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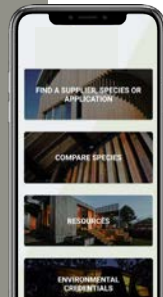
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Happy 800th *Enews*!

Sixteen years of growing the industry and timber businesses.

THIS week marks the 800th issue of *Timber & Forestry Enews* (*Enews*), the most respected Australasian timber industry- focused digital publication. It's an exciting milestone for Timber Media Australasia, the owner of both *Enews* and *Timber Trader News*, a printed and online bi-monthly magazine.

Our team consists of three editors, two graphic designers and two directors, supported by multiple professional writers and experts, both here and abroad. We are linked with industry associations and numerous media partners, international trade, export commodity and supply chain providers. Most importantly, we are read by you, our dedicated subscribers, seeking the truth and up-to- date information from the frontline impacting the Timber and Forestry industries.

We know that you're listening: Google Analytics shows a significant increase in the number of visitors to our *Enews* website at www.timberandforestryenews.com as well as the time spent on our pages. At the time of our 500th issue, back on 1 March



Pictured top left, The late John Halkett loved T&F Enews Zoom meetings; the only trick was keeping up with his agile mind.

2008, *Enews* reported we had "an opening rate of 38% [which is] well above average for digital publications". We are delighted to advise that this opening rate is now over 50% in just the first three days, from publication! Our sister site www.timbertradernews.com is also well-visited.

Our services to the industry are ever-increasing. You can now advertise any industry or related position vacant for just

\$30 plus GST for three weeks – just \$10 per week – as we seek to become the go-to place for industry-related jobs.

Recognising the significance of expanding our reach and audience, we have recently appointed a social media officer to bolster our online presence. We're pleased to report early signs of success, with a noticeable increase in followers on our *Enews* LinkedIn page. We




are confident that dedicating more resources to our social media platforms will not only boost our readership but also enhance exposure for our advertising partners.

The team values your industry news contributions and positive feedback. If you're interested in exploring partnership opportunities, don't hesitate to reach out to Campbell McInnes on 0406 223 007. We're committed to fostering mutual growth and collaboration.

Enews would like to acknowledge our founding publisher and editor Dennis Macready and, following him, the Late John Halkett, who took the publication to the next level. As we look back across the past 16 years, it is easy to see the growth and development, changes in technology and writing styles. The one constant is our efforts to seek out and report on topics that matter to you. We have a number of very loyal customers who have been with us for many years and looking at their growth and development is a true reflection of our partnership.

–The Enews Team

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Jarrah forests at risk of collapse

WA's record dry has stressed and killed trees across the south-west.

LAST year, scientists warned that the decades-long decline in rainfall in south-west Australia had reduced the replenishment of groundwater in the region to an 800-year low. (Click here for article.)

Since then, Perth and its surrounding regions have sweltered through a record hot summer that, depending on location, was either the driest on record or with very much below average rainfall across the south-west from October 2023 to March 2024 (and, cruelly, punishing floods in the north).

Researchers from WA's Murdoch University, Auburn University and The University of Western Australia warn that the impacts of these conditions are having significant impacts on the trees and shrubs of the region.

Writing in *The Conversation* (click here for full article), the team warns: "Beginning in February 2024, large areas of vegetation started to turn brown and die off. With no real relief in sight, we unfortunately expect this mass plant death event to intensify and expand.

"Just like a coral bleaching event, WA's plants are responding to the cumulative stress of the unusually long, hot and dry summer. And just like bleaching, global heating is likely to cause more regular mass plant deaths. The last time this happened in 2010-11, almost 20% of trees and shrubs in affected areas died."

Using data provided by members of the public, the team is tracking this year's tree and shrub deaths and has found significant canopy dieback from Shark Bay to Albany and across many types of plant, from jarrah forest to

southern wet forests near granites and shrublands and woodlands north of Perth.

Plants on shallower soils have fared worst, but the lack of groundwater and long dry period have expanded the range of those at risk.

Several of the same scientists have previously shown that

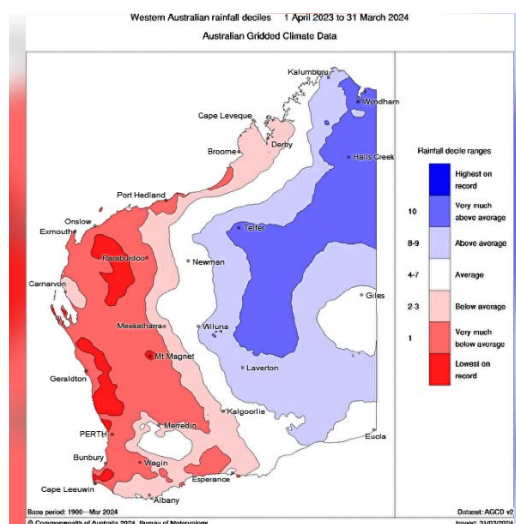
plants are more vulnerable to heatwaves than previously expected (click here for paper).

The previous heat dieback event in 2010-11 had devastating consequences with the team noting that: "Averaging across the region's affected areas, 19% of trees and shrubs died, while the forests of the south-west lost approximately 16,000 hectares of canopy, about 1.5% of the forest.

"When forests die, the effects ripple through the ecosystem. The endangered Carnaby's black cockatoo population crashed, declining



Patches of forest have begun to die as shown in this photo by Joe Fontaine, one of the paper's authors and lecturer in Environmental and Conservation Science at Murdoch University. Image: CC BY-NC-ND



Recorded data shows the lack of rainfall across south-west WA from October to March.

by 60%, while the jarrah forest east of Perth was so hard hit it was categorised at 'risk of collapse' by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change."

Unfortunately, compared to that event, "this time it's worse."

Birdlife Australia's Sam Rychen has said the endangered Carnaby's black cockatoo, already suffering from habitat loss, could become unsustainable and many are worried about the implications for future bushfires.

The WA Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and

Attractions is working with the universities to study the extent of the die-off using satellites, aircraft, drones and on-the-ground inspections. It plans to map where vegetation is most vulnerable to die out and, in the longer term, thin the forest in these areas to reduce competition for water.

Climate scientist Bill Hare told the *Sydney Morning Herald* the damage was driven by global warming from the burning of fossil fuels.

"This is not the new normal, it is the beginning of what looks like a very, very worrying period of decades ahead," Hare said.

"The loss of many of our beautiful, unique and biodiverse ecosystems will inevitably come with devastating bushfires.

"People throughout the region are upset, angry and anguished by what they see happening to their favourite places they and their parents and grandparents grew up in."

The Guardian's Graham Readfearn, a leading environment reporter, wrote that compared with the period from 1901 to 1960, cool season rainfall in the last two decades has dropped by 20%. Very wet years have almost completely disappeared.

He wrote: "About half of this change has been blamed on rising greenhouse gas emissions, which could be an underestimate, according to [this study] (click for link).

"Even with rapid reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, the study suggested, the drying trend would probably continue for the rest of this century."

Rental crisis hits record levels

A new report shows unaffordable rental costs for many Australians.

EVERY year, Anglicare takes a Rental Affordability Snapshot (click here for 2024). This year's version makes even grimmer reading than usual.

The Snapshot surveys rental listings across Australia and compares them to the incomes of low-waged Australians and those on various pensions and social support programs. This year, it found that affordability has crashed to record lows. Out of the complete list of 45,115 rental listings, 289 rentals (0.6%) were affordable for a person earning a full-time minimum wage; 89 rentals (0.2%) were affordable for a person on the Age Pension (the largest group, about 2.6 million Australians); 31 rentals (0.1%) were affordable for a person on the Disability

Support Pension; 3 rentals (0.01%) – all sharehouses – were affordable for a person on JobSeeker and 0 rentals were affordable for a person on Youth Allowance.

In response to the report, housing advocacy group Everybody's Home is urging the federal government to boost social housing in its upcoming Budget. Spokesperson Jennifer Kirkaldy said more social housing is key to easing the housing crisis.

"Every year the Rental Affordability Snapshot serves



Housing advocate Jennifer Kirkaldy is calling on the Federal Government to significantly invest in social housing in its upcoming Budget.

as a sobering reminder: the housing crisis deepens the longer that the government fails to act," Kirkaldy said.

"Every year, we're seeing more people priced out of renting and being pushed

into housing stress and homelessness. Even in regions where rental supply has gone up, housing isn't becoming more affordable.

"The private market alone will not solve the housing crisis. Instead, we need a boost in social housing – homes that are set up to make renting affordable. The next Budget is an opportunity to shift the dial. Australia needs 50,000 social housing properties every year over the next decade. The government must also reform investor tax arrangements which are pushing up the cost of housing."

She added, "The research is clear: Australians cannot afford housing, and Australia cannot afford for this housing crisis to get any worse."

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Australian Forest Products Association

AFPA THE LEADING VOICE FOR AUSTRALIA'S FOREST PRODUCTS SECTOR

High Court rules out logging halt

Sustainable Timber Tasmania has won in a long-running Derby dispute.

LOGGING is set to resume near Derby in north-east Tasmania after the High Court dismissed a challenge by environmentalists.

Two coupes in the area, near world-famous mountain-biking trails, have faced legal challenges since April 2022. Last week, an injunction against logging in the area was removed by the Supreme Court and on Tuesday morning the High Court refused a challenge to that ruling from environmentalists.

Environmental group Blue Derby Wild, which includes local tourism operators and mountain bikers as well as environmentalists, had challenged the approval of logging in the native forest coupes covering 80 hectares.

Blue Derby Wild had argued that the rules approving logging came from the same state-run bodies as Sustainable Timber Tasmania



STT has promised to protect the Derby mountain bike trails from the impacts of forestry.

(STT), the group applying for approval to do the logging. They said this system created “apprehended bias”, because the regulator would have an unconscious tendency to facilitate, rather than refuse or limit, the logging.

But the FPA stated that the laws expressly allow for a self-regulating system, and complying with the law cannot amount to bias. The Supreme Court ruling accepted this argument.

In Tuesday’s ruling, the High Court ruled that Blue Derby Wild did not have standing to appeal, upholding the Supreme

Court finding that the group could not prove that it held an interest in the specific logging operations, other than opposing logging and litigating. The arguments brought by Blue Derby Wild were not heard.

STT has emphasised that the Derby mountain bike trails are entirely outside of

“THE HIGH COURT RULED THAT BLUE DERBY WILD DID NOT HAVE STANDING TO APPEAL.”

future proposed harvest areas and substantial measures are put in place to protect the trails from forest operations.

On Facebook this week, STT wrote that it “welcomes [the] Supreme Court decision to refuse Blue Derby Wild injunction application.

“Last week, a judgement was handed down by the Supreme Court that ruled in favour of Sustainable Timber Tasmania and the Forest Practices Authority. Proceedings were dismissed, now for a second time.

“Sustainable Timber Tasmania welcomed the second successful outcome as further vindication of the Tasmanian Forest Practices System and confirms the legality of forest operations in Tasmania’s public production forests.”

For the ABC’s fuller story on the rulings, click here.

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Anti-forestry campaign misquotes Dadd

Pentarch Executive Director refutes the native forestry claims made in his name.

EARLIER this month, the Australia Institute released the latest salvo in its campaign against native timber forestry in NSW. Part of it came in the form of a video of koalas among felled trees, part in an Australian Associated Press media release that extensively featured anti native forestry campaigner and advertising executive Geoff Cousins.

Pentarch Executive Director and Australian Forest Products Association Chairman Steve Dadd has clarified statements attributed to him in the media release. It quoted Cousins, who made the false claim that Pentarch “expressed the desire for an orderly transition away from native forest logging”.

“I made no such statement about a transition out of native forestry,” Dadd said.

“COUSINS WAS UNWILLING TO ENGAGE ON THE MANY BENEFITS OF NATIVE FORESTRY”

“We do not support any form of transition away from native forest harvesting.”

Dadd also clarified other statements made in the media release. “I did indeed meet with Mr Cousins in good faith to hear his views and invite him to visit our operations and unfortunately found him unwilling to engage on the many benefits of native forestry or acknowledge scientific evidence,” he said.

“He is either denying the irrefutable science that native forestry has little impact on koala populations or is ignorant of the facts which are clearly stated on the Natural Resource Commission website (click here for link).

“To scurrilously compare native forestry to sweatshops is clever spin from an experienced advertising executive to further corrupt public opinion about the sustainable harvesting and regrowing of hardwood from just 1% of our forests.

“Mr Cousins does not appear to recognise the



Steve Dadd has corrected the record on his and Pentarch's support for native timber forestry.

for what they are.

“We accept the commitment to establishing a Great Koala National Park and are working with the NSW Government to ensure it achieves both a sustainable future for our business, the people and communities who rely on us and maximises benefits for the climate and koalas.

“We are also hopeful that native forestry is recognised for its many scientifically proven benefits for the environment, as expressed by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

“We should accept our global responsibility in supplying ethically and fully certified hardwood rather than rely on imports from countries which do not have in place the same checks and balances as we do here.”

benefits of carbon stored in hardwood products or the sequestration of carbon in regrowing forests where wildlife thrives.

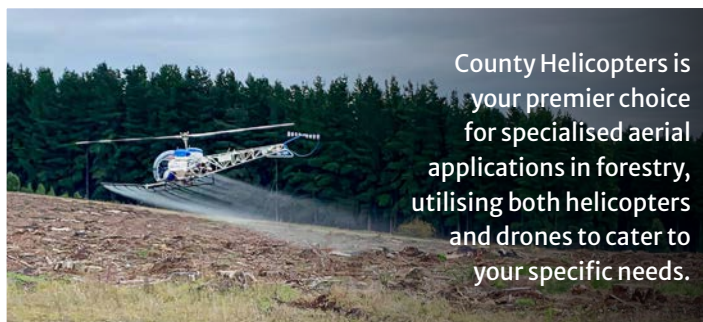
“He refuses to acknowledge the \$1.1 billion benefit the industry brings to the State of NSW or the 8900 families directly supported by the industry.

“So, it's difficult to understand how Mr Cousins can consider himself to have a balanced view on native forestry and we hope the NSW Government sees his opinions



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1-2: International Forest Investment Conference – New York City. For more information, visit www.getfea.com

20-21: IV International Forest Business Conference – Sheraton Sopot Hotel, Poland. A two-day conference on megatrends that shape responsible forest and wood industry investments. The conference aims to bring together leading timberland investment management organizations, investors interested in forestry asset class and sustainable wood industry representatives in order to exchange and share experiences and ideas about new forest business frontiers. Register at www.fba-events.com or contact rafal@forest-analytics.com

22-23: Wood Transport & Logistics 2024 – Rotorua, NZ and online. With an international focus and a rich understanding based in the forestry expertise of New Zealand, this regular conference delivers insights into

wood handling and transport innovations, automation, log scheduling and logistics being employed by leading forestry, wood harvesting and log transport companies. Topics include transitions to new electric, hydrogen and diesel-hybrid powered heavy vehicles, including the integration of truck automation and platooning, as well as new innovations in log measurement, scheduling and logistics. For more and to register, visit <https://innovatek.co.nz/event/wood-transport-logistics-2024/>

JUNE

14: NTHA Vic/Tas State Awards. More details to follow. Sponsorship opportunities available. Contact alicia@ntha.com.au

26-27: Fire Summit – Melbourne Connect, The University of Melbourne, Parkville, VIC. Theme: Prescribed fire: Exploring science, culture and practice. This Summit will review and discuss cultural fire practices, evidence from recent wildfires, fire science, lived experience and current prescribed fire practices. The Summit will also look to the future and consider more effective use of prescribed fire, health impacts of fire and smoke and how Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders and forest scientists can encourage two-way capacity building to support healthy and resilient forests. For more information, visit <https://www.forestry.org.au/2024-fire-summit-prescribed-fire-exploring-the-science-practice-and-culture/>

JULY

27: NTHA Qld State Awards. More details to follow. Sponsorship opportunities available. Contact alicia@ntha.com.au

AUGUST

9: NTHA SA State Awards. More details to follow. Sponsorship opportunities available. Contact alicia@ntha.com.au

12-13: Timber Construct Conference – Rydges, Melbourne. The Timber Offsite Construction Conference and Exhibition has been rebranded as the Timber Construct Conference to encompass the full spectrum of timber building. The conference provides an invaluable forum to address pressing challenges and opportunities influencing timber's role across the built landscape. Technical sessions will cover research updates, emerging products, building code enhancements, and best practice case studies. For more information, visit <https://timberoffsiteconstruction.com>

SEPTEMBER

13: NTHA NSW State Awards. More details to follow. Sponsorship opportunities available. Contact alicia@ntha.com.au

23: Latin America Forest Investment Conference –

Porto Alegre, Brazil.

24-25: International Woodchip and Biomass Trade Conference – Porto Alegre, Brazil.

25-27: Field Trip – Rio Grande do Sul State, Brazil.

OCTOBER

11: NTHA WA State Awards. More details to follow. Sponsorship opportunities available. Contact alicia@ntha.com.au

22-23: International Woodchip and Biomass Seminar and Networking Event – Singapore.

29-31: Forestry Australia's 2024 Symposium – Mercure Ballarat Convention Centre, Golden Point, VIC. Theme: Healthy and resilient forests for our future, will facilitate conversation and collaboration that regardless of land tenure and ownership, healthy and resilient forests should be the objective for all forest and land managers. The Symposium is a focused three-day gathering, consisting of two days of plenary and concurrent sessions, and a day of Field Trips. The two-day program will feature a range of Keynote and Invited Speakers, who are experts and thought leaders in their field. The Symposium will also feature several social functions, facilitating networking and collaboration in an informal and relaxed environment. For more information, visit <https://www.forestryconference.com.au/>

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The VC Table

In the collection of the Australian War Memorial, a beautiful timber table recalls a man who was one of the earliest to promote ANZAC memorial events.

THE marquetry map of Australia is the first thing you notice on the VC Table. Tasmania is represented by Huon pine; Western Australian by jarrah; South Australia by blue gum; Queensland by blond maple; Victoria by mountain ash; New South Wales by cedar and the Northern Territory by sandalwood.

Banding on the table is made of Tasmanian myrtlebeech. The cross banding and legs are made from Victorian blackwood and the legs are carved on the top and bottom with a gumnut and eucalyptus leaf ornamental moulding. It was manufactured in Victoria by H Goldman and Company, a Melbourne-based firm known for the production of distinctively Australian cabinet work.

The 65 squares surrounding the map are of Tasmanian blackwood burl and represent the 46 surviving and 19 deceased Australian Victoria Cross (VC) recipients of the time. Inlaid into the tabletop is an 81mm X 82mm gold plate, engraved: "To the Honourable Hugh Donald McIntosh MLC, JP. From HIS SOLDIER FRIENDS IN AUSTRALIA WHO SERVED IN THE GREAT WAR 1914-1918. AUSTRALIA 1924."

You'd be forgiven for assuming that McIntosh was a General or other leading figure. In fact, he was a child runaway who made a fortune first as a caterer, then promoting boxing and showgirls before moving into newspaper ownership. But his work for returned servicemen

was serious and had far-reaching positive impact.

HD McIntosh was often nicknamed Huge Deal, both for his ability to pull together an event and for his sense of self regard. Born in 1876, his father died when he was just four and, as he later told the story, he ran away at seven as an assistant to an itinerant jeweller. For the next fifteen years a series of jobs from farm labourer to pie seller kept him busy. He married at 21 and, as the Australian Dictionary of Biography puts it: "In 1899 he took over Thomas Helmore's catering company, supplying pies to race-tracks and prizefights from the Masonic Hall, North Sydney, where he lived; here he also ran a physical-culture club and managed a few boxers."

The contacts made in this period must have been invaluable when he brought the world heavyweight boxing champion out to fight a local in Rushcutters Bay few years later, which started his success as a boxing promoter.

Before World War I, he'd also moved into show production, buying out the whole Tivoli circuit, and started moving in political circles as well as contributing



The illuminated testimonial that accompanied the table was signed by 36 of the surviving WWI VC winners.

liberally to charities. In 1916 he bought the *Sydney Sunday Times* and its sister papers and in 1917 he was elected to the NSW Legislative Council.

Although having a reputation as a shameless self-promoter and ineffective politician, McIntosh worked hard on the behalf of soldiers returning from the war. In 1915 he and his wife ran entertainments to raise money for wounded veterans and used their boxing venues for Red Cross events (both were contributing members to the Vaucluse Branch). McIntosh was president of the Returned Soldiers' Association in 1916 before he stepped down after members of the organisation protested that the position should be held by a veteran. He then conducted

the first ANZAC Memorial appeal in the Sydney Domain in 1916.

The Australian War Memorial record for the table notes that "He was a strong advocate of returning soldiers and took any opportunity to broadcast their plight. Questioned about post war problems in the *New York Times* while travelling through the United States in July 1918 he replied: 'Not the least of these problems... was the finding of industry for veteran soldiers returning to

their homes incapacitated physically or mentally for the routine of civil life.'"

On the same trip he encouraged Americans to follow the Australian lead and form official associations to assist returned soldiers

One of his smaller but sweeter practical gestures was to present all returning VC holders with a solid gold medallion in the shape of a VC which entitled them to free admission to the Tivoli theatres he owned for life. The passes were presented to Australian VC recipients by the then Minister for Defence Senator Pearce or State Commandant Brigadier General Brand with all the

Cont P 9

From P 8

pomp and ceremony of an actual investiture.

In 1924, the VC Table was presented to McIntosh by the surviving Australian Victoria Cross recipients of the First World War, for his services to returning soldiers. The table was accompanied by an Illuminated Address (also held at the AWM) including a testimonial with the names of 36 VC recipients as well as former Prime Minister William Hughes and David Gilpin, the Mayor of Sydney.

Always one to cultivate leading politicians, McIntosh later drew increasingly close to Labor leader and occasional

NSW Premier Jack Lang, whom he persuaded to fund the cenotaph in Martin Place in 1927.



1



2



3

- 1/ The VC table.
- 2/ McIntosh was dividing his time between Australia and the UK when the table was presented, "from his soldier friends in Australia who served in the Great War 1914-1918."
- 3/ The marquetry map is made of beautiful timbers endemic to each area.

Though Lang referred to McIntosh as "the Barnum of Australia" and repeated the rumour that the public presentation of the testimonial that accompanied the table was probably paid for by McIntosh himself, he also wrote that "[w]hatever may have been his faults, he was

a very genuine friend of the soldiers."

McIntosh died in the UK in 1942, after which the table, the Illuminated Address and a book of inscriptions arrived at Australia House in London for transport to 'the Australian War Memorial Museum'. It remained there until 1947

when it was finally shipped to Australia and stored at Duntroon for a short time before reaching its final destination. The table was used by visiting dignitaries and heads of state during their visits to the Memorial until the 1990s.

All images: Australian War Memorial.

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OneFortyOne's \$8 million nursery opens

Growing the future of the Green Triangle takes a safety focus.

LAST week saw a step forward for forestry in the Green Triangle with the completion of OneFortyOne's \$8 million Glencoe Nursery redevelopment project.

South Australian Minister for Forest Industries, the Hon. Clare Scriven joined OneFortyOne board director Angie Davis and CEO Wendy Norris as well as dignitaries including Member for MacKillop Nick McBride in officially opening the upgrades last Wednesday morning.



From left to right, OneFortyOne nursery manager Craig Torney, CEO Wendy Norris, Minister for Forest Industries the Hon Clare Scriven MLC, and Member for MacKillop Nick McBride at the opening.

The three-year redevelopment project includes undercover automated handling lines, new irrigation and ergonomic systems and major infrastructure upgrades, which will improve employee safety

and wellbeing at the site, as well as reduce water and chemical use.

Davis said the redevelopment demonstrates OneFortyOne's "commitment to innovation, sustainability, and the future of forestry in the Green Triangle.

"The Glencoe Nursery has been a cornerstone of the region's forestry operations for 40 years, growing 7.5 million trees annually to support not only OneFortyOne, but other forest growers in the region," she added.

"Innovation and safety are the key drivers of this redevelopment with a new state of the art undercover handling system that enhances seedling growth whilst reducing chemical and water use. We can now grow an additional 4 million seedlings per season, significantly bolstering our

capacity to meet the demand for timber resources in South Australia and beyond."

Davis also commended nursery manager Craig Torney, for his long-term vision for the site and for leading the project over the last three years.

"The safety and wellbeing of the nursery's

workforce was a major factor in the decision to upgrade the facility, helping enhance the safety of people and making it a better place to work," Davis said.

"The infrastructure upgrades are not a replacement for workers but are designed to complement our existing nursery workforce."

South Australian Minister for Forest Industries, the Hon. Clare Scriven said,

"This region is the powerhouse of the Australian forest industry with 140 years of innovation and experience in growing and producing world recognised products.

"The Glencoe Nursery is at the very heart of a supply chain which sustains multiple major industries, from construction to plantations and logistics, which, in turn, support the jobs of thousands of South Australians.

"Today, in seeing these new systems in action and streamlining traditional operations, we are seeing the future of our forestry sector – a major economic driver for our state."



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“THE UPGRADE WILL ENHANCE THE SAFETY OF PEOPLE AND MAKE IT A BETTER PLACE TO WORK”

Feedback sought on NSW state forests

New forest management plans are out for public consultation.

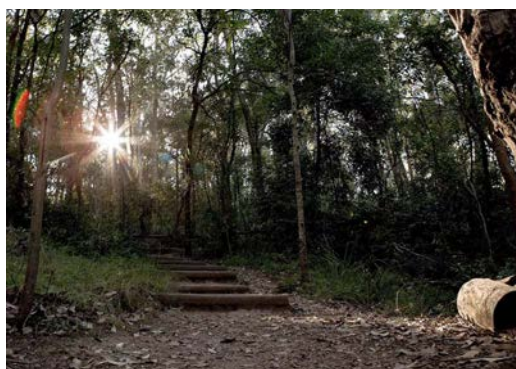
COMMUNITY members are invited to review and provide feedback on updated forest management plans for the cypress and inland hardwood forests managed by Forestry Corporation of NSW and Cumberland State Forest in Sydney.

Morgan Roche, Information System and Framework Manager for Forestry Corporation, said the forest management plans would be on public display until Friday 17 May 2024 and welcomed community feedback.

"Forest management plans summarise our activities as well as the systems, processes and procedures we maintain that ensure we continue to manage forests sustainably," Roche said.

"The State forests in Western NSW cover a vast area of different forest types, from the Cypress forests in the Pilliga region to the River Red Gum forests along the Murray River, while Cumberland State Forest is nestled in the suburbs of Sydney and is Australia's only metropolitan State Forest.

"All of these forests are managed for multiple uses, and the forest management plans summarise what these uses are and set out our commitment to planning,



Australia's only metropolitan state forest, Cumberland State Forest is a beautiful native forest located at West Pennant Hills, Sydney.

monitoring and adapting our activities in response to new information so that we continually improve our practices, processes and outcomes in these forests.

"We review these forest management plans every five years and provide an opportunity for public

feedback and input every time they are reviewed. In this review, an important change is that we will incorporate the plans into the broader forest management plan for State forests, which was updated in 2022 and covers general forest management as well as specific management of softwood plantations and coastal native forests.

"We welcome the community's input and feedback and invite people to visit our website to find out more about the plans and provide their feedback."

To view the updated forest management plans and make a submission before the closing date of 17 May, click [here](#) and follow the links.

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Treading lightly

In this first new regular column from the Forest Stewardship Council, we follow NZ company Marlo's journey towards forest-friendly rubber boots.

IN the heart of Devonport, New Zealand, two friends, Nicky Robinson and Kate Moffat, found themselves shivering on the sidelines of their kids' football games, their feet cold and wet in the muddy terrain. It was amid these chilly moments that the seed of an idea took root, sprouting into what would become a transformative venture in the realm of sustainable fashion.

Marlo, the brainchild of Nicky and Kate, is a brand that epitomises innovation, responsible production, and environmental consciousness within the New Zealand fashion industry. Together, Nicky and Kate have brought to life a gumboot that not only offers protection from the elements but also champions responsible sourcing in an industry often marred by supply chains riddled with environmental degradation and social injustice.

While the production of natural rubber provides an income for millions of people in developing countries, it can also have negative impacts on forests, communities, and workers when it's not managed responsibly. In some cases, the expansion of rubber production can be a driver of deforestation and forest degradation, including for areas of high conservation value.



Marlo boots are made of FSC-certified rubber and come in a range of colours, with vegan fur lining and a lace-up version as well.

Marlo CEO and co-founder Nicky pointed out another concern, "Most gumboots are made out of various synthetic and petroleum-based materials that make them non-biodegradable, hard to recycle, and highly toxic to the environment as they break down."

In their quest for a more sustainable solution, Nicky and Kate turned to FSC-certified rubber plantations in Sri Lanka. Here, they discovered a pathway that could ensure a supply chain with integrity and verifiable responsible practices. By sourcing rubber from FSC-certified forests, Marlo not only addresses issues like deforestation and biodiversity loss but also uplifts local communities and supports FSC's rigorous standards of

social responsibility.

"We aimed to set a new standard with Marlo, acknowledging our customers' growing concerns regarding the environmental and social impacts of their purchases," said Kate.

"The rubber used in our boots is locally and sustainably sourced from FSC-certified rubber plantations in Sri Lanka, and our manufacturing partner recycles the rubber sheet offcuts, producing jandals [NZ for thongs], rubber soles, and other rubber footwear to minimise wastage."

“WE AIMED TO SET A NEW STANDARD WITH MARLO

By ensuring that the rubber in their boots is FSC certified, Marlo provides customers with the assurance that their purchase doesn't contribute to illegal logging, habitat loss, and poor working conditions. When you choose a Marlo boot, you're making a conscious decision to support responsible forestry practices that benefit both

people and nature.

In April, Marlo elevated its dedication to sustainable forestry by becoming a signatory of FSC's Fashion Forever Green Pact, making it the first New Zealand fashion label to join. Marlo's FSC-certified gumboots exemplify their efforts to raise industry awareness and combat issues like deforestation and human rights abuses within natural rubber production. By ensuring their supply chain adheres to FSC's rigorous standards, Marlo confirms that the natural rubber used in their boots is responsibly sourced, safeguarding biodiversity, supporting local communities and upholding workers' rights.

See the full range of Marlo products and stockists at www.marlo.nz



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Victorian Traditional Owners disrespected

Both a new book and an old set of government rules have upset Indigenous Victorians.

DJA DJA Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation, which trades as DJAARA, has written to the publishers of David Lindenmayer's ne CC BY-NC-ND w book *The Forest Wars*, asking that it be recalled.

Bianca Hall in the *Sydney Morning Herald* (click here for the full story) writes that DJAARA in December concluded a 22-month licence with VicForests that permitted the removal of up to 600,000 cubic metres of timber damaged in the 2021 storms from the Wombat State Forest near Daylesford.

Hall writes: "It was to be the first stage in a multi-generational 'forest gardening' project, to restore First Nations sovereignty and oversight over Country.

"In his new book *The Forest Wars*, Australian National University forest ecology professor David Lindenmayer took aim at forest gardening, describing it as logging that 'will damage, not heal, Country', and 'continue the forest destruction wrought by VicForests'."

Lindenmayer went on to describe the project as a highly cynical exercise to continue native forestry logging in Victoria under another name.

Hall reports that the amount of timber finally removed was nowhere near the amount licensed by the project, and that "DJAARA wrote to publisher Allen and Unwin asking for a recall of Lindenmayer's latest book – which has sold out of its first print run – and accused him of disrespecting and 'speaking down' to traditional owners." She notes that Allen



1/ Some of the 2021 storm damage in Wombat State Forest.

2/ Victorian Environment Minister Steve Dimopoulos has been open about Indigenous groups being intentionally excluded from forestry land-use revenues.

and Unwin has refused the request.

Acting DJAARA chief executive Cassandra Lewis told Hall Lindenmayer's assessment was way off the mark. "I think it's offensive to be told that the cultural application of land management, described as forest gardening, is a flawed argument, as if it were merely an idea to be discredited and not a deeply significant cultural understanding," she said.

"And it's distressing to be told that these cultural land management practices are damaging Country when we know that not to be true."

A statement on the DJAARA website (click here) expresses the organisation's displeasure at not having its traditional forestry knowledge listened to.

"The official answer is because it never met the threshold," he said.

"But the real answer is the threshold was set in a way to exclude Traditional Owners – that's the reality."

Dimopoulos said that government, not Traditional Owners had always held the power to determine how the threshold is met.

AAP reports that, asked what the government intended to do, Dimopoulos said revenues flowing to the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action went straight into consolidated revenue.

"I can't at all redirect that money myself," he said.

"That's an appropriate conversation for the whole of government in terms of revenue sources to traditional owners."

Inquiry commissioner Maggie Walter asked whether high-level frameworks and policies could be trusted to deliver better outcomes for Indigenous Victorians.

"The failure to distribute any funds that have come from those lands to First Peoples doesn't indicate to me that there has been a significant shift in attitude," Walter said.

"Good words, but no follow through."

Yoorrook is creating an official public record on the impact of colonisation on Aboriginal people in Victoria and will recommend actions to address historical and ongoing injustices as well as inform the state's treaty negotiations. Click here to follow the commission.

Meanwhile, Victorian Environment Minister Steve Dimopoulos told the Yoorrook Justice Commission (the first formal truth-telling process into historical and ongoing injustices experienced by First Peoples in Victoria) last week that he believed not one cent of \$1.89 billion in forestry and grazing licence revenue since 2010 had gone to traditional owners.

Asked by Sarala Fitzgerald, counsel assisting for the Commission, how much of that was distributed to traditional owners, Mr Dimopoulos told the inquiry on Tuesday, "As I understand it, none."

Revenue gathered under these licenses is meant to be distributed according to a mechanism that includes a community benefits portion for Traditional Owners.

In the case of forestry agreements, and the \$1.39 billion in timber revenue grossed for state coffers since 2010, the exclusion had been intentional, Dimopoulos added.

\$67 million for WA forest conservation

WESTERN Australia's Cook Government has announced a \$67.2 million investment over four years as part of its Forest Management Plan 2024-2033 (FMP). The plan includes the creation of 65 new jobs supporting the FMP, forest health monitoring such as eco-acoustics, fire research and ecological thinning to improve forest health, as well as help for those transitioning from native timber forestry.

The jobs will be focused in WA's south-west and Perth and will be created between 2024 and 2027 within the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) and partner agencies.

Funding will also support work with Traditional Owners, protection of native wildlife from feral predators and managing weeds and plant

diseases.

WA's Environment Minister Reece Whitby said: "The Cook Government's FMP includes the historic decision to end commercial logging in Western Australia's native forests. This funding will support that decision, as well as create jobs, tackle climate change and help manage water catchments.

"...Our Government's Native Forest Transition plan will also provide local communities the potential for forests to be used for recreation, tourism and other uses."

Forestry Minister Jackie Jarvis said that although commercial logging of the



Environment Minister Reece Whitby with Jane Kelsbie making the funding announcement at Margaret River. Image: Facebook

state's jarrah and karri forests had now ended, "Under the new Forest Management Plan, some native timbers will still be available through ecological thinning, which promotes forest health and resilience from drought and bushfires.

"The State Government is committed to working with the smaller sustainable mills that will play a valuable role into the

future."

Jane Kelsbie MLA represents Warren-Blackwood, one of the most lushly forested regions in WA. "This is good news for the Warren-Blackwood area with eight new jobs already having been created and more to come," she said.

"By protecting the forest, we are also safeguarding Noongar cultural heritage values and strengthening community relationships. This is already underway with DBCA engaging with Noongar Traditional Owners to identify and prioritise areas of south-west forest to be protected in new conservation reserves and identify sustainable economic opportunities within the FMP area."

For further details click www.dbca.wa.gov.au/fmp

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Image: AKD

Sara kulturhus wins 2024 Wood Prize

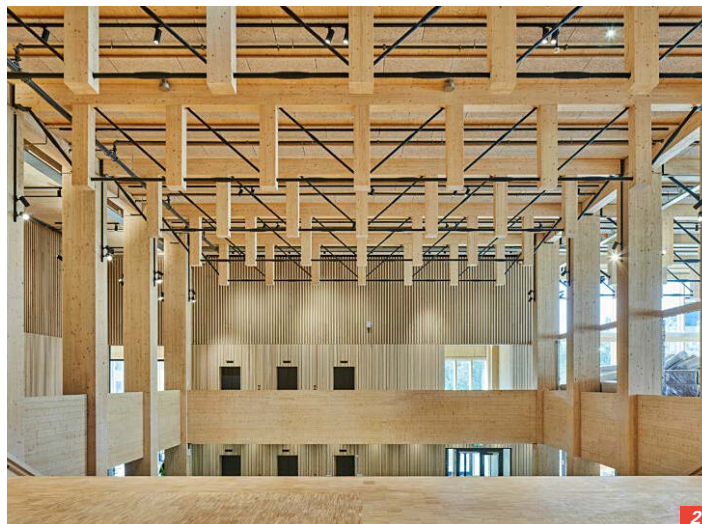
This cultural centre at the top of the world has taken out a top prize.

THE Träpriset – also known as the Wood Prize – is one of Sweden's most sought-after architecture awards and is awarded every four years to a new building constructed in Sweden that possesses special architectural qualities. The building can be residential, cultural or commercial, or a bridge or a facility where wood has been used in a way that takes advantage of the material's possibilities and at the same time reflects or develops the Swedish architectural tradition.

Sara kulturhus has won the 2024 Wood Prize. Located in Skellefteå, just below the Arctic Circle in northern Sweden, the cultural centre is a timber-framed tower complex that houses the Västerbotten Regional Theatre, Anna Nordlander Museum, Skellefteå Art Gallery and the City Library alongside a hotel in the adjoining tower structure.

Designed by White Arkitekter with structural engineers Florian Kosche, Sara kulturhus employs two different construction systems. The high rise, which houses the hotel, is constructed of premanufactured modules in CLT, stacked between two CLT elevator cores. Standing 75 metres tall, the 20-storey hotel has glulam pillars and beams.

The low rise section consists of a timber frame with pillars and beams made of glulam and cores and shear walls in CLT. The construction helps to redistribute loads



1/ While the library and theatre form a welcoming enclosure around the city square, the ambitious 20-storey hotel tower signifies Skellefteå's position at the forefront of global timber construction.

2/ The CLT and glulam-focused interiors are designed to adapt as the city's needs change.

and enhances structural stability from the high rise. The characteristic trusses above the grand foyers are composed of a GLT and steel hybrid that enables a flexible, open-plan space that guarantees the building's long-term sustainability by allowing

it to adapt to future demands. All parts of the structure are designed to endure Skellefteå's harsh weather conditions, while also remaining energy efficient.

The 2024 jury, comprised of Thomas Sandell, Camilla Schlyter, Mark Isitt, and Rahel

Belachew, was particularly impressed by Sara kulturhus's forward-looking design.

"Sara kulturhus has set a new standard and has become a symbol of an entire city's green transition," said Belachew, chairperson of the Wood Prize jury.

The wood for Sara kulturhus was supplied by Holmen from its forests in Västerbotten, just over four hours from Skellefteå. Holmen's sawmill in Bygdsiljum, less than an hour from Skellefteå, produced the glulam and CLT, while Martinsons, part of Holmen, designed, delivered and assembled this truly local building.

"We're delighted that Sara has won the Wood Award. I think I am speaking for all of us here when I say that I'm incredibly proud that Martinsons was able to be part of this exciting project," said Joakim Gustafsson, CEO of Martinsons Byggsystem.

Architects Robert Schmitz and Oskar Norelius from White said, "We are incredibly honoured to receive this recognition. Winning the Wood Prize validates our commitment to pushing the boundaries of wood construction, a process demanding both extensive knowledge and innovative thinking."

The award includes a 100,000 kronor prize.

To read more about the building at White Arkitekter's website, click here.

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Radical solutions at Radial Timber

RADIAL Timber in Yarram, Victoria, has made a name for itself as a highly sustainable business.

It's planted over a million hardwood plantation trees as part of a 20-year plan to establish a 2000-hectare reserve. It designs for durability and with a focus on the circular economy, aiming to reuse elements of buildings when they are no longer needed, and, as the business name suggests, uses radial sawing to maximise recovery from smaller logs.

So, when an opportunity arose to make use of its wood waste product as a power source, it's no surprise the company jumped at the chance. It teamed up with Earth Systems, a Port Melbourne-based company, and South Gippsland bioenergy company Spiegel Energy to build a \$1 million pilot continuous pyrolysis biochar plant.

Pyrolysis technology sees organic material, in this case wood residues, burnt at high temperatures without oxygen to produce biochar, a stable solid that is rich in carbon and can fertilise and endure in soil for thousands of years.

"The plant can also produce heat and energy, and wood vinegar – a liquid potentially usable in agriculture and cooking," Radial's managing director Chris McEvoy told *The Gippsland Times*.

The heat will play a crucial role in running the timber mill and in future is a potential heating and power source for the local community.

"We have a pure resource. Most of the biochar plants around the world are working

with [mixed] waste," McEvoy said.

"Our timber is all dense Class One or Two timbers, all exactly the same shape. First, it should go through well and, secondly, should be a really high-value, consistent product. The beauty of the continuous char maker is you can put through much larger volumes. Take the biochar and put it into degraded soils to improve it – I love this circular economy story."

Ricky Dent, an environmental technology specialist with Earth Systems, has done engineering work on plants like this around the world, but this one is very close to home.

"I'm originally from Yanakie, went to Fish Creek Primary School and Foster High School, then to the city to study environmental science at Monash University," Dent said.

"I've been designing these machines for the last seven years. I travel around world, installing, commissioning, constantly improving the technology. I'm now back in South Gipps, at Yarram; I used to play footy at the oval across the road."

The biochar plant operates as effectively a closed loop with very few emissions. Gas generated by the pyrolysis process travels in the opposite



1/ Ricky Dent from Earth Systems jumped at the chance to install biochar technology so near to home.

2/ Radial Timber's managing director Chris McEvoy at the pyrolysis machine.

direction to the feedstock entering the furnace and heats up the incoming feedstock.

While the biochar process runs most easily at around 500°C, delivering heat that will also be used in Radial's new peeling plant, it's also possible to run it at temperatures as high as 1300°C and produce electricity that can be stored in batteries. In the future, a scaled-up version could even power the area, delivering backup to solar.

The process is self-extinguishing on failure and the CFA has worked closely with the team, granting a permit that allows the plant to run even on total fire ban days, though they have chosen not to make use of this. To read the full story, click here.



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