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COVER STORY P12



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Timber Queensland takes to airwaves to drive home a message on native forests

QUEENSLAND'S timber industry has gone to the airwaves "to get on the front foot" of barriers and opportunities for growing the native forest sector.

A radio campaign this month by Timber Queensland highlights a number of critical issues affecting the native hardwood industry. The campaign includes two 30-second messages over several days a week this month on the popular Brisbane station 4BC as well as syndicated regional stations across the state.

The first message highlights concerns raised by Timber Queensland over a lack of action on native log export regulatory compliance, with the second focusing on the critical importance of native forest resource security for the state's hardwood industry.

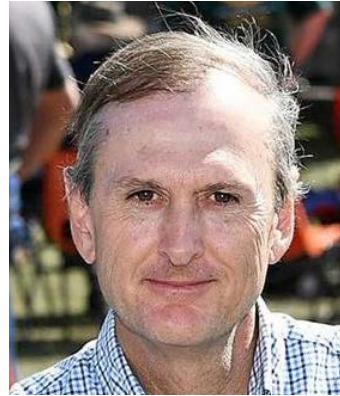
“OPPORTUNITY TO GET ON THE FRONT FOOT

CEO Mick Stephens said the campaign was an opportunity to get on the front foot and highlight the barriers and opportunities for growing the native forest sector to the broader public as well as policy makers.

"We were really pleased with the creativity and production values of the two messages. Brisbane based agency Coo'ee did a wonderful job distilling some quite complex issues into some direct and simple messaging," Mr Stephens said.

The first message simulates a breaking-news item around the industry being "bootlegged by lumber pirates targeting log exports", and the call for more action on regulatory compliance.

The second message, that will run later this month, centres upon two carpenters on a busy worksite discussing the wide availability of sustainably managed native forest land in Queensland and the need for native hardwood



Mick Stephens... highlighting the barriers and opportunities for growing the native forest sector.

products such as flooring, decking and cladding to support the building industry.

"From a native forest policy perspective, Timber Queensland is participating on the newly announced Native Timber Advisory Panel which will be meeting again in August," Mr Stephens said.

"The task of this panel is to investigate and advise the state government on long-term native hardwood supply options.

"Regarding the native log exports issue, I am also pleased to note that after

sustained lobbying and advocacy we are making some progress toward a government recognition of the problem.

"In recent correspondence received from the federal Agriculture Minister David Littleproud and Assistant Minister for Forestry Jonno Duniam, they indicated that federal officials were tasked with meeting relevant state-based officials to discuss the issues raised and to take any identified actions to address them as appropriate," Mr Stephens said.

This commitment was backed up with action last week when Timber Queensland briefed a joint meeting of federal and state officials on the issue of native log exports regulatory compliance.

"While we believe there is some way to go before there is an adequate compliance and auditing regime across the two levels of government for Queensland, this is an important first step," Mr Stephens said.



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Crunch time for supply: housing grows at a faster pace than the global average

MORE than 94% of US builders have reported a shortage of framing timbers, according to the peak housing industry body – a scenario reflected across the globe and no more evident than in Australia.

The supply shortfall in Australia comes at a time when capital city residential housing markets are growing at a faster pace than the global average.

International real estate firm Knight Frank says housing demand was more noticeable in smaller cities because of strong interstate migration trends away from densely populated Sydney and Melbourne.

Many first-home buyers are in a better position to buy given the relative value compared to where they were previously living.

“WOOD FRAMES DOMINATE THE MARKET FOR CONSTRUCTION

Global housing prices are now rising at their fastest rate since 2007, with property buyers around the world taking full advantage of Covid-induced border restrictions and record low interest rates.

A National Association of House Builders survey in the US shows wood framing remains the dominant construction method for single-family homes; few



A national survey in the US shows wood framing remains the dominant construction method for single-family homes

builders are reporting a switch, or inclination to switch, away from traditional wood framing, which accounts for 91% of new homes completed in 2020.

Lumber prices have been dropping over the past two months, giving weight to the Central Bank's argument that pandemic price spikes for many products are likely to be temporary. Prices may have fallen, but they are still elevated, creating new headaches for the critical North American housing sector. And companies in the lumber industry are wrestling with a new pandemic problem – a shortage of workers.

The supply shock that sent lumber prices to record levels this year did not come from a shortage of trees. The price of raw timber has barely budged. Instead, the lumber crunch was centered on sawmills, which cut round timber into square boards.

"You can think of us as the grain mill in the ecosystem of the timber industry," says Ross Stock, a third-generation

shut down, both for health reasons and because they assumed demand for lumber would plummet.

Instead, demand took off. Stuck at home, Americans in large numbers began adding decks, repairing fences and even building treehouses. Same goes for Aussie DIYers.

"In Australia, however, we will continue to see an increasing reliance on imports, in one form or another, for at least the next two decades," says the Australian Timber Importers Federation. General

sawmill operator at Western Cascade Industries in Oregon.

In the early months of the pandemic, many sawmills

Cont P 4

1 SEPTEMBER 2021

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From P 3

manager John Halkett says there is no great resource of global timber products to suddenly ship to Australia.

He said that because the market sizes were different to Europe, and considering the demands around compliance in Australia, many importers found the Australian market was pretty tight.

“Bushfires savaged something like 40% of the domestic plantation resource, and the establishment of new plantations has stalled in Australia over the last decade, so we’re 20 years away from having a net resource available,” Mr Halkett said.

“RUSSIA, IN PARTICULAR, OFFERS AN OPPORTUNITY

“From an import point of view, it needs to be acknowledged that product has to be compliant with the Australian building code and must comply with phytosanitary regulations and illegal logging requirements.

“And that’s been a challenge in relation to some new sources of structural timber imports from parts of the northern hemisphere.

“One of the things that we have done productively as importers is to try and develop new sources of supply for structural products that comply with the MGP 10 requirements. And that means sourcing products from the natural forests of North America and from Europe.

“But the reality is that price increases have been volatile, certainly in the northern hemisphere. We’ve seen log prices in Europe doubled to



ATIF general manager John Halkett checks out possible additional structural softwood supplies for Australia during a visit to Vancouver, Canada, last year.

\$A160/cub m at roadside and these prices are likely to continue rising.

“There is also the problem of a world-wide shortage of shipping containers which has caused costs and port charges in Australia to double between 2019 and 2020.”

ATIF has been talking to a number of prospective northern hemisphere

suppliers.

“We’re also talking to federal ministers and to officials about mechanisms that may be considered to improve the prospect of increasing the volumes of timber imported from the northern hemisphere,” Mr Halkett said.

“Those discussions have included countries such as Sweden, Lithuania, and Russia and from Canada. Russia in particular offers an opportunity.

“Russia has announced a ban on log exports from 2022 from next year and much of that product will be processed domestically.

“That should provide an opportunity to increase the volumes of some product coming into Australia, so certainly we are talking to the Russians.”



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Massive timber boardwalk ring circles Japan’s World Expo site

WORK is progressing well in preparation for the construction of the 2025 World Expo site on Osaka’s Yumeshima Island.



Artist’s rendering shows the proposed venue for the Osaka-Kansai Japan Expo 2025.

The Osaka Federation of All Wood Industries, of which Canada Wood Japan is an active member, is working with expo organisers to develop a massive wooden boardwalk ring with a diameter of 700 m and a circumference of 2.2 km. The boardwalk will measure 30 m in width and would be

elevated up to 10-12 m in some sections.

Following the Expo, the timber will be re-cycled as structural members in public infrastructure projects and parks.

Final construction plans for the Osaka 2025 Expo are expected to complete within this fiscal year.

New Forests partnership supports role land use plays in climate change target

INTERNATIONAL sustainable forestry investment manager New Forests Pty Ltd has joined the Principles for Responsible Investment's (PRI) Inevitable Policy Response (IPR) program as a strategic partner.

New Forests is the first Australian asset manager to be associated with the IPR and will bring significant global investment experience to support the IPR in addressing the role of land use in mitigating climate change.

The company joins six other major financial institutions announced in London as new strategic partners.

Managing director at New Forests Radha Kuppall said IPR was focused on how climate-positive land use and nature-based climate solutions, alongside clean energy, would enable the transition to a sustainable future.

"New Forests can lend its international expertise in sustainable forestry investment, carbon markets, and conservation finance in



Radha Kuppall... New Forests can lend its international expertise in sustainable forestry investment.



David Brand... supporting United Nations Sustainable Development Goals in the emerging circular bio-economy.

helping to inform the IPR on how the sustainable land use transition may unfold toward net zero," Ms Kuppall said.

IPR seeks to provide investors with a forward assessment of acceleration in global policy on climate, including realistic input to and output from, the energy and land use climate transition. The IPR engages deeply with asset owners and managers, with 178 investors using IPR to inform their reporting under the Task Force on Climate-Related Financial Disclosures.

New Forests and its

strategic partners will provide support to IPR's program, including the 2021 Forecast Policy Update reflecting expected policy accelerations, particularly up to 2025 and 2030.

In a March update, the IPR forecasted that Australia will announce a net zero target by 2023 and put in place policies to reduce emissions from the

agricultural sector by 2025.

New Forests manages more than 500,000 ha of plantation forests, conservation areas, agriculture, and carbon projects across Australia and 1 million ha of investments globally.

The company says investors have a significant opportunity to invest in sustainable land use transition.

CEO David Brand says New Forests can lend its international expertise in sustainable forestry investment and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, including conservation and restoration of ecosystems, sustainable management of forestry and agriculture, and the use of sustainable, renewable materials in the emerging circular bio-economy.

New Forests manages about \$US4.5 billion in funds across Australia, New Zealand, southeast Asia, and the US on behalf of a range of institutional investment clients.

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Timberlink to build \$12m wood-plastic composite production plant at Bell Bay

Ambitious project will upcycle plastic waste and plantation sawmill residues

LEADING timber product manufacturer Timberlink will use a \$5.8 million joint federal and state grant to support building a \$12 million bio-composite plant at Bell Bay in northern Tasmania.

The grant was announced by federal Minister for the Environment Sussan Ley, Tasmanian Minister for Environment Roger Jaensch and Bass MP Bridget Archer.

The grant was awarded from the Tasmanian Recycling Modernisation Fund (Plastics) Grants Program.

The bio-composite plant will produce wood plastic composites that will upcycle plastic waste and plantation timber mill residues, producing decking and screening for commercial and residential applications.

Timberlink intends to source the recycled HDPE (a type of plastic) for the core of the product from Tasmania, utilising existing industry capability and ensuring that the feedstock for the plant where possible is a "Tasmanian on-island solution" with products to be marketed in Tasmania and the mainland.



1



2

1/ **Announcing the wood-plastics project at Bell Bay... Timberlink EGM sales, marketing and Corporate Affairs David Oliver with Member for Bass Bridget Archer, and Tasmanian Minister for Environment Roger Jaensch.**

2/ **The wood plastic composite market is projected to reach \$US5.74 billion this year.**

Timberlink's executive general manager marketing and corporate affairs David Oliver said at full production the project will divert HDPE plastic from landfill at an equivalent to an about 83% increase over current HDPE recycled in Tasmania based on FY19 levels.

The project is shovel

ready and will commence immediately.

Timberlink intends to have the project completed and in production by December 2022. The project significantly

PROJECT TO BE COMPLETED BY DECEMBER 2022

enhances Australia's sovereign capability to manufacture this type of product in the most environmentally friendly way,

Sussan Ley said the project would "help to protect the environment, boost the economy and create jobs".

The energy to power the plant will be sourced from Tasmanian Hydro Power and a solar farm located

on the roof of the new facility. Rainwater tanks will be installed to harvest rainwater and for cooling in the manufacturing process.

The wood plastics composite plant will create 20 new jobs during the construction phase and 11 at full production.

The wood plastic composite market is projected to reach \$US5.74

billion this year, growing at an annual growth rate of 12.2% from 2020 to 2026.

The market is driven by high availability of non-utilised plastic and wood wastes, rising demand for sustainable construction materials, and stringent regulations on the use of chemicals in building materials.



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JULY

21: Timber Queensland technical webinar – ONLINE. FREE EVENT - 11 am-12.10 pm. 'Make the Connection' is a must-attend for building professionals who will learn the uses and limitations of working with traditional lightweight metal connectors, gain practical advice for timber framing tie-down and hear about new product innovations from timber connection. Participants will learn the uses and limitations of working with traditional lightweight metal connectors, gain practical advice for timber framing tie-down and hear about new product innovations from timber connection manufacturers. Register at TimberQueensland.com.au/Events

SEPTEMBER

1: Australian Forest Products Association Gala Dinner and Symposium – Parliament House, Canberra, ACT. For further information see: www.ausfpa.com.au

10: Tasmanian Timber Awards – Launceston, TAS. Celebration of excellence and best practice within the state's timber industry. Winners announced at a gala dinner at Albert Hall. Contacts: Phone 0439 336 511. Email naomi.will@tffpn.com.au. Visit www.tffpn.com.au

OCTOBER

11-14: IFA/AFG national conference 'Your Forests, Our Future' – Country Club Tasmania, Launceston, TAS, Australia. Open to forest scientists, forestry professionals and forest growers. Call for abstracts and sponsorship opportunities

will be released in coming months. Contact Institute of Foresters of Australia. Visit www.forestry.org.au or phone (03) 9695 8940.

NOVEMBER

10-13: AUSTimber 2021 – Gormandale in eastern Victoria between Yarram and Traralgon. Nov. 10: Field trips. Nov. 11: Field trips (site visits by invitation). Welcome dinner. Nov. 12: Show day (9 am - 5 pm). Nov. 13: Show day (9 am - 3 pm). Contact Dionne Olsen on +61 429 202 929 or email austimber2020@afca.asn.au

14-19: 2021 Gottstein Trust Understanding Wood Science Course – Albury, NSW. November 14-15 based in Albury with field trips to northern Victoria. November 16-19: Guest lectures and field trip, then relocate by coach

to Canberra for three days including a laboratory day and guest lectures at ANU, and a formal course dinner celebrating 50th Anniversary of the trust. Detailed information, registration and the draft program: <https://gottsteintrust.org/course/wood-science-courses/>

16-17: Frame Australia Timber Offsite Construction – Crown Promenade Melbourne, VIC. New global 'hybrid' format will retain avital face to face element. 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

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JULY

23-26: The International Forest Festival – Feanedock National Forest, Leicestershire. UK. Music, forests, art and ideas. For further information see: <https://timberfestival.org.uk/>

AUGUST

9-12: World Conference on Timber Engineering – Santiago, Chile. Uruguay XXI will host as part of its strategy to promote investments in the forestry and wood sector. This is the first time this event is held in South America and will be hosted by the Chilean capital. The main topics that this conference will cover are sustainable forests for timber production, wood products and connections, wood engineering and architecture, policy, implementation and management, education, promotion and future trends. For further information see: www.uruguayxxi.gub.uy/en/events/article/145/

16-19: 20th Commonwealth Forestry Conference – VIRTUAL EVENT. An informal forum for foresters, and all those with an interest in the forestry sector to exchange knowledge and experience. It is organized by the Standing Committee on Commonwealth Forestry and covers general aspects of forest management and governance and has a focus on the changing priorities of the forestry sector. For further information see: <https://cfc2021.ubc.ca/>

30-31: International Conference on Forest Aesthetics and Site Preparation – Australian Museum Sydney,

Australia. World Academy of Science, Engineering and Technology. For further information see: <https://waset.org/forest-aesthetics-and-site-preparation-conference-in-august-2021-in-sydney>

SEPTEMBER

22-24: Natural resources, green technology and sustainable development GREEN2020 – Zagreb, Croatia. Now rescheduled from last year. For further information see: <https://www.sumins.hr/green2020/>

27-1: LIGNA.21 Making more out of wood – Hannover, Germany. For further information see: <https://www.ligna.de/en/>

OCTOBER

17-21: Prowood Ghent – Flanders Expo, Maaltekouter 1, 9051 Ghent, East Flanders, Flanders, Belgium. For further information see: www.tradefairdates.com/Prowood-M9728/Ghent.html

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

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 (TMOs), 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 or contact karolina@forest-analytics.com

• Please send events to John Halkett: johnh@timberandforestrynews.com



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From timber stacking to log yard legend 'Coogee' Van Den Hoogen loves his job

THE youngest of seven children, Jeffrey Van Den Hoogen followed in the footsteps of his father, a few brothers, and a sister, creating a career in local forestry.

On a one-month trial at Jubilee, Jeffrey – better known as 'Coogee' – started out stacking timber by hand in the Greenmill.

Forty-five years later, Coogee has shared what's kept him here despite never 'officially' being told by his original boss that he passed the one-month trial.

[OneFortyOne's Jubilee sawmill in the Green Triangle is the largest in South Australia].

"Dad was in sawmilling, as well as poultry farming. He worked the two jobs to keep the seven of us alive.

"Of that seven, I'm the youngest, and a few of us have worked in the industry. My brother Martin worked here as a leading hand in the planer mill, my brother Bushy worked as a saw doctor,



Jeffrey ('Coogee') Van Den Hoogen... "what keeps me here is the love I have for my job."

another brother Johnny worked here in the log yard with me, and my sister Carla also worked at a timber mill.

I started when I was 17 stacking by hand in the greenmill.

"The guy who employed me said he'd give me a month's trial ... so 45 years later I guess I'm still waiting for my month trial to be over. I was never told I had a full time job.

"I worked in the greenmill for the first few years, where

I'd go through a pair of boots every three months. It was harder manual labour then.

"After the stacker I went to the bandsaw and was out in the log yard at night running the debarker.

"I've been on the ground in the log yard now for the last 30 years driving the grab."

Over that time, Coogee reckons safety is the biggest thing that's improved... "we never had vissy wear (high vis) and you had to get your own.

I was the first one on site to get a vissy top. There weren't safety tags or locks in the machines either. You'd just turn off the machines and hope no one touched it. Things have definitely improved."

Work isn't the only thing in Coogie's life. He's a life member of the Street Machine Club and he's working on a 62 Dodge. He's got two Harleys and is a member of the Longriders Motorcycle Club ... "which is my main passion at the moment"

Coogie and his wife have bought a caravan too, so he's not ready to retire yet.

"What's kept me here is the love I have for my job," says Coogie. "Logs can go any way, they're unpredictable and that keeps things interesting. I'm always trying to challenge myself to be better."

He adds: "To do it, it's four different jobs in one, every day. It's a challenge. But I think that's what's so good about it and why I've stayed so long ... I enjoy it, so why leave?"

Have your say on Australia's illegal logging laws

READERS can help ensure the continued protection of forest ecosystems, communities and economies by providing feedback through an online consultation to shape the future of Australia's illegal logging laws.

The Australian Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment is reviewing the Illegal Logging Prohibition Regulation 2012 and consulting on wider reforms to illegal logging laws. The review is an important step in ensuring Australia remains

vigilant against illegal logging in a global context, while also protecting the domestic market.

Many groups benefit from these laws. Combatting illegal logging is important for timber importers and processors, the environment, and the wider community, so it's important that everyone is provided an opportunity to have their say.

Some potential



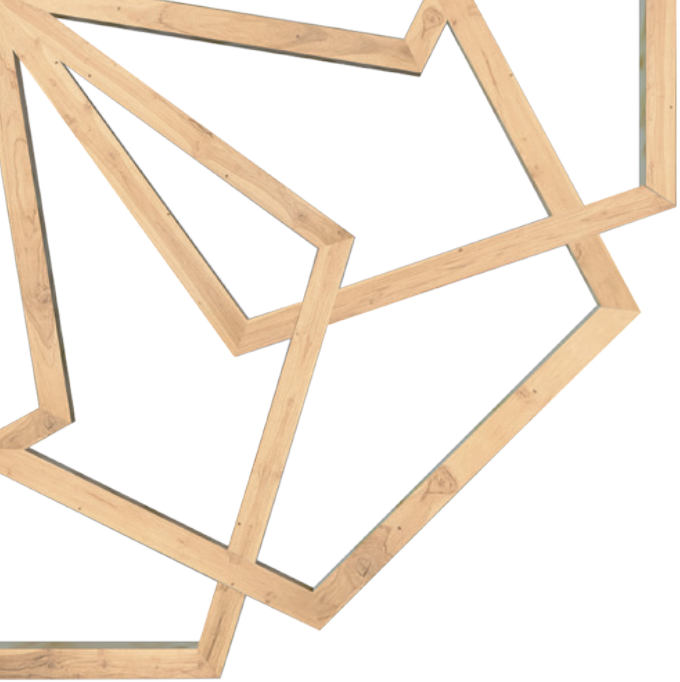
improvements to be considered in the review include:

- Receiving information before goods arrive at the border.
- Insuring officials are empowered to deal with compliance risks at the border.

- Reducing the need to repeat due diligence.
- Simplifying requirements for low-risk products.

Feedback is important and will help Australia's laws and regulations remain fit-for-purpose in combatting illegal logging.

Consultation is now open and closes on August 31 2021. To read the consultation paper and make a submission via the department's website visit haveyoursay.awe.gov.au/illegal-logging-sunset-review



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New digital radio system brings new era of safety for forest workers in NZ

A NEW digital radio system is helping one of New Zealand's oldest forest products companies to work more safely and efficiently while complying with Covid-19 work requirements.

Motorola Solutions and communications partner Central Radio Services were initially deployed to replace an outdated analogue radio network at City Forests, which owns and manages 23,730 ha of land within an 80 km radius of Dunedin.

The system delivered many additional benefits, among them contact-free communication and social distancing in the field, replacing the need for drivers to exchange paper job dockets with a digital docketing system.

The new solution incorporates Motorola SLR550s digital two-way radio repeaters across four sites with TRBOnet radio dispatch software providing valuable data and safety features, helping to locate workers wherever they are in the forest.



Evolution of digital radio technology is helping the forest industry increase collaboration and performance across their entire operations.

The system also provides a touch-free method for workers to exchange other essential job details including truck numbers, log quantities and crew ID numbers. All of these solutions are integrated and connected to a digital network radio core provided by the Orion Network.

City Forests has more than 100 years of forestry history and grows more than seven million trees in the Otago region while maintaining high standards and certifications for sustainability.

Ensuring safety and security for workers and

recreational forest users throughout such an expansive area requires instant, dependable and secure communication.

Forest production manager at City Forests Guy Bonner said his organisation had experienced many benefits by migrating to an advanced digital communication system.

"Upgrading our network to digital not only enables clearer voice communication, but provides other useful features such as text messaging and GPS capability," Mr Bonner said.

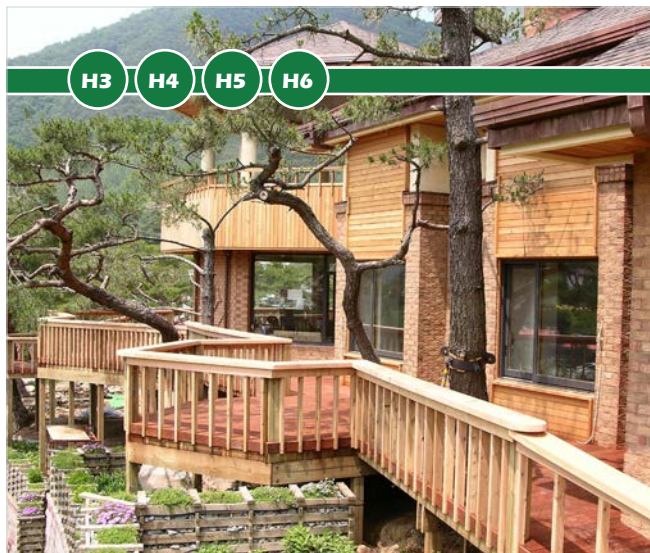
"Moving to a digital platform also gives us the option to plug in further capabilities to improve safety in the future."

Motorola Solutions general manager for Australia and New Zealand Rhys Clare said the evolution of digital radio technology was helping enterprises to increase collaboration and performance across their entire operations.

"Enterprises have always depended on radio systems for clear and reliable voice communication, but now they are getting many more safety and productivity-enhancing features," Mr Clare said.

"Digital radio solutions are also extremely flexible, enabling organisations to adapt to rapidly changing situations. Even throughout a global pandemic, these solutions are helping organisations keep their operations running and their people safe."

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Selection harvesting gains ground in NZ as alternative to clearfelling

Forest owners must use alternative harvest practices on erosion-prone lands

FOR nearly 20 years, John and Rosalie Wardle have selectively harvested radiata pine on Woodside, their farm forest property in North Canterbury on New Zealand's South Island.

Researcher and observer Mark Bloomberg says the advantage of selection harvesting "is that you retain the forest's structure. You don't have the soil and water conservation issues, the big skids and the accumulations of slash associated with clearfells.

"And, particularly for a small grower, there is always a constant supply of wood resulting in an annual income, rather than a boom and bust scenario [that comes with clearfelling]."

Mr Bloomberg says the forest stands at Woodside are well roaded (up to logging truck standard), making the property ideal for the selection system. "Each tree is directionally felled so that, as far as possible, part of the tree is accessible to an excavator located on a logging track. In practice this means that only about 40% of extractions involve breaking out by a skidder with the rest done by an excavator," he said.

A two- or three-man crew is deployed at each harvest – a bushman, skidder driver

“ADVANTAGE IS YOU RETAIN THE FOREST'S STRUCTURE

• In a follow-up to last week's article on selection harvesting, we talk further with Mark Bloomberg, lecturer at the School of Forestry, University of Canterbury.



Extraction machine-skidder with winch plus grapple gives flexibility in breaking out individually felled trees with minimal damage to the residual crop.

Photo: Ryan McDonald

and excavator operator. Crew members usually have the skills to cover all aspects of the work.

Woodside has luckily had suitable crews available in the district ... although finding contractors willing to support a small motor-manual crew is becoming increasingly difficult, given that logistics and safety requirements are pushing towards large mechanised crews.

Mr Bloomberg notes that following each harvest, pine seedling regeneration on selection sites tends to be relatively sparse.

"Because the areas are still partially shaded, there is not the 'carpet' of regeneration that occurs on some clearfelling sites," he says.

based pruning using pole saws."

He adds that if local native seed sources are present, those species will regenerate as the pine canopy is thinned out – typically in gullies and on lower slopes.

"On dry, warm ridges and in sunny aspects, pine regenerates strongly and few native tree seedlings occur. So it is site-dependent, but also can be modified by management – for example, selective thinning

of natives and pines to favour one species or the other; or supplementary planting with alternative exotics like redwoods and cypresses."

Mr Bloomberg says selection harvesting is not quite as profitable in terms of net present value (NPV) as conventional clearfell harvesting – "mainly because you are delaying your harvest, and time inevitably costs money". However, other factors – income regulation, the maintenance of forest values, and the need to retain a stable carbon stock – may mean a forest owner is willing to accept a reduction in NPV.

"For a farm forester, net annual income might be

ACROSS THE DITCH



With MICHAEL SMITH

"Regenerated trees therefore require minimal thinning and are pruned in one- or two-whorl annual lifts to six metres. Because the trees are more slender than planted open-grown seedlings, control of defect core size is not so critical, and small branch sizes allow rapid and relatively easy ground-

Cont P 14



2021 GREEN TRIANGLE TIMBER INDUSTRY AWARDS

Nominate and celebrate someone who deserves to be recognised for their contribution to the Timber Industry in 2021. To view the new nominations categories and criteria, visit www.gttia.com

KEY DATES 2021

JUNE 10	Nominations Open
AUGUST 15	Nominations Close
SEPTEMBER	Judging Process
OCTOBER 29	Green Triangle Timber Industry Awards

2021 NOMINATIONS OPEN JUNE 10-AUG 15



From P 16

a better measure. John Wardle estimates he is currently harvesting at a rate of 30 tonnes/ha/year, with stumpage in the vicinity of \$50/tonne – resulting in net revenue of about \$1500/ha/year. So, from a relatively small area, a forest owner-manager would be able to make a sustainable annual income while paying for land and maintenance costs.”

Critically, Mr Bloomberg

“FOR A FARM FORESTER, NET ANNUAL INCOME MIGHT BE A BETTER MEASURE



Selection harvesting operation under way at Woodside, North Canterbury. Photo: NZ Farm Forestry Association

says that if large coupe clearfelling on erosion-susceptible lands (some

24% of New Zealand’s planted forests) continues unabated, then so will the

incidents of landslides and slash inundations. At the very least, forest owners need to adopt alternative harvesting practices in these areas, and even voluntarily exit from clearfell harvesting some of them.

“The risk is that, eventually, societal pressure will become overwhelming and we will see very strong regulation that will require alternatives to large-scale clearfelling on erosion-susceptible sites – and on society’s terms, not those of forest owners.”

On the cover: Rather than a boom and bust scenario... a two- or three-man crew is deployed at each selection harvest at the Woodside forest farm in North Canterbury on the east of New Zealand’s South Island. Photo Ryan McDonald

6800 beams up in 25 days: China beats deadline

THE Olympic Sports Central Axis Ecological Park, located on the Olympic Sports Avenue in China’s Baqiao district, Xi’an, is an important supporting project for China’s 14th National Games.

As a key component of the park project, a Skytrain station has been divided into east and west sides symmetrically arranged on top of a railway flyover as the central axis.

In order not to interfere with the operation of the Metro Line 3 railway and to deliver the project within tight deadlines, the designer was convinced by Canada Wood China to use wood-frame construction.

The structure consists of

244 main beams and 6556 secondary beams, of which the wood keel is lapped with sustainably harvested Douglas fir milled in Canada that was used for glulam components.

The project team completed the original 60-day construction task within 25 days, with work continuing through the night. This won precious time for the subsequent construction and laid a solid foundation

for the realisation of June 30 as a completion date for the whole project.

With the unique designs, and as the station to service the Olympic Sports Central Axis Ecological Park, the Skytrain station will become

“WOOD KEEL IS LAPPED WITH SUSTAINABLE DOUGLAS FIR

an iconic location for the city.

China’s 14th National Games is scheduled to be from September 15 and 27 in northwest China’s Shaanxi Province, after being affected by the postponed 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games.

Shaanxi is holding a series of celebration activities to mark the countdown to the National Games, hosting 100 marathon or running competitions.



1/ A Skytrain station has been divided into east and west sides symmetrically arranged on top of the flyover.
2/ Douglas fir milled in Canada was used for the glulam components of China’s Olympic Sports project.





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RW Bulletin looks to the next generation

MEET the prize-winning University of Queensland students who are leading the way in timber design.

A special 24-page edition of the Responsible Wood Bulletin highlights the stories of Duncan Hossey, William Webster, Simin Louei and Dylan Francis who together are recipients of the Responsible Wood Civil Engineering Prize for Excellence in Timber Design.

Reflecting on the latest edition, marketing and communications officer Jason Ross says he is encouraged by growing interest in

“FUTURE LEADERS WILL DEMAND MORE FROM THEIR BUILDING MATERIALS

forest certification among tomorrow’s forest industry leaders.

“The next generation will demand more from their building materials as time goes on and the industry grows and changes,” Jason said.

“Responsible Wood and forest certification has terrific cut-through, with specifiers increasingly aware of the importance of green credentials.”

Jason said the challenge for the forests industry was therefore to implement sustainable practices, certification schemes and so far as practicable, invest in innovation and digitisation.

In March, Timber Queensland’s ‘Timber Hub’ offices in Brisbane became



the second project in Australia to be certified as Responsible Wood certified under AS 4707.

More than 90% of all timber products and components was sourced from suppliers with Responsible Wood chain-of-custody certification.

Responsible Wood is a

co-tenant of the ‘Timber Hub’ with the project launch coinciding with the Timber Queensland’s ‘Doing Timber Business in Queensland’ symposium.

In addition, the bulletin covers the latest developments from PEFC Members Week, the Experience Forests, Experience PEFC photo contest, Responsible Wood’s recent outreach in Tasmania, the launch of the 2021 Richard Stanton Memorial Award and the fallout from the 2020 Responsible Wood Small Grants Program.

To read about these stories and more download the Responsible Wood Bulletin here

For hard copy versions printed on PEFC paper email info@responsiblewood.org.au

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Qashqai is Nissan's dark, nomadic CUV

PRINCE Charles got behind the wheel of a hydrogen fuel-cell (8.5 kW) electric car last week when he visited a factory in Llandrindod Wells as part of his week-long trip to Wales.

The Rasa is a light vehicle made of composites and has a 480-km range, emitting only ... water. Hydrogen passes through a membrane in the fuel cell where it combines with oxygen to form water and electricity, which flows to the motors in each wheel.

But Stephen Lester, the Australian chief of Yokohama-based Nissan, the world's largest EV manufacturer with global sales of more than 320,000 all-electric vehicles, throws cold water on the concept: the lack of refuelling infrastructure make hydrogen impractical for all but large fleets and heavy vehicles.

"I don't see any application for hydrogen in passenger cars and 4WDs," he said. "There's no infrastructure to build hydrogen."

He adds: "The failure of governments to embrace a switch to low-emission electric technology risks leaving consumers behind."

Nissan, part of a French-Japanese alliance that includes parent Renault and



Nissan's Qashqai Midnight edition... no longer a dark secret.

Mitsubishi Motors, knows what it's talking about; it sold more than 62,500 EVs globally last year. Now it has launched a longer-range variant of its Nissan Leaf electric car which can travel up to 384 km on a single charge, a 40% increase on the 270-km of range of the current model.

"There is no question that EVs are going to be mainstream in the next decade," says Lester. "E-Power is already on the way in the Qashqai and X-Trail."

As the next-generation Qashqai edges closer to an Australian launch next year, the brand still has a few tricks up its sleeve to generate young driver appeal with the arrival of the Midnight Edition.

Slightly smaller than the beloved Nissan X-Trail (it has the exact same platform), the Qashqai has plenty of space and tech features and gives a nippy, comfortable ride.

Named after the ferocious and brave Arab nomads of Iran, the \$36,200 Qashqai is just the car to explore new off-the-tarmac boundaries, defiantly squaring off with the Toyota RAV4 and the Honda CR-V. As a small SUV it brings a new attitude with sinister darkened exterior, 19-in. 'black wind' alloy wheels, tinted headlight and tail-light clusters, gloss-black grille, rear bumper blades, side mouldings, mirror caps and roof rails.

As dusk approaches, the Midnight Edition's LED headlights sense the

darkening with low-beam headlights tracking the steering angle to provide illumination on curving roads.

As with other Qashqais, the Midnight Edition is powered by a 2-litre direct-injection engine coupled to an Xtronic transmission with manual shift mode and Eco Mode.

Suspension is all-independent, with multi-link at the rear, and front and rear stabiliser bars. It also benefits from Nissan intelligent safety features, including blind spot and late departure warning, intelligent emergency braking, rear cross-traffic alert and driver alert.

Audio features and connectivity set the new standard in this SUV class with a digital radio (DAB+), Apple Carplay and Android Auto, Bluetooth audio streaming with voice recognition, and sat-nav with traffic monitoring, all controlled via a 7 in. colour touch-screen display.

"Like the brave Iranian tribe, drivers will embrace a nomadic, adventurous spirit," says Nissan.

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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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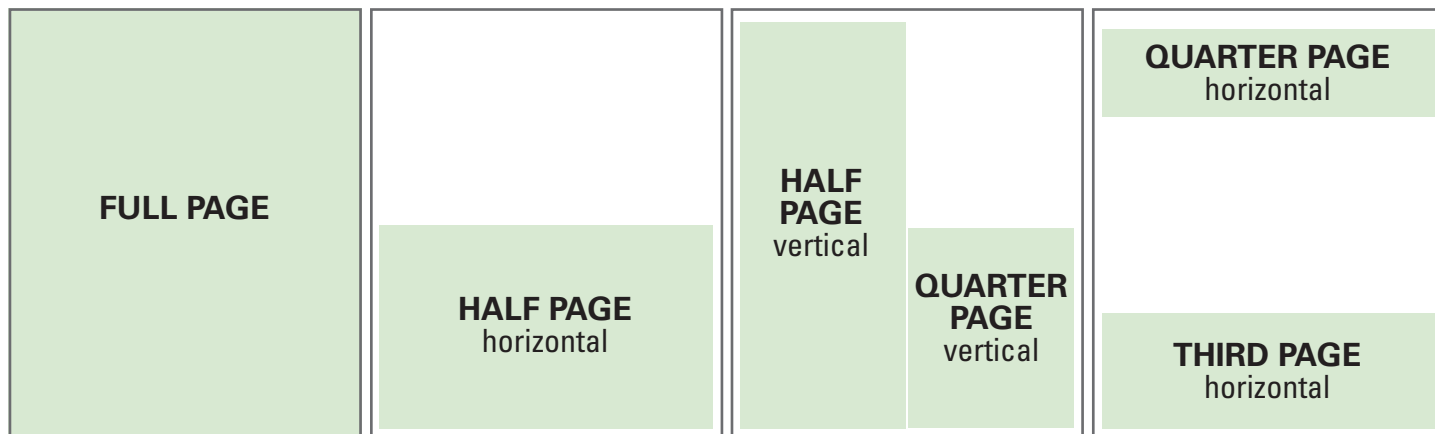
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THIRD PAGE: \$215

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PAGE 1 Front cover module: Contract booking

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WHO TO CONTACT

Media releases: Jim Bowden e: cancon@bigpond.net.au | **Display ad bookings:** e: advertising@timberandforestryenews.com

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