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Tom set to ply the Pacific in his all-timber row boat

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Waiting to load: armada of ships is the biggest off NZ for more than a century

MORE than a dozen logging ships are anchored off Gisborne, a sight not seen in New Zealand since the heyday of coastal shipping a century ago.

The armada of 30,000-tonne plus vessels in Poverty Bay/ T ranganui-a-Kiwa and further out to sea are part of what's been described as a forestry "gold rush".

It will take about a month to clear the backlog of ships which has built up as bulk freight has been knocked out of kilter by the Covid-19 impact on supply chains and logging companies ordering surplus capacity. Other factors include wharf repairs during the day at Eastland Port and bad weather.

The port company's chief operating officer Andrew Gaddum said it was thought to be the biggest influx of ships since during World War I, when coastal shipping was at its peak.

Demand for logs from China



Andrew Gaddum... "in the throes of a bit of a gold rush at the moment."

was running hot and the port was on track for the biggest year in its history, he said.

"We're in the throes of a bit of a gold rush at the moment," Mr Gaddum said.

"Eastland Port is working with shipping and forestry companies to help relieve the backlog. The global situation isn't helping."

About 40 container ships have missed their scheduled calls at Napier Port in the past eight months and there is also a jam at the Ports of Auckland, causing supply problems for importers.

ANZ's commodity index shows forestry posted another record in June with prices lifting a further 3.6%. This is being driven by very strong demand within China for logs.

"However, the strength of this market is of little consolation when it is so difficult to get product to market," says the ANZ. "The

“ANOTHER RECORD POSTED FOR FORESTRY”

forestry sector is also experiencing extremely high shipping costs and regularly being faced with delays, which is frustrating when demand for logs is so strong."

A Ministry of Primary Industries report released last month said forestry export revenue was forecast to reach \$6.3 billion in the year ending June 2021, an increase of 12.8% from 2019-20, when the

forestry sector was prevented from operating during level 4 lockdowns.

Harvest volumes are set to reach 36.5 million cub m in 2020-21, up 14.5% from last year. Log export volumes are expected to increase 21.4%, reflecting increased demand for export logs.

The ministry says the forestry sector has continued to benefit from rising global demand for key forestry products, as well as strong domestic demand.

Cont P 3



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NE Victoria communities urged to apply for share in \$280m bushfire recovery aid

THE federal government has released guidelines for the \$280 million Black Summer Bushfire Recovery grants program, providing funding direct to communities to help in their ongoing recovery after the 2019-20 events.

Minister for Emergency Management David Littleproud said bushfire recovery was still front and centre for the government, which had committed more than \$2 billion to bushfire recovery support.

“But we know disaster recovery is a long haul,” the minister said.

“These grants will help communities continue their bushfire recovery journey. There is money earmarked for every eligible local government area, with bigger funding envelopes for the areas that were hardest hit.”

Coordinator-General for the National Recovery and Resilience Agency Shane

“GRANTS FOR PROJECTS THAT BOOST COMMUNITY RECOVERY”

From P 2

Internationally, rising demand for New Zealand’s logs and sawn timber, especially from China and the US, is putting upward pressure on export prices.

Forestry export revenue is forecast to rise to \$6.4 billion year ending June 2022, as prices are expected to continue to rise.



Minister for Emergency Management David Littleproud (right) and Coordinator-General for the National Recovery and Resilience Agency Shane Stone discuss the bushfire recovery grants program.

Stone AC QC said the grants were for projects that boosted community recovery and at the same time helped minimise the impact of future natural disasters.

“We know it takes time for communities to move forward after a disaster, and the impact of the Black Summer bushfires is still deeply felt,” he said.

“True to my agency’s guiding principle of ‘locally led, locally understood and

Dennis Neilson of DANA observes: “It looks that after several months of rising NZ radiata log prices in China (and at wharf gate in NZ), we might see a ‘decent dip’ for July? That might be a relief and enable the NZ industry to ‘regroup’ and catch up with a lack of harvest crews and logs trucks.”

(With extracts from the NZ Herald)

locally implemented’, we have designed this program to be as simple and flexible as possible, so recovering communities can develop local projects that make sense to them.”

Grants can range from \$20,000 to \$10 million and are open to community organisations, businesses and local government councils that were disaster-declared as a result of the 2019-20 bushfires.

Senator for Victoria Bridget McKenzie encouraged local community groups and organisations to apply.

“This grants program is a great opportunity for local

Cont P 4

1 SEPTEMBER 2021

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Victorian government 'off the rails' in choosing imports over Aussie timbers

VICTORIA'S forest industries are angered by the state government's decision to choose a European company over an Australian sawmill to provide timber for the construction of Melbourne's new \$11 billion underground ANZAC metro station.

Victorian Forest Products Association CEO Deb Kerr said showcasing the station's new floating timber canopy with imported timber was incredibly disappointing.

The state Opposition claims the selection of imported timber flies in the face of the Andrews government's commitment of 88% local content for the project, and that Australian Sustainable Hardwoods at Heyfield was



1/ **Concept image of Melbourne's ANZAC railway station.**



2

2/ **Deb Kerr... Victoria's sustainable native hardwoods highly prized.**



3

3/ **Gary Blackwood... European suppliers allowed to offer cheaper rate.**

unfairly treated in the tender process.

The CFMEU's manufacturing arm has demanded an

independent assessment of local industry's ability to deliver the project.

Speaking in state parliament, Opposition spokesman for forestry Gary Blackwood said he had "serious concerns about the procurement process conducted for timber components – a floating timber canopy 90 m long and 20 m wide – that is a major feature of the complex."

He said ASH had submitted a conforming tender to supply the mass timber structure

component.

"It is my understanding that the project has sourced imported product from Europe that does not meet the mandatory specifications outlined in the tender documents, which suggests that the specifications have been changed, allowing European suppliers to offer a cheaper rate," he said.

"I believe, as a state-funded project, ASH was the only company that conformed to multiple elements in the design."

These elements included architectural specifications such as Australian timber species, Australian standards and appearance grades; engineering specifications to Australian standards; social procurement policies; and the local industry development plan requirements for Victorian content.

Deb Kerr said Victorian sustainable native hardwoods were highly prized for their aesthetic appeal and businesses like ASH had the expertise to manufacture such engineered wood structures.

From P 3

communities to identify and invest in recovery and resilience, through projects that address the social, economic or built environment needs of the community," she said.

"I encourage people in northeast Victoria to look at the guidelines, consider their community's needs and start planning projects."

Applications open on July 22 and close on September 2.

For more information and workshop details visit recovery.gov.au/black-summer-grants

[During the 2019-2020 bushfire season, 33 people died, including six Australian firefighters and three American aerial firefighters killed when their aircraft collided with terrain. More than 24 million ha of land was burnt, 3000 homes destroyed and an estimated three billion animals were killed or displaced].



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Trade deal opens \$300bn construction market in UK for Australian architects

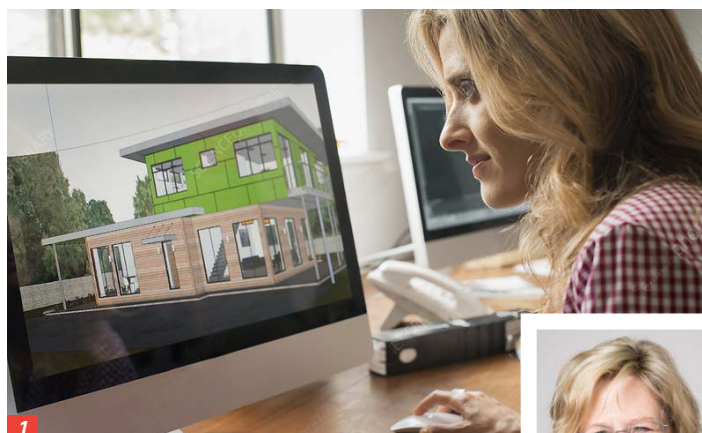
AUSTRALIAN architects are set to enjoy greater access to the UK's \$A300 billion construction market following the announcement of an in-principle free trade agreement and moves to create mutual recognition of each country's architecture qualifications.

As the UK and Australia announced an in-principle agreement on core elements of a free trade deal, the Architects Accreditation Council of Australia says it is in the final stages of negotiating a mutual recognition agreement (MRA) with its counterparts in the UK and New Zealand.

The agreement will help registered architects within each country to practice across the three nations.

Under the agreement, architects who are registered in any one of the countries will have their credentials recognised when seeking registration within the other two nations.

For architects, the agreement once finalised will open up significant opportunities.



1/ UK-Australian free trade deal will help architects practice across three nations.

2/ Kathlyn Loseby... importance of the agreement should not be understated.



According to Statista.com, the value of construction output across the UK amounted to \$293.7 billion in calendar 2019.

AACA CEO Kathlyn Loseby says the importance of the agreement should not be understated.

"While Covid-19 has put a halt temporarily to international travel and migration, we are forging ahead with this MRA so that when Australia's borders re-open both our architects and our communities here will be poised to benefit from a much

more straightforward skills recognition process," Ms Loseby said.

"Architects are among the most highly qualified professionals alongside the legal and medical fraternities. Architecture is also one of the professions that benefits most from collaboration.

"Recognising architects' credentials globally will literally open up a whole new world of tremendous opportunities to transform the lived experience of our built environment."

The agreement is being

negotiated with authorisation from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and is due to be concluded early in 2022.

Australia architecture profession currently has mutual recognition agreements which cover Japan, Singapore, Canada, New Zealand and around 30 individual states in the USA.

Meanwhile, a buoyant housing sector and the vaccine roll-out have boosted UK architects' confidence about their future workloads.

The Royal Institute of British Architects says the increased optimism marks a turning point for the profession, which has largely seen its pipeline of new work stagnate during the Covid crisis.

Driven by the strong residential sector, nearly a third (32%) of practices surveyed expected workloads to grow in the next three months, up from 28% in January, and just over half predicted they would remain the same.

(With extracts from Sourceable)



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CFMEU strengthens case against state's plan to shut down native forest industry

THE CFMEU's manufacturing division has confronted the Victorian government over 'technical loopholes' in the code of practice for timber production.

This is the powerful union's response to environmental groups "exploiting attempts in court to cripple timber communities with no regard to the impact of selfish actions on workers and their families"

As a result, on July 27 last year, the government initiated a review of the Code of Practice for Timber Production 2014 to "minimise the risk to short-term supply obligations arising from third-party litigation" and prevent "outdated regulation" putting



CFMEU continues fight for Victoria's forest industry.

regional jobs at risk.

The 2021 Proposed Variation of the Code of Practice for Timber Production, released last month, according to the CFMEU does go some way in attempting to address key

loopholes in the code, namely the 'precautionary principle' and its application.

The formalisation of the framework for application of the principle in the code provides some certainty to the industry by making it harder in the future for judges to decide that VicForests cannot rely on compliance with the formal rules set by the Victorian regulator or the policies of the Victorian government to demonstrate that it is complying with Victorian law (which was essentially the finding of Justice Mortimer in Friends of Leadbeater's Possum Inc vs.Forests).

CFMEU says this approach better aligns the code with its objective of promoting and balancing triple bottom line (social, economic, and environmental) benefits from the extremely small area available for timber production in Victoria (around 4/10,000 trees a year).

"Ultimately, however, the test about whether the code variations go far enough to provide certainty will be the ability of VicForests to supply and deliver contractors

and sawmills with stable, contracted amounts of forest and therefore logs.

"We think that there are further code amendments which should be made to ensure this outcome," CFMEU says.

The union and its members will be prosecuting further proposed code amendments in the community and to the parliament ahead of providing a formal response to the public consultation on the proposed code amendments.

"We will also continue to articulate our opposition to the despicable Victorian Forestry Plan which seeks to shut down the native forest industry in 2030 with no regard to the workers, families and communities which rely on it, nor sustainable forest management including hazard reduction and fire suppression capability which the industry contributes so much," the union says.

“ ADDRESSING LOOPHOLES IN CODE OF PRACTICE ”

"The government still has not provided any evidence of its contention that the industry is not sustainable from 2030 and we will continue to push for transparency of the resource data informing its 2019 decision to test whether it stacks up."

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JULY

21: Timber Queensland technical webinar – ONLINE. FREE EVENT - 11 am-12.10 pm. 'Make the Connection' is a must-attend for building professionals who will learn the uses and limitations of working with traditional lightweight metal connectors, gain practical advice for timber framing tie-down and hear about new product innovations from timber connection. Participants will learn the uses and limitations of working with traditional lightweight metal connectors, gain practical advice for timber framing tie-down and hear about new product innovations from timber connection manufacturers. Register at TimberQueensland.com.au/Events

SEPTEMBER

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

10: Tasmanian Timber Awards – Launceston, TAS. Celebration of excellence and best practice within the state's timber industry. Winners announced at a gala dinner at Albert Hall. Contacts: Phone 0439 336 511. Email naomi.will@tffpn.com.au. Visit www.tffpn.com.au

OCTOBER

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.

NOVEMBER

10-13: AUSTimber 2021 – Gormandale in eastern Victoria between Yarram and Traralgon. Nov. 10: Field trips. Nov. 11: Field trips (site visits by invitation). Welcome dinner. Nov. 12: Show day (9 am - 5 pm). Nov. 13: Show day (9 am - 3 pm). Contact Dionne Olsen on +61 429 202 929 or email austimber2020@afca.asn.au

14-19: 2021 Gottstein Trust Understanding Wood Science Course – Albury, NSW. November 14-15 based in Albury with field trips to northern Victoria. November 16-19: Guest lectures and field trip, then relocate by coach

to Canberra for three days including a laboratory day and guest lectures at ANU, and a formal course dinner celebrating 50th Anniversary of the trust. Detailed information, registration and the draft program: <https://gottsteintrust.org/course/wood-science-courses/>

16-17: Frame Australia Timber Offsite Construction – Crown Promenade Melbourne, VIC. New global 'hybrid' format will retain avital face to face element. Choose from a selection of half-day and full-day programs. Virtual delegates can register for just one or more conference sessions.

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JULY

7-11: New Forest Folk Festival – *Powells Farm, Salisbury Road, Plaitford, Romsey, UK.* For further information see: www.newforestfolkfestival.co.uk

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/>

OCTOBER

17-21: Prowood Ghent – *Flanders Expo, Maaltekouter 1, 9051 Ghent, East Flanders, Flanders, Belgium.* For further

information see: www.tradefairdates.com/Prowood-M9728/Ghent.html

22-24: International Conference on Forest Biodiversity and Sustainability (ICFBS) – *Dubrovnik, Croatia.* World Academy of Science, Engineering and Technology. For further information see: <https://waset.org/forest-biodiversity-and-sustainability-conference-in-october-2022-in-dubrovnik>

26-29: Woodworking Minsk – *Sports Complex, Pobeditelei 20/2 Minsk, Belarus.* International exhibition of woodworking and furniture production. For further information see: www.tradefairdates.com/Woodworking-M3361/Minsk.html

JANUARY 2022

28-29: International Conference on Forest Resources Accounting and Economics – *Australia World Academy of Science, Engineering and Technology, Sydney, Australia.* Forest industry accounting, methodological and issues and environmental accounting for forestry. For further information see; <https://waset.org/forest-resources-accounting-and-economics-conference-in-january-2022-in-sydney>

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



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Scholarships will take young forestry professionals to national conference

TWENTY-ONE young forestry professionals have been awarded scholarships to attend the Institute of Foresters of Australia and Australian Forest Growers national conference in Launceston in October.

President Bob Gordon said the scholarship recipients represented a broad cross-section of the sector and pointed to a bright future for forestry.

The recipients, all under 35 years of age and from across the nation, represent a range of organisations including DELWP, ACT Parks and Conservation Service, Sustainable Timber Tasmania and VicForests as well as Midway, HVP Plantations, OneFortyOne Plantations and Timberlands Pacific.

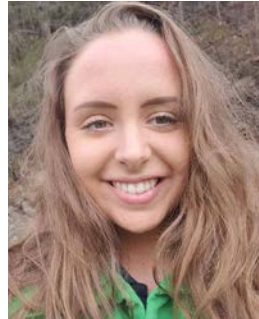
Students from the University of Tasmania, The University of Melbourne, Southern Cross University and Australian National University also received scholarships.

Excitement for the conference from October 11 to 14 is already building among the scholarship recipients.

“I am looking forward



Jia Yi... ACT Parks and Conservation.



Jenna... Sustainable Timber Tasmania



Sam... RMIT University.



Bella... OneFortyOne.

to engaging with cutting edge science and learning from a diverse group of forest scientists and land management practitioners,” Sam, a scholarship recipient at RMIT University, said.

Jia Yi of ACT Parks and Conservation Service was excited to be part of the IFA/AFG community and to be able to attend the conference.

“I have benefitted from many educational field trips hosted by the IFA/AFG when I was a student,” she said.

As an IFA/AFG member with a strategic communications qualification, Jenna from Sustainable Timber Tasmania said she was delighted to have received the scholarship ... “to improve my forest industry knowledge and

network, and understand the opportunities which exist to share the forestry story and better engage with the media, our audiences and stakeholders.”

Bella of OneFortyOne said she was especially looking forward to hearing about recent advances in the sector and gaining insight into how Tasmania’s forest were managed.

CEO Jacquie Martin said the conference theme – Your Forests, Our Future – aimed to foster an understanding that all Australians benefit from the nation’s forests.

“As part of the call for abstracts process which began in February, we received more than 120 abstracts and expressions of

interest from field foresters, researchers, students, farmers, communication and technology experts and we have finalised a list of accepted submissions,” Ms Martin said.

The full conference program will be released in the coming weeks.

Convenor Jim Wilson said the conference was shaping up to be the best yet.

Keynote speakers include Dr Victor Steffensen, co-founder of Firesticks Alliance and the National Indigenous Fire Workshop, and Prof. Annette Cowie, senior principal research scientist from NSW DPI and Adjunct Professor, School of Environmental and Rural Science, University of New England.



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Tom takes on his 'greatest adventure' to row across Pacific in a wooden boat

Sustainable timbers carry young sailor on 14,800 km ocean journey

JIM BOWDEN

AS someone who develops high anxiety flying long distances, a 9700-km 12-hour flight at night across a vast chunk of the South Pacific was a challenge.

This was the start of a tri-nations study tour of the South American forest industry in Chile, Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay hosted by forester Evan Shield (now based in Buenos Aires) and the writer 19 years ago.

More "an exciting adventure, than a challenge," says Tom Robinson, a 22-year-old sailor and boat builder from Brisbane who will row 14,800 km from Santiago in Chile to Brisbane in January in a quest to be the youngest person ever to row solo across the Pacific Ocean.

“AT SEA FOR 9 MONTHS IN VESSEL BUILT BY HAND



Tom Robinson is no stranger to sailing on the high seas.

Tom's journey will consist of four separate legs, with stops in between to re-supply and to experience the cultures and bio-diversity of some of the world's most isolated and beautiful islands

where he will have time to "fill up on tropical fruits." While at sea he has a pump-action convertor to turn sea water into fresh drinking water and a well-stocked supply of dry foods will be stored below deck.

Tom will be at sea nine months in a wooden vessel he has designed and built by hand.

The timbers chosen are a magnificent mélange of mostly Australian species. The all-important hull has been shaped from true Responsible Wood certified AAA marine plywood peeled from Queensland hoop pine and donated by Austral Plywoods.

"We like to think of it as an 'AAA' plywood," said joint CEO Stuart Matthews who with his brother Scott was at the Carrington Boating Club beside the Brisbane River on Tuesday to look over the boat – almost finished – and to wish Tom well.

Mr Matthews said marine ply must have an 'A' face and back, 'A' core veneers throughout, and an 'A-bond' glue system.

"If it doesn't have any of

Cont P 11

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AUSTRAL PLYWOODS

From P 10

these characteristics it's not marine plywood," he said.

Timbers that will keep Tom's boat on a steady course include laminated recycled Oregon for the keel and stem, spotted gum for the ribs, western red cedar and more hoop pine for the frame and Australian cedar for the hog, a semi-permanent bend in the keel.

Two sets of oars, one of spruce pine, the other carbon fibre, complete the basic fit-out.

Tom says the design was inspired by his cumulative search for the ideal ocean-rowing vessel.

"Her lines are based on the whaleboats that frequented the Pacific in the 19th and 20th centuries," he said.

"Although she features traditional lines, she will be an extremely safe vessel – self-draining, self-righting and unsinkable.

"The marine ply and modern epoxy glues provide a lightweight and strong monocoque hull. She will be

“AN EXMAPLE OF HOW WOOD CAN BE USED SUSTAINABLY



Cabin comfort ... Tom Robinson emerges from below deck where he will spend many hours on his cross-Pacific journey.

built to exacting standards to withstand even the roughest weather the Pacific Ocean can throw at her."

If there was a challenge for Tom it was to design and build the cabin, a daunting task as the top hamper of a vessel will make or break the aesthetic value of a boat, he says.

The solo rower has the support and encouragement

of his mum and dad, Tim, who himself has a spent a lifetime devoted to boating. In fact, Tom is descended from a long line of seafarers. His granddad was a boatie and along his lineage are many sailors, including an ancestor who was an admiral in the British fleet.

Tom will use his ocean rowing boat as an example of how wood can be used

sustainably and effectively.

"The timber was grown an hour's drive from where I live and the plywood factory is just 10 minutes down the road from my boat shed. It's hard to get more sustainable than that," Tom said.

"I could have bought a cheaper and more lightweight plywood from questionable sources in Africa that was shipped to France for manufacture before transport to Australia. This is hardly environmentally friendly or sensible.

"With modern coatings, I know that my boat will have a long and serviceable life."

Tom's family, friends and supporters will gather at the Carrington Boating Club on August 14 at a ceremony to name the boat.

The boat leaves for Santiago by container vessel later this year.

Bon Voyage Tom and fair winds. And Evan Shield might travel to Santiago in January to join in the ceremony at the start of the epic voyage.

On the cover: Tim Robinson (left) and son Tom with Scott and Stuart Matthews of Austral Plywoods at Tennyson, who donated marine ply for the hull, get together for an inspection of Tom's boat at Carrington Boating Club in Brisbane.



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Bill 'nurse' to 100m trees over long career

WITH Forestry Corporation NSW gearing to replant nearly 3000 ha of Bathurst state forests this year, silviculture supervisor Bill Klower is looking forward to seeing the start of another forestry cycle.

Bill started work in the forestry industry in 1963 in Oberon; a decision that led to him to enjoy nearly six decades working in the forestry industry and overseeing around 100 million seedlings planted in the Bathurst region in the past 30 years.

Over this time he has seen three seedling-to-sawlog rotations, delivering timber essential to building Australia's homes and houses.

He started as a chainman working for a surveyor in 1963, at a time when a lot

of work was needed to locate forest boundaries.

"The state forests had no boundary fences back in the day, so there was a lot of work to be done to establish where forests actually started and finished," Bill reflected.

"I was 16 at the time and had just left school, so the surveying work was a good opportunity. We'd leave home on Monday mornings and stay at one of the forest camps for the week. Some of the single workers lived there



Bill Klower... some things don't change, with seedlings still hand planted to ensure they are given the best chance to survive.

worksite. There weren't many vehicles around at the time, so the truck would leave and come back at the end of the day to pick us up."

Over nearly 60 years, Bill has seen great change in the industry.

"The biggest has been safety; there was virtually no attention to safety when I started, and now it is the key principle of what we do."

Since 1988, Bill has worked as a planting supervisor, overseeing around three million seedlings hand-planted each year since in the Oberon and Bathurst areas.

Those trees planted under Bill's watch 33 years ago are reaching maturity now and being harvested for structural timber to build homes.

permanently, but most of us would head home again for the weekend.

"At the start of the workday, we'd be bundled into the back of a truck and driven to the

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How long a piece of treated timber should last depends on the ‘variables’

ONE of life’s deep philosophical questions is something I have been pondering in my quieter moments.

Why do we have to wear matching socks? Where is it written that socks must match? From here, I move seamlessly into another of life’s intriguing issues – how long should a piece of timber last?

I was recently reading a paper on the disposal of preservative-treated wood and the author points out that while some structures using preserved wood can last decades, if not longer, a lot of timbers have a much shorter service life because of renovation, changes in aesthetics (it’s been ages since I have seen preserved lattice) and changes in lifestyle.

The preserved wood is pulled out of service before the end of its life ...whatever that might be.

I am old enough to remember when we had specifications for boron, copper chrome arsenic, pentachlorophenol, creosote, dieldrin and aldrin. With time, some of the ‘nastier’ ones have been taken off the



list and other preservatives have been introduced. The Hazard Class specification process has led to not only refining how much is put into the wood but also to more targeted treatments.

The life of a piece of preserved wood depends on five variables: the natural durability of the heartwood; the proportion of sapwood to heartwood; the concentration of preservative in the wood; and the design of the structure and the environment the wood is exposed to.

The protocol used to test new preservative systems focuses on the ‘concentration of preservative’ variable. Test samples are selected to be sapwood, so that eliminates two of the five variables. The sapwood in test pieces is carefully treated so that we know exactly what has

exposure environment; to do otherwise would take too long to get a result.

The protocol has been criticised because it does not reflect the real world. But you have to start somewhere ... and to test for all the variables would make testing unacceptably expensive and take decades to complete.

A lot of time and effort has gone into predicting timber performance. A really handy document, ‘Construction Timbers in Queensland’ is free off the web and provides specifications for satisfactory performance of construction timbers in four hazard zones (different to hazard classes) across the state. It lists all the timbers species and gives their performance for 5, 15 and 50 year design life in each of the four hazard zones. The publication contains a lot of information and in my opinion the approach should be adopted across Australia. There is of course a phone app (QTimber) but I prefer to flip pages.

So, the response to the question how long should timber last depends on the variables!

• *Jack Norton is national secretary of the Timber Preservers Association of Australia.*

JACK’S RANT



With **JACK NORTON**
Secretary, TPAA

been exposed to attacking organisms and so we know what number to put into a box in the standard.

Preserved test pieces are exposed in aggressive environments to get a result as quickly as possible. An above-ground result takes at least three years and inground at least five. By the way, the protocol does not specify an aggressive

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Clearfelling vs selection harvesting is under scrutiny for New Zealand radiata

Alternative methods, many and complex, must consider forest ecosystems

ALTHOUGH clearfelling is the dominant harvesting system in New Zealand, the practice has been increasingly called into question ... most notably following devastating weather events on the east coast in 2018 and last year, which saw slash inundate the region's rivers and beaches.

Mark Bloomberg, lecturer at the School of Forestry, University of Canterbury, says clearfelling's dominance is no accident.

"Compared with other methods, it is almost always cheaper and easier to manage, in terms of the actual harvest and the subsequent site preparation and forest re-establishment, Mr Bloomberg said.

He says alternatives to clearfelling are many and complex, but can essentially be defined as preserving between 10% and 70% of crop trees on site after harvest (retention harvesting), or more than 70% (selection harvesting).

"Overseas and in our indigenous forests, one of the main drivers for alternative systems is the need to retain forest ecosystem services after harvesting," he said.

"Prominent among those services is the protection forests provide against soil erosion.

"A recent worldwide review found that soil erosion rates

“CLEARFELLING DOMINANCE IS NO ACCIDENT”



Mark Bloomberg says target diameter harvesting has produced a constant and ongoing log supply since 2002. Photo: NZ Farm Forestry Association

on clearfell sites were two to 10 times greater than for intact forest, even with best-practice harvesting."

Mr Bloomberg also notes that research by the New Zealand Forest Service (Te Uru Rakau) indicates some 24% of the national forest estate is on erosion-susceptible land. And that even if such sites are immediately replanted after clearfelling, they still face a six-year window of vulnerability to high-intensity rainfall events.

"Forests also have biogeochemical networks that efficiently cycle nutrients with minimal losses to leaching. After clearfelling there is a much higher level of nutrient leaching, until a new canopy and root network are established."

Mr Bloomberg says indigenous plant biodiversity tends to increase with the development of pine

harvesting practices undertaken at Woodside, a 120-ha farm forest in North Canterbury owned and managed by John and Rosalie Wardle. The property includes some 30 ha of radiata pine planted from 1973 to 1992.

In a New Zealand Journal of Forestry article (February 2019), John Wardle described the radiata pine plantings as

being "on hill country with variable site quality, resulting in some trees in a particular age category growing at double the rate of others. As a consequence we decided to move away from clearfelling at a specific age to selective harvesting based on individual tree size."

Mr Bloomberg says the radiata pine stands have been high pruned but not heavily waste-thinned (final stocking is 450 stems/ha, plus any medium-pruned followers greater than 6 m from a high-pruned crop tree).

"This stocking would be considered too high for a pruned clearfell stand, but the target diameter harvesting applied here ensures all trees selected for harvesting are 60 cm or larger, and therefore have a good clearwood yield from the butt log."

ACROSS THE DITCH

With MICHAEL SMITH

plantations ... "but any gains are wiped clean at the time of clearfelling. Subsequent regrowth is initially dominated by adventives like gorse, broom, blackberry and other non-native wood weeds. In contrast, selection harvesting tends to retain existing understorey biodiversity and also animal habitats (perching, nesting sites and food sources)."

With all this in mind, Mr Bloomberg was prompted to investigate the selective

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From P 16

Since 2002 logging gangs have partially, and carefully, harvested the largest trees every two years in each stand. "This means you've got a constant and ongoing flow of logs ... at least 20 tonnes per hectare per year," Mr Bloomberg says.

"This form of harvesting doesn't need large skidders because a relatively small volume is coming out from each hectare. Essentially



Woodside's oldest stand (planted 1973-74) is still being harvested, but young regeneration trees are now a significant part of the stand. Photo: Ryan McDonald

production at Woodside runs at about 60 tonnes a day.

"Every tree that's felled represents three tonnes on the ground, so you only have to be extracting 20 or so trees a day and you've made that production target. Effectively the cost of extraction and processing isn't that much greater than conventional clearfell harvesting

“EVERY TREE FELLED REPRESENTS THREE TONNES ON THE GROUND”

logs are extracted using a skidder and then brought to a roadside landing where an

excavator and static delimitter remove the branches."

With just a two-man crew,

in a mature radiata pine stand."



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German beams in SA, believe it or not

THE longest single glulam timber beams ever shipped to Australia spanning up to 42 m has been delivered to Mount Gambier by a German production facility.

This story caps everything I have heard about the crippling of the timber industry in most states, mainly caused by the green movements poisoning the ears of pathetically weak politicians.

In 1972-73, there was a very high-tech glulam plant installed in South Australia at State Mill which manufactured continuous lengths of beams. The

machine was billed as the best in the world and manufactured in Germany.

The beams were engineered to suit the maximum length required and then cut to length to suit the building specification. They were supplied for the construction of warehouses, schools, swimming pools, stadiums, assembly halls and the like.

The machine had the latest technology and there was much time and investment made by the state government establishing the product in Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide. It used locally-

grown and manufactured radiate pine and employed about 15-plus Mt Gambians. At times it worked two shifts along with other parts of the mill.

Fast forward 50 years and timber beams, not a new laminating machine, are being imported from ... Germany.

To import laminated timber beams from Germany, made of spruce timber grown and produced in Germany, for a building in Mount Gambier (of all places), is the final chapter in exposing the culpable neglect in manufacturing and security planning by both state and

federal governments.

As a nation, our daily conversation is wholly consumed by irrelevant 'precious' social issues that are never based on fact, and they never focus on sound nation-building requirements of cheap reliable water, energy and transport. These are the guts of a reliable manufacturing industry that ensures national security. Our schools and universities have become the nurseries of this problem.

NORRIS LEWIS, Brisbane
(former marketing director, Wood and Forests SA).

Timber identities gather to toast five octogenarians

CELEBRATING at a special luncheon on the Gold Coast to acknowledge lives spent in the timber industry are, from left (rear) Jim Bowden, editor, Timber&Forestry enews, Bill Philip, The Responsible Wood Society (partly obscured), Charles Achilles, former manager, Hyne and Son, Chinchilla, Dick Pegg, formerly Queensland



Forestry, Don Towerton, Towerton Wholesale Timbers, Alfred Chapple,

formerly Nerang Frame and Trusses, and (front) David McIntyre, formerly

Trans Global Timbers, Charlie Henry, founder, Charlie Henry Timbers, and Chris Hall, Chris Hall Timbers.

The five octogenarians toasted at the special event were Alfred Chapple, Charles Achilles, Dick Pegg, Charlie Henry and Frank Withey, formerly Standard Sawmilling, Northern NSW.

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HEAD OFFICE

Timber & Forestry enews
PO Box 69, Potts Point, NSW 1335,
Australia
Phone | +61 (0) 417 421 187

PUBLISHERS

John Halkett | +61 (0) 417 421 187
johnh@timberandforestryenews.com
Dennis Neilson | +64 (0) 7 349 2764
dennisn@timberandforestryenews.com

MANAGING EDITOR

Jim Bowden | +61 (0) 401 312 087
cancon@bigpond.net.au
PO Box 330, Hamilton Central QLD
4007, Australia

ADVERTISING

John Halkett | +61 (0) 417 421 187
johnh@timberandforestryenews.com
advertising@timberandforestryenews.com

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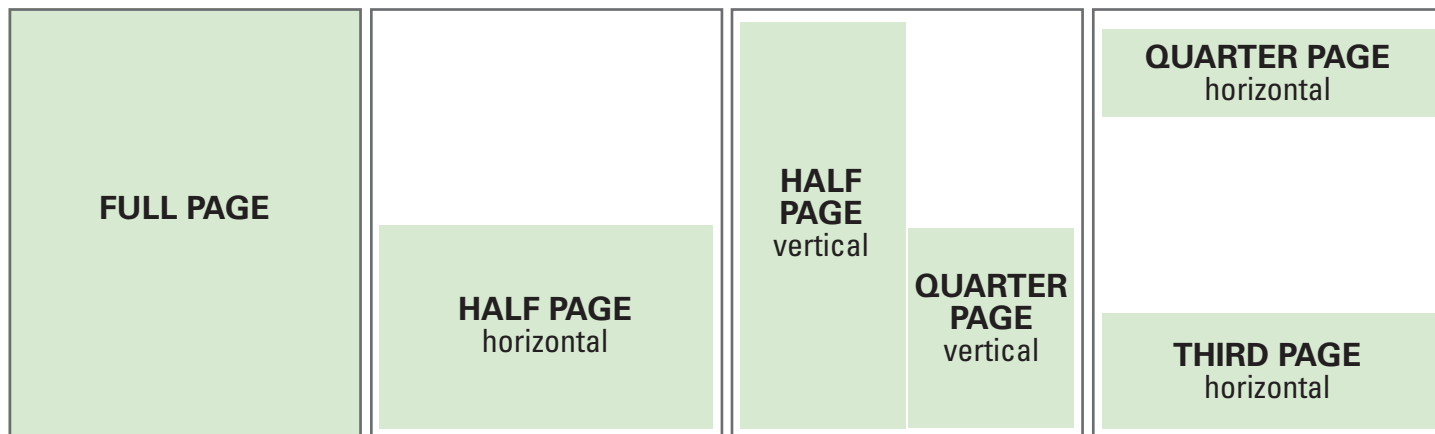
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