambitious timeline, with our help. We see this facility as a model for other mulch grinding operations to follow."

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NZ research calls for a rethink of forest design and management

By **MICHAEL SMITH**

IN a follow-up to a recent article (T&F eNews #773), Scion's Dr Alan Jones widens the discussion on transitional forestry to include biofuel models, continuous cover forestry, and more.

To recap, as lead author of a paper on the topic, Dr Jones says the transitional forestry model proposed by a number of Scion researchers describes a future "where high-intensity, high-output clearfell forestry exists alongside a diverse array of other forest management types."

"The key is that we need to recognise where each of these forms of management is appropriate."

By way of illustration, for the past two years, Scion has been investigating forest biomass production and extraction.

"There are two models that show promise in meeting increasing demand for biofuels in the near term," Jones continued.

"Firstly, utilisation of residual biomass extracted from waste thinnings in conventional radiata pine plantations, or residual biomass extracted from domestic wood processing.

"Secondly, we have been evaluating the potential benefits of developing dedicated bioenergy forests. These are likely to involve radiata pine or fast-growing



Scion scientists (left to right): Andrew Cridge, Yvette Dickinson, Alan Jones and Richard Yao.

Photo: Scion

eucalyptus species – grown using short-rotation regimes of 10-16 years at relatively high stocking densities of around 1,000 stems per hectare with no thinning.

"Our analyses indicate such forests would be profitable to implement at scale on affordable areas of land use capability [LUC] classes 5-7 – with, for example, around 250,000 hectares of short-rotation forest providing a bioenergy output equivalent to six per cent of our current national annual fossil fuel consumption," he said.

With regards to continuous cover forestry, Dr Jones says there are a number of challenges that could limit its implementation.

"Transportation costs of harvested timber strongly affect the profitability of all types of forestry. It is unlikely

that a continuous cover forestry model would be suitable when applied to the conventional economics of our current rapid-growth, high-output, radiata pine harvesting model.

"But in situations where high-value [exotic or native] timber is grown in a continuous cover system – perhaps with a complementary set of government policies that provide economic rewards which recognise the biodiversity benefits of that system – there is no reason why such a model shouldn't also be profitable."

Dr Jones says that forests targeting multiple sets of values may be limited in their ability to meet the current expectations of single-purpose, production-oriented forestry models.

However, he adds that international research has shown that mixed plantings may have greater productivity than monoculture stands (see T&F eNews #773).

"The difficulty is that we don't have sufficient direct evidence to understand how these interactions might work in a New Zealand context.

"These potential benefits need to be evaluated directly through, perhaps, forestry trials with economic modelling," Jones continued.

"And there is a second point to this. I personally feel we should also be considering what sort of [forest] landscapes we want to be living in and around. There is currently some very vocal pushback to the idea of further expansion of exotic forests.

"In my opinion there is more to this than just looking at returns on investment. Valuing such returns above other factors has, to a degree, led us to some of the problems on the East Coast and related landscape challenges currently affecting farming, emissions and meeting national net zero targets.

"I appreciate there are issues with taking an idealistic position – for instance, how do we fund less-productive [forest] landscapes? I'm not sure I really have the answer to that, but it's something we should at least be looking at," he said.

Dr Jones also notes there is convincing evidence that

“THERE ARE A NUMBER OF CHALLENGES

Cont P 11

From P 10

some exotic species used in the right way can provide a nurse canopy for the regeneration of native tree species in the understory.

“With careful management – respecting that the science is still in its infancy – we should be able to transition some exotic plantation stands to native tree stands over the course of several decades or more,” Dr Jones said.

“Some of the key limiting factors are the proximity of native tree seed sources [and bird dispersers] that will allow native seedlings to colonise established exotic plantations; overcoming predation of native seed and seedlings by



The multi-use Whakarewarewa Forest is the backdrop to Te Whare Nui o Tuteata, Scion's front door. Photo: Scion

introduced pests; and dealing with competition for light from introduced weeds.

“One benefit of such an

approach is that, globally, we urgently need rapid forest carbon sequestration over the next 50 years to tackle

climate change. In New Zealand at least, exotics are able to provide high initial rates of carbon uptake that native tree species would struggle to compete with.

“Transitioning these forests to native species is a good compromise between the carbon uptake needed now and the long-term need to support indigenous

biodiversity, while storing forest carbon for millennia,” Jones concluded.



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Forestry Corp hosts Asia-Pacific forestry leaders for Watagans tour

Delegates from the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission have taken part in a field trip hosted by Forestry Corporation looking at sustainable, multi-use forest management in the Watagan Mountains of the Central Coast.

The commission is represented by international delegates, who report to the United Nations on forestry matters in the Asia-Pacific region.

The delegates were in Australia looking at sustainably managed forests and undertook a field trip to Ourimbah State Forest, which showcased the balance found in state forests of timber production, biodiversity, recreation and cultural use.

The Watagan Mountains forests attract more than a million visits from people every year. World-class adventure tourism destinations including the Tree Tops Adventure Park and the Ourimbah Mountain Bike Park both within Ourimbah State Forest, are a strong drawcard as is the appeal of free dog-friendly camping helps to attract more than a million visitors a year to the forests of the Watagan Mountains in this area.

Delegates heard how a unique sustainability model that balances multiple uses in State forests allows these activities to occur in conjunction with timber harvesting and biodiversity conservation.

The Commission was also shown unique Aboriginal sites and discussed the partnerships program that Forestry Corporation has with local Aboriginal groups and businesses.

"Delegates were enthralled by stories of thousands



1/ The commission that attended the tour is represented by international delegates, who report to the United Nations on forestry matters in the Asia-Pacific region.

2/ Delegates undertook a field trip to Ourimbah State Forest, which showcased the balance found in state forests of timber production, biodiversity, recreation and cultural use.

of years of occupation by Aboriginal people and were very interested to understand the long-held knowledge, care and responsibility required to care for Country so it stays healthy, safe and productive for both people and wildlife," Forestry Corporation's partnership and heritage team leader John Shipp said.

"They were also pleased to hear about partnership programs in the local area, which see Aboriginal businesses run cultural tours in State forests," Mr Shipp said.

The field trip also highlighted many important cultural sites in Ourimbah State Forest.

"It was a great opportunity

to show our international visitors a shelter site, grinding grooves and other sites that are common to these sandstone mountains as well as a site we have invested in significantly to protect from damage and illegal dumping," Forestry Corporation's Cultural Heritage Supervisor Sharon Hodgetts said.

The commission was also shown a selective timber operation and it was detailed how through careful planning, important timber species are sustainably harvested.

"These forests have a long history of active timber harvesting and regrowth, from the original timber getting

with bullocks and cross-cut saws of big old timber 100 plus years ago to the modern safe mechanised techniques harvesting younger regrowth trees," Forestry Corporation's forest practices manager Tony Brown said.

"The Watagan mountains have always produced a range of speciality products such as turpentine, which is durable and resistant to marine borers and used extensively in marine applications such as piles and decking in our coastal estuaries and around Sydney Harbour.

"If you have caught a harbour ferry or enjoy eating an oyster, turpentine timber has been an important part of that," he said.

Forestry Corporation's Biodiversity and Strategy Manager Justin Williams explained to delegates the comprehensive biodiversity management program that protects threatened species in multiple-use State forests.

Mr Williams said the local regrowth forests support dozens of threatened species such as the Red-crowned Toadlet, the Giant Burrowing-frog, three species of large forest owls, Gang-Gang and Glossy Black-Cockatoos, Eastern Pygmy Possums and Yellow-bellied Gliders.

"Globally, forests in NSW rank very highly for the level of forest reservation with more than 80% of public forests in the area protected in either National Parks or State Forest reserves," Mr Williams said.

"Timber harvesting is selective and searching for threatened species and their habitat is a key component of what we do to ensure forestry operations are sustainable," he said.

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Anne of Green Gables author commemorated with mass timber centre

LUCY Maud Montgomery's beloved novel, "Anne of Green Gables," has captivated a global audience. Green Gables Heritage Place is now among Canada's top federal parks, with its Visitors Centre featuring traditional barn-style structures connected by a single-story lobby, all constructed with sturdy mass timber frames.



The Mass timber structure pays homage to the popular Lucy Maud Montgomery novel

Designed by the firm, Root Architecture, the materials used in the centre are contemporary while harmonizing with the historical essence of the property, and inspired by its rural setting. The primary objective was to promote the use of natural mass timber construction, thereby stimulating the local economy and reducing emissions.

Simultaneously, the structure was designed to serve as an educational

platform for visitors, featuring inviting and well-lit interior spaces. This project stands as a prime example of modern wood construction methods, incorporating high R-Value assemblies, photovoltaic (PV) panels, an outdoor air system, achieving 42 per cent water conservation, and relying entirely on renewable energy sources.

Given its seasonal tourist orientation, the design was substantially influenced by summer conditions.

During the warmest months, entrances can remain open, extending the public areas outdoors and enabling natural ventilation to cool the interiors. Abundant natural light bathes all public spaces, casting a warm glow on the wooden

elements, which are set against P.E.I sand-coloured concrete floors and white paint. The centre has earned Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) gold certification.

This project not only enriched the narrative surrounding Anne of Green Gables and Lucy Maud Montgomery but also showcased some of the most cutting-edge mass

timber systems available in the local market. The exposed structural elements continue to inspire and educate all visitors.

Timber products used include: Mass timber trusses and glue-laminated (glulam) beams—Goodfellow Inc. Nail-laminated timber (NLT)—Kent Building Supplies and Wood tree columns—Goodfellow Inc for flooring. Exposed wood structure—Goodfellow Inc on the walls, ceilings and floors.

Source: Construction Canada

“MATERIALS USED ARE CONTEMPORARY AS WELL AS HARMONISING

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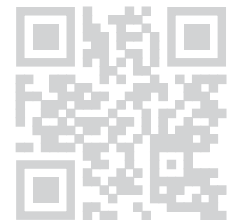
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John Halkett remembered... funeral notification



In the wake of the unexpected death of John last week, Timber & Forestry Enews has received an outpouring of condolences and memories from his industry and personal friends.



The loss of John Halkett so suddenly has left a hole in many of our hearts, particularly for the eNews team.

I first had the pleasure of meeting John at a, then TABMA event in the Hunter Valley in 2021. By chance we were seated on the same table and John's vibrant personality shone through with him keeping me entertained throughout the evening. After discussing everything from politics to pop culture with a bit of timber and forestry in the middle John soon established, I was a journalist and was quickly to ask if I'd be keen to work with him on Timber and Forestry eNews should an opportunity arise in the future.

It was not long after that I was welcomed aboard on a regular basis to be a part of this very publication, something that John had such passion for.

It was a pleasure to work with John and his phone calls would always brighten my day. He was more than a boss or a colleague he quickly became a friend and confident and was always so caring about my family and showed investment in our busy lives. I always knew he was there if there was something I just needed advice on.

My fondest times with John were at industry events. We had the pleasure of attending several together and the passion and love for the industry beamed from him.

John you will be sorely missed from our tight team and from myself and my family. Rest in Peace John, I will always leave a place on my dance card for you.



Nicky Ainley, Editor
Timber and Forestry eNews

Your Invitation

We invite you to view the live streaming event for

John Halkett

The live stream for this event is scheduled to begin on:

Friday, October 27th 2023 at 11:00 AM (Australia/Sydney)

Friday, October 27th 2023 at 12:00 AM (UTC)

[Watch Event](#)

This is a private event which will require the following PIN number to access:

3504

I had already known John Halkett for more than 30 years, when he approached me around six years ago, at one of our DANA conferences in Brisbane.

He said that he would like to purchase the then failing *Timber and Forestry eNews*, but wanted a partner and would I join him. We agreed on a deal, and then John (mostly) spent some years building the publication back up to become the high quality weekly that it is today.

John never stood still, even when sitting down. Indeed, right up to the very end he was "working the phone."

In 2022 John and I decided that we would hold an inaugural Australian Timber Supply Summit Conference, and together we put together what we both agreed was an excellent show in Melbourne in late August this year. John was instrumental in bringing several high-profile politicians and industry leaders to speak at the event.

In early 2023 John worked in expanding our shareholding from the two of us to four, with the inclusion of Chris Parker and Campbell McInnes; and to take over a second publication: *Timber Trader News*.

As usual, John put his heart and soul into this new project - which is already being recognised as THE quality publication for the industry.

However, probably what John did best is what most of us never knew about. That was his unsung help - professional, personal, counselling, and financial, to a whole lot of people over many years. That included me when I needed a helping hand earlier this year.

There will be dozens of people who will miss John for that generosity of his time - and sometimes money - alone.

When I last met John in late August, I did suggest to him that he was no longer a spring chicken, and that he should think about slowing down a bit - or a lot! His response to me was (as always) "Yeah, yeah, yeah Dennis". Meaning, "There is a fat chance of that happening".

Well - now John has a chance to slow down - but he will be sorely missed by family, friends, business partners and many hundreds of people in several of the Australian and international forest industry sectors.

Dennis Neilson

Fellow, NZ Institute of Forestry (NZIF)

Chair, NZ Timber Museum Trust

Director, (Australian) *Timber & Forestry eNews*

Director, (Australian) *Timber Trader News*



I have received the news that my dear friend and father of the timber industry passed away. We were working closely together to help the industry comply with the Illegal Logging Prohibition Act and associated international legislation.

This photo is us in Canberra together after talking with the Department of Agriculture. We had a funky adventure that night, both of us on day trips to Canberra and then held hostage overnight with nothing but our laptops. A running joke of bringing a toothbrush and clean undies even for day trips became a thing. This man was a gentleman and father figure to many. He sent me flowers and a copy of his book for 'light reading' when I recently had surgery. We at Hikari Solutions will do what we can to support ATIF at this time and in the transition to someone new.

John Halkett has left boots that will be forever unfilled. They will stand alone. The best we can do is hope to stand next to them.

Rest in peace my dear friend.

Natalie Reynolds

Managing Director & Chief Legal

Counsel

Hikari Solutions

The passing of John Halkett in Sydney has left our industry deeply shaken and saddened. With a distinguished career spanning borders, John was a true icon in the forest and forest products sector, making a mark in the Australia forest and timber industry as well as New Zealand and beyond.

A professional forester and visionary entrepreneur, John's

dedication to the industry was unparalleled. His legacy extended far and wide, with roles that included General Manager of the Australia Timber Importers Federation, co-publisher and part owner of the *Timber and Forestry eNews* and *Timber Trader*, and authoring five books that beautifully showcased his passion for trees.

NTHA had the pleasure of working closely with John on many projects and his knowledge, passion and networks will be missed.

Our thoughts are with John's family and friends.

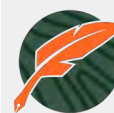
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