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New badge broadens scope of forest, land management

SPECIAL CONFERENCE REPORT



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Name change broadens the scope of work in forest and land management

FORESTRY Australia was launched in Launceston this week – the new name for the Institute of Foresters of Australia and Australian Forest Growers.

“The new name and logo better represents the broad scope of forest and land management work undertaken by members,” CEO Jacquie Martin said at the opening of the organisation’s annual conference at the Country Club Tasmania which runs over four days October 11 to 14.

The ‘hybrid’ conference is being experienced by hundreds of delegates, both in person and online.

“Forestry Australia is more representative of our membership, which is made up of Australian scientists, professionals and growers who manage, study and care for our forests,” Ms Martin said.

“THE WAY WE MANAGE FORESTS IS ALWAYS EVOLVING”



1/ Attending the Women in Forestry breakfast at the Forestry Australia conference... Suzette Weeding, general manager, conservation and land management, Sustainable Timber Tasmania, Penny Wells, CEO, Private Forests Tasmania, Alison Dillon, planning forester, HQPlantations; Therese Taylor, convener, Tasmanian Forests and Forests Product Network, and Julianne O'Reilly-Wapstra, director, ARC Centre for Forest Value and Tasmanian Forest and Forest Products Network Board.

2/ Dr Michelle Freeman... moving beyond the era of conflict and encouraging genuine relationships.



general public in arriving at the new name, and we’re very proud to be able to announce it at our national conference with so many of our members and other forestry stakeholders in attendance both in person and online.”

Forestry Australia vice-president Dr Michelle Freeman said the conference provided an opportunity

to promote cooperation ... “moving beyond the era of conflict and encouraging genuine and effective relationships with indigenous people and local

“The interactions that humans have with forests are changing every day, and the way our members manage forests is always evolving, alongside the most up-to-date science and research. That is why it’s important our identity keeps pace with these changes in approach, and the public understands what Forestry Australia members do and what they stand for.

“Our skilled and knowledgeable scientists, professionals and growers who manage, study and care for our forests offer nature-based solutions for some of society’s most significant challenges, including catastrophic bushfires, biodiversity decline and climate change.”

“IFA-AFG consulted widely with members and the

communities to better manage our forests together.”

“We believe that a more balanced and holistic approach to forest management is needed and indeed is within our reach if we can agree to a new shared vision and adjust forest management to restore the health of forests,” Ms Freeman said.

• More reports, pictures P 4-6.



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New research: nutritional quality of habitat key to koala numbers in NSW state forests

NEW research released this week into koala response to forestry has found that the nutritional quality of trees is critical for koala survival and selective harvesting did not have an adverse impact upon koala numbers on surveyed north coast NSW state forests.

This is due to the types of trees left after harvesting as some trees such as tallowwood have higher nutritional quality than others such as blackbutt.

The existing forestry rule set mandates the retention of priority koala browse trees as well as other habitat protections.

These findings have emerged from a three-year research program independently overseen by the NSW Natural Resources Commission.

The commissioner, Professor Hugh Durrant-Whyte, said koala density

“KOALA DENSITY HIGHER THAN EXPECTED”

was higher than anticipated in the surveyed forests and was not reduced by selective harvesting.

“This research is the most comprehensive conducted of its type in NSW to date,” Professor Durrant-Whyte said.

With support from a panel of experts in koala ecology and forest science, the commission selected eminent scientific researchers from the Australian National University, Western Sydney University and the Department of Primary Industries Forest Science Unit to undertake the research.

The researchers investigated koala movement, occupancy, density, diet and the nutritional quality of koala habitat on state forests.

Professor Durrant-Whyte says this research suggests that it's not so much about tree size but having a good tree species mix post-harvest to maintain koala numbers.

“However, north coast forests are diverse so I caution applying these findings to other areas without further research,” he said.

New home sales strengthen

SALES of new detached houses increased by 2.3% in September compared to the previous month, says HIA's new home sales report, a monthly survey of the largest volume home builders in the five largest states.

“It has been over six months since the end of HomeBuilder in March 2021 and sales have remained

resilient,” HIA economist Tom Devitt said.

“In the six months from April to September, New Home Sales were 9.3% above the same period in 2019 and 0.8% above the same period in 2018.

“On a quarterly basis too, the last three months were up by 7.4% and 0.6% on the same quarters in 2019 and 2018, respectively.”



Professor Hugh Durrant-Whyte... research is the most comprehensive conducted of its type in NSW.

The commission has also engaged researchers to investigate how koalas are recovering from the 2019-20 wildfires.

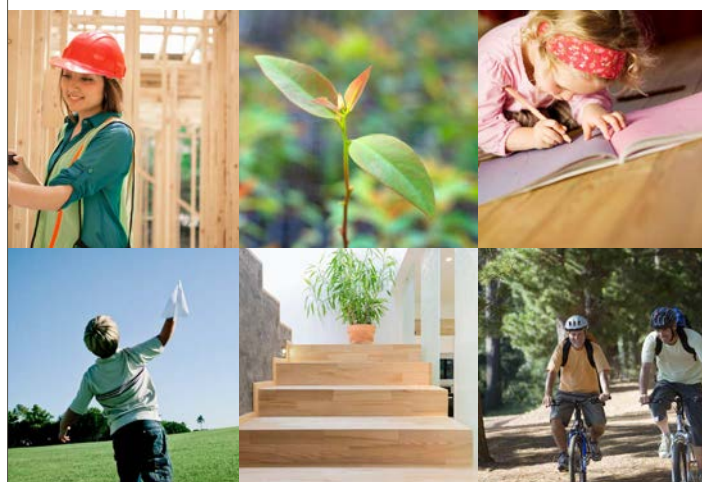
“There remains many critical knowledge gaps about koala

populations across NSW, but this piece of research helps to fill in one piece of the puzzle of one of our iconic species,” Professor Durrant-Whyte said.

“I am concerned, however, there are greater threats to the long-term survival of koalas in NSW's forests. In particular, climate change is a threat to the future integrity of koala habitats due to increased frequency of wildfire and prolonged periods of heat stress.”

The NSW government tasked the commission to deliver the independent research program in 2018. The research was funded and undertaken as part of the whole-of-government NSW Koala Strategy 2018-21.

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Urgent need for a new shared vision on how Australia manages its forests

ACTIVE and adaptive forest management and increased integration of indigenous knowledge with Western scientific evidence and technologies are key to restoring and maintain the health of Australia's forests, the Forestry Australia national conference has heard on its opening day.

Forestry Australia vice-president Dr Michelle Freeman and Fellow Dr Bill Jackson said there was an urgent need for a new shared vision about how Australia managed its forests.

"After what we've seen in past summers, and what we know is to come, reducing the potential for catastrophic bushfires across all types



At the presentation of 2021 Future Foresters Initiative Scholarships... back row, left to right, Jim Wilson, Kevin Harding, Bob Gordon, Senator Jonathon Duniham, and Folarin Faluy; front row, from left, Bonnie Galbraith, Michelle Balasso, Finn Adams, Jenna Hammond, Bella Walker, and Taylah Martin.

of forest and increasing the resilience of forests to climate change should be top of the list for Australia as a nation," Dr Freeman said.

Dr Jackson and Dr

Freeman identified three key strategies which could be followed to strengthen and improve forest management in Australia.

"Firstly, we must establish new shared governance models that bring together government agencies with indigenous Australians and actors from the private sector and civil society," Dr Jackson said.

"Setting a clear and shared vision to address these strategies also offers an opportunity to recognise all forest values and to promote approaches that return indigenous people to the centre of forest management decisions."

Forestry Australia president Bob Gordon said in addition to a host of speakers on a wide range of topics, Day One of the conference saw Senator Jonathon Duniham present certificates to Future Foresters Initiative Scholarship recipients. The scholarship program funded by the DAWE Leadership Grant supported 21 future foresters to participate in the conference in person or online.

"It was great to hear from the Assistant Minister for Forestry about the government's recognition of the vital role forest scientists, growers and professionals play in informing policy decisions to ensure our forests can continue to deliver the greatest benefit to

RESILIENCE OF FORESTS TO CLIMATE CHANGE TOP OF THE LIST

"Second, we need to prioritise and promote active and adaptive management across forest landscapes that builds resilience in our forests, local communities and society.

"Finally, integrating traditional knowledge with Western scientific evidence and innovative technologies to enhance forest management for improved resilience and other outcomes.



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Cont P 5

New directors for Forestry Australia as member satisfaction, retention best yet

NEW director announcements and new figures showing member satisfaction and retention are higher than ever were highlights of the Forestry Australia AGM in Launceston on Tuesday.

President Bob Gordon welcomed new directors Mick Stephens and Jim Wilson who was elected after serving via a casual vacancy over the past 10 months.

“It’s a pleasure to be able to officially welcome two outstanding forestry professionals in Mick Stephens and Jim Wilson as our association continues to go from strength to strength under our new identity, Forestry Australia,” Mr Gordon said.

Mr Stephens and Mr Wilson join continuing directors Bob Gordon



(president), Dr Michelle Freeman and Dr Kevin Harding (vice-presidents), Blair Freeman, Jan Newport and Dr Lachie McCaw on the board. Board observer Leon Holt has also been re-appointed.

Mr Gordon paid tribute to outgoing director Dr Peter Volker, who has retired as a director after 10 years on the board over the past two decades, including serving as president between 2005 and 2011.



1/ **Bob Gordon**
2/ **Jacquie Martin**

“Dr Peter Volker has made a more than significant contribution to our association over the past years as president, director and an active volunteer,” Mr Gordon said.

“I would like to thank him on behalf of the board and all the members he has served

“AMBITIOUS 3-YEAR PLAN ON STRATEGY PROGRESSING WELL”

so well,” Mr Gordon said.

Forestry Australia CEO Jacquie Martin announced the latest results from the 2021 Forestry Australia member satisfaction study, which show the association has experience significant growth over the past 18 months.

“Our latest member engagement studies show that member satisfaction within Forestry Australia is very high, and member retention is above 93%,” Ms Martin said.

“Both these statistics demonstrate that the very ambitious three-year strategic plan is progressing well, with the association experience significant growth and momentum over the past 18 months.”

• **Director profiles, P 6**

From P 4

society,” Mr Gordon said.

“It was also exciting for Senator Duniam to be here in his own state and see so many delegates from across

the nation come together in what is an attendance record for a forestry conference.”

Mr Gordon said a Day 2 highlight was Victor Steffensen, co-founder,

Firesticks Alliance & the National Indigenous Fire Workshop, with his keynote address ‘Aligning Our Future Through Those Who Have Walked Before Us’.

“We’re looking forward to 60 speakers appearing in person and online throughout the day, which will culminate with the Forestry Australia AGM, followed by an evening networking function.”



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New directors are passionate about forestry and believe in the future of their profession

A RESOURCE economist, a farm forester and an advocate of private tree growing have been welcomed as new directors and as an observer of Forestry Australia.

• **Mick Stephens** is a resource economist based in Queensland with 30 years' experience in policy development, advocacy and applied R&D in forestry and agriculture.

In 2008 he was awarded a Churchill Fellowship to investigate agroforestry practices in North America and Europe, and in 2010 received a Gottstein Fellowship to look into active forest fire management in the US and Canada.

He is currently the CEO of Timber Queensland.

"I am deeply passionate about the role of well-managed forests and forestry in developing and managing sustainable landscapes, which will be even more important in a carbon conscious world," Mr Stephens said of his appointment.

"I look forward to contributing to the growth of the organisation under the umbrella of Forestry Australia and working with the board and executive team to implement this vision.

"This represents a great

opportunity to promote the relevance and visibility of forestry with land managers, policy makers and stakeholders, given the broad reach of forestry with its multidisciplinary underpinnings and benefits."

• **Jim Wilson's** career has been focused in the private sector and he has invested his recent years working with Forico in Tasmania, as well as providing significant service to the forest sector in advocacy and leadership. Mr Wilson is a registered forestry professional and is also an active farm forester with both plantation and native forest in Tasmania. His experience and knowledge in these areas will bring a new dimension to the board and his recruitment is part of Forestry Australia's succession plans.

"I am delighted to provide service to the Forestry Australia as a director," he



1/ **Mick Stephens... a great opportunity to promote the relevance and visibility of forestry.**
 2/ **Jim Wilson... supporting Forestry Australia as we mature as a united entity.**
 3/ **Leon Holt... passionate about forestry and the future of the profession.**

mature into the rebrand as a united entity, and recruit broader membership interest from all who are passionate about well managed forests."

• **Leon Holt's** background is in native forestry and the public sector in Victoria. He was awarded the Prince of Wales Award for Sustainable Forest Management in 2019. He lives in northern Victoria with his young family and has recently begun establishing a farm forestry enterprise. As a long-time contributor to the IFA-AFG (now Forestry Australia), and the sector more broadly, Mr Holt's continued insight will be highly valued in this new role.

"I am very happy to continue contributing to the organisation in the role of board observer, after several years working on the Future Foresters Initiative and the Member Services Working Group," Mr Holt said.

"I'm passionate about forestry and the future of our profession, and I have recently started out on what I'm sure will be an exciting journey as a tree grower.

"Forestry Australia will increasingly provide a leadership role in our sector, and I look forward to being part of it as we continue to become more diverse, promote our brand, advocate for forestry, and deliver more and better member services."

said. "The future is bright for our profession."

He added: "We are increasingly recognised as an enabler to a significant climate change solution. My passion is with people and I'm interested in supporting Forestry Australia as we

“FORESTRY INCREASINGLY SIGNIFICANT SOLUTION TO CLIMATE CHANGE”

OCTOBER

TBA: 22nd Australian Timber Design Award. Official judging early October. More than 90 submissions, a remarkable result through the ever-changing Covid restrictions and lockdowns. People's Choice Award will remain open until October 17. Contact Timber Development Association at info@tdansw.asn.au or 0420

232 253.

APRIL 2022

NB. REVISED DATE

3-8: Gottstein Trust Understanding Wood Science Course – Sunday evening, April 3, 2022, in Albury, NSW, for the field trip component, ending on Friday, April 8, in Canberra.
The course is fully booked

and a wait list is operating on a first-in-first-served basis. Delivered in partnership with the ANU, the course timing prior to next Easter matches up with the semester break. The course program can be downloaded at www.gottsteintrust.org

JUNE 2022

NB. REVISED DATE

21-22: Frame Australia Timber Offsite Construction – Crown Promenade Melbourne, VIC. New global 'hybrid' format. Choose from a selection of half-day and full-day programs. Virtual delegates can register for just one or more conference sessions. For further information and registration visit the website www.timberoffsiteconstruction.com

EVENTS LISTS MAY CHANGE DUE TO CORONAVIRUS. PLEASE CHECK THE RELEVANT WEBSITES FOR UPDATES.

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, Pobeditelej 20/2 Minsk, Belarus. International exhibition of woodworking and furniture production. For further information see: www.tradefairdates.com/Woodworking-M3361/Minsk.html

OCTOBER-NOVEMBER

31/10-12/11: 26th UN Climate Change

Conference of the Parties – Glasgow, UK. The COP26 summit will bring parties together to accelerate action towards the goals of the Paris Agreement and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. The UK is committed to working with all countries and joining forces with civil society, companies and people on the frontline of climate change to inspire climate action ahead of COP26.

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>

MAY 2022

23-24: International Forest Business

Conference – Sheraton Sopot Hotel, Poland. A two-day conference on megatrends that shape responsible forest and wood industry investments for climate action. The conference aims to bring together leading forest management organizations (TIMOs), investors interested in forest assets and carbon offsets (e.g., public and corporate pension funds, wealth managers and private banks, sovereign wealth funds, foundations and endowments) and sustainable wood industry representatives in order to exchange and share experiences and ideas about challenges and opportunities for forest sector as a natural climate solution. The main theme of the conference is New Forest Business Frontiers. Register at www.fba-events.com or contact karolina@forest-analytics.com

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



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Official ribbon cutting marks milestone in continuous drying kiln technology at Hyne

HYNE Timber's much anticipated, new continuous drying kiln has commenced operation, a milestone marked with an official ribbon cutting event last Friday.

Since the initial announcement in March, around 60 additional team members have been recruited to assist with scaling up the Tuan mill with an added 20% capacity over the next few months.

CEO Jon Kleinschmidt said Hyne Timber had invested significantly over its 139-year history and this latest milestone was yet another chapter for the history book,

"We are currently experiencing significant demand for our products so this \$14.5 million investment for expansion is timely and can bring the construction sector some comfort as we ramp up production over the next few months.

"The kiln not only delivers efficiency at Tuan in addressing the timber drying bottleneck, but it will also improve the consistency of drying quality and overall quality of our timber in addition to delivering energy efficiency," Mr Kleinschmidt said.

"We have had dedicated teams working on this



Kiln-drying milestone: cutting the ribbon ... Chris Hyne, ex director, Hyne Timber, Bruce Saunders, MP, Maryborough and Assistant Minister for Train Manufacturing and Regional Roads, Jon Kleinschmidt, Hyne Timber CEO, Giaan Muller, Hyne recruit, Brian Selke, kilns manager, Abby Zipf, Hyne recruit, Darren Everard, Fraser Coast Deputy Mayor, Kelly Hyne, Tuan mill optimisation officer, Paul Ryan, CDK engineering lead, and David Spencer, CDK project lead.

highly specialised project for months and I would like to acknowledge them. They include several Tuan mill team members led by David Spencer and Paul Ryan supported by contractors including Civil Mining and Construction, Wolff Power, Brisbane Electrical, Platinum Fire, Windsor and representatives of the University of Queensland, Centre for Future Timber Structures and ARC Future Timber Hub. I hope they all feel very proud of this achievement as part of our history and for our future.

"Scaling up our expansion project is paralleled with us working collaboratively with our suppliers including HQ Plantations, Richers Transport and Log Management Solutions, creating more jobs for the region."

Mr Kleinschmidt thanked the Queensland government,

Bruce Saunders MP Maryborough and the team at State Development and the Fraser Coast Regional Council for their ongoing support for growth, jobs and expansion in the region.

“IMPROVES DRYING QUALITY AND DELIVERS ENERGY EFFICIENCY”

To officially mark the opening, Jon Kleinschmidt was joined by Bruce Saunders, Fraser Coast Deputy Mayor, Darren Everard, Hyne family members Chris Hyne and Kelly Hyne, Hyne team members David Spencer, Paul Ryan, and Giaan Muller and Abby Zipf, two of the newest recruits to join

the team as part of the expansion in cutting the ribbon.

The event coincided with the 35-year anniversary of the original installation of kilns at Tuan, which now employs around 300 people and is one of Australia's largest suppliers of softwood framing.

The continuous drying kiln operates differently to Tuan's existing batch kilns. Packs of wood are continually fed onto trolleys that are steadily pushed through the kiln without stopping. Over the course of 37 hours, the wood passes through three zones; a humid heating zone where the wood is gradually warmed up, a central low-humidity drying zone and a humid cooling zone. Heat is transferred between the cooling and heating zones to increase thermal efficiency.

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New Responsible Wood website launched

AUSTRALIA'S largest forest certification scheme Responsible Wood launched its new website – www.responsiblewood.org.au

The website follows 12 months of collaboration with digital marketing leader Primal Agency, and extensive feedback from stakeholders, improving the user experience and interface for members, certificate holders and consumers of Responsible Wood certified products.

The new website is brighter, more informative and focused on the benefits of sustainable forest

“IMPROVING ONLINE FOOTPRINT

management. It also provides more detail on different aspects of the Responsible Wood certification scheme and its global endorsement through PEFC.

In addition, the new website has an updated resource library and improved search engines to assist users get certified, search existing certificate holders and find certified products.

Reflecting on the website, Responsible Wood marketing and communications officer Jason Ross emphasised the growing and interest in forest certification among sustainably-aware businesses and consumers.

“The new website will



Jason Ross... new website focused on benefits of sustainable forest management.

improve Responsible Wood's online footprint, using SEO (search engine optimisation) to attract environmentally aware users to learn more about sustainable forest management, our standards and our wood certification scheme,” he said.

Responsible Wood invites

visitors to explore the new website and provide feedback.

Responsible Wood manages the Australian standards for Sustainable Forest Management (AS 4708) and Chain of Custody for Forest and Tree Based Products (AS 4707).

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Bid for \$2m to maximise opportunities for AI and forestry in regional Australia

Provision of this in-kind support will come from forest growers and processors

OPTIMISING knowledge and knowledge transfer across the entire industry supply chain is a major priority of a bid to the Smarter Regions Cooperative Research Centre by Forest and Wood Products Australia for a commitment to forestry-related initiatives of \$200,000 annually for 10 years.

The funding would enable projects to ensure the benefits of artificial intelligence (AI) are maximised for forestry in Australia's regional areas

"The bid was also developed with the priority of further building upon a number of previous FWPA investments," said Professor Mark Brown, director of the Forest Industry Research Centre at the University of the Sunshine Coast and program leader of the Smarter Regions CRC.

The CRC investment would be matched by collective industry funding of an additional \$200,000 annually, also for 10 years.

"The 2021 call for CRC bids allowed RDC funds to be matchable, which allows for the best leverage of industry funds," FWPA managing director Ric Sinclair said.

"Provision of this in-kind support will come from forest growers and processors, and will be coordinated and verified by FWPA as part of



The Smarter Regions CRC will empower regional Australia to gain the maximum benefit from the AI revolution.

our commitment," he said.

"This level of investment will position the forestry sector as a key regional industry partner of the CRC, greatly enhancing the opportunity to attract co-investment from key technology industry partners."

Specifically, the bid calls for funds to be used for the development of automated data-driven systems to:

- Grow the highest quality timber resource possible by supporting the deployment of genetic material matched to specific site conditions.
- Advance the application of tailored and optimised management strategies for forest rotations to promote both timber quantity and quality.
- Enable knowledge sharing with data privacy at various levels.

TALKING TIMBER



With Eileen Newbury
Head of marketing and communications and head of WoodSolutions program

- Predict timber quality and attributes in advance, and thereby ensure sufficient time to prepare and produce the appropriate products matching market opportunities.
- Optimise processing and value-adding manufacturing processes in the regions in alignment with local, national, and international market demands.

"Developing predictive models will help ensure the implementation of short- and long-term management strategies, allowing regional Australia to grow the highest quality timber resource possible, and at a rate that will satisfy future demand," Ric Sinclair said.

"The CRC is a significant initiative for regional Australia, as it provides SMEs with opportunities to co-invest in platform technologies that would otherwise be too expensive or risky," Professor Brown said.

"Under the CRC, regional businesses can participate as a community, rather than through sectoral processes, building excitement, critical mass and skills. In turn, this will help attract additional investment and opportunities."

If the FWPA-supported bid is short listed, additional scoping of the full research program, including specific forest and wood product projects, will be undertaken in the lead up to a formal interview between key industry researchers and a panel established by the federal Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources in late 2021.

• *Continuation of an article in Timber&Forestry enews (issue 678, P 11). For full article follow this link here*



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New Green Triangle Hub chair brings more than 30 years' experience in forest industries

'An exciting time for sector as we collaboratively grow our plantation estate'

THE Green Triangle Forest Industries Hub has welcomed new chair Cameron MacDonald following the retirement of Ian McDonnell at this month's board meeting.

Mr MacDonald, who was elevated from his previous position as deputy chair, said he was delighted to take on the role and to be supported by industry stalwart Laurie Hein, who was elected deputy chair at the quarterly meeting.

Mr MacDonald, who has more than 30 years of industry experience, is executive general manager of OneFortyOne's Australian operations which includes more than 88,000 ha of plantation forest and a sawmilling operation. Mr Hein is managing director of plantation company Green Triangle Forest Products, which manages 22,000 ha of softwood plantation.

The sale of sawmill NF McDonnell last month meant Mr McDonnell was ineligible to remain on the



board with new owners AAM Investments to resume the sawmill's board position at future meetings.

Mr MacDonald said Mr McDonnell had been instrumental in forming the Green Triangle Hub and had worked tirelessly to advocate for the sector.

"Our members are extremely grateful for the generous contribution Ian made to see the hub



1/ **Growing the plantation estate.**
2/ **Cameron MacDonald.**
3/ **Laurie Hein.**

evolve into a trusted industry association, which now represents more than 95% of the sector," he said.

"He has volunteered hundreds of hours passionately advocating to key parliamentarians and decision makers, educating the broader community about the invaluable economic, social and environmental contribution our industries make to the Green Triangle.

"Ian was also influential in building the hub's research objectives which are building an important foundation to futureproof our sector. The

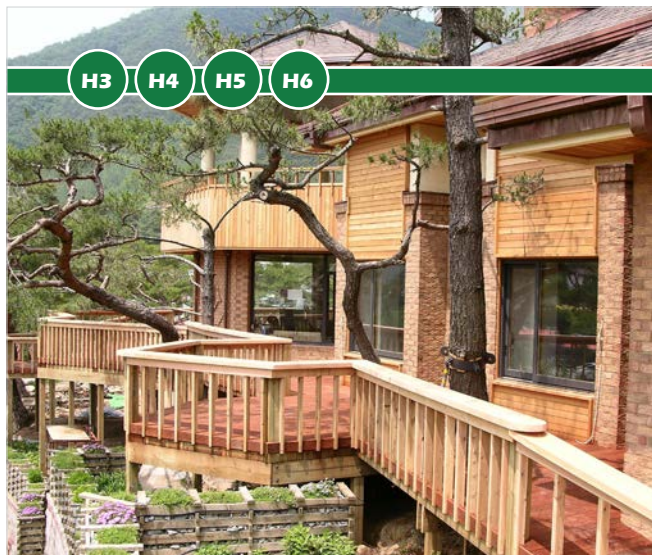


board wishes Ian every success into the future as he enjoys his well-deserved retirement after more than four decades in the sector."

Mr MacDonald's appointment comes at an

important time for the hub which is progressing on the next stage of its research into plantation water use to assist in the South Australian government's Water Allocation Plan review. Work also includes building an industry carbon strategy, progressing research into new market opportunities and collaborating with local farmers to implement a Trees on Farm study.

"This is an extremely exciting time for our sector as we realise this collaborative plan to grow our plantation estate, optimise existing fibre use and create new jobs for future generations," Mr MacDonald added.



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Forestry hub inaugural manager aims to boost development of sector in North Qld

NORTH

Queensland's forest and timber industry has a new colleague following the appointment of a Regional Forestry Hub manager to implement and progress further development of the industry in the region.

The North Queensland forestry hub is part of a network of hubs funded by the federal government to leverage and implement projects to boost productivity and growth in the sector.

After a thorough selection process by the regional steering committee, Hulton King has been appointed hub manager. Mr King, who grew up planting hoop pines over weekends at his family's Atherton Tableland property, has previously worked across a range of government-sponsored research projects in the region as a programs manager for the Reef and Rainforest Research Centre. His recent appointment to the Terrain NRM board as an emerging leader was an opportunity to identify the need for more robust regenerative economies for the region.

"The timber industry already generates \$70 million of economic activity in the



1/ Hulton King, North Queensland Regional Forestry Hub manager (left) and Mick Stephens, CEO, Timber Queensland, discuss industry issues.

2/ New agricultural investment... support for a collaborative project to assess the economic merits of combined grazing and commercial tree farming systems.



region and I look forward to working with local suppliers, stakeholders and timber users to assist in furthering North Queensland's forest and timber industry," Mr King said.

"A key task will be to look at the opportunities and challenges for the industry going forward, and to prioritise key projects that can help boost industry growth and investment," he said.

Mr King said the steering committee, comprising broad representation of the North Queensland industry, had already identified key areas of focus for the development of projects to get the industry moving.

"The North Queensland Regional Forestry Hub has also assessed recommendations made in the CRCNA's Northern forest and forest products industry situational analysis,

which aimed to deliver a pathway for realising forest industry potential in Northern Australia," he said

"Meeting the growing demand for timber products is a major opportunity, given the existing area of high-quality softwood plantations with a well-established sawmilling supply chain."

“MEETING GROWING DEMAND FOR TIMBER PRODUCTS

Initial funding has supported an analysis addressing the planning, approvals and regulatory environment for new plantation establishment on private land. Support is also being provided for a collaborative project to assess the economic merits of combined grazing and commercial tree farming systems as a potential

vehicle for new agroforestry investment.

There are also significant opportunities to develop the potential from sustainably managed public and private native forests across the region.

"Many of these forest areas are owned and managed by traditional owners, and I look forward to working with indigenous communities to explore and develop agreed forestry outcomes," Mr King said.

Mr King will be based at Timber Queensland's 'timber hub' in Brisbane.

Timber Queensland has partnered with the federal government for the delivery of the South-East Queensland and North Queensland hubs.

The regional hubs are a key action under the federal National Forest Industries Plan.



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Search for FWPA CEO unearths top candidates

WITH three weeks until applications close, Forest and Wood Products Australia's recruitment process for a new chief executive officer has started to unearth a range of suitably qualified candidates.

In parallel with the advertising campaign, Rimfire, the recruitment company engaged to assist the board, is undertaking an extensive executive search.

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"It's encouraging that we not only have local applications, but have also received interest from international executives," the chair of the FWPA board Craig Taylor said.

"The diversity of candidates, their experience and qualifications suggest that our new CEO will be well-placed to build on the considerable strengths and achievements of the company," he said.

Mr Taylor suggested that in addition to the success of FWPA's current activities, candidates were attracted by the huge potential of wood and wood products in a carbon-constrained global economy, and that the role of provides an opportunity to lead a company which is at the forefront of helping the



Mark Taylor... candidates attracted by the huge potential of wood and wood products in a carbon-constrained global economy.

community understand the importance and value of well-managed forests.

"In the last 10 years or so we've seen the introduction of innovative wood products such as CLT and glulam, with markets for both expanding rapidly with increasing demand from designers,

builders and developers," Mr Taylor said.

"In the biggest change to the construction sector since the introduction of structural steel, industry has responded by investing in new resources, right along the supply chain."

He says the potential roles of wood and new and existing wood products as renewable materials in the circular economy also presents exciting opportunities for the industry and FWPA.

"I can see the development of innovative new solutions that optimise all the environmental and physical benefits of wood, used both as itself and as a feedstock for new materials," Mr Taylor said. "And I look forward to introducing you to our new CEO."

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A 'collective' show of strength by timber framing industry across Australian market

Competitors join forces for the greater good of wood – the Ultimate Renewable'

LAST Saturday marked the launch of the Timber Framing Collective an initiative for marketing timber framing in Australia.

It sees previously fierce competitors (local producers and importers, among others), join forces for the greater good of the industry to promote, establish and consolidate 'Timber Framing. The Ultimate Renewable' as the leading building materials brand in Australia for residential construction.

The collective receives financial support from Australian sawmills, timber importers, industry associations and peak bodies, building products and treatment suppliers. These supporters currently include the Australian Forest Products Association, AKD, Boral Timber, Hyne Timber, OneFortyOne, Timberlink Australia, Wespine, Australian Timber Importers Federation, Forest and Wood Products Australia, Frame & Truss Manufacturers Association, Koppers, Lonza, MiTek, Multinail, Pryda, Responsible Wood,



Stora Enso, TABMA, Timber Queensland and Vida.

Timber Framing Collective spokesperson Marita Pierce-Indugula said "while competitor building materials might have deeper pockets than ours in terms of advertising media spend, what we have is a supply chain that is unrivalled in size."

She added: "Within that

- 1/ **Promoting the many benefits of timber framing over other building materials.**
- 2 **Marita Pierce-Indugula... campaign asking builders and consumers to continue being patient as supply catches up with unprecedented demand.**

supply chain are people that are passionate about timber and were chomping at the bit to work with us to promote the many benefits of timber framing over other building materials."

Ms Pierce-Indugula said timber had no equal when it came to its environmental credentials.

“PEOPLE IN THE SUPPLY CHAIN CHOMPING AT THE BIT TO WORK WITH CAMPAIGN

"While other building materials add to carbon emissions, the timber framing industry is working with a natural sustainable product that stores carbon," she said.

"Wood also has the lowest embodied energy of all common building materials.

"With a typical Australian home absorbing more than seven tonnes of carbon dioxide (CO2) from the air and storing almost three tonnes of carbon, it really makes timber framing the superior choice and the ultimate renewable."

Ms Pierce-Indugula said right now, demand was outstripping supply but this would level out in time so it was important that builders, consumers, decision makers and influencers understand the many benefits of timber framing through the efforts of the new Timber Framing Collective.

"We're asking builders and consumers to continue being patient as supply catches up with unprecedented demand, in the knowledge that they are making a fantastic environmental decision to build with timber framing," she said.

A series of campaigns will be released to market over the coming months.



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Change of habit isn't easy ... but let's start with *preserved* instead of *treated*

Each wood preservative system has a penetration and retention specification

IN finishing off my article in May, I observed that our colleagues in the Western Wood Preservers Institute (WWPI) in the US refer to 'preserved wood' rather than 'treated wood'.

I would like to revisit this rebranding of our product. Don't underestimate the power of the words we use. Our fearless leader tells us that the French were 'disappointed' about Australia cancelling a \$90 billion contract. While I don't think 'disappointed' is quite the right expression – *fait chier!* perhaps – words can be used to steer us towards a particular perspective.

I agree with the WWPI initiative and suggest we help guide the user's perspective through the use of 'preserved' rather than 'treated'.

I fully accept that changing a habit is hard but I reckon it is worth the effort for the future of our industry. While 'preserved' and 'treated' both describe the same outcome, the connotation of each is different.

In its last newsletter,

“WORTH THE EFFORT FOR THE FUTURE OF OUR INDUSTRY



A different way to look at our product ... beneath the surface.

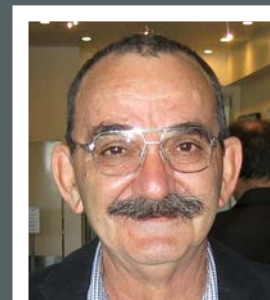
the WWPI raised another point: "Is there a difference between pesticides and (wood) preservatives?" It's an interesting question and the WWPI article goes on to make a distinction between the active protection provided by pesticides and passive protection achieved through wood preservation.

Again it is all about words and perspective.

Pesticides, as I interpret them, are designed to sit on the surface and are intended for short-term protection. Wood preservatives on the other hand are intended to penetrate the wood, even if some systems are applied by spraying onto the surface.

Each wood preservative system has a penetration and retention specification and is intended for long-term performance.

JACK'S RANT



With JACK NORTON
National secretary, TPAA

So while, as the WWPI suggests, there is a case to be made to differentiate 'pesticides' from 'preservatives', I reckon it would be a huge step forward if we could all start using preserved instead of treated and once this has some traction, take on the issue of pesticide vs preservative.

In my last rant, I suggested

that the amount of CCA-preserved wood produced in Australia is probably less than half the total preserved volume produced in this country.

At the end of last month, I attended a seminar hosted by the National Centre for Timber Durability & Design Life in which the recycling and reuse of treated timber and engineered wood composites was discussed. Over morning tea, one of the participants at the seminar gave me some 'better numbers' on the volumes of preserved wood we produce.

Annually it's about 2.5 million cub m of preserved wood made up as follows: 33% CCA, 7% ACQ and copper azole, 41% H2F (envelope preserved framing), 3% water-based azoles, 11% LOSP, 2% creosote and 3% sap stain and boron treatments.

So my claim that not all preserved wood is CCA is on the money.

Both the importance of words and the link of preserved wood to CCA are all about how the outside world thinks about our product. If we can influence this thinking then we can influence our future.

By the way, the seminar was most informative too!

Queensland's delay on lockout of commercial beekeepers from national parks a honey-saver

THE Queensland government has announced legislative amendments to postpone a lockout of beekeepers from some national parks for 20 years.

Beekeepers were to lose access to apiary sites at the end of 2024, but planned amendments to the Nature Conservation Act 1992 will formally extend that deadline to 2044.

Queensland Beekeepers Association state secretary Jo Martin said the industry was elated.

"This delivery of the decision has been a very long time coming for the association," Ms Martin said.

The 2024 deadline



1/ Agriculture Minister Mark Furner with Queensland Beekeepers Association secretary Jo Martin who says she will continue lobbying to use national parks.

2/ Honey bees... out of lockdown.

was part of the South East Queensland Forest Agreement signed in 1999, which changed the tenure of state forests and forest reserves containing 1088 apiary sites into 49 national parks.

Industries such as beekeeping and native timber were expected to transition away from the newly formed national parks as part of the deal. However, the state government and the beekeeping industry have yet to find suitable alternative honey sites for beekeeping.

and Scenic Rim areas.

Beekeeping debate continues

Jo Martin said the 20-year extension was a reprieve, but the industry would continue to work with government to remove deadlines altogether.

"We will continue our advocacy work and continue consultations with the state government to reaffirm there are no consequences of our involvement and activity in newly formed national parks."

There is an ongoing debate on the effects of managed honeybee activity in national parks.

The National Parks Association of Queensland had previously signalled its intention to lodge a submission against the extension of apiary permits in national parks.

It believes beekeeping is an incompatible use of national parks and increases biosecurity risks in national parks.

On the other hand, the beekeeping industry says there is no evidence it is having a negative effect.

20-YEAR EXTENSION A REPRIEVE

Minister for Agricultural Industry Development Mark Furner said the industry would face hardship without alternative sites.

"Amending the act will support the continuation of beekeeping in certain national parks while the government works with industry and other key stakeholders to identify alternative sites for the future relocation of beekeeping off national parks," he said.

Around 75% of the beekeeping industry is clustered around Wide Bay Burnett, Gympie and the Lockyer Valley, Toowoomba

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Madagascar baobabs – the remnants of what was once a more extensive forest

On a visit be quick ... the spectacular white showy flowers bloom for only one night

THERE are few avenues where people drive just to see a sunset, but the Avenue of the Baobabs at Morondava on the west coast of Madagascar draws admirers from all over the world.

A dusty road half an hour's drive north of the town passes through a stunning grove of baobabs, the remnants of what was once a more extensive forest.

The famous Avenue of the Baobabs has perhaps more than 100 trees in the grove. The species – the biggest and most famous of Madagascar's six species of baobabs – is *Adansonia grandidieri*, which takes its name from two French naturalists Michael Adanson and Alfred Grandidieri.

These iconic trees, with distinctively cylindrical trunks, are the tallest of all the baobabs. A deciduous tree, they have massive, long, thick trunks and a smooth reddish-grey bark, and end in a concentration of short, crown-like, stocky branches at the top. They can reach 25 to 30 m in height and a circumference of 9.5 m.



1/ *The Avenue of the Baobabs... a famous attraction with perhaps more than 100 trees in the whole grove.*

2/ *Cheeky Coquerel's dwarf lemurs feed on baobab leaves and flowers.*

At certain times of the year the flat-topped crowns bear bluish-green palmate leaves, dark brown floral buds and spectacular white showy flowers that bloom for only one night. The fibrous wood stores water and the diameter of the trunk fluctuates depending on rainfall.

The large, dry fruits of the baobab contain kidney-shaped seeds. These seeds and the vitamin C-rich fruit pulp are

tasted fresh and can also be roasted. The fruit is either collected from the ground or wooden pegs are hammered into the trunk so the tree can be climbed to collect the fruit.

The spongy baobab wood consists of sheets of fibre that are collected from dead or living trees, dried in the sun and sold for thatch. Most of these varied uses do not involve the tree being killed and are therefore unlikely to pose a threat to the baobab. The greatest threat to this species has come from the transformation of its forest habitat into agricultural land.

The Madagascar baobab is classified as endangered by the IUCN Red List. In 2003, the President of Madagascar vowed to triple the number of protected areas, a measure that may benefit the baobabs.

Baobabs provide important habitat for a variety of invertebrates, birds, reptiles, and mammals. Red-tailed lemurs and Coquerel's dwarf lemurs feed on its leaves and flowers. The trees are pollinated by nocturnal pale fork-marked lemurs and Madagascar straw-coloured fruit bats. Birds, such as green sunbirds and the Souimangas sunbird, enjoy the nectar, while parrots and guinea fowl eat the seeds.

TALKING TREES



With **JOHN HALKETT**

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Leadership scholarships for women in industry

BASED on a simple truth that women represent an enormously under-utilised national resource, Women & Leadership Australia is offering professional development scholarships for women across all areas of the mining and resources sector.

The organisation supports emerging middle and senior women leaders across all sectors and industries.

“Our career-defining leadership programs bring together a focus on applied learning with the latest in leadership theory and practice,” says Women & Leadership Australia CEO Suzi Finkelstein.

“We believe that advancing gender equity, especially in leadership, is central to creating a more fair



Creating meaningful opportunities for women leaders.

and inclusive society,” Ms Finkelstein said.

“Through our industry partnership framework, we work with hundreds of Australian associations and professional bodies to increase awareness and action around gender equity.

“With your support, we

can continue to create meaningful opportunities for women leaders across the country. With more than 15 years of experience in leadership and gender equity, the organisation is well positioned to respond to the needs of the contemporary female leader.”

Operating in all states and territories, the WLA initiative comprises a range of high quality professional development courses, advisory services, networking channels and on-going research.

To encourage more women to step into leadership roles across the sector, WLA is offering scholarships for three leadership development courses. Partial scholarships of \$1000-\$5000 per person are available.

Applications close on November 30. Visit the DropBox link: https://www.dropbox.com/sh/9vizp1lnaw2bqc/AACB5lq_Q_1WQH2GfMABbnMga?dl=0

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Buzz is the sharp Stinger is here to stay!

HAS the Kia Stinger lost its sting? Conflictions abound.

Korean publication DailyCar suggests production of the gutsy performance-plus GT could end production ahead of schedule in late 2022. Kia Motors says "it's here to stay ... for now".

The Stinger just underwent a facelift for all markets – including a brand new model in the US – so completely dropping the range after such investment seems unlikely.

These assumptions probably did the rounds as Kia makes space on the assembly line at Sohan for a hybrid version of the Carnival people mover. Also in the wings is the launch of Kia's new hero model – the all-electric EV6 which underlines Kia's new image and direction with more electrified cars.

**“MASSIVE
EURO
INFLUENCE**



1/ The GT Stinger is a declaration Kia can take on the performance-car market and even luxury car marques.

2/ Inside Stinger... 15-speaker stereo, dual-zone climate control, power-heated and ventilated front seats and leather seats and wheel.



Anyway, with its massive Euro influence, our test neon orange Stinger was terrific with a mid-life facelift bringing a subtle interior and exterior update and a new exhaust.

The GT is a declaration Kia can take on the performance-car market and even luxury car marques with an attractive, well-equipped sports sedan.

There's been a slight reduction in range – from six variants to four, with both the unchained 182 kW/353 Nm 2-litre four-cylinder and 274 kW/510 Nm 3.3-litre V6 models available in an entry-level 'S' and fully loaded GT-line and GT specification. The latter scores an extra 2 kW with the introduction as standard of an electronically

actuated bi-modal exhaust.

The hive of bees under our bonnet channelled the 274 kW and 510 Nm straight to the rear wheels via an eight-speed automatic transmission.

For the money – \$67,890 drive-away – you get 19-in. alloy wheels, a 15-speaker stereo, dual-zone climate control, camera package that includes reversing, side and front cameras, active cruise control, power-heated and ventilated front seats, sat-nav, automatic LED headlights, head up display, and leather seats and wheel. Blind spots are uncovered with a video image on the 7 in. supervision cluster.

The boot access and size surprise with 406 litres rising to 1114 litres with

the seats down.

Kia puts it nicely ... "relaxing, agile, responsive and elegant, a five-door performance car that blends the highest calibre of engineering with the craft and beauty of the artisan's work".

Kia claims a combined cycle figure of 8.8 L/100 km, covering a standstill to sprint of 100 km/h in 4.9 seconds.

The Stinger range is offered with a Kia's generous seven-year, unlimited kilometre warranty.

So here's the new paradigm of a grand tourer with timeless design. We trust the decision-makers at Sohan won't let this beauty become just a happy memory.

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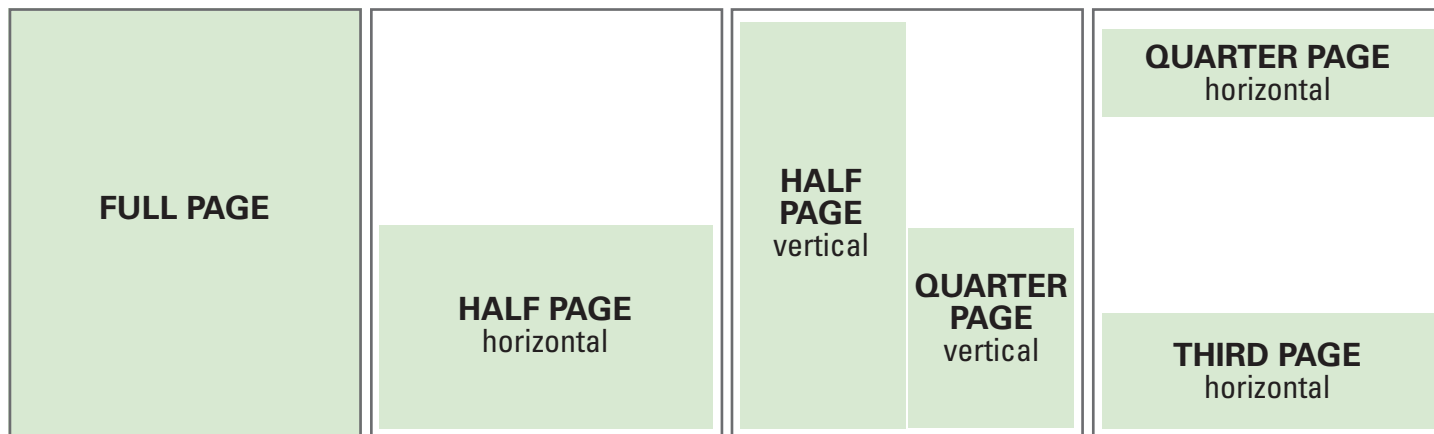
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THIRD PAGE: \$215

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PAGE 1 Front cover strip: Contract booking

Horizontal • 30mmH x 190mmW

PAGE 1 Front cover module: Contract booking

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