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CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL
FINALISTS & WINNERS



NTHA celebrates excellence across NSW and ACT

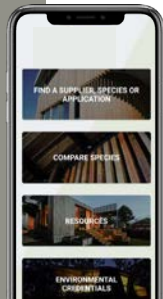
COVER STORY P 2

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Timber & Hardware Industries night of nights

The 2024 NSW & ACT winners.

IT was the night of nights, as the Timber and Hardware industries came together to celebrate the best of the best throughout NSW & ACT.

The tables were at capacity with not a seat to spare, as 240 guests from as far away as Yamba on the far North Coast entered the Hilton Hotel grand ballroom on level 3 at 488 George Street Sydney.

Predinner drinks and networking commenced from 6pm in the pre-function space as the conversation, handshakes, hugs, renewed acquaintances

“THE EVENING RAN LIKE A FINELY TUNED RACE CAR”

and smiles escalated quickly.

The entire night was a credit to David Little, Alicia Langfield and Tahlia Bellotti who ensured every detail was covered and the evening ran like a finely tuned race car.

Lighting in the grand ballroom, table decorations, and stage set up was nothing

short of elegant. Seated at our table was Katie Fowden of Hyne Timber who arrived from a meeting in Oberon that afternoon and was flying home to Queensland in the morning.

The industry came together to acknowledge the exceptional achievements,

service, dedication and to honour the talented individuals and businesses who go well beyond to consistently achieve superior results. Voting is industry based, amongst peers and provides an opportunity to acknowledge the absolute best.

One of the common themes amongst the acceptance speeches was acknowledging the high calibre of finalists and the exhilaration and surprise of being announced as the winner!

Winners were announced by Alica Langfield and timber plaques were presented by David Little based on their appearance as follows:

Cont P 3



1/ Aaron O'Keeffe of Meyer Timber, winner of the supplier sales representative of the year award.
2/ ITI Australia, winner of the Trade supplier of the year award. Images: Timber and Forestry Enews



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From P 2

- **Trainee / Apprentice of the year** – Declan Williamson of Masswood
- **NTHA host employer of the year** – Ryder Shop & Office Fitting
- **NSW & ACT Garden department of the year** – Acheson's Mitre 10
- **Garden & Outdoor supplier of the year** – AMES
- **Safety Culture Award (sponsored and presented by Jeremy Smith of ITI Australia)** – Woolgoolga Mitre 10
- **Retail store of the year under 2,500 sqm** – Yamba Mitre 10
- **Lifetime industry award with 30+ years** – Mike Power

Focus on Mike Power: Mike's career started at Dimet in 1978 where he quickly progressed from the warehouse to a sales rep and onto sales supervisor. Mike moved to Ormonoid in 1985 to take up the position as NSW sales manager. It was at Ormonoid where Mike met George Sved and they opened Vespol together in March 1989. In the early days, Vespol supplied M-Bed, a cementitious grout and tile adhesives. Throughout the 90's products such as damp course, flashing and expansion joints were added. This included building a machine to manufacture Alcor, still a key product in the business and industry today. Mike built the business around customer service. There was a lot of competition and Mike focused on Vespol's point of difference being to deliver products faster, valued the development of relationships with his customers. Vespol's first customer, George and William from George's Building Suppliers who were seated on his table and remain a key customer today.



- 1/ **Mike Power, winner of the lifetime industry award with 30+ years.**
- 2/ **The NTHA awards night began with networking and connecting with new and old industry friends.**
- 3/ **The attendees had a wonderful night, closing the event by dancing together to ABBA's 'Dancing Queen'.** Images: Timber & Forestry Enews

Following the main course and some entertainment, our attention returned to the stage with more winners, announced by Alicia and presentations made by Peter Hutchison (NTHA Board chair for 17 years):

- **NTHA student of the year** – Zachary Butler of Timberfast Building Supplies
- **Best frame and Truss operation of the year** – Dahlsens Wyong Truss & Frame
- **Supplier sales representative of the year** – Aaron O'Keefe of Meyer Timber
- **Store of the year over 2,500 sqm** – Johnson Bros Mitre 10 (Mona Vale)
- **Retail supplier of the year** – Bremick
- **Trade supplier of the year** – ITI Australia

- **Trade store of the year** – Royal Formwork Solutions
- **Real difference award of the year** – Lisa Rochester from Independent Hardware Group

Focus on Lisa Rochester: Lisa started with John Danks & Son in October 2001, marking over 2 decades of championing successful independents. In her marketing roles for all that time, Lisa strived for faultless and highly creative output and has tailored local area marketing campaigns for thousands of events. Her focus on making a real difference comes naturally and with unmatched devotion. Going over and above, often with long days and working into the night, to help her customers bring their vision to life. However, her greatest accomplishments in life have been being a brilliant mum and raising a talented and respectful young man. Making sacrifices to prioritise her 'Mum role' and 'professional duties' above anything else. Mitre 10 & Home Hardware members want Lisa to know that she's amazing to work with and couldn't be where they are without her role in their success.

The event concluded on the dance floor to ABBA / Dancing queen. Clearly some people can dance whilst others just jiggle, but regardless, all had a great time with lots of laughter. More music and dancing followed to finish a great night.

The next event will celebrate the best across QLD and will be held on Friday, May 30 in Brisbane. Contact Tahlia for tickets or additional information at events@ntha.com.au

On the cover: Winners are gridders... all the winners of the NTHA NSW and ACT awards night for 2024. Image: Timber & Forestry Enews

Review finds local government planning discrepancies

A NEW review has found inconsistencies in the local government planning framework for tree farms, which may be hindering growth in the southwest of Western Australia.

Commissioned by the South West Timber Hub, the Review of Local Government Planning Frameworks for Tree Farms was officially released on Wednesday, September 18.

It examined the planning framework of 25 local governments and provided a list of recommendations to help achieve clarity and consistency for local governments in considering tree farm proposals.

South West Timber Hub Project Manager Wendy Perdon said the

inconsistencies highlighted by the review undermined clear and consistent decision making to gain approval for new tree farms.

“This is ultimately to the detriment of the State in fulfilling its intent to support and grow the timber sector to meet demand, as well as societies increasing expectation and obligation to reduce emissions and move towards renewables across the economy,” Mrs Perdon said.

“Historically there have



SOUTH WEST TIMBER HUB

South West Timber Hub is responsible for the review that will hopefully bring about more consistency for new tree farms in Western Australia. Image: South West Timber Hub

been issues in this area and planning guidelines can vary greatly between local governments, even when they are located next to each other. The South West Timber Hub commissioned this review to examine these discrepancies and provide some clear recommendations going forward.”

WA’s plantation sector, which consists of hardwood and softwood varieties, contributes over 1.18 billion dollars of economic activity.

Demand for timber products is anticipated to quadruple by 2050 and at least 50,000ha of

additional softwood plantation is needed to help meet the demand.

Plantation timber is used to make the timber frames for homes, engineered wood products used to build new multi-storey residential and commercial buildings, wood-based panels for kitchens, pallets, and wood fibre used to manufacture paper, packaging and bioproducts, replacing single use plastics. In addition, residues go into making potting mix, mulches, composts and landscaped products for gardens.

The Review of Local Government Planning Frameworks for Tree Farms report can be found on the South West Timber Hub website.

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FSC Forest Week 2024

Small steps together create big change for all.

THIS Saturday, September 21, marks the start of FSC® Forest Week 2024, a global initiative aimed at raising consumer awareness about the critical role of sustainable forestry. Running from 21-27 September, this campaign, led by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), shines a light on the vital role of sustainable forestry in safeguarding the health of our planet. It highlights the incredible work of FSC forest stewards, who are on the front lines of combating climate change and addressing the biodiversity crisis.

Over the years, FSC Forest Week has gained significant momentum, inspiring individuals, businesses, and

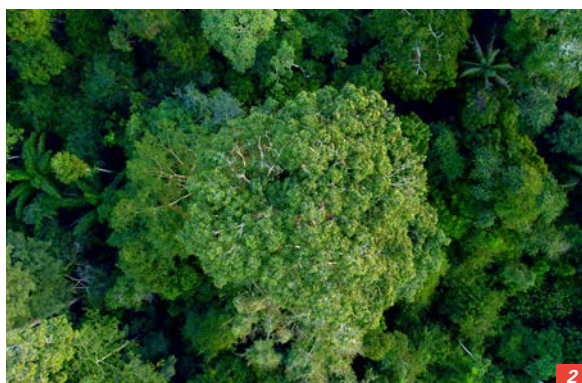
“TAKING STEPS, NO MATTER HOW SMALL, CONTRIBUTES TO A MORE SUSTAINABLE FUTURE



1/ FSC Forest Week celebrates both the forest and the many amazing products it provides for our daily lives. Image: FSC

2/ The beautiful forest in Brazil, an important resource to protect through sustainable forestry. Image: FSC/Célio Cavalcante Filho

3/ Timber from Stourhead, England. Image: FSC/Edward Parker



organisations worldwide to take action. This year's theme, "Small steps together create big change for all", encourages participants to reflect on how simple daily actions, like making responsible purchasing decisions, can collectively drive significant positive impacts for our planet and its forests.

In Australia and New Zealand, forestry

organisations, retail giants, fashion brands, packaging leaders, environmental NGOs, and more will be celebrating in an array of ways. From social media participation to magazine features, catalogue highlights, internal awareness events, competitions, and other innovative approaches, FSC certificate holders, members, and promotional licence holders

are demonstrating their commitment to sustainable forestry in dynamic and impactful ways.

The campaign's call to action is clear: taking steps, no matter how small, contributes to a more sustainable future. FSC Forest Week offers a unique opportunity for consumers, business leaders,

Cont P 7

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grown in Australia. Australian products are known for being made to the highest standards of quality and integrity, and are associated with using ethical labour, sustainable practices, and good value*.

Ownership is important to many shoppers, and for that reason businesses with a license to use the AMAG logo can also choose to include "Australian Made and Owned" as a descriptor.

For over 35 years, the AMAG logo has been a cornerstone for thousands of brands, helping them showcase their Australian credentials to consumers, businesses, and government

bodies alike. Its presence on packaging signifies more than just origin; it's a powerful tool for sales and marketing, instantly communicating authenticity and reliability to local and global audiences.

If your brand is striving to differentiate itself in the market, the AMAG logo is your assurance of quality, trust, and true Aussie pride. Embrace the symbol that speaks volumes about Australian excellence.

Aussie, Aussie, Aussie!

For more information on Australian Made click here.

Discover how your business could use the logo by clicking here.

*Roy Morgan 2022



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SEPTEMBER

19: Forestry Australia Networking & Discussion - Current and emerging opportunities supporting private sector investment in biodiversity – Melbourne, 5.30pm-7.30pm (AEST). For more details and to register, visit <https://www.forestry.org.au/vic-events/>

23: Latin America Forest Investment Conference – Porto Alegre, Brazil.

24-25: International Woodchip and Biomass Trade Conference – Porto Alegre, Brazil.

25-27: Field Trip – Rio Grande do Sul State, Brazil.

26: Forestry Australia Frame & Truss Tour – Fairfield NSW, 2.30pm-4.30pm (AEST). For more details and to register, visit <https://www.forestry.org.au/nsw-events/>

OCTOBER

22-23: International Woodchip and Biomass Seminar and Networking Event – Singapore.

29-31: Forestry Australia 2024 Symposium – Mercure Ballarat Convention Centre, Golden Point, VIC. Theme: Healthy and resilient forests for our future, will facilitate conversation and collaboration that regardless of land tenure and ownership, healthy and resilient forests should be the objective for all forest and land managers. The Symposium is a focused three-day gathering, consisting of two days of plenary and concurrent sessions, and a day of Field Trips. The two-day program will feature a range of Keynote and Invited Speakers, who are experts and thought leaders in their field. The Symposium will also feature several social functions, facilitating networking and

collaboration in an informal and relaxed environment. For more information, visit <https://www.forestry.org.au/2024-symposium/>

NOVEMBER

13-15: AFCA annual Gala dinner & conference – Launceston, Tas. For more information visit: <https://www.afca.asn.au/Events/afca-2023-conference-photo-gallery>

SAVE THE DATES 2025

MARCH 22: NTHA SA/NT/WA State Awards – National Wine Centre, Adelaide. Join us in celebrating the SA, NT & WA Timber and Hardware Industry. Contact Tahlia at events@ntha.com.au

MAY 30: NTHA QLD State Awards – Brisbane City Hall, Brisbane. Join us in celebrating the QLD Timber and Hardware Industry. Contact Tahlia at events@ntha.com.au

MARCH 25-28: DANA Global Wood Products Supply and Demand Trends Seminar, Global Forest Investment Conference, and WWII Battle of the Bulge Battle sites tour – Europe. Contact admin@dana.co.nz

JUNE 22-26: World Conference on Timber Engineering – Brisbane. WCTE is the world's leading scientific forum for the presentation of the latest technical and architectural solutions and innovations in timber construction.

OCTOBER 20-22: International Woodchip and Biomass Seminar and Networking Event – Singapore.

OCTOBER 23-24: Field Trip – Vietnam.

From P 5

and social and environmental organisations alike to engage in the conversation and help spread awareness about the importance of managing forests sustainably for future generations. But the work doesn't stop at the end of the week—FSC encourages

everyone to continue making conscious, forest-friendly choices in their daily lives, making this celebration the start of ongoing, positive change.

Whether you're an FSC certificate holder, member, or promotional licence holder, you can join the movement by registering for the campaign.

If you're outside the FSC system, you can still show your support by liking and sharing FSC ANZ's content on social media. Together, we can make a meaningful difference for our forests and the planet's future.

Click here to find out more about FSC Forest Week! You can also check out the 2023

FSC Forest Week recap video here.

FSC certificate holders, members and promotional licence holders can register by clicking here.

Contact Sarah Day at s.day@au.fsc.org if you have any questions.



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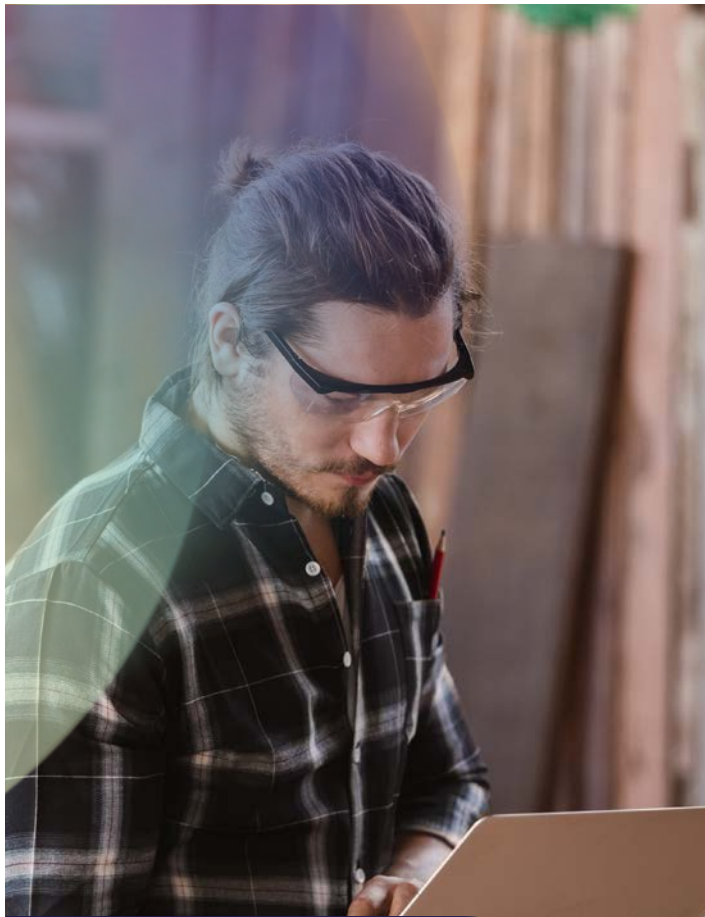
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Combilift on a winning streak

From the UK Engineering & Manufacturing Awards to the UKMHA Archie Awards.

COMBILIFT has secured not just one win but two wins at two different prestigious awards nights. The two UK based awards nights provided Combilift with some much deserved recognition for their incredible innovation, design and industry leadership.

UK ENGINEERING & MANUFACTURING AWARDS

Combilift has achieved dual recognition as the 'Design Team of the Year' and received the 'Industry Leader Award' at this year's UK Engineering & Manufacturing Awards 2024.

INDUSTRY LEADER AWARD

Combilift's co-founder and CEO, Martin McVicar, received the coveted award, sponsored by Menzies. This honors McVicar's visionary leadership and unwavering commitment to innovation, which were pivotal in transforming Combilift into a global leader in the material handling sector.

Under McVicar's guidance, Combilift has become synonymous with innovative problem-solving in material handling, delivering tailored solutions for complex logistical challenges. The judges highlighted McVicar's ability to navigate the company through external challenges, from the impacts of the pandemic to global supply chain disruptions, while maintaining a forward-thinking approach that identifies opportunities for growth and

transformation.

McVicar is also deeply committed to fostering a strong corporate culture. Combilift's headquarters, serves not only as a manufacturing hub but also as ambassadors for corporate social responsibility. The company regularly hosts apprenticeship schemes, charity events, family days, and educational visits, further solidifying its role within the local community.

DESIGN TEAM OF THE YEAR

The award was presented to Combilift's Heavy Equipment Team for their exceptional work on the 12-Wheel "Combi-LC Blade." This cutting-edge machine was specifically engineered for offshore wind turbine blades, which can reach 115 meters long and weigh 70 tonnes. The design significantly enhances the ability to transport these large, non-uniform loads safely and efficiently from manufacturing sites to storage and deployment locations.

In collaboration with Siemens Gamesa, Combilift designed a transport system that offers unparalleled stability and safety in moving these massive turbine blades. The Combi-LC Blade has now been successfully deployed at manufacturing sites across the globe, demonstrating its effectiveness and transforming the way wind

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From P 8

turbine blades are handled and transported.

This award, sponsored by Eureka Magazine, not only recognises the team's exceptional skill, collaboration, and dedication to solving one of the most pressing challenges in renewable energy logistics, but also highlights the company's commitment to providing innovative customer-led solutions.

UKMHA ARCHIE AWARDS

Combilift was awarded the coveted 'Ergonomic Innovation of the Year' and the 'Manufacturer Product Innovation of the Year' at the UK Materials Handling Association (UKMHA) Awards in Birmingham on the 14th of September.

MANUFACTURER PRODUCT INNOVATION OF THE YEAR

This award went to the Combi LC Blade, proving how incredible and innovative this product really is. It also highlights just how niche and crucial this product has been for renewable energy logistics. Not only was the design team recognised for the exceptional design but Combilift was recognised as the innovative manufacturer of the year for this product.

ERGONOMIC INNOVATION OF THE YEAR

The Combi-CB70E was celebrated for its groundbreaking ergonomic design. The 7-ton electric-powered, multidirectional counterbalance forklift is the shortest 7-ton capacity truck on the market, making it highly efficient with long

loads in tight spaces. The truck's spacious cab, with floor-to-ceiling panoramic glass, provides operators with excellent visibility and enhanced safety.

A standout feature is the Auto Swivel Seat, which automatically swivels 15 degrees left or right, depending on the direction of travel. Significantly reducing driver strain, particularly when reversing.

The CB70E also incorporates a gas strut suspension system, typically found in larger industrial machinery. This advanced suspension and large super-elastic tyres ensure a smooth ride. Combilift's independent electric traction system provides 100% traction control for all front and rear drive wheels. This system eliminates the need for a differential lock on slippery surfaces, reduces load swing, and enhances safety and precision when transporting long, heavy loads particularly when navigating sideways, regardless of ground conditions.

Martin McVicar shared, "We are more than delighted to have won not just one, but two prestigious accolades at this year's Archies 2024, making this our 12th Archies to date. Competing against such high-calibre competitors highlights

what a fantastic team we have, which are willing to push the boundaries of the material handling industry."

These awards solidify Combilift's winning momentum after taking home 'Design Team of the Year' for the LC Blade and the 'Industry Leader Award' - recognising McVicar's transformative leadership at the UK EMA Awards in London, bringing

a total of 4 awards for the Irish manufacture within two weeks!

As Archimedes once said, "Give me a lever long enough and a fulcrum on which to place it, and I shall move the world." Combilift embodies this spirit of innovation, continuously pushing the boundaries of material handling solutions.



1/ Celebrating their double win at the UKMHA Archie Awards, Combilift is recognised for their exceptional skill, collaboration, and dedication to innovation.



2/ The Combilift design team celebrating their 'Design team of the Year' win at the UK EMA Awards. Images: Combilift

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NZ eucalypts: a promising regional case study

By MICHAEL SMITH

NEW Zealand Dryland Forests Innovation (NZDFI) recently released a two-part case study on planting durable eucalypts in the Marlborough region – one of 12 possible catchments nationwide that could diversify the forest industry and generate new investment and employment.

In this first part of a two-part story, Paul Millen, NZDFI's project manager, explains the projected benefits of a small-scale regional hardwood industry in Marlborough – including the production of naturally durable posts to replace CCA-treated posts in the region's vineyards; other solid wood and engineered wood products; and biomass for bioenergy.

As host of a recent webinar on the subject, Mr Millen noted that to build a new hardwood industry from the tree roots up "requires long-term and intergenerational collaboration and investment. We've actually spent 15 years doing the tree breeding – not quite a generation."

He added that the aim for the next 20-30 years is to establish and manage the trees – and then harvest and transport them to two regional hubs in Marlborough for processing. "There's also the potential to work with an existing large processing hub in Nelson [Nelson Pine Industries], which manufactures engineered wood products."

Mr Millen says wine production contributes over \$2 billion to Marlborough's



1/ Paul Millen talking to a field day group about the 19-year-old stand of unimproved *E. bosistoana* in Marlborough Regional Forests' Pukaka Forest – one of the sites included in the case study.

2/ MRF's 18-year-old *E. globoidea* stand in Pukaka Valley, with trees marked for biomass sampling. Images: NZDFI

GDP. Innovative mechanisation has increased productivity, but large machines operating 24/7 can break a significant proportion of the 19 million posts used in the vineyards.

Broken post replacement at 5% p.a. amounts to just under a million posts every year – "a significant waste stream for sustainable wine growers who are aiming to achieve zero waste to landfill by 2050".

He notes further that naturally durable hardwood posts are less likely to break, and treatment costs would be eliminated. "Also, you don't end up with hazardous waste because broken posts could be used for firewood and bioenergy.

"From that first idea of a vineyard post, NZDFI's vision has evolved to wanting to plant 60,000 hectares of eucalypt forests across 12 regional catchments to supply

a multi-regional, sustainable and durable hardwood industry worth over \$1 billion annually by 2050.

"We want those regions to develop processing sites with good road, rail and, potentially, port connections for log supply – and also for moving hardwood products once they've been produced."

The big goal, says Mr Millen, is to produce a range of products for a variety of markets – from posts, poles and crossarms, to cladding, structural and decking timber.

In particular, he sees Australia as a huge opportunity for New Zealand-grown eucalypts. "Australian native forests supply hardwood timbers with log sales worth A\$400 million per year.

"However, they are now locking up their forests and that's having a huge impact, even as we speak, on the supply chains of their traditional hardwood products."

MARLBOROUGH CASE STUDY

"When we took NZDFI's vision and applied it to Marlborough, we began with the idea of some 5,000 hectares of eucalypt forest to supply a hardwood industry worth around \$90 million by 2055.

"Essentially, based on our case study we've got to get a new supply chain established by planting around 250-300,000 genetically improved

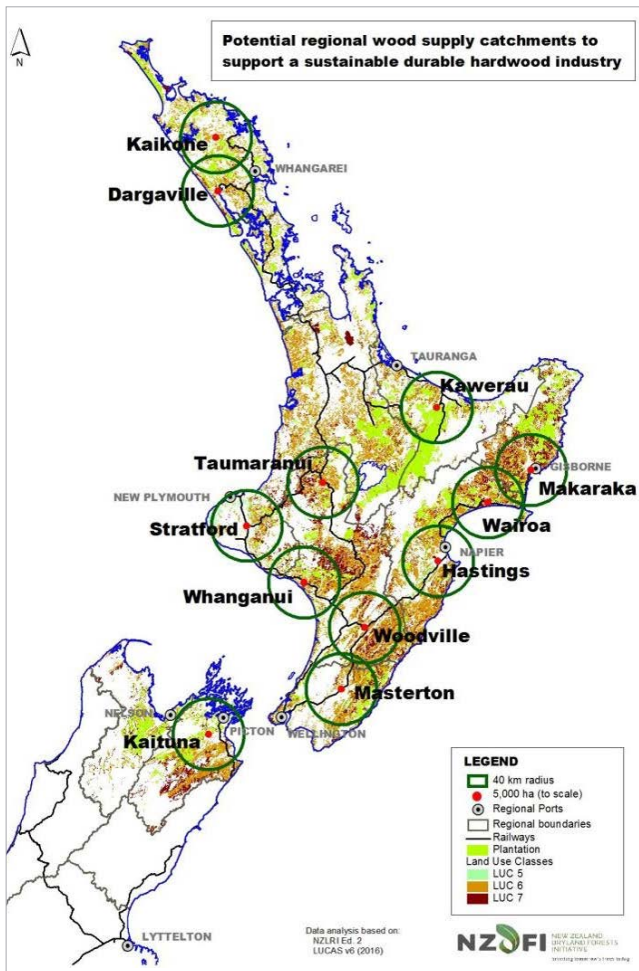
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From P 10

“durable eucalypt trees annually for the next 30 years.”

According to Mr Millen that’s not a huge task. One local nursery’s pads are already full, with some 200,000 seedlings this year – and there are well-established transport and harvesting operations that can run the supply chain.

“Taking a closer look at the case study, the wood supply catchment that we’ve proposed is based on the following concept: replanting 3,000-3,500 hectares of pine



The 12 regional catchments proposed by NZDFI, which could generate new investment and employment in northern and eastern regions of NZ.
Image: NZDFI

plantation cutover in North Marlborough; and around 1,500 to 2,000 hectares in South Marlborough in a mosaic of forest woodlots and small forests.

“And then there’s the two future processing hubs – a sawmill and remanufacturing hub at Kaituna [north-west of Blenheim], and a post/peeling plant at Riverlands [an industrial site south of Blenheim].”

Mr Millen says there is also an opportunity for mobile and on-farm processing. “People could grow the trees, produce the posts from a post-peeler operation in the forest, and then put those posts straight into the vineyards.”

Next week we look further at the Marlborough case study, consider two genetically improved durable eucalypt species, and more.

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FWPA's ForestLearning program

From forest to classroom – teaching the next generation of forest scientists.

FOREST & Wood Products Australia (FWPA) focuses on driving industry advancement through strategic research & market development initiatives. One of these key initiatives is FWPA's ForestLearning program, through which, FWPA is helping to bridge the gap between primary and secondary schools and the forest and the wood products industry.

ForestLearning develops Australian Curriculum aligned classroom resources for primary and secondary school educators to help the next generation understand the important role of sustainable forestry and appreciate the wood products they're surrounded by each day, from their school desks to their homes.

INVITE YOUR EVENT ATTENDEES INTO THE FOREST USING FORESTVR™

FWPA is excited to provide opportunities to enhance engagement on the sustainable nature of forestry at industry events by using virtual reality (VR) to transport attendees into the heart of the forest.

Six new VR headsets have been made available for use by stakeholders to provide immersive experiences during events including conferences,



Event attendees experience the forest in a new way with the ForestVR™ headsets. Image: FWPA

trade shows and career expos.

Using the award-winning suite of ForestVR™ resources the headsets take users on virtual tours of a variety of Australian forest and processing mill environments, as well as guiding them along the timber product supply chain from seed to shelter.

Developed by FWPA's ForestLearning program, the ForestVR™ resources have already made an impressive impact on teachers and students in Australian classrooms. Now they are proving equally as popular

“THESE HIGHLY IMMERSIVE EXPERIENCES GUIDE THE USER THROUGH THE FOREST”

at industry events, having been met with enthusiasm from attendees at the recent Balingup Small Farm Field Day in Western Australia, Mid Coast Careers Market in New South Wales, and Royal Darwin Show in the Northern Territory.

The headsets are available on loan, free-of-charge (just cover the cost of shipping) through ForestLearning. They don't require a Wi-Fi connection, meaning they offer an easy and effective way to engage with attendees in any setting.

Beth Welden, ForestLearning Program Manager, said ForestVR™ is the perfect way to share the unique story of Australian sustainable forestry.

“These highly immersive experiences guide the user through the forest and timber processing journey,

showcasing the use of renewable forest products in everything from buildings to everyday items such as paper,” Welden said.

“We have already helped countless students Australia-wide to appreciate the complexity and breadth of our sustainable forest management systems, and we're looking forward to helping industry bring the vibrant world of forestry and wood products to life for even

more Australians.”

More information on the ForestVR™ resources and the link to book headsets can be found by clicking here.

EDUCATING A NEW GENERATION OF FOREST SCIENCE EXPLORERS

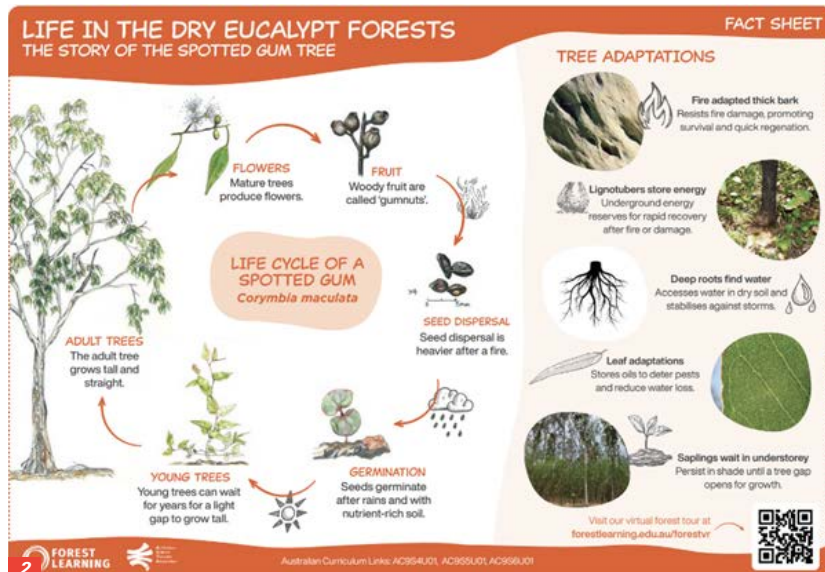
A newly launched educational resource from ForestLearning for primary students sheds light on Australia's diverse native forests, highlighting how key tree species have adapted to thrive in their environments. The *Forest Science Explorers* unit for Years 5 and 6 science, developed in partnership with the Australian Science Teachers Association (ASTA), by FWPA's ForestLearning program, showcases how sustainable forestry practices

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work with these adaptations to ensure the health and vitality of our forests for the future.

The *Forest Science Explorers* unit specifically focuses on how four distinct tree species – Swamp gum/Mountain ash, Spotted gum, Jarrah, and Cypress pine – have adapted to their unique environments and how foresters apply this knowledge to maintain healthy, resilient forests.

Complimenting the ForestVR™ 360-degree virtual tour videos and unit, are four new visual fact sheets, featuring hand-drawn life-cycle illustrations that make comparing four of Australia's forest types straightforward and engaging. These resources highlight the adaptations of each forest type and the trees within them, providing clear illustrations that help students understand the scientific work behind sustainable forest management. Fact-checked and edited by foresters from key organisations, including Queensland Department of Agriculture & Fisheries, the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA), Forest Products Commission Western Australia (FPCWA), Sustainable Timber Tasmania (STT), VicForests, and Forestry Corporation of



1/ Campbell and Beth of our ForestLearning program man the stand at the Australian Science Teachers' Association Conference 2024 in Melbourne.

2/ Sample of ForestLearning's new forest type fact-sheets for schools showing the lifecycle and adaptations of a spotted gum tree in a dry eucalypt forest. Images: FWPA



ForestLearning's *Forest Science Explorers* program engages children to learn more about forestry.

New South Wales (FCNSW), these fact sheets ensure content that is accurate, relevant, and reflective of real-world forest science. This connection between biological sciences and forestry aims to inspire the next generation of foresters and forest scientists.

The unit includes online interactive or printable workbooks for both students

and teachers, embedding immersive education technologies such as video experiences via ForestLearning's own ForestVR™ and 360-degree videos and photo tours, providing an in-depth virtual tour of different forest types.

The *Forest Science Explorers* unit made its debut at the Australian Science Teachers' Association Conference (CONASTA71), where ForestLearning exhibited and presented a workshop to primary and secondary science teachers. At an exhibition stand made entirely from sustainably sourced cardboard from The Cardboard Mill, the resource received significant interest from teachers, many of whom plan to integrate it into their Term 4 lesson plans.

Click here to learn more about the *Forest Science Explorers* unit. This link also contains resources for classroom learning, including the four fact sheets.



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HAFF funding commitments

Social housing to receive a substantial boost.

THE Housing Australia Future Fund (HAFF) has announced the first round of commitments to social housing which will see over 13,700 social and affordable homes built, housing more than 25,000 Australians in need. This announcement has been welcomed and is appreciated by the Community Housing Industry Association (CHIA) and the Housing Industry Association (HIA).

The funded projects will include 4,220 social and 9,522 affordable homes, including 1,267 homes for women and children escaping domestic violence and older women at risk of homelessness.

CHIA and HIA were both quick to welcome and encourage this step forward from HAFF.

"It is pleasing to see [the] announcement of the first round of funding commitments from the Housing Australia Future Fund (HAFF) to support the delivery of much needed housing for those who require it most," said HIA Managing Director, Jocelyn Martin.

"This announcement represents 40 per cent of the 13,742 social and affordable dwellings forecasted by the Australian Government to get underway this financial year. The announcement is an important step forward for the HAFF program.

"This announcement demonstrates that the



Social housing is important to help support low-income earners, domestic violence victims and those at risk of homelessness. Image: Shutterstock

reforms we've long advocated are beginning to deliver," CHIA CEO Wendy Hayhurst said.

"It's heartening to see the Commonwealth taking decisive action to address Australia's housing crisis – and not a moment too soon. And, with the funding tap at last beginning to flow, it's also re-assuring that the government plans a second round of allocations to take place early in the New Year.

However, both Jocelyn Martin and Wendy Hayhurst recognise that it must go beyond just this funding commitment.

"CHIA strongly believes that the HAFF program must be viewed as part of the broader, coordinated and sustained effort required if Australian governments are to make any appreciable impact on the huge backlog of need," said Wendy Hayhurst.

"This announcement represents solid progress we wholeheartedly commend. Of course, it doesn't fix the problem overnight, and no one would suggest it does. When you're tackling a housing crisis that has been decades

in the making, the key is to show long-term commitment and to steadily make inroads.

"HIA has long advocated that Australia needs more housing supply of all types across the 'Housing Continuum' be it private housing, private rentals, long term rentals, subsidies and supported housing and social, community and affordable housing," said Jocelyn Martin.

"Where one form of housing supply across this housing continuum falls short other parts of the system will additionally struggle to meet demand.

"That is why we need a coordinated approach across housing policy programs and across all levels of government to continue with initiatives to increase supply of housing for all forms.

"As a consequence, it will be important to ensure

productivity in the residential construction industry is supported by government focus on removing regulatory roadblocks, improving planning systems and tackling skills shortages.

"While we would like to see a longer term more consistent approach to funding social housing, programs such as the HAFF provide positive inroads into improving housing outcomes.

Wendy Hayhurst of CHIA concluded on a positive outlook for the future of the housing system.

"The enduring significance of [this] program launch will depend on whether it marks the re-start of a national investment push maintained and expanded in future years. Only then will we start to see a measurable reduction in unmet housing need and a meaningful contribution to moderating rents at the lower end of the private market," Wendy Hayhurst said.

"Thankfully, with the HAFF beginning to bear fruit, and with both Housing Australia and the Housing Supply Council now firing on all cylinders, we now have the necessary mechanisms and institutions to properly begin the mammoth task of turning our housing system around".

Both HIA and CHIA are committed to working with all levels of government, industry and unions to address Australia's housing challenges and create more opportunities for those in need of stable, affordable housing. With HIA emphasising their desire to specifically support measures to get younger Australians into housing.

“SUPPORT THE DELIVERY OF MUCH NEEDED HOUSING FOR THOSE WHO REQUIRE IT MOST

FSC's journey with its iconic checkmark and tree logo began 30 years ago

THANKS to Tristram Branscombe-Kent's invaluable inspiration, thousands of consumers worldwide come across the friendly checkmark-and-tree logo along with our 'Forests For All Forever' tag line.

This year, as we celebrate our 30th anniversary, we honour his memory and convey our gratitude, on behalf of all the people who work hard contributing to the health of the world's forests and a healthier planet.

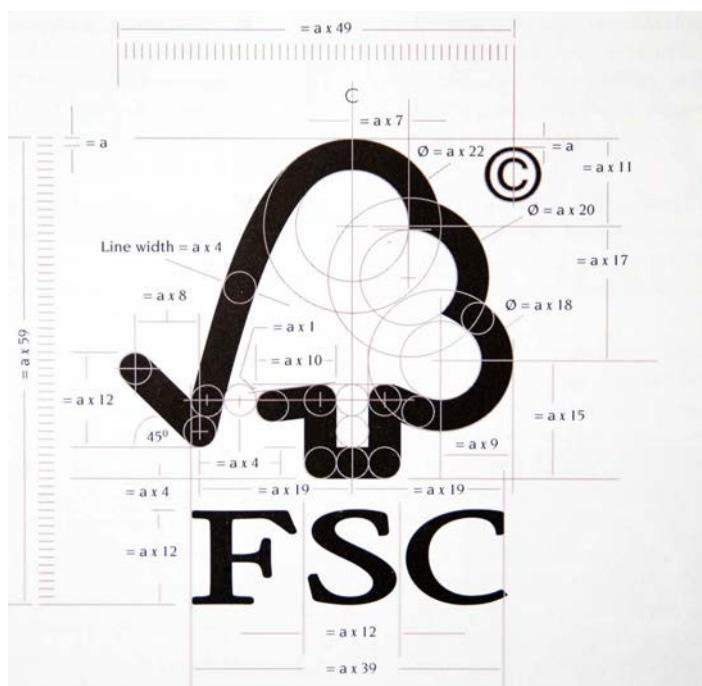
Have you ever come across a small, almost indiscernible, logo representing a checkmark and a tree on many of the products that you buy at your local supermarket or DIY store? It sits on the corner of the milk or juice carton, you see it on the wrapping of some of the world's favourite brands of paper and personal hygiene products, and you often eat at or sit on a piece of furniture that bears it in some unsuspecting place.

It's the FSC logo and it's a statement that tells you that the product that you have purchased has been produced using wood from a responsibly managed forest, ensuring that its biodiversity is respected while providing social benefits to the communities that depend on it.

Communicating a vision

Behind the FSC checkmark and tree, there's a story of commitment by a group of people that came together 30 years ago. That group of people had a vision, and the creativity of a uniquely talented graphic designer.

It all started in 1994 when



The approved checkmark and tree logo became the official FSC logo in 1996.
Image: FSC

the first FSC members saw the need to have a logo that consumers and producers alike could easily identify with the mission for global forestry that was just dawning: to promote environmentally sound, socially beneficial, and economically prosperous management of the world's forests.

These members were presented with an initial design that represented a cluster of trees casting a shadow in the form of a world map. Although the idea was adequate, "a number of stakeholders saw it [as] difficult to recognise. Also,

due to its size, the map left out some parts of the world, which was criticised by some members for obvious reasons," comments Tim Synnott, an FSC founding member and its first Executive Director. Therefore, a much simpler and efficient version was needed.

"The Board and I quickly realised that the first logo was quite unsuitable for labels due to its complexity, so we commissioned Tristram Branscombe-Kent to design a new one in 1995, a process that took several months of refining and agreeing," adds Synnott.



Alternative proposed logos designed by Tristram Branscombe-Kent that ultimately lost to the iconic checkmark and tree. Image: FSC

Branscombe-Kent, who was born into a family of artists, ran a successful design agency from Broadstairs in the UK. He began his early career as a graphic designer in a variety of agencies and locations including London, Athens and New York before creating Tristram Kent Associates (TKA) first in Canterbury and then in Broadstairs. "TKA at the time was doing a lot of work for many local and London-based companies, universities, and councils," recalls Margaret Branscombe-Kent, Tristram's widow.

THE BIRTH OF A SYMBOL

Branscombe-Kent arrived at FSC's first headquarters in Oaxaca, Mexico, in June 1994 to meet with the Board members at their third meeting and to gather their impressions.

The commission was clear: the concept had to immediately tell consumers that the product they were about to purchase represented the FSC mission and came from well-managed forests. The challenge was not easy, as this commitment was at an infant stage at the time and some of the green claims on labels that began to appear on products in the early 1990s were downright misleading. "Consumers were simply not as knowledgeable about ethical choices back then and they had no way of knowing whom to trust or believe. It was a novelty, and we had to convey a very simple and effective message to reassure them," says

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Synnott.

After gathering the Board's input, Branscombe-Kent hopped back on a plane and flew back to England, where he began to work on what came to symbolise the world's first choice of responsibly sourced forest products.

Some of the early sketches show a variety of options as he toyed with the idea that responsible forestry had to include imagery that would be immediately recognisable with the obvious – trees. These included a dual-shaped tree that was meant to symbolise a broadleaf and a conifer with the abbreviation FSC beneath it. Other options were bolder and documented an interest in conveying more abstract symbolism, such as

a photograph of a tree that had been digitally reduced to a minimal amount of bitmap information and meant to identify with the dawning digital age.

"Tristram liked to produce concepts that could be quickly and easily understood. He worked long hours until he felt satisfied with the result. Because he did not confine his interests and talents to the arts, but was also fascinated by science, I remember how motivated he was to work on the FSC logo," Margaret

remembers.

The final drafts were presented to the FSC Board of Directors and the option of the checkmark-and-tree logo was accepted at the beginning of 1996. For the Board members, this was the perfect choice as it conveyed a tree with a universally recognised sign of approval – a checkmark. Twenty-five years on, it proved to be the right choice.

"Tristram's meticulousness and dedication to accuracy led him to enquire with 10 different cultural and public

institutions worldwide to ensure that the checkmark was widely recognised as a symbol of acceptance," adds Margaret.

The logo was officially launched at an event in London on 21 February 1996, and the first product bearing it – the now legendary Sainsbury's cooking spatula – was available soon after, beginning a journey that keeps telling us today just how important it is to buy products that help preserve the world's forests for future generations.



1/ The FSC logo can be found on many products worldwide as well as printed materials.
 2/ The first product bearing the logo is the now legendary Sainsbury's cooking spatula, produced soon after the launch of the new FSC brand. Images: FSC

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National Tradie Day

Tradies play a vital role in the functioning of our society, from building our homes and roads to keeping our lights on and water flowing. They also cover transport, mining, mechanic and manufacturing industries.

National Tradie Day is this Friday, September 20. Not only do we want to say a big thank you to all the amazing tradies in our country, particularly those in the timber and forestry industries, but so do Krispy Kreme and Tech Skill Academy.

“Krispy Kreme is showing its appreciation for the hardworking tradies who form the backbone of Australia on National Tradie Day. To celebrate their invaluable contributions to our communities, Krispy Kreme is offering a FREE Original Glazed doughnut to all tradies who come into a Krispy Kreme store wearing their tradie gear on National Tradie Day, Friday 20 September. Plus, Krispy Kreme is offering \$12 OG dozens for all tradies on National Tradie Day so they can shout their mates and be the legend on the worksite,” Krispy Kreme Australia.

“To celebrate National Tradesmen Day, this week only, when you enrol in any of our construction courses, we’re giving you the National Construction Code (NCC) Course completely FREE (Valued at \$249). The NCC is essential knowledge for any tradie on-site – keeping you compliant and up to date with the latest standards. Whether you’re building, plumbing, or handling electricals, knowing the NCC inside and out will give you that extra edge,” Tech Skill Academy.

For more information on the NCC course click [here](#).

For more information on the Tech Skill Academy offer click [here](#).



1/ Tradies work hard in the timber and forestry industries and their efforts are essential and irreplaceable. Image: Shutterstock

2/ There is a free donut for any Tradie in uniform on Friday, September 20. Image: Krispy Kreme

3/ The camaraderie is widely recognised as one of the benefits of being a tradie. Image: Krispy Kreme



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