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# Mark's 'fine' award puts AFS focus on 'custody' in Tassie

## Efforts to build CoC certification earn Stanton trophy

By JIM BOWDEN

AN auditor and 'guardian' of Tasmania's scarce but value-rich speciality timbers industry has won the 2016 Richard Stanton Memorial Award for Excellence in Forest Management.

Mark Leech is a driving force behind Fine Timber Tasmania, a sustainability-focused, non-profit association which represents the state's



Worthy winner ... Mark Leech accepts the Richard Stanton Memorial Trophy and Award from AFS Ltd retiring chair Kate Carnell OA while new interim chair Dr Hans Drielsma (right) and CEO Simon Dorries offer congratulations.

Cont P 2



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\*Australian Forest Contractors Association (AFCA)



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# Simple, rigorous system that covers all steps in the industry supply chain

From P 1

specialty timbers supply chain – growers, processors, design makers and retailers – and promotes Australian Forestry Standard certified products.

The award and trophy were presented in Sydney on Tuesday during the annual general meeting of AFS Ltd by retiring chair Kate Carnell AO (see story, Page 4).

The award recognises the life of a man who was devoted to the forest industry in Australia and internationally.

Mr Stanton was CEO of AFS Ltd. He had previously held key roles in the Australian Plantation Products and Paper Industry Council (A3P); Australian Paper Industry Council; Plantation Timber Association of Australia; National Association of Forest Industries; and State Forests NSW.

Mr Leech also received a \$1000 bursary to assist him in future work in sustainable forest management.

## Passionate and vocal promoter of Tassie forests

The inaugural award was presented last year to Dr Marie Yee, senior conservation planner with Forestry Tasmania.

For more than a decade, Mark Leech has played a pivotal role in the development, and now strong uptake, of AFS chain-of-custody certification in Tasmania.

Fine Timber Tasmania owns a CoC certificate certified to AS4707 and recognised under the Australian Forest Certification Scheme, an assurance of the legal and sustainable origin of logs and a key selling point for high-



*Alison Carmichael, AFS Ltd director, and Sara Bray, AFPA policy manager, inspect the CLT construction elements of the Lendlease apartments at Barangaroo, an inner-city suburb of Sydney. See story Page 4.*

value timber products.

“Increasingly, consumers are demanding that the wood products they buy are made from timber that can be traced back to a sustainable and legal source,” Mr Leech said.

The Fine Timber Tasmania chain-of-custody system provides that assurance.

“It’s a simple, yet rigorous system that covers all steps in the supply chain, Mr Leech said.

The Fine Timber scheme now covers more than 40 sites ranging from the smallest user of high end specialty timbers building custom guitars to the largest sawmilling enterprises and wood fibre exporters.

Mr Leech serves in a voluntary capacity on the management committee of FTT, and since 2011 has provided internal auditing services. Through his consulting business, Brueckner Leech, he has now

taken on the responsibility of system coordinator, and provides the vital role of promoting and marketing AFS chain-of-custody certification to Tasmanian businesses. He regularly provides updates to AFS certificate holders on matters of interest, including opportunities for networking.

Mr Leech is a passionate and vocal advocate for the management of Tasmania’s forest and timber resources to internationally-accepted standards and that timber products going to market carry and satisfy the claims of certification.

His enthusiasm and commitment has encouraged many other individuals and businesses to embrace chain-of-custody certification.

“Mark embodies the type of personal contribution which really does make a difference in the forests and beyond,” AFS Ltd chair Kate Carnell said.

# 'Mass plywood panel' new option over CLT?

## Inventor claims product uses 30pc less wood

AN Oregon, USA, lumber company has developed a 'mass plywood panel' it says will be a cost-effective alternative to cross-laminated timber.

Freres Lumber, based in the city of Lyons, says once patents are in place and production equipment is built, the innovation will revolutionise construction.

"We have the raw material. We have the tools. We've been inventing and testing the product for some time," says Rob Freres, the company's vice-president.

He unveiled the 'mass plywood panel' – a veneer-based wood product engineered, tested and refined in partnership with Oregon State University – in Lyons last week.

University studies suggest veneer-based mass timber panels can potentially achieve the strength of cross-laminated timbers with 20% to 30% less wood.

"It's pretty exciting, I've got to say," said Mr Freres, who said the company had worked on developing the panel for more than a year.

"It's a major innovation – maybe the first veneer-based product of this size and scale that's been proposed to the marketplace," he said.

### 'Maybe this is the first veneer-based product for size and scale proposed in the marketplace'

"It's a large investment, but that's what it takes to differentiate yourself, add value and stay on the cutting edge of innovation and technology."

Mr Freres will share the news with industry peers during the North American Wholesale Lumber Association's annual Traders Market Show in Las Vegas this week.

Vice-president of sales Tyler Freres described the new product as a massive, large-scale



*Tyler Freres ... veneer most appropriate raw material for mass timber panels.*

plywood panel with dimensions up to 3.6 m wide, 14.6 m in length and 610 mm thick. The panels can be customised to fit specific projects.

Freres Lumber says the 'mass plywood panel' is designed as an alternative to CLT, an engineered panel that allows wood products to be used for multi-storey buildings while also speeding up construction. Rob Freres says the two products are differentiated in that the 'mass plywood panel' uses engineered veneer and custom plywood layups as a base material rather than lumber.

"We believe veneer is the most appropriate raw material for mass timber panels in the Pacific Northwest," Tyler Freres said.

"Our veneer plants can efficiently and responsibly use second and third growth timber with a minimum 127

mm block diameter to produce engineered panels."

Veneer works well in part because defects within the log are engineered out of the raw material prior to constructing the mass panel.

"The compounded veneer layers, and the ability to engineer each individual layer means that we can customise the panels to specific engineering needs," Mr Freres said.

The company cites several



*Rob Freres ... ramping up production.*

advantages of the panel, including the ability to manufacture large-format panels at the production

facility to include window, door and all other required cut-outs, minimising waste and labour on site.

Additionally, the relative lightness of the panels decrease transportation costs and logistics when constructing buildings on the job site. Freres officials also believe the panel's aesthetic appeal will make it a competitive new option.

Freres Lumber has tentative plans to construct the mass plywood panel factory close to its six other wood-processing plants and anticipates to be in full production by the end of 2017.

"It's going to take most of next year to have the equipment built for this next plant," Rob Freres said.

"Then we plan on ramping up our production by the end of it."

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# New AFS chair played key role in certification scheme

## Dr Hans Drielsma helped to gain endorsement by PEFC

A RESPECTED forester who played a key role in the development of the Australian Forest Certification Scheme and its endorsement by PEFC has accepted the role of interim chairman of AFS Ltd.

Dr Hans Drielsma succeeds Kate Carnell AO who was lauded for her services to Australian Forestry Standard Ltd at the AGM in Sydney on Tuesday.

Dr Drielsma is internationally renowned and was appointed to the PEFC council as a board director in 2006. In this role he has been instrumental in the development of a more active multi-national promotion of the PEFC in the Asia region, and has served on the PEFC International Governance Review Panel.

A recipient of the prestigious Institute of Foresters of Australia's Norman Jolly Medal for outstanding services to the forestry profession, Dr Drielsma has post-graduate qualifications from Yale



*Job well done ... new interim chair of Australian Forestry Standard Ltd Dr Hans Drielsma presents a certificate of appreciation and gift to retiring chair Kate Carnell at the AGM in Sydney.*

University in forest policy and natural resources sociology. He is a former managing director of ForestsNSW, executive general manager of Forestry Tasmania, and board member of the CRC for Forestry.

### Maximising market acceptance

Kate Carnell, a granddaughter of Victor Grenning (1899-1984), inaugural winner of the Jolly Medal in 1959 and one-time director of Queensland

Forestry, remains busy as Small Business and Family Enterprise ombudsman.

The statutory organisation launched in March assists businesses to resolve disputes without resorting to costly litigation and works to ensure government policies take into account the needs of small businesses and family enterprises.

AFS Ltd board members include Alison Carmichael, general manager, Agsafe, Alan Bones, general manager, sales and marketing, Carter Holt Harvey Woodproducts, Craig

Dunn, marketing manager, sustainability, Australian Paper, Colin Fitzpatrick, CEO, TABMA Australia, Suzanne Little, environmental scientist; Craig Smith, CFMEU forestry division, Nathan Trushell, director, strategy and corporate affairs, VicForests, and David West, general manager, stewardship, HQPlantations.

CEO Simon Dorries reported that the total forest area certified to AFS had reached 26,870,000 ha and was growing. The organisation administers 266 chain-of-custody certificates, which includes New Zealand where AFS administers the PEFC scheme.

He said AFCS remained a sound and stable operation with an increased profile and brand awareness through targeted marketing.

"This is aimed at maximising market acceptance, market awareness and the benefits provided to scheme participants," Mr Dorries said.



*Lendlease construction manager David Elliott and site manager Oliver Close point out the features of the CLT components at International House to site tour members David West, general manager, stewardship, HQPlantations, and Tim Cleary, skills advisory manager, ForestWorks.*



*Lendlease's Andrew Nieland (in white hard hat, left of centre) with AFS Ltd directors and other industry representatives during a tour of the construction site at International House in Sydney.*

# AFS directors get close site view at Barangaroo

AUSTRALIA'S first engineered timber office building at Barangaroo in inner Sydney captivated Australian Forestry Standard directors and industry officials who inspected the complex at close quarters this week.

The group was hosted by

Andrew Nieland, head of Lendlease's new business DesignMake, David Elliott, construction manager, and Oliver Close, site manager.

Mr Nieland is responsible for the commercial feasibility of the project and was appointed commercial manager, with overall

financial responsibility.

International House fronts directly onto Exchange Square, an entry point into the precinct, and will be a symbol of innovation and sustainability greeting more than 33,000 daily visitors.

The building's main construction uses cross

laminated timber and glulam – sustainable and certified products with a far lower carbon footprint than other building materials.

Features of the building are huge beam struts at the base of the building made from solid recycled iron bark.



# AROUND THE CIRCUIT 2016

## NOVEMBER

**3: ATIF board meeting and 2016 AGM** – Qantas meeting rooms, Domestic Terminal, Sydney Airport. Board meeting commences at 10:30am, lunch with guests at 12: 30 pm. AGM commences at 1:30 pm. Inquiries to John Halkett. Email: john.halkett@bigpond.com or phone 0417 421 187

**18: VAFI annual industry dinner**– RACV City Club, Melbourne. Celebrating the

130th year of the Victorian Association of Forest Industries. Good food, good friends and good fun – and a dessert buffet and cake to mark the birthday! Contact: VAFI, GPO Box 4320, Melbourne 3001. Tel: (03) 9611 9000 or email info@vafi.org.au

**24: Sustainable Timber in Building Seminar** – Designed for architects, specifiers and building design professionals. Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre. An

initiative of Australian Forestry Standard Ltd. Focusing on subjects ranging from timber as an environmentally positive material, green star programs and new and innovative wood products to sustainable forest management, environmental product declaration and issues such as finishing, staining and product stability. Contact AFS Ltd, PO Box 786, New Farm, Q 4005. Tel: +61 7 3359 1758 or email: info@forestrystandard.org.au

www.forestrystandard.org.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.

# Another strong year for VicForests

STATE-owned business VicForests achieved its best ever full-year operating result of \$6.8 million for the 2015-16 year and a net profit after tax of \$3.4 million.

CEO Robert Green remarked this was the fourth consecutive year VicForests had returned a profit and as at June 30 the organisation was completely debt free.

“We have continued to demonstrate profitability over the last four years, and provided a growing dividend stream to the state as a result of our operations,” Mr Green said.

“A dividend of \$1.502 million was paid to the Victorian Treasurer in July this year following a successful year in 2014-15 and we will discuss the payment of further dividends on the back of our result in the 2015-16 year,” he said.

VicForests also made great strides in safety performance in 2015-16 where within a period of 12 consecutive months there were no lost time injuries for staff as well as a 50% reduction in contractor lost time injuries.

“Achieving these outcomes indicates that our goal of ‘zero harm’ is a realistic



**Robert Green ... great strides in safety performance.**

and achievable target,” Mr Green said.

“Unfortunately lost time injuries still occur, but when they do we work to identify the causes of the accidents so we can ensure they don’t happen again.”

This financial year saw

VicForests’ improved R&D practices result in regular detections of threatened species.

“Throughout the areas we operate in we have detected Leadbeater’s possums, greater gliders, threatened owls, long-footed potoroos and other threatened species,” Mr Green said.

Mr Green said VicForests’ strong financial performance was further evidence that the native timber industry continued to be a strong and essential part of the Victorian economy.

## 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-news.com. Written information only please.



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# Green building champion elected to board of FWPA

## Meeting flags strategic investments in research

GREEN building champion Tony Arnel was elected to the board of Forest and Wood Products Australia at the annual general meeting in Launceston this week.

Mr Arnel is the global director of sustainability at Norman Disney & Young and works across the worldwide network of NDY offices in six countries.

He is a life fellow of the Green Building Council of Australia, a founding director and was chair between 2007 and 2012. During this time, he was also chair of the World Green Building Council (2008-2011).

"The nomination of Mr Arnel and subsequent election by the members is a testimony to the calibre of director candidates attracted to the company," FWPA chair John Simon said.

Addressing the meeting, Mr Simon noted that the previous financial year had been highly significant for the company with the change to the National

Construction Code to allow for taller timber buildings taking effect from May 1.

"The change to the code is an excellent example of how FWPA can make strategic investments in research, particularly in fire and acoustics, and then identify a pathway to adoption through the deemed-to-satisfy requirements," Mr Simon said.

"Using its market resources and strong alliances with building professions, the company is able to ensure widespread support for the change."

### Appointment testimony to the calibre of directors

Based on FWPA's market research, more than 75% of building professionals are now aware of the change and the opportunities for both lightweight and massive timber construction.



Tony Arnel

John Simon

Mr Simon referred to other key initiatives for FWPA, including an updated TV advertising campaign in conjunction with Planet Ark, and again featuring Peter Maddison, the host of Grand Designs Australia.

Other achievements, equally important but less visible, include work on improved industry statistics, timber design life, genetics, and tools to predict wood quality.

Mr Simon thanked his fellow directors for their commitment and contribution in their diligent oversight of the company. He particularly identified the work of Craig Taylor, a non-member director, who was stepping down

from the board.

"Craig has been a very positive contributor and his insights will be missed," Mr Simon said.

At a subsequent FWPA board meeting, the directors re-elected John Simon as the chairman of the board.

"I am grateful for the support of my fellow directors and I look forward to maintaining the strategic focus and strong corporate governance of the organisation," said Mr Simon.

"The strength of FWPA lies in its capability to articulate and implement its rolling five-year plan in a collaborative and systematic manner," he explained. "The company is now transitioning to a new strategic plan that is focused on five outcome-driven programs.

"I am confident FWPA will continue to deliver effective and valuable outcomes for its members and for the federal government."

## Government announces new name, new size for Forestry Tasmania

FORESTRY Tasmania will be renamed and a further 35 jobs will be cut under a revamp announced by the state government this week.

FT will remain a government business, but will be downsized and renamed Sustainable Timber Tasmania. The state-owned company has reported

a loss of \$67 million.

The state is pushing ahead with its plan to open up reserved forests to logging two years earlier than permitted under its

own laws. The government will table legislation next year to open up 400,000 ha of forest to logging by July 2018.



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# Foresters lead China-Australia relationship with MOU signing

COOPERATION between Australia and China in the field of forestry has been germinating for some time, but this week the first signs of real strength and maturity in the relationship took hold.

The national president of the Institute of Foresters of Australia Rob de Fégely signed an historic memorandum of understanding with the president of the Chinese Society of Forestry Zhao Shucong.

Rob de Fégely said the MOU builds on the significant interaction between IFA members and provides an important vehicle

for building the relationship as economic ties grow between the two countries.

“China is now our major forest products trading partner and so it makes sense for us to trade ideas and skills as well as products,” Mr de Fégely said.

## Trading ideas and skills, as well as products

“The MOU is a culmination of a number of years building relationships between our



**Rob de Fégely**  
... building relationships.

two organisations and the recent China-Australia Forestry Exchange Program has been the catalyst to develop a more formal and higher level relationship.

‘A forestry investment forum was held in Sydney earlier this month specifically aimed at Chinese investors.

‘It was fitting that the Chinese

Forestry Society also signed MOUs with the Japan Forestry Society, the Korean Forestry Society and the Canadian Institute of Foresters at the same time.”

Mr de Fégely said all countries were important trading partners of Australia and similarly had a long history in forest management and development.

The Chinese Society of Forestry was founded in 1917 and is one of the oldest academic societies in China, while the Australian Institute of Foresters is not a lot younger, celebrating its 80th birthday this year.

## Survey seeks feedback on FWPA performance

GLOBAL professional service provider GHD Pty Ltd is completing a performance review of Forest and Wood Products Australia.

As part of the review, GHD is

seeking feedback by way of a confidential on-line survey.

“This survey provides an opportunity to reflect on FWPA’s performance and highlight any areas you feel require attention,”

GHD principal consultant Joe Lane said.

Industry can complete the survey by using the following on-line link:

[www.ghd.com/FWPAreview](http://www.ghd.com/FWPAreview)

Deadline for completing the survey is Friday, November 11.

Further information is available from Joe Lane of GHD, Tel: (02) 4222 2321, Mob: 0415 269 934 or email: [joe.lane@ghd.com](mailto:joe.lane@ghd.com)

## Imbil logger new chairman of AFCA

CONTRACTOR Adan Taylor of GMT Logging based at Imbil in Queensland has been elected new chair of the Australian Forest Contractors Association at the AGM in Mount Gambier, SA.

New directors are Andrew Mahnken, Christian Stafford, Mick Johnston and Ricky Leeson. Ken Padgett and Dennis Smith retired from the board after

many years of dedicated service.

Ian Reid stepped down after four years as AFCA chair and eight years as a director. He navigated the association through the tough times of the GFC and a downturn in forestry and his tireless work helped secure its future.

GMT Logging is a family-owned and operated business,

which commenced harvesting plantation timber in the Mary Valley in 1976 and now operates over a wide area of the state. The company undertakes clearfall logging as well as thinnings.

More than 50 people attended the AGM and dinner on October 14 including Tony Pasin, MP Baker and SA Member for Mount Gambier Troy Bell MP.

“Forestry is reported to directly employ 11% of our community in the state’s southeast, so if the state government wants a regional development strategy they need to invest in the forest industry,” Mr Bell said.

“Somebody once said that forestry is about family, communities and generations, I couldn’t agree more,” he said.

## Bali talks focus on sustainable supply chains

PEFC will host its annual stakeholder dialogue in Bali on November 17 and 18 exploring the role of forest certification and sustainable supply chains in sustainable landscapes for sustainable livelihoods.

“The dialogue will build clarity and vision on the role of forest certification, sustainable supply chains and stakeholders in catalysing sustainable

landscapes and livelihoods,” PEFC CEO Ben Gunneberg said.

“The world needs more ambitious forest-based solutions,” he said.

“This event will provoke exchange among participants on how sustainable forestry and forest certification can move beyond traditional boundaries to further accelerate sustainable development.



**Ben Gunneberg**  
... the world needs more ambitious forest-based solutions.

“It will challenge, motivate and inspire forest sector leadership in promoting sustainable landscapes where trees deliver

maximum positive impacts to people and the environment.”

For registration details and agenda, contact [sarah.price@pefc.org](mailto:sarah.price@pefc.org)

The PEFC Council is located at the World Trade Centre 10, route de l’Aéroport CH-1215 Geneva Switzerland. Tel: +41 22 799 45 40.

[www.pefc.org](http://www.pefc.org)

# Tough competition for TABMA awards: profile of the winners

HIGH quality entries made for strong competition between entrants in TABMA's Queensland timber industry awards and set a challenging task for the judges, CEO Colin Fitzpatrick and industry identity Bruce Harle.

TABMA Queensland manger Alicia Oelkers thanked award sponsors ITI Queensland (gold), Woodhouse Timber and Gunnensen (silver), Ozline Timbers, Training Prospects, Tilling Timber, Hyne Timber, Timber Queensland and Parkside Timber (bronze), and event sponsors TABMA Training, Australian Timber Importers Federation, Gow Gates, DMK Forest Products, Wesbeam and Langs Building Supplies.

Winner of Best Sawmilling Operation Hyne Timber is one of the largest, privately-owned timber manufacturers in Australia dating back six generations



*TABMA state manager Alicia Oelkers with Graham Leddy, TABMA Queensland vice chairman and managing director of Versace Timbers, who presented awards to all winners at the industry awards dinner in Brisbane.*

to 1882.

More than \$123 million has been invested in Hyne's Tuan mill near Maryborough since it was commissioned in 1985 to ensure high-speed, high-quality timber production. The kilometres of structural framing produced each day from this mill alone would stretch from Brisbane to Bundaberg.

ITI Queensland, Best Timber Wholesale Operation, is a division of ITI Australia, which started as a small, privately-owned timber importer with three staff in Five

Dock, Sydney, in 1987. Owned by Paul Shadbolt, ITI Australia today is the largest independent wholesale timber distributor in Australia with nine distribution centres.

ITI Queensland has grown from strength to strength over the past few years by not only recruiting key staff but having the right stock on the ground at the right time. The site at Bundamba spans 10.5 ha with more than 30,000 sq m of shed space, ensuring key brands such as AZEK Pavers, Champion Dressed Boards, Design Pine,

EziTrim Plus, INEX boards, Modwood decking, Prolam merbau and Weathertex products are stocked to capacity.

Gowan Lea Timbers, Best Timber Merchant, is situated on the Sunshine Coast and operates its own sawmill, treatment plant, kiln and dressing sheds and specialises in premium quality Queensland hardwoods.

Gowan Lea commenced operation in 1992 and has 14 full-time staff.

Trainee of the Year Brennan Turner of Hudson Home Timber and Hardware at Nerang is responsible for the trade counter and shop floor.

Host Employer of the Year, Woodhouse Timber, has been co-host of TABMA and its apprenticeship program for eight years. Woodhouse

**Cont P 9**

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**Best Building Materials Centre – Bretts Home Timber and Hardware, Sam Muller.**



**Best Frame and Truss Fabricator – Langs Building Supplies, Neil Whinton.**



**Best Timber Wholesale Operation – ITI Queensland, Bob Johnston.**



**Best Timber Merchant – Gowan Lea Timbers, Anthony Thomas.**

# Award winners praise innovative staff

From P 8

strongly encourages the younger generation to grow and develop and has enjoyed watching their success.

Most Innovative Operation, the Parkside Wondai dry mill, is a family-owned hardwood sawmiller producing decorative, structural and joinery products. Parkside is the largest manufacturer of spotted gum and processes a range of other species including ironbark and forest reds. Parkside has two

large plants in Wondai (dry mill) and Wandoan and two traditional sawmills at Theodore and Wondai (green mill).

Best Timber Wholesale Representative Melonie Conduit of Parkside Timber has 10 years' sales experience in the field. Since joining Parkside in 2010, Mel has played a significant role in customers buying into the Parkside brand but also has lifted the company's profile.

Best Timber Manufacturing Operation Timbeck Architectural (Oregon Sales) is a third generation

family-owned business now entering its 50th year of timber manufacture. The company is one of Australia's largest importers and manufacturers of shutter, blind and joinery components in addition to an extensive weatherboard, panelling and cladding range.

The business has diversified in recent years to include a range of hardwood cladding and panelling products, as well as customised pre-factory oiling and coating for its extensive range of screening profiles.

Best Building Materials Centre Bretts Home Timber and Hardware has earned the reputation as number one specialist hardware outlet for tradies and serious DIYers, offering advice on projects inside and outside the home with access to thousands of products.

The awarding of Best Frame and Truss Fabricator to Langs Building Supplies is a credit to owner Bob Lang and the dedication and passion of staff who follow the Langs culture of safety, quality and service.

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# Thirteen organisations benefit from wood and fibre processing innovation program

BIOENERGY and biomass are at the forefront of 13 grants revealed under the Tasmanian state government's \$1.25 million Wood and Fibre Processing Innovation Program.

However, the Wilderness Society believes the grants will be used by the government as a justification to pursue logging of 400,000 hectares of forest, locked up until 2020.

The Meander Valley Council, Dorset Renewable Industries and East Tamar Maintenance Services are just a few of the organisations to benefit, with projects ranging from bioenergy generation to pellet production.

Tasmania's Resources Minister Guy Barnett said the 13 grants, valued up to \$100,000, would allow the government to unlock \$7.15 million of investment in the forestry industry across regional



*Resources Minister Guy Barnett and East Tamar Maintenance Services managing director Chris Barcza hold up pyrethrum waste used for biomass with wood fibre*

Tasmania, creating more than 30 jobs.

East Tamar Maintenance Services managing director Chris Barcza said the grant would allow him to progress production on biomass fuelled heating appliances and a fuel production facility.

"It gives us an opportunity to enlarge a facility that

already exists in Bell Bay, and potentially take it interstate," he said.

Meander Valley Council Craig Perkins said the \$100,000 grant would go towards undertaking a \$375,000 feasibility study into bioenergy and production at the Valley Central Industrial Precinct.

## Grants planned to spearhead growth

He said the study, partly funded by council, could look at how other businesses such as Tasmanian Alkaloids could utilise bioenergy – with significant private investment opportunities.

Wilderness Society spokesperson Bicka Bayley said he believed opening up the hectares would undermine market confidence.

"No amount of feasibility studies will hide the fact that the government clearly has no plan when it comes to forestry," he said.

"There's a whole range of different critiques around biomass – it's not sustainable, and there's question marks over native forest logging – it's not carbon neutral."

Mr Barnett said he would have more to say on obtaining early access to the 400,000 hectares in the near future, after questions were raised

on whether the viability of the projects would depend on this plan.

"What it's contingent on is resource security (the grants), what is important in Tasmania is that we have ongoing resource security, obviously for the private sector and Forestry Tasmania," he said.

The successful applicants:

- Meander Valley Council: \$100,000 to develop a business case for bioenergy generation and distribution
- Mondelez Australia Pty Ltd: \$100,000 towards a feasibility study for conversion of boiler from natural gas to biomass
- Norske Skog Paper Mills (Australia) Ltd: \$100,000 to build a residue processing and engineering plant
- Pentarch Forest Products Pty Ltd: \$96,500 to enhance current timber processing and manufacturing centre
- East Tamar Maintenance Services Pty Ltd: \$95,000 for the construction of a biomass fuel production facility and a fabrication facility for appliances
- Dorset Renewable Industries Pty: \$100,000 to further develop a project for a wood pellet plant
- Wood Pellets Tasmania: \$69,000 for the integration of a shaving process and baling operation into an existing pelleting operation
- Botanical Resources Australia – Manufacturing Services Pty Ltd: \$87,500 for the evaluation of a pellet production using a range of products
- Huon Valley Timbers Pty Ltd: \$100,000 towards changing a timber drying kiln for an LPG gas-fired system to biomass fuel technology using mill residue
- ARTEC Australia Pty Ltd: \$100,000 towards processes to allow for all docking waste to be dried for sale

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# Increased supply solution to housing affordability

MASTER Builders Australia welcomes the Treasurer's announcement of a way forward to tackling housing affordability.

"The Treasurer Scott Morrison has correctly identified the role supply side constraints play in artificially pushing up the price of housing. Tackling housing affordability by addressing the structural impediments to supply should be a priority for this term of government," Wilhelm Harnisch, CEO of Master Builders Australia said.

"Master Builders long standing policy position aligns with that of the Government which is to keep home ownership within reach of every day Australians, but to also preserve the value of housing – the most significant investment for most Australian and the single most important factor in maintaining household wealth and living standards," he said.

"Treasurer Morrison rightly cautioned against the use of 'sledge hammer' policies, like the proposed changes to negative gearing by the Labor party, noting that solutions that only focus on affordability in Sydney and Melbourne may have the opposite effect in other housing markets," Wilhelm Harnisch said.

"Master Builders calls for negative gearing rules to remain unchanged," he said.

"Two speed splits in the housing market, such as between the eastern states and the mining states, between detached housing and apartment markets, and between inner-city and regional markets, all need to be equally considered when developing housing policies that are aimed at addressing affordability issues," Wilhelm Harnisch said.



**Treasurer Scott Morrison** tackling house affordability.



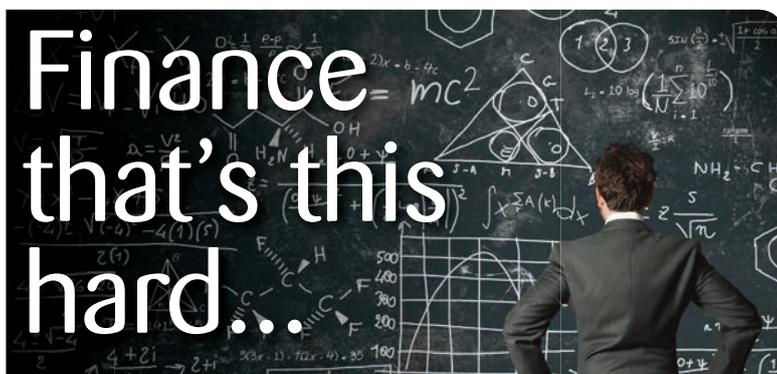
**Wilhelm Harnisch, Master Builders Chief Executive Officer.**

put upward pressure on house prices. Master Builders has consistently called for the use of competition payments by the federal government to the states and territories as outlined in the Harper Review into Competition Policy 2015 and Master Builders 5 Point Steps for More Affordable Housing," he said.

"Over the medium to long term Australia will still be likely to face a housing deficit not only in number but also in the range of housing options. For instance, the availability of suitable housing stock to meet the need of baby-boomers who are seeking to right size," Wilhelm Harnisch said.

"Master Builders therefore strongly backs the Treasurer's focus on the removal of inefficient land use regulations that restrict housing supply and

"It is therefore important that the immediate policy response is to remove structural impediments to the building of more new and diverse range of housing stock," Wilhelm Harnisch said.



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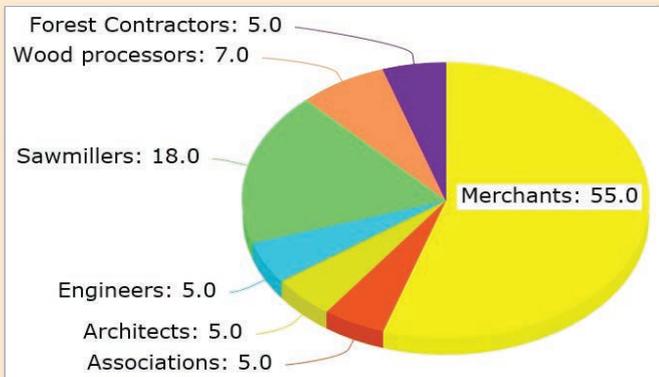
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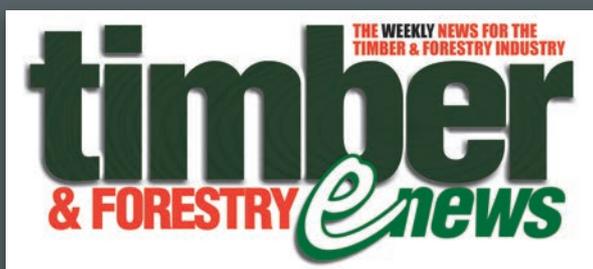


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*All eyes on Portland: If Framework succeeds, mass-timber construction advocates see a US building boom ahead.*

# Fired up! Tall timber tower passes key test in USA

By **JOHN GREGERSON**

CONSTANTLY "putting out fires" is no way to run a major political campaign, but advocates of tall wood construction are happy to do it if it will win over the many doubters of their product.

This month, the designers behind Framework, a 12 storey, mass-timber tower in Portland OR, just put out several fires, and they are excited to tell the world. Extensive testing on what would be the tallest US wood structure has allayed many concerns about the ability of its key structural components — including glulam and cross-laminated timber (CLT) — to maintain their integrity during a two-hour blaze, according to Thomas Robinson, principal with Portland-based project architect Lever Architecture.

Presenting last week in Washington DC at the National Building Museum's ongoing Timber City exhibit, Robinson enthusiastically announced, "The two-hour fire rating achieved for the project's glulam beam-to-column connection is a fundamental breakthrough in mass-timber construction, exceeding results anywhere in the world... Combined with the four-hour fire rating achieved for the CLT

floors, this system allows mass timber to be used for high-rise construction, with some timber exposed."

The achievement marks a significant step forward for Framework, one of two buildings selected last year to receive a \$1.5-million grant from the US Department of Agriculture and Softwood Lumber Association, in support of tall wood demonstration projects. Of note, Framework now is the first project in North America to undergo fire tests on exposed glulam connections and CLT, as well as glulam beam-to-floor assemblies, according to the project team. In addition to Lever, they include local developer Portland-based Walsh Construction, Seattle-based KPFF Consulting Engineers, and timber specialists Structure Craft design-builders.

Said Project partner Anyeley Hallova said, "(This) could create a model for future CLT projects."

Of course, local building code groups still must be persuaded. To date, virtually all jurisdictions require that CLT and glulam components be encased in several layers of Type X fire-

Cont P 13



CLT fire testing was done at a facility in Texas. Here, workers prepare the column-to-beam connection for the test.

## Some hoops to jump through but indications are good

From P 12

resistant drywall due to wood's perceived susceptibility to fire. This opinion persists, despite vast differences in the performance between heavy-timber and lightweight timber frames, as well as the introduction of sprinklers to building structures. Further, "mass timber forms a charcoal coating when exposed to fire that functions as a protective barrier that insulates interior layers," said David Barber, principal fire protection officer for London-based engineering giant ARUP. "It's why large trees in forests regenerate after a fire. The wood at their core remains moist."

US jurisdictions have remained skeptical, placing height and other restrictions on mass-timber that have slowed adoption, despite the sustainable performance wood achieves relative to steel and concrete. But now the green building movement and modular construction advocates each are finding allies in the other. After all, the majority of mass-timber buildings are able to be pre-assembled in a controlled environment, so crews can expedite construction on site.

These are among the reasons that so many eyes now are on Framework, and that its team is proceeding with great care and precision. "We've been preparing for a long time,"

said Lever project manager Jonathan Heppner, speaking to reporters last week. "The first round of fire tests was in July; the second round was this month."

In between, he explained, project team members had modified the thickness of wood components and the manner in which steel components, including metal screws, interfaced with the wood. It would appear that the alterations worked.

Additional testing for fire-resistance, structural design, and acoustics has been performed at numerous facilities, including Oregon State University, Portland State University, and London's Intertek, an inspection, testing and certification entity with a US lab in Pittsburgh. All evaluations are expected to be completed in November. Of note, structural testing will include an earthquake-resistant design inspired by 21st century seismic events in Japan and New Zealand. The idea is to see if a wood core can be built to have enough elasticity to rebound to its original position.

If all stays on track, Framework will break ground in March 2017 and open for occupancy just 12 months later. And along the way, there may be one added benefit: noise reduction. "The construction is so quiet," noted Heppner. "I think the neighbours will appreciate it."

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# Wood pulp - the solar wave of the future

## Energy-harvesting wood floors could be the next great green thing

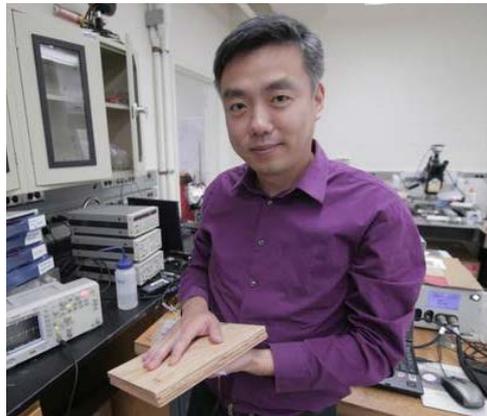
RESEARCHERS at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, among them Chinese materials engineers, have developed a simple method that converts footsteps into usable electricity.

Xudong Wang, an associate professor of materials science and engineering at UW-Madison, his graduate student Chunhua Yao, and their collaborators developed a method that puts to good use a common waste material: wood pulp.

The pulp, which is already a common component of flooring, is partly made of cellulose nanofibres. They're tiny fibres that when chemically treated, produce an electrical charge when they come into contact with untreated nanofibres.

When the nanofibres are embedded within flooring, they're able to produce electricity that can be harnessed to power lights or charge batteries.

And because wood pulp is a cheap, abundant and renewable waste product of several industries, flooring that incorporates the new technology can be as affordable as conventional materials.



Associate Professor Xudong Wang holds a prototype of the researchers' energy harvesting technology, which uses wood pulp and harnesses nanofibres

While there are existing similar materials for harnessing footstep energy, they're costly, non-recyclable, and impractical at a large scale.

Wang's research centres around using vibration to generate electricity.

For years, he's been testing different materials in an effort to maximize the merits of a technology called a "triboelectric nanogenerator" (TENG).

Triboelectricity is the same phenomenon that produces static electricity on clothing. Chemically treated cellulose nanofibres are a simple, low-cost and effective alternative for harnessing this broadly existing mechanical energy source,

Wang says.

The UW-Madison team's advance is the latest in a green energy research field called "roadside energy harvesting" that might rival solar power -- and it doesn't depend on fair weather. Researchers like Wang that study roadside energy harvesting methods see the ground as holding great renewable energy potential well beyond its limited fossil fuel reserves.

"Roadside energy harvesting requires thinking about the places where there is abundant energy we could be harvesting," said Wang.

"We've been working a lot on harvesting energy from human

activities. One way is to build something to put on people, and another way is to build something that has constant access to people. The ground is the most-used place."

Heavy traffic floors in hallways and places like stadiums and malls that incorporate the technology could produce significant amounts of energy, said Wang.

Each functional portion inside such flooring has two differently charged materials -- including the cellulose nanofibres, and would be a millimeter or less thick. The floor could include several layers of the functional unit for higher energy output.

"So once we put these two materials together, electrons move from one to another based on their different electron affinity."

The electron transfer creates a charge imbalance that naturally wants to right itself, but as the electrons return, they pass through an external circuit. The energy that process creates is the end result of TENGs.

Wang said TENG technology could be easily incorporated into all kinds of flooring once it's ready for the market.

He's now optimizing the technology, and hopes to build an educational prototype in a high-profile spot on the UW-Madison campus where he can demonstrate the concept. He knows it will be cheap and durable.

"Our initial test in our lab shows that it works for millions of cycles without any problem," he noted.

"We haven't converted those numbers into year of life for a floor yet, but I think with appropriate design it can definitely outlast the floor itself."

The team published details of the advance Sept. 24 in the journal Nano Energy. The Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation holds the patent to the technology.

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# Forestry committee awards National Tree Farmer of the Year for 2016

ROGER and Outhay Poltock have been named as the 2016 National Tree Farmers of the Year at the Australian Forest Growers National Conference in Launceston. The award including a \$5000 cash prize is sponsored by the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources and is widely contested.

Dr Kevin Harding, President of Australian Forest Growers said, 'The independent panel which assessed entries this year was very impressed with the quality of applicants.

'In the end, the result was very close - but we are excited by the great work done on Roger and Outhay's property and they are worthy winners.

Mr Poltock runs a mixed farming enterprise of livestock/ grazing and forestry at Wilmot in Tasmania. The property comprises 170ha of which



**2016 winners of National Tree Farmers of the Year Outhay Poltock and Roger Poltock with Ian Ruscoe, Director of the RFA Review team in the Forestry Branch of the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources and Dr Kevin Harding, President Australian Forest Growers.**

50ha is plantation / forest and 120ha for grazing about 200 beef cattle.

Kevin Harding said, 'The property is a wonderful example of how returns can be maximised by sustainably using different qualities of the land, in a single holding, for different purposes - in this case

cattle grazing and forestry'.

The award was presented at the AFG Conference Dinner by Mt Ian Ruscoe, Director of the RFA Review team in the Forestry Branch of the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources in front of an audience of well over 200 delegates. This included

the most recent 2014 winners Connie and Marty Winch-Buist from Western Australia who participated in the independent panel to select this year's winner. The National Tree Farmer of the Year Award is awarded every two years and honours landowners or private forest managers who have established or maintained areas of forest on their property for the purposes of commerce, protection of water catchments and/or crops, or for reasons of preservation of biodiversity or a particular forest ecosystem.

The national competition is based on State nominations that are submitted and judged each year. States are then asked to nominate their selected candidate to compete in the biennial National Competition with the winner announced at the AFG conference.

## New Zealand export log prices firm in October

NEW ZEALAND export log prices firmed in October, aided by low shipping rates and solid demand from China, the country's largest export market.

The average wharf gate price for New Zealand A-grade logs advanced to \$113 a tonne in October, from \$111 a tonne in September, according to AgriHQ's monthly survey of exporters, forest owners and saw millers.

Forest products are New Zealand's third-largest commodity export group behind dairy and meat products, and returns to New Zealand growers are influenced not only by demand in overseas markets, but also the relative cost of shipping and fluctuations in the exchange rate. China's appetite for logs is holding at a positive level, aided by lower inventory levels and demand from the country's construction sector,

according to AgriHQ's latest monthly report.

"Moderate inventory levels mixed with solid demand through China is acting to keep unpruned log prices at the wharf gate steady, aided by low and stable shipping rates," AgriHQ analysts Reece Brick and Shayee Lee said in their report. "Exchange rate movements are providing the greatest volatility in this area of the market with the NZD:USD highly variable week-by-week. This will likely be the main factor influencing wharf gate prices through the rest of the year, given the stable outlook for other components of wharf gate returns."

Prices for pruned logs bucked the trend, following an increase in the supply of lower quality pruned logs from owners of smaller woodlots who felled trees at a younger age than usual, causing sap-

staining on the wood. The average wharf gate price for pruned logs slipped \$3 to \$159 a tonne, while the domestic price weakened by \$6 to \$184 a tonne, AgriHQ said.

"Pruned logs are still feeling some of the effects of weaker Chinese interest due to sap-staining on early-cut logs," the analysts said in their report. "The flow-on effects of the fall in Chinese demand for pruned logs has been felt in the NZ domestic market (as) a portion of pruned logs that would have been sent to the wharf gate only a few months ago are now being retained for sale within New Zealand. These lower quality logs are providing additional options for local mills, and in turn pulling domestic pruned log markets downwards."

The pruned log market is expected to stabilise as

demand and supply come into balance, the report said.

Elsewhere in the domestic market, structural S1 logs held stable at \$115 a tonne, while roundwood edged up to \$83 a tonne, the highest level since July last year.

"It is anticipated that the domestic market should hold strong through the coming months, buffered by the seasonal increase in housing construction rates through summer," the analysts said.

A similar positive outlook is expected for the export market, the analysts said.

"There's little to suggest any significant negative movement in demand from export markets, which should act to support CFR (cost and freight) prices in the coming months, with some market participants expecting the market to improve through to at least the New Year."

### OPERATIONS MANAGER

Dardanup,  
South West WA  
Australia

WESPINE Industries Pty Ltd is a plantation softwood sawmilling company with its operations based in Dardanup (Bunbury) in Western Australia. WESPINE is a joint venture company owned by Wesfarmers and Fletcher Building. The company is a market leader in the provision of softwood timber to the National building and packaging industries with a strong culture of continuous improvement and investment into its manufacturing operation and management support systems.

Reporting to the Managing Director as a key member of the executive leadership team you will be accountable for the safe and efficient operation of WESPINE's Dardanup softwood sawmilling production facility. This includes manufacturing operations profit and loss, industrial relations, capital projects planning and oversight, quality control and supplier relationships.

You will be responsible for:

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- Collaboratively working with the executive leadership team to develop and implement strategy to enhance business performance and maximising financial benefit from long term government agreements.
- Leading and continuing to build a high performing operations

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- Maintaining an appreciation for innovative sawmilling technology that ensures equipment, systems and processes remain leading edge.
- Championing continuous improvement to drive efficiency, productivity and quality.

We are seeking an Engineering, Commerce or Manufacturing degree qualified Operations Leader who has over 10 years' senior experience in a heavy industry manufacturing environment, preferably in the forestry or timber processing industry. This role requires a strong people manager who can combine achievement orientation with employee engagement through their modern and hands on approach.

This is a great opportunity for someone who is seeking a long term position with a market leader. The position is based in the South West region of Western Australia and available for immediate commencement.

**If further information is required please contact Michele Burton.**

**E-mail: [michele.burton@wespine.com](mailto:michele.burton@wespine.com)**

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- Softwood grade and optimisation knowledge

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- Victorian or equivalent driving licence
- The successful applicant will be required to undergo a pre employment medical. Austimber Harvesting Gippsland operates under a strict drug free workplace and undertakes both pre employment and random drug testing of all employees.

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## TIMBER

### MACHINE OPERATOR

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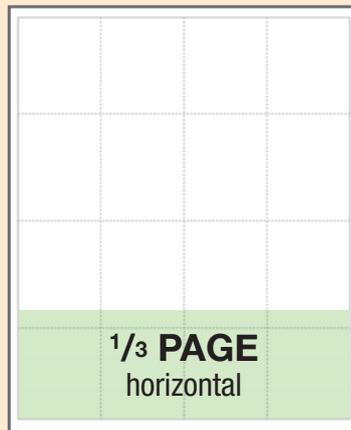
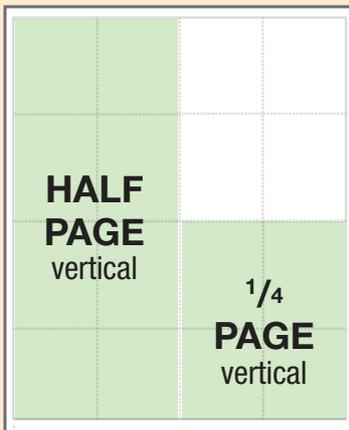
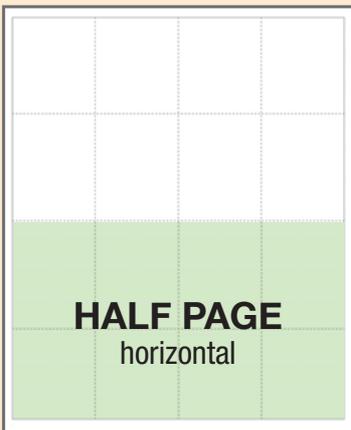
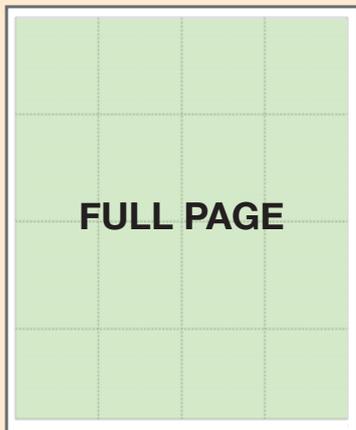
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Horizontal • 51 x 93mm

All prices quoted are per issue plus GST and based on artwork being supplied.

## ARTWORK RATES

**\$90 per ad.**

## TERM DISCOUNTS

**12 WEEKS: 7.5%**

**24 WEEKS: 10%**

**48 WEEKS: 15%**

## DEADLINES:

**Booking:** Wednesday 10am prior to publication date.

**Artwork:** Wednesday 12noon. To be supplied in jpg or PDF format to our specifications with no crop marks or bleed.

## TERMS:

New clients invoiced on booking. Existing clients 14 days.

Timber&Forestry enews is published by Custom Publishing in Brisbane, Australia and emailed every Friday 48 weeks of the year to industry decision makers in Australia, New Zealand and the Asian-Pacific, with readers in the USA, Canada, UK and Europe.

Ad rates shown are based on a weekly booking. However, we have a minimum 4 week booking for display ads. Classified ads can be placed on a weekly basis.