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Victorian forest industry welcomes state review of wildlife management

THE Victorian Forest Products Association has welcomed the announcement by the state government of a comprehensive review of wildlife management. "For too long wildlife and biodiversity management has been focused on the miniscule area of state forests accessed by our forest industry," VFPA CEO Deb Kerr said.



Deb Kerr

"In Victoria, the forest industry harvests just four out of every 10,000 trees, to produce wood products used every day in the homes and offices of Australians across the country, and for every tree harvested a tree is replanted and re-grown.

"Meanwhile, Victoria has around 4 million ha of national parks and reserves created specifically to deliver environmental and biodiversity outcomes," Ms Kerr said.

"This inquiry should examine why the current management of the national parks and reserves estate is not achieving these objectives and failing

our critically endangered species."

Ms Kerr said Victoria's best mechanism for the protection and conservation of biodiversity was effective management of the state's public lands assets. However, the state's national parks, Crown lands and other reserves had received very little active management, resulting in significant impacts to the state's biodiversity.

"Many farmers, land managers and regional communities complain that where these public lands are not managed sustainably, feral pests such as pigs, deer,



Lily D'Ambrosio

goats, cats, foxes and wild dogs are having a devastating impact on native fauna and their habitat," Ms Kerr added.

The Wildlife Act 1975, which sets the rules around how people interact with wildlife in Victoria, has not been reviewed since it became law in 1975.

The Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change Lily D'Ambrosio said recommendations for reform

of the Act would be provided to government by mid-2022.

"A review of the Act provides an opportunity to ensure that the Victoria's wildlife laws are modern, fit-for purpose and include all the necessary safeguards to punish and deter wildlife crime and protect the state's wildlife," Ms D'Ambrosio said.

"It will also allow us to identify improvements in our wildlife legislation to enable and support self-determination for traditional owners and Aboriginal Victorians, recognising Aboriginal peoples' connection to and right to care for country.

Meanwhile, Coalition and Labor senators and Jacque Lambie have moved a motion in the Senate supporting the timber industry and condemning former Greens leader Bob Brown.

Victorian Labor senators supported the motion, exposing the Andrews government's "job-destroying approach to the timber industry".

“MANAGEMENT OF NATIONAL PARKS SHOULD BE SCRUTINISED



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The Latin may differ but problem of private forest clearing continues

Review of code of practice on Queensland leasehold land likely soon

CONFLICTING opinions on species and log transport have emerged from last week's story on Chinese traders operating in private forests in north Queensland along with added concerns over harvesting methods.

Although there is a "scattering" of red lancewood (*Archidendropsis basaltica*) in the region it is basically a dry species and the timber that has been "recklessly" logged is more likely to be Cooktown ironwood (*Erythrophleum chlorostachya*).

But no matter the species, forestry and timber stakeholders in the region agree Chinese buyers have undertaken widespread harvesting of Cooktown ironwood and other timbers, trucking them in log form on B-doubles to Townsville for export to China.

It seems the logs from two stations – Kalinga of 37,100 ha freehold and 2680 ha of nature reserve, and Mary Valley of 37,800 ha of freehold and 8550 ha of nature refuge – were mixed species and poor record keeping has not helped station owners who are now in dispute as to how much each should be paid.

Also, hefty tonnages of Cooktown ironwood have been taken from cleared land at Weipa, the large coastal mining town on Cape York Peninsula.

Red lancewood has certainly been cleared in large amounts off leasehold land in western Queensland



Private forest production under review in Queensland.

for export to China. The timber has a 'green light' because it is considered a non-commercial species but, in most cases, the method of harvesting has not adhered to private native forest code of practice, far from it, and the code also applies to Aboriginal lands.

A forest consultant fears Asian traders have shifted to buy other quality hardwoods such as spotted gum and ironbark at subsidised prices ... as lancewood "begins to disappear".

The reports bring into sharp focus a raft of complaints about harvesting methods on leasehold land in both northern and western Queensland.

This is sure to be high on the agenda of a committee appointed by the state government to review the

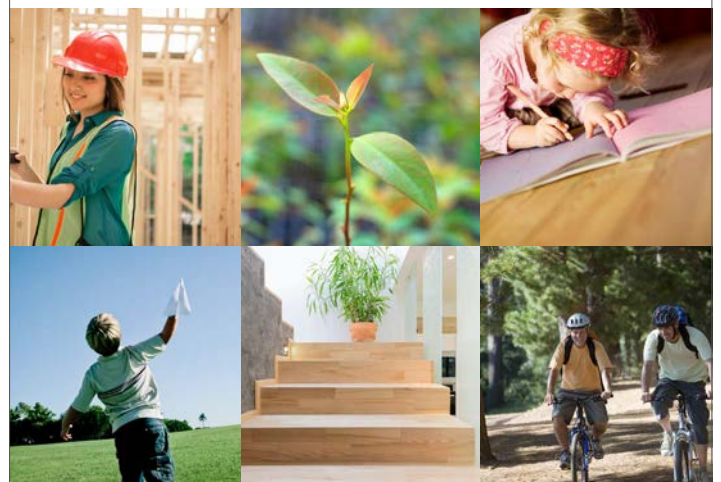
code of practice for native forests, the review to be announced in a couple of weeks.

Representatives of

DAF, sawmillers, private forest growers, industry associations and other

Cont P 4

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From P 3

stakeholders will thrash out the terms of the code of practise, addressing subjects such as the number of trees that should be retained per hectare, the amount of habitat trees that should remain and the methods of harvesting, particularly in inclusion zones alongside rivers and creeks.

Pressure will be applied to determine the productivity of private forests in light of

“ OPPORTUNITY FOR NATIVE FORESTS IN THE TOP END



Ironwood logs being trucked out of Lakefield National Park in the Cook Shire 1700 km northwest of Brisbane.

the diminishing hardwood resource in Queensland.

Quoted in T&F enews last week, Timber Queensland CEO Mick Stephens said there were significant opportunities for native forestry development in northern Australia.

“This requires not only better collaboration between traditional owners and

industry participants across the supply chain, but also a more supportive investment environment by government that can generate local processing jobs and wealth generation,” he said.

The industry recognises that Queensland’s hardwood plantation program was unsuccessful, and is pressing the government to work on a refreshed resource security

arrangement post the 2024 Southeast Queensland Regional Forest Agreement deadline. The RFA was a 20-year agreement between Queensland and the commonwealth focused primarily on how the region’s public native forests can best be used

and managed, drawing on state forests, other Crown land and private native forest resources over the longer term.

What is sure, Queensland sooner than later may have to rely totally on the private forest sector, so industry reviews must address how they are going to assist the process.

Shock closure of Whakatane mill underlines New Zealand jobs crisis

THE NZ government should look at mill closures as a crisis and take appropriate remedial measures to ensure New Zealand doesn’t continue to lose its manufacturing capacity, warns First Union, the country’s second-largest private sector trade union.

The union said the closure of Whakatane mill on the North Island confirmed New Zealand needed to change its policy setting around governmental procurement of locally-processed wood products and secure wood supply to processors to avoid further closures and devastating waves of redundancy.

Staff were informed on Tuesday that the mill would be closing by July and ceasing

operations, affecting 210 staff.

The management said Whakatane mill had lost its biggest customer, a Swiss packaging company SIG Combibloc, and the business was no longer considered economic.

“If we want well-paid jobs in the regions, we need to invest in local manufacturing and do everything we can to avoid closures like this,” First Union secretary for manufacturing Jared Abbott said.

“In the case of Whakatane Mill, we still believe there are opportunities to make the most of the existing plant for the production of pulp products, but it would require government support,” he said.

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Zero-carbon hybrid timber tower fuels optimism for city buildings

A SUPER-TALL zero-carbon hybrid timber tower of 105 storeys is on the drawing board at Dialog, a Canadian architectural and engineering design studio.

The hybrid timber tower would be the tallest building in Canada – and also one of the most sustainable. Construction uses a patent-pending, prefabricated, composite hybrid timber floor system combined with a diagrid steel structure and concrete core that slashes embodied carbon almost in half compared with an all-steel-and-concrete system.

The building would contain 14 times as much mass timber as the current world record-holding tall wood building.

Dialog has joined many other Canadian architecture firms in signing a '2030 Challenge Pledge' to make all buildings carbon neutral by the end of the decade.

"It's an ambitious target and, if we're being totally honest, a daunting one. Accounting for around 40% of total global carbon emissions, the building industry is a big



1/ *The hybrid timber tower would be the tallest building in Canada at 105 storeys.*
2/ *Canadian concept... construction uses a patent-pending, prefabricated, composite hybrid timber floor system combined with a diagrid steel structure and concrete core that slashes embodied carbon.*



part of the problem," says Dialog chair Jim Anderson.

"It can feel like a heavy weight to carry. That's why this project has been a beacon of hope for our integrated practice – it has invigorated and energised us."

One simple question started the entire journey: How can you build a clear span of 12 m for a Class A office building

using mass timber?

Mass timber is currently constrained because it can only economically span about 8 m, suitable for residential structures but not for Class A office space. The hybrid building encases post-tensioned cables in steel cages, in a concrete trough that is then recessed into a CLT wood panel to achieve

longer spans.

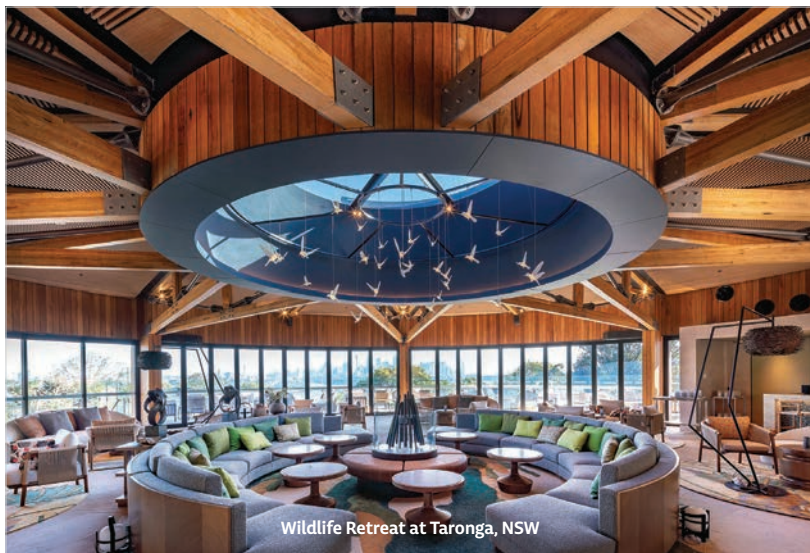
The architectural and engineering design team recognised early on that this innovation could help wrest mass timber out of its small-span niche, but they needed to make sure it could be constructed and be cost-competitive.

An R&D team demonstrated that not only was the system viable from a constructability standpoint, but the cost premium for the system was in line with other structural

innovations.

Once the team had a proven concept, they wanted to demonstrate that it could work in any building type. That's what spurred the idea of a super-tall structure.

"It's six buildings that are just stacked on top of each other," says project architect Cam Veres.



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Seeing the wood in trees: multiple pathways for low-carbon economy

‘We have been calculating carbon stored in forests for over a decade’

BEYOND windmills, solar panels and a constant stream of innovation to mitigate carbon emissions in the built environment, many now believe timber holds the key to a more sustainable world as it shifts towards a circular ‘bio’ economy.

Using forests for carbon sequestration is a known path to reducing carbon dioxide, but the crucial role of timber products in helping limit global warming to 1.5°C by 2030 is only now becoming more evident, says an Australian report published in IPE Real Assets, a London-based market intelligence journal.

An increasing range of products manufactured from sustainably-cultivated forests is contributing to climate-change mitigation. These compete with a wide spectrum of products relying on high-energy inputs in the



Forests and timber hold the key to a more sustainable world.

manufacturing process.

They range from cross-laminated timber used in construction of high-rise structures as a replacement for concrete and steel, to the wood fibre and pulp used in production of fabrics and baby nappies, replacing synthetics.

“There is a recognition that we need to make some significant changes to how the world economy operates in order to be able to manage through this century – when population will grow to 10 billion with a gross world product of \$US300 trillion,” says David Brand, chief

executive of New Forests.

“It is a huge economic challenge. If the world is ever to get to a net-zero outcome, it is imperative to deal with issues like materials used in the built environment.”

New Forests now manages 950,000 ha of timberland in six countries valued at more than \$6.6 billion.

“Over a third of the solution to climate change between now and 2050 needs to come through sustainable land use and conservation,” Mr Brand says.

As that transition starts, Mr

Brand sees multiple pathways to the low-carbon economy ahead.

“The energy sector is moving away from fossil fuels to renewables,” he says. “Mobility is moving away from internal combustion engines to electric vehicles. The built environment is moving to lower carbon emissions, and we are moving away from high levels of waste to the concept of a circular bio-economy. These trends intersect with the forestry sector.

“There is a shift towards

Cont P 9

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15-18: DANA New Zealand Forest Industry Status and Outlook Conference and Field Trip – Napier Conference Centre, Marine Parade, Napier, New Zealand. For further information visit www.danaevents.co.nz/2021napier/ or contact Conference Organiser Julie Bell admin@dana.co.nz

19: Doing Timber Business in Queensland – Northern Suburbs Bowls Club 175 Edinburgh Castle Rd, Wavell Heights, QLD. Join QLD's full industry supply chain at a one day symposium followed by barefoot bowls & BBQ networking. For more information visit www.timberqueensland.com.au/events or email admin@timberqueensland.com.au

JUNE

16-18: TABMA National Conference – Oaks Cypress Lakes Resort, Hunter Valley, NSW. Contact Alicia Oelkers at alicia@tabma.com.au

JULY

10: Victorian & Tasmanian Hardware Awards – Showtime Events Centre, Melbourne, VIC. 6:30pm-11:30pm. Contact Natalie Scott at n.scott@hardwareaustralia.com.au

17: Queensland Hardware Industry Awards – Rydges South Bank, Brisbane, QLD. 6:30pm-11:30pm. Contact Natalie Scott at n.scott@hardwareaustralia.com.au

AUGUST

13: South Australian Hardware Industry Awards – Stamford Grand, Glenelg, SA. 6:30-11:30pm. Contact

Natalie Scott at n.scott@hardwareaustralia.com.au

SEPTEMBER

1: Australian Forest Products Association Gala Dinner and Symposium – Parliament House, Canberra, ACT. For further information see: www.ausfpa.com.au

4: TABMA QLD Awards Dinner – Rydges South Bank, Brisbane, QLD. 6.00pm start. Contact Alicia Oelkers at alicia@tabma.com.au

10: New South Wales Hardware Legends and Industry Awards – Doltone House Darling Island, Sydney, NSW. 12:00pm – 4:30pm. Contact Natalie Scott at n.scott@hardwareaustralia.com.au

17: Western Australia Industry Awards – Beaumonde on the Point,

Perth, WA. 12:00pm – 3:30pm. Contact Natalie Scott at n.scott@hardwareaustralia.com.au

OCTOBER

TBA: TABMA NSW Awards Dinner – Sydney, NSW. Contact Alicia Oelkers at alicia@tabma.com.au

11-14: IFA/AFG national conference 'Your Forests, Our Future' – Country Club Tasmania, Launceston, TAS, Australia. Open to forest scientists, forestry professionals and forest growers. Call for abstracts and sponsorship opportunities will be released in coming months. Contact Institute of Foresters of Australia. Visit www.forestry.org.au or phone (03) 9695 8940.

Forest industries will gain from regionalisation agenda

THE Australian Forest Products Association has commended the National Farmers Federation Regionalisation Agenda paper, which highlights the potential for the \$24 billion forest industries to play a key role in a boom for regional Australia.

The discussion paper calls on policy makers to look at the best way of getting people out of cities and

into the regions, and turbo-charging their manufacturing sectors through innovation and value-adding.

AFPA CEO Ross Hampton said the global pandemic had highlighted the importance of Australia being more self-sufficient.

“The Regionalisation Agenda shows Australia is uniquely placed to drive innovation and value-adding

in our food and fibre sectors and that forestry is well-placed to be at the forefront of this,” Mr Hampton said.

“We are already Australia’s sixth largest manufacturing sector, and there is record global demand for renewable wood products and fibre.”

The discussion paper includes a case study on forest industries, highlighting the value-adding potential if


industry processed more of the low-quality logs onshore currently being exported.

“With the right policy settings, forest industries can play a key role in boosting regionalisation by fast-tracking emerging industries such as engineered timber for mid to high-rise timber buildings, and bio-materials to replace plastics,” Mr Hampton said.

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FEBRUARY

24-26: Reforestation for biodiversity, carbon and livelihoods – VIRTUAL EVENT. The Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew and Botanic Gardens Conservation International will jointly convene a three day debate, scientific research, best practice and policy recommendations to go beyond the headlines and find ways to raise the standard of global reforestation. The conference will create a global hub of expertise and innovative thinking, to ensure that reforestation delivers benefits not just for carbon capture, but also for biodiversity and human wellbeing. For further information see: www.worldagroforestry.org/event/reforestation-biodiversity-carbon-capture-and-livelihoods

MARCH

8-10: European Forest Products Industry Conference – VIRTUAL EVENT. Fastmarkets RISI. Pulp, paper and packaging forecasts and panel discussions - Understand the key market changes impacting the European supply chain and beyond. For more information see: www.risiinfo.com/events/

9-11: Dubai WoodShow – Prague, Czechia The Dubai WoodShow is the premier destination for wood specialists. It is the region's only dedicated business-to-business meeting place for the wood, wood accessories and woodworking machinery industry. For further information see: www.woodshowglobal.com/dubai/#section3

22-23: International Conference on Forest Science, Ecology and Management (ICFSEM) – Dubai World Trade Centre, Dubai. World Academy of Science, Engineering and Technology. For further information see: <https://waset.org/forest-science-ecology-and-management-conference-in-march-2021-in-prague>

APRIL

1-4: International Conference on Agriculture, forestry, Biotechnology and Food Science (ICAFBFS) – Bali, Indonesia. The key intention of ICAFBFS is to provide opportunity for the global participants to share their ideas and experience. This event will also help the delegates to establish research or business relations as well as to find international linkage for future collaborations. For further information

see: www.allconferencealert.com/event-detail.html?ev_id=522856

MAY

5-8: Forestry – Bridge to the Future – UNIVERSITY OF FORESTRY, SOFIA, BULGARIA (TO BE HELD IN A HYBRID FORMAT. PARTICIPANTS WILL HAVE THE CHOICE OF ATTENDING IN PERSON OR VIRTUALLY). For further information see: <https://conf2020.forestry-ideas.info/>

24-25: International Conference on Forestry Science and Silviculture (ICFSS) – London, UK. World Academy of Science, Engineering and Technology. For further information see: <https://waset.org/forestry-science-and-silviculture-conference-in-may-2021-in-london>

24-28: XV World Forestry Congress – Seoul, South Korea. 15th World Forestry Congress. The theme will be: Building a green, healthy and resilient future with forests. For further information see: <https://wfc2021korea.org/online/notice.html?act=view&aid=40>

JUNE

15-16: Carbon Forestry Conference – Rotorua, New Zealand. Changes to legislation in relation to climate change and emissions trading, including carbon farming investment opportunities. For further information see: <https://carbonforestry.events/>

29-1: WoodEX for Africa – Gallagher Convention Centre, Johannesburg, South Africa. Long established as the gateway to Africa's timber trade, WoodEX for Africa 2021 will be the ultimate machinery, tools and supplies gathering in Africa. Held in conjunction with the 2nd Deck & Flooring Expo and co-located with Africa's biggest construction expo, African Construction Expo. For further information see: <https://woodexforafrica.com/>

JULY

2-4: Foire De Libramont 2021 – Libramont Exhibition & Congress, Rue des Aubépines, 50 B-6800 Libramont, Belgium. The Libramont agricultural, forestry and agri-food fair is a huge outdoor exhibition that offers a showcase for the rural world in all its many shapes and forms (machinery, livestock breeding, forestry, the agri-food industry, horticulture, study, and R&D). For further

information see: <http://www.libramont-exhibition.com/>

23-26: The International Forest Festival – Feanedock National Forest, Leicestershire. UK. Music, forests, art and ideas. For further information see: <https://timberfestival.org.uk/>

AUGUST

9-12: World Conference on Timber Engineering – Santiago, Chile. Uruguay XXI will host as part of its strategy to promote investments in the forestry and wood sector. This is the first time this event is held in South America and will be hosted by the Chilean capital. The main topics that this conference will cover are sustainable forests for timber production, wood products and connections, wood engineering and architecture, policy, implementation and management, education, promotion and future trends. For further information see: www.uruguayxxi.gub.uy/en/events/article/145/

16-19: 20th Commonwealth Forestry Conference – VIRTUAL EVENT. An informal forum for foresters, and all those with an interest in the forestry sector to exchange knowledge and experience. It is organized by the Standing Committee on Commonwealth Forestry and covers general aspects of forest management and governance and has a focus on the changing priorities of the forestry sector. For further information see: <https://cfc2021.ubc.ca/>

30-31: International Conference on Forest Aesthetics and Site Preparation – Australian Museum Sydney, Australia. World Academy of Science, Engineering and Technology. For further information see: <https://waset.org/forest-aesthetics-and-site-preparation-conference-in-august-2021-in-sydney>

SEPTEMBER

22-24: Natural resources, green technology and sustainable development GREEN2020 – Zagreb, Croatia. Now rescheduled from last year. For further information see: <https://www.sumins.hr/green2020/>

27-1: LIGNA.21 Making more out of wood – Hannover, Germany. For further information see: <https://www.ligna.de/en/>

• Please send events to John Halkett: johnh@timberandforestrynews.com



David Brand... land use one of the really under-invested areas.



Brian Kernohan... management practices can influence carbon stocks in trees.

From P 6

the circular economy where materials such as wood and wood fibre can be recycled and reused and ultimately decompose naturally."

David Brand says sustainable land use will emerge when we balance and integrate the conservation of remaining natural ecosystems with sustainable production of food, fibre and timber in landscapes.

Land use, he says, has been "one of the really under-invested areas" in tackling climate change. "But that is changing. There is an emerging focus on forestry as a sought-after ESG-ready investment."

Brian Kernohan, chief sustainability officer at Hancock Natural Resource Group says: "We share the view that forest and farmland have a big role to play in helping us meet the Paris Agreement targets. We are conscious of how management practices can influence carbon stocks in trees, and carbon stored in soil. These occur naturally, and, if managed properly and

appropriately, we think hold great promise for the planet."

Timberland managers use third-party programs to provide certification standards. These entities include the Program for Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) and the Forest Stewardship Council.

"We adhere to the standards of these organisations and support them in continuously improving their standards – the bedrocks of our sustainability program," Mr Kernohan said.

"These certifications allow you to document performance and things like biodiversity, clean water, appropriate use of chemicals, soil management and general forestry practices – as well as a lot of social elements.

"We have been calculating carbon stored in the forest over a decade – before it became such an important topic today."

Both the Australian and New Zealand sovereign wealth funds, the Future Fund and NZ Super, respectively, together with Unisuper, the \$80-billion Australian superannuation fund, have been early, significant investors in timberland. Each fund regards its timberland investment as delivering more than returns – rather as an impact investment that doubles as a climate-change mitigant.

“FORESTS HAVE BIG ROLE IN MEETING PARIS AGREEMENT TARGETS



Rising from the ashes: new generation of sugar pine seedlings in Bago forest

OWNERS of the Batlow-based Gould's Nursery are happy to report that natural regeneration from the fire-ravished Bago state forest in the south-west region of NSW has been successfully propagated for a new sugar pine planting.

The Sugar Pine Walk was destroyed in the Dunns Road bushfire. The nursery is working with the NSW Forestry Corporation to grow the next generation of sugar pines (*Pinus lambertiana*).

Nursery owner Jamie Gould said there was a scattering of pine seedlings under a patch of 1930s sugar pine close to the famous Laurel Hill attraction.

"Forestry Corporation's Ben Wielinga dropped in one day with a photo of recently germinated seedlings on Central Logging Road," Mr Gould said.



Jamie Gould of Gould's Nursery at Batlow with some of the 1700 propagated sugar pine seedlings.

Jamie and his two children Riley and Rayleigh rescued around 1700 seedlings from the site in March last year in partnership with the Forestry Corporation.

"It was a family effort over a couple of weekends to collect the seedlings from the under the burnt trees," he said.

"It was only three months since the fire and the seedlings were still coming up and no taller than your index finger," he said.

"At that stage we were not sure if they would transplant well or even if they were definitely sugar pine."

Sugar pine seeds can't be bought in Australia. The species is threatened in its native North America and biosecurity prevents seed from being imported. Locally, the hefty cones are a favourite food source for cockatoos.

Forestry Corporation was keen to establish another sugar pine planting as the original had been so popular with locals and tourists.

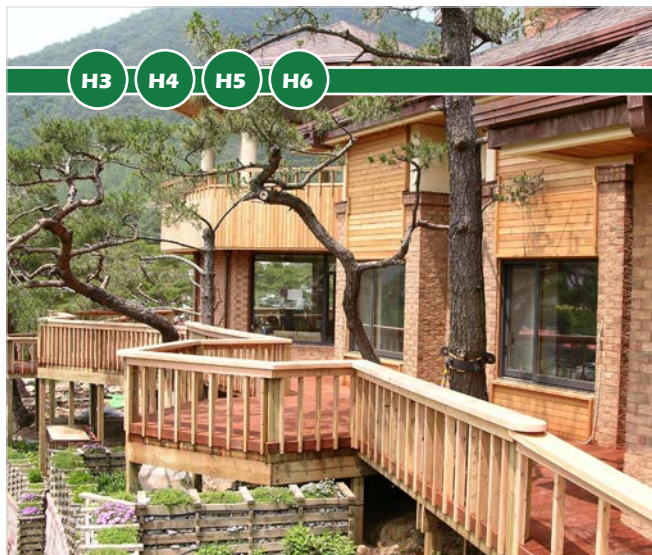
Ben Wielinga from Forestry Corporation says the Sugar Pine Walk was an iconic local destination.

The Goulds were enthusiastic to help create a new Sugar Pine Walk.

The bulk of the seedlings will be replanted as a replacement to the former Sugar Pine Walk, with 192 also donated to the National Arboretum in Canberra for its botanical collection.

While planning for the replacement walk is well under way, the former site is still having an impact on the local community. Forestry Corporation donated some of the salvaged sugar pine wood to community groups around the region to support their fundraising activities.

SOME 1700 SEEDLINGS RESCUED LAST YEAR



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ATS Building Products opens new distribution centre in Sydney

NEVER one to stand still, after 17 years of successful trading and growth Sydney-based ATS Building Products has now completed an extensive business rebranding and repositioning exercise.

"I see our rebranding as stepping up our corporate profile and boosting our image with a more modern look that supports our extensive product and service offering to our customers," says founder and CEO Haytham Moshi who has more than two decades of exposure in the timber and building industry.

"Our rebranding incorporates our new motto – Build Better with ATS," he said.

By any measure, ATS Building Products has demonstrated amazing growth and diversification in the Australian building materials supply market.

With a non-conventional business model, ATS is able to offer a range of products and services unmatched by others. Haytham Moshi has provided the vision, drive and

“ WE ARE ADAPTABLE TO ANY SIZE PROJECT ”



1/ ATS rebranding in conjunction with the opening of a new ATS Building Products wholesale distribution centre that includes 12,500 sq m under cover.

2/ Haytham Moshi ... rebranding incorporates A new motto Build Better with ATS..

growth behind the success of ATS. He doesn't feel constrained by what might be considered more traditional business models and product ranges in the Australian building supply market.

The launch of the new branding has been syntonised with the opening of ATS Building Products' new, state-of-the-art wholesale distribution centre at Moorebank in western Sydney.

"So now more than ever, if you're looking for quality building materials at competitive prices, ATS can deliver with a comprehensive range of timber and other building products supported by our professional services," Mr Moshi said.

"We are now a dominant Sydney supplier of building

around the world, smart technology and an in-house distribution network.

"We are adaptable to any size project," Haytham Moshi said.

"No job is too big or too small. Plus, we focus on partnerships, reliability, flexibility and convenience



and construction materials and a trusted home for the supplies needed to complete any size project.

In addition to three locations in Sydney, ATS Building Products has distribution facilities in Queensland, Adelaide and Victoria.

The company has a product supply model that has won favour with customers and helped to galvanise the spectacular expansion of the company. This is based on sourcing quality products at the best prices, locally and

to help our customers feel comfortable, valued and supported," he said.

"While we are one of Australia's largest building materials suppliers we haven't lost our personal touch; ensuring that our customers get a premium service is a large part of who we are and what we do."

Details of ATS Building Products' new mega building products distribution centre at Moorebank will be outlined in an upcoming edition of Timber&Forestry enews.

Timber domes set clear-span records

THE new Taiyuan Botanical Garden Domes complex in Taiyuan, China, features three domes ranging from 43 m to 88 m in diameter and from 12 m to 30 m in height.

The largest of the three domes is the longest clear-span timber grid shell (non-triangulated) in the world. All three parabolic grid shells comprise light doubly curved glulam beams, arranged in two or three crossing layers.

Timber was chosen for the project due to its adaptability to the geometric demands, its inherent fire resistance, structural flexibility, natural aesthetic, and environmental sustainability.

When viewed from above, the timber structures resemble seashells, with the primary members tightly spaced on one side and fanned out across the surface of the domes.



1/ *China's garden domes... world's longest clear-span timber grid shell.*
2/ *World's largest planetarium under a wooden geodesic dome.*



This complex arrangement means that every one of the 2400 members is unique, so computational generation and digital fabrication techniques were paramount to the success of the project.

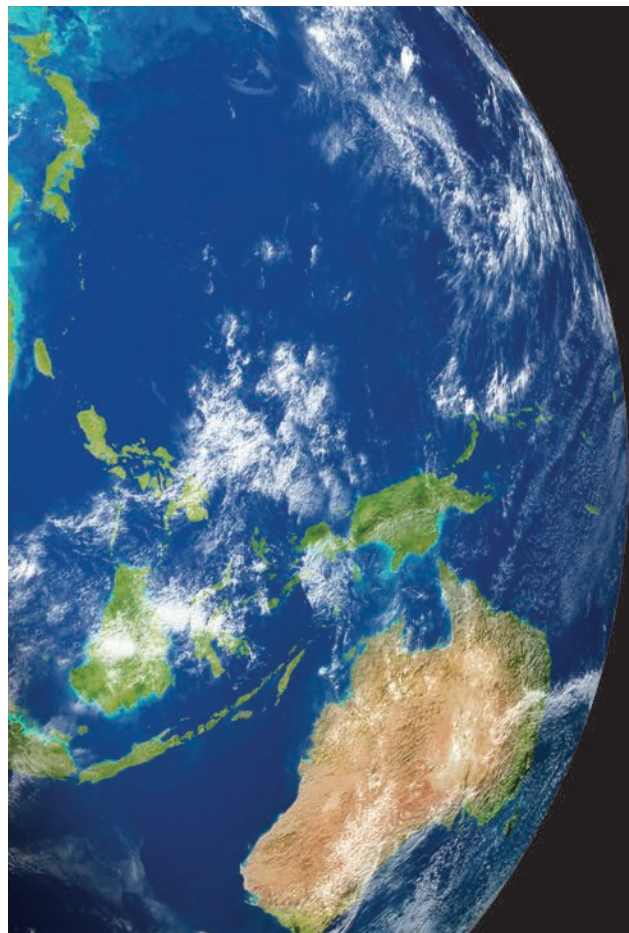
And in Russia ... the Wooden Geodesic Dome contains the world's largest planetarium. The project inscribed inside a gasholder in Saint Petersburg, aims to transform an industrial

area into an educational and scientific centre with a large projection screen. The fun part? It is located in a large geodesic dome made up mainly with wood and metal links for a light and resistant construction.

Proceeding from the task of constructing a three-dimensional projection screen in a half-sphere of 37 m in diameter, the corresponding scheme was selected. A

10-frequency sphere dictated the choice of the material of its parts (foamed PVC). The geometry of the fullerene (hexagonal grid) is applied as a structure. Thus, in each triangle of the geodesic dome framework, a hexagonal element is inscribed.

Each element is surrounded by other elements forming a single screen, which consists of 1400 parts of 36 dimension types.



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Powerful story of bushfire resilience transformed into interactive exhibits

Timber suppliers and DAF contribute to Griffith University project

JIM BOWDEN

STORIES of resilience have been collected and transformed into interactive exhibits for key sites along Queensland's Scenic Rim impacted by the Black Summer bushfires.

The region is a group of forested mountain ranges of the Great Dividing Range south of Brisbane. In Queensland specifically, more than half of the Gondwana world heritage rainforests were burned, including the iconic Binna Burra Lodge.

Griffith University with community stakeholders and strategic partner Binna Burra Lodge have collaborated to tell first-hand accounts of survival and recovery and unearth important insights for future natural disaster preparedness.

The story-telling pavilions will be built on two impacted sites.

Research lead Associate Professor Karine Dupre from the Griffith Institute for Tourism says the project showcases the community's ability to adapt, "by collecting the lived experiences from across the Scenic Rim community."

"We'll get many different perspectives on how stakeholders dealt with the aftermath and recovery from the bushfires," Prof Dupre said.

These memories have been weaved into two exhibition pavilions educating the public about bushfire disasters, their impacts and community stories.



Interactive exhibits completed at the Griffith University laboratories before transport to Binna Burra.

"Our aim is to create a platform for social learning for the community by focusing on the different phases of disaster management: prevention, preparedness, response and recovery," Prof Dupre said.

The Bushfire Pavilion is a Griffith University project (architecture and engineering schools) undertaken in collaboration with the DAF forest products innovation team based at the Salisbury Research Facility in Brisbane.

The Griffith multi-disciplinary team is composed of experts in sustainable tourism, design and environment.

Suppliers of materials included Austral Plywoods

(hoop pine plywood), Big River Group (spotted gum plywood), and Wesbeam (LVL).

Prof Dupre said the shared memories would powerfully inform four community workshops to discuss best practices, opportunities and recommendations for recovery to strengthen the existing resilience in the Scenic Rim community.

The project also includes key partners impacted by the bushfires – the Binna Burra

Lodge, Mount Barney Lodge and Scenic Rim Regional Council – as well as the wider community including residents, emergency services, local businesses and visitors.

Binna Burra Lodge chair Steve Noakes says the research will help improve the capacity and capability of the local community to respond to future disasters.

"This research is underpinned by our community's recovery and the first-hand knowledge we've collectively gained through this experience," he said.

"At Binna Burra we lost our

“COLLECTING LIVED EXPERIENCES FROM ACROSS COMMUNITIES”

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heritage lodge and 11 houses were also destroyed in our Beechmont community.”

Earlier this year Griffith signed a long-term strategic partnership with Binna Burra Lodge to collaborate on research and education initiatives.

The ‘Fire Memories: Gathering Stories about Fire Impacts and Response to Build Resilience’ project is funded under a federal and Queensland government bushfire recovery program.

The 2019-2020 bushfires were devastating. Not only did they burn forests, farms, buildings to the greatest extent ever recounted, but they also took the life of 34



1/ Queensland DAF research centre at Salisbury and timber companies Austral Plywoods, Westbeam and Big River Group contributed to the interactive bushfire response exhibits destined for Queensland’s Pacific Rim.

2/ Steve Noakes... Griffith project helping communities respond to future disasters.



people and more than a billion animals.

This project acknowledges the traditional custodians of the Land and pays respect to the Elders, past and present, and extends that respect to other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

“WORKING TOGETHER ON RESEARCH AND EDUCATION INITIATIVES

On the cover: Looking over interactive exhibits at Griffith University are Associate Professor Karine Dupre, Dr Ian Underhill, Associate Professor Benoit Gilbert, and James Webster. The exhibits are destined for key sites along Queensland’s Scenic Rim, now in recovery after the 2019-20 Black Summer bushfires.

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Megafires are a consequence of a fatally flawed conservation theory

Inquiry fails to address absence of sustainable land management in report

VIC JURSKIS

THE Bushfires Royal Commission has totally failed to address the absence of sustainable land management which led to the 2019-20 Black Summer.

It didn't even properly fulfil its requirement to consider the outcomes of previous Inquiries, stopping short at the 2004 COAG Report by two academics and a fire chief.

COAG effectively swept under the carpet 'A Nation Charred', the report of the House of Reps Inquiry into the 2003 disasters, which heard from experienced land and fire managers across Australia.

Now we've got another expert report from academics at Griffith University and the Australian National University, led by Professor Brendan Mackey, the director of the 'Griffith Climate Action Beacon'.

Having seen some of his scientific papers, I wondered why he'd be the lead author of a paper about bushfires, so I checked his 'bio' on the university web site. Mackey is a Bachelor of Applied Science, University of Canberra, and PhD in ecology ANU.

Apparently the professor is an expert in climate adaptation, but there is no indication of any relevant experience in land and fire management.

One of Mackey's colleagues on the Bushfire Recovery Project is Professor David Lindenmayer from ANU. Over a 30-year career as a PhD, Lindenmayer has published



Prescribed burning helps reduce the incidence and extent of wildfires.

an outstanding 1300 scientific articles and books – that's nearly one a week. His bio on the BushfireFacts website lists three fellowships, 15 prestigious awards and an AO ... but doesn't mention any experience relevant to bushfires.

Professor Mackey has been spruiking an "expert review", hot off the press, of "51 peer-reviewed scientific papers" about bushfire. I freely admit that I haven't bothered to read the expert review, because the key findings released to the media are not correct.

To be effective, peer review must be critical. This rarely happens when the peers have similar experiences, ideas and institutions as the authors whose work they review. In these circumstances, expert reviews tend to suffer from double confirmation bias.

Professor Mackey told a reporter that climate change was the key factor contributing to the severity of recent bushfires because we had one of the worst droughts in our history. In fact, our written history goes back only 230 years but we've had equally bad or worse droughts without holocaust.

During the Settlement Drought in the early 1790s, Aboriginal fires were burning 24/7/365.

**“ TO BE EFFECTIVE
PEER REVIEW
MUST BE CRITICAL**

There were many occasions of extreme fire weather including three consecutive days of searing north-westerly gales and temperatures in the 40s which saw masses of flying foxes and lorikeets

dropping dead at Parramatta. When fires reached the European settlements they were able to be contained using hand tools and green branches, because fuels were light and discontinuous. The landscape was healthy and safe.

Aborigines managed fire through 40,000 years of climate change in our country "of droughts and flooding rains". They didn't have boots or overalls, let alone advice from experts on climate adaptation. Megafires are caused by stupidity – fighting fire instead of using it.

According to Mackey's expert academics, mild burning can't prevent natural disasters such as Black Summer. But there was nothing natural about it. A 70,000-year record from

Cont P 16

From P 15

sediment cores shows an outstanding increase in charcoal deposition, that is, biomass burning, when Europeans arrived. After foresters re-introduced mild fire in the landscape from the mid-20th century, charcoal deposition declined against a trend of rising temperatures.

Sixty years of empirical data from multiple use forests in south-western Australia shows – as managers know from experience – that prescribed burning helps to reduce the incidence and extent of wildfires. Furthermore, the academics and modellers have the story exactly back to front. Burning makes little difference in average fire seasons. Its main effect is to prevent the development of megafires during severe fire seasons when extreme weather would otherwise drive the development of unstoppable firestorms and long-distance ember showers.

In the southwest, "Our results show prescribed burning to be more effective in reducing the upper values of the annual area burnt by unplanned fire than the median".

In the southeast, academics make models supposedly showing that burning doesn't work because the bush is different.

The real difference is that we don't burn enough anywhere in the southeast anymore to make any difference. Experience in Western Australia clearly shows that there is a



Professor Brendan Mackey

minimum threshold of 8-10% of the landscape which must be treated each year to reduce the risk of wildfires. Effects of treatment persist up to six years. Burning is effective where half the landscape has had recent maintenance.

Prescribed burning is not intended to create firebreaks. It can create a safer landscape where fire control activities can be effective most of the time and prevent the development of broad fire fronts which inevitably explode from the wilderness under extreme conditions.

The idea that we can effectively protect communities from such scenarios by fuel reduced zones around their edges is stupid and dangerous. Many lives have been lost. We should have well and truly learnt our lessons before Black Summer.

Ecologists should also realise that fire risk is part of a big picture. Maintenance by mild fire is essential to natural nutrient cycling and healthy forests. Our neglected forests are suffering chronic decline and pestilence even when they're not being incinerated. Scrub booms as trees decline,



Professor David Lindenmayer

and 3D continuous fuels feed towering infernos during extreme weather.

But the supposed fire experts tell us that opening the canopy by timber harvesting increases sunshine, wind and fire risk. Here again, the professors have it back to front. Healthy forests are sunny and airy and easy to burn gently in mild conditions.

“ HERE AGAIN PROFESSORS HAVE IT BACK TO FRONT ”

The dense scrubs created by our 'lock-it-up-and-let-it-burn' conservation ethic are damp and still and almost impossible to burn under mild conditions. That's why they explode when they are inevitably ignited under extreme conditions during droughts.

The professors also say that harvesting trees increases fire risk by putting slash on the ground and promoting sapling growth. However, residues can be burnt to reduce immediate risk and promote growth of saplings so they

quickly achieve canopy closure and prevent the accumulation of fuel in understoreys.

After canopy closure, litter fall can be safely burnt to recycle nutrients and maintain healthy growth and carbon sequestration. In any case a miniscule proportion of the landscape is affected at any time.

Having argued that harvesting increases fire risk, Mackey stated that extreme fires burnt everywhere, irrespective of land use. He got that right, because irrespective of tenure, the rules and regulations governing forest management are based on the wilderness mentality pervading our academic institutions and bureaucracies.


Our pre-history and history demonstrate beyond doubt that megafires are a consequence of our fatally flawed conservation paradigm.

[The final report of the royal commission) tabled in parliament on October 30 last year set out 80 recommendations to improve Australia's national natural disaster arrangements, including the introduction of a national state of emergency, an all-hazard emergency warning app and a national fleet of water bombers].

•Vic Jurskis, B.Sc. (Forestry) ANU has more than 45 years' experience as a professional forester and was a silviculturist with the native forests division of Forests NSW. He has worked in all types of native forests and woodlands.

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TQ 'cottons on' to real fibre message

JANE MILBURN

AN alignment of values was integral to Timber Queensland's search for a local natural-fibre shirt to include in marketing materials for its Buy Queensland Timber campaign.

"We are promoting the benefits of natural, renewable locally-sourced building products and our message is buy local, from local supply chains," said strategic relations and communications manager Clarissa Brandt.

"We wanted to echo that and work with other local supply chains to tell our story and walk our talk."

The Buy Queensland Timber campaign had been simmering on the backburner before Covid-19 refocused consumer attention on sourcing and buying local.

Clarissa said earlier t-shirts purchased through a traditional promotional supplier were made overseas from polyester but the group realised this was not a 'good look' when spruiking the health, wellbeing and sustainability benefits of local natural materials.

"These are decisions we need to be making as a society," Clarissa said.



He's accredited... Clarissa Brandt points to the industry's buy-local logo on a pure cotton t-shirt worn by Jason Ross of Responsible Wood.

"The promotional products industry will always exist because businesses want to promote themselves, but we now look for sustainable ways to deliver sustainable messages and phasing out the use of polyester shirts, plastic pens and stubby coolers will do this."

It was surprisingly difficult to find a local cotton shirt but through an industry contact Clarissa found Meriel Chamberlin and Full Circle Fibres products that are "grown milled and made in Australia" using cotton grown at St George in south-west Queensland.

"It seems unbelievable that Meriel is the only one doing

this," Clarissa said. "There is definitely an opportunity for growth in local sourcing of promotional products that tell a better story and align with our values."

GROWING THE MARKET FOR ECO-FRIENDLY TIMBER

While price was not necessarily a determining factor, the local cotton shirts were only slightly more expensive at \$26 each compared with \$21 for the synthetic/plastic products produced offshore.

Clarissa added: "Our message is 'We build Queensland'. We were happy to support a local business when promoting buy-local in our own industry to support that sentiment in other industries too. The Queensland-grown cotton was custom-dyed to our colour specification."

Part of Timber Queensland's remit is to grow the market for timber as an environmentally friendly building product that helps combat climate change. Currently, Queensland produces enough timber to meet only 70% of local needs and Timber Queensland is encouraging farmers to diversify income by growing trees which also benefits grazing ecosystems.

Softwood timbers are grown in far north and south-east Queensland, hardwoods at Gympie and central Queensland and cypress in western Queensland.

"Timber is the ultimate renewable product and there is growing awareness that healthier, happier environments are achieved through biophilic designs which connect us to the natural world," Clarissa said.

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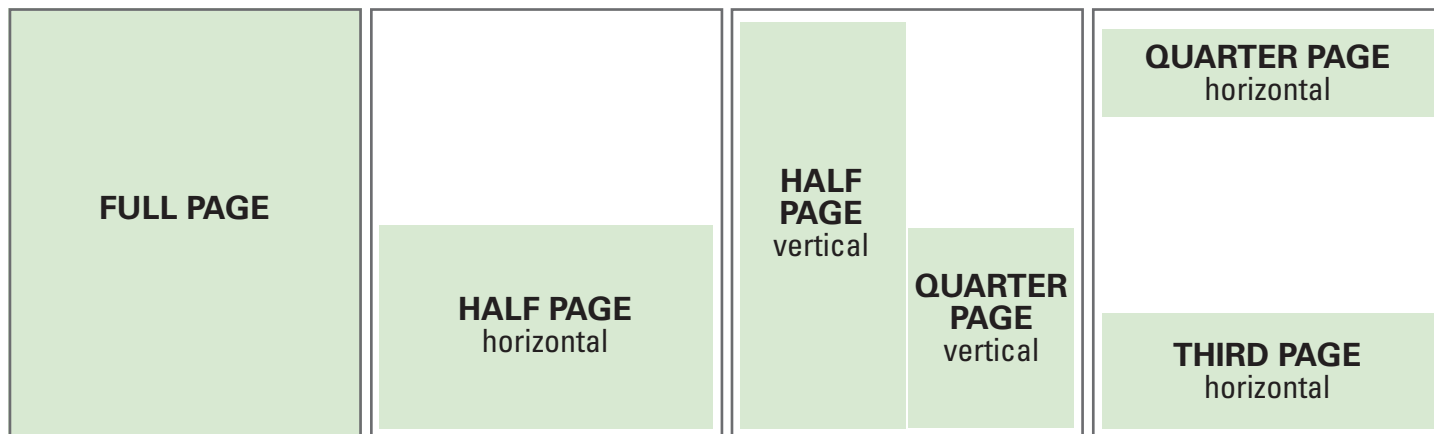
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