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IHG Study Tour explores timber and hardware in Canada

COVER STORY P 3

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NTHA makes changes to Award dates

THE National Timber and Hardware Association (NTHA) has announced an update to the dates of the 2024 Queensland Timber & Hardware Industry Awards and the 2024 South Australia & Northern Territory Timber & Hardware Industry Awards.

Due to scheduling clashes, both events have been postponed to 2025.

Under the new changes, the Queensland Awards event will now take place on the 22nd March 2025 meanwhile the Sth Australian & Northern Territory Timber & Hardware Industry Awards will now take place on May 30th 2025.

In further changes, the Western Australian Awards will now be combined with the SA & NT Awards, making this a larger, more inclusive event.

The Victoria/Tasmania Awards will be held as



1/ 2023 winner Timber and Building Materials Store of the Year Hardware and general pictured with NTHA CEO David Little.



2/ 2023 winners of Best Garden Department - Acheson's Mitre 10 Forbes pictured with NTHA David Little. Images: NTHA-Facebook

scheduled on June 14th, 2024, and the New South Wales/ACT Awards will be held as originally scheduled on September 13th, 2024.

"We understand that this may cause some inconvenience, and we sincerely apologise for any disruption this may cause to your plans," a spokesperson for NTHA said.

"We are confident that this decision will lead to successful and enjoyable events for all participants."

Celebrating excellence in the Timber & Hardware Industry NTHA's Timber & Hardware Industry Awards stand as a 'beacon of excellence', spotlighting

those who exemplify the highest standards of innovation, service, education, safety and dedication in the timber and hardware industry.

The State and Territory Awards occur bi-annually, alternating with the National Timber & Hardware Industry Awards.

The program is NTHA's opportunity to applaud the movers and shakers of our industry, from remarkable

organisations, seasoned professionals, and emerging talents, who continually raise the bar and shape the future of timber and hardware.

Finalists for the Victorian & Tasmanian Awards have now been announced via the NTHA Facebook page. Congratulations

to all those nominated which include Bremick, Duliux, Selleys, Sutton Tools, FIX-A-TAP, and ITW for the Retail Supplier of the Year category.


The finalists in the Best Frame and Truss Operation for the Southern States 2024 awards include AAA Trusses and Windows, MB Pre-Fab (Big River Group) and BB Truss and Timber.

The Vic/Tas event will be held at Metropolis Events in Southbank Victoria.

For more details on the NSW event visit: <https://www.ntha.com.au/eventdetails/23393/2024-new-south-wales-act-timber-hardware-industry-awards>

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Scenery, bears, timber and hardware - IHG Canadian Study Tour has it all

INFORMATIVE, intriguing and a great networking opportunity is how delegates on the 2024 Independent Hardware Group's (IHG) 2024 Study Tour have described their 9-day trip to Canada.

More than 100 guests joined members of the IHG Executive last week for the annual trip which changes location each year. The group was made up of IHG members and suppliers who were treated to an all-inclusive experience which focussed on exploring Vancouver and Whistler and the hardware and building industry in those regions.

The Canadian hardware market is comprised of over 1,716 stores with an annual revenue of over \$5.3 billion dollars.

After arriving in Vancouver in early June, delegates visited a number of hardware and building sites. These included Summit Tools in Vancouver, a Canadian-owned, family-run business which has four stores and has been a leader in the construction tool and supply industry. Delegates were surprised by the layout of the store which was deceptively small in front but expanded



Passive house was a highlight for the group where they were able to witness the production of the prefabricated panel systems.

into a large warehouse-style facility.

For those with a more green thumb, Gardenworks in Vancouver was a popular stop. The group took their time to explore the Canadian green offering which not only stocks an impressive plant and accessories line but also a large home deco and fashion range and has an onsite cafe. Established in 1984, the garden centre has a short season for high sales given the Canadian climate resulting in 90% of the

company's earnings falling in the spring season from March to June.

A trip to Canadian Tire posed an interesting one for the group as they explored an integrated automotive store which also offered a range of outdoor adventure products.

Following that delegates got an insight into the Canadian Timber industry by visiting Teal Jones Mill in Vancouver. The Jones family have been in timber since the 1860s and manufacture and distribute solid wood products

in Canada. One of the highlights for many on the trip, was the opportunity to see the inner workings of the mill as it provided great insight and a chance to experience the process. Teal Jones also has a long connection with Australia as they have been working with ITI since 2016.

After wrapping up their busy time in Vancouver with a visit to the famous Stanley Park and dinner at the Blue Water café, study tour delegates then made their way north to the alpine region of Whistler.

The cooler temperatures offered a glimpse of snow-capped mountains and an opportunity for travellers to have a turn at axe throwing! The adventures did not stop there with a biathlon activity, suspended walks over large forest canapoyes and even a spot of bear watching keeping the group highly entertained.

Delegates enjoyed several days in Whistler where the highlight for many was a

Cont P 6



1



2

1/ Home hardware was among the number of stores visited by the group.

2 The 9-day study tour was hailed a success by members and suppliers who enjoyed a balance of work and recreation on the Canadian trip.

New CEO announced for VFPA

VICTORIAN Forest Products Association (VFPA) has a new CEO, Andrew White, who will commence in the role in late August 2024.

The Australian Forest Products Association (AFPA) Chief Executive Officer, Diana Hallam has welcomed the recent announcement.

“On behalf of AFPA and the broader industry I welcome Andrew’s appointment as VFPA CEO and look forward to his advocacy for Victoria’s forest products sector as it seeks to meet numerous challenges and opportunities,” Diana Hallam said.

“Andrew has spent his career working with peak bodies in the NFP sector, including as Deputy CEO of AUSVEG and he brings

considerable expertise in government and media relations, corporate strategy, crisis management and business development. We are delighted to have Andrew on board,” VFPA Chair Rob Hescock said.

“I’m very much looking forward to joining VFPA and working with what is one of Victoria’s most important primary industry sectors. From growers through to processors and right across the supply chain, VFPA has an important role representing forestry



Andrew White, the newly appointed CEO will commence in his role in late August this year. Image: LinkedIn

industries that will only become more critical in the future,” Andrew White said.

“I also thank outgoing VFPA CEO Deb Kerr for her commitment to bettering the Victorian sector through some very challenging times for the industry over the past few years. Deb has worked tirelessly on behalf of the industry,” Diana Hallam

concluded.

Andrew White will commence as VFPA CEO on 26 August 2024.

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Australian Forest Products Association

AFPA THE LEADING VOICE FOR AUSTRALIA'S FOREST PRODUCTS SECTOR

Urgent reform needed to support construction and building

THE difficult news for the construction industry continues with the field proving to be the economy's weakest link during the March 2024 quarter. According to the Master Builder's Association, industry output suffered a sharp 2.6 per cent reverse in the first three months of the year.

The decrease was driven by a 2.3 per cent fall in construction services, a 3.1 per cent fall in building construction and a 2.6 per cent fall in heavy and civil engineering construction.

Overall, GDP scraped the smallest gain of 0.1 per cent – the worst outcome in almost two years.

Master Builders Australia CEO Denita Wawn said when the building and construction industry is strong, so too is the economy.

"We know for every dollar invested in the industry sees three dollars returned to the broader economy.

"In 2023, construction was one of the main drivers of economic growth, but today's



1/ **The construction industry continues to be an economic struggle.** Image: Shutterstock

2/ **Ms Wawn, Master Builders Australia CEO, stated that when the building and construction industry is strong, so too is the economy.**



sobering figures reflect a continuous decline in building approvals across all sectors of the industry.

"This comes at a time when an increasing supply of housing is needed to bring down inflation in the rental market.

"The drastic lengthening in build times for new homes and an increase of costs by 40 per cent since pre-COVID is making it extremely difficult to get projects off the ground.

"We can't keep turning a blind eye to the crucial role of productivity in growing our economy and combating inflation.

"This will only be achieved

“ INCREASE SUPPLY IS NEEDED TO BRING INFLATION DOWN

if the federal, state and territory governments get a move on and speed up planning reforms, finalise the migration review, introduce new incentives to grow the workforce, and introduce an industry regulator with real teeth.

"If we are going to undo decades of under-building and resolve this housing crisis, we need to change the economic environment to encourage investment across all sectors: residential, civil and commercial construction.

"Earlier today, the Treasurer and Minister for Housing introduced an important policy lever to encourage investment in build-to-rent which will play a role in bringing down rental inflation.

"Master Builders is still working through the details of the legislation but supports the principle of diversifying the housing supply mix in our economy," Ms Wawn said.

Nominations open for the Richard Stanton Memorial Award...

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The Walking Tree Wins 2024 Tree of the Year New Zealand

THE New Zealand Arboricultural Association (NZ Arb) has announced The Walking Tree as the 2024 Tree of the Year New Zealand award winner.

This extraordinary northern rātā (*Metrosideros robusta*), located near the Karamea Cemetery, captivated the hearts and imaginations of New Zealanders with its unique appearance and fascinating life story.

The Walking Tree was nominated by Bryan Bell, who highlighted its remarkable form and captivating presence. With its twin trunks stretched as if in mid-stride – and seemingly wearing high heels – this tree is a striking natural wonder. Its resemblance to one of Tolkien's sentient, tree-like Ents has earned it the affectionate nickname, The Walking Tree. The tree was the clear favourite in the competition, running off with over 42% of total votes.

The northern rātā is one of New Zealand's tallest flowering trees. Surprisingly, it begins life as an epiphyte growing high in the forest



Winning tree - The Walking Tree.
Photo: Gareth Andrews

canopy upon another host tree. Over time, its roots reach the ground, and it eventually envelops the original host. Northern rātā can live for up to 1,000 years, and it remains a mystery just how long this

windswept walker has been strutting its stuff north of Karamea.

The 2024 Tree of the Year campaign, run by NZ Arb, is proudly sponsored by Delta and supported by the NZ

Notable Trees Trust and the New Zealand Tree Register. This annual event celebrates the incredible trees that are an integral part of New Zealand's natural heritage and part of our communities.

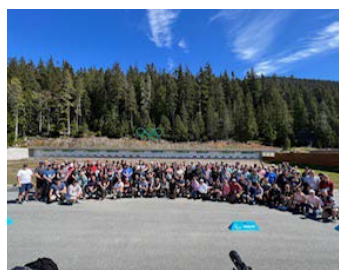
"The Walking Tree is a prime example of the remarkable trees that we, as New Zealanders, are fortunate to experience," Richie Hill, president of NZ Arb said.

"This award recognises the significant role that trees play within our communities, not only enhancing our local environments but also providing a sense of place for past, present, and future generations. The Walking Tree is an exceptional feature and a must-see destination, highlighting the uniqueness and diversity that exists within New Zealand's notable tree population."

For more information on The Walking Tree and other historic and notable trees in New Zealand, please visit the New Zealand Tree Register at www.notabletrees.org.nz

From P 3

visit to BC Passive House. Canada's first manufacturing plant, prefabricating a panel system that meets the rigorous Passive House Standard. The company specialises in delivering panalisation house projects to meet customer needs while integrating their specialised air systems that use up to 90% less energy for heating and cooling, making them more environmentally friendly.



Over 120 delegates welcomed the opportunity to network and discuss future business.

A unique offering in the cooler areas of Canada, the plant is able to operate all year round due to its large enclosed facility. The group

were incredibly impressed by the site which is able to work throughout the winter months thanks to the enormous custom build facility.

A visit to Home Hardware in Whistler wrapped up the study tour site visits of the program while delegates were treated to further adventure activities which included 4x4 rides and bushwalking.

On top of this IHG members and suppliers were given a wonderful opportunity to network and discuss the

future of business as well as attend a business session hosted by the IHG Executive.

From experiencing the diversity of what the Canadian hardware and timber industry has to offer to seeing bears and taking in breathtaking views from gondola rides, all involved say the 2024 IHG Study Tour was a great success.

On the cover: Delegates were impressed with the Passive House facility, which manufactures pre-fabricated panel systems.

JUNE

14: NTHA VIC/TAS State Awards – Southgate Shopping Precinct Southbank VIC. Join us in celebrating the Victorian/ Tasmanian Timber and Hardware Industry. Contact Tahlia at events@ntha.com.au

19: WFTN Quarterly breakfast – Hunter & Scout Cafe, Graceville, Brisbane. Contact Tahlia tahlia@ntha.com.au to RSVP by 17 June.

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

2: WoodSolutions Webinar - AMRF First Building – Designing for Country and Disassembly - ONLINE EVENT, 11.00am-12noon. For more

details and an RSVP link, visit <https://www.woodsolutions.com.au/events/woodsolutions-webinar-amrf-first-building-designing-country-and-disassembly>

3: FSC Aligned for EUDR program – ONLINE EVENT, 6-7.30pm. To register, visit <https://www.linkedin.com/events/launchevent-fscalignedforeudr7193967598538022912/>

28-2 AUG: Gottstein Understanding Forest Science Course – Sunshine Coast, QLD. The course is open to everyone associated with the timber and forestry products sector in some way. For full details, visit <https://gottsteintrust.org/grants-courses/understanding-forest-science-course>

AUGUST

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/ACT State Awards – Hilton, Sydney. Join us in celebrating the New South Wales & ACT Timber and Hardware Industry. Nominations open at <https://www.ntha.com.au/events/2024-nswact-state-awards-nominations/> Contact Tahlia at events@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

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 www.forestryconference.com.au/

NOVEMBER

13-15: AFCA annual Gala dinner & conference – Launceston, Tas. For more information visit: <https://www.afca.asn.au/Events/afca-2023-conference-photo-gallery>

SAVE THE DATES 2025

MARCH 22: NTHA SA/NT/WA State Awards – National Wine Centre, Adelaide. Join us in celebrating the SA, NT & WA Timber and Hardware Industry. Contact Tahlia at events@ntha.com.au

MAY 30: NTHA QLD State Awards – Brisbane City Hall, Brisbane. Join us in celebrating the New South Wales & ACT Timber and Hardware Industry. Contact Tahlia at events@ntha.com.au

JUNE 22-26: World Conference on Timber Engineering – Brisbane. WCTE is the world's leading scientific forum for the presentation of the latest technical and architectural solutions and innovations in timber construction.

OCTOBER 20-22: International Woodchip and Biomass Seminar and Networking Event – Singapore.

OCTOBER 23-24: Field Trip – Vietnam.

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Timber transition underway for Koondrook VIC

THE Victorian Government has announced that the town of Koondrook, in the state's northwest, is the latest community to receive funding from the Allan Labor Government to plan their transition away from native timber harvesting.

Minister for Agriculture Ros Spence last week announced an investment of \$500,000 to develop a Local Development Strategy as a part of the Government's Forestry Transition Program.

The Local Development Strategy grants program supports communities to diversify where native timber harvesting was a significant source of jobs and employment and to map out their future.

The program is designed to be community-led and reflect local priorities and ambitions. This approach will enable the community to plan their own future and take advantage of local skills and knowledge.

Gannawarra Shire Council will enlist the support of experts to engage with locals, community groups and businesses to identify



The grant is designed to support communities impacted by the government's timber harvesting ruling. Image: Mattinbgn via Wiki commons

Koondrook's strengths, assets, challenges and opportunities for innovation and economic development.

This grant will enable Koondrook to undertake long-term diversification planning to support the local economy and adapt to new industries – increasing job opportunities for workers and ensuring the long-term prosperity of the community.

“GRANT ALLOWS LONG-TERM DIVERSIFICATION PLANNING

Koondrook joins ten other Victorian towns and communities including Benalla, Noojee, and Nowa Nowa receiving support to transition and implement new strategies in their local economy following the Government's decision on timber harvesting.

Noojee was one of the towns that received the Local Development Strategy Grant early in the program to help support the community and develop the local economy as they transitioned away from native forest timber industry.

The Noojee Local Development Strategy has

also received \$38,500 from the Forestry Transition Program's Community Development Fund to progress the town's strategy work including a feasibility study for a Forestry Therapy Centre.

"We identified 11 priority communities where native timber harvesting and processing has been an important source of jobs and economic activity and they have all taken up the opportunity to develop a plan for their future," Minister for Agriculture Ros Spence said.

The Local Development Strategy grants are key to the Allan Labor Government's Forestry Transition Program, which they say is 'ensuring businesses, workers and communities can transition successfully away from native timber harvesting'.

Source: Vic Government

The transition program comes after the Victorian Government put a cease to native timber harvesting earlier this year impacting on local employment, businesses and the overall economies of many Victorian towns.

Shipping delays due to Red Sea piracy incidents

ADM Global have advised of significant delays in shipping as a result of the ongoing situation in the Red Sea. In correspondence, the global logistics company advised of the following:

"Global Supply Chain disruptions continue with severe congestion at major Transshipment ports, particularly Singapore due to the ongoing Red Sea Crisis.

"Significant impacts are being felt on a global scale, placing compounding pressure on port infrastructure and global services, as outlined below:

- Vessel delays
- Congestion
- Extended transits
- Global Equipment Imbalance
- Omissions/Blank Sailings and Suspended Services

- Extended lull times in major Global Transshipment hubs of 6-8 weeks

- Additional costs are being incurred by the Shipping Lines/Airline such as General Rate Increases and Peak Season Surcharges

"As usual, we will do our best to move your shipments on the fastest possible services based on the Port of Loading and Destination.

"Our team is actively working to mitigate the impact of these disruptions where possible.

"Please be aware of these severe ongoing conditions on a global scale, it is imperative to plan and book well in advance.

"Forecasting is necessary to maintain a robust supply chain to navigate these challenges."

See www.admglobal.com.au

Source: ADM Global



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Wood in Architecture winners announced

WOODWORKS, Wood Products Council has announced its 2024 Wood in Architecture award winners, celebrating excellence and innovation in mass timber, heavy timber, light-frame, and hybrid building design. The annual award program recognizes developers and design teams using wood in innovative ways that positively impact the environment, occupants, and communities throughout the U.S.

“In schools, offices, and community gathering spaces, this year’s winning projects exemplify wood’s undeniably positive influence in modern design. To the designers whose ingenuity and dedication make innovative wood projects happen—thank you for inspiring others to consider wood solutions, across building types and at any scale,” said WoodWorks President and CEO, Jennifer Cover.

The winning projects showcase innovative design from coast to coast—and point to wood as a fixture in sustainable and flexible design. Winners include an office building with a nearly all-mass timber frame in a high-seismic area, a temporary outdoor structure that signifies environmental justice, educational and institutional structures, and multi-family



Project: Founders Hall, Foster School of Business, University of Washington. LMN Architects / Magnusson Klemencic Associates. Photo: Tim Griffith

housing. An independent jury of design and building professionals reviewed, deliberated, and selected the winning projects based on four criteria: design excellence, innovative use of wood, sustainability and resilience, and market impact.

The 2024 Jurors were:

- Mike Duffy, AIA, NCARB Associate Principal, RSP Architects
- Jennifer Hardy, AIA, LEED AP BD+C Principal, Goody Clancy
- KT Lamb Anecdote Architectural Experiences
- Anne Monnier, PE, SE Principal, KPFF

There were seven winning projects announced for this year including:

The Founders Hall, Foster School of Business, University of Washington.

Design innovation can be found throughout Founders Hall, built for the University of Washington’s Foster School of Business. Architects made purposeful use of materials and creative use of code provisions, using Type IV-HT for the mass timber portion of the building—a glue-laminated timber (glulam) post and beam structure with cross-laminated timber (CLT) decking—and Type I-B for the large assembly spaces, constructed using concrete and steel. A striking mass timber stairway ties the spaces together and creates an iconic gathering place for students and staff. An early evaluation

of alternative structural options showed a higher cost for mass timber, but LMN Architects worked with local mass timber manufacturers in early schematic design to optimize column grid layouts and minimize waste. This, together with speedy construction enabled by the mass timber, kept the project within its target budget. But it’s the sustainable materials and operations, balancing high performance with low carbon, which really distinguish Founders Hall. By using mass timber, the design team reduced the building’s embodied carbon by 58 percent. Founders Hall became the first project in the world to sell carbon offsets realized through sequestered carbon in the mass timber, a move which helped pay for the construction itself. Now considered the greenest building on campus, the LEED Gold project sets an example of how to use wood to provide measurable benefits for future University of Washington campus buildings. 84,800 sf / Type IV-HT and Type I-B construction

Another winner was the Retail Village at Sycamore & Oak in Washington DC. Built on what once was a blighted urban site, this innovative development gives community members, artists, entrepreneurs, and others an inspiring space to buy fresh food or locally made products, eat, exercise, listen to music, or just gather. The Retail Village at Sycamore & Oak houses local businesses, eateries, a fitness gym, performance space, and more. The project team sought and received input from a very engaged neighbourhood, which

“WOOD IS A FIXTURE IN EACH BUILDING”

Cont P 12

Anniversary edition of LIGNA shaping up to be a bumper

A YEAR before LIGNA 2025 fair celebrates its 50th anniversary in Hannover Germany, it is already receiving significant support from exhibiting companies.

According to organisers, by the end of May 2024, the world-leading trade fair for the woodworking and wood processing industry, Deutsche Messe AG, and the VDMA Woodworking Machinery Association reported an excellent booking status – both in terms of the number of registered companies and exhibition space.

“By the end of the early bird discount period, exactly one year before LIGNA 2025, 80 per cent of the net stand space – based on the total area of LIGNA 2023 – has



Thousands of exhibitions and visitors will attend the 50th Anniversary event in 2025 which is booking out quickly. Image: Ligna

already been booked for LIGNA 2025’, says Stephanie Wagner, Head of LIGNA at Deutsche Messe. “We also have almost two-thirds of the exhibiting companies on board compared to 2023. These figures show that the

exhibitors’ commitment to LIGNA remains exceptionally high, even though the industry is currently navigating through difficult times”, added Wagner.

In addition to the market leaders from Germany, Italy, Austria, Turkey, and

Spain, there have also been numerous registrations from Asia for the anniversary edition of LIGNA, particularly from China and Japan.

The VDMA Woodworking Machinery Association considers the current booking status of LIGNA and the very good participation of companies in the trade fair to be an extremely important sign of the industry’s determination to find a united way out of the crisis.

Dr. Bernhard Dirr, managing director of the VDMA Woodworking Machinery Association in Frankfurt am Main, Germany, said, “We are currently at the low point of a severe economic downturn.

Source: <https://www.ligna.de/en/>

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From P 10

said they wanted a sustainable, flexible space to gather—a place that would support health and wellness. The unique structure was built with glue-laminated timber (glulam) beams and columns, dowel-laminated timber (DLT) and nail-laminated timber (NLT) panels, a cross-laminated timber (CLT) statement wall, and other wood materials. While the development includes two small, enclosed retail structures, most of the space is dedicated to the open-air pavilion. Because it is located on a parcel of city-owned land that will be redeveloped in the coming years, the project was designed so that it can eventually be



Project: Vesterheim Commons. Snøhetta, BNIM (AOR) / Fast + Epp, MBJ Engineers. Photo: Michael Grimm.

dismantled and reassembled at another location. Wood's light weight also allowed them to extend the glulam columns below the deck and rest on precast footings set on top of the existing asphalt pavement, avoiding the need for an expensive foundation.

The project fulfilled a goal to support the neighbourhood, demonstrating how wood can be used to build a welcoming development by creating a space that fosters 'community within a community.' 23,000 sf / Type V-B construction.

The call for nominations

for the 2025 Wood in Architecture Awards will open in December 2024.

WoodWorks – Wood Products Council is a non-profit organization providing education and free technical support related to the design, engineering, and construction of commercial and multi-family wood buildings in the U.S. Staffed by engineers, architects,

and construction experts, WoodWorks helps project teams identify and successfully realize the most appropriate wood solutions for their projects.

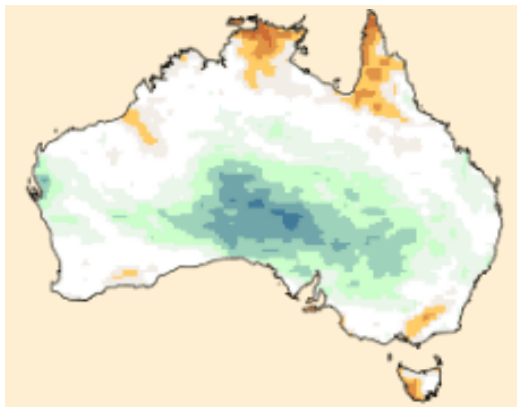
Source: WOODWORKS, Wood Products Council

Above-average rainfall likely for winter

THE Bureau of Meteorology has released its long-range forecast for winter with the outlook showing above-average rainfall likely for southern central and western parts of Australia. Elsewhere, rainfall is likely to be more typical for the season.

The national weather forecaster predicts this winter, there is an increased chance of above-average rainfall for:

- Parts of North West and North East pastoral districts in South Australia
- Parts of central-west Western Australia
- North Tropical Coast and south-west Queensland
- Far north-western New South Wales



Rainfall is likely to be typical for the season across much of northern and far southern Australia. Rainfall is likely to be above average for parts of the interior, including much of SA and western NSW, and below average for parts of the far south-east. Image: BoM

"Australia is very likely to have temperatures that are higher than usual for this time year," the statement said.

"This follows an autumn that was warmer than usual for most parts of Australia

and brought very dry conditions to the far south of the country and south-west Western Australia.

"The Bureau's long-range forecasts are probabilistic in nature and carry a degree of uncertainty. They are updated regularly to reflect the latest forecast."

The Bureau will soon release its full autumn summary however initial reports show the season has been warmer than usual for

much of Australia, with the mean temperature around 0.5 °C above the 1961–1990 average.

"Each state and territory recorded above-average mean temperatures, besides the Northern Territory which was around 0.4 °C cooler than usual."

"Autumn has been wetter than usual for some parts of Australia, with overall rainfall 26% above the 1961–1990 average.

"In contrast, autumn rainfall was very much below average for south-west Western Australia and parts of Victoria, Tasmania and South Australia."

Source BoM

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Mass timber to feature at Paris Olympics

THE countdown is on to the Paris Olympics and the athletes aren't the only thing grabbing attention, a mass timber structure by French architect studio Dream will be used as an office space for the official team. The building is one of nineteen buildings constructed in the Saint-Ouen Olympic Village which have been strategically designed for use beyond this year's event.

The office building which is clad with terracotta tiles is set to 'evoke the history' of the industrial site in the Parisian district.

"The main idea behind the building is to imagine the office building of the future, with a particular focus on mixed-use programming and, in this case, the integration of a sports area of over 1,200-metre-square on the roof," studio founder Dimitri Roussel told publication Dezeen.

"[The office] will occupy a central position within the Olympic village and then, during the 'legacy phase', it will house companies."

The structure is composed of a mass-timber frame and according to Dezeen, the 'building's rectilinear structure is organised into three interconnected blocks of different heights. 'Rhythmic glazing lines the facade and is interrupted by double-height openings



1/ The striking building in the Paris Olympic villages features mass timber, exposed beams and terracotta tiles.

2/ Timber beams surrounding windows showcase the stunning Parisienne backdrop.

2/ The external staircases are designed to promote circulation.

All images: © Cyrille Weiner

punctured into the building to form sheltered terraces.

'A spruce wood frame was used to construct the building and is coupled with prefabricated concrete floors



and a Douglas fir exterior. Terracotta tiles clad the facade and were intended to mimic the use of brick in the area'.

The ground floor will house a food court which then connects to an outdoor public space while bright workspaces divided by timber columns can be found upstairs.

A spacious eight-meter tall sports hall is situated on the top floor complete with exposed timber framework with windows showcasing the stunning city backdrop. The rooftop also hosts a sheltered terrace

that leads out from the sports hall.

"The design creates opportunities for people to meet because that's what it's really all about," Roussel told Dezeen.

"This building is a great living machine that offers multiple possibilities for users in their workplace to meet, exchange and create this challenge of living together."

The exterior of the building has a series of staircases which are designed to encourage users to explore the space.

Source: Dezeen

“DESIGN CREATES OPPORTUNITIES FOR PEOPLE TO MEET”

Meet PFT's new Operations Manager

FORESTRY has been in Jarrod Burn's blood since he was a child working alongside his father on a forest harvesting operation.

"I'm a fifth-generation timber industry worker," he said as he stepped into the role of Operations Manager for Private Forests Tasmania (PFT).

Growing up on a family farm in the Liffey Valley, which included managed native forests, Jarrod was picking seeds for helicopter at the age of nine.

His career has since taken him back to that helicopter for work.

"I've been involved in the full cycle of forestry, including planning the harvesting of native forests that my dad felled about 20 years ago," he said.

With more than 20 years of forestry experience, Jarrod is stepping into his new role at PFT with enthusiasm and a clear vision for the future.

Jarrod sees significant opportunities within private forestry in Tasmania, particularly in mitigating climate change through active native forest management.

"Sustainable practices can enhance carbon sequestration and contribute

“SEES SIGNIFICANT OPPORTUNITIES WITHIN PRIVATE FORESTRY IN TASMANIA



Jarrod Burn (right) has started at PFT as Operations Manager. Photo: PFT

to global climate goals," he said.

He also discussed the importance of changing perceptions about the value of trees in agricultural settings, a challenge lingering from the Managed Investment Scheme (MIS) days.

Jarrod believes private forestry can play a crucial role in reducing the national trade deficit in wood products and strengthening Tasmania's economic resilience.

"Private forestry is at the forefront of promoting the management of a resource that can bolster our economy," he said.

Jarrod's journey in forestry has been extensive. After completing a technical traineeship, he spent several years in the private sector before returning to Forestry Tasmania (now Sustainable Timber Tasmania)

His tenure as a planning coordinator at STT included completing an MBA, which helped to broaden his strategic thinking around forest management and promoting the sustainability and value of forests beyond just production.

"Private forestry

is incredibly broad, covering everything from environmental and remedial works to large-scale industrial plantation management," he said.

"The private estate in Tasmania has the most potential to expand and actively manage forests,

addressing some of the most pressing challenges of the 21st century. By leveraging this potential, we can ensure our forests continue to provide ecological, economic, and social benefits for generations to come," he said.

Jarrod's vision for Private Forests Tasmania is

clear: embrace sustainable practices, shift perceptions, and promote the economic value of well-managed forests.

Jarrod and the Operations Team can be contacted at admin@pft.tas.gov.au.

Source: Private Forests Tasmania

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Can you trust a truss? The answer is an overwhelming yes!

By PAUL DAVIS

I ESTIMATE that there are about two hundred million nailplated timber trusses in service in Australia – which use billions of structural components in their construction. And, overwhelmingly, they are performing beautifully!

If good performance is the rule, for every rule there is an exception. Of course, we don't want badly performing trusses, so it's worth looking at the odd case that goes wrong.

BUCKLING OR A CHANGE IN DIRECTION:

There is a maxim in structural engineering that "structures fail either by buckling or at a change in direction of force". What that means, is that members almost never fail by a simple snapping. Rather it's either failure as a joint (a change in direction) or by buckling which is a lateral or twisting movement of a member.

So, in the context of timber trusses, we are clearly talking about a failure at a truss joint or by buckling of a member.



This photo illustrates a classic opportunity for buckling. Photo: Courtesy Paul Davis

FAILURES:

Another scenario where there used to be a rash of failures is the horizontal top chord of truncated girders. These rely on the jack rafters to laterally restrain the horizontal top cord against buckling. As you know, the rafter and the HTC only contact at a point and if the fixing here is only skew nails, then often they have poor embedment in the jack or TG. In response to this sort of failure happening, the Australian standard (AS4440) and the nail plate manufacturers' instructions now require this connection to be triple gripped.

A whole separate class of poor lateral restraints leading to member buckling is where

roof battens are present but they do not give adequate lateral restraint to truss top chords. This has happened in the past with tile roof battens (because the tile battens are generally such crappy timber that the nails split out of the end of the batten or where the batten fixing simply misses the truss underneath. This issue has largely been fixed because the truss standard now requires every second tile batten to be ignored for the calculation of buckling capacity.

Another in the batten class of issues is when steel top hat battens are fixed through the top of the top hat rather than the wings that are in direct contact with the truss chord. In this case, there is just too much flexibility in the screw or

nail fixing to resist lateral buckling loads because the shaft travels through space between the top of the batten and the top cord.

The final class of situations where buckling occurs is when there is poor overall roof bracing. Historically, when trusses were first introduced, mostly gable roofs were built but only timber diagonal

bracing was used. There were a bunch of cases where a whole run of standard truss top chords buckled as a group. You could tell because there was a waviness in the tile lines – or the roof was in a heap on the ground! I still on occasions see these kinds of failures in more modern roofs when the speedbrace is poorly installed (and particularly if it's poorly connected at the end) or not installed at all.

Despite all the nasty means of failures that I describe above, remember that overwhelmingly you can trust a truss. They are solid and stable, durable and dependable, resilient and reliable, tough and time-tested!

Source: Timber Trader News



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Endangered plants with the best view in Tasmania

Freycinet waxflower (*Philotheca freyciana*) and bearded heath (*Epacris barbata*) are two of Tasmania's most endangered species, and both occur on the Hazards, overlooking Wineglass Bay.

In late September 2023, staff from the department's Threatened Species Section (TSS) and Threatened Plants Tasmania volunteers, conducted field surveys for both species. These species occur in rugged mountainous areas and have not been surveyed by TSS for more than ten years.

The survey aimed to assess the status of known subpopulations, identify existing or potential threats and determine whether any management actions are required.

Key sites for freycinet waxflower were surveyed near the summit of Mt Amos and Mt Mayson. This species grows in crevices in massive granite boulders, and in damp runnels containing moss and leaf litter, and is often difficult to find.

Monitoring involved tagging freycinet waxflower plants and recording information about their size, reproductive status, and condition following a method established by Royal Tasmanian Botanic Gardens staff in 2002.

Data collected during this trip indicates that the number of mature individuals has

declined over the last 20 years, with only two out of the original 35 tagged plants still alive. However, 27 'new' plants were tagged during this trip, including six seedlings, indicating that recruitment is occurring. The species appears to be highly susceptible to drought, presumably because it grows in rock crevices. Fortunately, there was no evidence of *Phytophthora* or other threats such as mammal browsing at this site, and it occurs away from the well-trodden tourist pathways which reduces the risk of trampling and disease spread.

Freycinet waxflower remains one of Tasmania's most threatened plant species. This species will require ongoing monitoring and would benefit from ex-situ conservation measures, with a long-term aim of establishing additional insurance populations in the wild.

Bearded heath is faring better, with a good abundance of plants, spread across numerous sites on the Freycinet Peninsula. Dieback from *Phytophthora* was observed in some sites containing bearded heath.



1/ Joe Quarmby measures plant for future surveys.

2/ Full bloom of bearded heath near Coles Bay.

Images: Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania

However, the species appears to be persisting in infected sites, which is encouraging.

TSS is working with Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Service to ensure the species are well managed, and data from the survey has been added to NRE Tas' Natural Values Atlas.

Source: Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania



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