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COVER STORY P2



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AFWI SkyForest

Working towards a nationally consistent picture of Australia's forests.

AUSTRALIA'S forests are ecologically and economically significant landscapes. Developing a consistent understanding of these forests is becoming increasingly important for their effective monitoring, reporting and management.

Australia already has a wealth of forest data, but these observations are often collected by different agencies using different methods, technologies and standards. The challenge is not simply a lack of data, but the difficulty of bringing these datasets together consistently across regions and through time.

SkyForest, an Australian Forest and Wood Innovations (AFWI) initiative, is responding to this challenge by contributing to the framework of a nationally consistent forest inventory framework for Australia. The project is prototyping a transparent, auditable and open operational data platform, called Monitoring and Observation System for Australian Forest Inventory and Change (MOSAIC), that brings together existing forest observations across spatial and temporal scales.

It is at this intersection between detailed field observations, remote sensing and forest change that Aakash Chhabra, based at the Hawkesbury



SkyForest connects field observations, airborne LiDAR, and optical and radar satellite data across scales. Image: Aakash Chhabra, AFWI postdoc at WSU

Institute for the Environment, Western Sydney University, brings his research experience and capability in developing operational monitoring systems to SkyForest. He works with Distinguished Professor Belinda Medlyn, who leads SkyForest at Western Sydney University.

Aakash's research work has centred on using multi-sensor remote sensing to understand forests before, during and after disturbance, particularly wildfire impacts and recovery. During his PhD with Professor Marta Yebra, he combined SAR and optical satellite time series to map the severity of the 2019/2020 "Black Summer" wildfires and monitor recovery across the south-eastern coastline.

Within SkyForest, Aakash is applying this multi-sensor perspective to strengthen an approach that moves beyond traditional indicators such

as greenness alone and places greater emphasis on forest structure. His vision is to strengthen the integration of complementary observations, including field inventory measurements, airborne and ground-based LiDAR, and optical and radar satellite data, to build a more complete picture of Australian forests. Connecting these datasets across scales can help reveal not only their current condition, but how they have changed through

time, how they respond to natural and anthropogenic disturbances, and how those changes unfold afterwards.

Through this work, Aakash contributes to SkyForest's broader ambition of moving forest monitoring beyond a static description of Australia's forests towards a system capable of capturing structure, condition and change through time. In doing so, the project also contributes to a wider national discussion around what a modern Australian forest monitoring system should look like, operationally useful and capable of revealing not only where change is occurring, but how and why it is happening.

On the cover: Field data collection underpins SkyForest's push for a nationally consistent picture of Australia's forests.

Image: Shutterstock

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RBA raises rates another 25 basis points

The price of idle cash.

By **CHRIS PARKER**

THE Reserve Bank lifted the cash rate again and this time the Board decision was unanimous, increasing the cash rate to 4.60 per cent. This is the fourth increase of 2026, taking the total rise this year to 100 basis points.

The RBA also stated it will continue to do what it considers necessary to bring inflation back to target, including raising the cash rate further if required. Some forecasters are already pencilling in another increase in November. **Click here** to read Statement by the Monetary Policy Board: Monetary Policy Decision +3

For a business with an overdraft, a line of credit or variable-rate term debt, this is a direct hit to the bottom line. Lenders typically pass these increases on quickly, so the smartest response is to borrow less and make your money work harder. Here are a few thoughts on where to look.

STOCK

Inventory is borrowed money in physical form. With borrowing costs rising, the cost of holding slow-moving stock rises with them, on top of storage and insurance.

- **Run an ageing analysis.** Group stock by time on hand and identify lines that haven't moved in 90 to 180 days. Discount, bundle or return them. A modest markdown is usually cheaper than another year of interest.
- **Focus on your top sellers.** Keep tight control and healthy availability on the few lines that drive most of your margin and order the long tail less often.
- **Recheck bulk-buy discounts.** A volume discount rarely justifies months of extra holding once interest is included, and this math just got worse.
- **Watch service levels.** Leaner stock shouldn't mean empty shelves. Track fill rates alongside stock days so you don't trade interest savings for lost sales.



Rising borrowing costs put pressure on business cash flow, from inventory and trade debtors to working capital. Image: Shutterstock

TRADE DEBTORS:

Every day a customer pays late, you are lending them money interest-free while paying interest on your own borrowings.

- **Review your ageing report weekly, not monthly.** Assign clear ownership for follow-up and use a consistent methodology: a reminder before the due date, a call soon after. Be polite but firm.
- **Invoice promptly and accurately.** Include purchase order numbers and make payment easy with online links or direct debit. Errors and delays are one of the easiest excuses for late payment.
- **Tighten terms where you can.** Moving new or higher-risk customers to shorter terms or use deposits or progress payments to assist cash flow.
- **Watch for early warning signs.** A customer with increasing time to settle may be under financial stress.

TRADE CREDITORS

Supplier credit is often the cheapest funding you have, so use all of it.

- **Pay on the due date, not before.** Schedule payment runs around due dates rather than paying invoices the moment they're approved or how accounts have always done it.

- **Negotiate better terms.** Reliable, loyal customers can often secure slighter better terms, especially in exchange for consolidated orders or forecast volumes.

FINANCE COSTS

- **Audit every facility.** List each loan, overdraft, card, lease and equipment finance with its rate, fees, security and maturity date. Each facility may have fees and a different rate. Undertake a full review of what you need and what is best for your business. Some consolidation may be a lot cheaper.
- **Match funding to purpose.** Use short-term facilities for seasonal swings and term debt for long-life assets, not the reverse.
- **Put surplus cash to work.** If you hold positive balances while also carrying debt, an offset or sweep arrangement can reduce the interest you're charged.
- **Trim limits.** If working capital improvements reduce your peak borrowing, lower the facility size to cut line fees.

OTHER CASH FLOW MEASURES

- **Run a rolling 13-week cash flow forecast.** Early visibility of a shortfall lets you plan instead of borrowing at short notice.
- **Set aside tax and payroll obligations early.** GST, PAYG instalments and superannuation dates need to be provided for.
- **Revisit pricing.** Make sure your prices reflect the higher cost of carrying stock and extending credit and don't forget to consider card payment fees which can no longer be passed on.
- **Track the numbers monthly.** Review days inventory, days sales outstanding, days payables outstanding, net debt and interest cover.

“INVENTORY IS BORROWED MONEY IN PHYSICAL FORM

AFPA joins expert panel on timber import risks

AFPA acting CEO Richard Hyett joined a panel of industry and research experts this week to examine the risks linked to imported timber and engineered wood products.

The online webinar, titled Australia's Timber Supply Chain: Risk, Resilience and the Evidence Behind Origin, was held on Wednesday 30 September from 12pm to 1pm AEST. The session focused on imported laminated veneer lumber (LVL) and other engineered wood products, and what Australia can do to improve supply chain transparency.

Hyett appeared alongside Cameron Scadding, founder and CTO of Source Certain; Tim Woods, managing director of Industry Edge; and Dr Tyron Venn, senior research fellow at the University of Queensland.

The discussion took place amid growing concern over the origin of imported timber. Recent Government forensic testing found that 37 of 74



Timber logs arrive by barge as questions grow over the true origin of Australia's imported wood products. Image: Shutterstock

imported products did not match their stated origin or species. Separate DAFF-funded research led by Dr Venn found that 68 per cent of imported engineered wood products, including LVL, carry elevated risk. Much of this material is routed through third countries, including China, with a significant portion linked to Russian fibre.

A Senate committee heard earlier

this year that up to 6 per cent of Australia's timber imports may be at high risk of containing Russian content. Documentation alone has proven insufficient to verify where timber was harvested.

The webinar explored the scale and consequences of high-risk imports, the role of forensic verification at the border, and opportunities to strengthen Australian-grown and processed supply.

Panellists also considered how advances in testing are changing assumptions about the cost, speed and scale of origin verification.

Australia faces rising demand for timber and engineered wood products to support housing construction. The session examined what practical steps the country should take to build a more resilient and transparent supply chain.

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Forestry backs Safeguard investment certainty

THE Australian Forest Products Association has told the Federal Government the sector supports the Safeguard Mechanism's trajectory while stressing the need to protect trade-exposed industries and sovereign capability.

Australia's forest and wood products industry has limited exposure to the Safeguard Mechanism in its current form and supports the trajectory of decarbonisation, the Australian Forest Products Association (AFPA) has told the Federal Government.

In its submission to the Safeguard Mechanism Review Consultation Paper, AFPA said the review "is not intended to make fundamental reforms to the Safeguard Mechanism design and we support the aim of providing long-term investment certainty."

"It is critically important that the Safeguard Mechanism does maintain competitiveness of trade-exposed industries and does not undermine sovereign capability," the peak body stated.

AFPA represents the forest, wood and paper products industry, which directly employs about 80,000 people and another

100,000 indirectly, contributing \$24 billion a year to the Australian economy. Forestry is listed as a priority sector under the Government's Future Made in Australia agenda.

The submission highlighted the sector's potential to help achieve Australia's decarbonisation goals through sustainable forest management. A recent industry report presents pathways that could see the sector drop below net zero by 2033. These include replacing fossil fuels with biomass for process heat, cutting liquid fuel emissions from machinery and transport, and increasing the use, reuse and recycling of timber products in the built environment.

"The more wood products are used, the more trees are grown and regrown, the more carbon is captured and stored, making it a powerful solution for combating climate change while housing the nation," the report states.

AFPA described timber as "the highest embedded and lowest embodied carbon building material available at scale," offering a practical pathway to lower the carbon footprint of construction while supporting housing and the clean energy transition.

Safeguard facility data for 2022-23 shows three manufacturing facilities are currently covered: paper mills at Maryvale in Victoria, Boyer in Tasmania and Millicent in South Australia. Lowering the threshold to 50,000 t CO₂-e would

expand coverage to converted paper manufacturing, while a drop to 25,000 t CO₂-e would capture more timber facilities.

"On balance, the decarbonisation of electricity supplies may be a more effective strategy for reducing emissions for these facilities at the 25,000 t level, than would be achieved through extension of the Safeguard Mechanism," AFPA said, citing "extremely challenging business conditions and the additional financial and administrative burden that would be imposed."

On domestic offsets, AFPA supports carbon credit units that are "high integrity, transparent, additional, scientifically robust and aligned with productive forestry outcomes."

"Sustainable forestry is the only industry that is actively and verifiably removing carbon from the atmosphere at scale, storing it securely in forms that are useful and valuable," the submission stated. For every 1,000 hectares of new forest plantation, 0.4 Mt CO₂-e is stored for the long term.

Access to high-integrity carbon markets is critical to grow the forestry estate and secure future timber supplies. AFPA said it "would be concerned by any changes to the Safeguard Mechanism that perversely interfered with the effective operation of the ACCU Scheme."

Click here to read the full submission.

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Timber Design Awards shortlist

Welcome to the 2026 finalist reveals, part five.

THERE are now only three weeks to go until the 2026 Timber Design Awards gala, and the shortlist keeps revealing projects that treat timber as far more than a material choice.

This week's finalists stretch from a multi-generational Blue Mountains home nestled among retained trees, a coffee table built entirely from workshop offcuts and reclaimed marble, a Northcote house organised around a single board width of reclaimed Hydrowood Oak, and a Bendigo health facility where timber carries structure, cultural story and a sense of healing on Dja Dja Wurrung Country.

As with the earlier finalists (see *Enews* #917, #916, #915 and #914 for more), timber is the common thread: durable, low-waste, adaptable and full of meaning, whether it is sequestering carbon in a school, wrapping a house in reclaimed boards, or turning offcuts into furniture that tells its own story.

Final call for tickets for the 21 October dinner at the Museum of Contemporary Art, The Rocks, are still **available here**. It's a good night to raise a glass to the people making timber do this much work.

RESIDENTIAL CLASS 1 – NEW BUILDING

Leura Tree Haven

Nestled into a steep, tree-lined site in the Blue Mountains, Leura Tree Haven is a multi-generational home that balances family living, sustainability and connection to nature. Upper-level living spaces are elevated to capture northern light, garden outlooks and treetop views, while the lower-ground level holds flexible bedrooms, a study, and a separate living space that opens directly to the garden. Retained mature trees and terraced gardens tie the house into its natural setting and streetscape.

Timber runs through every layer of the build. FSC-certified Spotted Gum flooring, secret-nailed in wide boards, sits over a heated concrete slab, while Shou Sugi Ban-charred Red Ironbark cladding acts as a powerful foil to recycled brick and the surrounding bushland. Recycled

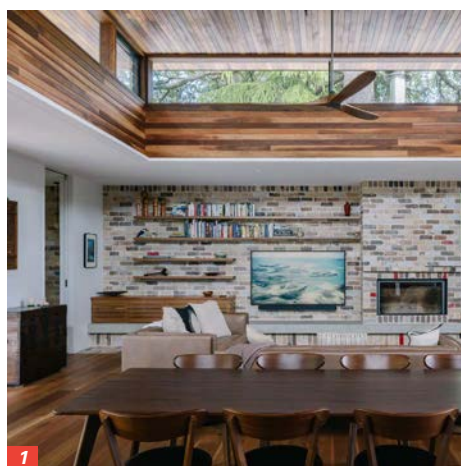
mixed hardwood windows and doors, fabricated locally, extend the project's material honesty further still, 93% of the timber used in their production is recycled Australian hardwood.

A 15kW solar system with dual-battery EV charging delivers net-positive energy, and 16,000L of rainwater harvesting rounds out a genuinely considered environmental response. Ninety per cent of the structure is timber.

See images 1 and 2.

FURNITURE AND JOINERY

Reclaim Mosaico



1



2

1/ Spotted Gum flooring and recycled hardwood details define the multi-generational living spaces at Leura Tree Haven.

2/ Shou Sugi Ban-charred Red Ironbark cladding and retained mature trees nestle Leura Tree Haven into its Blue Mountains site. Photos by Kat Lu

Born from a simple question in the workshop, how can valuable materials already on hand become something

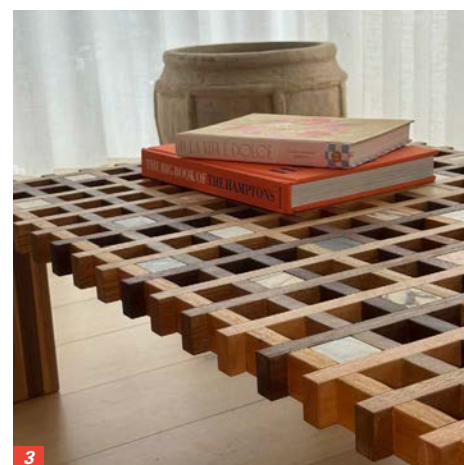
new, this handcrafted coffee table is built entirely from solid timber offcuts generated through FAF's bespoke joinery projects. American Oak, Tasmanian Oak, Walnut, Mahogany and Spotted Gum offcuts are precision-machined and hand-assembled into an interlocking tabletop, with reclaimed marble offcuts set into the surface by hand.

Every piece is unique, shaped entirely by the materials already in the workshop and the story they carry.

See image 3.

FITOUT RESIDENTIAL

Bank St House



3

3/ Precision-machined timber offcuts and hand-set reclaimed marble form the interlocking surface of the Reclaim Mosaico coffee table.

Photo: FAF Woodwork & Design

At the end of a quiet cul-de-sac in Northcote, Bank Street House reimagines the suburban home through its modest scale and generous engagement with landscape and community. A compact, single-storey dwelling capped by a large habitable green roof, the house reads from above as a continuous, expansive garden, blurring the threshold between public and private space.

Materially, the house is unified by an almost singular palette of reclaimed Hydrowood Oak, used for cladding, windows, doors and joinery. A rigorous 75mm grid, derived from the width of a single timber board, organises every

Cont P 8

OCTOBER

6: Forestry Australia – University House, The Australian National University, Canberra. Special colloquium celebrating the *centenary of national forestry education* in Australia, held immediately prior to the 2026 Forestry Australia Symposium. Free of charge, however registration required for catering and logistics. **Registrations close: 10am, Tuesday 29 September 2026.** For more information and to register, visit <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1643036>

7-9: Forestry Australia 2026 Symposium – Rex Hotel, Canberra. This Symposium will explore how the forestry sector can articulate and share its values and engage constructively with diverse audiences and stakeholders – from local communities and Traditional Owners, to politicians and policymakers, the media, and the wider public. For more information visit <https://www.forestry.org.au/2026-symposium/>

19-20: International Woodchip and Biomass Trade Conference – Singapore. The conference will serve as a key meeting point for the global biomass community. For more information and to register, visit: <https://web.cvent.com/event/7fd17c6e-d403-4eb4-a6cd-ab69df757864/summary>

21: SAVE THE DATE: Timber Design Awards – Museum of Contemporary Art, The Rocks, Sydney. Event is almost full. For more information and to obtain tickets, visit: <https://timberdesignawards.com.au/>

30: SA, NT & WA Timber & Hardware Industry Awards – National Wine Centre, Adelaide, 6.30pm - 11.30pm. Join us in celebrating the SA, NT & WA Timber and Hardware Industry. For more information, visit <https://www.ntha.com.au/events/2026-industry-awards/> or contact tahlia@ntha.com.au

NOVEMBER

8-13: The Gottstein Trust's Understanding Forest Science Course

– The Country Club, Launceston, Tasmania. For those working in, or with an interest or association with the timber and forestry products sector, this unique course will provide an update on core aspects of forest science and aspects of management of the nation's public and private estates. Participants will also gain a better understanding of the national and international forces impacting upon forests. Bookings are now open. For more information, visit <https://gottsteintrust.org/> or phone Helen Murray on 0419 991 424

18: 2026 SIM-PAC Sustainability Awards – Castlereagh Boutique Hotel, Sydney. The Awards recognise practical leadership in decarbonisation, circular economy, and sustainable industrial practice across the Asia-Pacific region. Further information will be available soon on the Awards website <https://www.sim-pac.live/2026-awards>

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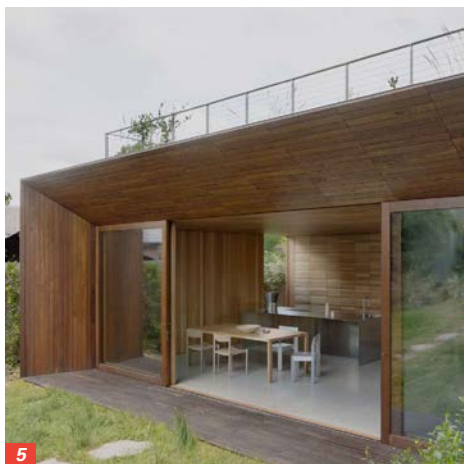
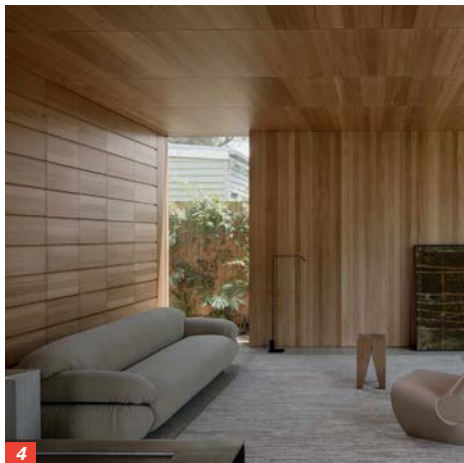
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From P 6

architectural element, from façade cladding to interior joinery, aligning components in plan and section with quiet precision. Sliding timber-lined panels on the east and west façades eliminate conventional window hardware entirely, letting the exterior transform throughout the day as they shift between admitting daylight, ventilating, blacking out bedrooms or shielding interiors from heat.

Inside, fixed and operable joinery panels are profiled with grooves inspired by the 17th-century salon hang, allowing art to be rearranged over time, while custom furniture was crafted from repurposed leftover boards and construction offcuts, turning waste into durable, functional pieces.

See images 4 and 5.



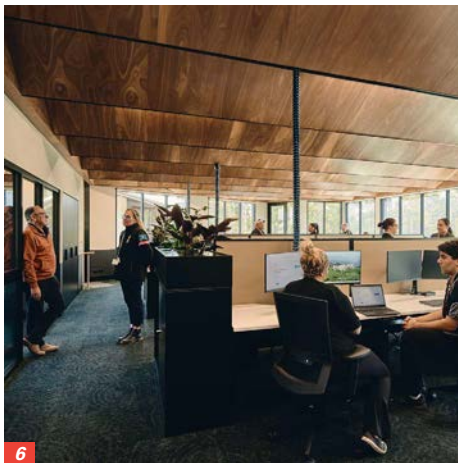
4/ Reclaimed Hydrowood Oak lines every surface of Bank Street House, from cladding to joinery.

5/ Timber-lined outdoor living and the habitable green roof open Bank Street House to its Northcote landscape. Photos by Ben Hosking

FITOUT COMMERCIAL & PUBLIC

BDAC Health Facility

Designed on Dja Dja Wurrung Country for the Bendigo and District Aboriginal Cooperative, Bunjil Wellbeing Place demonstrates how one integrated timber strategy can begin healing long before a clinical consultation. Rather than a decorative finish, timber forms structure, enclosure and cultural expression simultaneously - locally manufactured CLT shapes the first floor slab, stair and lift cores, while exposed Blackbutt beams, plywood linings and Spotted Gum decking bring warmth and calm to healthcare spaces that are usually clinical and cold.



6/ Exposed timber ceilings and structure bring warmth to the workplace at Bunjil Wellbeing Place..

7/ Locally sourced timber joinery frames views to Dja Dja Wurrung Country within the health facility's office spaces. Photos by Ben Hosking

At the entry, Blackbutt batten panels were entrusted to a local Dja Dja Wurrung artist, who carved, painted and burned the timber to tell the story of Bunjil the Creator alongside a healing journey from sickness to wellbeing. In the Welcome

Space, cross-hatched plywood ceilings beneath circular skylights connect occupants to Sky Country, while a sculptural folded timber ceiling upstairs adds acoustic performance and spatial identity to the workplace.

The result shows timber's ability to bring together environmental responsibility, cultural identity and human wellbeing within a single architectural strategy, replacing the institutional character of healthcare with one of dignity, belonging and connection to Country.

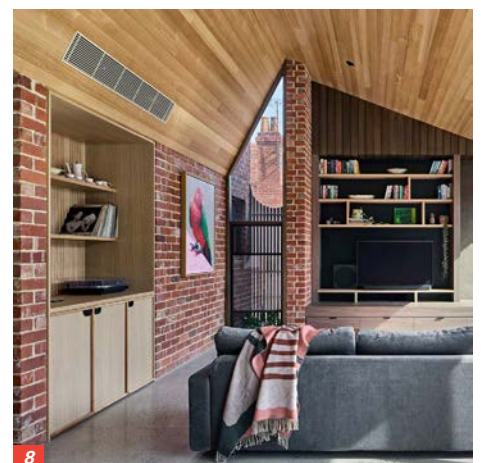
See images 6 and 7.

RESIDENTIAL CLASS 1 ALTERATION OR ADDITION

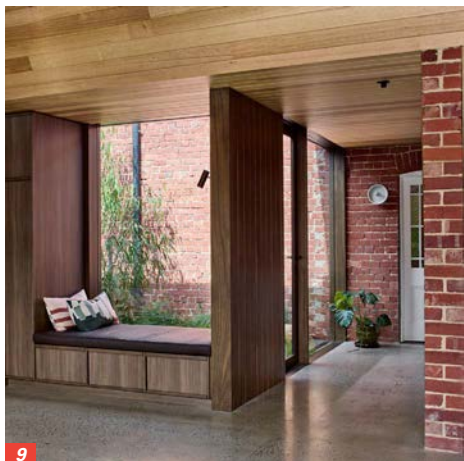
Princes Hill House

Bent Architecture's renovation of this Victorian brick home replaces a disconnected 1970s addition with a warm, light-filled extension unified by timber. A vaulted Victorian Ash ceiling extends beyond the glazing to become an external soffit, exposed Silvertop Ash fascia beams express the roof structure, and dark-stained shiplap cladding wraps the addition inside and out. Custom Victorian Ash joinery throughout, kitchen, island, window seats, and shelving, is treated as architecture rather than furniture, while original Baltic Pine floors were restored and extended through the heritage rooms. Locally sourced, FSC and PEFC certified timber throughout.

See image 8 and 9.



8/ A vaulted Victorian Ash ceiling and restored brick walls frame the light-filled living space at Princes Hill House. Photo by Tatjana Plitt



9/ Custom Victorian Ash joinery forms a window seat overlooking the courtyard. Photo by Tatjana Plitt

From P 8



10/ Brick, glass and timber come together in Ora House's landscape-driven, multi-generational form.

11/ A sculptural stone and timber desk sits within the warm, timber-lined workspace. Photos by Pier Carthew



SUSTAINABILITY

Ora House

Ora House pairs a Passive House-principled envelope with a 6 Star NatHERS rating (124.6 MJ/m² predicted load), delivering precise thermal control, healthy indoor air and low energy demand year round. An all-timber structure eliminates thermal bridging, avoiding the conductive penalties of steel framing while storing carbon in the building fabric itself. Sustainability here spans more than energy performance. A 50,000-litre underground rainwater tank services all toilets, and a solar and battery system reduces grid reliance. An extensive green roof and deeply layered internal gardens moderate temperature, manage stormwater and support biodiversity, while a central double-height fern garden brings that biophilic connection into the heart of the home. Prefabrication, developed with sister company Candour, extended the sustainability strategy into how the house was built. Structural timber window systems and exposed rafter ceiling cassettes were manufactured offsite, cutting steel, minimising site waste and lowering embodied carbon through precise, repeatable manufacture. Socially, the home unites multi-generational living with a Chinese medicine clinic in one adaptable, lift-accessible plan. By privileging landscape as the primary driver and choosing durable, locally sourced, low-carbon materials, Ora House achieves enduring performance and a restorative, nature-immersed domestic life.

See image 10 and 11.

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What's next for forestry? Foresters to chart the future in Canberra

Five of forestry's leading figures will close the 2026 Forestry Australia Symposium by setting out where Australian forestry goes from here.

WITH less than two weeks to go, more than 250 delegates will converge on Canberra for the 2026 Forestry Australia Symposium, and the program ends on the biggest question of all: what comes next for Australian forestry?

Thursday 8 October opens with a panel on lessons from the past. It closes by looking forward. The final plenary, Taking the Forestry Story Forward: What's Next?, puts five of the profession's most experienced leaders on one stage to chart where forestry heads over the next decade.

Forestry Australia President Dr Michelle Freeman sits on both of Thursday's plenary panels. In the afternoon she will be joined by Bob Gordon, a former Forestry Australia president and the inaugural chair of Australian Forest and Wood Innovations (AFWI); Jenna Hammond from Private Forests Tasmania; Leon Holt from Forestry Australia; and Dr Robert Waterworth from FLINTpro and AFWI. The panel finishes with questions from the floor.

It matters because forestry sits beneath some of the biggest policy issues facing Australia, from housing and farm incomes to trade, security, climate adaptation and nature repair. Forestry Australia's position is simple: without successful forestry, Australia cannot meet its goals.



The 2026 Forestry Australia Symposium runs from Wednesday 7 to Friday 9 October at the Rex Hotel, Canberra. All images: Forestry Australia

Forestry Australia CEO Jacquie Martin put it plainly in May.

"Social licence is not something our sector can take for granted. It depends on a genuine connection, trust, accountability and a shared commitment to the long-term stewardship of Australia's forests," she said.

For symposium convenor Matt de Jongh, this year's theme, The forestry story: strategies for improved awareness, social licence and effective engagement, goes to a problem foresters have carried for years.

"As a proud forester, this has been

an issue for the forestry sector for a long time, and it is great that Forestry Australia is playing a lead role in addressing effective communication," he said.

"It is an honour to be the convenor for the Symposium, but my job is made easy by the hard work, dedication and support of the Forestry Australia staff and the event organising committee."

The program opens with the name announced in May as its headline act. Prof Stan Grant, a three-time Walkley Award winner, former senior CNN correspondent and Professor of Journalism at Monash University, delivers Wednesday's opening keynote on the nature of public debate: social licence, media and contentious issues.

From there the program reaches well beyond forestry. On Wednesday, Dr Tyrone Venn of The University of Queensland sets out why forestry matters so much to Australia. Delegates will also hear how salmon, farming, mining and energy have handled community engagement

and social licence, and how influence works in politics. On Thursday morning, Dr Simon Longstaff AO, Executive Director of The Ethics Centre, gives the keynote before joining Freeman on the lessons-from-the-past panel.

"The Symposium has so many great sessions, and it is pleasing to have so



The First Nations and Forest Management panel on day two of the 2026 Forestry Australia Conference in Adelaide. Panellist Tolita Davis-Angeles returns in Canberra for Breakout 1.

Cont P 11

From P 10

many speakers and attendees who work outside of forestry, bringing their perspectives," de Jongh said.

If he had to pick one, de Jongh said, it would be Breakout 4, A Stronger Forestry Narrative: Shared Concepts and Adapted Messages, a facilitated workshop for communication, marketing and engagement professionals.

"I am passionate about communicating the positive benefits of forestry, and this session will provide some valuable learnings, not only for dedicated marketing and communications experts, but others who want to learn about adapting the forestry narrative."

AFWI runs through the program. As well as Gordon and Waterworth on the closing panel, AFWI supports Breakout 1 on First Nations knowledge, leadership, enterprise and engagement, where AFWI's Tolita Davis-Angeles is among the speakers.



1



2



3

1/ Prof Stan Grant opens the 2026 Forestry Australia Symposium on Wednesday 7 October.

2/ Dr Tyron Venn of The University of Queensland will set out why forestry matters so much to Australia.

3/ Forestry Australia President Dr Michelle Freeman joins the symposium's closing panel of 'Taking the Forestry Story Forward: What's Next?' All images: Forestry Australia

The next generation gets its own session. Breakout 2, Planting the Seed, looks at engaging students, with Mia Cassidy from Hurford Hardwoods, Kate Battishall from the Forest Education Foundation and Paul McCartan from Ryde Secondary College.

Thursday ends with the Symposium Dinner at the National Arboretum, and the symposium wraps on Friday 9 October with five field trips, from urban forestry in Canberra to alpine ash and snow gums under a new climate. It builds on Forestry

Australia's 2025 conference in Adelaide and the 2024 symposium in Ballarat.

FURTHER INFORMATION

For registrations:
<https://www.forestryconference.com.au/registration/>

For program:
<https://www.forestryconference.com.au/program/>

For field trips:
<https://www.forestryconference.com.au/field-trips/>

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Image: AKD

New crop of seedlings to continue growing NSW's future timber supply

MILLIONS of pine seedlings have been replanted in NSW state forest pine plantations this year, continuing the cycle of growing renewable timber resources to build future homes, schools, businesses and infrastructure.

This year around seven million radiata pine seedlings have been planted across recently harvested NSW State Forest pine plantations.

The ongoing replanting program underscores the long-term nature of forestry, where every harvested plantation is replanted to ensure a continuous supply of renewable timber for future generations.

NSW's State forest softwood plantations collectively produce enough timber each year to build around 40,000 homes, making them a critical part of Australia's housing and construction supply chain.

Forestry Corporation Regional Manager Tumut, Roger Davies, said the annual seedling dispatch highlights the planning and care that underpins sustainable forestry.

"Most people see the end product in a timber house frame, a pallet, paper or cardboard product or piece of furniture, but that story begins years earlier with a pine grown from seed in a nursery," Mr Davies said.



1/ Radiata pine seedlings are carefully grown before being planted across the state.

2/ Forestry Corporation crews among the millions of seedlings grown this year for replanting.

3/ Rows of radiata pine seedlings at the Tumut nursery, prepared for dispatch to harvested plantation sites. All images: FCNSW



"The 230,000 hectares of pine plantations in NSW are carefully managed as they grow to maturity and harvesting just a small portion each year produces enough timber to construct about a quarter of the homes built in Australia each year.

"Every seedling planted represents an investment in the future. These trees will grow for decades before supplying the renewable timber products Australians rely on every day.

"Our plantation forests operate on a continuous cycle of growing, harvesting and replanting. As one crop is harvested, the next generation is already being established.

"Radiata pine takes about 15 years of growth to be ready for fibre extraction and around 28 years for structural timber and in between there are many years of silviculture to produce the best pine sawlogs for processing.

The seedlings are grown from carefully

selected radiata pine seed and nurtured through their early development before undergoing rigorous quality checks ahead of dispatch.

Different seedlots are matched to specific growing regions to maximise survival, growth and timber quality.

Once dispatched, the seedlings are mostly hand-planted by crews across the State's pine plantation estate, where they will grow for around three decades before being harvested and processed into structural timber, engineered wood products, paper and packaging.

These forests are an essential source of renewable building materials and play an important role in carbon storage, with growing plantations continually absorbing carbon from the atmosphere as they develop.



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REMINDER: Credit card surcharging changes effective 1 October

BUSINESSES are reminded that from 1 October 2026, surcharges can no longer be applied to payments made using EFTPOS, Mastercard, Visa or American Express.

The changes are designed to give customers greater pricing certainty and transparency, making it easier to understand what they will pay before making a purchase.

Review your payment systems now

Businesses should review their payment systems, merchant fees and pricing to ensure they are compliant with the new changes.

Merchant service providers may have contacted businesses if EFTPOS terminals, online payment systems or payment settings needed to be updated. Businesses should check their junk or spam folders and follow instructions from their provider.

If a business is unsure whether it

needs to take action, it should contact its merchant service provider directly.

Businesses should also check menus, websites, booking systems, invoices and other customer information to ensure prices are clearly communicated before a customer books, orders or buys a product or service.

Other surcharges can still apply

The changes do not prevent businesses from applying weekend, public holiday and other surcharges, provided they are clearly disclosed to customers.

For example, a business may apply a public holiday surcharge where it is clearly disclosed, such as: "A 10% public holiday surcharge applies today."

Businesses that adjust prices because of the changes must not mislead customers about the reason for any price increase.

Discounts for payment methods such as cash or PayID can also continue to be

offered, provided customers can easily understand which payment methods qualify and how much they will save.

Practical steps

As 1 October is upon us, businesses should:

- review payment systems, merchant fees and pricing
- check menus, websites, booking systems, invoices and customer information
- follow instructions from their merchant service provider
- train staff
- test changes to ensure they are running smoothly

The new credit card surcharging requirements took effect on 1 October 2026.

To read the ACCC guidance on the changes, [click here](#).

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AHEC launches Community

THE American Hardwood Export Council (AHEC) have launched Community, a new project following five of Australia and New Zealand's most exciting design talents as they each create an original piece of furniture in American hardwoods. Fine furniture is widely admired, but the process and skill behind its creation, and the material it's made from, rarely get the same attention. Community sets out to change that, sharing an unfiltered look inside the workshop as it happens: the thinking, the technique, and the evolution of a design as it takes shape in the maker's hands.

The project also reflects something central to how designer-makers work; a community that shares ideas, approaches, workloads, even tools and studio space. Three Melbourne-based designer-makers, Simeon Dux, Vivienne Wong and Nae Tanakorn, and two Auckland-based, Dieter Ingles and Ted Synnott, will each develop a piece using American red oak, cherry or maple.

Their process from first concept through to a finished piece across 2026 will be documented and shared as it unfolds across social channels. The finished designs are not the ending. On completion of their piece, each designer will nominate a new participant in the project, thus extending and expanding the Community collaboration.

DESIGNERS

Simeon Dux / @simeondux

Simeon Dux is a fine furniture designer and maker whose work blends historical furniture traditions with contemporary design. Working from his Melbourne workshop, he creates high quality furniture and homewares by dovetailing traditional joinery and unique designs.

Dieter Ingles / @dietzwood_nz

Dieter Ingles is the designer-maker behind Dietzwood, an Auckland-based furniture studio. With a deep affinity for



Simeon Dux applying a finish with a blowtorch in his Melbourne workshop.



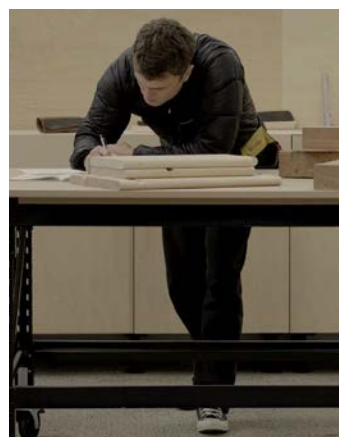
Dieter Ingles of Dietzwood in his Auckland workshop. All images: AHEC



Vivienne Wong refining joinery by hand in her Melbourne workshop.



Nae Tanakorn of Nayme Furniture reviewing material samples.



Ted Synnott marking components for a new piece in his Auckland studio.

solid timber, Dieter creates contemporary objects and furniture that celebrate the material's natural character, form and permanence.

Vivienne Wong / @vivienne_l_wong

Vivienne Wong is a Melbourne-based fine furniture maker and designer whose work brings together contemporary design and traditional woodworking techniques. She has always been drawn to timber as a material, and to the relationship between form, proportion and craftsmanship, creating furniture that is refined in its design and considered in its making. Her practice spans custom commissions and collaborations with designers and architects.

Nae Tanakorn / @nayme.furniture

Nae Tanakorn is a furniture designer whose practice brings together a background in multimedia, digital art and 3D visualisation. After a career creating visualisations for architectural and interior projects, he studied furniture design at

RMIT, translating his digital skills into physical forms. His work is driven by emotion and intuition, balancing sculptural expression with a focus on ergonomics and sustainability.

Ted Synnott / @ted.synnott

Ted Synnott Studio is an Auckland based industrial design practice working on objects and spaces. The studio's work is characterised by simple solutions and forms, drawing heavily on primary shapes.

American Hardwood Export Council

For more than three decades, the American Hardwood Export Council (AHEC) has been the global face of the U.S. timber industry, championing the performance, sustainability and aesthetic potential of American hardwoods worldwide. As the leading international hardwood trade association for North America, AHEC operates a non-profit programme representing thousands of businesses engaged in the production and export of timber, ranging from small family-run sawmills to major flooring manufacturers. Established to unite this wide-ranging spectrum of companies with a single global voice, AHEC has successfully built an internationally recognised brand, marketing more than 20 commercially available hardwood species and increasing demand around the world.

To follow the journey, find AHEC on Instagram at @ahec_anz or their view their **website: americanhardwood.org**

Forests Canada supports the planting of nearly 3.7 million trees

NATIONAL charity Forests Canada has wrapped up its latest planting season having supported the establishment of nearly 3.7 million trees across the country, continuing its long-running efforts to strengthen Canada's forests in the face of mounting environmental pressures.



A young seedling takes root as Forests Canada's latest planting season helps restore forests across the country. Image: Shutterstock

The organisation, which focuses on conserving, restoring and growing forests, points to increasing wildfires, biodiversity loss and extreme weather as key threats driving the need for large-scale recovery work. Its approach combines specialised expertise in forest restoration with a network of trusted partners to build longer-term health and resilience across Canadian landscapes.

"At a time when our forests seem to need us most, we have delivered an incredibly successful planting season, but we know our work has only just begun," said Jess Kaknevicius, Chief Executive Officer of Forests Canada.

Since launching its tree planting program in 2004, Forests Canada has completed more than 10,852 restoration projects with thousands of landowners from coast to coast to coast. The cumulative total now exceeds 54 million trees.

Kaknevicius emphasised that the scale of the numbers is secondary to the system the organisation has developed. "While the numbers are impressive, we are proudest of the forest recovery system we have built and continually improve year over year, it's a unique system that considers every stage from seed collection and seedling production to planting, stewardship, and long-term forest resilience," she said. "With the help of our partners, we are growing hope,

building ecosystems, and advocating for healthy forests that benefit Canada's people, economy, and wildlife."

That system relies on a national network of local planting partners, seed collectors, nurseries, regional field advisors, forestry specialists, and conservation and community groups. Forests Canada says sustained funding from donors, corporate partners, First Nations communities and governments at every level remains essential to keep the work moving.

Public support for forests appears strong. Research conducted by Abacus Data on behalf of Forests Canada found that 87 per cent of Canadians believe forests are a vital part of the country's national identity.

Val Deziel, Director of Restoration Ecology and Research at Forests Canada, said the high level of concern reflects the many different ways people value forests. "We believe such an overwhelming majority of Canadians care for our forests because they hold different meanings for different people,"

she said. "Some people care about better air, water, or soil quality; other people care about the economic outlook of their community or the productivity of their farmland. Some people want shade in near-urban areas or a place for their families to explore; other people care about creating habitat for wildlife. In the end, we all have our own

reason to care about Canada's forests."

Elizabeth Jarrett, Chief Operating Officer, underlined the collective effort required to reach the latest planting totals. "Planting nearly 3.7 million trees this planting season and 54 million trees over two decades requires the long-term investment and support of countless individuals and organisations, including donors, corporate partners, First Nations communities, and all levels of government, from the smallest municipality right on up to the federal government," she said. "Thank you to everyone who made this possible and thank you to everyone who continues to stand up for Canada's forests."

Forests Canada describes itself as a national charity working to conserve, restore and grow Canada's forests so they can continue to sustain life and communities. Alongside its restoration work, the organisation runs education programs aimed at the next generation of environmental stewards and supports local jobs and economies through high-quality recovery projects.

In an era of intensifying climate pressures, Forests Canada's latest planting figures underline both the scale of the challenge facing Canadian forests and the growing capacity of its restoration network to respond.

“WE ARE PROUDEST OF THE FOREST RECOVERY SYSTEM WE HAVE BUILT AND CONTINUALLY IMPROVE

FIMMA + Maderalia expands its industry offering

THE new Industrialised Construction Hall at FIMMA + Maderalia continues to expand its offering with the addition of new companies specialising in solutions, systems and technologies linked to new building models. Egoín, Bariperfil, Cadwork, Thermochip, Grupo Sopena, Terraneum, Actia, Weru and Hermanos Castro join the list of exhibitors participating in this new space, which will take place from 10 to 13 November at Feria Valencia.

These additions broaden and diversify the Hall's offering, creating an ecosystem that brings together different links in the value chain of industrialised construction: from solutions and materials for building envelopes and construction systems to digital tools, technology, components and proposals related to timber construction.

The growth of the exhibition area forms part of FIMMA + Maderalia's overall approach to addressing the transformation currently taking place in the construction sector. The Hall will bring together manufacturers, industrial companies, architects, developers, builders, engineering firms and specifiers in the same space, fostering the exchange of knowledge and the generation of new professional opportunities.

With these new additions, the area joins a list of companies and organisations already including leading firms such as Finsa, SCM, XLAM Dolomiti, Knapp, Essetre, Biohaus, Topform, FSC, Tallfusta, Quide Group, Carmowood, Sandoval, Treewhoo, RedVerde,



Workers assemble modular timber components in the Industrialised Construction Hall at FIMMA + Maderalia, where new exhibitors including Egoín, Bariperfil, Cadwork, Thermochip and others will showcase solutions for industrialised and sustainable building from 10–13 November at Feria Valencia. Image: Feria Valencia

Bioconstrucción, Piveteau Bois, Corkseal, Servicanto and X Works, among others.

THE CONFERENCE PROGRAMME CONTINUES TO GROW

The content programme is also continuing to expand with the addition of new names to the conference schedule. For example, architect Carlos Pueyo, from ADORAS atelier arquitectura, joins the list of professionals taking part in the Hall's programme, strengthening the presence of architecture practices and specifiers in a programme designed to address the challenges and opportunities posed by the industrialisation of construction.

Pueyo thus joins a programme that already features architects such as Rocío Pina, founder of Enorme Studio; Nacho Marí, from Superestudio; Marina Sanahúja, from Voltes Cooperativa d'Arquitectura; Fernando Oiza, from Woodville; and María Giramé and Pau Bajet, from Bajet Giramé Estudi. The programme will explore issues such as the industrialisation of housing, construction innovation,

sustainable architecture, new structural solutions in timber and the transformation of building processes.

A space to connect industry, architecture and construction

The Industrialised Construction Hall is one of the major new features of FIMMA + Maderalia

2026 and is designed as a specialised meeting point focused on the evolution of construction systems, industrialisation, digitalisation, innovation and timber construction.

The exhibition area will also be shared with Distrito Xilo Club Madera, an initiative promoted by Club Madera with the collaboration of Finsa, which will have one of its main meeting points at the Hall. The project will feature the Club Madera Travelling Pavilion, a timber structure 18 metres long, five metres wide and up to 5.5 metres high, developed together with the British practice Waugh Thistleton Architects, as well as various Xilo Nodes intended for exhibitions, professional meetings and knowledge exchange.

In this way, FIMMA + Maderalia strengthens its position as a meeting point for the timber industry and new construction models, connecting business, technology, architecture and specification within the same professional setting.

For more information, [click here](#).



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