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Industry celebrated at Green Triangle Timber Industry Awards

COVER STORY P4



“Farewell
John...”

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Ian Tyson to retire as Timberlink CEO

IAN Tyson will retire as Chief Executive Officer of Timberlink Australia & New Zealand at the end of this calendar year.

Ian commenced in the role of CEO when Timberlink was first formed on 1st February 2013, and through his exceptional leadership over the last ten years, Ian has led the business through challenging times, ensuring positive returns; from the early days of operational stability to what is now a well-honed and strategically focused organisation delivering significant beneficial outcomes.

There have been many achievements and transformative projects that Ian has led during his time as CEO, and there are none greater than the evolution of

NeXTimber®, Timberlink's mass timber manufacturing business, and Timberlink's wood-composite manufacturing products. These two projects were borne through Ian's unwavering drive and focus on innovation allowed Timberlink to grow from a timber processing focussed business into a much broader manufacturing and construction solutions



1/ Ian has achieved a number of things including the evolution of NeXTimber®, Timberlink's mass timber manufacturing business.

2/ Ian will retire as CEO of Timberlink by the end of 2023.

focussed business.

Ian has led with integrity, and this has been underpinned by the values that were developed many years ago to ensure that everyone at Timberlink conducts themselves in a way that makes Timberlink a great place to work.

We wish Ian all the best in his well-earned retirement.

The Australian Forest Products Association (AFPA) have congratulated outgoing Timberlink Australia & New Zealand CEO Ian Tyson on a successful career after more than a decade leading the business. We also thank Ian for his dedication and commitment to the broader forest products sector through

service on the AFPA Board and as Chair of the Softwood Manufacturing Chamber (SMC), Acting Chief Executive Officer of AFPA, Natasa Sikman said today.

"On behalf of AFPA and our broader membership, I congratulate and thank Ian for his outstanding contribution and service to Timberlink and AFPA. Timberlink Australia & New Zealand has been exceptionally led under Ian, navigating the business through challenging times, but ultimately taking one of Australia's largest softwood manufacturers from strength to strength," Natasa Sikman said.

"Ian joined the AFPA Board in 2015 providing an invaluable

contribution to the leadership body over his more than four years while he also served as Chair of AFPA's SMC during this period. We thank Ian for his contribution to AFPA."

Ian commenced as CEO of Timberlink when it was first formed in 2013 and will retire at the end of this calendar year. The evolution of NeXTimber® has been highlighted as one of the best achievements of Ian's tenure, allowing Timberlink to grow from a timber processing-focused business to a broader manufacturing and construction business.

"We wish Ian all the very best in his retirement and congratulate him again on a magnificent career," Natasa Sikman concluded.



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Industry legend John Halkett farewelled

FAMILY, friends, colleagues and members of the timber industry have gathered to farewell industry legend John Halkett, late last week.

The service, which was held at the Macquarie Park Crematorium in Sydney, commenced at 11am on Friday, October 27, and was attended by John's immediate family including his partner of over 20 years.

The open space of the Lotus Pavilion was where mourners gathered to laugh, shed a tear and celebrate the larger-than-life timber and forestry enthusiast with the venue perfectly surrounded by trees, John's true passion.

John's brothers Lawrie and Bob Halkett were the first to speak sharing the stories of John's early days and his early love of trees. His successful career in forestry and timber was celebrated both by his brothers and also by colleague and friend, Campbell McInnes.

"John reached a broad range of segments of our industry in Australia and Internationally," Campbell told mourners.

"Each person, company, or association John was involved with would have a different



Family, friends and industry members gathered to celebrate the life and farewell John Halkett.

experience, with him. However, a common theme with John was that everyone he met would express how kind a person he was.

"He truly did care for and look out for others, professionally, personally and sometimes financially.

John's successful and long career in the industry was celebrated with the crowd reflecting on his various roles including the ones he was involved in at the time of his shock passing.

Along with his love of trees and the industry, mourners celebrated his love of family and travel.

"One of the adventures that

sticks in my mind would be that Maxine and John were among the first to visit the Virgin Galactic Space Program in the US," Campbell shared.

"They were also lucky enough to go through the Virgin Galactic Astronaut Training Program. John still had his astronaut suit and certificate of completion for this experience."

Members of his partner's family also spoke of John's big heart, loving nature and compassion for the younger generation.

A video montage of John's life played, a touching tribute to a large life. Images of John as a baby, a child, with his trees, with his family and within his industry were rotated to the sounds of Jonny Cash, Sting and Bryan Adams, leaving not a dry eye at the service.

John's Granddaughter, Hana, had the final word saying John was a man of many titles.

As the funeral group prepared to say their final farewells, it was clear John Halkett had touched so many lives. John was celebrated as someone who was "Larger than

life, good-natured, a father figure to many, could often be cheeky, was dedicated to creating a better industry, passionate, had an unwavering commitment to make a difference, a champion in thought and action, had a remarkable ability for juggling multiple projects, was an entrepreneur and was one who loved trees."



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Dr O’Hehir honoured at Green Triangle Timber Industry Awards

ORGANISERS and guests say the atmosphere was nothing short of spectacular as the 4th Green Triangle Timber Awards Gala Dinner which was held on October 27th, 2023 at The Barn Mount Gambier.

With a backdrop of perfect weather, 500 guests including The Hon. Peter Malinauskas MP, Premier of South Australia and The Hon. Clare Scriven MLC, Minister for Forestry gathered for an evening of celebration and recognition of the industry’s

highest achievers.

Australia’s funny man Dave Thornton opened the evening with his hilarious comedy and a total of ten awards were presented to industry leaders, recognizing their outstanding contributions to their respective fields. Among the recipients, the prestigious Timber Legend Award was given to Dr. Jim O’Hehir.

Dr. O’Hehir’s exceptional dedication to the forestry sector, his relentless commitment to the delivery of ground-breaking research projects, and his efforts in implementing technology advancements throughout the region earned him this honour. Jim’s passion for forestry and his tireless



Dr Jim O’Hehir was honoured after more than 30 years of service to the industry.

the Timber Legend Award.

In addition to celebrating the winners, the Committee also extend their congratulations to the award finalists. Their nominations alone are recognition of their unwavering commitment to the industry, showcasing their exceptional talent and dedication.

efforts in mentoring the next generation of industry leaders has left an indelible mark on the sector, making him a deserving recipient of

Their contributions serve as a testament to the remarkable progress and innovation taking place in our community.

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And the winners from GTTIA are...

Operations – Harvesting and In-Field Chipping Excellence:

WINNER: Jamie Marlow – Merrett Logging

Operations – Silviculture and Timber Support Services Excellence:

WINNER: Jason Whyte Berry & Whyte Surveyors

HIGHLY COMMENDED: Josh Praolini from Green Triangle Forest Industries Hub

Logistics Excellence – Port Operations, Marshalling and Timber Haulage:

WINNER: Adam Merrett – Merrett Logging

Sawmilling and Processing Excellence:

WINNER: Andrew Burston – OneFortyOne

Safety Excellence – Individual Achievement:

WINNER: Ryan Cassar – Tabeel Trading Nominees
WINNER: Deb Kuhl



1/ Jamie Marlow from Merrett Logging receives the Operations Award for Harvesting and In-Field Chipping Excellence.
2/ Jason Whyte from Berry & Whyte Surveyors receives the Operations Award for Silviculture and Timber Support Services Excellence. Highly commended was Josh Praolini from Green Triangle Forest Industries Hub.



– Timberlink Australia & New Zealand

Trainee: WINNER: Grace Tse – Timberlands Pacific

HIGHLY COMMENDED: Amelia Harris – Van Schaik's BioGro

Environment & Sustainability: WINNER: Wendy Fennell – Fennell Forestry

HIGHLY COMMENDED: Levi Bateman – HVP Plantations

Safety Excellence – Less than 30 staff:

WINNER: Glenara Transport

Safety Excellence – More than 30 staff:

WINNER: Merrett Logging

Timber Legend:

WINNER: Dr Jim O'Hehir

Organisers extended their

thanks to all our sponsors for their 'invaluable support', the distinguished guests for joining them for the occasion, and the nominees, finalists, and award winners for their tireless efforts in shaping the future of the industry.

On the cover: Dr. Jim O'Hehir received the Timber Legend Award for his years of service to the timber industry at the GTTIA awards.



3/ Adam Merrett from Merrett Logging receives the Logistics Excellence Award for Port Operations, Marshalling and Timber Haulage.
4/ Ryan Cassar (right) from Tabeel Trading Nominee and Deb Kuhl from Timberlink Australia & New Zealand receive the Safety Excellence Award for Individual Achievement.



Thank you.

To all forest industry, regional communities and rural fire service personnel who work tirelessly to keep our communities and forests safe, we thank you.

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Clarence Valley Council reject phase-out of native forest harvesting

In what is being hailed by some as a 'victory for the timber communities of New South Wales', more than 100 timber industry workers rallied in Maclean, on the NSW north coast, calling on Clarence Valley council to reject 'extremist ideology' and support local jobs and the wider Australian economy.

Mills across the region shut down for a period of time late last week to allow owners, staff, and supporters to voice their concerns about a report from the Clarence Valley Council's biodiversity advisory committee, which proposed to



Industry representatives gathered to show protest against the proposed ban on native forest harvesting.

“ I WAS REALLY DISAPPOINTED



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call on the state government to phase out native forest harvesting in state-owned forests.

The proposal first came before the Clarence Valley Council in late June when it was deferred to allow public feedback.

When speaking at Tuesday's meeting Councilor Steve Pickering was reportedly scathing of the initial lack of consultation.

"Our community was visibly distressed," he said.

"There had been no consultation with an entire industry of thousands and thousands of people, an industry which keeps this valley ticking"

During his address to the council Cr Pickering also spoke of his dismay at Council being involved in reported 'political games'.

"I was actually really disappointed that it would

come to council.

"To me it seemed like a political decision and I was disturbed councilors are being used as pawns in a political game."

After attracting a whopping 2,464 public submissions – of which over 95% were supportive of a continuation of the sustainable native timber industry, the importance of this industry to local communities, families and businesses was on display during the rally.

After over an hour of speeches and debate, the councilors voted overwhelmingly against the motion, seven votes to two with only Deputy Mayor Jeff Smith and councilor Greg Clancy supporting a ban on the sustainable native timber sector. Speaking in support of a ban, Councilor Clancy spoke of the lack of support for the failed motion.

"It is quite obvious from the discussion here that there are no other councilors that share the concerns that I've got," he said.

Local Forestry workers were out in force outside Maclean council chambers to have their voices heard.

The packed gallery reacted with raucous applause to the obvious support from Clarence Valley councilors – with local timber industry workers, business owners, CFMEU Union representatives and FWCA Executive Officer Mick Harrington all joining in applauding the decision.

Speaking after the event to local media, Victorian-based FWCA Executive Officer Mick Harrington spoke of his

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NOVEMBER

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 (ICFC - 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

reason for making the 14-hour journey to Maclean for the day “I’ve seen what the end of the sustainable native timber sector has done to regional Victoria – and the impact on local communities, businesses and our collective mental health – we must not see that happen here in the Clarence Valley,” Mick said.

Ralliests say ‘the need remains for extremists to read the room, and stop their attempts to destroy our communities, families and our opportunities’.

Global sawlog prices drop

THE Global Sawlog Prices Index (GSPI), a benchmark for worldwide wood pricing, has dipped about 10% from its all-time high in 2022. According to ResourceWise data, most countries experienced a drop in prices over the last year. However, some countries have actually seen rising costs in the preceding 12 months.

Multiple factors are at play in why we’re seeing these ups and downs. This post will examine a few of the major global forestry regions to

better understand why this may be the case.

Pacific sawmill regions, most notably in British Columbia, have continued feeling the pinch of market shifts. Several mills have already closed, and more pulp mills will likely follow suit in the region.

As explained by Ted Clarke of the Prince Georgia Citizen, BC has seen a series of challenges that many companies could not overcome. A pine beetle

infestation devastated BC forestlands and left a huge deficit in available harvests. This led to an excess of mills without enough supply to go around—a big problem for any operation.

Additionally, increasing risks from wildfires have left some investors worried about opening new facilities or even continuing to operate current ones. With 2023’s record-setting wildfire destruction, it’s no surprise most companies would feel that way.

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Home building material costs stabilise

“THE cost of house building materials was unchanged in the September Quarter 2023, for the first time since before the pandemic,” stated HIA Senior Economist Tom Devitt.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) released its Producer Price Indexes for the September Quarter 2023, for a range of industries, including mining, manufacturing, construction and services industries.

“The ABS Producer Price Index for house construction inputs saw a 0.0 per cent change in the September 2023 quarter compared to the previous quarter,” added Mr Devitt.

“This sees the cost of house building materials



The cost of building materials remain unchanged.

just 4.4 per cent higher over the year, compared to a 17.3 per cent annual increase in 2021/22.

“The slowing in cost of house building inputs reflects a significant easing in the materials constraints that plagued the industry during the pandemic.

“Some of the worst affected products during the pandemic are now seeing outright declines in price.

“Last year, structural timber and reinforcing steel prices were both up by more than 60 per cent on pre-pandemic levels. In the last year, they have declined by 8.8 per

cent and 5.3 per cent respectively. Steel beams and sections, which were up by more than 50 per cent a year ago, subsequently declined by 17.2 per cent.

“Most of Australia’s pandemic inflationary

pressures came from building materials and fuel.

“As these pressures ease, it will provide more certainty of future house building costs, as well as hasten the need for a cut to interest rates,” concluded Mr Devitt.

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Natalie Reynolds appointed interim GM of the ATIF

THE Australian Timber Importers Federation (ATIF) has announced the appointment of Natalie Reynolds as its Interim General Manager. In her new role, Natalie will continue to lead the ATIF in advancing its mission to support and promote the sustainable and responsible importation of timber products throughout Australia.

Natalie will guide ATIF during this transitional phase as a meaningful search is conducted for a General Manager to take up the role in a permanent capacity, whilst navigating the challenges and opportunities facing the timber import sector in Australia.

As the Managing Director and Chief Legal Counsel at Hikari Solutions, Natalie was working closely with the late John Halkett, former GM, prior to his passing to help the industry comply with the Illegal Logging Prohibition Act and associated international legislation.

Hikari Solutions provides sustainability consultancy and advisory services assisting organisations to transform strategy, operations, and financial performance.

Natalie's in-depth knowledge and understanding of the timber supply chain stems from her previous role as the ex-CEO of FSC Australia and a GEMBA qualified lawyer with experience managing compliance environments.

In her role as Interim General Manager, Natalie, and her team plan to undertake a financial and digital transformation to drive efficiencies, along with a considered growth strategy. Natalie will work closely with



New interim ATIF GM Natalie Reynolds (left) and ATIF Chair Jacinta Colley (Vida Wood)... delivering calmness over recent sadness.

Chair Jacinta Colley (Vida Wood Australia) and the board to ensure a smooth transition giving confidence to the ATIF members that tasks at hand are continuing to be acted upon.

Commenting on her appointment, Natalie stated, "John was a dear friend and father of the timber industry so I am honoured to take on this new role and help support the Australian Timber Importers Federation at this time and in the transition to a new General Manager."

"I look forward to working alongside our members, partners, and stakeholders to ensure the continued sustainability and responsible management of this industry."

The Australian Timber Importers Federation welcomes Natalie Reynolds to her new role on 1st November 2023 until her term ends in February 2024. The ATIF is confident that, under her guidance, the federation will continue to thrive and play a pivotal role in the Australian timber industry.

ATIF will hold its AGM on Thursday 30th November in Melbourne where we will combine an event for all ATIF Members – further details to follow.

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MADE IN SWEDEN



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Designs revealed for Europe's largest mass timber logistics centre

Danish architect firm, Henning Larsen has revealed designs for a new mass timber logistics centre project in Lelystad on Flevopolder Island, the Netherlands.

The project includes a restaurant with roof garden and terrace for employees and boasts several sustainable credentials, including the retention of 40% of the 70-acre total site for landscaping and wildlife habitats. Another 10% increase in its overall biodiversity will also be



New mass timber logistics centre project in Lelystad on Flevopolder Island, the Netherlands Image: Henning Larsen

flood mitigation and rainwater harvesting while preventing off-site contamination from commercial activities. The large 1.66 million-square-foot logistics hub is topped by a 331,022-square-foot roof garden. The arching three-story building will be 1,826 feet in length and is designed to accommodate over 500 workers.

"The constructed wetland habitat and the rooftop meadow are integral components designed to promote biodiversity," Sonja Stockmarr, Henning Larsen's Global

“EMPLOYEES CAN CONNECT WITH THE NATURAL WORLD

achieved through its realization. The firm says its construction is driven by circular economy principles and the desire to create a fairer working environment tied to reduced emissions.

For the design of Logistic Centre West (LCW), Henning Larsen proposes constructing a wetlands network that wraps the site, supported by a high-tech irrigation system that also aids in

Cont P 11

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From P 10

Design director for landscape, said in a statement.

"This intentional integration of nature into the workspace creates a unique atmosphere where employees can connect with the natural world, fostering well-being and productivity.

"However, crucial to its success, not every area is accessible to people to ensure nature can flourish unimpeded by human activity," she said.

The firm's explorations into mass timber have recently spurred designs for the University of the Faroe Islands, 'World of Volvo' corporate headquarters project in Sweden, and another mixed-use development that's been billed as the "world's largest



1/ Sustainability is the main design driver to reduce environmental impact. Image: Henning Larsen

2/ The constructed wetland habitat and the rooftop meadow are integral components designed to promote biodiversity. Image: Henning Larsen



urban construction project in wood" in Stockholm.

The LCW will also set precedents as the largest timber logistics hub in Europe. The project's client is Bestseller, the fashion giant that made international headlines in 2017 over its proposed Dorte Mandrup-designed 1,049-foot HQ tower in the rural Danish village of Brande that

would stand as the tallest skyscraper in Western Europe if constructed.

"As sustainability becomes the main design driver, the buildings blocks of our industry are changing. But we still have much to learn, and unlearn, as we reshape our industry's outsized environmental impact," global design principal Louis Becker said in February

during a preview of the firm's exhibition at the Aedes Architecture Forum in Berlin.

"Facing up to this footprint can be anxiety-provoking. But it also holds a wealth of opportunities. The perspective of opportunities has led us to embark upon the explorative and collaborative journey of changing our footprint."

Source: Archinect

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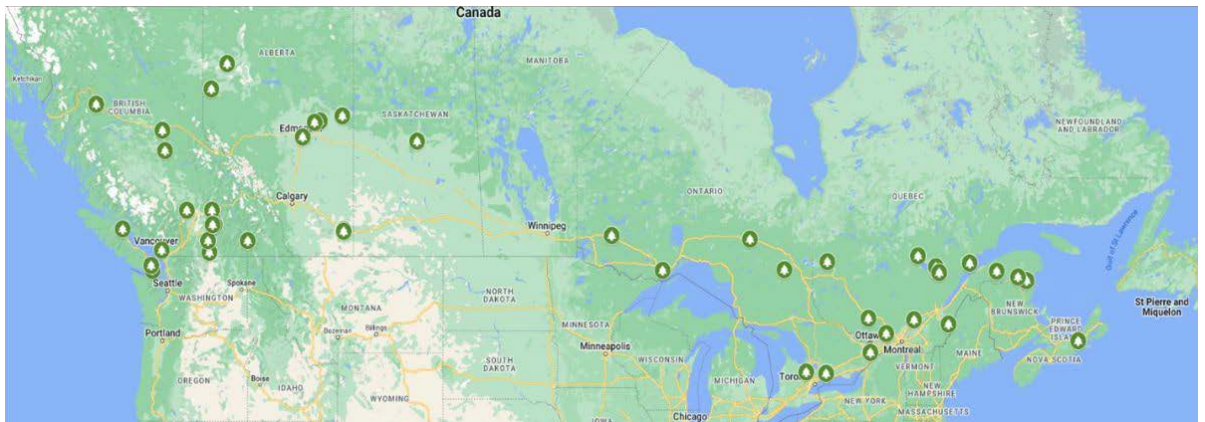
Tree nursery association accelerates forestry restoration efforts

THE Canadian Tree Nursery Association (Association Canadienne des Pépinières Forestières (CTNA-ACPF) is bringing together all major growers of tree seedlings dedicated to forest restoration initiatives across Canada.

The new trade association (based in Huntsville, ON) representing 50 nurseries and over 90% of current Canadian tree seedling production, aims to increase production, enhance collaboration, drive innovation and promote sustainable practices in the tree nursery sector. CTNA-ACPF was unveiled at the 2023 Atlantic Nursery Conference.

As the value of tree planting and demand for forest restoration continues to grow, so will the demand for native tree seedlings. CTNA-ACPF will play a pivotal role in advancing the efforts of Canadian tree nurseries to meet this demand. Through collective action and sharing best practices, CTNA-ACPF members will ensure the appropriate supply of high-quality tree seedlings to successfully restore our nation's forests.

"All major growers in the tree seedling sector recognize the need for a unified voice and shared expertise to address our industry's challenges and opportunities," stated Mike Downing, chair of



CTNA-ACPF Member Nurseries.

the association's board of directors.

"CTNA-ACPF will be a collaborative network that pools resources, exchanges knowledge, and advocates for the vital role of tree nurseries in forest restoration programs – including the 2 Billion Tree program."

CTNA-ACPF members are tree nurseries from coast to coast to coast that each produce over one million seedlings per year for the purpose of forest restoration. Each member has significant expertise and commitment to growing quality seedlings, while supporting local economies through rural jobs and providing planting stock to the forestry sector. By uniting under the CTNA-ACPF umbrella, these leading growers are focusing their collective abilities towards restoring and maintaining Canada's valuable forest ecosystems.

CTNA-ACPF is focused on several key initiatives, including:

COLLABORATION AND KNOWLEDGE SHARING:

CTNA-ACPF members will

network and collaborate to share best practices, research findings and technological advancements in tree nursery operations.

ADVOCACY AND OUTREACH:

CTNA-ACPF will be a key partner in promoting the important role of tree nurseries in forest restoration with Indigenous, federal and provincial governments, provincial nursery associations and related organizations (including those focused on ecology and genetics, tree planting, and research and development).

RESEARCH AND INNOVATION:

CTNA-ACPF members will collectively invest in research and development projects aimed at improving tree nursery practices and enhancing seedling performance.

“THE ASSOCIATION WILL POOL THEIR RESOURCES

"The launch of the Canadian Tree Nursery Association at the Atlantic Tree Nursery conference is a significant milestone in advancing the reforestation efforts not only in the Atlantic region, but also across Canada," said Rob Keen, RPF, and executive director of the Association.

"This is an important and overdue step and will help the nursery sector make even more of a positive impact to both local economies and employment as well as ensuring healthy forests which provide critical habitat, carbon sinks and sources of sustainable forest products."

"I'd like to thank our partners and in particular Forests Ontario/Forest Recovery Canada for their assistance in facilitating the creation of the Association. Also, a special thanks to our Founding Sponsors, Maple Leaves Forever and Harnois Industries," Keen concluded.

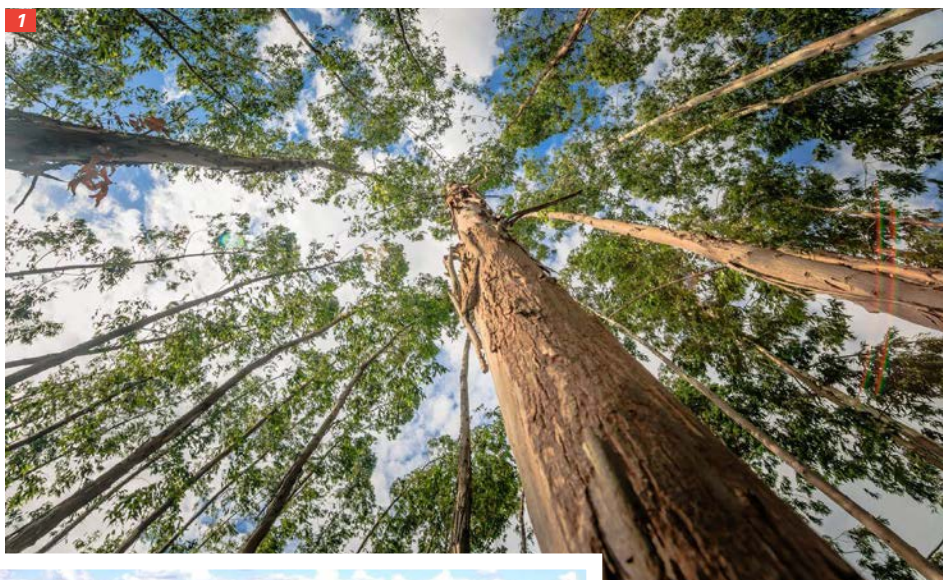
CTNA-ACPF invites tree nurseries across Canada to join the Association and contribute to the collective effort of restoring and expanding our country's forests.

Gum tree – the world’s most successful tree

John Halket loved his trees and writing about them. Prior to his untimely passing, John had written a number of features which we will have the pleasure of continuing to publish in Enews every four weeks in memory of John.

CONSIDERING that Australia is the home of the gum tree, compared with other countries, we have been slow in planting our own eucalypts in tree plantations. Although more than 14 million hectares of gum trees have been planted across the world.

Eucalypts account for more than 70 per cent of the trees in Australia’s natural forests and woodlands, growing in a wide range of climates from the hot tropics to near-desert inland plains to alpine snowfields. Evolving from rainforest



1/ *The iconic eucalypt group is comprised of more than 700 species of trees and shrubs.*

2/ *Eucalypt plantation in Brazil... more than 14 million hectares of gum trees have been planted worldwide.*

ghost gums in the centre. There are scrubby mallees that won’t pass shoulder-height, and pillars of mountain ash that shoot a hundred metres into the sky. In Western Australia, there are dark-leaved jarrahs that can grow to either of these heights. Site-specific, they carve the country into distinct ribbons and patches: one species grows up a hill and stops whereas another suddenly starts and grows down the other side.

Many secrete a resinous gum – hence the name by which they are known at home and around the world: gum trees. They have distinctive foliage, attractive

multi-stamened flowers and frequently ornamental peeling bark. The seeds are contained in woody and sometimes hard capsules, which protect them from fires and insects.

TALKING TREES



With the late JOHN HALKETT

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ancestors, eucalypts have adapted to an environment where nutrient-poor soils are common and a dry environment has become the norm.

Over 700 species make up the genus and, with a dozen

exceptions, this is the only place where they grow naturally – from shaggy-barked blackbutts on the east coast’s dunes to the bright bark of snow gums up at the alpine tree line, to silky-white

“EUCALYPTS MAKE UP MORE THAN 70% OF AUSTRALIAN NATURAL FORESTS”



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31 million trees to be planted in Canada

In an effort to minimize the devastating effects of climate change, encourage biodiversity, enhance wildlife habitat, and support green job creation, Forests Ontario / Forest Recovery Canada has signed an agreement with Natural Resources Canada's 2 Billion Trees (2BT) program to plant 31 million trees across the country by March 31, 2031.

Jess Kaknevicus, CEO of Forests Ontario, and the Honourable Jonathan Wilkinson, Minister of Energy and Natural Resources, today announced a joint commitment of over \$123 million that will see 31 million trees planted across the country. The Government of Canada will cover 50 percent of project costs through the 2BT program and Forests Ontario will work with corporate partners and donors across the country to contribute to the balance of project costs.

"This is a generational opportunity for organizations and individuals across the country to show their environmental leadership," Kaknevicus says. "We have the support of the Government of Canada and now we need corporate partners and donors to stand



Forests Ontario, together with its national division Forest Recovery Canada, is dedicated to the creation, restoration and maintenance of forest and grassland habitats.

with our planting partners, conservation authorities, Indigenous community partners, municipalities, and community groups and play a vital role in the fight against biodiversity loss and climate change."

The success of a planting project this size is possible thanks to Forests Ontario's comprehensive network of experts who collect high-quality seed, grow the seedlings with trusted nurseries, work with local planting partners, and manage survival

assessments to improve climate resilience and biodiversity in our natural environments – goals that are in direct alignment with UN Sustainable Development Goals.

"Today's announcement represents a major step toward our goal of planting two billion trees to deliver cleaner air, enhance biodiversity, and advance climate action across Canada," Minister Wilkinson says.

"Forests Ontario's efforts to plant more than 31 million trees across the country will benefit communities and

“ BENEFIT COMMUNITIES AND CREATE GOOD JOBS ”

create good jobs. Collaborative partnerships like the one between Canada and Forests Ontario are producing important results for Canadians and ensuring that the right tree is planted in the right place for the right reasons."

This announcement builds on the original 2BT program agreement between the Government of Canada

and Forests Ontario from November 2022. Over the past 20 years, Forests Ontario has been responsible for planting more than 43 million trees on over 8,000 project sites across Canada – creating approximately 20,500 hectares of new forests.

"Nature is our greatest ally in fighting climate change. Planting more trees is a nature-based climate solution that helps reduce the risk of flooding and wildfires, cleans our air and water, supports biodiversity and sequesters carbon emissions," the Honourable Steven Guilbeault, Minister of Environment and Climate Change, says. "It's also one of our best tools to build thriving, livable cities in Ontario and across Canada."

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Partnership project aims to improve Coffs Harbour biodiversity

A PARTNERSHIP of key local agencies will rejuvenate the bush to improve biodiversity at one of Coffs Harbour's most visited natural assets.

Forestry Corporation has partnered with Envite Environment and the Gumbayngirr Ranger team of the Ngyyambandigay Wajaarr Aboriginal Corporation (NWAC) to undertake weed management and staged bush revegetation work within the Bruxner Park Flora Reserve.

The reserve is an area of special environmental and cultural significance within the Orara East State Forest overlooking Coffs Harbour and contain an abundance of natural wonders and award-winning experiences.

"We're proud to work with the Gumbayngirr Rangers and Forestry Corporation has a good working relationship with Envite Environment, who have assisted with the development and delivery of a number of ecological restoration projects in the state forests of the Coffs Coast over the past decade," Forestry Corporation's Partnership Leader Ryan Ellis said.

"The Bruxner Park Flora Reserve in Orara East State Forest has a range of nature-



1/ NWAC's ranger team will work alongside Envite's experienced bush regenerators.

2/ One of the priorities is the Forest Sky Pire, an iconic visitor site.



based experiences including forest walks, treetops adventures, cultural tours and café, amazing lookouts and a rich blend of indigenous and European history.

"The current project of weed management is just a small part of the ongoing maintenance and management of the reserve to ensure the site continues to be appreciated into the future," he said.

This partnership aims to maintain environmental values within the flora reserve through the removal of a range of target species including lantana, camphor laurel, tobacco tree, crofton

weed, broad-leafed paspalum and a range of common environmental weeds.

Priority areas for this work include around the Forest Sky Pier, as one of Coffs Harbour's most iconic visitor sites, and the nearby Gungali Track and Korora Lookout.

"Following the removal of weeds from target areas, the plan allows for revegetation of some sites with suitable species, however, this is heavily dependent on a break in the current dry conditions," Envite Environment area manager environmental services Mick Webb said.

NWAC's ranger team will work alongside Envite's experienced bush regenerators to develop their existing skills and to experience and expand their capacity to deliver programs, which manage and protect Gumbayngirr land and water.

"This partnership provides our team of rangers with good practical experience working on country that complements our team's existing skills and qualifications," NWAC head ranger Jesse Shilling said.



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