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Competition for forest thinkers announced soon

WINNERS of the thinking and writing competition for smart young minds in the forest industry will be announced in two weeks.

Co-publisher of Timber & Forestry enews John Halkett says that with the deadline for entries extended until December 15 last year, additional inquiries and entries needing to be reviewed.



The competition, held in collaboration with Queensland's HQPlantations, Forest and Wood Products Australia and Responsible

Wood, asked for suggestions about how to fill Australia's wood fibre basket given the extended period of minimal new plantation establishment

and other factors that were adversely impacting on domestic wood and fibre supply.

Mr Halkett said that following the announcement of winners, the entries from the first and second place-getters would be published in an abridged form in subsequent editions of Timber & Forestry enews.

Compliance: be aware ... very aware Roma penalty a warning 'shot across the bows'

A PENALTY notice for \$12,600 served to a Queensland-based timber importer is a warning 'shot across the bows' to all importers of timber and wood-based products.

This penalty is the first since the 'soft start-compliance period' ended in January last year.

Details are scant, but Timber&Forestry enews is aware the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources has now audited consignments of more than 600 Australian businesses for compliance with the Illegal Logging Prohibition



Nabbed... officials measure and seize illegal logs at a Southeast Asia export facility.

Regulation. The businesses audited include many timber, plywood and veneer importers.

More compliance audits are scheduled for 2019.

The minimum penalty for 'technical breaches' of the

regulation is \$12,600.

That is, for breaches that are black and white. The ultimate criminal penalty for negligence when importing illegally logged wood is up to five years in jail and there are a whole series of civil penalties that could prove costly to any importing business – not to mention damage to reputation if you are named, which can be far costlier.

Many volume timber importers who have been complying with the regulation say that penalties have been slow in coming.

Cont P 3



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From P 2

Sydney-based Stephen Mitchell, a specialist in due diligence for illegally logged wood, has been helping importers understand and deal with the risks for some 14 years.

“I have helped a good number of importers of timber, ply and veneer get their due diligence right,” he said.

“Many of them are complying with the regulations and have been asked by government officials for information about the due diligence on specific imports. None of my clients has had a non-compliance notice, which is pleasing, but it is not the time to be complacent.”

Mr Mitchell is now helping companies with a review of their systems.

But he says he still hears from clients about other importers who have little or no understanding of the requirements and are doing nothing about them.

“Considering that the regulation has been in place since 2012, it boggles the mind the risk they are taking as compliance is really not that difficult once you get into it,” Mr Mitchell said.

“For example, if you are importing timber from Malaysia or Indonesia, the available Country Specific Guidance can make compliance quite



- 1/ *The good stuff... a good number of importers of timber, ply and veneers are getting their due diligence right.*
- 2/ *Stephen Mitchell... helping companies to review their systems.*

straightforward. However, given the prevalence of illegal logging in these countries, you have to have systems in place to ensure you and your staff are monitoring that each and every consignment complies with the regulations.”

In other illegal logging news, Indonesian media has reported that, over the last two months in Surabaya and Makassar, the Indonesian government has seized

“MANY VOLUME IMPORTERS ARE COMPLYING WITH THE REGULATION”

around 385 containers of illegally-logged merbau wood harvested in the Papua province and valued at more than \$A10 million.

It will be interesting to see if any of that timber was destined for Australian importers or if the Indonesian government has tracked previous exports from the same supply chains.

These compliance actions and constantly evolving trade conditions – US-China tariff battles for example – highlight the need for Australian timber importers to keep on top of their due diligence for illegally logged wood.

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Linda Sewell to speak at AFPA members’ dinner

THE CEO of Melbourne-based OneFortyone Plantations Linda Sewell will be special guest speaker at the Australian Forest Products Association members’ dinner in Canberra on March 7.

Ms Sewell will address the dinner on ‘tackling the issue

of gender balance – and why quotas and child care centres won’t shift the dial’.

The event will be in the Bradman Room, Manuka Oval, Manuka, starting at 6 pm.

OneFortyOne is an investor in forest plantations and

timber operations in Australia and owns the harvesting rights of the Green Triangle plantation estate from the South Australian government.

Dinner ticket inquires to AFPA on (02) 6285 3833 or email to enquiries@ausfpa.com.au

Close watch on forests as fires rage over wide area of Tasmania

JIM BOWDEN

WITH worsening water shortages, hot weather and not a drop of rain, Tasmania is suffering one of its worst fire seasons as scores of blazes burn through forests, farms and townships across southern and central regions.

Caused by a bombardment of lightning strikes in recent weeks, the Tasmanian Fire Service is battling major bushfires on three fronts – the Huon Valley on the Central Plateau, Gell River in the southwest and at Zeehan on the west coast.

About 500 personnel are working on the fires, including those from interstate and New Zealand, and their ranks



1/ *Surveying the damage... Tasmanian fire fighters in Tasmania's Central Highlands.*
2/ *Rob de Fégely... at Nature's mercy.*

will be bolstered by about 60 new arrivals today (Thursday).

Closely monitoring the



movement of the fires that threaten large areas of plantation forests and re-growth areas, the chairman of Sustainable Timbers Tasmania Rob de Fégely said 140,000 ha of forest had been burnt with a fire line of 1300 km.

"With 500 fire fighters working across the state that's 3 km of fire line per person, which any forester will tell you is more than one person can handle in a heavy forest fire," he said.

Mr de Fégely said fires were entering the Mount Field national park, 65 km northwest of Hobart, which was putting a lot pressure and grief on parks staff.

"You're at Nature's mercy when winds constantly change from northerly to southerly scattering embers in all directions over a wide

area. The Southwood (Huon) wood processing site at Judbury in southern Tasmania, operated by Sustainable Timbers Tasmania subsidiary Netwood, was damaged by fire, although Tasmania Fire Service and STT crews were able to put out spot fires in log heaps, sawdust piles and wood waste. However, a fuel storage shed and chemical storage areas were damaged and sawdust in a sawdust hopper caught on fire.

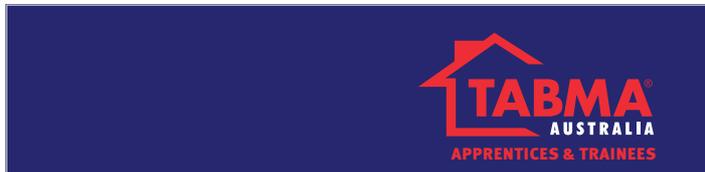
The site is designed to improve efficiencies, utilisation and value of harvested plantation and native forest logs by co-locating a range of wood processing businesses close to the forest.

A sawmill and a rotary peeled veneer mill operate on the site and planning approvals are current for a potential bio-fuel power plant to utilise residues.

“FIRE FIGHTERS ARRIVE FROM NZ

The Bureau of Meteorology is predicting temperatures on Friday will peak at mid to high 20s across most of the state, with inland areas in the south reaching the low 30s.

The bureau is warning that strong and gusty north-westerly winds combined with hot temperatures will create very high to severe ongoing fire danger across the central, eastern and southern regions.



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Strong approval for IFA-AFG merger

THE Institute of Foresters of Australia has voted overwhelmingly to merge with Australian Forest Growers, creating a body with potentially more punch in the forest industry.

More than 90% of IFA voters supported the merger at an extraordinary general meeting last week.

A group of younger IFA members, the Future Foresters Initiative, supported the merger proposal, maintaining that its views represented the next generation of IFA members, young professionals, students and emerging leaders in the forestry sector.

IFA president Bob Gordon said the merger provided an exciting opportunity to raise the profile, enhance member value and advance the cause of sustainable professional forest management.

Full implementation of the merger will take several months. Likely advantages include more members in regional areas, more field trips and opportunities to discuss forestry matters.

"The new merged group could also possibly influence public debate by having more



United... back row, from left, David Fiske, Greg Unwin, Stuart Davey, Lachie McCaw, Dave Cromarty, Jim Wilson and Leon Holt; front row, from left, Gary Morgan, Bob Gordon, Jacquie Martin, and Gary Featherston.

members, greater financial power and a wider range of membership."

Several IFA members, however, pointed to different interests of the IFA and the AFG, and questioned how they could be reconciled.

They said the AFG mainly included people and companies who were essentially land owners whose interest is confined to timber production on private property.

"It is understood their field days and meetings have centred on this function rather than the full range of forest values, such as recreation, biodiversity, and water catchments that are the focus

of many IFA members," said one senior IFA member.

However, the FFI argued that a broader membership with new priorities was exactly what the IFA needed to remain a relevant organisation for foresters in the future.

“REPRESENTING THE NEXT GENERATION OF FORESTERS”

"The institute's long-term survival depends on such an expansion and a re-definition of the IFA's purpose and goals," the FFI said.

"Increasing membership by

being more inclusive of those who come into the industry through non-traditional pathways is crucial to the future of the IFA."

The FFI acknowledged that changes needed to be managed carefully. Membership categories in particular had the potential to generate friction within the IFA, and a full review of the categories should be completed as a priority once the merger is complete.

Two retiring IFA board members will be replaced by AFG members, but the FFI argued that the new IFA board needed representation from the next generation of foresters and IFA members.

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Timber frames the preference for multi-residential aged care

AS the population ages and focus turns to quality aged care, so too does the focus on the design, construction and ongoing maintenance of the aged care facilities themselves.

In addition to using locally and sustainably sourced construction materials, Australian construction company Living Choice selected Hyne Timber's termite-resistant T2 Blue framing for its latest multi-residential aged care project on Queensland's Sunshine Coast.

Living Choice project manager Warren Danter has many years' experience in construction, initially learning all he could from his father



No age barrier... architect's impression of Estia Health's aged care facility at Maroochydore.

in South Africa, then the UK before moving to Australia.

He explains how this latest project has a large, complex roof and framing detail and it was clear from the early design stages that it needed to be timber.

"From initial design

collaboration with structural and service engineers, I made the call to use all timber frames for this project," Mr Danter said.

"Anyone in construction knows that timber frames are easier to work with and install on site.

"Construction is rarely perfect and even concrete slabs can vary in height. This is where there is a real cost saving using timber frames and trusses.

"We can readily dock it, plane it or do whatever we need to do including accommodating services.

"Importantly, this is a home for aged care residents. Having a timber frame means the final build will be quieter. There is nothing worse than natural wear and tear down the track resulting in noise from services vibrating against steel or loud, steel door frames."

The tastefully designed building is a hybrid of construction materials, using a range of design solutions to suit the needs of the client Estia Health, including a floating brick façade. Using large lintels straight into the timber studs, timber framing

provides a simple, load bearing solution to hang the façade

Hyne Timber customer Sunshine Mitre 10 expects to see demand for timber increase in these types of multi-residential projects.

Commercial sales manager Russell Maher said more and more developments are being approved throughout southeast Queensland and across Australia as the benefits of this type of aged care facility were realised.

"As the standards of aged care improves, the demand for community-style living and support networks provided by these types of multi-residential facilities is increasing," Mr Maher said.

"Specifiers and builders need to consider the construction materials they are using which will no doubt see more and more recognition of the benefits of timber."

On the cover: Russel Maher, Sunshine Mitre 10 commercial sales manager, Sam Hyne, business management cadet and a sixth generation of the Hyne family, and Peter Tregaskis, Hyne's timber customer manager, on the Estia Health care facility site.

The united voice for Australia's forest industries



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FEBRUARY 2019

14: Timber Preservers Association of Australia meetings – Melbourne, Australia. Technical committee will meet 10-30 am-12.15 pm with the TPAA council meeting 3 pm to 5.30 pm. Contact Jack Norton, TPAA secretary, on +61 (0)418 989 398 or email jak.norton@gmail.com. Skype: jak.norton1

18-22: Gottstein Forest Science Course – Australian National University Canberra, Australia. Visit www.gottstein.org.au

27: Launch of Queensland Parliamentary Friends of Forest & Timber Network – Brisbane, Australia. 6.30-8 pm. Open to all of industry – a landmark event demonstrating to MPs the strength and diversity of the entire industry supply chain. Lock it in! Industry associations will send out invitations to their members. Anyone interested should email admin@timberqueensland.com.au for more detailed information.

MARCH

1: Top of the South Forestry Awards – Nelson and Marlborough, New Zealand. Inaugural awards in fourteen categories to be awarded across individual and companies, with the ultimate award being the Skilled Professional of the Year. The awards will culminate to

an evening of celebration, presentations and dinner in Nelson on Friday, June 14 at the Trafalgar Event Centre. For further information see: www.totsforestry.co.na or call Prue Younger, Event Manager +64 (21) 2765484

5-6: ABARES Outlook 2019 Conference – Canberra, Australia. Outlook 2019 is focused on the outlook for Australia's agriculture sector and will connect leading national and international speakers with highly motivated and information-seeking delegates at 14 sessions across two days and provide a rich menu of insights, ideas and information relevant to Australian rural sector. Speakers include the Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources David Littleproud (opening address) on March 5; Ross Hampton, CEO, Australian Forest Products Association (the ultimate renewable and social licence) on March 5; and Senator Richard Colbeck, Assistant Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources (ministerial address) on March 6.

7: AFPA board meeting and members' dinner – Canberra, Australia. 6pm. Guest speaker Linda Sewell, CEO of Onefortyone Plantations. Dinner ticket inquires to AFPA on (02) 6285 3833 or email

enquiries@ausfpa.com.au

8: AFPA members' forum and chamber meetings – Canberra, Australia.

8: Forest Industry Advisory Council (AFIC) meeting – Canberra, Australia

17: Women in Forest Industries workshop – Canberra, Australia. More information and registration inquiries to Natalie Heazlewood. Email: natalie.heazlewood@ausfpa.com.au

26-29: AUSPACK Packaging and Processing Week – Melbourne, Australia.

APRIL

1-2: National Sustainability Conference – Brisbane, Australia

4: Built Evolution Conference – Perth, Australia. 'Taking timber to new heights' – Timber Insight. For additional information contact Greg Meachem Tel: 08 9791 4599; Mob: 0498 121 262, or email: greg@timberinsight.com.au

JUNE

16-21: 2019 DANA Ecuador Forestry and Agri-/Aqua-business Investment Tour – Ecuador. This event will introduce potential investors to the forestry and agri- and aqua- business; as well as the commercial, financial, political, and economical aspects of investments

in Ecuador. Included will be field visits to operating forests, manufacturing, and processing of wood products, and selected agri- and aqua- export oriented operations. For further information and to register see: <https://danaevents.co.nz/2019ecuador/>

17-18: Frame Australia – Crown Promenade Melbourne, Australia. A dedicated conference and exhibition will allow delegates to fully understand the exciting developments in the Timber Offsite Construction space. The conference will feature prominent local and global experts, with topics exclusively devoted to timber and mass wood building construction. It will be the only event that will enable delegates to appreciate the world-wide transformation that is taking place and how building costs are being lowered. At the Frame Australia exhibition, booth sizes will be larger at no extra cost, with booths two to three times the previous floor area without any change in pricing from 2018. Visit www.frameaustralia.com

19: AFPA board meeting and members' dinner – Canberra. 6pm.

20: AFPA members' forum and chamber meetings – Canberra, Australia.

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JANUARY 2019

24: Mapping the Course: Timberland, Forest Products Processing, and Fiber Issues for 2019 – Vancouver, Washington, USA. The conference and optional workshop will provide an in-depth analysis on forest products market challenges, opportunities, and threats for 2019 in the North American West Coast timberland region. For further information see: <https://westernforestry.org/upcoming-conferences/mapping-the-course-timberland-forest-products-processing-and-fiber-issues-for-2019>

MARCH

19-21: International Mass Timber Conference – Portland, Oregon. The largest gathering of cross-laminated timber and other mass timber experts in the world, with a special focus on manufacturing and mid-to high-rise construction. Over 1,200 experts from 22 countries attended in 2018. The conference will explore the supply chain for cross-laminated timber (CLT), nail-laminated timber, glulam beams and panels,

mass plywood panels, dowel-laminated timber, and laminated veneer lumber; and the opportunities and obstacles for mass timber in global manufacturing and construction. See: www.masstimberconference.com/

APRIL

10-12: Focus on Forestry 2019 – Mpumalanga, South Africa. For further information see: www.cmo.co.za

MAY

7-9: RISI's Sixth Annual Forest Investment Conference – London, UK. A key two day conference that will take an in-depth look at timberland investments around the globe and how these opportunities will unfold in the near future. For further information see: www.risi.com/invest

8-11: World Conference on forests for Public Health – Athens, Greece. For further information see: www.fph2019.org

20-23: A Century of National Forest Inventories: Informing Past, Present and Future Decisions – Oslo, Norway. For further information see: www.nibio.pameldingssystem.no/nfi100years

no/nfi100years

JUNE

16-21: 2019 DANA Ecuador Forestry and Agri-/Aqua-business Investment Tour – Ecuador. This event will introduce potential investors to the forestry and agri- and aqua- business; as well as the commercial, financial, political, and economical aspects of investments in Ecuador. Included will be field visits to operating forests, manufacturing, and processing of wood products, and selected agri- and aqua- export oriented operations. For further information and to register see: <https://danaevents.co.nz/2019ecuador/>

JULY

8-18: IUFRO Small-scale Forestry Conference – Lake Superior in Duluth, Minnesota, USA. Presentations and field sessions will explore a mix of family-owned, tribal, industrial, and public ownerships with a focus on small-scale forest management. For further information see: <http://iufrossf.umn.edu/>

SEPTEMBER

16-17: ICATEA 2019: 21st International Conference on Advanced Timber Engineering and Applications – Zurich, Switzerland. The conference aims to bring together leading academic scientists, researchers and research scholars to exchange and share their experiences and research results on all aspects of advanced timber engineering and applications. For further information see: <https://waset.org/conference/2019/09/zurich/ICATEA>

SEPT/OCT

29 SEPT-25 OCT: XXV IUFRO World Congress – Curitiba, Brazil. For further information see: www.iufro2019.com

NOVEMBER

19-21: Malaysian Wood Expo 2019 – Putra World Trade Centre, Kuala Lumpur. Email: info@malaysianwoodexpo.com.my or visit www.malaysianwoodexpo.com.my

• Please send any events listings to John Halkett via email: johnh@timberandforestrynews.com

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2019 shapes as a tough year for residential building in Australia

NEW home building across Australia is facing into its toughest year in almost a decade with declining house prices and the fallout from the Royal Commission really starting to bite.

Master Builders Australia says about 234,000 new homes were started at the peak of the market in 2016-17.

"We anticipate that output will decline to 210,200 during 2018-19 overall and fall to 197,500 during 2019-20," chief economist Shane Garrett said.

"A succession of further declines will bring new home starts down to 175,900 by 2022-23," he said.

"New home building was lifted to record levels in



Housing starts... a challenge for residential building.

the middle of the decade by a combination of strong population growth, big house price gains, super low interest rates and keen demand from foreign buyers," he said.

"Several of the ingredients that made up this favourable mix are no longer in place. House prices have seen sizeable reductions in a number of key markets, while

state governments have erected prohibitive barriers to foreign buyers."

However, Mr Garrett said the fundamentals of the Australian economy were actually pretty solid at the

FUNDAMENTALS OF ECONOMY ARE PRETTY SOLID

moment with the robust labour market fuelling a healthy pace of migration-driven population growth. As a result, the underlying demand for new home building was still elevated but unfortunately this was not being translated into stronger activity on the ground because of the credit crunch and decision paralysis ahead of the election.

Mr Garrett said reaction to the Hayne Royal Commission had slowed the circulation of mortgage credit within the housing market and this was the biggest factor holding activity back at the moment. "Uncertainty in the lead up to the upcoming federal election is also delaying activity in the market," he said.



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Kids under cover: this tiny timber house makes a very big difference

SINCE the 1950s, Australia's average free-standing house size has more than doubled, yet the number of occupants in the average home has halved.

In fact, Australians are building the second-biggest free-standing houses in the world behind the US at an average of 230.8 sq m.

But one new Melbourne business is proving that bigger is not always better, while also tackling the big issues of housing affordability, youth homelessness and environmental sustainability.

And Responsible Wood is playing its part to guarantee the sustainability of this new product with certified timber at the fore.

The idea began with a cubby house design competition held by Kids Under Cover in 2017 which was won by international architects Grimshaw. From this collaboration Nest'd was born – a new social enterprise which sells affordable and sustainable prefabricated 'tiny homes'.

Launched in 2018, by Kids

Under Cover, 100% of the profit of every home sold is directed to the charity's work helping prevent youth homelessness.

Nest'd general manager Kieran Callan explains how sales of the tiny house give back to the community: "A child's under-cover studio built in the backyards and gardens

1 & 2/ Child's play... timber is essential to the design of The Peak.



of family homes actively helps prevent youth homelessness by easing the pressures on families.

"Nest'd is the evolution of this innovation. We are delighted to be working with world-leading architects Grimshaw to deliver a sustainable, stylish and affordable compact home which also invests in the



When it came to specifying the LVL for the project the team turned to Wesbeam Tall Timber Building Systems with the timber sourced from Responsible Wood-certified plantation

forests and processed in Western Australia.

Nest'd offers three home designs. At 32 sq m the top of the range is The Peak. While also being the largest, it offers sophisticated interior planning including built-in kitchen, seating areas, bed and bathroom with a contemporary exterior which suits a range of lifestyles.

At only \$139,000, it can be delivered flat-packed and constructed in two weeks. The Peak is promoted as ideal for teenage retreats, granny flats, home offices, yoga studios, Airbnb rentals or first homes for people otherwise priced out of the market.

lives of young people."

Timber is central to the design of The Peak and is used extensively. Its structure comprises

sustainably sourced LVL with some metal external wall cladding while the angle of the roof allows for optimal photovoltaic performance.

Natural timber finishes within the interior are enhanced by recessed lighting and provide a welcoming atmosphere while maximising the sense of space.



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Industry seeks \$80m from ERF to realise many benefits of trees

THE peak national industry body has called on the federal government to remove barriers to forest industries fully participating in the Emissions Reduction Fund (ERF) and earmark \$80 million specifically for new projects with multiple benefits, such as forest plantation and farm forestry projects.

In its submission to the federal Treasury ahead of the 2019-20 Budget, the Australian Forest Products Association has requested \$80 million from the ERF be set aside for carbon storage projects that deliver multiple benefits beyond carbon abatement such as employment, agricultural productivity and biodiversity gains.

Prioritising projects that deliver multiple benefits was a key recommendation in the Climate Change Authority's April 2018 report to the government, 'Reaping the Rewards: Improving Farm Profitability, Reducing Emissions and Conserving Natural Capital'.

Expanding Australia's plantation estate and incentivising farm forestry are prime examples of carbon storage projects that deliver multiple benefits. As well as creating regional jobs, strategic planting of new trees can reduce salinity, improve water quality and enhance habitat restoration/vegetation (e.g. mine sites).

"It is estimated that, should

“ TO KICK-START PLANTINGS OF 400,000 HA OF TREES OVER NEXT DECADE



Mission... expanding Australia's plantation estate and incentivising farm forestry are prime examples of carbon storage projects that deliver multiple benefits.

constraints be removed to allow new trees to be planted in the right places, about \$80 million in ERF funds could generate the planting of some 40,000 ha of production trees a year over three years – including a significant uptake of farm forestry that is proven to deliver on-farm productivity gains," AFPA CEO Ross Hampton said.

"This would kick-start the planting of the 400,000 additional hectares of plantation forest in Australia over the next decade that industry has identified is urgently needed to meet demand and allow our forest industries to continue to provide tens of thousands of regional jobs," Mr Hampton said.

Independent analysis commissioned by AFPA last year, found that the 400,000 ha and other measures would cumulatively remove or store up to 115 mega tonnes of CO₂-e by 2030 (the Paris Agreement target year). This in turn will support the federal government's own commitment to plant one billion new production trees over the next decade, as announced in the National Forest Industries Plan in September last year.

AFPA is also calling for other

measures announced in the plan to be funded.

"The plan also committed to the creation of two new National Institute for Forest Products Innovation centres, in addition to the two successful existing centres in Mount Gambier in South Australia and Launceston in Tasmania," Mr

Hampton said.

"AFPA's Budget submission seeks an additional \$40 million to provide long-term certainty and scale for the four centres, and for the removal of the matching cap on voluntary industry funding contributions for Forest and Wood Products Australia."

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A Labor vote and your labours in the forest industry are for naught!

SO how was your Christmas-New Year? Trust you have returned refreshed and looking forward to a productive year – and making a profit.

I did manage to get up to Bris-Vegas for a few days to visit family. My sister had her second child in October, so first visit from Auntie Cheryl. The baby's name is Clare. Thought sis might have stretched to Cheryl – too old fashioned apparently!

I also caught up with our editor Big Jimmy, although he didn't extend an invitation to lunch at the upmarket Jellyfish Restaurant on the Brisbane River. Something about not being able to get a booking. I live in eternal hope.

Although some around here have cautioned to steer clear from commenting about politics, I feel compelled to say something ... with the state election here in New South Wales due in March and a federal one possibly in May.

I am in no doubt the outcome of the election will have a real and possibly detrimental impact on all of us trying to make a living in the forest industry.

I shouldn't have to remind you. You will recall the treachery of the then Labor government in 2011 in transferring the bulk of the productive red gum forest around Deniliquin to national

“THE KOALA PARK IDEA HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH SCIENCE



Vote wisely... managed forests, forest jobs and new trees in the ground are at risk.

park in the run up to state election in an attempt to shore up votes and green preferences in inner-city seats.

And this done with absolutely no thought to the interests and welfare of local businesses, families and towns that had been sustainably managing these forests for many, many years.

And before then in 2002, having just signed off on the North Coast Regional Forest Agreement and with the ink only just dried on long-term log supply agreements, Premier Bob Carr transferred a great swathe of coastal, blackbutt-dominated forest to national park to buy green preferences.

This time around the NSW Labor Opposition is promising a 'Great Northern Koala Park'. I am told that the Forestry Corporation estimates if there is a change of government at the upcoming election, and incoming Labor implements its northern koala park proposal, hardwood log

TRUNK LINES



With **CHERYL FORREST**

supplies from state forests are likely to be reduced by 40%. Yes, 40%!

Again, as with previous Labour Party forest closures, the koala park proposal has nothing at all to do with science; it's all about pandering to green voters in sea-change seats like Ballina and Coffs Harbour and inner-Sydney locations such as Balmain, Leichhardt and Newtown.

So if you rely on the forest industry in one shape or form and you supply goods and services to the industry, or

live in a rural community, vote Labor at your peril.

Also, if I may say so, current NSW Forestry Minister Paul Toole has been my pick of forestry ministers across the country. At a time – as I have said on numerous occasions – when the industry seems to be paralysed on new plantation establishment, minister Toole was able to secure \$71 million from state coffers to support the forest industry.

Of that amount, \$24 million has gone straight to the Forestry Corporation to stimulate new plantation establishment.

So there you have it ... a vote in NSW for Labor in March is a vote for further forest industry contraction, business closures, job losses and probably no new trees in the ground. So vote carefully my friends!

Catch you hopefully on a brighter note next month.

**Cheers,
Cheryl.**

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The right tools for the right job: Accurate Group expands to NZ

INNOVATIVE Australian specialist manufacturer of timber processing and milling Solutions the Brisbane-based Accurate Group is meeting increased demand from industry in 2019 with additional staff, greater floor space and more product development.



Maryborough, Qld, involved the purchase and installation of 14 new machines supplied by Stirling Machinery, part of the Accurate Group.

The group recently engaged a New Zealand sales manager to assist in the company's

"The New Year brings new ways to meet customers' diversification needs," says managing director Craig Honeyman.

Craig says 2018 was a big one for diversification in the timber industry, with a surge in glulam manufacture as timber processors developed new ways to reduce waste and add value and mills fine-tuned their operations to deliver ever-higher quality specifications.

"The Accurate Group makes it a priority to be ready with answers to customers' questions and to source and even develop the right tools for the job," Craig said.

"Our customers are some of the most innovative, curious and diligent in the business and we are determined to always stay a few steps ahead in order to meet their needs.

"We're not coming in



just to sell knife steel or cutterheads. We're coming in to understand their current business, goals and objectives, pain points and diversification plans."

The Accurate Group comprises three diversified companies – Accurate Australia, Stirling Machinery and PanelTools Online.

Key personnel from Accurate Group visit suppliers and manufacturers across the world several times a year to keep abreast of new advances in tooling. With technological improvements and product innovations entering the market at a rapid

1/ A passion for timber industry... Craig Honeyman, managing director of the Accurate Group (centre) talks glulam manufacture with Hyne Timber CEO John Kleinschmidt, and Warren Tye, Hyne's national sales manager.

2/ Andrew Harris... heading up the Accurate Group's NZ venture.

rate, the potential to improve KPIs across volume output, downtime reductions and product quality is dramatic.

"All these key performance indicators are critical to the longevity and success of the industry as a whole," Craig says. "And of course, to the individual businesses, large and small, and in turn, their staff, suppliers and customers."

Major expansion of Hyne Timber's glulam plant in

“OUR CUSTOMERS ARE SOME OF THE MOST INNOVATIVE AND DILIGENT IN THE BUSINESS”

expansion across the Tasman. Andrew Harris brings more than 36 years' experience in the timber industry to the role. A qualified timber machinist who started his career in timber processing, pallet and particleboard plants, he has worked in technical sales roles for tooling and machinery suppliers across New Zealand for the past 17 years. Andrew has completed three weeks of intensive training at the new Accurate Group headquarters in Brisbane.

"Although we can offer the NZ market innovations they haven't seen before such as 10 grades of knife steel, it's more than that," Andrew says.

"It's about fitting square pegs into square holes."

Andrew looks forward to developing meaningful partnerships with New Zealand timber processors.

From P 14

“For me, it’s great to be a part of a values-driven organisation that has a passion for timber and is planning for growth and the future, bringing everything back to regional communities.

Andrew can be contacted directly for all NZ inquiries on 021 360 691 or andrew@accuratenz.co.nz

Accurate Australia founder Craig Honeyman learned the tools of his trade in the DEVETIR tool room, becoming a trade qualified wood machinist in furniture and joinery, and later moving into moulding applications.

Over the years he transitioned to a technical sales rep role focusing on Leuco products, and later represented Homag Group and other manufacturers in the flat panel industry.

In 1994, Craig started with



Good message... telling the Accurate Group story at AWISA 2018 trade show in Sydney.

Weinig Australia, a leading manufacturer of machines and systems for the solid wood processing industry. After speaking with engineers in the Weinig factory in Germany, he began work with European manufacturers to supply high quality support tooling to complement the Weinig machinery. And so Accurate Australia was born, opening its doors in 2001.

It’s now been more than 21 years since Mr Honeyman first shook hands with those European suppliers.

In the early years, Accurate operated in the

“IT’S ABOUT FITTING SQUARE PEGS INTO SQUARE HOLES

local Queensland market. However, it soon became apparent there was a strong need for a national specialist in timber support tooling. This vision to help timber manufacturers across Australia work smarter and achieve more through progressive change and innovation has led Accurate to where it is today.

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Native timber project breathes new life into Northland history

FAMILY politics, a 120-year-old love story and modern-day research on native wood and how it can be harvested sustainably for commercial use, have converged in an historic New Zealand church in Northland's Matauri Bay.

The iconic Samuel Marsden Māori Anglican Church building is dedicated to the memory of Reverend Samuel Marsden, whose early missionary success can in part be attributed to chief Ruatara who provided the preacher a safe place to rest at Matauri. Marsden then sailed on to hold the first official New Zealand church service at Rangihoua in the Bay of Islands on Christmas Day 1814.

The final step in the recent renovation of the 123-year-old building was a thanksgiving service held last Sunday for a wooden floor made from tōtara (Podocarpus totara) harvested on the Kaeo farm of John McGee.

Tōtara is a forest giant, with a massive woody trunk and covered in thick, stringy bark. It can live for more than 1000 years.

In 2015, Melanie Chandler-



Samuel Marsden Māori Anglican Church... restored using timber milled from the forest giant totara.

Winters, a member of the Whangaroa Pastorate, spoke with John about the church floor. Her concern was that particleboard had been laid in place of the native timber floor which the church could not salvage during restorations.

John was harvesting tōtara on his farm as part of a study. Ttara Industry Pilot was a two-year assessment of whether a business case existed for a new Northland industry based on the sustainable management of farmed tōtara. A small group of mostly Northland-based interests was driving the study. Current TIP partners include the Northland Tōtara Working Group, Tane's Tree Trust, Te Taitokerau Māori Forestry Collective, Northland

Inc, Scion (New Zealand Forest Research Institute Limited) and Te Uru Rākau.

The steering group worked to mill and finish the timber and install the floor.

The McGee family's bitter-sweet connection with the church stretches back to the early 1890s and involves young love, the racial divide of the day, family politics and

“LEARNING ECONOMIC RETURNS FROM TOTARA

an unexpected reunion with TIP unwittingly at the centre.

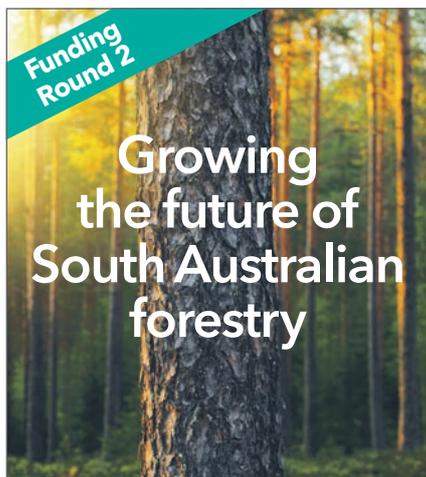
Mr McGee's grandfather, also called John, was a whaler and gum-digger who

lived among the Maori of Matauri Bay, learned to reo and married Harata Tame in 1895. Harata died three years later at the age of 24 and is now buried in the churchyard next to her mother.

Grandfather McGee then married again. His first union was never openly discussed in his new family and his living descendants had little information about his connection to Harata.

But this story did not end here, thanks to an entirely unexpected twist. Unknown to Mr McGee, Harata's namesake from another branch of the Tame family, Harata Toms, is a current member of the Church's congregation. Whether by chance or divine intervention, the families met only when organisers came together to plan the thanksgiving service – to the great delight of all involved.

“This story typifies the way that Northland communities are still brought together and bonded by the unique natural resources of the region,” Scion's general manager of marketing and partnership, Arron Judson said.



\$2.5 million research funding investment to boost sustainability, jobs and economic benefits in partnership with industry

With the support of the Australian and South Australian governments, the Mt Gambier Centre of the National Institute for Forest Products Innovation has up to \$2.5 million available for research grants to grow the future of forestry. Individual research grants will range from \$50,000-\$500,000 and will be for periods of up to three years in duration.

Funding proposals close on Friday 15 February 2019 and should be lodged via email to funding.sa@nifpi.org.au. For further information, including a proposal template and briefing document, see www.nifpi.org.au

About us The Mt Gambier Centre of the National Institute for Forest Products Innovation is a joint venture between the Australian Government, the South Australian Government and the forest and wood products industry with the goal of growing forestry into the future.



Australian Government



Government of South Australia



NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR FOREST PRODUCTS INNOVATION
MT GAMBIER

Chinese New Year: biosecurity alert

CHINESE New Year – celebrated on February 5 – is a busy time for travelling and gift-giving, but some items sent or brought to Australia during this period pose a biosecurity risk and potentially carry pests and diseases.

Acting head of Biosecurity at the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources Marion Healy says items such as fruit, plants, meat, eggs and herbs used in traditional medicine could pose a risk and may not be permitted.

“While Chinese New Year gifts are brought or sent with good intentions, some can carry pests or diseases that could impact on our industries, environment, plant, animal and human health,” Ms Healy said.



Airport biosecurity operations... checking X-rays before manual inspection.

The import of timber products and gifts also poses a severe risk.

It is the responsibility of importers to ensure their products meet import conditions. Failure to do so may result in delays, additional costs, and, in some cases, the re-export or destruction of the goods at the importer’s expense.

The import conditions set out in BICON, the federal government’s biosecurity import conditions database,

“GOOD INTENTIONS BUT GIFTS COULD CARRY DISEASES”

include requirements to demonstrate that pest risks are mitigated through the manufacturing process or through approved treatments.

For timber and timber products, steps may be required to ensure the wood is low risk of having been illegally logged.

Also, many exotic pests and insects can hitch a ride to Australia in timber, bamboo, wood-related products, and packaging and on cargo containers.

Even products that appear outwardly to be clean may harbour biosecurity risks because many timber pests occur within wood and can be very difficult to detect in their egg or larval stage.

Visit www.agriculture.gov.au/forestry/policies/illegal-logging

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Masking the legitimacy of timber exports from China 'Greenwashing' a \$36bn industry

Extracts of a report by Sixth Tone, a respected online publication that produces informed and insightful content on contemporary China.

THE pungent odor of formaldehyde fills the factory of Shandong Xingang Group in Linyi, a city in the Shandong province in southern China.

Few employees wear masks, despite signs saying they are required. Throughout the hall lie boxes branded with tree-shaped logos, which should mean that the wood inside is certified by the international nonprofit Forest Stewardship Council and has



Legality issue... a wood market in China's Zhejiang province.

“RISK OF BEING CAUGHT BY EU AUTHORITIES IS NEGLIGIBLE”

been produced under good labour conditions and is from sustainable forests.

But like so much timber that passes through China, their sourcing is unclear and likely anything but sustainable.

“These are poplar and

eucalyptus cores, but they're not FSC-accredited,” a company manager explained, standing in front of a box sporting the FSC logo.

“Everyone does it. We're just following suit because of the market.”

Germany-headquartered FSC is one of the world's most influential certifiers of sustainable forestry, having approved more than 36,000 enterprises and over 195

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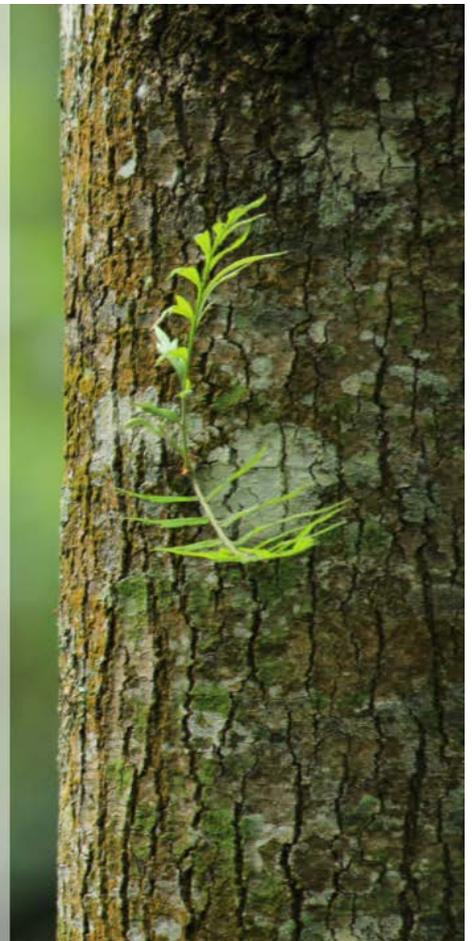
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For more information about the course and discounts, contact Helen Murray
gottsteinsecretary@gmail.com



From P 18

million ha of forests.

In 2016, 22.6% of global industrial roundwood was harvested in FSC-certified forests, according to the organisation. In those areas, management should abide by local laws, respect local communities, promote its workers' wellbeing, and not harm the environment, among other principles.

However, an investigation by Sixth Tone shows that, in China, the logo has become less a symbol of sustainability and more a tool for 'greenwashing', allowing illegally-harvested timber to avoid scrutiny and enter global markets.

In 2018, Sixth Tone posed as an importer to Europe, visiting nine different Chinese enterprises of varying sizes, seven of which talked openly about supplying FSC logos and certification even though their goods don't meet its standards.

For the companies, the risk of being caught by European Union authorities is negligible, as neither regulators nor buyers bother to adequately check the authenticity of the certification they provide. According to company employees, European importers are aware of and even encourage such fraud.

As the world's manufacturing hub, China



Big producer... China is the world's largest exporter of manufactured boards, which include plywood.

is the biggest importer and consumer of wood products. More than 60% of tropical logs on the global market are imported to China. Much tropical wood comes from species which environmentalists consider at high risk for being logged illegally; assessments by the United Nations Environment Program and Interpol suggest that 15-30% of timber traded globally has been illegally harvested – tropical countries, this proportion could be as high as 50-90%.

"FSC has indeed discovered abuse of the logo," Ma Lichao, China's FSC representative, told Sixth Tone. He said that the organisation's approach was to train buyers on how to make sure documentation is reliable and that companies

who are found in violation of its requirements will have their credentials cancelled.

FSC is also looking at blockchain technology to make it harder to falsify credentials. A recent, large-scale inspection in the Asia-Pacific region focusing on charcoal and bamboo supply chains resulted in 39 companies having their certification terminated or suspended.

“FORGED PAPERS HELP THEM PASS CUSTOMS

FSC has strict rules on the use of its trademarks, at least according to official documents. Timber products that use its logo should come

from FSC-certified sustainable forests and have been made in certified factories that have satisfied strict requirements in areas such as labor and benefits.

But currently, when shipments of illegally sourced wood arrive in Europe, their forged FSC certifications help them pass customs.

In 2013, the EU Timber Regulation, or EUTR, came into force, prohibiting companies from placing illegally-harvested timber and products on the EU market and requiring the ability to trace such products back to their origins. Timber that does not meet this regulation is deemed to have been illegally harvested, and operators putting it on the market can be held financially and even criminally responsible.

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