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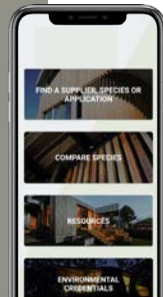
Vida Wood Australia: A decade of growth

COVER STORY P 2



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Vida Wood Australia – A decade of growth, commitment, and excellence

VIDA Wood Australia's 10th Anniversary celebration was a memorable event, highlighting the company's journey and bringing together key customers, partners, and stakeholders. Guests traveling from interstate were transported from Rydges to Vida Hemmant, where they were treated to a full guided tour of Vida Wood's premises, showcasing the company's facilities. After the tour, attendees were given the choice between two exciting activities: a round of golf at Bulimba or a relaxing River City Cruise.

Following the activities, everyone gathered at the Plough Inn for a delicious lunch. The group then took a ride on the Brisbane Wheel, offering breathtaking views of Southbank and the surrounding cityscape. After some free time to explore,



The day started with a tour of Vida Wood Australia's site in Brisbane, which showcased their substantial stock capacity along with their treatment plant and docking facilities.

the evening culminated with a cocktail event at the top of Rydges Southbank. Here, guests enjoyed live music, Comedian Dave O'Neil and speeches from Kurt Schrammel, Managing Director, and Måns Johansson, CEO of Vida Wood.

Kurt Schrammel, Managing Director of Vida Wood Australia, shared his appreciation for those who contributed to the company's success, saying, "Vida Wood Australia would not be successful without its customers, partners,

and of course its valuable team members - the trust and support have been the foundation of our success which we are truly grateful."

The celebration also saw the attendance of Karl-Johan Löwenadler, Vida Head of Sales from Sweden, and Stephen Mackie, COO of Canfor Corporation, reinforcing the company's global connections and key partnerships.

Customers were equally appreciative, with one remarking, "Heartfelt thanks and gratitude for the

opportunity to celebrate 10 years with the Vida colleagues and key stakeholders. The events were outstanding, and the hospitality from everyone involved was exceptional - you certainly know how to throw a great party and Brisbane was the perfect location!"

It was a day filled with appreciation, connections, and festivities to mark a significant milestone for Vida Wood Australia.

A 10th anniversary is the perfect moment to reflect on the journey that has shaped this thriving entity and its remarkable impact on the timber industry in Australia. A decade ago, what began with a humble warehouse and a bold vision, has grown into an expansive operation with facilities in Brisbane, Melbourne, and Perth—serving customers across the length and breadth of the country. Today, Vida Wood Australia stands as a testament to hard work, innovation, and the power of strong partnerships.

From its inception, Vida Wood Australia has been

Cont P 3

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From P 2

fuelled by a commitment to quality, reliability, and meeting the ever-evolving needs of its customers. Being part of Vida Wood, a global leader in wood products, has provided the foundation for growth, offering access to world-class production facilities in Sweden, Canada, and the United States. This global reach has allowed Vida Wood Australia to deliver on its promises—offering not only the highest quality timber but also a network of resources that ensures customers always have what they need, when they need it.

However, what truly differentiates Vida Wood Australia in the market is its dedication to offering complete solutions. The company has invested heavily in value-added processing, advanced logistics, and wood impregnation, transforming from a simple supplier of timber into a full-service provider. This comprehensive approach is what allows Vida Wood to consistently exceed expectations and meet the diverse requirements of the Australian market.

As the company continues to evolve, it's clear, its success

is built on the trust and collaboration it has fostered with its customers, partners, and employees. It is these relationships that have formed the bedrock of Vida Wood's impressive growth, and it's these same relationships that will propel the company into the future.

Moving forward, the next decade is filled with immense opportunity. Vida

Wood Australia is positioned to expand its footprint even further, bringing innovative solutions to new markets while continuing to deepen its connections with existing customers. As the timber industry embraces new technologies, sustainability practices, and innovative designs, Vida Wood Australia will remain at the forefront, ready to meet the demands of an ever-changing landscape.

This 10th anniversary celebration is not just a moment to look back at what has been achieved—it's a reminder of the limitless potential that lies ahead. With a foundation built on excellence, integrity, and customer-focused solutions, Vida Wood Australia is more than just a success story. It is a testament to the enduring power of vision, teamwork, and dedication.

As the company moves forward, it will continue to set the bar for quality and service in the timber industry. With a clear path toward growth and innovation, Vida Wood Australia's footprint is here to stay—and it is only going to get bigger and stronger with each passing year.

Cheers to the next 10 years of success, and to Vida Wood Australia's bright future!



1/ There was much networking over a substantial lunch in Brisbane's CBD.
2/ The Brisbane skyline served as an amazing backdrop to the evening's celebrations.
3/ Kurt Schrammel, Managing Director of Vida Wood Australia, shared the future goals of Vida Wood Australia at the evening event. All photos: Vida Wood Australia



On the cover: From left to right... Hamish Suttie, Area Manager – QLD, Vida Wood Aust.; Trevor Dixon, Logistics & Internal Sales, Vida Wood Aust.; Karl-Johan Löwenadler, Head of Sales, Vida Wood Sweden; Jacinta Colley, Sales Director, Vida Wood Aust.; Måns Johansson, CEO, Vida Wood Sweden; Alicia Nagle, Finance, Vida Wood Aust.; Ian Brett, Operations Director, Vida Wood Aust.; Stephen Mackie, COO, Canfor Corporation; Kurt Schrammel, Managing Director, Vida Wood Aust.; Tim Wardle, Area Manager – VIC, Vida Wood Aust. Image: Vida Wood Australia

A note from the Publisher

In this issue we have an exciting feature article - Masswood: Your new partner for glulam and finger jointing solutions. Their strategic

investment in equipment includes the capacity for finger jointing lengths up to 24m, with section sizes of 250mm x 50mm for

hardwood and 250mm x 100mm for softwood. They also have a 24m hydraulic vertical press running the full length of one wall with

individual hydraulic rams. The rest of their equipment list, capabilities, operations with plenty of images are a must read.

Forest firefighters deploy to Victorian firegrounds

NINE fire specialists from Forestry Corporation have deployed to Victorian fire fronts as part of an interstate NSW firefighting contingency.

Victoria is currently experiencing significant bushfire activity near Horsham with large fires burning in the Grampians and Little Desert National Parks.

NSW fire agencies have assisted through the deployment of firefighters and Incident Management Team personnel.



1

Five Forestry Corporation staff members responded on Saturday, February 1 and a further four Forestry Corporation fire specialists deployed on Thursday, February 6.

“While we have had fires in NSW, and the threat especially in the south and the west is

2/ Smoke from the fires in Victoria continues to rise from large areas.

3/ Forestry Corporation staff are not only trained to fight fires—they're stepping up to assist beyond their designated regions.

All photos: Forestry Corporation



2

not over yet, it is important to share resources around the country when we can,” Forestry Corporation’s Senior Manager Fire and Natural Hazards Rebel Talbert said.

“Our firefighters are highly skilled and experienced in Australian bushland firefighting and are always ready to lend a hand in regional NSW or further afield.”

Group Leader Gary Miller from Wauchope deployed for seven days as an Operations Officer in the IMT at Ararat.

“We were there to give the local Victorian IMT personnel some time off as they have been fighting fires and overseeing the fire management since December with major efforts involved in the containment of the fires in the Grampians,” Gary said.

“It was great to assist our colleagues in Victoria, a great

learning experience in training on the Victorian fire systems and a good opportunity to share fire knowledge across the multi-agency IMT.”

Gary deployed to Victoria alongside firefighters Hannah Mangnall and Bronson Lovett from Wauchope and Daniel Macaree and James Martin from Maitland.

A second firefighting field crew started their seven-day deployment. This deployment was made up of Aden Hitchcock from Dorrigo, David McLaughlin from Coffs Harbour, Paul Douglas from Wauchope and Daniel Carey from Taree.

Forestry Corporation’s nine personnel have deployed as part of the 200-strong NSW deployment alongside NSW Rural Fire Service, National Parks and Wildlife, Fire and Rescue NSW and State Emergency Services personnel.

The Timber Circularity Project

Enhancing timber resource efficiency.

THE Timber Circularity Project, led by the University of the Sunshine Coast's National Centre for Timber Durability and Design Life, is dedicated to identifying and implementing strategies for the repurposing and recycling of preservative-treated timber and engineered wood products (EWPs). This initiative directly addresses the complexities associated with their disposal, transforming potential waste into valuable resources.

By converting challenges into opportunities, the national Timber Circularity Project aims to demonstrate how circular economy solutions for end-of-life timber products can play a pivotal role in Australia's circular bioeconomy.

Commenced in 2023, the Timber Circularity Project is a three-year endeavour



FWPA has partnered with many other industry voices to launch the Timber Circularity Project.. Image: FWPA

supported and funded by leading industry stakeholders, including: Forest and Wood Products Australia (FWPA), Wine Australia, Australian Forest Products Association (AFPA), Engineered Wood Products Association of Australasia (EWPAA), Frame & Truss Manufacturing Association (FTMA), Koppers Performance Chemicals, Hexion, and Azelis.

This extensive collaboration underscores a collective commitment to advancing

timber management practices and enhancing resource utilisation across sectors.

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

- Reducing landfill waste: Provides sustainable end-of-life solutions for treated timber, minimising landfill contributions.
- Advancing Australia's circular economy goals: Supports national efforts to repurpose valuable materials.
- Enhancing industry

sustainability: Aids sectors such as viticulture and forestry in managing resources responsibly.

- Delivering economic & environmental benefits: Lowers disposal costs and greenhouse gas emissions, contributing to a more sustainable industry.

In our efforts to lead the industry's transition to the circular economy, FWPA has invested in this program to secure viable uses for end-of-life timber products, assisting members to grow their businesses and increase productivity and utilisation along the value chain.

INTRODUCING THE TIMBER CIRCULARITY RESOURCE MAP

A key outcome of the project is the Timber Circularity Resource Map, an advanced geospatial tool designed to optimise timber repurposing and find circular solutions for treated timber and EWP waste and offcuts. The map provides insights into:

- The locations, types, and

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From P 5

volumes of unused timber resources available.

- Strategies and solutions for integrating these materials into a circular economy framework.

By utilising this tool, industries can improve resource recovery efforts, reduce waste management costs, and contribute to Australia's 2030 circular economy objectives.

“ IDENTIFYING AND IMPLEMENTING STRATEGIES FOR REPURPOSING AND RECYCLING

REGISTER FOR THE TIMBER CIRCULARITY ONLINE MAP LAUNCH

Industry professionals are encouraged to explore the Timber Circularity Resource Map by attending the online launch webinar:

- Date: Thursday, February 27
- Time: 1:00 – 2:00 pm AEST (2:00 – 3:00 PM AEDT)
- Location: Online (via Microsoft Teams) – Register by clicking here

WEBINAR AGENDA:

- Overview of the Timber Circularity Project
- Detailed insights into the map's capabilities and dataset

- Case study analysis illustrating its applications
 - Interactive Q&A session
- STRENGTHENING SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES THROUGH COLLABORATION**

The Timber Circularity Project exemplifies the power of collaborative research and industry partnerships.

Through such collaborative research initiatives, Australia's Rural Research and Development Corporations (RDCs), FWPA and Wine Australia demonstrate their commitment to working together to address climate change challenges and advancing sustainable

practices, ensuring the long-term viability of Australia's primary production sectors and aligning with broader efforts to transition towards a circular economy by 2030.

The project aligns with the Federal Agriculture Minister's priorities on climate adaptation and resource management, reinforcing Australia's commitment to responsible material use.

The project contributes to this priority by promoting sustainable resource management and reducing environmental impacts, thereby supporting the resilience and sustainability of Australia's agricultural and forestry industries.

Enews proudly displays the Australian made and owned logo. The Australian Made Campaign (AMCL), survey found that 89% of its licensees believe the Australian Made logo helps to

differentiate their products from competitors, with 55% noting use of the logo has a measurable impact on the sales and recognition of their brand. If you also have Australian

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FEBRUARY

13: DANA The Future of Australian Eucalyptus Plantations and of Australian log exports to China and India Seminar – Jasper Hotel, Melbourne. Visit <https://www.danaevents.co.nz/2025melbourne/home> for more information. Contact admin@dana.co.nz

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

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

APRIL

10-11: Forestry Australia 2025 Forest Carbon Summit

– National Press Club, Canberra. For full details and to register, visit <https://www.forestry.org.au/2025-forest-carbon-summit/>

MAY

7-8: Sydney Build 25 – ICC, Sydney. Australia's largest construction and design show. Enews is a media partner for Sydney Build 2025. For more details visit <https://www.sydneybuildexpo.com>

11-17: Japanese Wood Architecture Tour – Japan. Tour the world's oldest and most impressive wooden buildings. From Hōryū-ji, the world's oldest wooden building to the World Expo in Osaka - home to the world's largest wooden ring building. For more information and view the program, visit <https://timberconstruct.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/Japanese-Study-Tour-2025-Sponsored-by-WoodSolutions.pdf>

26-30: LIGNA 25 – Hannover,

Germany. The world's leading trade fair for woodworking and wood processing plant, machinery and tools. For more details visit <https://www.ligna.de/en/for-visitors>

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

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.

29-JULY 2: 5th International Conference on Timber Bridges – Rotorua, New Zealand. The focus is on timber bridges and the current need for resilient infrastructure to support thriving communities.

For more information and to register your interest, visit <https://ictb-conference.org/2025/>

SEPTEMBER

2-3: Timber Queensland Biennial Conference "Doing Timber Business in Queensland" – Brisbane. For more information, email admin@timberqueensland.com.au

OCTOBER

13-14: Timber Construct 2025 – Melbourne. More details to follow.

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

22-23: Melbourne Build 25 – MCEC, Melbourne. Victoria's largest construction and design show. For more details visit <https://melbournebuildexpo.com>

23-24: Field Trip – Vietnam.

As the upcoming federal election approaches, *Enews* is committed to keeping you informed about the policies that impact our industry, as outlined by those seeking to represent

Australia. While *Enews* does not endorse any policies or statements, we will strive to provide regular updates and insightful commentary from our trusted industry organisations.

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 -

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Build-to-rent homes, for essential workers in Sydney, takes off

NEW homes for rent at a subsidised rate are on the way for essential workers in Sydney with the Minns Labor Government today announcing the first site of it's essential worker Build-to-Rent plan.

Funded through the Minns Labor Government's \$450 million investment to deliver housing for essential workers, the Government's developer Landcom will transform the former WestConnex dive site in Camperdown to deliver:

- at least 200 build-to-rent units offered to essential workers like health workers, paramedics, teachers, police officers and firefighters at a discount to market rent, through a separate subsidy
- approximately 300 additional units, including private units and a proportion of affordable rental housing
- ground-floor retail or commercial, landscaped outdoor spaces and new pedestrian links, enhancing the neighbourhood's amenity and vibrancy.

The site was identified under the NSW Government's Land Audit, which set out to find surplus government land that had been sitting unused and could be used to develop more homes.

Landcom and Homes NSW were given first pick of the land audit sites, with this being the first site to be developed by Landcom.

The site is well-located, close to transport, public spaces, amenities and education and health centres



1/ A render of the mixed-use space proposed for the Camperdown Project.
2/ The Camperdown Project site sits empty and ready to be re-purposed into apartments to alleviate the pressures on essential workers. Images: Landcom Camperdown Project

including one of Sydney's largest hospitals, Royal Prince Alfred Hospital.

"The land audit is delivering, and this site is proof. Instead of collecting dust, this site will help deliver much needed housing as part of approximately 7,000 new homes identified by the land audit", said Steve Kamper, Minister for Lands and Property.

Community and stakeholders will have the opportunity to help shape the design of the mixed-use development as the applications progresses

through consultation.

Construction is expected to begin in 2026, pending approvals, with the first essential workers moving in around 2028.

"Essential workers are feeling the impact of the immense cost of housing, and many can't afford to live near their jobs. That's why our plan is delivering this well-located, secure and accessible rental housing for the essential workers who keep Sydney running", commented Chris Minns, Premier of New South Wales.

The Camperdown site

is the first secured by Landcom as part of the NSW Government's build-to-rent essential worker housing program, with Landcom investigating additional sites.

Landcom is also expected to start construction this year on 110 build-to-rent units in NSW's Northern Rivers and South Coast, boosting rental supply in

regions feeling the combined stresses of rising rents and lack of housing availability.

The Government will retain ownership of the build-to-rent housing. Details about eligibility criteria, how to apply and the rental subsidy will be available closer to project completion.

This is all part of the Minns Labor Government's plan to rebuild our essential services while delivering critical new housing for those who need it across NSW.

"Every single day essential workers turn up to work keep our state running, the very least we can do is make sure that they have access to the housing they need, near their jobs at an affordable price", Chris Minns stated.

Rose Jackson, the Minister for Housing, agreed with the sentiment stating, "Key workers are being priced out of their own communities, making it harder to build a future where they live and work. This investment is about backing them in—giving nurses, teachers and first responders more affordable rental options close to their jobs so they can keep doing the work that keeps our city running."



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Juken New Zealand (JNL) to be rebranded Millari NZ after recent acquisition

Millari NZ, guarantees over 90% of locally and sustainably sourced products for the Australian timber industry in 2025.

MILLARI Group Australia is set to start producing LVL, plywood, and timber for the Australian Timber Industry after recently agreeing to acquire 100 percent of the 25-ha Juken Gisborne facilities in New Zealand, to be rebranded as Millari NZ. This is the first Sawmill purchase in the Millari Group Australia portfolio and settlement is currently expected to occur later this month.

The Gisborne manufacturing facility is located on the North Island of New Zealand at Gisborne and specialises in producing LVL, plywood and structural Radiata pine products. With a perfect mix of engineered products and solid pine framing, the mill will be an asset best suited to ease the burden on businesses in Australia, which have been forced to rely on imported products due to the lack of local manufacturing.

True Blue Timber, which has been supplying high-quality and reliable imported products to Australia's leading wholesalers, will now be driving local LVL and timber production for the Australian industry with the Millari NZ facilities.

True Blue Timber offers a versatile range of products which are all FSC 100% timber, including Structural framing material in treated and untreated, LVL (laminated Veneer Lumber), I-Joist, GLT, plywood, and ancillary products. There are two True Blue Timber sites in Australia, True Blue Timber Sydney



JNL (Juken New Zealand) sawmill in Gisborne, acquired by True Blue Timber Pty Ltd - Millari NZ. Photo: Millari Group Australia

in Smithfield and True Blue Timber Melbourne in Clyde North. 2024 saw True Blue Timber increase its factory facilities in NSW from 4,000m² to 25,000m² - an increase of over six times. They also increased engineered wood products imports, including LVL and I Joist, by 148% in 2024.

With the acquisition of the new Millari NZ Sawmill, the Millari Group will invest a significant amount into the LVL and plywood manufacturing line in the next few years to upgrade and increase the production capacity. The current output capacity of the Millari NZ sawmill is 130,000m² per year, 60,000m³ is timber, LVL is 55,000m³ and plywood is 15,000m³. The production capacity of the sawmill, LVL and plywood is expected to increase to 200,000m³ by 2027 (timber 100,000m³,

LVL 80,000m³ and plywood 20,000m³).

Millari NZ plans to establish direct LVL, plywood and sawmill production for the Australian industry, including LVL E14, E13, E10, and LVL Formwork; structural and non-structural plywood panels and MGP and F-graded Radiata pine, and H2, H3 and H4-treated pine.

Millari NZ will ship LVL, plywood and sawmill products with AS/NZS standards directly to Australia's eastern coast, significantly decreasing Australia's timber industry's dependence on imports from Europe and Asia.

Owner and CEO, Ryan Yari said, "Our Millari NZ facility in Gisborne will be on track to increase the output capacity of LVL, plywood and timber production over the next few years as we invest in new machinery and technology for the 35,000m² factory.

"With these exciting facilities alongside our True Blue Timber operations, we will continue to offer the Australian industry a reputable and reliable ongoing source of high-quality EWP (engineered wood products) and timber products and deliver them directly with quick turnarounds."

Since closing in March 2024, the Millari NZ Gisborne facility will re-

open in the coming months, providing 100 direct and 500 indirect jobs and opportunities to the Gisborne community of 38,000 people.

Yari continued, "JNL Gisborne has been the cornerstone of the community for many years, and it will be Millari Group's pleasure to restore it to its former glory. The Millari Group team is excited about the new challenge ahead and looks forward to being a part of the Gisborne community for many years to come".

Millari Group Australia includes True Blue Timber, True Blue LVL, and True Blue Plywood, and Millari NZ supplies FSC 100% timber products to Australia's leading Timber and Hardware retailers. For more information click here.

South Australia leads in housing policy

"GOVERNMENTS across the country are making announcements aimed at improving housing supply and it is challenging to determine which policies will genuinely improve housing supply from those that are disguising new taxes," said HIA Senior Economist, Matt King.

"To assist in this the Housing Industry Association (HIA) has released an assessment of housing policy announcements over the past two years and determined that South Australia, closely followed by Western Australia, have been the best at understanding the problem and initiating actions to improve the supply of homes.

"Despite these steps forward, neither South Australia nor Western Australia are on track to build the number of homes required

to meet their contribution to deliver on the government's 1.2 million homes target," said Mr King.

The HIA Housing Policy Scoreboard benchmarks each state and territory according to ten critical housing supply policies/mechanisms that are advantageous to the promotion of accelerated housing supply and ability to deliver against the National Housing Accord.

While local governments are responsible for land use plans and development approvals, state governments spearhead city planning and the provision of housing-enabling infrastructure. As a result, they are crucial to confronting the prolonged structural housing supply issues that must be addressed nationwide.

The National Housing Accord set a target of building

1.2 million new homes across Australia over the next five years. Beyond forecasting each state's ability to hit this ambitious goal, the Scoreboard report benchmarks the all-important housing policy mix against the backdrop of their housing targets.

HIA's research outcomes outlined in the Scoreboard report are based on engagement with members of parliament in states/territories, engagement with government employees, the review of government websites, releases and budget papers, and liaison with HIA policy representatives.

"South Australia and Western Australia both

received scores [and] significantly higher rankings, with decisive planning reforms, streamlined development approvals, and a strong focus on land release.

"At the other end of the spectrum ACT scored 4/10 and Northern Territory just 5/10 with their housing supply systems falling well short.

"This Report highlights the need for comprehensive policy reforms across planning and zoning, financial settings, taxation and skills development.

"Planning approvals need to be quicker in order to reduce the price of shovel ready land. The administrative processes required to bring land to market add significantly to the cost of a new house and land package, and new apartments," concluded Mr King.

“THERE IS NEED FOR COMPREHENSIVE POLICY REFORMS

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EXCLUSIVE FWPA REPORT LAUNCH EVENT

AUSTRALIA'S housing supply has fallen short of demand for over two decades, making affordability, accessibility, and construction timelines a real challenge. To provide insights into these challenges and help drive solutions, Forest & Wood Products Australia (FWPA) has undertaken the most comprehensive report into the housing crisis to date. To launch the 'More Houses Sooner' report, FWPA is hosting an exclusive event on Wednesday 26 February at the State Library in Victoria, offering valuable insights for industry professionals, policymakers, and stakeholders seeking to understand and address Australia's housing needs.

WHY ATTEND THIS EVENT

The *More Houses Sooner* report takes a deep dive into Australia's housing shortfall. Between 2001 and 2023, the country fell behind demand by

“ A MUST-ATTEND EVENT FOR THOSE IN THE INDUSTRY ”

around 470,000 dwellings—an average of 20,400 homes per year. Looking ahead, Australia will need 2.01 million new homes by 2034, or up to 2.48 million if factoring in the existing shortfall. Meeting this demand will require new ideas and a faster approach to construction.

This event will highlight how the forest and wood products industry is stepping up to the challenge and how different sectors can collaborate to build a more sustainable and efficient housing market. Attendees will gain exclusive insights from industry experts, explore key data, and discuss innovative strategies for speeding up housing delivery.

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

- Keynote address: Speaker to be confirmed

- Report launch and presentation:
 - **Erick Hansnata** – Lead Economist and Statistics and Economics Program Manager, FWPA
 - **Nerida Conisbee** – Chief Economist, Ray White
- Panel discussion:
 - **Kersten Gentle** – CEO, Frame & Truss Manufacturers Association (FTMA)
 - **Tim Newman** – General Manager, Timber Building Systems Australia
 - **Tim Woods** – Managing Director, Industry Edge

This event is a must-attend for FWPA members, industry professionals, economists, and policymakers looking to engage with the latest research and practical solutions for Australia's housing future.

SECURE YOUR SPOT

This is a free event, but places are limited. Register now to get exclusive access to the *More Houses Sooner* report and expert discussions on shaping a more sustainable and affordable housing market in Australia.

EVENT DETAILS

Date: Wednesday, February 26

Time: 10.00 am - 1.00 pm

Venue: Isabella Fraser Room, State Library of Victoria, 328 Swanston St, Melbourne VIC

Registration: More Houses Sooner Tickets, Wednesday February 26, 2025 at 10:00 AM | Eventbrite



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By **CHRIS PARKER**

BECOMING MASSWOOD

MASSWOOD may be a business name you've not heard of before and that's understandable - this article marks the official launch of this 'new' business, that's not so new.

The Masswood brand and offering has been a long time in the making. It was in 2016 when Truett and Eva Dellow started Mezzaluna Joinery at a very small factory in Botany.

"Glulam was not on our radar back then", said Eva. "It was only after being approached to manufacture some curved members for a play pod that we delved into glulam as a process".

Soon after the completion of this project at the end of 2019, they, along with Eva's father Ron Gattone, launched Curvwood which saw them specialising in curved timber products.

With their eyes set on expanding and starting one of the only NSW based glulam manufacturing facilities, a move to a larger premises was in order. With the option of much more space, the procurement of high-tech and robust machinery began. It took almost 3 years to receive all the European custom-built machinery that now stands



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1/ **Masswood's imPRESSive capabilities.**
2/ **The first glulam project: curved play pod.**
3/ **Optimised layout for efficient production.**
All photos: Sophie B photography, Steven Brown Photography + Masswood supplied



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proudly in the Masswood facility.

"I did months and months of comprehensive research to find the best companies to invest our money with", said Truett. "It was important to me that we did our best to think of every possible way each machine could be utilised to its maximum potential".

Eva added, "These strategic long-term investments have culminated so we can now take on large scale glulam projects and increase our production volumes". Eva continued, "we realised the Curvwood brand would no longer accurately represent our newfound capabilities. It is our hope that in time, Masswood will be synonymous with quality, versatility and efficiency by offering exceptional products and customer service".



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WHY GLULAM?

Glued-laminated timber (glulam) has been part of Australia's construction landscape since the mid-20th century. Its adoption mirrored global trends, where advances in wood engineering during the early 1900s laid the groundwork for glulam's use in structural applications. In Australia, glulam initially gained traction in projects requiring long spans, such as bridges and industrial buildings, thanks to its ability to create strong, durable components from smaller timber sections. Over time, as architectural trends evolved to embrace exposed timber as a design feature, glulam has become a popular choice for both functional and aesthetic applications in residential, commercial, and public buildings.

Truett said, "When I was attempting to figure out the best solution to make curved timber members, I initially experimented with steam bending. While it was really eye opening in terms of what's possible with timber, I could see that it has its limitations". Ron added, "Glue laminating was really the best manufacturing technique we could implement for the size and scale of the members we needed to fabricate".

With the glulam market in Australia expected to experience significant growth over the next decade, driven by increased demand for sustainable construction materials and a growing preference for timber in

place of steel and concrete, it's easy to understand why Masswood has made such significant investments to expand their glulam manufacturing capabilities.

OPTIMISED OPERATIONS

Upon entering the doors at Masswood I couldn't help but feel the energy and passion, it was like electricity in the air. The premises are clean, extremely organised, safe and well maintained. The operation is fast, impressive and meticulous. It was clear that a great deal of thought had gone into layout and the manufacturing flow.

Eva told me, "In order to maximise every inch of space, we just built a new mezzanine floor". I noticed the impressive 250mm x 250mm posts were glulam. Nothing beats using your own product.

The factory set up and layout is a clear testament to their vision and forward thinking for future growth. It was evident, the team is excited about the business and new strategic direction. I was made to feel very welcome; at their core they are genuine and engaging people who care a great deal about what they are doing. When I sat down to



- 1/ GL15 beams.
- 2/ Continuous finger jointer.
- 3/ Fabricated beams, ready for installation.

commence the interview, the time just raced by. Personally, I could have stayed all day. The machinery is impressive, and it was enjoyable to hear from each member of the team about how each machine works, adds to the overall quality and efficiency of production and why certain decisions were made during the procurement process.

FINGER JOINTING

Masswood's continuous vertical finger jointer is

massive and is different to many I have seen. Ron demonstrated how the finger jointer works, the significant force applied, and the strength achieved.

Truett went on to explain, "While very much a necessity in glulam manufacturing, we also offer finger jointing as a stand-alone service. Our finger jointer can produce continuous lengths up to 24 metres with sectional sizes of 250mm x 50mm for hardwood and 250mm x 100mm for softwood. The shortest length we can work with is 630mm. This is the largest finger jointer that we know of in NSW".

Prior to the timber going through the finger jointer, it's marked for defects and rolls through a moisture metre. The defects are cut out ensuring the structural integrity of the pieces that will be finger jointed. This is an important factor when it comes to the strength grade of the glulam they are working to achieve.

Eva said, "We opted to upgrade to a 25-tonne pressing force to allow us to successfully work with Australian hardwoods. We sent some Blackbutt and Spotted Gum to our manufacturer in Germany, and they were so surprised about the density. We knew having a machine capable of working with some of the strongest timber in the world would be an advantage".

PRESSING

Another striking piece of equipment is the 24m hydraulic vertical press. It literally runs along the length of the main wall, has individual hydraulic rams and has the capacity to press timber to a height of 1250mm and a depth of 250mm.

"We believe it is currently

“MASSWOOD WILL BE SYNONYMOUS WITH QUALITY, VERSATILITY AND EFFICIENCY”

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one of the largest timber presses in Australia". Ron stopped to point out, "If somehow this wasn't enough, we could still add an additional 6m to the length, as it is an extendable design".

Truett added, "The versatility of this machine means that along with being able to achieve long lengths, it can also be compartmentalised for mass production of shorter beams. The height is another advantage. Depending on the sectional size of the member, we can press multiple beams at one time, which speeds up production of large orders".

They showed me the first press they invested in, a 12m manual press which is capable of being set-up to create curves and free form shapes. "We can manufacture curved beams with a minimum radius of 1200mm", Eva added. With these pressing options, it is hard to imagine what Masswood cannot do for you.

PLANING

Masswood has two planers. The large 4-sided planer can manage heights up to 300mm and widths up to 600mm. Truett told me, "In Europe most glulam manufacturers would have two planers, the first being for finger jointed laminates, the second for beams with large sectional sizes. With versatility front of mind, we modified our machine so it could serve both those purposes for us". Ron added, "For example, this machine can accept timber as thin as 5mm, which is important when we are manufacturing curved members". Their second 2-sided planer can deal with a height up to 200mm and a width of 1000mm. "This extends our capacity to plane



1/ 4-sided planer planing a beam.
2/ Curved Accoya portal frames in Sunshine Beach QLD.

larger straight members and the sometimes-trickier curved beams", Eva added.

FABRICATION

Eva explained, "Our Fabrication capabilities ensure glulam beams can arrive to site precisely cut, drilled, slotted, or bevelled for immediate installation". "We offer deep slots up to 600mm, holes up to 500mm and rebating up to 50mm with intricate shaping up to 300mm thick, matching timber plugs and custom plate manufacturing if required". Eva continued, "By investing in fabrication, Masswood has enhanced efficiency and precision, streamlined on-site assembly and maintained the highest standards of quality".

Eva showed me photos of recently completed custom projects to demonstrate just

some of their capabilities. "Glulam provides so much flexibility, allowing us to provide straight or curved beams in various shapes and sizes to a broad customer base". Ron added, "Each project brings new and exciting challenges to solve, and every customer offers a unique opportunity to collaborate and create something exceptional". "We always endeavour to go beyond what is required to ensure we have the best glulam solution for each project", said Eva.

COMPLIANT AND QUALITY MANUFACTURING

"One of the first things we did when we decided we were going to invest in glulam manufacturing was to join the Glued Laminated Timber

Association of Australia (GLTAA)", said Eva. "It has been one of the best decisions we have made. To be among other manufacturers who care deeply about the industry, advocate and uphold industry standards has been extremely important for our journey".

Truett added, "We are all working to the same goal, which is to grow the glulam market in Australia and replace steel and concrete with glulam where possible".

"Producing compliant and quality glulam is the most important piece of the puzzle and we are currently undergoing accreditation through the GLTAA to ensure we are meeting or exceeding the Australian Standards", Eva added.

ONSITE TIMBER TESTING EQUIPMENT

The Easy Q delamination unit was interesting. Glulam off cuts are weighed and put inside a controlled tank. Once inside the glulam is put under the same conditions that a beam in a service class 3 environment might experience, and then some. Over a 3-hour period the glulam is soaked with water then air dried, repeating this process over and over and over again. "Once completed we are able to visually see if there has been any delamination on the glue line and assess if it's within the reasonable limits", Ron said.

Masswood also has a 4-point Bending test unit, which they use to conduct finger joint and shear testing. "As any product manufacturer will know, testing is vital to not only comply with Standards but to discover any issues in the production line early on so they can be rectified as soon as possible", Truett added.

"Consistently meeting

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and proving the GL grades for the glulam we manufacture is of the utmost importance”, said Truett. Eva added, “It’s terrific to see that the industry is promoting the importance of choosing glulam that is manufactured by reputable and accredited businesses, it really helps those businesses who have invested their time and money in systems, procedures and staff training”.

The team told me they only use fibre that has FSC or PEFC certification. Eva explained, “Not only is it the right thing to do, but it’s also being demanded by

architects, builders and end users who want a product that is truly sustainable, through and through, and so do we”.

FAMILY ROOTS AND BUILDING THE TEAM

The name Ron Gattone may be familiar to some of you. This Industry veteran is no

stranger to Timber Trader News. Ron appeared on the front cover of issue #300 back in June 2011 and his front-page feature profile delved into his business ethos and philosophies, and his life mission remains the same, “To powerfully influence in a positive way, every person

I interact with”. Ron told me proudly.

Prior to becoming Managing Director at Crescent Timber and Hardware in Annandale, a role that spanned decades, he was actually a highly experienced and award-winning builder running his own building firm for close to 18 years. It was in 1991 that he was approached by his brother Danny Gattone and then brother-in-law Colin Swadling to consider partnering with them to purchase Crescent Timber and Hardware. Ron told me, “I had 3 days to decide what to do. I had been a builder for most of my life I never imagined I would change careers or close my business”. With the support of his family, wife Heather and children Jeffery and Eva, he took the leap and served as Managing Director until 2021. Heather

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The Masswood core team from right; Eva, Truett, Ron and Declan.

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We extend your capability through
glue laminating and continuous finger jointing.

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also worked at Crescent and AW Swadlings for a total of 22 years.

Ron remains invested in the industry. "I am co-owner of 'Blacktown Building Supplies, Canterbury Timber and Heritage Profiles and Mouldings". "I see glulam as a natural next step in my own timber and business building journey".

Looking for a career change, Truett began working at Crescent Timber in 2012. At this stage he was already in a relationship with Eva so had a great respect for Ron. It was not long after joining that Ron asked Truett to start working in the joinery, housed at the back of Crescent Timber. They worked together for a number of years

"I learnt so much about timber, joinery techniques and how to come up with efficient and high-quality solutions during that time", said Truett. "It's fantastic to be on this journey with Ron and Eva. We all have our strengths, expertise and ways of approaching challenges, which helps propel us forward". Eva agreed, "It's wonderful to be able to build this business from the ground up with my husband and father".

Part of any business journey is finding and hiring the right team. Ron explained, "When we started looking to expand our team, I suggested we engage the NTHA. Many of the staff I employed in my time as a timber merchant were hired through the NTHA and still work in the industry today". Not long after joining the NTHA, Declan Williamson began being hosted by Masswood in 2022. Having



Curved beam production.



Ron on the front cover of TTN #300.

never worked in the timber industry before, it was not long until Declan proved himself to be an important and valued member of the team.

Truett proudly pointed out, "Declan was awarded NTHA [NSW and ACT] 2024 Trainee/ Apprentice of the year in September. He has now successfully completed Certificate III qualification in Timber and Wood Products Operations". Declan continues his employment with Masswood, advancing his journey in timber manufacturing.

During the course of my

time at the factory, I observed the interactions between Ron, Truett, Eva and Declan and it became apparent to me that there is a passion and drive that is clearly obvious and a unique mix of skills and experience; with Ron's intricate understanding of building and building products, Truett's vision and unwavering drive, Eva's ability to foster strong relationships and uncover opportunities, it's these qualities that make this an adhesive and dynamic team with a strong bond – "Our integrity doesn't stop at the glue line".

THE FUTURE IS BEAMING

Soon to be released will be their new MASSBEAM range with GL10, GL13, GL15 and GL17 glulam grades available to frame & truss manufacturers, merchants, builders and specification for architects and engineers.

The team is also doing R&D to develop hardwood glulam

“ WE ARE ALL WORKING TO THE SAME GOAL, WHICH IS TO GROW THE GLULAM MARKET

with another Australian based business, Crafted Hardwoods. This innovative product converts sustainably sourced, low-value pulp grade resources into premium hardwoods with the look, feel and properties of 100-year-old trees.

Part of their new offering is a range of Accoya cladding, decking and batten profiles.

"Accoya is a one-of-a-kind timber, that we love working with", Ron added.

Eva explained, "It's an exciting time and a great industry to be part of". "Beyond offering environmentally friendly products, we are dedicated to a larger mission that resonates deeply with our personal values". "Together, we strive to not only meet but exceed expectations, contributing to a greener, more sustainable future".

Truett said, "Glulam has so many applications – from support beams to lintels and posts, portal frames, floor and ceiling joists, facias, the options are endless".

Whilst maintaining their unique capabilities to find solutions to custom jobs, Masswood are geared up and ready to do fast, efficient, large or repetitive orders. The emphasis being they are a versatile, knowledgeable, solutions focused business-people and will certainly prove to be a reliable manufacturing partner.

For more on Masswood visit masswood.com.au or call (02) 8710 6622.

Source: Timber Trader News

Australia's housing crisis

“Driven by lip-service, hypocrisy and an investment culture.”

IN his article, published on abc.net.au, Alan Kohler states: “In 1999 came the final death knell of housing as a “right”, when it became an investment asset after the Howard government halved capital gains tax.”

“This is at best, misleading, and should be corrected,” stated HIA’s Chief Economist, Tim Reardon.

“Alan Kohler has made an excellent contribution to housing policy over the past year. He has correctly identified that the burden of the under supply of housing over the past 20 years has fallen disproportionately on a small cohort of Australians, especially renters, and at the same time financially rewarded a different cohort who own more than one home.

“The inequity of this outcome was accelerated through the pandemic, and he has highlighted the problems of this faux wealth creation of ever-increasing house prices.

“In the 90’s capital gains tax was changed from 100 per cent of the real gain of an investment, to 50 per cent of the nominal gain.

“Mr Kohler incorrectly concludes that this is a halving in capital gains tax. This conclusion is wrong.

“The 1999 change to CGT did not have a tangible impact on tax revenues to government or decisions by property investors.



Investors have flocked to the housing market since 2000 due to the government pushing housing prices up continually.
Image: Shutterstock

“Reverting from the current ‘Discount Rate’ of CGT to taxing the real gain as occurred last century, would likely have marginal, if any impact on capital gains tax paid by investors and is a distraction for addressing the causes of the shortage of housing.

“If we are to address the shortage of housing, it is important to accurately understand the causes.

“The Kohler article also notes that house price growth accelerated from the turn of the century and concludes that because prices accelerated after the change to CGT that, therefore, this increase was partially due to that change. After it, therefore because of it.

“Of course, at the same time as the Howard/Costello government changed Capital Gains Tax they also introduced the GST which is imposed on new homes, but not on established homes. The introduction of the GST caused new home building to collapse to a level not seen in the decades, preceding or post 2000.

“But blaming the rise in house prices on either the GST

or CGT ignores the fact that many developed economies experienced rapid house price growth from the turn of the century, due to factors unrelated to Australia’s housing taxation system.

“House prices have risen at an alarming rate for the past 25 years because

demand has increased faster than supply as governments increasingly make new home building expensive through taxes, fees and charges.

“Politicians continue to blame foreigners, investors and then foreign investors for the housing shortage rather than to make policy changes to reduce tax and increase supply.

“Only half of the cost of a new house and land package is the cost of the house and land. The other half are costs imposed by governments.

“The growth in investor activity in the housing market since 2000 is because politicians continue to force up the price of building a new home, ensuring restricted supply, and providing investors with a better return than in other asset classes.

“The solution to this problem isn’t to keep increasing the taxes on investors or housing, but to increase the supply of homes to ensure house prices remain stable and investors depart the housing market for other sectors,” conclude Mr Reardon.



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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

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CONTACTS

Media releases and editorial:

Nicky Ainley // Donyale Harrison // Jessica Hockridge

e: editors@timberandforestrynews.com

Display ad bookings:

Campbell McInnes // e: campbellm@timberandforestrynews.com

Accounts:

Chris Parker // e: cparker@ttnews.com.au