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ISSUE **680** | **October 21, 2021**

# timber & FORESTRY *e*news

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## Royal recognition for Tegan's forestry work

COVER STORY P5



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## Women in timber all dressed up and partying for a cause

The Women in Forestry & Timber Network raised close to \$10,000 at special charity event last Saturday to help combat domestic and family violence (see P. 8). Representing WFTN's Platinum Partner Big River Group are Natasha Southey, Kylie Bradley and Hasina Hoosain.

Big River began in the early 1900s as a family owned timber business.

The WFTN charity fund-raiser supported the Brisbane Domestic Violence Service, a dedicated 24/7 domestic and family violence crisis support service with a mission to create safer families.

## Stacey Gardiner takes on key communications role at HVP with focus on sector stewardship

HVP Plantations has appointed Stacey Gardiner as its external relations and communications manager to head up ongoing and future industry and government engagement.

With more than 20 years' experience across government and professional associations with a particular focus on policy, advocacy and stakeholder engagement, Ms Gardiner joined HVP Plantations with a mandate to drive industry and government

partnerships with an emphasis on sector stewardship, HVP Plantations CEO Stephen Ryan said.

Her extensive experience in agriculture, land use planning, forestry and sustainability, made her the ideal person to drive HVP Plantations' external relations and communications program.

"Stacey takes the reins on some of our most important endeavours at a critical time," Mr Ryan said.

"It's never been more important to work proactively with government and industry, forging relationships that can engage in land stewardship, climatic and environmental



**Stacey Gardiner... supporting climate reporting program.**

reporting and ESG policies."

Ms Gardiner said the new role was exciting in that it required strong connections to regional communities and a passion for creating

opportunities that contribute to their long-term viability.

"I'm a week into my role and already impressed by the amount the business does from fire prevention and management, community development, and in environmental stewardship, not only in its plantations but native estates conserved for the environment," Ms Gardiner said.

Ms Gardiner's initial projects will focus on supporting the development of HVP Plantations' climate statement and climate reporting program while developing closer ties with policy makers and sectoral leaders.

**“ENGAGING WITH GOVERNMENT AND INDUSTRY”**



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# Forest industries have the potential to deliver a win, win, win in climate fight

IN the lead up to international climate talks in Glasgow there is considerable debate about how Australia might more greatly contribute to the global fight against climate change.

A crackdown on the big emitters is a theme, along with recognition of carbon stored in farming practices.

But one of the most obvious tools seems to have fallen to the bottom of many politicians' kit bags. It's so obvious to those of us who work in Australia's forest industries that it leaves us scratching our heads as to why decision makers aren't recognising native and plantation forestry as part of the solution.

It's a no-brainer really. As trees grow, they suck in the carbon dioxide that we're working to reduce in the atmosphere. Then after years of growing when trees are harvested to create timber products for buildings, furniture or cardboard boxes, the carbon is then locked up in a useful and environmentally friendly product.

Australia's forest industries have the potential to deliver a win, win, win outcome from the climate crisis.

Australia is on track to experience major timber shortages in the coming decades if more production



## COMMENT



**ROSS HAMPTON**  
CEO, Australian Forest  
Products Association

trees aren't planted locally by 2030. We've seen ripples during the pandemic of what will happen if we don't act.

About 400,000 ha of new trees is needed to complement our existing two-million-hectare plantation estate if we are to avert a national timber shortage. Australia will be 250,000 house frames short of demand by 2035 if we don't get more trees planted.

Now here's the major kicker on the climate solution front. If we plant those 400,000 ha of new trees by 2030, that would offset the equivalent emissions produced by almost 50 million cars in a year by 2050! That's two and a half fold the number of cars in Australia or 200 million

result in greater carbon mitigation than forests that remain untouched.

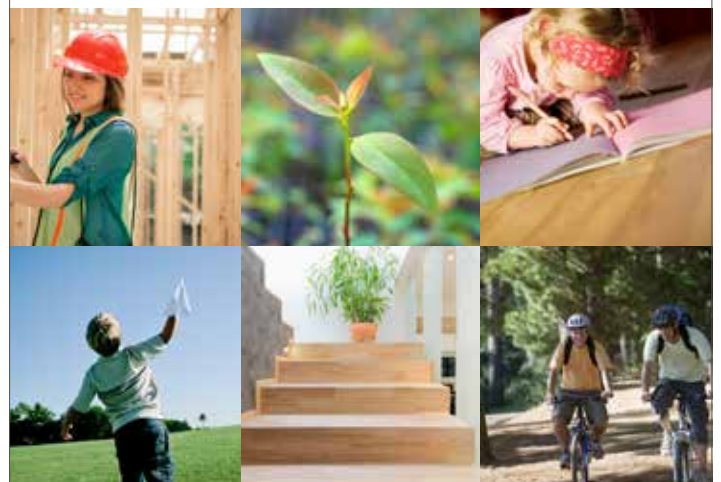
If we strengthen our forestry industry, not only will it become a stronger force to fight climate change, win one, it will also ensure we have the timber we need for future generations to build new homes, win two, all the while providing new jobs in a rapidly evolving industry, especially in regional areas where jobs are critical, win three.

There's your win, win, win Australia.

• **Page 10 : Trees and forests at the centre of zero carbon.**

• **Page 14: What happened to the billion trees program?**

## The united voice for Australia's forest industries



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**“ENSURING THE TIMBER WE NEED FOR OUR FUTURE GENERATIONS**



# New \$1.3m feasibility study looks at how best to improve R&D in the forest sector

A NEW \$1.3 million feasibility study including targeted stakeholder consultation is looking at how best to improve research and development in the forestry sector, including the option of a National Institute for Forest Products Innovation.

Assistant Minister for Forestry Jonno Duniam said the federal government was focused on building specialised forestry and forest products research and development capability.

"We're committed to using forest industry resources in smarter ways to boost innovation and competitiveness," Senator Duniam said.

"That's why, in partnership

with Iceni we're undertaking a feasibility study on how to improve forestry research and development," he said.

"This includes the possibility of an Australia wide NIFPI."

Senator Duniam said an important first step was targeted engagement with select stakeholders across the country, including industry representatives, research providers and the three existing regional



**Senator Jonno Duniam... federal government focused on building specialised forestry and forest products research and development capability.**

and territories."

The consultation paper can be accessed at [www.iceni.com.au/nifpi-consultation-paper/](http://www.iceni.com.au/nifpi-consultation-paper/)

**(See notice P. 16)**

Fast facts:

- In the 2021-22 Budget, the federal government provided \$1.3 million in funding for a feasibility study to expand the National Institute for Forest Products

NIFPI centres.

"I also encourage stakeholders to have their say on a consultation paper on options for future innovation and how to shape Australia's long term forestry research and development capacity," he said.

**“STAKEHOLDERS ENCOURAGED TO RESPOND TO CONSULTATION PAPER**

"I would like to acknowledge the work of the Australian Forest Products Association and University of Tasmania for their work in this area. The model they have proposed will inform the government's considerations and will be investigated as part of this process.

"This is another great example of preparing for the future, as we continue to deliver on the National Forest Industries Plan in partnership with industry and the states

Innovation.

• The study will consider current research and development framework, including the existing NIFPI centres, Forest and Wood Products Australia, CSIRO, state government entities, industry bodies and universities.

• The federal government has established regional NIFPIs in Mount Gambier, Launceston and Gippsland to drive jobs and growth by supporting smarter use of Australia's forests and maximising value of forest resources.

• The finalised study is scheduled to be provided to government in late 2021.



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# Record attendance at Launceston shows Australia's forestry future in great hands

## Presentation of William Jolly Medal and Prince of Wales Sustainability Award

AFTER more than 50 hours of program content delivered by 150 speakers to 453 delegates, Forestry Australia (formerly IFA-AFG) has celebrated the conclusion of its biggest ever conference.

Forestry Australia CEO Jacquie Martin thanked all delegates and speakers for contributing to the success of the event, which took place both online and in person from Country Club Tasmania in Launceston from October 11 to 14.

"The levels of interest and engagement, and quality of speakers and presentations at the conference shows the future of forestry in Australia is in great hands," Ms Martin said.

"The conference passed nine resolutions around key themes including: the Forestry Australia name change; measurable outcomes and key performance indicators for fire management; traditional owners and forests; diversity; forest and trees on farms;



Dr Jerry Leech



Gary Morgan



Tegan Brown

forests as a natural climate solution; natural capital accounting; and forestry education.

"Forestry Australia will now prepare the resolutions for wider public distribution, with full details of the resolutions to be released in the coming weeks.

"I'd like to thank all involved for contributing to such a successful conference and welcoming in our new identity Forestry Australia," Jacquie Martin said. "We're

already looking forward to welcoming even more forestry professionals to our 2022 symposium."

The final day of the conference also saw the presentation of Forestry Australia's highest and most prestigious honour for outstanding service to the forestry profession, the NW Jolly Medal.

Forestry Australia president Bob Gordon paid tribute to this year's Jolly Medal recipients – Dr Jerry Leech and Gary Morgan AM AFSM.

Named in honour of Norman William Jolly, who made an outstanding and pioneering contribution to the

development of professional forestry in Australia in the first half of the 20th century, the medal recognises the highest level of service to our profession in Australia.

"On behalf of Forestry Australia, I would like to acknowledge Dr Jerry Leech and Gary Morgan AM AFSM in continuing in Jolly's footsteps and making their own outstanding contributions to the profession," Mr Gordon said.

"Dr Jerry Leech has contributed to the foundation of the modern Australian plantation industry through his contributions to the measurement of forests, the design of yield regulation systems, development of innovative models of plantation growth and yield, development of the Australian standard for valuation of forests and mentoring and training of resource modelling and planning staff in Australia and internationally.

Cont P 6

150 SPEAKERS  
PRESENT TO  
453 DELEGATES



Royd Clan's House, entrant in the 2021 Australian Timber Design Awards – Australian certified timber category.

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From P 5

"Over a period of more than 40 years, Gary Morgan has made many significant contributions to the management of forests and forest fires at the state, national and international levels, through his distinguished and outstanding work as a forester, fire manager and fire science leader.

Mr Gordon also congratulated Tegan Brown, co-chair of the Future Foresters Initiative and a PhD candidate at the University of Melbourne, who was awarded the Prince of Wales Award for Sustainable Forestry.

**“DRYING TRENDS IN FOREST FLAMMABILITY RESPONSE TO CLIMATE CHANGE**



**Forestry Australia president Bob Gordon pays tribute to Dr Peter Volker who has retired as a director after 10 years on the board over the past two decades, including serving as president between 2005 and 2011.**

Tegan, who has a PhD Philosophy from the University of Melbourne was a policy officer with the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning where she

worked for almost eight years. She has excelled in forest science at both the Bachelors and Masters level and is now pursuing a doctorate in forest hydrology. She is also an

accredited general firefighter and has been involved in numerous planned burns and bushfire responses.

In 2019, Tegan received an Endeavour Leadership Award from the Australian government to undertake an international research exchange. Tegan worked with forest fire researchers from the US Forest Service's Rocky Mountain Research Station (Fire Lab) in Missoula, Montana, to understand seasonal dynamics in live fuel moisture content.

"This work will inform my PhD thesis into nonlinear drying trends in forest flammability in response to climate change," Tegan said.

**On the cover: Tegan Brown, who was presented with the Prince of Wales Award for Sustainable Forestry, has excelled in forest science and is now pursuing a doctorate in forest hydrology.**

## Hyne bushfire recovery optimisation in full swing

HYNE'S Tumbarumba optimisation project will provide the mill with a long future of sourcing logs from further afield with high freight costs – essential for efficiencies at the site.

Site manager Gary Evans recently hosted Justin Clancy MP Albury for an update on the project at Tumbarumba which is co-funded by the NSW government as part of the state's Bushfire Industry Recovery Package and includes various upgrades, new technology and efficiency gains throughout the mill.

"Most recently, as part of the site improvements with the support of the NSW government, we have installed and commissioned a new and upgraded quad roll log turner," Mr Evans said.

"In short, trees are natural

and usually not dead straight. This machine is the latest, high-speed, high precision log scan and log rotation system to help us process those logs in the most efficient way to get the highest recovery."

The unique equipment was purchased from USNR in Canada to complement the rest of the sawline and presents a unique opportunity to engage local suppliers to assist with the installation as opposed to flying in the Canadian suppliers with the current Covid overseas travel restrictions.

"Using local skills and trades saw about \$50,000 diverted to local suppliers



**Quad roll log turner being craned in through the roof at Hyne's Tumbarumba mill.**

including electrical, civil, hydraulics and fabrication from communities such as Gundagai, Albury, Wagga Wagga and Tumbarumba," Mr Evans said.

"We had to remove part of the mill roof to crane in the log turner which was also no mean feat, requiring two cranes, lots of planning and careful mid-air transfer to avoid a sprinkler main line,

work which was successfully undertaken by local crane suppliers and operators.

"The equipment was up and running immediately, fully functional and we are already seeing the performance improvements."

Hyne Timber is committed to its Tumbarumba operations and is pleased to be partnering with the NSW Government to accelerate investment to remain at the forefront of sawmilling technology.

Installation of the quad roll log turner sees Hyne Timber ahead of schedule in delivering its milestones for the NSW Bushfire Industry Recovery Package.

The total Tumbarumba optimisation project cost \$5,979,043 with \$2,989,522 support committed from the state government.

## OCTOBER

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

232 253.

## APRIL 2022

### NB. REVISED DATE

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

The course is fully booked

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

## JUNE 2022

### NB. REVISED DATE

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

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

## OCTOBER

**22-24: International Conference on Forest Biodiversity and Sustainability (ICFBS) – Dubrovnik, Croatia.** World Academy of Science, Engineering and Technology. For further information see: <https://waset.org/forest-biodiversity-and-sustainability-conference-in-october-2022-in-dubrovnik>

**26-29: Woodworking Minsk – Sports Complex, Pobeditelei 20/2 Minsk, Belarus.** International exhibition of woodworking and furniture production. For further information see: [www.tradefairdates.com/Woodworking-M3361/Minsk.html](http://www.tradefairdates.com/Woodworking-M3361/Minsk.html)

## OCTOBER-NOVEMBER

**31/10-12/11: 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties – Glasgow, UK.** The COP26 summit will bring parties together to accelerate action towards the goals of the Paris Agreement and the

UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. The UK is committed to working with all countries and joining forces with civil society, companies and people on the frontline of climate change to inspire climate action ahead of COP26.

## JANUARY 2022

**28-29: International Conference on Forest Resources Accounting and Economics – Australia World Academy of Science, Engineering and Technology, Sydney, Australia.** Forest industry accounting, methodological and issues and environmental accounting for forestry. For further information see; <https://waset.org/forest-resources-accounting-and-economics-conference-in-january-2022-in-sydney>

## MAY 2022

**23-24: International Forest Business Conference – Sheraton Sopot Hotel, Poland.** A two-day conference on

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

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# Women in industry dig deep to support victims of domestic violence and raise close to \$10,000

QUEENSLAND'S forest and timber industry came together last Saturday and said a resounding "NO" to domestic and family violence.

The Women in Forests & Timber Network's Queensland chapter, which has a proud history of community outreach, hosted the annual WFTN charity fund-raiser in support of Brisbane Domestic Violence Service, a dedicated 24/7 domestic and family violence crisis support service with a mission to create safer families.

It's been a difficult 18 months for the timber industry," said Sarah Porter Dix, a member of the WFTN executive committee.

"But while life is getting back to normal for us, those experiencing domestic

violence issues continue to be disproportionately affected by Covid-19 and rolling lockdowns," Sarah said.

"The most vulnerable members of our communities have also suffered through a 'shadow pandemic' whereby Covid has been weaponised by perpetrators as another means of coercive control.

Sarah said after being unable to host this event for the Brisbane Domestic Violence Service in 2020, it was so important that the

WFTN this year turned its attention to this cause.

Those in attendance heard the story of BDVS ambassador Jo Mason, who worked closely with many at the WFTN event during her time employed in the timber industry.

"Jo – now a pillar of strength – credits BDVS as

*Sarah Porter Dix, Timber Queensland and WFTN, Jenni Day, Versace Timber, and Casey Holmes, Dindas, who is accepting on behalf of Justin Lanyon, 5 Star Timbers, the winning bidder in the WFTN auction for a \$1270 jewellery prize and \$500 jewellery voucher donated by Brisbane-based Demarge Jewellery Design House.*

playing an integral role in getting her back to safety and stability," Sarah said. "Jo's story highlights the insidious nature of DFV ... you never know who at work or in your personal life might be suffering.

And so, industry dug deep to raise funds to ensure that BDVS could remain a safe haven for those who need one.

Through the generosity of sponsors, partners, auction bidders and attendees, more than \$9000 was raised on the day.

Sarah said that donations were continuing to flow in this week, and the committee is confident that WFTN will be able to award BDVS with a grand total of \$10,000 in donations.

**MISSION TO CREATE SAFER FAMILIES**



1/ Radmila Desic, WFTN, Rowena Giles, Terry Boschma, and Carolyn Tassin from Imagine Kit Homes, Aaron Davey and Vicky Bowen from Weathertex, and Jacinta Colley, VIDA Wood.

2/ Tristan Pecotich, Maddison Black, Glen Johns and Dorreen Wright from Tilling.

3/ Sarah and Dave Gover, AKD, and Shane Saunders, Tilling.







**1/ Belinda Cox and Jo Mason, BDVS, and Sarah Porter Dix and Radmila Desic, WFTN.**

**2/ Vera Dinic and Stuart Andrews, BSP Brisbane.**

**3/ Stuart Andrews, ESP, Brisbane, and Jenni Day, Versace.**

**4/ Belinda Cox, BDVS, Jacinta Colley, VIDA Wood, Jo Mason, BDVS ambassador, Kim Jones and Alicia Oelkers, TABMA, and Telia Pauchet, Timber Queensland.**

**5/ Dorreen Wright, Tilling, Fiona Luckey, Dindas, Debbie Payne, ITI, Carol Claffey, 5 Star Timbers, and Dee Atkinson, Wesbeam.**





First of a two-part series examining the role trees and forests could and should play as Australia seeks to develop a carbon reduction target ahead of the climate change summit in Glasgow from October 31 to November 12.

# Trees and forests should be at centre of zero-carbon at climate change talks

Sustainable harvesting in which select trees are felled and carefully removed at rates that mimic the natural turnover of a forest will help preserve biodiversity: David Attenborough

JOHN HALKETT

UNDER the pressure of a global spotlight ahead of the Glasgow climate change summit later this month, Australia is inching towards a 2050 net-zero carbon emissions target. Clearly, significant work remains to be done.

This will necessitate a radical move away from a dependency on fossil fuel energy, both coal and petroleum-based energy.

Obviously, bioenergy will have to become a large part of the solution to our net zero carbon emissions position with much greater focus on plants, particularly on trees.

Pleasingly, we are already seeing signs of this trend with paper straws at McDonalds, cardboard take-away cartons, paper not plastic bags, bio-plastics and engineered wood products replacing more high energy intensive alternatives on building and construction sites. The list goes on.

In this context it is disappointing that governments, both federal and state, are not placing much more emphasis on tree plantation establishment and



**1/ Prince William with Catherine, Duchess of Cambridge... on a continuing climate change mission.**

**2/ René Castro ... agriculture, forestry and land-use activities have the greatest potential for carbon sequestration.**

**3/ Sir David Attenborough ... trees and forests are at the centre of a move to sustainable renewable energy.**



the improved management of natural forest systems.

It is counter-intuitive as we move towards ambitious carbon emissions reductions that some state governments are using politically-inspired arguments to close down natural forest management activities that have been in operation for decades. Equally, there is an apparent lack of enthusiasm and support for industrial-scale tree plantings ... this when world authorities, including the United

on climate change, René Castro Salazar, FAO's climate, biodiversity, land and water department Assistant-Director General, concludes that agriculture, forestry and land-use activities ... "have the greatest potential for carbon sequestration and offer abatement

opportunities that are cheaper than can be found in the energy or transport sectors".

He writes that when wood cannot be reused, it can be deployed to produce energy through combustion. The energy produced from such combustion is effectively stored energy from the sun.

"As the amount of carbon dioxide emitted from the combustion process is no more than the amount previously stored, burning wood is carbon neutral. I think that makes sense," he said.

Prince William recently announced a new climate change documentary series featuring Sir David Attenborough as part of his

Nations and environmental ambassadors such as Prince William and Sir David Attenborough champion the necessity of placing trees and forests at the centre of a move to sustainable renewable energy and a net-zero carbon future.

In a Harvard project

**“AUSTRALIA UNDER THE GLOBAL SPOTLIGHT**

Cont P 10



From P 9

continuing climate change mission to encourage people to help save the planet as part of his Earthshot Prize program.

Prince William founded the program to personally do his bit against climate change. Awards are given to five winners each year whose solutions substantially help the environment.

"The prize will incentivise change and help to repair our planet over the next 10 years – a critical decade for Earth," he said. "This is the moment for hope, not fear. A better sustainable future is within reach we just have to grasp it."

In his 2020 book, *A Life on Our Planet: My Witness Statement and a Vision for the Future*, David Attenborough details his deep concerns about climate change and the lack of meaningful action. He believes humanity's impact on the climate is now truly global.

"Our blind assault on the planet is changing the very fundamentals of the living world," Sir David says. "This is now the status of our planet in the year 2020 ... we have replaced the wild with the tame. We regard



**Agriculture, forestry and land-use activities have the greatest potential for carbon sequestration.**

the earth as our planet run by humankind for humankind. There is little left for the rest of the living world."

He says the truly wild world – that non-human world – has gone. We have over-run the Earth ... that will bring about nothing less than the collapse of the living world the very thing that our civilisation relies on.

Sir David details that the latest in scientific understanding suggests the living world is on course to tip and collapse. Indeed, he argues it has already begun to do so, and is expected to continue with increasing speed, such that the effects of its decline will become

greater in scale and more impactful as they follow one after the other.

"Everything we have done and rely upon – all the services that the earth's environment has always provided us for free – could begin to falter or fail entirely."

In a conciliatory note, Sir David said there might still be time to make amends, to manage our impact, change the direction of our development and once again

**“STILL TIME FOR WORLD TO MAKE AMENDS**

become a species in harmony with nature.

"All we require is the will. The next few decades represent a final opportunity to build a stable home for ourselves and restore the rich, healthy, wonderful world that we inherited from distant ancestors. Our future on the planet, the only place as far as we know where life of

any kind exists, is at stake."

In support of sustainable forestry practices, Sir David writes: "Sustainable harvesting in which select trees are felled and carefully removed at rates that mimic the natural turnover of a forest, would be permitted, for this has been shown to preserve biodiversity."

• **John Halkett is a forester and a co-publisher of *Timber&Forestry enews*. His seventh book, *Planet of the Trees: The Human Race and its Climate Gamble*, published by Halstead Press, will be available in November.**



H3 H4 H5 H6

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# ForestrySA ranger takes Richard Stanton award for work in sustainable forestry and communities

A FORESTRY SA ranger stationed at Mount Gambier in the Green Triangle whose work has extended to native vegetation management and as a communicator in the region has won the coveted Richard Stanton Memorial Award for 2021.

Kieran Gosden's contribution to sustainable forest management and chain of custody systems were recognised at a presentation during the Responsible Wood AGM this week.

Nominated by Amie Power, coordinator, Workplace Health and Safety, Forest SA, Kieran has worked with the local community, businesses, schools, conservation groups and tourists to improve their engagement with the forest sector.

As a member of the Forestry SA Workplace Health



**Richard Stanton Award winner Kieran Gosden... contribution to sustainable forest management and chain of custody systems recognised.**

and Safety Committee, Kieran is an invaluable member of the Forestry SA family. Her 'can-do' community spirit and enthusiasm for sustainable forest management was recognised during a recent Responsible Wood audit conducted by Global Mark.

Through the establishment of biodiversity corridors, Kieran has joined with local communities and Responsible Wood-certified forest

managers, including HVP Plantations and OneFortyOne, and the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources, to link areas of isolated native forest with strips of revegetation.

Keiran's work has also extended to conservation groups such as Bird Life Australia to identify nesting areas in the native forest for the endangered red-tailed black cockatoo.

She was instrumental in the success of the award-winning Ghost Mushroom Lane, an initiative involving Responsible Wood-certified Forestry SA and OneFortyOne, acting as tour guide for 'a seasonal forest experience', drawing thousands of tourists to Mount Gambier

Four particular entrants in the 2021 Stanton Award, including one in New Zealand, were highly praised by the Responsible Wood judging committee and recognised by the presentation of certificates.

They are:

- Nadine Samaha of Level Architekture, nominated by Hyne Timber for her commitment to the use of certified timber.
- The Weatherex Team, nominated by Vanda Correia for a commitment to innovation in the use of sustainable timber products.
- Genevieve Early, nominated by Michael Smith for her research into native fungus in New Zealand.

**“KEEN INTEREST  
IN NATIVE  
VEGETATION**

## Standards underpin busy year for Responsible Wood

AN update on PEFC global initiatives was presented virtually by CEO Ben Gunneberg at the Responsible Wood AGM on Tuesday.

Presenters included Kellie Northwood, CEO of the Real Media Collective, who gave an overview of the Australian Love Paper Campaign and Gib Wettenhall, a recipient of the Responsible Wood Community Grants.

Responsible Wood chair Dr Hans Drielsma AM

spoke about the development of new standards, the roll out of community grants and the commitment to promote PEFC in export markets.

The AGM appointed TABMA CEO David Little as a director from the supply chain by ballot and thanked retiring directors Patrizia Torelli, CEO, Australasian Furnishing Association, and



1



2

**1/ Ben Gunneberg... PEFC global update.  
2/ David Little ... appointed a director of Responsible Wood.**

Judy Alexander, managing director of Foresa Consulting for their service.

Independent chair Dr Hans Drielsma was re-elected for a new term following a special resolution by members.

Continuing as directors

on the board are Mark Thomson, architect, Eco-Effective Solutions, Craig Smith, national divisional assistant secretary, CFMMEU (manufacturing division), Katie Fowden, strategic relations manager, Hyne Timber, Stuart West, CEO, Forest Products Commission WA. and Dr Tony Bartlett, managing director of Bartlett Forestry Consulting.





# 2021 GALA EVENT POSTPONED TO EARLY 2022

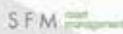
With the health and safety of our attendees in mind, the GTTIA committee have made the decision to postpone the awards gala evening.

The event will be rescheduled to early 2022 and we are looking forward to celebrating the award winners and showcasing the industry's innovative, sustainable, and environmentally friendly practices within the region.

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GREEN TRIANGLE  
TIMBER INDUSTRY AWARDS

# What happened to the billion trees plan?

## Littleproud has little appetite for forest growth policy

REMEMBER if you can that last month I was enthusiastic about the investment acquisition of plantation forest in the Green Triangle area by US fund manager Global Forest Partners.

I thought then, and still do, this was an encouraging sign for the industry as it moves forward from the 2019-2020 bushfires, deals with the current building and construction frenzy and seemingly insatiable demand for building products, including timber.

This frenzy has, as we know, been a consequence of government employment and other economic stimulus measures.

I did say that I thought this vote of confidence in the future of the forest industry and demand for timber might lead to a renewed interest and activity on the tree planting front.

But ... despite the fact that the federal government was the sponsor of much of this stimulus, there seems to be little appetite among ministers to support tree planting policies and investment.

I don't normally watch question time in the House of Representatives – I would rather watch paint dry ... much more exciting. However, I had a few days at home, and on Thursday, August 12, had the goggle-box on and heard Mayo MP Rebekha Sharkie ask Agricultural Minister David Littleproud a question about progress on



**Rebekah Sharkie... where are the trees?**



the commonwealth's billion trees program. How many trees, she asked, had been planted under the billion trees campaign? Fair question. (We believe it's just 1% of the target!)

As is usual during federal parliament question time the minister didn't answer the question and went off on another tangent. Embarrassed you would have thought when the answer is zero or close to it.

The lack of an answer to a legitimate question is concerning. In Littleproud's commentary on the IPCC

timber, fibre or energy from the forest, will generate the largest sustained mitigation benefit".

Littleproud's performance, or should I say lack of it, underscores why the forest industry is disenchanted with the federal government's lack of enthusiasm and support for the industry.

And it's doubly surprising when the current building and construction activity is in large part motivated by government employment incentives. Equally, it is clear that pushing along the demand side of the building equation was done with insufficient regard to supply-side issues. The now severe shortages of timber products are slowing building and construction activity. You would have thought the federal government would see the wisdom in promoting tree planting to strengthen the supply-side in the future, but unfortunately that doesn't seem to be the case.

What, we wonder, is Jonathan Duniam's take on this? He is the federal minister responsible for forestry.

All of us in the industry – here at the pointy end of log harvesting, in board rooms around the country and everywhere else – need to collaboratively keep pushing this point. In that regard, the advocacy of the Australian Forest Products Association in promoting these initiatives deserves wide support.

Timber&Forestry enews will continue to play its part.

Keep up the fight.

Catch you next month.

**Cheryl**

### TRUNK LINES



**With CHERYL FORREST**

report on climate change he gave no mention of forestry or the one billion trees plan. This is surprising and disappointing when the IPCC has previously stated: "A sustainable forest management strategy aimed at maintaining or increasing forest carbon stocks, while producing an annual sustained yield of

**“MINISTER DODGED THE QUESTION”**



# The MARKET Leader...



## Komatsu 875 & 895

Komatsu Forest have maintained a very strong market position with their two most popular forwarders being the Komatsu 875 (16 tonne) which really compliments the 895 (20 tonne).

These two current models have been further refined to meet expectations and to cover all the contractors' extraction requirements with the latest developments in these key areas.

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THE youngest rower to attempt a Pacific crossing from South America to Australia recently visited HQPlantations' Araucaria plantation at Blackbutt in the South Burnett to learn more about the source of the timber for his ocean-going rowboat.

From next January, Tom Robinson will spend nine months at sea in a timber boat he designed himself rowing solo from Peru back to the Brisbane River where he built his boat named Maiwar by hand.

The young adventurer expects it will take up to nine months at sea to cover the 14,800 km journey. He plans to make landfall along the way to resupply and explore the cultures of the Pacific, including Tonga, the Cook Islands and Tahiti.

The primary timber used in the vessel's construction, donated by Austral Plywoods, is plantation Araucaria grown by HQPlantations. Commonly known as hoop pine, Araucaria is one of the few endemic Australian rainforest species that has been successfully domesticated for sustainable timber production.

HQPlantations is one of 28 forests certified under AS 4708-Sustainable Forest Management. This standard is used by forest growers to make Responsible Wood



and PEFC claims on forest products and demonstrate their commitment to sustainable forest management.

Select Araucaria trees are pruned to provide a highly desirable, aesthetically pleasing, knot-free, high-strength timber that is peeled and laminated into a superior AAA marine ply product by Austral Plywoods.

Araucaria is the preferred species based on density, bending strength, impact resistance and surface finishing characteristics. These qualities and the lightweight nature of marine ply were important to Tom, along with knowing the timber came from a renewable plantation timber source.

Tom was delighted when

contacted by HQPlantations to invite him and his Austral Plywoods sponsor Stuart Matthews to visit the recently replanted compartment his timber came from and learn about HQPlantations' internationally recognised sustainable plantation forest management practice.

The 7.3 m long, 1.8 m wide vessel, designed by Tom and built by hand, is based on the traditional lines of old whaleboats that frequented the Pacific in the 19th and 20th centuries.

After six months and 1000 hours of planning, designing and building, Maiwar was christened and launched on the Brisbane River in July.

**“ARAUCARIA WAS THE PREFERRED SPECIES**

Tom has named his rowboat after the local Aboriginal name for river and hopes it will serve to guide him home once his voyage begins.

Now comes the real test as Tom commences sea trials and capsizing tests in the waters between north Brisbane and Moreton Island and the Sandy Straits to assess Maiwar's sea

worthiness and make any necessary tweaks for comfort and performance before shipping the vessel to Peru.

HQPlantations and Responsible Wood are delighted to provide Tom with a Garmin InReach Mini Marine Bundle and a 12-month Expedition subscription to provide him with two-way satellite communication capability and tracking features to support a safe voyage.

Anyone interested in learning more about Tom's journey are invited to visit his website [www.tomrobinsonboats.com](http://www.tomrobinsonboats.com).

You can also see a video of Tom and Stuart Matthews chatting in the Blackbutt plantation forest at [www.hqplantations.com.au/our-news/stories](http://www.hqplantations.com.au/our-news/stories).

ICENI



**Have your say here on the National Institute for Forest Products Innovation Feasibility Study**





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# Qld forestry hubs team gains momentum

FOLLOWING the announcement last week of Hulton King as the regional forestry hub manager in North Queensland, we can confirm Mr King will be based in Cairns rather than Brisbane (as previously reported).

In addition, Timber Queensland has commissioned the services of Mihai Daian as a part-time technical adviser for the North Queensland and South and Central Queensland hubs.

Mihai has extensive consulting experience in economics, forestry and wood products both domestically and internationally. He will work out of Brisbane in the part-time role previously undertaken by Mark Diedrichs, who is now working with AKD

as fibre supply manager for New South Wales and Queensland.

"We have greatly appreciated the contributions from Mark during the early development of relevant priorities and scope of works," Timber Queensland CEO Mick Stephens said. "We look forward to continuing to work with him via his new role with AKD."

Mr Stephens also welcomed Mihai Daian to the Queensland hub implementation team.

"Mihai will provide technical assistance for the hub managers and regional steering committees, particularly in new project development," Mr Stephens said.

Details of projects approved by the hubs will be detailed at



**Mihai Daian... technical assistance on new hubs project development.**

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

Stakeholders interested in keeping up-to-date with the work achieved for both the North Queensland and South and Central Queensland Queensland's regional forestry hubs and be notified of relevant workshops and events are encouraged to visit the website and register for 'Hub Update's'.

Assistant Minister for Forestry Senator Jonno Duniam said regional forestry hubs would support Queensland's vital forestry industry to drive new investment and create new jobs.

"All industry stakeholders, including local communities, growers, harvesting and transport operators and mills, will be working together to unlock new opportunities and address the issues for forestry in each region," Senator Duniam said.

"The two new hubs will not only improve the productivity and efficiency of the Queensland forestry sector, they will lead to new opportunities for investment and job creation which is vital to supporting each region and our regional economy."

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# The science is settled: ‘unexpected’ research outcomes for koalas, native forest harvesting

THE NSW north coast forestry koala habitat protection practices are working well, says Timber NSW general manager Maree McCaskill.

“Latest research from the Natural Resources Commission has settled beyond all doubt that koalas are safe and sound living and traversing the hardwood forests where highly regulated harvesting occurs,” Ms McCaskill said.

The research, conducted over three years, was released by the natural resource commissioner and NSW chief scientist Professor Hugh Durrant-Whyte.

“Koala density was higher than anticipated in the surveyed forests and was not reduced by selective harvesting,” Professor Durrant-Whyte said.

Maree McCaskill said this very significant finding totally vindicated the skilful ability



**Hang in there, fella... forestry koala habitat protection practices are working well.**

of the forest managers to care for the land under their responsibility and protect koalas.

“Not only do koalas successfully coexist with selective forest harvesting but the research found no difference in koala density between national parks and the state forest harvest areas on the North Coast,” she said.

“That finding will upset the eco-warriors but will not surprise the forest industry,” Ms McCaskill said enormous care and expertise was exercised by NSW forest ecologists and they deserved

**“FINDINGS WILL UPSET THE ECO-WARRIORS”**

credit for the role they played.

“The industry rarely agrees with the NRC and its reports but on this occasion, we gave it a tick,” she said.

“Many Timber NSW members live in close proximity to these magnificent north coast forests and love them. It is such great news that there is now scientific proof that koala populations safely live and traverse in working forests.

“That is exactly what our members tell us they observe in their local forests and have done so for generations.”

The research included tracking GPS-collared koalas. Even at old intensively harvested sites (which pre-dated modern selective harvesting practices) koalas were present. Koalas were found to be using the full range of the available habitats five to 10 years post-harvest, including regenerating forest.

## Matt De Jongh appointed AFPA policy manager

SKILLED in forest policy, Matt De Jongh has been appointed AFPA policy manager and growers chamber manager starting on November 1.

Mr De Jongh assisted in writing the commonwealth's Billion Trees Plan during his time working in forestry policy within government. He is also a forestry graduate who worked in plantations and native forestry for 11 years early in his career.

“Matt’s knowledge from working in DAWE, operational and policy experience, and passion for the forestry industry makes him a

fantastic fit for the role,” AFPA CEO Ross Hampton said.

Mr De Jongh previously worked with the Natural Resources Commission and was with the Forestry Corporation of NSW full-time from 1999 to 2009.

“Growing up in Zimbabwe as a child, I developed a passion for the environment and promoting sustainable forest management and the many associated environmental, social and economic benefits,” Mr De Jongh said.

“I have worked in both



**Matt De Jongh... good working knowledge of how policy decisions can impact communities.**

operational and policy roles particularly in regional and rural communities. Therefore

I have developed a good working knowledge of how policy decisions can impact communities,” he said.

“This has often involved building and maintaining strong relationships with a diverse range of stakeholders.”

The AFPA Growers’ Chamber recently hired Amanda Bell as the first ever national forest industry safety manager. She will be assisting the chamber as it works towards improved health, safety and wellbeing outcomes within the forest growing industry.

# Getting energised with the Eclipse hybrid

ELECTRIC vehicles are everywhere ... on roads, pavements, in parks under bridges and over bridges.

We're talking about e-scooters and e-bikes the new curse on our over-crowded motorways that will zip in front of you outside an IGA.

Driving down the newly-upgraded Kingsford Smith Drive alongside the Brisbane River, with six lanes now open to traffic at 60km/hour, we slowed at a set of lights ... and there he was, slipping past us on his e-scooter resplendent in thongs, T-shirt, back-to-front cap and a mobile glued to his ear.

A US study this year showed deaths and injuries for each million rides are higher on e-scooters than in cars and motorbikes. Injuries due to electric scooters are almost 180-200 times higher compared to automobile accidents. And that's not necessarily the galoots driving them.

I'm a pedestrian ... get me out of here!

This we did in the civilised Mitsubishi Eclipse cross PHEV plug-in hybrid SUV that took us along the quiet and beautiful Scenic Rim down to



*The civilised Mitsubishi Eclipse cross hybrid SUV comes to rest at a horse and aquaculture farm in the Scenic Rim.*

the rural town of Canungra, 85 km south of the city.

We were confident ... the Eclipse hybrid can travel 55 km on battery power alone before the petrol engine kicks in, providing a maximum combined driving range in excess of 500 km, eliminating the range anxiety that plagues many electric vehicles.

This Eclipse plug-in is also capable of generating its own power when fuelled – it's now a short-term 'generator on wheels' in instances when power fails such as in natural disasters.

Certain functions can also be controlled via a smartphone app allowing

drivers to plan and activate battery charging remotely, to take advantage of off-peak electricity tariffs.

There are remote pre-heating or pre-cooling mode functions, as well as a system status check indicating if, for example, the doors or tailgate are open or the headlamps are on.

Mitsubishi Australia says the vehicle can also serve as a rechargeable battery that powers an entire household with its stored energy.

**“REMOTE  
PRE-HEATING,  
PRE-COOLING  
MODES**

The hybrid is powered by a 2.4-litre petrol engine (94 kW/199 Nm), which is backed by two electric motors – 60 kW/137 Nm driving the front axles and 70 kW/195 Nm driving the rear.

A 13.8 kWh battery takes up to seven hours to recharge from empty using a 10 amp household power point.

In hybrid mode above 70 km/h, the Eclipse operates like a traditional hybrid – the petrol engine drives the front wheels in tandem with the front electric motor and the rear electric motor drives the rear wheels. Simple.

Standard equipment across the Eclipse Cross range is plentiful such as 18-in. alloy wheels, an 8-in. infotainment touchscreen with Apple CarPlay and Android Auto compatibility, DAB+ radio, LED daytime running lights, climate control, a rear-view camera, a rear-mounted roof spoiler, autonomous emergency braking and lane departure warning.

Listed at \$46,490 plus on-road costs, it has a fuel efficiency rating of 1.9 L/100 km and a CO2 efficiency of 43 g/km.

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## HEAD OFFICE

Timber & Forestry e-news  
PO Box 69, Potts Point, NSW 1335,  
Australia  
Phone | +61 (0) 417 421 187

## PUBLISHERS

John Halkett | +61 (0) 417 421 187  
johnh@timberandforestryenews.com  
Dennis Neilson | +64 (0) 7 349 2764  
dennison@timberandforestryenews.com

## MANAGING EDITOR

Jim Bowden | +61 (0) 401 312 087  
cancon@bigpond.net.au  
PO Box 330, Hamilton Central QLD  
4007, Australia

## ADVERTISING

John Halkett | +61 (0) 417 421 187  
johnh@timberandforestryenews.com  
advertising@timberandforestryenews.com

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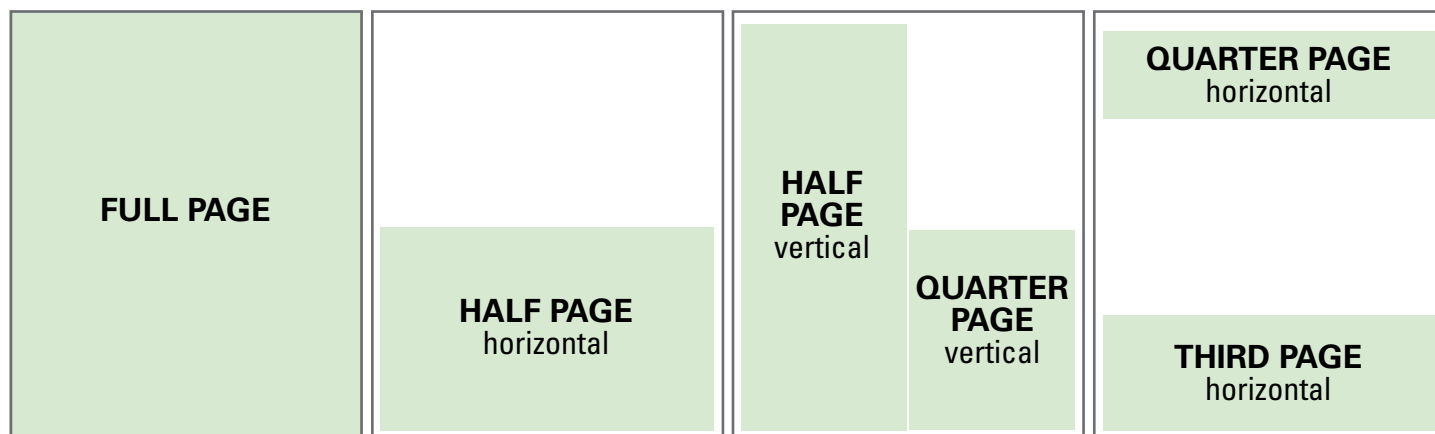
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