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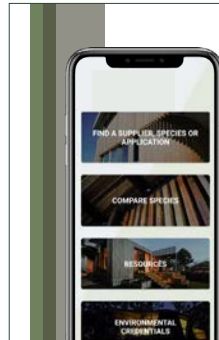
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STT releases swift parrot update

The 2024-25 breeding season monitoring program has good news.

EVERY year in late winter, swift parrots fly to their nesting sites in Tasmania (mostly in the east and south-east) and proceed to produce the next generation of one of only two migratory parrot species in the world.

Nests are often reused, but not always the same nest every year: how well the blue gums and black gums are flowering is a key determinant of where they will breed in any year.

In 2021, Sustainable Timber Tasmania (STT) expanded on its earlier work to identify breeding and habitat areas and exclude them from production with a Swift Parrot Monitoring Program that has helped the organisation deliver ever more accurate understanding of the birds.

This week, STT has released an update on the progress of its Swift Parrot Monitoring Program, as swift parrots return to mainland Australia as part of their annual migration following the breeding season. Throughout this past summer, STT



A migratory swift parrot photographed at South Bruny. Photo: Charles Sharp, CC, <https://www.sharpphotography.co.uk/>

monitored swift parrots across key areas, informed by early season bud surveys and sightings.

Suzette Weeding, general manager conservation and land management at STT said that successful breeding activity was detected around the Eastern Tiers.

“We are pleased to report the detection of fledglings in the Snow Hill area in late January. We observed foraging and heard signs of activity, which was positive for the breeding season,” said Weeding.

“Sustainable Timber Tasmania’s research and operations teams monitored 16 different forest coupes for swift parrot activity, deployed 45 acoustic recorders (rotating them to cover a wider range of areas), and spent 26 days in the field conducting surveys and assessments. The teams collected over 10,000 hours of acoustic data.”

This data will now be used to develop AI-driven swift parrot call recognisers, supporting the processing of thousands of hours of acoustic recordings. The use

of this technology will provide deeper insights into swift parrot activity and enhance Sustainable Timber Tasmania’s future monitoring capabilities.

STT says that it is excited to leverage this technology for effective conservation and management outcomes, not only for the swift

parrot but for other species in Tasmania’s public production forests.

Acoustic monitoring will continue as part of STT’s ongoing planning and forest management activities.

Sustainable Timber Tasmania also noted that the team looks forward to keeping the community informed on the progress of this important work.

On the cover: Marie Yee, Senior Conservation Planner at Sustainable Timber Tasmania with an acoustic monitoring device
Photo: courtesy STT

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Future Framing Initiative

Industry leaders are collaborating on the future of timber construction.

LEADING companies in Australia's timber construction sector have joined forces to launch the Future Framing Initiative (FFI), a groundbreaking collaborative program aimed at revolutionising the lightweight timber framed construction industry.

Under the governance of Forest & Wood Products Australia (FWPA) and leadership of newly appointed Project Management Committee, chaired by Ian Tyson, the FFI will focus on modernising timber design standards and strengthening the industry's competitive position. The program addresses critical challenges facing the sector, including outdated timber design standards and increasing competition from



1/ The participation of leading timber businesses will allow faster sharing of testing and speed the acceptance of new products. Image: courtesy Meyer Timber

2/ Ian Tyson will chair the new FFI Project Management Committee. Photo: supplied

steel framing and concrete slab-on-ground alternatives.

"The FFI

represents a unified response to market demands for simpler, more efficient building solutions," said Tyson.

"Each percentage point of market share represents \$27.5 million in annual revenue, making this initiative crucial for our industry's future growth."

Tyson was formerly CEO of TimberLink before retiring from the role at the end of 2023 and has overseen complex and transformative projects in the private sector, including the launch of new wood product lines and a focus on providing innovative construction solutions rather than simply selling wood products.

The FFI program encompasses four key components: Research, Extension, Communications, and Technical Capacity Building. Initial efforts will concentrate on updating critical industry standards, particularly AS1684 Residential Timber Framed Construction, which hasn't seen major revisions in over 25 years.

Thirteen leading organisations have already committed to funding the initiative: AKD, Hyne Timber, Dindas Australia, Meyer Timber, MiTek, Multinail, Pentarch Forest Group, Pryda, Stora Enso Australia, Timberlink Australia, Timbertruss, Wesbeam and Wespine. The program has also secured support from the University of Tasmania through a successful Australian Forest and Wood Innovations (AFWI) research grant.

Another FFI objective will be developing a new FWPA Industry Standard for Lightweight Timber Framing for mid-rise Buildings, aiming for inclusion in the National Construction Code 2028. The initiative will serve various building types, including detached homes, townhouses, schools, aged care facilities, and apartments.

The FFI also addresses the critical need for technical expertise in succession planning for the industry. The program, which started last month, will recruit and train new technical representatives to ensure valuable industry knowledge is preserved and passed on to the next generation of industry champions.

Subscribe to FWPA updates for more information on the project by clicking here.

Expressions of interest for AFWI's National Open Call for Research Round 2 open this Friday with a webinar on Thursday 13 March. Click here to register and find out more.

A note from the Publisher

Enews is delighted to announce a strategic partnership with **The Workwear Store (TWS)** in the Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) space for the benefit of all Enews readers and associated businesses. TWS is offering an additional 10% discount off their already competitive prices, plus free delivery on orders over \$99 and can deliver to multiple locations, saving you time, effort and money. See the full article on pages 8 and 9 of this issue with all the benefits and your exclusive code.

Looking for a job or have a position to fill? Make sure you click here to look at our Job Board page on the website. And don't forget to check out the Buy and Sell page as well.

New illegal logging rules commenced on 3 March. In case you missed the feature it was on pages 10 and 11 in issue #835 (click here). If you import wood, pulp or paper products into Australia or process Australian grown raw logs, the updated laws impact you!

Get in quick for Fair Work changes

AFCA is looking for feedback TODAY.

THE Australian Forestry Contractors Association is looking for urgent industry feedback as part of its response to the Fair Work Ombudsman. As part of a government review of how small business is defined in the Fair Work Act 2009, the Ombudsman has been asked by the government to do a review of the definition of a small business employer in the Act.

Under the Act, being a small business employer provides some carve outs and concessions. Differential treatment of small businesses is aimed to reduce the regulatory burden associated with workplace relations, most notably in relation to unfair

dismissal and redundancy pay.

The review is looking at:

- Whether the definition sufficiently acknowledges the special circumstances of small businesses in the workplace relations context.
- Whether the definition provides a reasonable balance between the needs of small businesses and the rights and entitlements of employees.
- Whether the definition is easy to apply from the perspective of both the



As well as forestry contractors, the proposed changes will affect all small businesses, such as workshop and reclaimed timber merchants Among the Trees. Photo: Donyale Harrison

- Whether the definition of presents any practical challenges given that there are different definitions?

AFCA is seeking industry views from members and others in the sector to assist in preparing a response. The

association has prepared a short online survey to make it even easier for you to give your opinion, but you will have to be quick as responses need to be in by tonight, Thursday 6 March.

All responses are welcome, whether critical and seeking change (feel free to note any specifics) or positive and supporting the current definitions.

To complete the AFCA survey, click here or contact Tim Lester on +61 437 524 933 or tim@afca.asn.au.

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SECTOR**

Transforming lives through timber industry training

A PARTNERSHIP between NTHA Training and Endeavour Foundation (based in Maryborough, Queensland), in conjunction with Community Solutions – Apprentices and Trainees, is providing crucial educational opportunities for people with disabilities in a supported work environment.



'Supported Employment' allows people with a disability to work in a commercial business with the help of onsite employment coaches and production team leaders. Photo: NTHA

Conducted through the nationally recognised Certificate III in Timber and Wood Products Operations (Sawmilling), the initiative equips participants with valuable skills, while also opening doors to meaningful careers in the timber industry.

'Supported Employment' allows people with a disability to work in a commercial business with the help of onsite employment coaches and production team leaders. This assistance ensures employees can learn and

develop new skills, while working towards their employment goals.

The innovative program not only enhances job readiness but also fosters confidence and independence. By learning essential sawmilling operations, workplace safety, and environmental best practices, trainees gain hands-on experience tailored specifically to industry needs.

Employment Coach, Jessica Dullaway, from Endeavour Foundation's Business Solutions site in

Maryborough, said, "It is an amazing opportunity for our supported workers to progress their career goals and increase skill development through the traineeship.

"We are so proud to be able to host this program onsite. Our employees were chosen for their established skills, acknowledging their intentions to transition towards mainstream employment – and we could not be more supportive."

NTHA Trainer Brad Cannell said NTHA Training is proud

to work alongside Endeavour Foundation to create inclusive learning opportunities.

"This special partnership ensures that individuals of all abilities have access to training that leads to sustainable employment," he said.

The initiative aligns closely with Endeavour Foundation's mission in supporting people with disabilities in leading fulfilling lives. The program is already making a substantial difference, with trainees gaining newfound skills and securing meaningful roles in sawmilling operations.

This partnership not only highlights the importance of inclusive training pathways, but proves that with the right support, everyone has the potential to succeed in the workforce.

To read more about Endeavour Foundation's work and services, click here.

For more information on how NTHA Training can assist in training and upskilling your team, contact NTHA on 1800 822 621 or email info@ntha.edu.au

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MARCH

13: Australian Forest and Wood Innovations (AFWI) National Open Call for Research WEBINAR – ONLINE. 2.00 pm, AEDT. **Click here** to register interest.

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>

14: AFCA National Forum & Dinner – Gold Coast, QLD. SAVE THE DATE. More details to follow.

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://www.woodsolutions.com.au/events/woodsolutions-sponsors-tda-japan-study-tour?>

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. For more information visit <https://www.wcte2025.org/event/df0d5655-c16d-47df-b4a6-457a7dc63d96/wcte-2025>

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. To register your interest, visit <https://timberconstruct.org/>

20-22: International Woodchip and Biomass Seminar and Networking Event – Singapore. For more information visit

<https://danaevents.co.nz/2024singapore/home>

20-23: Forestry Australia 2025 Conference – Adelaide Convention Centre, Adelaide. The conference theme is 'Restoring forests and landscapes to secure Australia's future' and aims to develop both local and national collaboration. For more details visit <https://www.forestry.org.au/2025-conference/>

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. (Follows on from the woodchip and biomass seminar in Singapore.) For more information visit <https://danaevents.co.nz/2024singapore/fieldtrip>

24: GTTIA – The Barn, Mt Gambier, SA. Nominations are now open for 2025 Green Triangle Timber Industry Awards. Nominate online: <https://gttia.com/nomination-form/> For full details on award categories and submission guidelines, visit: <https://gttia.com/2025-award-categories/>

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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The Workwear Store: your one-stop shop for all PPE needs

Timber and Forestry Enews is excited to announce an exclusive partnership with The Workwear Store, bringing you a comprehensive solution for all your PPE needs, along with a special industry discount.

By **CHRIS PARKER**

WE all know that Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is not just a safety requirement, but a critical element in protecting your team and preventing workplace injuries. Beyond being essential, it is a legal obligation.

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The Workwear Store meets all your protection needs including eye and hearing protection, helmets, respiratory protection and gloves.

Images: The Workwear Store

THE WORKWEAR STORE

Robert Duong, founder and Managing Director of TWS, brings extensive experience in the workwear industry and a strong commitment to customer service. Robert ensures every order is carefully packed, tracked, and delivered exactly as requested. He proudly shares, "We have over 100 unsolicited five-star reviews on Google from satisfied customers, and we aim to maintain this level of service as we grow. We are dedicated to customer satisfaction and service excellence."

TWS operates out of a 484sqm facility, which houses both a retail outlet and a growing back-of-house warehouse for packing and distribution.

Founded as your go-to destination for all workwear and safety needs, TWS offers a diverse range of high-quality apparel and safety accessories. Whether you're looking for top brands like Hard Yakka, King Gee, or Mongrel Boots, The Workwear Store is your one-stop shop for everything you need.

TEAM TWS

The dedicated TWS team has grown to six members, all passionate about ensuring your needs are met. They work tirelessly to exceed your expectations, providing excellent service from their

Cont P 9

From P 8

seamless online ordering platform to responsive customer support. Whether you call or email, the team is always ready and happy to assist you.

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There's a huge range of clothing styles and sizes, including specialist women's sizing to guarantee a safe and appropriate fit. Images: The Workwear Store

equally extensive, featuring men's and women's steel-toe boots, safety work boots, waterproof boots, composite toe boots, safety joggers, gum boots, and even popular 'Pink' safety boots for female workers. With options like elastic-sided, lace-up, zip-sided and various sizes, there's something for everyone. Robert adds, "If there's something you need, just ask as we likely have it or can get it for you."

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Accelerate action!

For International Women's Day, Christine Briggs writes on how the timber sector can benefit from diversity.

To say 2025 is 'challenging' is an understatement. One of those challenges has been watching Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) policies and approaches being put further down the corporate agenda in the US, including in its significant lumber industry.

Coupled with a few years of very tough market conditions here in Australia, it becomes apparent that initiatives in this space aren't viewed by companies as 'stay in business or survival' mode and when discretionary funds are being cut, investment in this space is viewed as a 'nice to have'. That investment isn't just dollars, it's the time of leaders in the industry and businesses.

As we head towards International Women's Day this Saturday 8 March (though most businesses will be celebrating on Friday), it's timely to look at where our industry sits on actual gender diversity rather than pink cupcakes once a year. This year's IWD theme is "Let's ACCELERATE ACTION for Women's Equality", so how are we stacking up?

AUSTRALIAN DATA

Less than 12 months ago, I volunteered to manage the Gender Diversity Survey of the Forest & Wood Products Australian Industry. I was responsible for constructing the survey design, promoting the survey to prospective respondents (both male and female in the Australian forest

Did you know our reportable sectors ... (Reportable sectors as per WGEA requirements being Forestry & Logging; Wood Products Manufacturing)	All – Yes	All – No	All – blank/ maybe	Females only – Yes	Females only - No	Females only - blank
Have 17-19% female managers?	30%	65%	4%	21%	79%	0%
Have 79-82% male employees?	50%	46%	4%	38%	62%	0%
Have no female CEOs (based on organisations that must submit data)	32%	63%	5%	27%	71%	2%
Have a gender pay gap of 9.2-10.2%	20%	77%	4%	18%	82%	0%
TOTAL	33%	63%	4%	26%	74%	0%

Table 1 from the Gender Diversity Survey. Image: supplied

and wood products industry), and then analysing and reporting on the survey's key findings.

Working with Kersten Gentle from FTMA, we were hopeful this would help inform a work program for industry on how best to support improving women's participation and advancement in our industry.

In Table 1, you'll find what 56 respondents told us – almost 60% of whom were female with a majority from regional locations, especially Victoria, mostly working at management level in the Timber and Wood Product Manufacturing sector.

In the first instance, we asked about awareness in regard to Workplace Gender Equality Agency (WGEA) statistics for our sectors. Key findings were that:

- Overall, males were more aware of the statistics from WGEA
- Female awareness of the overall male percentage in our sectors was the highest area of awareness for females at 38%; awareness of other statistics was noticeably less.

When we asked all respondents to rank seven

workplace initiatives on which they would welcome, the results were very interesting. Mentoring services were the most important for all respondents, including women, and regional women. Second place was less clear. Regional women ranked Female Role Model Stories as the second-most interesting, but women overall had that response in fourth, while the Career Pathway Planning Services option came third with regional women, but second with women overall and with all respondents.

The remaining initiatives ranked in roughly the same order across the sectors: Women's Only Leadership Programs in fourth, then Coaching and Seminar Services (including salary negotiations, managing upwards, your professional development plan and resume writing), Networking Events with Inspirational Speakers/Workshops and, finally, Fundraising Events For Women's Issues was seen as less of a workplace focus.

As part of the survey, we asked for comments and several major themes emerged.

- Women want to come together, to feel comfortable, in an environment where they can share their thoughts and stories and develop a plan to establish a strong Women in Forests and Timber Network. We then need to look at mentoring, and funding for career advancement
- Male involvement is statistically beneficial, but we need to be thoughtful and careful about when/why/where/how they are involved. Celebrating women is important.
- We need to challenge recruitment and marketing activities, upskilling leaders around unconscious bias and inclusive leadership. It was commented it could be "really confronting when four older men are on the interview panel".
- Quotas for leadership and board positions, flexible work- and job-sharing arrangements, D&I training, unconscious bias training, careers promotion and more education at school and tertiary levels, plus internships.
- Review roster structures to allow greater access for mums who can only work school hours. Facilitate access to childcare or OOSH care.
- Need to aim at getting more women in operating jobs/ on the tools as that is where the larger income is to address pay equality in the sector, rather than admin or managing roles.

WHY IT MATTERS

Having a genuine commitment to gender diversity and inclusivity at all levels of a

From P 10

company isn't just a 'nice to have'. There's an enormous body of corporate research showing that diversity and inclusion leads to better results. Gender diverse teams where there is also inclusivity make notably better decisions than all-male teams. Add age and geographic diversity and that result goes up again. That leads to more profits and growth.

Additionally, when you're competing for talent with other industries and companies in your region, it's a valuable piece of the jigsaw. And it only works when it's part of how you do business naturally and instinctively – what your values are. While needing policies and procedures to manage gender diversity, it is also based on a person-to-person approach of understanding individual circumstances.

But what does gender

equality look like? Forbes magazine gave a list of key elements (click here for the article)

- **Equal pay**
- **Equal treatment**
- **Equal representation** on leadership teams, corporate boards, etc. Leadership teams should equally represent both men and women.
- **Equal access** to training and career-building opportunities
- **Company benefits** should reflect the needs of all employees, as well as their families: Offering the flexibility to work from home or adjust their work schedules helps men and women take care of their children without having to sacrifice their careers.

The support of male players in the industry is obviously vital to achieve these goals. Hearteningly, 70% of male respondents to the survey thought gender diversity needed to improve; two even



Christine Briggs has had a storied career in the timber sector and is currently the Timber Framing campaign manager for WoodSolutions. Photo supplied

gave their contact details to us and said they wanted to stay in touch to work on the issues (one has since retired).

In more good news ForestWorks, the jobs and skills council for the sector, has a new Australian Government funding commitment of some \$10m, which represents a significant opportunity to improve diversity within our industry and lift more women into long term careers and decision-making roles in our industry.

Its Forestry Workforce Training Program (FWTP) (See <https://forestworks.com.au/forestry-workforce-training-program-2024/>) includes four projects focused

on creating mentoring and training programs for underrepresented groups, with tailored micro-credentials specifically for women (and First Nations) individuals.

The main goal of the FWTP is to provide the industry with access to essential training while ensuring that the models and resources developed are scalable and sustainable, creating a long-lasting, industry-wide impact.

So let's go, ForestWorks – we need these programs delivered and the benefits of increased diversity, participation, advancement and career longevity of more diverse people in this industry!

This is an edited extract from an opinion piece on women in timber written by timber sector director and marketing expert Christine Briggs. Follow her on LinkedIn (click here) to read the full paper when it is published.

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Meet your certified supplier

DMK Forest Products is the latest in this series from Responsible Wood.

DMK Forest Products has been a trusted name in the timber industry since its establishment on 19 June, 1972. As a leading distributor of plywood and wood panel products, DMK operates facilities in Brookvale (Sydney), Molendinar (Gold Coast), and Banyo (Brisbane). The company is renowned for supplying high-quality WISA Birch Plywood, widely recognised as one of the best plywood options in Australasia.

DMK's commitment to innovation is reflected in its growing subsidiary, DMK Manufacturing, which utilises advanced equipment like the Biesse CNC Machine and MelaMaxinator Laminator. These state-of-the-art tools allow the company to provide an expanded range of processed products and custom services, including its bespoke Birch-based furniture line.

Sustainability is at the core of DMK Forest Products' operations. The company actively seeks to understand and anticipate evolving market needs while ensuring compliance with all legal and regulatory obligations. By fostering a workplace that values communication, integrity, and innovation, DMK continuously enhances its sustainability efforts and ethical business practices.

RESPONSIBLE WOOD CERTIFICATION

DMK Forest Products is proudly certified under the Responsible Wood certification scheme, ensuring its timber products are sourced from sustainably managed forests. This certification highlights DMK's commitment to responsible sourcing and



1/ (L to R) Matt de Jongh and Damien Brooks, DKM Queensland state manager.
2/ (L to R) Craig Mitchell, Queensland sales manager, Matt de Jongh and Garry Fitzgerald, sales coordinator – Gold Coast. Photos: courtesy Responsible Wood

environmental stewardship.

Matt de Jongh, sustainability manager at Responsible Wood, said, "DMK Forest Products is an excellent example of a business that prioritises sustainability and responsible sourcing. Their commitment to Responsible Wood certification demonstrates their dedication to offering high-quality, ethically sourced timber products to their customers."

DMK's focus on quality is evident in its manufacturing capabilities and product range. The company ensures all its products are competitively priced, delivered within reasonable timeframes, and meet the highest industry

standards.

"Our goal at DMK is to provide our customers with world-class products while maintaining the highest ethical and quality standards," said Damien Brooks, DMK Queensland state manager. "By investing in innovative machinery and sustainable sourcing, we can continue delivering premium wood products that meet the evolving needs of our customers."

For DMK, certification is not just a compliance requirement—it is a commitment to ensuring that its products contribute to a more sustainable future. Certified timber provides

assurance to customers that the wood they purchase supports responsible forest management practices, helping to protect biodiversity and reduce environmental impact.

The partnership between Responsible Wood and DMK Forest Products highlights the importance of collaboration in driving sustainable forestry initiatives. "Working together with Responsible Wood allows us to align with best practices in sustainability while continuing to deliver top-tier products to our customers," Brooks said.

INTERESTED IN CERTIFICATION?

Responsible Wood plays a critical role in certifying sustainable forestry practices in Australia. By working with suppliers like DMK, the certification body ensures that the timber industry continues to promote responsible forest management, reducing deforestation and supporting local communities.

For businesses looking to enhance their sustainability credentials, Responsible Wood certification offers a valuable pathway. Companies interested in certification can learn more by visiting Responsible Wood's website (click here) or contacting their team on (07) 3359 1758 for guidance on the certification process.

DMK Forest Products remains a leader in certified sustainable timber solutions, continuously innovating and upholding its commitment to ethical business practices. By choosing DMK, customers can trust that they are investing in high-quality, responsibly sourced wood products that support a greener future. Click here for more.

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Disclaimer: This advertisement contains only limited information about the offer and is not available to all customers. For further information, please speak to your local dealer. Finance involves risk. Applicants must make their own informed decision about whether to accept any finance offer.

Vale Brian Seidler

MASTER Builders Australia has announced the passing of Brian Seidler AM, the long-standing Executive Director of Master Builders Association of NSW. Brian passed on Saturday, having recently celebrated his 67th birthday

Master Builders Australia CEO Denita Wawn said, "The Master Builders family around the country is mourning the loss of a leader whose selfless 40-year devotion ensured that the industry's voice was heard.

"The building and construction industry is in a better place because of Brian Seidler. Brian's tireless, tenacious, and energetic commitment was astonishing, and his legacy is far reaching.

"We will miss him greatly."

Brian's work extended far beyond the practicalities of construction. He was also



Brian Seidler was famous as a director who got work done in the organisations he worked for, but is best remembered for his generosity and thoughtfulness Photos: courtesy Master Builders Association of NSW.

chairman of the MATES in Construction Australia Board – working tirelessly for suicide prevention and mental health in the sector – and a very long list of people benefited from his generous mentorship.

One from that list, Dr Suhair Alkilani, senior lecturer in

Construction Management at the Faculty of Design, Architecture and Building (DAB) at the University of Technology Sydney paid tribute to Brian on LinkedIn, saying "I had the privilege of working closely with Brian on initiatives like the five-day working week and

work-life balance in the NSW Building and Construction Industry, where he treated this project like his own mission. His commitment to the well-being of workers was solid, and his ability to champion industry progress while supporting those around him was truly inspiring.

"Beyond his professional achievements, Brian was a kind and generous person who never missed an opportunity to celebrate the successes of others. I will always cherish our last conversation over Christmas when he called to congratulate me on my UTS DAB award, a gesture that speaks volumes about the leader and gentleman he was."

Our thoughts are with Brian's family, his wife Donna and children Amelia, Marcus and Mila as well as his friends and colleagues.

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Contact Campbell McInnes at campbellm@timberandforestrynews.com



Boss Logging approves the latest Komatsu PC300HW Xtreme

BOSS Logging recently expanded its operations into softwood plantation logging in the Bombala NSW region by securing a new contract with Forestry Corporation of NSW that commenced in January 2025.

This new operation further strengthens the company's presence in NSW, as they first moved into NSW hardwood operations some 14 years ago and have continued to grow at every opportunity. They currently operate three hardwood crews working in Bago Forest recovering fire damage, and Batemans Bay area and Bondo forests selective cut operations.

The expansion is a significant shift for Boss

Logging, which was founded by Matt Van Dam over 20 years ago. Matt, with a 35-year background in hardwood logging in Victoria, originally established the company in Bairnsdale to manage felling and cartage contracts with VicForests in the East Gippsland Highlands. However, with the closure of all native logging operations in Victoria, the company saw an opportunity to diversify and grow in NSW, leading to its expansion into softwood plantation logging.

For this new venture, Matt invested in a Timberpro TL775D, a machine suited for steep terrain. However, his passion for Komatsu excavators in hardwood

operations has led to a fleet that includes several PC270s and PC300s, for loading and felling operations.

Matt's most recent hardwood requirement for a new Komatsu excavator aligned perfectly with the release of KF's new Xtreme Series excavators, designed specifically for forestry applications.

Matt's latest Komatsu PC300HW / Southstar QS600, was one of the first Xtreme models to be introduced in Australia. It comes equipped with factory-designed high/wide undercarriage, special forestry booms, forestry ROPS/FOPS/OPS cabin, booms with forestry dimensions and auxiliary

cooling package.

In addition, Matt requested the optional IQAN electric control system, which optimises engine and hydraulic pump flows, significantly reducing fuel consumption compared to standard machines. At approximately 20 litres per hour, this system delivers substantial cost savings, a benefit that Matt is quick to highlight.

Brett Jones, Managing Director of Komatsu Forest P/L, explained that the close collaboration with Komatsu Ltd's Osaka factory over several years to develop the new Xtreme Series was exceptional.

Komatsu

PC300HW



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Seeing the forest and the trees

AFCA's Tim Lester writes exclusively for *T&F Enews* on getting forestry truths out.

As a former journalist and a bit of a science nerd I always appreciate the skill of taking a complex story and making it understandable for a general audience. So when I saw an article from The Conversation website being rerun in another timber publication, I sat down for a good read. Most of it was. (Click here to read.)

Dr John Hawkins, a senior lecturer at the University of Canberra, has written on the national ecosystem accounts, which were released last week and show how our ecosystems contribute to the economy and society.

For example, Hawkins says, "Australian ecosystems stored more than 34.5 billion tonnes of carbon" which brought "a \$43.2 billion benefit to Australia in the form of climate regulation".

Similarly, mangroves protect our coastlines, grasslands provide over \$40bn of feed for livestock, surface water keeps us alive and cool, the list goes on.

And then there was this: "Think of a logged forest. The value of the timber produced counts towards Australia's gross domestic product. But cutting trees down also produces a loss. For example, the forest is no longer there for the community to enjoy. And it no longer provides 'services' such as filtering

water and preventing soil erosion."

The lay reader is probably nodding along, while those of us in the timber industry might ask 'what the ...?'

To be fair to Dr Hawkins, he has degrees in political science and economics and would not be aware of the complexities of forest management. He is not actually passing judgement on the merits of the timber industry this is just a convenient example with which to make a point.

Let's be blunt. Timber harvesting does not equal loss of the forest! And management controls and strong environmental regulations in Australia ensure that any short-term environmental impacts are minimised.

Sadly, the environmental movement has long been using logging as a bogeyman to create fear and drive fundraising. The mere

and prone to catastrophic failure. Decking? From Southeast Asia if you don't mind. The list goes on and it doesn't make much sense.

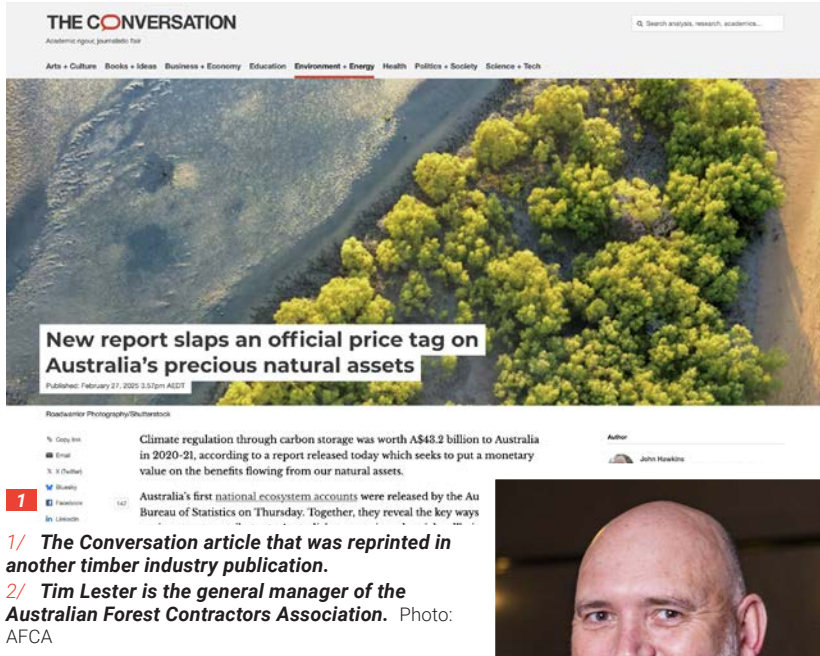
Compare regenerative forestry in perpetuity to the extractive methods required to produce steel and concrete, which are more carbon intensive at every point of production and which most certainly do not deliver an end result you can go back and harvest again in 30-70 years.

Or plastics derived from fossil fuels, which can accumulate in our food chains and end up in our bodies. Do we really think this is a better outcome?

Scratch the average forester, forestry worker or forest services business owner and you'll find someone deeply committed to the future health of the forest. We focus on the environment and sustainability because it is our future too, and of our kids and their kids.

The timber that is harvested locks up the carbon inside for the life of the product. Your local library holds knowledge and massive amounts of carbon in the building, furniture and books.

It would be ludicrous to suggest that industry does not have an impact on the environment – all human activity does. An environmental accounting process that helps us all better understand the inherent trade-offs in our choices would be useful to bring to the surface the things that we value most.



1/ The Conversation article that was reprinted in another timber industry publication.
2/ Tim Lester is the general manager of the Australian Forest Contractors Association. Photo: AFCA

existence of native timber harvesting is enough to produce headlines declaring the end of koalas, possums and, indeed, whole forests.

Handy for the bottom line but it's a devastating fallacy for the environment itself. It is also devastating for the communities that depend on the timber industry and its incredible value chain.

There's also a massive disconnect in the thinking of those who support the closure of native timber industry, and in what they think comes next.

Changing the source of a thing doesn't change demand for it. Power poles? Would you rather fibreglass, concrete or steel instead? Hardwood pallets? Make them out of plastic, so they are heavier, more slippery, not repairable

Tariffs and timber production

Trump is determined to go it alone on lumber.

THE Canadian timber sector is having a hell of a week. Trump's additional 25% tariffs on Canadian products came into play on Tuesday, and now the US Department of Commerce has issued a preliminary anti-dumping rate of 20.07%, up from 7.66% set three years ago, which is in addition to countervailing duties of 6.74% and the Canadian import tariffs on top.

Lumber imports from Canada have been called a possible 'threat to national security' by Trump, who blamed imports of fentanyl from Canada to the US for their imposition.

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau told a press conference, "The fact, established very clearly, [is] that Canada is not an issue in terms of source of illegal fentanyl into the United States."

He has since suggested the aim of this "dumb" trade war is to usher in the "complete collapse" of the

“CANADA IS NOT AN ISSUE IN TERMS OF SOURCE OF ILLEGAL FENTANYL INTO THE US



Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has called the trade war "dumb". Image: supplied

Canadian economy and make it easier for the United States to annex Canada.

Meanwhile, on Saturday, Trump issued an Executive Order titled Immediate Expansion of American Timber Production (click here for the full order).

It claims: "The United States has an abundance of timber resources that are more than adequate to meet our domestic timber production needs, but heavy-handed Federal policies have prevented full utilisation of these resources and made us reliant on foreign producers."

The order then goes on to limit restrictions on logging caused by tools such as the Tribal Forest Protection Act and Good Neighbor Authority, speed up approvals, exclude

logging from environmental approval concerns and remove or limit concerns regarding endangered species.

The order states: "All relevant agencies shall eliminate, to the maximum extent permissible by law, all undue delays within their respective

permitting processes related to timber production. Additionally, all relevant agencies shall take all necessary and appropriate steps consistent with applicable law to suspend, revise, or rescind all existing regulations, orders, guidance documents, policies, settlements, consent orders, and other agency actions that impose an undue burden on timber production."

Bad news for Canadians, other international timber exporters and American wildlife, and possibly worse news for the timber sector as a whole in our battle to live up to our sustainability credentials.

second helping please, with mixed species, mixed age class forests providing food and shelter for a variety of wildlife. Water filtering and sediment control? Absolutely, we use buffer zones to protect waterways before, during, and after harvest while the forest regenerates.

The conversations and discussions we can have as individuals and collectively are important to push back against the fallacy that the timber sector lacks value for this country. But most importantly when someone says the forest is no longer there, we can remind them our job is to make sure that it is.



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From P 16

The disservice here is a projection that forestry is an 'either/or' industry when really it is 'yes, and'.

Tourism? Sure, and how about we use some proceeds from sale of the timber to fund and maintain infrastructure. Biodiversity? A

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Weinig Hydromat 3000 Planer Line

Model Hydromat 3000,

Spindle arrangement B, R, L, T, B, T, B.

Basic Specifications Working width, minimum / maximum 20 - 230 mm Working width, minimum / maximum 10 - 160 mm Feed Speed 10 - 80 m / min

Spindle details -

Spindle 1, 1st Bottom, 15 kW (20 hp), Straight Jointer, Outboard Bearing -

Spindle 2, 1st Right, 11 kW (15 hp), Profile Jointer -

Spindle 3, 1st Left, 15 kW (20 hp), Profile Jointer -

Spindle 4, 1st Top, 22 kW (30 hp), Straight and Profile Jointer and Outboard Bearing -

Spindle 5, 2nd Bottom, 15 kW (20 hp), Straight and Profile Jointer, Outboard Bearing -

Spindle 6, 2nd Top, 22 kW (30 hp), Straight and Profile Jointer, Outboard Bearing -

Spindle 7, 3rd Bottom, 30 kW (40 hp), Straight and Profile Jointer, Outboard Bearing



The machine is prepared with 50 mm Hydro spindles, straight jointers on all spindles, and profile jointers on the left, right, both tops and last two bottoms. The first bottom is only fitted with a straight jointer at this time. The last bottom is also prepared for splitting, including special table plates for splitting and inserts plate for splitting. Because the machine is prepared for splitting it is also fitted with an anti-kick back device, which is moveable to the side when not splitting. This is to meet H&S requirements.

Contact: andrew@klc.co.nz or 64212889977

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