

FOR OVER  
18 YEARS  
DELIVERED  
WEEKLY TO  
**15,200**  
GLOBAL  
READERS

Like and  
follow us on



ISSUE 827 // October 31 2024

# timber & FORESTRY *e*news



## Off The Rails: from regional winners to state nominees

COVER STORY P 2

*Do you  
have  
a job  
position  
to fill?*

ADVERTISE TODAY



Wood Solutions  
**BOOST  
YOUR  
CUSTOMER  
BASE**  
CREATE A FREE SUPPLIER LISTING ON  
THE WOODSOLUTIONS WEBSITE  
**GET STARTED**

Responsible  
Wood www.fsc.org  
**2024-25  
Community Grants  
Program now open  
Learn more.**

## ALL UNDER ONE ROOF

- ◆ IR SUPPORT
- ◆ TRAINING
- ◆ EMPLOYMENT
- ◆ WHS
- ◆ COMMUNITY



**NTHA**  
NATIONAL TIMBER &  
HARDWARE ASSOCIATION

1800 822 621



# Off the Rails

## A company dedicated to keeping sustainability on the rails.

OFF The Rails is the dream and design of passionate founder and managing director, Julian Simpson. Established in 2015, Off The Rails has become a large retailer and supplier of reclaimed Railway Sleepers on the East Coast of Australia. Julian's passion for sustainability and his dedication to repurposing timber have set the foundation for this successful venture.

Off The Rails has set a new benchmark for sustainability by salvaging and sourcing reclaimed and recycled timber from railway lines, industrial buildings, and bridges across Australia. The company then repurposes the salvaged and reclaimed timber. Based in Byron Bay, where 90% of its operations are concentrated, Off The Rails supports 500 local building and landscaping projects each year and serves over 200 regional clients.

Since its inception in 2015, Off The Rails has reclaimed 5,000 tonnes of timber, sequestered 550 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>, and prevented 350 tonnes of emissions, achieving a total carbon offset of 900 tonnes. The business follows a zero-



**Julian Simpson & Lauren Dein of Off The Rails with Telstra Business Partner, sponsor of the Micro Business Award.** Image: Always Keen

waste approach, converting unsold timber and offcuts into biochar, mulch, and firewood.

Julian shared that the biggest contract to date came during the Inland Rail Network Upgrade. Off The Rails purchased 31,500 railway sleepers. This purchase diverted 100 semi-trailers of timber from landfill which is the equivalent of 2,400 tonnes of timber that is able to be repurposed. Julian emphasised his passion for reclaiming timber and repurposing it over seeing additional trees cut down and cleared.

"That contract I've worked

for two years now, selling those timbers, grading them, making by products out of them... [in] the past two years I have graded 16,000 sleepers by hand," Julian explained.

For the grading, he would journey up to the site where the sleepers are stored and spend 12 days doing 12 hours each day hand grading each sleeper personally. He estimated he would get through approximately one semi-trailer per 12-hour day. After two years Off The Rails has recouped its expenses and repaid the investors.

They will spend the next two

years continuing to grade and repurpose the remaining timber.

Julian's dedication to sustainability can be easily seen when he shared that, "In the end these things are more about being passionate about sustainability than making money."




With a keen eye for quality and craftsmanship, Off The Rails is now expanding its reach into New Zealand and exploring opportunities to export to the South Pacific, Asia, and the UK, supplying prestigious builders and landscapers in those regions.

### LOCAL BUSINESSES

In an interview with Julian, he shared that his work shed space is partly leased out to smaller companies who purchase his reclaimed timber and use it to create fascinating pieces for inside homes. For example, one of the companies takes pieces of timber and turns them into chopping boards and artistically burns the pieces to give it a new look and feel. Off The Rails focuses on building products

Cont P 3

## Preserve your Project, Preserve Timber

Choose a timber preservative with colour to set your project application apart.

- Micronised pigment technology
- Enhances timber grain
- A combination of Micropro's attributes with the added benefit of long lasting colour

www.kopperspc.com.au

1800 088 809



From P 2

and landscaping, but it is also creating a hub for creative people to come in and explore what else can be made from the timber.

Off The Rails also looks to support the community, “there is at least three other guys that I just allow to use the space so long as they are buying timber off me” Julian explained.

### PARTNERING WITH BYRON BAY WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

Off The Rails is not only committed to sustainability and supporting local projects but they are also proud to be collaborating with the Byron Bay Wildlife Sanctuary. Off The Rails donates sustainable timber for the renovation and enhancement of the Byron Bay Wildlife Sanctuary’s entrance signage and exhibits. This partnership reflects the commitment of Off The Rails to supporting causes that align with their sustainable values and the preservation of wildlife, by providing sustainable materials, the bio-park emphasises its dedication to responsible practices and reducing environmental impact. The Off The Rails donation aims to improve the sanctuary’s facilities, creating a welcoming and informative experience for visitors.

The sustainable timber will be used in the renovation of entrance signage, ensuring beautiful and eco-friendly displays for guests. Additionally, it will be incorporated into the other areas of the park, providing



1/ Valley View, Byron Bay... features Off The Rails reclaimed railway sleepers for their pathway, created by Kev Max Landscaping.

2/ Longwood Property, Possum Creek... features high-grade railway sleepers, milled bridge timbers, turn out timbers that make up the pathways, screen and pergola by Off The Rails.

3/ Reclaimed railway sleepers used in Off The Rails projects.  
All photos: Off The Rails

a natural backdrop that highlights the sanctuary’s diverse wildlife. Off The Rails has expressed that they are honoured to be part of this endeavour, working closely with the Byron Bay Wildlife Sanctuary to establish a sustainable and educational space for both residents and tourists. Together, they aim to foster a deeper appreciation for wildlife and contribute to a more environmentally conscious future.

### BYRON SHIRE RECLAIMED TIMBER BUSINESS TAKES ON SYDNEY

Off The Rails has recently celebrated regional success, earning an award and finalist nomination at the Northern Rivers Regional Business Awards, securing the Micro Business Award for their second consecutive year. Off The Rails innovative approach to sourcing and repurposing



salvaged wood earned them a Sustainability Award nomination, of which they became a finalist, showcasing its commitment to eco-friendly practices. By redefining the use of reclaimed timber, Off The Rails is shaping the Byron region’s landscape, driving economic growth, and fostering ecological resilience, setting new standards for sustainable development.

“Our regional submission received high praise for responsible initiatives, like diverting materials from landfills and re-purpose in timber. Judges described us as a visionary model, focused on waste reduction” Julian shared.

They continued expressing that they are both proud and grateful to have won the Micro Business Award for the second year in a row and to have been a finalist for the Sustainability award. It is a huge honour to be recognised for their success, resilience, and positive impact.

It is a fantastic win as they prepare to celebrate their 10th anniversary in 2025.

Off The Rails is also a nominee for the Business NSW State Finalist Awards. Business NSW outlined the design behind the awards: “The Business Awards honour the ingenuity, resilience, and commitment exhibited by businesses throughout NSW. We firmly believe that businesses are pivotal in propelling economic growth, generating employment, and contributing to the overall prosperity of our state. This is why we are dedicated to acknowledging the diligence and perseverance of businesses, regardless of their size or industry.”

For more information on Off The Rails, click here.

**On the cover: Winners of the Northern Rivers Regional Business Awards celebrate together.**  
Photo: Always Keen

# Commonwealth's timber testing trial raises major concerns about illegal logging

RESULTS of the Commonwealth Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry's (DAFF's) testing trial on timber species and harvest origins has clearly demonstrated the need for the Albanese Government's tougher illegal logging laws with some alarming results from the study, Chief Executive Officer of the Australian Forest Products Association, Diana Hallam said.

The recently completed DAFF trial tested 146 timber products and 39 distinct species using different scientific methods including DNA, stable isotope, trace element, wood fibre and wood anatomy analysis. A quarter of the tested products were found to be inconsistent with declared species, origin, or both.

Diana Hallam said, "We welcome DAFF's trial but unfortunately the results show there's plenty of work to do on supply chain custody and ensuring Australia is free of illegally logged timber and fibre products. These results are something we have suspected and feared.

"Earlier this year, AFPA strongly supported updated Commonwealth legislation aimed at cracking down on illegal imports and these results show just how important a stronger legislative and regulatory framework is to combat this issue. We know



**With so much timber being imported it is crucial to be sure of where the timber comes from and what types of timber it is. Most importers are doing the right thing, but a surprising amount has inconsistencies.** Image: Shutterstock

China and 20 per cent from Russia, with the Russia component not declared.

"Importers and certifiers need to be on notice, so we are pleased the Albanese

Government and DAFF is taking the issue of illegal timber very

many importers are doing the right thing, but those that aren't, are undermining Australia's biosecurity and deceiving consumers.

"For example, we've been made aware of some private product testing which showed the breakup of some laminated veneer lumber (LVL) product, 80 per cent originating in

seriously. Obviously, the best way to avoid illegal timber and fibre is to buy Australian grown and manufactured which also supports our economies and communities, but we must work to a future where all imported product is above board," Diana Hallam concluded.

**NTHA CAN**

**TRAIN AND UPSKILL YOUR EXISTING TEAM MEMBERS**

- ✓ Nationally recognised qualifications and training
- ✓ Specialist industry trainers

**STRENGTHEN YOUR TEAM**

RETAIL, SALES, BUSINESS, SUPPLY CHAIN OPERATION AND LEADERSHIP QUALIFICATIONS

(RTO 5343)  
**1800 822 621**  
**ntha.com.au**

Australian Forest Products Association

**AFPA THE LEADING VOICE FOR AUSTRALIA'S FOREST PRODUCTS SECTOR**



# Realising healthy and resilient forests for our future

SOME 300 scientists, researchers, forestry professionals and foresters have gathered for Forestry Australia's National Symposium being held in Ballarat this week. The key theme for the Symposium is healthy and resilient forests for our future.

Acting Forestry Australia President Dr Bill Jackson said healthy forests can deliver a range of environmental, social, cultural, and economic benefits – and are much more likely to withstand future shocks and stresses, such as those generated by bushfires, invasive species and climate change.

Kirsha Kaechele, co-owner of MONA and sponsor of the Forest Economics Congress spoke on the art of radical diplomacy, saying “negotiators need get out of those ugly board rooms.”

Ms Kaechele said we can't



1/ **Professor Lori Daniels from the Department of Forest and Conservation Services, Forest Services Centre, Canada.**

2/ **Kirsha Kaechele, Co-owner of MONA and sponsor of the Forest Economics Congress** Photos: Forestry Australia via LinkedIn

move forward without caring for people - Australia can have the best forest practice in the world by working together; for all sides to be brave enough to welcome broad conversation; and invite peer-review to achieve truly sustainable practice.

Professor Lori Daniels from the Forest Services Centre in Canada spoke about the need for transformative change based on active management that combines the depth of Indigenous knowledge with western ecological science.

“In Canada, forest

managers are considering a new future of diversified, proactive, collaborative and evidence-based management for forest resilience,” Professor Daniels said.

Secretary of Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Adam Fennessy

**“NEGOTIATORS NEED GET OUT OF THOSE UGLY BOARD ROOMS**



identified the key role forestry can play in solving many of societies' key challenges.

He announced that the Federal Government is supporting this potential through investing in national forest policy, capacity and capability, climate change and research and development.

Forestry Australia is proud to facilitate conversation and explore strategies that address these issues and create a bright and innovative future for forests in Australia.

## 2024-25 Community Grants Program applications are now open

Find out more online.



[responsiblewood.org.au](https://responsiblewood.org.au)





# Winning Irish Exporter of the Year

Combilifts CEO Martin McVicar talks about the journey into the global market.

## HOW IT ALL STARTED

IN 1998, Robert Moffett and I co-founded the business with a unique forklift concept. We designed a truck that could move forwards and backwards like any regular forklift but, at the flick of a switch, could also travel sideways. Our first model, the multidirectional 4-tonne C-Series, is still in production 26 years later. Its innovation in long-load handling, which can be risky with standard forklifts, made the concept and its advantages easy to visualise and sell—even before we had a prototype.

We started in March 1998, and by July, we had completed three units for customers in Norway. I told my girlfriend, now my wife, that we were taking a week's holiday to Norway. In reality, we were there so I could oversee the delivery of those first trucks. By the end of that year, we had produced 18 Combilifts, 17 of which were exported. From day one, exports were our primary focus, and as of today, they account for 97-98% of our business.

## TRANSPORTING LARGE GOODS

When you're focused on exporting, minimising transportation costs becomes a priority. Shipping efficiently is key, so from the start, we designed compact, multi-directional trucks that fit into containers, reducing freight costs. Our larger products, like straddle carriers, which can reach up to 14 metres

tall, are designed like a Lego Meccano set, so after testing, they can be disassembled and shipped within containers. For oversized equipment, we use roll-on, roll-off shipping, where the vehicle is loaded in our yard and driven directly onto the ship and then off again at its destination. So far, we've never

had a vehicle we couldn't ship.

## NAVIGATING EXPORT RULES AND REGULATIONS

When starting a business, ignorance of export rules can actually be a blessing—knowing too much might have discouraged us from

pursuing the global market. The regulations we faced were diverse and complex, depending on the market, but strong customer relationships, and a bit of hand-holding, helped us navigate these challenges. Our customers often guided us through their country's specific requirements.

Back in 1998, we were a team of 13 engineers and fabricators. Today, we have 850 employees, including an expert team dedicated to handling exports, so thankfully I no longer need to worry about the finer details. Our logistics team of over 30 people ensures that, from pre-delivery inspections through final testing and shipping, everything runs smoothly.

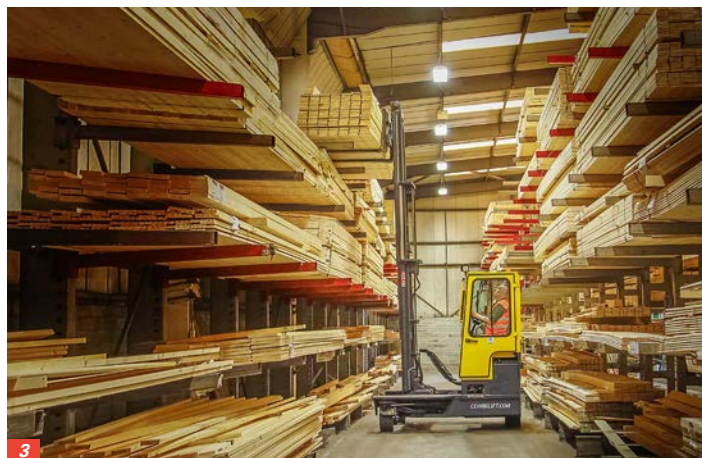
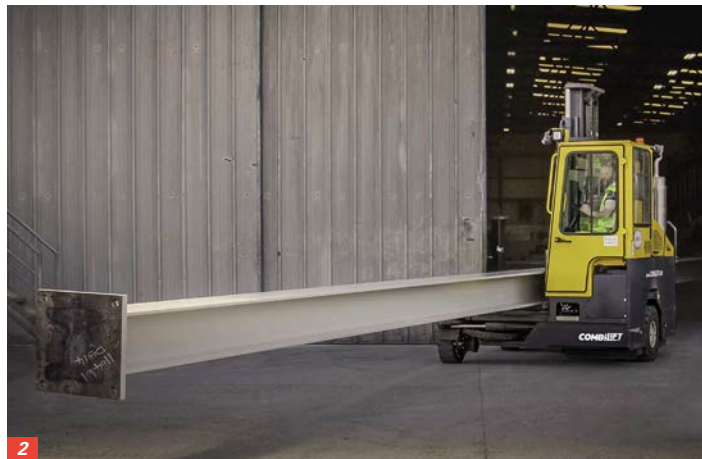
## GLOBAL SUPPORT NETWORK

Like any moving vehicle, forklifts need servicing to keep running efficiently. For Combilift, our route to market is through a global dealer network with skilled service engineers. We provide comprehensive in-house training and also offer service training in local markets. Having professional local



1/ The Combilift team celebrate their Irish Exporter of the Year win.

2 & 3/ Combi C-Series is able to lift loads well above the height of the machine itself as well as long loads. It is also able to navigate thin spaces and comes in both diesel LPG and electric. All images: Combilift



**NOVEMBER**

**13: AFCA AGM – Launceston, Tas - IN PERSON & ONLINE, at 3.00pm.** To register visit: [https://afcaevents.zohobackstage.com.au/Business\\_Summit\\_and\\_Gala\\_Dinner2024#/](https://afcaevents.zohobackstage.com.au/Business_Summit_and_Gala_Dinner2024#/)

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

**20: Forestry Australia Webinar**

**- Rapid detection of fire in Australia's forests – ONLINE EVENT, 12.30-1.45pm (AEDT).**

For more details and to register, <https://www.forestry.org.au/webinar-fire-detection/>

**SAVE THE DATES 2025**

**MARCH 22: 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](mailto:events@ntha.com.au)

**MAY 30: 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](mailto: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](mailto: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 6

service on the customer's doorstep is crucial, along with rapid access to parts, and today Combilift has more than 300 dealer distributors around the world.

**WHAT WINNING EXPORTER OF THE YEAR MEANS**

Over the years, we've been fortunate to receive various awards, but being named Irish Exporter of the Year is a significant achievement. Competing with industries across the island, including large global manufacturers

**“ THIS RECOGNITION FEELS LIKE WINNING AN OLYMPIC GOLD MEDAL**

in sectors like pharmaceuticals and medical devices, was no easy task.

This award wasn't just about submitting an application; it also involved two rigorous interviews in front of a panel of 14-15 independent judges from diverse industries. Winning this award shows that we've been recognised as a fully-fledged manufacturing company that truly exports globally. We don't simply rebadge products—we design, fabricate, paint, and assemble our vehicles from start to finish before exporting them worldwide.

For Combilift, this



**Martin McVicar Combilift CEO and Grainne McMahon of Combilift.** Photo: Combilift

handed anything, and that work ethic has stayed with me. Today, we are in a strong market position as a debt-free, privately owned company with over €500 million in revenue. The only downturn we've experienced in the last 26 years was during the financial crisis of 2008/09; every other year has seen continued

recognition feels like winning an Olympic gold medal. It's a stamp of approval that we're doing, and continue to do, things right.

**LOOKING AHEAD**

Like many entrepreneurs, Robert and I came from humble beginnings, growing up on a farm where hard work was essential. I was never

growth.

Innovation has been key to our success. Our team continues to design new, exciting products, which keeps us ahead of the market. That's what really drives me—knowing that Combilift's innovation keeps us moving forward.

To learn more about Combilift click here.

**A CUT ABOVE...**

Do you crosscut timber packs at ±1 mm accuracy?

**Or cut structural timber, panel products (MDF & LVL), paper rolls?**

Or produce pallet dimensions or studs on fixed lengths?

**HOLTEC has a solution for you!**

Our scope of supply:

- Mobile and stationary chainsaws
- Timber crosscut stations
- Log cutting stations
- Circular saws

- Mechanisation
- Sorting lines
- Scanning and optimising systems
- Special systems



For more information contact:



**Ph: +64 9 416 8294 // Fax: +64 9 416 8296**  
**Email: [sales@holtec.org](mailto:sales@holtec.org) // Web: [www.holtec.org](http://www.holtec.org)**



# Essence of a forest in a bottle: Port Blakely Essential Oils

A New Zealand company turns to nature for sustainable fragrance production.

HAVE you ever wished to capture the essence of a forest and carry its invigorating aroma with you wherever you go? For many, the aroma of forests evokes memories of tranquil walks in nature. Port Blakely Essential Oils is harnessing these sensations with their Douglas-fir essential oil, setting a new standard in the fragrance industry by offering an FSC certified alternative to synthetic perfumes.

Located in the heart of New Zealand's pristine wilderness, Port Blakely has created a product that encapsulates the bright, woody notes of Douglas-fir, making it ideal for cosmetics, aromatherapy, and personal fragrances. Unlike many companies that rely on harmful fossil fuels, Port Blakely has embraced the natural power of trees, creating a fully sustainable, circular energy system. Their state-of-the-art biomass boiler transforms wood byproducts into clean, renewable steam energy, allowing them to power operations while dramatically reducing their carbon footprint. This commitment comes at a pivotal time when consumers increasingly prioritise eco-friendly options in their purchasing decisions.

The company's forests, including the pristine Shag River Forest, located just 2.5 hours from Queenstown,



1/ **Port Blakey's FSC certified Douglas-fir essential oil.**  
2/ **Mitch Cooke, Business Manager for Port Blakely NZ Essential Oils.**  
Photos: FSC

provides clean air and pure water, ensuring the highest quality essential oils. "With over 20 years of Forest Management FSC certification under our belt, it was only natural for Port Blakely NZ Essential Oils [a subsidiary of Port Blakely] to become one of the first tree oil producers globally to gain FSC chain of custody accreditation for our Douglas-fir essential oil. We consider this the global gold standard in sustainable forest management and are proud to have achieved it within just three years of operation," said Mitch Cooke, Business Manager for Port Blakely NZ Essential Oils.

FSC certification ensures that Port Blakely's operations adhere to rigorous environmental and social standards, safeguarding



biodiversity, protecting workers' rights, and supporting local communities. This is particularly significant as more consumers seek to align their purchasing decisions with sustainability principles. According to Cooke, the company's essential oils enable customers to "make

better informed purchases," whether they are selecting products for aromatherapy, fragrances, or cosmetics.

The fragrance industry's transition toward natural, responsibly sourced products reflects broader changes in global consumer preferences. In 2022, the natural personal care market experienced an 8% growth, driven by a rising interest in eco-friendly options. Industry analysts from market research firms like Grand View Research and Mordor Intelligence have noted that, despite the fragrance sector's slow move away from petrochemicals—primarily due to the lower cost of synthetic ingredients—there is a growing demand for natural alternatives. As consumers become more educated about the environmental impacts of fossil fuel-based products, the market for sustainably sourced fragrances continues to expand.

Port Blakely's commitment to FSC-certified forestry and energy-efficient production methods positions them as leaders in this movement. Their FSC-certified Douglas-

fir essential oil is gaining recognition not only for its quality but also for redefining sustainable production practices. By utilising renewable resources and reducing emissions, Port Blakely is forging a new path—one where nature and business can thrive together.



**Essential oils have a range of purposes from personal fragrances and aromatherapy to delightful additions to saunas.** Image: FSC



# Nominations are now open for 2025!

## QLD Timber & Hardware Industry Awards.

NOMINATIONS are officially open for the prestigious 2025 Queensland Timber & Hardware Industry Awards. The much-anticipated event is set to recognise a wide range of industry nominees who show exceptional skills in customer service, innovation or business advancement.

The NTHA (National Timber & Hardware Association) will host the gala evening which will be held at Brisbane City Hall on Saturday March 22. The awards offer a valuable opportunity to appreciate timber merchants, hardware stores, suppliers, manufacturers and individuals who go above and beyond to contribute to the success of your business or the industry as a whole.

QLD Timber & Hardware Industry Awards categories include:

- NTHA Trainee/ Apprentice of the Year
- NTHA Student of the Year
- NTHA Host Employer of the Year
- Emerging Leader
- The REAL Difference Award
- 30+ Years Industry Service
- Trade Store of the Year
- Retail Store of the Year Under 2500sqm
- Retail Store of the Year Over 2500sqm
- Garden Department of the Year
- Best Frame & Truss Operation
- Trade Supplier of the Year
- Retail Supplier of the Year
- Garden & Outdoor Supplier of the Year
- Safety Culture Award
- Supplier Sales Representative of the Year



If you know or work with a team member who demonstrates excellence on a daily basis, nominate now before judging closes by scanning the QR code.

All tickets include pre-dinner drinks, a three-course meal, along with beer, wine and soft drink served throughout this much anticipated event. Get your tickets before they sell out via the QR code below.

Several tiers of sponsorship opportunities are also available on the night. To take part in this opportunity phone:



1800 822 621 or email: [membership@ntha.com.au](mailto:membership@ntha.com.au)



## Certify your products as Australian Made

Apply to use the logo at [australianmade.com.au](http://australianmade.com.au)





# Updated national data highlights forestry solutions

The Forestry sector is well placed to help address housing and cost of living crises.

NEW Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences (ABARES) forest data shows Australia's forestry sector is well positioned to help address the national housing and cost of living crises, Chief Executive Officer of the Australian Forest Products Association (AFPA), Diana Hallam said.

The ABARES *Australia's State of the Forests Report: Synthesis 2023* (SOFR Synthesis 2023) released shows:

- Australia's total forested area increased in the five years to 2021 by nearly three times the size of the ACT (750,000

hectares) with the total around 134 million hectares (more than 1.5 times the size of NSW)

- Carbon stocks in forests increased to over 19 million tonnes from 2016 to 2021, and there was a 5 per cent increase in the total carbon present in harvested wood products to around 167 million tonnes
- In 2022-23 the value of logs harvested from commercial plantations and native forests was \$2.4 billion including \$1.3 billion from softwood plantations
- Native forestry operations continue to sustainably



**In the past five years there has been an increase of 134 million hectares of forest in Australia** Image: Shutterstock

harvest and regenerate just 0.06 per cent of Australia's total native forest area annually – the equivalent of 6 out of 10,000 trees

- Forestry was identified as the least prevalent of 11 specified categories listed as threats for forest-dwelling flora and fauna. Land use change, unsuitable fire regimes and competition from introduced species were the most common threats

Diana Hallam said, "I congratulate ABARES on the release of SOFR Synthesis 2023 and the huge amount of detailed work in the report. I'm proud to say AFPA helped advocate for additional Commonwealth funding to allow for more regular forest data updates like SOFR.

"Importantly the data

demonstrates Australia's forested area is increasing while countering disinformation that wrongly blames forestry for species loss. The data shows the drop in production in softwood timber highlighting the sector spare capacity available to support the Government's housing targets. The data shows the importance of the sector to the national economy and how forestry and forest products are well placed to help Australia solve the national housing and cost of living crises.

"Australia's forest industries are an essential part of our country's future providing essential housing, climate, consumer, employment, other economic and social benefits at home and internationally. Access to data that tracks our important forest resources is important for planning and accurate industry analysis. I congratulate ABARES and the Federal Government on the SOFR report," Diana Hallam concluded.

**“THE DATA DEMONSTRATES AUSTRALIA'S FORESTED AREA IS INCREASING**

**Do you have SOMETHING to say?**

Share observations, comments, opinions, by email and, subject to normal editorial rules, your feedback will be published. Send media releases, news stories, events, any timber and forestry news related information anytime to Nicky, Donyale and Jess at the following dedicated email address - [editors@timberandforestrynews.com](mailto:editors@timberandforestrynews.com)

**timber & FORESTRY eNEWS**

**Hello!**

s B d f

@ #

**Dear Editor**



# Reflecting on breast cancer awareness month

THE Breast Cancer Network Australia (BCNA) works throughout the year to raise awareness for breast cancer. However, the BCNA has used October to specifically shine a light on inter-personal connections. They have focused on recognising the community support that rallies behind people affected by breast cancer. With our last issue for October, Enews would like to reflect on this important issue

The BCNA website shares:

“Did you know that 20,973 Australians are expected to receive a breast cancer diagnosis in 2024?

“That’s 58 people every day. Breast cancer is the most commonly diagnosed

cancer amongst Australian women, with 1 in 7 receiving a diagnosis in her lifetime.”

This year, as a part of breast cancer awareness month, The Block and Channel 9 went pink and hosted a BCNA Pink Tradies event on television. The Block wrote:

“BCNA Pink Tradie ambassadors Sarah-Jane and Tom Calleja joined hosts Scott Cam, Shelley Craft and this year’s contestants and trades on-site for a special BCNA Pink Tradie BBQ. Sarah-Jane and Tom discussed the lived experience of breast cancer that has affected their family and highlighted the free information and support available from BCNA to help all Australians, no matter where they live.

“It’s amazing the difference getting together over a few snags can make! The team at The Block enjoyed their new BCNA Pink Tradie merchandise while chatting about encouraging others to host their own ‘BCNA Pink Tradie BBQ fundraiser’ to show support for the more than 21,000 Australians (including over 200 men) expected to be diagnosed with breast cancer this year.”

BCNA added: “Everyone has a right to feel supported and seen following a breast cancer diagnosis. Together, we can ensure those with a diagnosis receive the very best care,



information, and support.

“We’ve designed this year’s theme, Connection and community – together for breast cancer, to recognise that, while a

diagnosis of breast cancer looks different for everyone, we can work together to ensure all Australians diagnosed have access to the resources and support they need.”

No matter what industry you are a part of, there is support available for anyone affected by breast cancer.

Together, we are making an impact.

For more on Breast Cancer Awareness Month, click here.

## arxada

IS IT SAFE TO USE PRESERVATIVE - TREATED WOOD FOR MY RAISED GARDEN BED?

# Yes!

TANALITH® E Copper Azole treated timber is safe to use around fruit and vegetables!



## TRUST

**Tanalised®**  
EcoWood®

**PROVEN  
WOOD  
PROTECTION**

Tanalised, Tanalith, & EcoWood are registered trademarks of Arxada @ 2023



# Silvopastoral trials release results

FOLLOWING the front cover story in issue #811, we're thrilled to announce the results are in!

The Silvopastoral Trials of Commercial Pine Systems in North Queensland project has released

a factsheet of advance findings from a three-year trial of integrated cattle, carbon and wood production with Caribbean pine in a silvopastoral system in North Queensland. The project was created to assess animal productivity, carbon and timber outputs and the financial benefits of this type of silvopastoral system compared to grazing only or timber only production.

Key outcomes included:

- higher financial returns from the adoption of silvopastoral systems, based on the modelled assumptions

- increased income diversification and climate resilience, and
- scope for expansion of pine production forestry in the region.

The case study has shown that silvopastoral systems can deliver high financial returns when applied to the same specific land type and designed based on the modelled assumptions made to extrapolate the study. The study was done in North Queensland so there is a need to do further research and assessments for other areas, land types, biographic

conditions, markets and tree species.

However, based on the 3-year study done, silvopastoral systems can deliver positive impacts through better returns on investment by diversifying production. There is also the added benefit of mitigating GHG emissions on site and excess carbon credits beyond the livestock emission can be sold off still. Diversifying income is a smart strategy and this study showed that silvopastoral system can provide diversity as well as climate resistance

The project was delivered as a Cooperative Research Centre for Developing Northern Australia (CRCNA) research collaboration with partners Timber Queensland, Forest and Wood Products Australia (FWPA),

CQUniversity, HQPlantations, Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (Queensland), and CO<sub>2</sub> Australia.

With the need for more tree plantations it is a promising sign that there is now a study showing the benefits of missing cattle and tree growing. It opens up a whole new option to explore for increasing plantations across North Queensland.

View a summary of project findings [click here](#).

To read more about the project [click here](#).



The Silvopastoral Study is finished and has yielded some promising data. Image: Timber Queensland

# Research Centre boosts industry engagement

IN issue #826, Interim Research Centre Lead Professor Greg Nolan was featured as the MC for the Australian Timber Design Awards in Sydney.

Australian Forest and Wood Innovations (AFWI) also attended the event and shared that: "This event provided a valuable platform to engage with leading architects and designers, promote AFWI's

goals, and gather insights on timber use in major projects."

The Australian Timber Design Awards was not the first connection between

AFWI and Greg Nolan this month. The University of South Australia's Forest Centre of Excellence in mount Gambier held their opening earlier this month and it was attended by Greg Nolan, Dr Nathan Kotlarewski and AFWI's interim Director, Dr Dean Williams.

The trip allowed for potential collaborators to meet together including Midway Limited, AKD

and Australian Bluegum Plantations.

AFWI shared that: "These discussions provided opportunities to brief companies on AFWI's structure, explore research partnerships, and gain a deeper understanding of timber production and export operations across Victoria and South Australia."

We are seeing more and more collaboration and companies coming together to solve joint issues and build towards a better and more sustainable future.

**Source: Australian Forest and Wood Innovations (AFWI)**



Coming together to discuss and share ideas is the first step toward collaboration. Image: Freepik.



1075C



# **UNMATCHED PRODUCTIVITY. UNMATCHED RELIABILITY.**

The Tigercat 1075C forwarder is unmatched in terms of productivity and reliability. Innovations like low-wide® and the hooked crane set Tigercat apart from the competition. The 1075C Forwarders now include the Tigercat built WideRANGE transmission.

Experience the Tigercat 1075C forwarder for yourself.



[www.onetrak.com.au](http://www.onetrak.com.au)



[www.tigercat.com](http://www.tigercat.com)



Scan to learn more



# Bridging the gap

## Responsible Wood hosts a Tasmanian field trip for architects, builders and designers.

In a drive to strengthen the link between the design community and the forest and wood products sector, Responsible Wood and the CSAW University of Tasmania recently hosted a field trip in Launceston, Tasmania. Held in collaboration with Sustainable Timber Tasmania (STT), Timberlink, Forico Pty. Limited, Forest and Wood Products Australia (FWPA), and the Tasmanian Forest Products Association (TFPA), the event offered architects and designers a firsthand look at sustainable forest management and ethical timber supply chains.

The field trip showcased Tasmania's leadership in certified forestry, offering a unique opportunity for participants to observe the timber supply chain from forest management to processing. The event placed a spotlight on Responsible Wood's certification standards, which ensure responsible forestry practices and sustainable outcomes.

### SEEING SUSTAINABILITY IN ACTION

The day included visits to Timberlink's state-of-the-art processing facility and tours of certified forests



1/ Field trip attendees at a Responsible Wood certified Forico plantation.

2/ Sustainable Timber Tasmania discussing sustainable forest management with field trip attendees.

3/ Matt de Jongh describing Responsible Wood certification and sustainable forest management with field trip attendees. Photos: Responsible Wood



balance of sustainability, carbon sequestration, and biodiversity conservation embedded in forest management.

One highlight was the emphasis on Responsible Wood certification to the Australian Standards (AS/ NZS 4708 and AS 4707). These standards ensure timber is sustainably sourced and processed, supporting transparency and best practices from forest to final product.



managed by Forico and STT. These visits illustrated the comprehensive environmental management and

technological sophistication that underpin certified forestry. The participants learned about the intricate

"Seeing the care and expertise that goes into Tasmania's forest management was eye-opening," said Sarah Downey, Head of Marketing and Communications, FWPA. "For architects and designers, understanding the source of their materials is key to promoting sustainable construction. The field trip

Cont P 15



From P 14

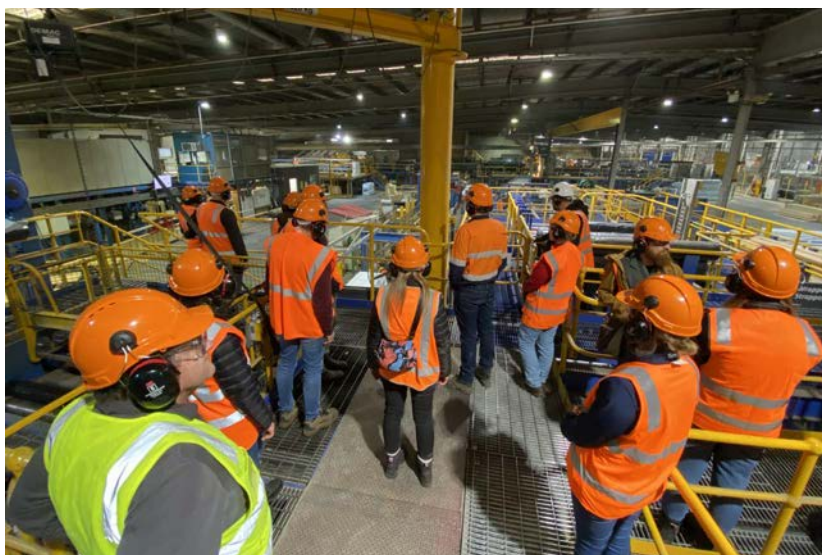
reinforced the importance of certified timber in achieving low-carbon building outcomes.”

## CONNECTING DESIGNERS WITH FOREST ORIGINS

Responsible Wood’s Sustainability Manager, Matt de Jongh, underscored the importance of engaging design professionals with the forestry sector. “Bringing architects and designers into the heart of our industry is essential for fostering sustainable construction practices. This experience allowed them to see how certified timber is responsibly sourced, giving them a deeper appreciation of its environmental and social benefits.”

By stepping out of their studios and into the bush, participants experienced firsthand the origins of the timber they use in their designs. They witnessed how modern forestry integrates biodiversity monitoring, growth modelling, and sustainable harvest techniques, balancing environmental stewardship with economic needs.

“The architects left with a stronger connection to the forests and a deeper understanding of the materials they work with,” said Nick Steel, CEO of TFPA.



Attendees at the Timberlink site at Bell Bay facility. Photo: Responsible Wood

“This connection enhances their ability to advocate for sustainable materials in their projects.”

## PROMOTING ETHICAL SUPPLY CHAINS

A central theme of the field trip was the ethical sourcing of timber and the role that sustainable supply chains play in reducing the carbon footprint of the built environment. Timberlink, Forico, and STT provided participants with insights into how responsibly sourced wood contributes to climate action by sequestering carbon and reducing reliance on carbon-intensive materials.

“We need to ensure that the timber supply chain remains ethical and sustainable, from forest to end product,” noted Steven Rymer of STT.

“COLLABORATION BETWEEN FORESTRY AND DESIGN IS IMPORTANT

“Events like this highlight the commitment our industry has to climate solutions, ensuring that architects and designers can confidently choose certified timber for their projects.”

## COLLABORATION FOR CLIMATE-FRIENDLY DESIGN

Gary Fleming, Wood Encouragement Officer at the University of Tasmania, emphasised the importance of cross-industry collaboration. “The field trip fostered stronger partnerships between the design and forestry sectors,” he said. “When architects and designers see these sustainable operations firsthand, they’re more confident in advocating for certified timber in their work. The enthusiasm for sustainable design was clear.”

“As a forest manager we are proud to showcase our certified sustainably managed forests to the end users,” said Ann La Sala, Forico. As global

demand for eco-friendly materials grows, the need for collaboration between forestry and design becomes increasingly important. The Launceston field trip reinforced this, demonstrating how partnerships can drive the adoption of sustainable timber solutions in construction.

## A STEP FORWARD FOR RESPONSIBLE WOOD

For Responsible Wood, the field trip marked another step in its mission to engage the design community in sustainable construction. With the continued expansion of certified timber use in architecture, events like this serve to bridge the gap between forestry and design.

“By bringing architects and designers closer to the origins of the materials they use, we can foster greater collaboration,” said Trevor Innes, Timberlink. “Certified timber plays a critical role in lowering the carbon footprint of the built environment, and this field trip helped demonstrate that.”

As the national benchmark for sustainable forestry standards in Australia, Responsible Wood remains committed to promoting responsible timber use, protecting the environment, and supporting rural communities. Through continued collaboration with architects and designers, the organisation aims to champion climate-friendly materials and encourage the use of certified timber in future building projects.



## Are you following us on social media?

Please like and share our page so we can get the timber and forestry message out to a bigger audience. If you like our publication, please leave us a review.



# The demand for carpenters

## A study names carpenters as the second most in-demand trade in Australia.

AUSTRALIANS search for local carpenters on Google 158,970 times a year and new research has revealed where they are most in demand.

BizCover, the online business insurance company, conducted the 'Most In-Demand Trades' study, analysing Google search data to identify the most in-demand trades. By incorporating location data and ranking each trade based on search volume per capita, BizCover highlighted the most sought-after trades nationwide and in various regions, along with potential hourly earnings sourced from Indeed.

### METHODOLOGY

Leveraging the Google Keyword Planner, the analysis examined data spanning 12 months, from September 2023 to August 2024, across the 50 most populated Australian cities. The goal was to identify the country's most sought-after trades.

A seed set of 165 trades—such as electricians, plumbers, carpenters, bricklayers, and roofers—was used to generate a comprehensive list of search terms, including phrases like "trade + near me" (e.g. "plumber near me"). This keyword list was then segmented by city, with search volumes retrieved for each of the 50 cities via Google's platform. BizCover ranked each trade based on search volume.

To provide a more accurate view of demand at a regional level, population data for each city was considered, calculating the number of searches per 100,000 people.



As demand for sustainability and eco-friendly choices grows, so does the need for carpenters skilled in these methods and materials. Image: Shutterstock

### THE RESULTS

According to the data every year, Aussies make 624,540 searches for electricians - more than any other trade - representing 39% of all online trade enquiries. Carpenters came second (10%) followed by concreters (10%), roofers (9%), landscapers (6%), builders (5%) and tilers (5%).

The top five most sought-after places in Australia for carpenters highlight significant demand in various regions.

Nowra in New South Wales is the biggest hotspot, with 1,471 monthly searches for local carpenters per 100,000 residents, with an hourly rate of \$45.93. Following closely is Victor Harbor, South Australia, with 1,325 searches and an average wage of \$39.48. Traralgon in Victoria ranks third with 1,196 searches and

likely to seek the services of a tradesperson, with 38,409 annual Google searches per 100,000 residents – the highest rate in Australia. This is followed by Orange, NSW (26,705) and Traralgon, VIC (26,345).

However, this varies by trade, with Nowra in New South Wales being the most lucrative place for many workers, followed by Traralgon in Victoria and Victor Harbor in South Australia.

Sharon Kenny, Head of Marketing at BizCover, commented:

"Tradespeople are incredibly valued members of communities across Australia, and it's interesting to pinpoint where their skills are currently most in demand.

For those considering entering a trade or starting their own business, this data provides a valuable indicator of potential demand, highlighting significant opportunities within the sector.

The demand for carpenters is on the rise, largely due to the booming construction industry and the ongoing need for residential and commercial developments. As more people seek custom-built homes and renovations, skilled carpenters are essential for framing, cabinetry, and structural work. Additionally, with the increasing focus on sustainable building practices, carpenters who can work with eco-friendly materials and techniques are particularly sought after."

Click here for the full report.

**Source: BizCover**

Most in-demand trades in Australia

Rank	Trade	Annual Searches	Average Hourly Wage
1	Electrician	624,540	\$49.74
2	Carpenter	158,970	\$44.33
3	Concreter	157,800	\$37.89
4	Roofer	153,920	\$41.55
5	Landscaper	105,860	\$35.15
6	Builder	87,800	\$41.60
7	Tiler	80,840	\$50.43
8	Plasterer	67,650	\$51.28
9	Painter	65,290	\$25.69
10	Cleaner	25,400	\$31.44
11	Surveyor	13,260	\$37.38
12	Plumber	8,970	\$45.85
13	Scaffolder	8,740	\$41.87
14	Demolitionist	8,680	\$49.53
15	Insulator	1,480	\$40.09

Top 5 sought-after places in Australia for carpenters

Rank	Most sought-after city/town	Google Searches	Average Hourly Wage
1	Nowra, NSW	1,471	\$45.93
2	Victor Harbor, SA	1,325	\$39.48
3	Traralgon, VIC	1,196	\$40.38
4	Warragul, VIC	1,152	\$39.25
5	Orange, NSW	1,063	\$27.72

Carpenters named as the second most in-demand trade in Australia. Image: BizCover

an hourly wage of \$40.38, while Warragul, also in Victoria, sees 1,152 searches and an average wage of \$39.25. Rounding out the top five is Orange in New South Wales, with 1,063 searches and a lower average wage of \$27.72.

The people of Nowra in New South Wales are most



# Record land prices set to impair goal of 1.2 million homes

"THE price of a lot of residential land reached a new all-time high in the second quarter of the year, driven by acute shortages and rising tax imposts," stated HIA Senior Economist Tom Devitt

The HIA-CoreLogic Residential Land Report provides updated information on sales activity in 52 housing markets across Australia, including the six state capital cities.

"The median price of a residential lot in Australia reached \$351,044 in the June Quarter 2024, rising 2.2 per cent in the quarter to be 6.0 per cent higher than at the same time the previous year. This new all-time high was achieved alongside the sale of just 10,788 residential lots in the quarter, one of the weakest quarters of sales of the 21st century," added Mr Devitt.

"A rise in the price of land, while the volume of sales is suppressed, indicates that the shortage of shovel ready land is deteriorating further.

"This weakness of sales alongside record high prices is present across capitals and regional areas.

"In Sydney, the volume of lot sales in the year to June was less than half its decade average. In Melbourne, they were about one-third of its decade average. In both of Australia's largest capitals, the lack of new supply is sustaining lot prices around record highs.

"Melbourne, in particular, has struggled more than other capitals to see an improvement in lot sales, with buyer confidence likely impaired by additional taxes



**Vacant land prices have hit record highs and are staying there due to an ongoing lack of supply.** Image: Shutterstock

imposed on land and housing supply, further adding to costs and restricting supply.

"These taxes include a windfall gains tax applied from July 2023 and a land tax surcharge applied from January 2024.

"In Brisbane, Adelaide and Perth, the price of greenfield lots of land reached all-time highs in the first half of the year. Brisbane prices are even catching up to Melbourne. These record prices are being reached alongside – at best – unremarkable volumes of lot sales.

"This points to the need to ensure a solid pipeline of shovel-ready land, especially as confidence returns to these markets.

"Policymakers must work to reduce constraints and costs on new home building. This includes measures as set out in the HIA Planning Blueprint consisting of accelerating planning processes and approval times to facilitate increased infill development as well as speeding up the release of greenfield land and increased funding for critical enabling infrastructure to make

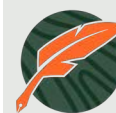
projects shovel-ready faster.

"Meeting government housing targets and improving housing affordability requires a significant boost to home building. Increasing land costs and uncertainties on industry and households will have the opposite effect," concluded Mr Devitt.

CoreLogic Economist Kaytlin Ezzy said, "The record high median land prices recorded in the June quarter amid below average sales continues to point towards an ongoing undersupply of land hampering the addition of new housing stock.

"Over the year to June, approximately 176,000 homes were completed nationally. While up by 1.2 per cent year-on-year, this was 8.4 per cent below the decade average and 26.6 per cent below the 240,000 a year needed to meet the Government's five-year housing target.

"Without a steady flow of shovel-ready land, it's likely land prices will continue to trend upwards, and dwelling approvals and completions will continue to fall short of target."



**Timber Media**  
AUSTRALASIA

Timber & Forestry enews an authoritative and rapid deliverer of news and special features to the timber and forest-based industries in Australia, New Zealand and internationally. *Enews* is delivered weekly, every Thursday, 48 weeks of the year. Advertising rates are competitive with other industry publications. *Timber & Forestry Enews* hits your target market – every week, every Thursday!

## HEAD OFFICE

Timber Media Australasia Pty Ltd  
PO Box 3001  
Maraylya NSW 2765

## PUBLISHER

Timber Media Australasia Pty Ltd

## EDITORS

Nicky Ainley  
Donyale Harrison  
Jess Hockridge  
editors@timberandforestryenews.com

## ADVERTISING

Campbell McInnes // +61 (0) 406 223 007  
campbellm@timberandforestryenews.com

## ACCOUNTS

Chris Parker // +61 (0) 413 710 203  
cparker@ttnews.com.au

## SUBSCRIBE

www.timberandforestryenews.com



The information contained in this publication has been obtained from sources assumed to be reliable. However, the publishers disclaim all warranties as to the accuracy, completeness, reliability or adequacy of the information displayed. Opinions expressed in Timber & Forestry enews are not necessarily those of directors or the Timber & Forestry enews team. We do not accept responsibility for any damage resulting from inaccuracies in editorial or advertising. The publishers are therefore indemnified against all actions, suits, claims or damages resulting from content in this publication.

# CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

## EMPLOYMENT

## ADVERTISING PACKAGES

## PRODUCTS & SERVICES

### LATEST JOBS:

Click this link  
to advertise  
online...

### PACKAGES:

Click this link  
to learn about  
advertising  
packages...

### BUY AND SELL -

New and Used  
Machinery/Equipment

Click this link  
to advertise  
here & online...

## ADVERTISING RATES

### DISPLAY AD RATES

**FULL PAGE:** \$540

297mmH x 210 mmW

**HALF PAGE:** \$320

Vertical • 256mmH x 93mmW  
Horizontal • 125mmH x 190mmW

**THIRD PAGE:** \$240

Horizontal • 73mmH x 190mmW

**QUARTER PAGE:** \$210

Vertical • 125mmH x 93mmW  
Horizontal • 63mmH x 190mmW

### BANNER ADVERTISING PACKAGES

#### • PREMIUM PACKAGE:

FRONT PAGE publication module, email and website modules

- Front page module • 68mmW x 45mmH
- Top email banner • 1200pxW x 145pxH
- Home page website banner • 1000pxW x 120pxH

#### • STANDARD PACKAGE:

PAGE 6 (or similar) module, email newsletter and website module

- Module • 93mmW x 63mmH
- Email module • 336pxW x 336pxH
- Website module • 720pxW x 744pxH

### CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

**JOB / BUY & SELL ADS: ONLINE & IN PUBLICATION**

720pxW x 744pxH

### TERM DISCOUNTS

12 WEEKS: 7.5%

24 WEEKS: 10%

48 WEEKS: 15%

All pricing is excluding GST and based on a weekly booking. Overseas bookings are exempt from GST.

### DEADLINES

**Display ads:** Book by 9.00am Tuesday prior to publication.

**Supplied artwork:** 12noon Tuesday prior to publication.

Supply hi-res jpg or pdf to our specifications. This is a digital publication, therefore **NO crop marks or bleed is required.**

**Classified advertising: JOB ADS ARE COMPLETED ONLINE.**

Go to [www.timberandforestrynews.com/post-a-job/](http://www.timberandforestrynews.com/post-a-job/) to place a job vacancy. **Book by 12noon Tuesday prior to publication.** Job ads are for individual positions. If more than one position is to be advertised, separate ads will need to be created and advertised accordingly.

**BUY & SELL ADS ARE COMPLETED ONLINE.** Go to [www.timberandforestrynews.com/product/buy-sell-advertisement/](http://www.timberandforestrynews.com/product/buy-sell-advertisement/) to place an ad. **Book by 12noon Tuesday prior to publication.**

### PAYMENT TERMS

New clients invoiced on booking. Existing clients 14 days. All other standard Terms & Conditions apply.

### CONTACTS

#### Media releases and editorial:

Nicky Ainley // Donyale Harrison // Jessica Hockridge  
e: [editors@timberandforestrynews.com](mailto:editors@timberandforestrynews.com)

#### Display ad bookings:

Campbell McInnes // e: [campbellm@timberandforestrynews.com](mailto:campbellm@timberandforestrynews.com)

#### Accounts:

Chris Parker // e: [cparker@ttnews.com.au](mailto:cparker@ttnews.com.au)

## Have some news to share?

Send media releases, news stories, events, any timber and forestry news related information with us anytime to Nicky, Donyale and Jess -

[editors@timberandforestrynews.com](mailto:editors@timberandforestrynews.com)

**timber**  
& FORESTRY *e*NEWS

Contact Nicky,  
Donyale or Jess today...