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THE WEEKLY NEWS FOR THE
TIMBER & FORESTRY INDUSTRY



ISSUE 443 | December 2, 2016

Delivered weekly to timber merchants, sawmillers, wood processors, foresters, members of national, state and trade organisations and associations throughout Australia, New Zealand and various countries.

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Aussie business gets chance for a bigger share of \$60bn spend

Industry to gain from new rules maximising local content

THE federal government's surprise announcement in the Senate this week to overhaul rules about how it spends its annual \$60 billion procurement bill to maximise local content has been welcomed by the forest industry.

In a dramatic capitulation to Nick Xenophon, senator for South Australia, the Coalition has agreed to reverse a long-held policy and give Australian businesses an advantage in



competing for taxpayer-funded projects.

The new rules, which do not

need legislative approval, will take effect from March next year.

Bidders for government projects worth more than \$4 million will need to show:

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- How they are contributing to local employment.
- How they are growing local skills.
- The whole-of-life cost of the

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*Australian Forest Contractors Association (AFCA)



An industry-led program managed by ForestWorks

Dinki di Christmas trees delivered to Canberra MPs a gift from forest industry

THE Australian Forest Products Association and Canberra Christmas tree delivery company, the 'Christmas Tree Truck', have delivered real Christmas trees to Parliament House this week.

The gift exemplifies the positive contribution forest products industries can make to climate change.

The president of the Senate Stephen Parry and the Speaker of the House of Representatives Tony Smith have both agreed to display real Christmas trees in the entrance to the Senate and the House of Representatives.

AFPA CEO Ross Hampton said each tree was just one small example of all trees grown in commercial plantations and forests around Australia.

"Each year, more than 40 million trees are planted in our commercial plantation forests ensuring that forestry operations are completely sustainable," Mr Hampton said.

"These modestly-sized trees represent the multiple benefits of our industries," he said.

"As well as providing timber, each of these trees has removed some 18 kg of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere during its growth and is storing around



Branching out at Christmas ... happy to receive real Christmas trees at parliament house are Senator Anne Ruston, Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources, with responsibility for forests, and Joel Fitzgibbon, Shadow Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry. Helping with the delivery are AFPA CEO Ross Hampton (second from right) and the festive elf Pat Newell from the Christmas Tree Truck. The jolly Santa is Gavin Matthew, AFPA senior policy manager.

5 kg of carbon in roots, branches and trunk – the equivalent to the emissions from driving almost 100 km in the average Australian car."

Australia's 2 million ha of plantation forests capture almost 13 megatonnes of carbon dioxide every year, providing a carbon emissions offset equivalent to around 2.5% of Australia's net carbon emissions.

This makes managed forests and commercial plantations,

as well as the wood, paper and other products they provide, the only carbon positive sector of the economy.

"This year our federal parliamentarians are celebrating a truly real, traditional Christmas, and also showing their support for the 120,000 Australians who proudly work in the full value chain of forestry with its sustainable operations in both plantations and natural regrowth forests," Mr Hampton said.

US claims largest mass timber building

THE largest mass timber building in the US (pictured) opens this week in Minneapolis

The seven-storey, 20,440 sq m T3 (Timber, Technology, Transit) office building was designed by Michael Green Architecture and the DLR Group and features CLT timber and nail-laminated timber clad in weathering steel.

The building's efficient structural system is about one-fifth the weight of a similarly-sized concrete building.



Leaving the interiors bare also eliminated costly coverings. Using fabricated NLT panels enabled construction of

16,722 sq m of timber framing in less than 10 weeks.

The CLT and NLT panels were combined with a spruce glulam post-and-beam frame and a concrete slab. Most of the wood used came from the Pacific Northwest region, sustainably harvested after being killed by the mountain pine beetle, and all of the wood was certified under the Sustainable Forestry Initiative guidelines.

Xenophon win an early Christmas present for many regional workers

From P 1

project, not just the build cost.

- That the materials they use comply with Australian product standards.

"The new rules are likely to be quite significant for Australia's domestic forest and forest product industries," Australian Forest Products Association CEO Ross Hampton said.

"AFPA has been arguing for years that if commonwealth purchasing guidelines really took into account the large additional environmental, economic and social benefits of purchasing domestically produced paper and timber products, our national businesses would have won a great deal more business than they have," Mr Hampton said.

AFPA has been working with Senator Xenophon on this for a long time, and congratulates the Xenophon team for bringing this result home.



Home-grown ... Senator Nick Xenophon (second from left) and Ross Hampton, CEO, AFPA, (far right) campaigning for Australia-made paper – made with Australian pulpwood – during this year's federal election campaign.

"This is a big deal," Senator Xenophon told the Senate. "This is a massive change to procurement laws in this country."

For years the government has clashed with Senator Xenophon and the Labor Party over Australian content in government projects.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister

passed last week.

Master Builders Australia CEO Wilhelm Harnisch said the Senate's decision to re-establish the ABCC was a win for the community, taxpayers and people who worked in the building and construction industry.

"The restoration of the ABCC should greatly assist

in normalising workplace behaviours on Australia's construction sites," Mr Harnisch said.

"Construction workers, small subcontractors and everyone else in the supply chain can have the confidence of going to work every day without fear of being intimidated and bullied," he said.

"The passing of the ABCC bills marks the start of a new chapter for the industry and an end to the days where the community is paying more than it needs to for schools, hospitals and roads simply because building unions think they are above the law."

Mr Harnisch said the various amendments to the ABCC Bills would take some time for the industry to absorb. Master Builders would work with the Government and other parties to arrive at a set of practical arrangements for their implementation.

'We have been working with Senator Xenophon on this for a long time' – Ross Hampton, AFPA

"It is an early Christmas present for the many workers in regional Australia who will most like benefit over time," Mr Hampton said.

He said AFPA would be watching closely to ensure that as this decision was brought into rules departments abided by the spirit as well as the letter of the Xenophon amendments.

Malcolm Turnbull has secured the passage of legislation to re-establish the Australian Building and Construction Commission

The Senate voted by 36 votes to 33 to pass the bill which was one of the triggers for the July 2 double dissolution election. The other, to establish a registered organisations commission,

Friends gather in Canberra



Enjoying the Parliamentary Friends of Forestry and Forest Products annual dinner in Canberra last week ... representing HVP Plantations are Cameron MacDonald, chief operating manager, and Karl Kny, CEO, with Nathan Trushell, general manager, stakeholders and planning, VicForests.

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TQ puts strong focus on longer-term wood supply

Building executive, fifth generation sawmiller at the helm

A BUILDING industry executive and a fifth generation member of one of Australia's oldest sawmilling firms have been elected to the helm of Timber Queensland, the peak body representing the state's \$3 billion forest and timber sector.

Deputy executive director of Queensland Master Builders Paul Bidwell was re-elected chair and James Hyne, operations manager at Hyne's Tuan mill was elected deputy chair at Timber Queensland's AGM in Brisbane on November 18.

Pursuing 'wood first' policies

Other directors elected to the 2016-17 board are Skene Finlayson, managing director, Finlayson Timber and Hardware; Robert Tapiolas, director, Parkside Group; Carly Tatnell, chairman, DTM Timber; Doug Simms, managing director, Simms Group; Brian Farmer, CEO, Hancock Queensland Plantations; John Ryan, company general manager, Simon Home



Paul Bidwell
... whole-of-industry approach.

Timber and Hardware; Andrew Dawson, manager, Queensland Commodity Exports; and Bob Engwirda, CEO, Hurfords Wholesale.

Paul Bidwell joined Master

Builders in 2009 and has 18 years' private and public sector experience in policy planning and analysis.

James Hyne's career has transitioned through

manufacturing and forestry operational roles to leader at Hyne's flagship operation the Tuan mill near Maryborough where he is currently acting manager.

He has held positions as committee member of Timber Preservers Association of Australia council, TPAA technical committee, chairman of TQ's treaters' group and a committee member for the LOSP Treaters Association.

"Under the constitution, directors are elected for a one-year term from the membership base, including representation from forest management, processing, construction and fabrication, wholesaling and timber trade sectors," Mr Bidwell said.

"This helps to ensure a whole-of-industry approach to key issues," he said.

The newly elected board represents a wide breadth of experience in governance and leadership from across the Queensland forest and timber industry supply chain.

Timber Queensland CEO Mick Stephens said an important focus of work



Industry brief ... co-chair of the Forest Industries Advisory Council Rob de Fégely (centre) and manager, domestic forest policy, Department of Agriculture and Water Resources Andrew Wilson (right) – in Brisbane to review the FIAC Strategic Directions Paper with Timber Queensland board members – confer with TQ board member Carly Tatnell. The report will be presented at the FIAC council meeting in Melbourne on December 18.

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Invitation: Timber Industry Forum – To Create a More Sustainable Australia



Date: Thursday 8 December 2016

Time: 9:30 am – 12:30 pm

Venue: Room 3, Level 2, Building 80, 392-394 Swanston Street, RMIT University, Melbourne, Australia

Cost: Free; Refreshment and lunch will be provided

RMIT University is organizing a Timber Industry Forum, aiming to address the practical barriers for timber buildings and find the best way to conquer them. This forum not only can provide the trends and future guidance related to timber buildings, but also can foster the collaborations within this area. You will be beneficial from but not limited to the following areas:

- Hazards during the construction and usage of timber buildings;
- Innovations to create a more sustainable and low-cost timber building;
- Australian and international building codes and guidelines; and
- Current progresses and challenges of timber buildings in Australia.

This forum will bring together engineers, designers and researchers. We really need your expertise and experience to help creating a more sustainable Australia. If you are interested in this forum, please kindly register through <https://goo.gl/forms/XF1axCKdpWWiyiPG3> by Tuesday 6 December for catering purpose.

Phone: +61 3 9925 3215 Email: long.shi@rmit.edu.au



AROUND THE CIRCUIT 2016

DECEMBER



6: Hoo-Hoo at Christmas

– Windaroo Lakes Golf Club, 1-5 Anna Louise Drive, Windaroo, Logan City, 42 km south of Brisbane CBD. Organised by Brisbane Hoo-Hoo Club 218. Time: 5.59pm for 6.29pm. Finger food/canapés. Partners and non-members welcome. Cost: \$20 p.p. Buy your own drinks. RSVP by Friday, December 2. Email william@pardna.global or pieterverlinden@yahoo.com.au

Visit Windaroo website www.windaroolakes.com.au

2017

FEBRUARY

13-17: 2017 Gottstein Forest Science Course –

Creswick, Vic. Contact Dr Silvia Pongracic, science course director, J.W. Gottstein Memorial Trust. Tel: 0418 764 954. Email: silvia.pongracic@csiro.au.

MARCH

7-8: ABARES Outlook 2017 conference – Canberra.

Leading forum for public and private sector decision-makers to discuss the key domestic and global issues for Australia's agriculture, forestry and fisheries sectors. Flexible registration options – choose from 15

comprehensive sessions featuring leading industry presenters. Join delegates for excellent networking and information opportunities. Hear from keynote and international speakers. Plan your market strategies to stay ahead of competitors. Update your industry knowledge and understanding of industry specific issues. Details, registrations at www.agriculture.gov.au/abares

JUNE

13-17: Frame Australia 2017 conference – Park Hyatt Melbourne.

'Timber Offsite Construction', a title chosen due to its global use to describe the process of building elements being manufactured in a controlled factory environment, to significantly

improve construction process efficiency. The conference will bring together all participants in the sector – architects, engineers, design and construction professionals, builders and developers; and specialists in timber, engineered wood processing, timber prefabrication and building materials. Exhibition displays on new products and emerging technologies in timber building systems. Day 1 presentations. Day 2 morning workshop sessions with afternoon tours to timber buildings both under construction and recently completed, or alternately to timber prefabrication plants operating with highly automated processing equipment. For more event information visit www.frameaustralia.com

Working with stakeholders to ensure long-term supply

From P 4

going forward was the implementation of the recently approved Strategic Plan 2016-19.

"This plan sets out core priority outcomes to underpin growth of the Queensland

timber industry," Mr Stevens said.

"Foremost among these priorities is working with governments and stakeholders to ensure long-term wood supply and a regulatory environment that fully reflects the opportunities



James Hyne
... Timber
Queensland
deputy chair.

and benefits from using more timber products."

"In particular, Timber Queensland will continue to pursue in 2016-17 its state-wide campaign to promote wood encouragement policies with the state and local governments."



E-NEWS CONTRIBUTIONS

Please supply your events/conference information if you would like to be included on our Timber & Forestry E News 'Around the Circuit' page. Contributions can be emailed to Dennis Macready dennis@industry-e-news.com. Written information only please.



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Sustainable, durable timber holds a key to growth of green buildings

Broad mix of stakeholders at Melbourne seminar

WITH green building demand doubling every three years and the prospect of a global population close to 10 billion by 2050, it's not hard to fathom that wood will play a huge role in this growth that will depend on sustainability, durability and low emissions.

These figures were analysed in an opening address to a sustainable building in timber seminar in Melbourne last week by Tony Arnel, a former chair of the World Green Building Council.

"Timber will be the sustainable solution to global challenges," he said. "Population growth and shelter will require another two planet Earths to cope."

He added: "Buildings now generate 40% of the



Nadia Godfrey, marketing manager, Woodform Architectural Design, Bendigo Vic, Conal O'Neill, graduate process engineer, Weathertex, Skye Larson, communication adviser, Vic Forests, and Stephen Mitchell, Stephen Mitchell Associates, Sydney (speaker).

world's emissions."

Mr Arnel, who is director of sustainability with global engineering consultancy Norman Disney & Young, was speaking to a broad 'mix' of stakeholders in the sector – architects, specifiers, building designers, timber industry managers and consultants –

at the seminar organised by Australian Forestry Standard Ltd at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre.

AFS CEO Simon Dorries said delegates enjoyed the 'one-stop' opportunity to 'bone-up' on green building ideas, tall timber structures,

environmental product declarations – and an update on sustainable forest management practices in Australia.

An overview by seven speakers on standards and certification linked to chain-of-custody programs, emissions

Cont P 7



Opening speaker at the AFS sustainable building in timber seminar Tony Arnel, global director, sustainability, at Norman Disney & Young (centre) with AFS director Alison Carmichael, general manager Agsafe Ltd, Canberra, and Simon Dorries, CEO, Australian Forestry Standard Ltd, Brisbane.



Dr Miah Daian, wood products consultant, Margules Groome Consulting, Dr Georgiana Daian, research officer, ForestWorks, and Stuart McGonagle, national flooring manager, Big River, Braeside, Vic.

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Brett Taylor, sales manager, Kennedy's Timbers, Melbourne (right) discusses recycled timber samples with Timothy Morrissey, policy adviser, Victorian Association of Forest Industries and Kristopher Orlowski, lecturer in civil engineering at the University of Melbourne.



Dr Harry Greaves, Harry Greaves Consulting, Melbourne, Alison Carmichael, AFS director, Canberra, and David Rowlinson, make it wood campaign manager, Planet Ark, Sydney.

More than 60pc of projects will be 'green' by 2018

From P 6

reduction, timber treatment and new engineered wood products kept the audience in their seats beyond the closing session.

Tony Arnel said green building activity was growing worldwide and continued to double every three years.

In a breakdown of projects, he said 46% were new commercial, 38% new institutional and 37% existing buildings and retrofits.

"Across all regions, studies show more than 60% of

projects will be 'green' by 2018," Mr Arnel said.

"It's been said before, but I'll say it again: if the 19th century

metres added each year; 3.4 billion harvested annually.

Major sponsors and exhibitors at the seminar were

'Timber will be the sustainable solution to global challenges' – Tony Arnel

was the century of steel and the 20th century of concrete, then the 21st century is about engineered timber."

Mr Arnel capsulised the "wonderful world of wood": 385 billion cub m of wood; 17 billion

Kennedy's Timbers, Narangba, Qld, and SFM Environmental Solutions (Hydrowood), Battery Point, Tas. Sponsorship was also provided by Austral Plywoods, Brisbane, and Timberlink Australia.



Simon Dorries, AFS Ltd CEO (centre) welcomes Polytec Melbourne representatives George Abagi, national commercial and specification manager, and Garry Chillcott, national sales manager, to the AFS sustainable building seminar.

Presentations can be viewed on the AFS website: www.forestrystandard.org.au

Timberlink contributes to New Zealand earthquake fund

TIMBERLINK employees on both sides of the Tasman will draw from funds reserved for their Christmas celebrations to help those affected by the 7.8 magnitude earthquake in New Zealand.

The Australasian business will donate \$NZ5000 to

the Marlborough Council Earthquake fund, established by John Leggett, Marlborough Mayor, to directly help victims in the district.

Timberlink employs more than 80 people at its New Zealand mill in Blenheim, and while New Zealand employees

and the mill escaped serious damage, Timberlink is aware that the earthquake and resultant aftershocks caused significant damage to parts of Blenheim and impacted the wider Marlborough community.

CEO Ian Tyson said Timberlink expressed its

sympathy to all those affected by the earthquake, in particular the family and friends of those who suffered loss or injury.

The Marlborough Council's fund will help provide for the welfare needs of the affected families and get their homes operational again.



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TCA's young ambassadors are industry's new communicators

Four congratulated at graduation ceremony

THE 2016 Timber Communities Australia's Young Ambassadors were congratulated at their graduation ceremony in Melbourne on November 18.

Leilani Dawes, Michael Dent, Roy Head and Matthew Randall were presented with their certificates and congratulated by TCA chair Brenton Yon, national coordinator Helen Murray and special guest Diana Lloyd, general manager of ForestWorks.

This six-month program encourages and equips under 35s to more confidently take a lead communicating about the forest and wood products sector in their own regions.

Each successfully completed local community engagement activities and several group



Community achievement ... special guest Diana Lloyd, general manager of ForestWorks (left), presents TCA Young Ambassador certificates to Roy Head, NSW, Michael Dent, Vic, Leilani Dawes, SA, and Matthew Randall, WA. TCA national coordinator Helen Murray joins in the celebration.

activities: professional media training; a series of round-table learning sessions with guest speakers; attendance at a national industry

networking event; and a two-day parliamentary advocacy familiarisation exercise in October.

On graduation day they each spoke about the local outreach activities they had completed. The local projects were outlined as part of their application and interview selection process in April-May, when short-listed candidates were interviewed by TCA vice-chair Stacey Gardiner and Helen Murray.

All four decided on engaging with schools through field trips or classroom visits wanting to impact young people's attitudes

other before and they really enjoyed learning and working together. For me it has been a real pleasure mentoring them through the initiative."

Through various learning sessions with many guest speakers, the Young Ambassadors had a crash course in key aspects of the sector which has given them more confidence to communicate about the environmental sustainability of Australia's timber sector.

Ms Murray also took them through an advocacy exercise and they had input into TCAs

'They are great young people, all with leadership capacity' – Helen Murray

to timber and attract interest in careers in a sustainable industry.

"They are great young people, all with leadership capacity," enthused Helen Murray who devised and ran the initiative.

"It is very rewarding to hear them say that the experiences gained through this initiative increased their skills and confidence and, importantly, also their networks, Ms Murray said.

"None of the group knew each

new set of key messages, which was 'road tested' in the parliamentary visits in October.

TCA board chair Brenton Yon heartily congratulated the group and said they were fine representatives and he had enjoyed witnessing their growth.

TCA also thanks the sponsoring partners PF Olsen, Linx Finance, HVP Plantations and ForestrySA, who each supported one place for a candidate.

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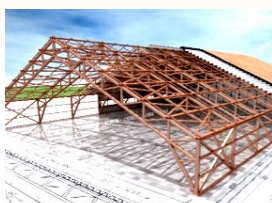
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Benefits and shortcomings: China plywood industry tour

A RECENT tour of Chinese plywood mills provided participants with an understanding of the wood resource used in plywood production, manufacturing capabilities, as well as typical plywood products available in the Chinese market.

The tour included time in Linyi, known as the 'wood panel capital' of China, as well as Shandong Province, north of Shanghai, and Guangxi Province, near the Vietnam border.

"While there are some positive developments in plywood manufacturing technologies in China, the level playing field Australian manufacturers seek is far from realisation," said EWPAA CEO Dave Gover who took part in the mission.

"China has a huge appetite for wood, with logs imported from around the world. There is also increasing interest in growing wood in China," he said.

"Much of what is being used in plywood is sourced from locally-grown eucalyptus hybrids with mean annual increments of 27 cub m/ha – a wood fibre growth rate comparable with some of the best in the world.

"Some plantation rotations are as short as five years."

Level playing field far from realisation

Chinese veneer mills operating spindle-less lathes consume logs which are considerably smaller than the core that is typically dropped out of an Australian lathe.

"Given there is close to 1 million ha of hardwood plantation in Australia, there may well be opportunities to adapt this spindle-less peeling technology for Australian-grown wood and markets," Mr Gover said.



On the straight and very narrow ... small diameter logs in China ready for processing through spindle-less lathes.

"Fast growth rates, a much shorter rotation, faster return on investment, and technology which can add value to small logs, need to be part of the discussion around forestry investment and processing capability in Australia."

Of the various plywood mills visited on the tour, the majority were producing an overlaid visual plywood product for furniture, with few mills making a legitimate attempt at producing a formwork product.

Pre-priming to reduce the amount of colour variation in the substrate showing through overlays as thin as 0.3 mm was common-place.

It appeared that much of the product being manufactured would not comply with AS/NZS 2270, 2271, or 2272 – the Australian and New Zealand standards for interior, exterior and marine plywoods. Australasian plywood producers typically focus intently on issues of veneer moisture and assembly times to ensure a high quality bond, and their manufacturing lines are configured to afford a high level of control of these important variables.

It appeared that the Chinese industry relies heavily on air-dried veneer, and factory layouts are considerably more disjointed, Dave Gover observed.



Dave Gover ... poor manufacturing brings risk of non-conforming building products.

These arrangements make it very difficult to control moisture variability which is so critical to reliable bonds.

The disjointed manufacturing layouts, significant amounts of manual handling and small log resource result in veneers that are shorter and narrower than the finished plywood sheet. The result is a substrate beneath the overlay that is a patchwork of pieces of veneer. Discontinuous layers create a weakness in the final product, particularly when they align through the thickness of the product.

Of greatest concern, was the willingness of some of these manufacturers to put a phenolic paper overlay on this product and misrepresent it as F17 formwork plywood. Formwork plywood is subject to significant

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'We sometimes forget how important the Fair Work Commission is to our businesses. Being part of the TMA has really helped our business adapt to the changes faster and easier than if we had done it alone'
- Richard Hill, Hazelwood & Hill

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A springboard to recognition

From his home workshop in the serene and relatively unspoilt environment of Cable Bay – some 20 kilometres north-east of Nelson – furniture designer and maker David Haig has garnered a reputation as one of New Zealand's most successful craftspeople. He talked to Michael Smith about “making furniture that other people want, but creating it the way I want”.

DAVID Haig is happy to admit he preferred pottery at school in the UK. “Clay was so direct and instantly malleable. I’d only built a boring shoe-cleaning box out of old Oregon pine at carpentry lessons as a 12-year-old and had felt rather intimidated by the hardness and difficulty of working the wood.”

Fast forward a few years to the beginning of his life in New Zealand when his wife, Clare, was pregnant with their first child. Haig was working in Wellington for a conservation group (the Native Forests Action Council) and living in a ramshackle old house in Khandallah – made available by one of the council’s benefactors.

“My future brother-in-law, John Shaw, who was a competent woodworker, was visiting and we went for a walk in the overgrown bush behind the house. Coming across a moss-covered square post sticking up from the undergrowth, we pulled it out of the ground and took it to the garden shed. John took the blade out of an old hand plane, sharpened it on an oilstone on the bench, and then passed the plane to me. I ran it over the post and a dark green shaving of moss came off. A couple more strokes ... suddenly the shavings were dark red and a beautiful lustrous wood was revealed. It was jarrah and I was instantly captivated.

“I decided then and there that somehow I would build our first child a rocking cradle out of this wood. At that moment an enchantment with wood and a strong creative urge came together – and the reverberations continue nearly 40 years later.”

Classic rocker

Haig is most well known for his ‘Monogram’ rocking chair, the latest iteration of his



David Haig pictured with his Swiss clock stand: walnut with pure silver inlay. “My youngest son saw my first laboured drawing in response to the client’s wish for a mounted clock. His ‘boring!’ comment sparked off a completely different and livelier direction!”
Photo: Daniel Allen

‘Signature’ chair – a design classic exhibited and sold worldwide. At the core of its design and construction are the technicalities of the steam-bending process, in which he is well versed.

“In essence, heat mediated through boiling steam is ideally suited for temporarily plasticising wood. It can then be bent – within certain constraints – and when cooled and dried out

again, will pretty much hold the shape it was bent to. Temperate hardwoods are better suited in general than either coniferous or tropical timbers. So you have oak, walnut, elm, ash, sycamore and European beech commonly used – all timbers that actually grow very well in New Zealand’s climate.”

Haig’s rationale for choosing species more often than not depends on design

considerations. “Walnut, one of my favourite woods, also happens to be one of the best for steam bending. I love the drama of rich colours and unexpected flashes of depth and lustre.”

He says that despite the huge palette available to woodworkers, there is a very unadventurous aspect to specifying the safe uniformity of featureless woods – although it makes life easier for commercial production. “As a one-off designer/maker, production considerations don’t affect my timber choices so I pretty much have a free hand. I’m all for celebrating richness and diversity, but like everything it requires judgement.

“As for indigenous timbers, we plundered our native forests for 150 years, and most of what remains should not become timber. Podocarps like rimu and matai are very slow growing, too, and are timbers we should use sparingly. The native beech tree is another story though, and it’s a shame more hasn’t been made of developing areas of our red and silver beech forests as managed stands.”

Selling to the world

Haig has a particular interest in chair design, although his work runs the gamut from tables and writing desks to chests and clock stands. He does, however, acknowledge the success of the Signature/Monogram in establishing and furthering his reputation. “It’s often been picked up as the feature image in articles on exhibitions and shows, and that has been a huge help. Galleries, too, have been great in having the actual piece out in front of people. Unfortunately, the price structure of retail galleries makes it hard to survive off



Monogram rocking chair, in walnut with quilted maple backrest – the latest iteration of Haig’s ‘Signature’ chair, a design classic. Photo: Daniel Allen



‘The Professor’s Steps’: sycamore frame and cherry treads. Photo: Digby Shaw



'V' chairs in walnut. Photo: Digby Shaw



Blanket chest and seat, in figured English walnut. Photo: Digby Shaw



Walnut writing desk and 'V' chair, commissioned by an architect in Northern Ireland.

Photo: Daniel Allen

Finding a dynamic interplay

From P 10

those sales alone, so 90 per cent of what I've sold has been direct to clients."

When it comes to commissions and connecting with clients, Haig says he makes furniture that other people want but creates it the way he wants. "I try to avoid commissions which start off with a photo of someone else's work. The best commissions are more like: 'Here's an idea; it's got to fit this space and have this function. I like your designs so let's go for it and see what you come up with.'

"I make every piece as well and as beautifully as I can, and the care and thought I put in become palpable to others. Then they may make the decision to live with those qualities and have them close at hand. I love visiting homes that have my work ... it's like checking up on your children and being surprised how well they turned out!"

Instinct and inspiration

Haig doesn't necessarily have a conscious design philosophy, but his starting point comes "from a kind of educated intuition. I don't like copying, so there must be elements of original thinking. There's a lot of trial and error in the initial sketching and I can take weeks before I generate the confidence to feel I'm on the right track.

"Good furniture for me is a lot about 'stance' and finding a dynamic interplay between the various components. I'm a modernist in so far as I consider



Circular bench built from California redwood, oak and New Zealand red beech. It complemented a gold-medal-winning garden designed by Andrew Fisher-Tomlin for the 2013 Ellerslie International Flower Show in Christchurch's Hagley Park.

Photo: ©David Haig



Walnut and rippled maple desk with matching Folium chair.

Photo: Digby Shaw

form is primary, and surface features – colour, pattern, inlay or whatever – back that up and hopefully enhance it."

He draws inspiration from the works of many designers and makers – sometimes more for their spirit and holistic approach to art – but is a woodworker first and foremost. "While I admire early modernists who pioneered the use of plastic and plywood and metal tube – like Eero Saarinen and Le Corbusier – I don't personally like the industrial flavour of much of their work. Many of the great Danish designers, though, like Hans Wegner and Finn Juhl, knew how to

use wood brilliantly and made wonderful chairs.

"On the more sculptural side, makers like Sam Maloof and John Makepeace explored furniture in very different but in fluid and luscious ways. And there was an iconic rocking chair by Martha Rising in the early eighties, which was a masterclass in sinuous laminations; while just last year Yuri Kurobashi made an incredibly delicate and refined chair using steam-bent strips of ash.

"George Nakashima and James Krenov also inspired me with their approach to craftsmanship and deep respect

for the wood they used. Similarly Alan Peters, an English furniture maker steeped in the Arts and Crafts tradition. All these people set the benchmarks for the rest of us."

Fine instruction

Haig complements his commissioned work by teaching at the Centre for Fine Woodworking on the outskirts of Nelson. "Once again, it was my brother-in-law, John Shaw, who was the spark here. He got the centre up and running in 2006, with help from a financial backer who had great faith in him.

"John's taught woodworking for much longer than me, and always had the vision of getting an independent wood school going. Initially, I just tagged along ... helping out with early courses and the curriculum. Ten years on and he has pulled back to get on with his own work, and so we've kind of swapped roles.

"I've been wanting to lead a group of students through an intensive and extended period of full immersion in the practice of fine woodworking and to develop their capacity for design. When the opportunity arose I put my name forward ... so I will be lead instructor for next year's nine-month programme. The school is in excellent heart right now – the management is running smoothly and the facilities are world class."

David Haig's Monogram rocking chair and other examples of his fine furniture can be seen at <http://www.davidhaigrockingchair.co.nz>.

Forestry assets 'on the right side' of investment trends

NEW Forests chief executive David Brand says forestry assets are "on the right side" of environmentally conscious investment trends after raising \$660 million from six overseas pension funds to invest in a new round of timber plantation acquisitions.

Capital commitments in New Forests' third Australia New Zealand Forest Fund are expected to grow to \$800 million, Mr Brand said, with the fund offering investors "high single-digit returns".

New Forests is eyeing up \$1.8 billion worth of forestry investments to grow its portfolio, which is concentrated in NSW, Victoria, SA and New Zealand. Mr Brand said there was \$22 billion worth of commercial timber plantations in Australia and New Zealand.



David Brand says institutions are selling out of fossil fuels and buying forestry assets.

"Forestry is an increasingly important asset class as investors seek to decarbonise investment portfolios and play a part in the emerging bio-economy," said Mr Brand, who established New Forests in 2005.

As a "net carbon-positive industry", forestry enables

investors to reduce their carbon footprint. "Institutions are selling out of fossil fuels

investor-backed managed investment schemes which collapsed following the global financial crisis.

Earlier this year, Japanese trading and investment giant Mitsui acquired a 22.5 per cent stake in New Forests. Explaining its decision, the company said the sector was positioned for further growth in the coming years "as institutional investors seek to increase investment in real assets like timber, agriculture, real estate, and infrastructure".

Mr Brand said the forestry sector was now entirely recapitalised, with institutional

'Forestry is an increasingly important asset class as investors seek to de-carbonise investment portfolios' – David Brand

and adding forestry and renewables to be on the right side of the trend," Mr Brand told the Australian Financial Review.

In November, mining giant BHP Billiton stumping up \$15.7 million to back a World Bank-issued "forests bond" that also attracted investment from QBE, JP Morgan and US pension giants CalSTRS and TIAA-CREF. The \$US152 million (\$204 million) bond is linked to a project to reduce deforestation in Kenya.

New Forests, which has \$3.6 billion of forestry assets and funds under management, including more than 780,000 hectares of timber plantations, was one of the few major players to survive the wreckage of the retail-

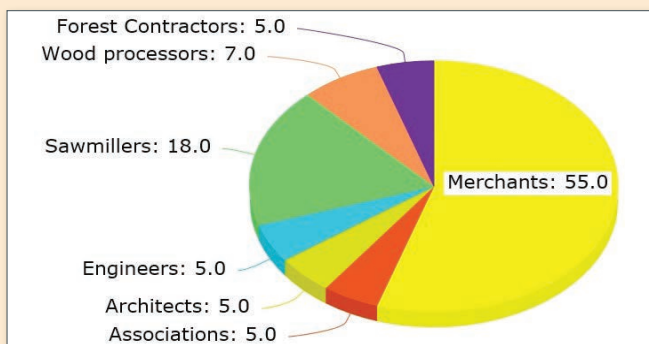
investors owning 60 per cent of the assets. The sector is also expanding into new products beyond paper and timber, including baby diapers and a high-energy fuel product, he said.

Apart from its green credentials, he said forestry investments appealed to institutions because of their low correlation with stocks and fixed-income products, their stable return profile, and because they have no real maturity point. "They're not like tomatoes," he said.

He added that market conditions in Australia were very good at present, with a lower dollar, record housing starts and China's huge growth driving demand for timber and paper.

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\$100 million for Maryborough jobseekers

Queensland sawmill to benefit from government incentive

MARYBOROUGH, it's time to get back to work.

That's the message from Queensland Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk as she visited the Heritage City to promote her government's \$100 million 'Back To Work' jobs package.

Since it was launched earlier this year the Back to Work program provides regional businesses employer support payments of up to \$10,000 when an unemployed worker or young jobseeker is hired.

Since it commenced in July, the Premier said the program had seen 131 new jobseekers in the Wide Bay-Burnett region find work.

Ms Palaszczuk saw the fruits of her government's labour when she visited Wade Sawmill, which had hired four people through the package.



Queensland Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk at Wade sawmill

targets young workers, with the 'youth boost' part of the program granting payments of \$20,000 for each new jobseeker between 15-24 years of age hired.

"The new Back to Work 'Youth Boost' has been strategically timed to coincide with the end of the senior school year," Ms Palaszczuk said. The program's

'I'd like to thank the Wade Sawmill for getting on board our Back to Work program, to give these people the opportunity to have a job' – Qld Premier

"We know how important employment is, and I want to drive youth unemployment down in the regions and make sure that people have the opportunity to get a job," she said.

Ms Palaszczuk said despite the program only hiring 131 people out of the entire Wide Bay-Burnett region, she hoped more Fraser Coast businesses would jump on board to help lower the region's severe unemployment rate, one of the worst in the state.

The new program specifically

'youth boost' is expected to be implemented from December 1 until February 28, 2017.

The program in its entirety has supported 731 jobs in regional Queensland, with a further 277 applications in the system.

Shadow Treasurer Scott Emerson, however, said the Premier had failed to mention that 1100 people in the region had lost their jobs in the past 12 months, according to the Bureau of Statistics.

"Youth unemployment is skyrocketing across the Wide Bay region and participation rates are plunging."



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Software finance - gain the benefits of improved technology without the initial drain on cash

IN a recent small business article, the statistics showed that 80% of business owners felt that there were significant operational efficiencies and economic gains to be had by implementing improved IT systems and software.

Pushing hard against this is the significant cost for those systems (including customisation and implementation) and it's potential drain of much the needed and protected working capital within these businesses. Despite the fact that they acknowledge the immense medium to long term gains available.

For the majority of small businesses, cash is king and the capital needed to buy the upgraded systems meant they were constantly put on the "back burner"

Most business owners are unaware that there are very workable software finance solutions in the market, which not only pay for the software



but also the professional services needed to customise, implement and train the staff on the new systems.

There are a number of financing alternatives available in the market with automatic approvals for the majority of businesses up to amounts as high as \$800,000.

This finance is typically over terms of 2 to 5 years and at interest rates around 8%.

Although these rates are higher than traditional equipment such as machinery or vehicles financed at interest rates of around 5%, the following numbers will put



By Mark O'Donoghue
... CEO & founder of Finlease.

this into context as the rapid amortisation of the debt is less affected by the interest rate.

Financing \$100,000 over a four year term has the following repayments:-

- At 5% - \$2,295 per month
- At 8% - \$2,425 per month

By intelligently using such tools as software finance, businesses can start to rethink

their strategies.

In a world where change is not only constant but accelerating, companies who do not regularly upgrade their operating systems, CRM and financial systems run the risk of falling further and further behind their competitors and where they can clearly see (using a hypothetical based on the example above) that a \$2,500 monthly expense generates \$7,500 in additional monthly bottom line through operational efficiencies and or greater sales, it is a no-brainer!

Understanding what is available and as a result re-calibrating the thought process that significant system improvements do not need to be an unattractive capital expense when it can so easily be an acceptable ongoing monthly expense relative to the gains provided, this can represent a significant step change for organisations and a launching platform to greater growth and profitability.

Some manufacturing technologies could benefit industry

From P 9

structural demands and requires products to stringently meet their claims.

"This sort of product misrepresentation has the potential to cause loss of life in the Australian form working industry," Mr Gover said. "Film-faced patchwork plywood is not formwork plywood."

It was clear that workplace health, safety, and environmental regulations are not as rigorous as those governing the Australian industry. Personal protective equipment was rarely worn and there appeared to be a distinct lack of higher order safety strategies, as evidenced by one worker pulling veneer through a guillotine controlled by another

– a major amputation risk which would not be accepted in Australian manufacturing.

"A level playing field for Australian manufacturers requires policies which recognise fitness for purpose, compliance with product standards, consistent standards for ensuring the safety and welfare of people, and consistent environmental risk management," Mr Gover said.

"Lack of regulation which should prevent furniture grade plywood being represented as formwork plywood, acceptance of material produced in unregulated or unpoliced work environments, and acceptance of material transported on poorly maintained freight fleets does not constitute a level

playing field — regardless of where that material is being produced.

Poor working conditions in emerging economies undermines manufacturing in more regulated environments, and makes the consumer complicit in condoning work practices that would not be accepted here.

"Unfortunately, acceptance of these practices results in legitimate producers everywhere being tarred with the same brush as those who lag far behind in terms of acceptable product and manufacturing practices," Mr Gover said.

"Poor manufacturing creates risk of non-conforming building products being used

in applications which demand high reliability, thereby creating serious issues for Australian manufacturers and users.

The tour provided great insight into the Chinese plywood industry, including some manufacturing technologies which could benefit Australian industry and major shortcomings in Chinese manufacturers' ability to meet Australian standards.

"The continuous development of competitive forests and technologies, coupled with strong regulatory support for fit-for-purpose products, and recognition of legitimate manufacturing practices, is essential to the ongoing success and competitiveness of forest products and timber construction," Mr Gover said.

Ultra-stylish Sorento packed with active safety technology

Driving to Villeneuve for a French connection

AS a small boy I remember playing on the sandy beaches and climbing over the German fortifications on Jersey in the Channel Islands.

Jersey Island, off the northern coast of Normandy, was my home for about a year before we returned to London and prepared to migrate to Australia in 1951.

The islands were the only part of Britain to be occupied by Nazi Germany during World War 2 and Jersey was one of the last to be liberated, peacefully, after the German surrender on May 9, 1945.

History aside, my only re-connection with that delightful island, home of the cream-rich Jersey cow, came a few weeks ago when I took a run up to Wamuran, a small town west of Caboolture, 45 km from Brisbane.

Cruising in Kia's latest luxury Sorento 2.2 L diesel, a mid-sized crossover SUV, we traversed some back roads and took a pit stop at 'Driftn-In', a horse farm at Villeneuve, a tiny town that has a direct French connection to the Island of Jersey.

Much of the original Villeneuve is underwater, the result of the Somerset Dam. But in the 1870s Frank Villeneuve Nicholson took up a large holding there, starting up the district's first sawmill in 1877.

Frank's family background was French and his relatives lived for generations on Jersey Island.

Nostalgia aside, it's time to get behind the wheel of the sleek platinum graphite-coloured Sorento, which could be described as at the lower end of the busy SUV market – Toyota LandCruiser, Prado, Kluger, Jeep Grand Cherokee, et al.

But at a reasonable \$40,990 for a petrol two-wheel drive Si and up to \$55,990 for the



The Kia Sorento diesel takes a rest at the Driftn-In property outside Villeneuve.

platinum turbo-diesel with all-wheel drive, the Sorento is ultra-stylish, something that will do it a lot of good in a rapidly-changing sales market in Australia. Almost a third of vehicles sold are crossovers or SUVs and Kia is keen to cut big share of the action.

The Sorento is also one of the leaders when it comes to standard features. Even the entry-level Si model is fixed with a six-speed automatic transmission, satellite navigation, 7 in. touchscreen, a raft of active and passive safety technology – including front-to-rear airbag protection – and one of ANCAP's highest-ever safety rating scores.

Every model comes with seven seats with the third row folding flat into the floor.

The list of standard equipment expands to include active

safety technology such as lane departure warning, blind-spot detection, and active cruise control – very impressive as it will speed match your car to the vehicle in front, and will even drive the car to a complete stop and then take off again without any need for the driver to do anything but steer.

Every model comes with seven seats

When reversing, the rear cross-traffic alert will detect if a car is crossing behind your path, which will help reduce car park incidents. Rounding out the 'standards' are heated and ventilated front seats, heated second-row seats and individual third-row air vents with separate on/off and fan control switches.



Inside the Kia Sorento .. 10 perfect driving positions

MOTORING



WITH.. ORSON WHEELS

The driver's seat has 10-way power-assistance, as well as four-way lumbar support and an extending knee support available at the touch of a button. It would be almost impossible not to find the perfect driving position. It also comes with two memory settings, so it's simply a matter of hitting a button on the door to move the seat and wing mirrors into your preferred set-up if you share the car with your partner.

Even the passenger seat has eight-way adjustment and two-way lumbar support, and the headrests for both front seats have four adjustments.

An electric power tailgate, which can make loading and unloading the car a lot easier, is also standard along with a panoramic sunroof, HID headlights and LED daytime running lights, a heated steering wheel and built-in sunshade blinds for rear passenger windows.

The 3.3-litre V6 petrol is an all-new design and puts out 199 kilowatts of power and 318 Nm of torque. The petrol powerplant is only offered in 2WD models, and as befits its heavier duty use, the diesel is used with all-wheel-drive.

All Sorento models have a six-speed automatic; manuals are rapidly becoming a thing of the past in Australia.

In a word, and with a nod to Jersey Island, c'est magnifique!

STRATEGIC FIRE MANAGER

Green Triangle Region, Australia
Permanent, Full-time

The Green Triangle region, which encompasses the south east area of South Australia and the western district of Victoria, is the centre of the largest contiguous area of forestry plantations in Australia. World-class, the region is long established and has attracted many of Australia's leading forest owners, growers and management organizations. Over many decades a strong spirit of cooperation has resulted in an informal but highly effective significant fire management alliance in the region.

The group has decided unanimously to take this cooperative arrangement to the next level. Accordingly, a Strategic Fire Manager is required to work towards forging a proposed, fully integrated forest fire management structure drawn from the significant, collective asset base of individual organizations.

The appointee will be required to represent the interests of all participating members in relevant industry, government and community forums; build consensus to recommended strategic plans, programs and priorities; and the implementation of clearly identified deliverables over the next 2 years to achieve significant synergies, standardization, utilization/performance and commercial outcomes.

Fostering greater cooperation among the member organizations, assessing and responding to the inherent fire risk, building strong

links to and relationships with all relevant external organizations including the CFS and CFA at regional and state level, is involved. It is envisaged that to implement this important initiative and strategy, the successful candidate will ideally be based within the region, quite possibly, but not necessarily in Mount Gambier, South Australia. As a minimum, the appointee must be prepared to commit to spending significant time on the ground in the region.

A strong record in senior fire management roles encompassing forest fire environments/risks underpinned by relevant qualifications, ideally including post graduate business management studies, is required. The appointee must be able to demonstrate: leadership qualities; the ability to command respect and inspire trust; the strong communication and interpersonal skills necessary to champion, influence and build consensus for new concepts and to advocate on behalf of all members.

How to apply:

Please email your resume, (quoting ref. no. R31028) to Allan Rae, Managing Partner, Cornerstone International Group Australia allan-rae@cornerstone-group.com

Initial enquiries may be directed to Allan Rae on +61 418 323 743 or +61 3 9674 7222.

ROADING SUPERVISOR

Tumut, NSW Australia
Permanent, Full-time

Forestry Corporation of NSW (FCNSW) is the largest manager of commercial native and plantation forests in NSW. Managing more than two million hectares of forests for the economic, environmental and social benefit of the people of NSW and Australia. FCNSW adheres to the values of integrity, collaboration, respect, innovation, customer and stakeholder focus, safety and sustainability. The Softwood Plantations Division of Forestry Corporation of NSW manages over 200,000 Ha of softwood plantations across NSW supplying over 3.2 million tonnes of log products annually.

The Position:

The Roothing Supervisor is responsible for the supervision of roading staff and contractors in the implementation of forest road maintenance and construction works to required environmental standards for a range of activities including harvesting, haulage, fire, stewardship and silviculture. In this role you will assess site conditions and collect data to facilitate the development and implementation of Operational Plans for optimal operational and financial outcomes as well as compliance with regulatory requirements.

The Successful Applicant:

The ideal candidate will be self-driven and enjoy working in a dynamic and fast paced environment; they will also ideally possess the following skills, qualifications and experience:

- Sound experience and knowledge of roading construction and maintenance operations, including good understanding of cost/quality requirements, ideally within a forest context.
- Excellent understanding and commitment to safety within an operational environment

- Experience in field forest operations at grass roots or management level
- Understanding of relevant operational guidelines and regulations related to soil and water protection
- Understanding, or ability to quickly learn, of plant production capabilities
- Ability to efficiently develop site based plans using planning systems
- Ability to manage an operation according to the site based plan.
- Well-developed planning, supervisory and contractor management skills
- Well-developed communication, team building and interpersonal skills
- Capacity and willingness to undertake fire roster duties, firefighting, work extended hours eg (fire roster), and to maintain sufficient fitness for the job (e.g. able to efficiently conduct reconnaissance / investigation through difficult terrain and dense vegetation) and a current drivers licence
- Proficient computer skills in Microsoft Office including Excel, Word, Outlook
- Knowledge of and willingness to learn Geographic Information Systems for Mapping

How to apply:

Applicants should email their application to jobapplications@fcnsw.com.au

Applications must be received by 09 December 2016.

For more information about role please contact Lisa Davies on +61 (02) 6981 4142.

PRODUCTION SUPERVISOR – SOUTH

Batemans Bay, NSW Australia
Permanent, Full-time

Job Description:

- Lead a small and dedicated team
- Overseeing seven harvesting crews along with associated haulage and logistics
- Flexible work arrangements
- Combination of field and office work
- Working in a motivated management team

The Position:

The Forestry Corporation of NSW (FCNSW) is seeking a highly motivated individual to provide the day to day management of seven harvesting crews along with the associated haulage and logistics. The team you'll be leading currently consists of three experienced forest based supervisors and an experienced wood-flow scheduler. The harvesting crews you'll be managing perform ground-based, selective harvesting in native eucalypt forests, predominately with linked haulage agreements. From the Batemans Bay resource FCNSW services five mid-sized sawmills, a large woodchip exporter and ten smaller customers.

The Person:

The ideal candidate will possess the following skills, qualifications

and experience:

- Relevant tertiary qualifications and 3-5 years' relevant experience, or extensive relevant operational experience
- Strong and demonstrable analytical skills
- Strong interpersonal and communication skills
- Proven skills and experience in managing multiple priorities and stakeholders in a pressured environment
- Sound knowledge and understanding of relevant industry codes of practice plus relevant legislation, regulatory requirements and best-practice methodologies

How to apply:

Please email your CV and a covering letter to jobapplications@fcnsw.com.au

Applications must be received by 18 December 2016.

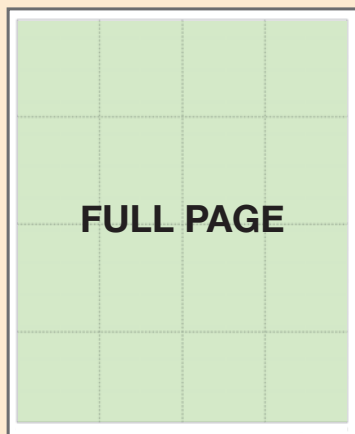
For a position description or for more information about the role please contact Andy Costello at andrew.costello@fcnsw.com.au or on +61 4 199 73 112.

Please note that the successful applicant will be required to satisfactorily complete a medical examination which includes Drug and Alcohol screening and a Fitness Test for firefighting duties.

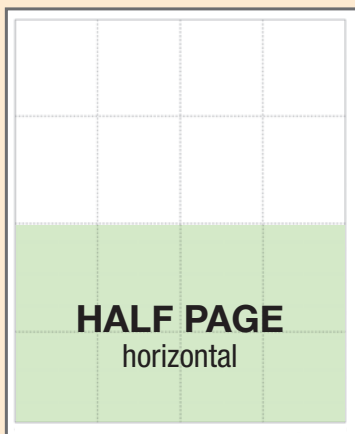
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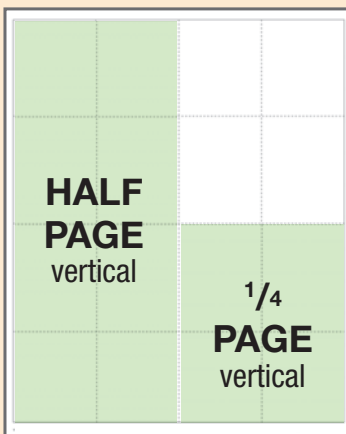
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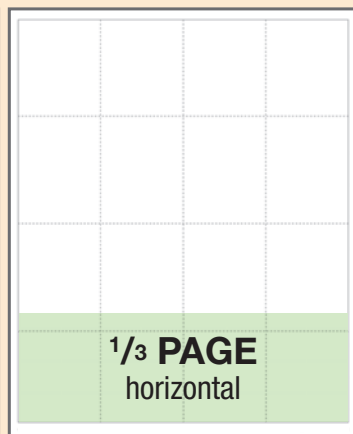


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