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ISSUE **724** | **September 15, 2022**

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## Queen of hearts and spades: she loved to plant trees anywhere

COVER STORY P 3

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# Timber suppliers shine at Hardware Australia awards

NICKEY AINLEY

AUSTRALIAN timber suppliers have been in the spotlight as Hardware Australia continues its state awards.

The awards kicked off in July with the Victorian and Tasmanian event and will wrap up this month in Sydney with many of the industries finest recognised.

Hardware Australia was formed in 2016 with the merging of state industry bodies who were already working together with a common goal, to support the industry, they commenced the awards not long after.

In 2019 Hardware Australia formed a strategic partnership with TABMA Australia which ensures that both associations remain peak industry bodies, and provides greater value to members.

Western Australia hosted

**“THE RELATIONSHIP WITH TIMBER SUPPLIERS IS IMPORTANT**

their awards on Friday September 2, with ITI Australia among those nominated in the supplier category.

And it has been a big year of nominations for ITI Australia, which was subsequently nominated for awards in all states and took out the win in the timber category at the Queensland event.

At the Victorian Awards, there were four timber finalists; Davids Timber, Meyer Timber, ITI and One Forty One Wood Products and Meyer secured the win.

Alicia Oelkers, executive officer of Hardware Australia and TABMA membership general manager, said it has been excellent seeing suppliers

and independent hardware retailers back together after the event was cancelled multiple times due to COVID.

“The awards this year have been really well received and people are glad to see them back,” Alicia said.

“Trade is becoming a really important division of our members businesses and that means timber,” she said.

“The relationships our timber suppliers have with our members is important and especially critical through shortages.

“It is important we recognise those that have supported our members through the tough times as well as when times are good.”

All eyes are now on Sydney where the NSW Awards will take place this Friday.



1/ The award events are being held in each state with timber suppliers acknowledged.

2/ The Awards brings suppliers and hardware retail members together.



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# Planting trees has always been Royal Family affair throughout the 70 years of Queen Elizabeth's reign

JIM BOWDEN

GAELIC blood, like the sap that moves up the fibres of a giant oak, runs through the veins of Geraint Richards, Head Forester of the Duchy of Cornwall.

This son of a Cornish father and Welsh mother is responsible for the management of more than 2000 ha of trees, woodlands and forests across the Duchy's extensive land-holding, and this week he readily interpreted the Latin *tempora mutantur ... the changing of the guard*.

With the accession of Prince Charles to the throne, the king's eldest son William becomes heir apparent, the Prince of Wales and the 25th Duke of Cornwall and inherits the £1 billion Duchy, a landed estate of more than 52,000 ha stretching across 20 counties in England and Wales.

Closer to home, the Prince of Wales Award for Sustainable Forestry, instigated by Charles and managed in Australia by Forestry Australia, recognises the achievements of young forest professionals in Australia and New Zealand. It will be presented on Prince William's behalf at the Australia-New Zealand Institute of Forestry conference next year.

Geraint Richards, who has represented the Prince of Wales at award ceremonies



*As Prince of Wales, Charles inspects the Duchy of Cornwall estate with Head Forester Geraint Richards.*

importance of sustainably managing the world's forests and training and creating a network of young foresters who will manage them professionally.

"Forestry is about long-term thinking and planning and the award should continue to inspire many younger members of our profession to join his quest to sustainably manage the world's forests."

Planting trees and managing forests has been a Royal Family affair throughout the 70 years of Queen Elizabeth's reign. She has planted close to

Cont P 12

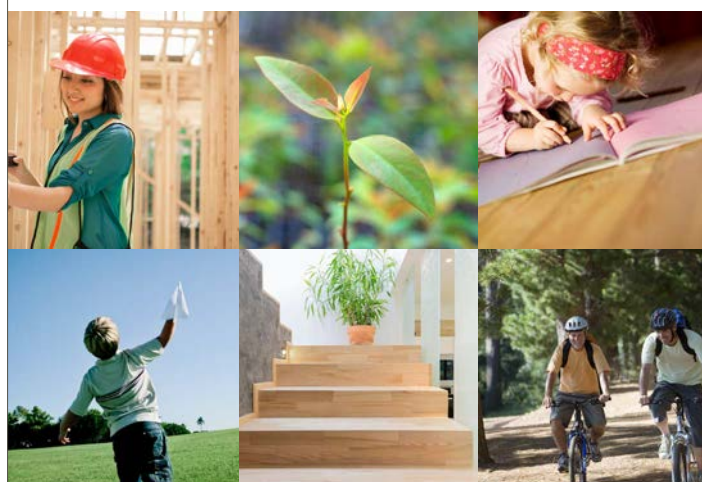
in Australia and New Zealand, graduated with a BSc in Forestry from Bangor University in North Wales. Following a spell with the Forestry Commission, he was appointed Head Forester for the Duchy of Cornwall in 1996 and in 2019 was awarded the Royal Forestry Society's Gold Medal for distinguished services to forestry.

"It's about forests and foresters," says noted forester Rob de Fégely, AM, chair of the Forest Industry Advisory Council.

"His Royal Highness has a well-known passion for forests and natural production systems," Mr de Fégely said, "and as Prince Charles he has provided support to the professional forestry institutes in Australia and New Zealand and prior to that in Canada and UK.

"He has encouraged greater awareness of the

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**“PRINCE CHARLES AWARD IS ABOUT FORESTS AND FORESTERS**



# Communications, marketing specialist to play a key role on both sides of Tasman for Responsible Wood

JIM BOWDEN

A PROMOTIONS and comms specialist with experience in auditing has been appointed marketing and communication officer at Responsible Wood, based in Brisbane.

The son of a forester, Jonathon Tibbits has owned and operated a successful marketing and communications consultancy serving a wide variety of clients. In addition, for 10 years has been a senior audit team leader and compliance officer with Sydney-based Global-Mark, a conformity assessment authority on international standards and industry codes of practice, specialising in the delivery of ASI, ISQua and JAS-ANZ



**Simon Dorries, CEO, Responsible Wood, welcomes Jonathon Tibbits in his new role as marketing and communications officer.**

accredited certification.

He replaces Jason Ross, who has stepped down to pursue other interests after four years working with

stakeholders to grow the awareness of the Responsible Wood and PEFC brands in Australia and New Zealand.

Jonathon holds a graduate Diploma of Legal Practice from the College of Law in Brisbane, a Bachelor of Laws (honours) and a Bachelor of International Business from Griffith University on the Gold Coast, Queensland.

He has admission as a legal practitioner to the Supreme Court of Queensland

He grew up on the northwest coast of Tasmania and "feels at home in the bush." He spent his summers while he was at university in Tasmania running a small forestry services business planting trees, collecting seeds, measuring trials and applying nutrition.

"I'm excited about working with a great organisation to help grow the Responsible Wood and PEFC brands," Jonathon said.

"I'm looking forward to partnering with our certified forest managers and chain-of-custody clients to help further inform the general public and promote the benefits of sustainable forest and tree-based products within their markets here in Australia, New Zealand and overseas."

## Claim: timber cities might help decarbonise the world

NEW research suggests that using wood for construction could avoid 100 gigatons of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions through 2100, but building skylines of timber requires careful forest planning.

Buildings constructed with more wood and less cement and steel would help decarbonise the construction and housing industries in line with global goals to cut greenhouse gas emissions 50% by 2030 and reach net zero emissions by 2050.

A paper published by respected biological and earth sciences journal Nature

Communications explains that building mid-rise wood dwellings to meet the demand from rapidly expanding urban populations could avoid about 100 gigatons of carbon dioxide emissions through 2100 – about 10% of the reduction needed to cap global warming below 2 deg. C.

"We do know we need to reach this net zero target as soon as possible," said lead author Abhijeet Mishra of the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impacts Research.

"Reaching 1.5 deg. is getting quite dicey to achieve," he said.



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# Calls for Australia to make more EWP's as supply concerns grow

THERE is wide concern over the future of engineered wood product supplies into Australia following the end of imports of engineered wood products from Russia and the general 'turbulence' across the European timber supply chain.

Australia's imports of EWPs were valued at \$170.9 million for the first half of 2022. Laminated veneer lumber accounted for 38% of the total. Almost all the value was in softwood LVL, originating in China and the Russian Federation.

As the months progressed, EWP import values rose sharply higher, peaking in May at \$36.6 million. June was similar. The product delivering the significant growth has been LVL, and to a lesser extent some of the joist products, such as I-beams.

Importantly, for an industry

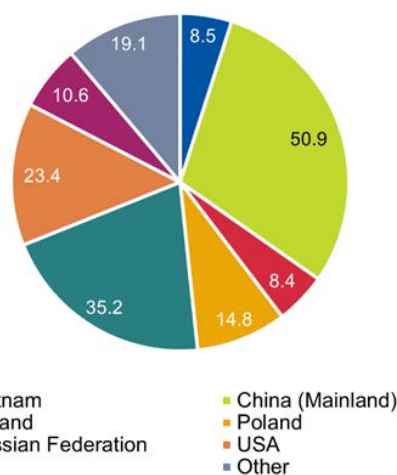


**As the industry struggles with supply challenges, the value of EWP imports is a time for reflection.**

struggling with supply challenges, the value of EWP imports is a time for reflection.

According to Industry Edge, Australia currently relies on imports to meet the market's demand for a wide range of EWPs. That reliance is evident across all the products, but nowhere more so than for LVL, where it is estimated as much as 80% of supply is imported.

It is always of concern when import reliance is very extensive. It is even more the case when the imports are



**Australian EWP Imports by country: 1H22 (\$ million).**

Source: ABS and IndustryEdge

from countries where future supply will be challenging.

Most EWP imports were delivered from just two countries – China (30%) and Russia (21%).

If, as anticipated, pre-conflict shipments still in transit will be unloaded in Australia. But it is expected that further Russian supplies of all timber products will be out of the market for a very long as country's war with Ukraine worsens.

Chinese supply will continue into the second

half of the year, supplemented by an expanding supply from the US (see chart) that shows the value of EWP imports by country.

The value of EWP imports is significant. However, the immediate interest should be on the extent to which the integrity of the domestic construction supply chain is dependent on imports that are fragile and not especially reliable.

There is no doubt Australia needs imported products it does not make or of which it makes an insufficient volume.

The current situation with EWP imports demonstrates the risks of over-reliance on those imports. This should result in renewed efforts to produce more EWPs in Australia, and to secure more reliable supply lines.

Source: Forest and Wood Products Australia and Industry Edge



## Beautiful. Natural. Sustainable. Australian.

Responsible Wood would like to announce that applications are now open for the 2022/23 Community Grants Program.

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

**Responsible Wood** 

RW/1-10-1

Gang-gang Cockatoo  
(Photo Birdlife Australia)



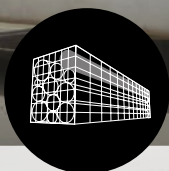
SCAN TO WATCH



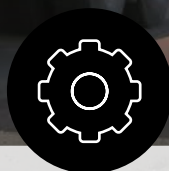
*Enabler of the transition from green metric tonnes to cubic metres, and reduction of the required number of log truck movements. **(Forico, Tasmania)***



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## SEPTEMBER

**11-16: Gottstein Trust Understanding Wood Science Course – Sunday evening, September 11, 2022, in Albury, NSW, for the field trip component, ending on Friday, September 16, 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 program can be downloaded at [www.gottsteintrust.org](http://www.gottsteintrust.org)

**26-29: Malaysian Timber Council (MTC) Marketing Mission – Sydney and Melbourne.** Executives from MTC will be visiting to liaise with timber supply chain representatives, including hosting meetings and visiting wholesale and manufacturing facilities. Further information to follow. Enquiries to John Halkett on 0417 421 187 or email: [john.halkett@atif.asn.au](mailto:john.halkett@atif.asn.au)

## OCTOBER

**12: Australian Timber Importers Federation Board meeting – Brisbane, QLD.** For further information contact John Halkett on 0417 421 187

or email: [john.halkett@atif.asn.au](mailto:john.halkett@atif.asn.au)

**20-22: Forestry Australia Symposium – Mantra Hotel, Albury, NSW, and online.**

Theme: Leading, Adapting and Reimagining the Future for Forestry. Closing keynote address by corporate speaker James O'Loughlin, one of Australia's most respected, entertaining and experienced corporate speakers. Early bird registrations close August 10. Take advantage of discounted fees for in person and virtual registration and register early. Contact Forestry Australia on +61 3 7065 4252 or email: [conference@forestry.org.au](mailto:conference@forestry.org.au) Visit [www.forestry.org.au](http://www.forestry.org.au)

**26-28: DANA-Gingko Global Woodchip and Biomass Trade Conference – Marriott Singapore Tang Plaza Hotel, Singapore.** Includes post-conference field trip to inspect chip and wood pellet mills in Vietnam. Field trip places are limited and preference will be given to those registering for the conference. Information on the conference and field trip is on [danaevents.co.nz/2022singapore/](http://danaevents.co.nz/2022singapore/) or

contact Mariela Ferrari at [marielaferriari.e@gmail.com](mailto:marielaferriari.e@gmail.com)

**28: TABMA Australia NSW awards gala evening – Le Montage Lilyfield NSW.** Nominations and ticket sales open later this month, so look out for further information. Contact Alicia Oelkers on 0418 449 031 or free phone 1300 693 483.

## NOVEMBER

**10: AFCA's Hall of Fame dinner – Gippsland Performing Arts Centre, Tarlton, VIC.** Celebrating industry achievers and new accolades for emerging leaders. Event kicks off inaugural AFCA mentoring program next day (November 11). Visit [www.afca.asn.au](http://www.afca.asn.au).

**18-19: Fast & Forward Forestry Expo – Rotorua, New Zealand.** New Zealand's first event of its kind, Fast & Forward Forestry brings the forestry industry together, showcasing the contribution the sector makes to the New Zealand economy. Visit: [www.fica.org.nz/fast-and-forward-expo](http://www.fica.org.nz/fast-and-forward-expo) or contact the Forest Industry Contractors Association Email: [office@fica.org.nz](mailto:office@fica.org.nz)

[org.au](http://org.au) or phone (New Zealand only) 0800 342 269.

**29: AFPA's gala dinner – Hyatt Hotel, Canberra, ACT.** With the cancellation of the AFPA forest industries gala dinner scheduled for September 14 and the mourning of the passing of the Queen, AFPA will now focus on enlarging the dinner arranged for November 29 at the Hyatt Hotel in Canberra., which will celebrate the decade-long chairmanship of Greg McCormack with political leaders in attendance. Tickets purchased for the gala dinner can either be refunded or transferred to the November dinner. Please advise your preference via [events@ausfpa.com.au](mailto:events@ausfpa.com.au)

## DECEMBER

**Australian Timber Design Awards – date and venue TBA.** Award entries have been extended by two weeks. Entries are pouring in so make sure to get ready, or sneak in a last-minute entry. Don't miss this great opportunity. Visit [www.tdansw.asn.au](http://www.tdansw.asn.au) or call 0420 232 253



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# RW grants program connects with certified forests

FOREST certification leader Responsible Wood has launched its 2022-23 Community Grants Program which recognises collaborative, community-based projects, activities or events that connect communities to certified forests and forest growers.

"The aim is to support local communities develop, design and implement small community-based projects in their local area in conjunction with their local Responsible Wood certified company," CEO Simon Dorries said.

"The key benefits include supporting Australians to better access and enjoy their local sustainably-managed and certified forests, and providing an opportunity to build community connection through planning, completing and benefiting from these

projects," Mr Dorries said.

Funding for selected community projects is by way of individual grants totalling between \$2000 and \$15,000.

Experienced forester and engagement manager Megan Graham, who is administering the community grant program, says she is looking forward to seeing what ideas will be proposed in this round of funding.

This year, Megan is anticipating applications from a wide range of groups or clubs seeking assistance to help build projects such as forest tracks, building and installing picnic facilities, forest-based art installations and habitat features for native animals "which will help people better access and enjoy their local forests



**Megan Graham... encouraging communities to develop a project idea and apply for a grant.**

and or create a better local forest environment."

Megan encourages communities to think about their needs and get in touch with their local Responsible Wood certified company to work on and develop a project idea and apply for the grant by October 31.

Applications will only

be accepted from local community groups, non-profit organisations, registered charities or schools or education institutions. An independent judging panel will assess and judge all of the applications.

Key dates as the grant program proceeds are:

- September-October 31: Applications are open.
- November 15: Applicants will be notified of their application status.
- November 15-May 31, 2023: Projects are developed and completed.

Further information including the 2022-23 application form, eligibility and judging checklists visit [www.responsiblewood.org.au/what-we-do/our-collective-impact/community-grants-program/](http://www.responsiblewood.org.au/what-we-do/our-collective-impact/community-grants-program/)



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# Pinch in the backside. Toilet paper faces price hike

WE all remember those images from the early days of the pandemic. Trolleys piled high with toilet paper as hoarding of the consumable reached a new level. Not long after that restrictions were imposed, however, those who hoarded from early 2020 may have accidentally made a wise financial decision.

The toilet paper shortage was an early sign of supply-chain disruptions, which have only worsened in the past two years. And now, according to Bloomberg, wholesale tissue paper prices are surging to an all-time high — a “new crisis that indicates inflationary pressures are still building up”.

“The toilet-paper industry is a microcosm of the much larger, energy-intensive manufacturing sector, where production costs are continuing to skyrocket in line with soaring wholesale energy prices,” Javier Blass told Bloomberg.

“It’s the same issue here in with the costs rising - from glass, ceramics and synthetic fibres to aluminium, cement, fertilizer and dozens of other daily-life goods.”

Australia could still see a further rises in the price of toilet paper and a strain on supply with Wall Street saying the ups and downs of the toilet-paper industry globally suggests that price pressures are not letting up.

As is true for many manufacturers, the core of the problem for toilet paper is the cost of energy. While this is a concern for Australian production, the European energy crisis poses a



**Toilet paper hoarding could return with prices expected to rise.**

greater, global threat.

Transforming wood into pulp and then into toilet tissue is very energy-intensive — more so than for other kinds of papers.

The wholesale price for European tissue paper (which toilet paper comes from) has surged to an all-time high of about 2,200 euros per metric ton — up from less than 900 euros in January 2021. And prices are likely to rise further in October, industry executives say.

Large Australian toilet paper manufacturers have not ruled out further increases to prices not just due to the cost of supply and manufacturing but also due to shipping and delivery costs.

“The cost pressure is enormous on all household commodities,” one manager said.

“The whole supply chain is being impacted by price increases.”

The humble toilet paper offers insight into the rest of the manufacturing industry which is likely to continue to feel the strain as the Reserve Bank’s hikes hit the back pocket.

Some say fighting inflation is a messy business and now, thanks to the increasing price of toilet paper, it could be more expensive to clean it up.



# Highlighting the importance of agroforestry in modern farming

## Michael Taylor receives Farmer of the Year Award for 2022

With a focus on agroforestry, establishing pine and native forests on his farm and adding his own sawmill, sixth generation wool grower Michael Taylor has been named the outstanding recipient of the 2022 Australian Farmer of the Year Award.

Hailing from Kentucky in the New England area of NSW, Michael has built a reputation around his



*New England, NSW farmer Michael Taylor named 2022 Australian Farmer of the Year.*

“AIMS TO RUN A SUSTAINABLE AND REGENERATIVE ENTERPRISE

future-focused approach to farming. With his management of 4000 sheep, his timber mill and farm stay

accommodation, it makes him an incredibly diversified primary producer.

Through tree planting

and rotational grazing, Michael has increased stocking capacity, lambing percentages, reduced degradation, and sequestered carbon for the future.

"My family has been farming in the New England region of NSW for more than 180 years, and I would like to see them still farming this area for centuries to come. I have followed in my parent's footsteps of caring for our land with regenerative goals and showing how you can integrate both a successful grazing enterprise and agroforestry program," Michael said.

Cont P 11

# MALAYSIAN TIMBER COUNCIL AUSTRALIAN MARKETING MISSION

26-30 September, 2022  
Melbourne and Sydney

The long awaited MTC Marketing Mission will be held in association and supported by Australian trade entities and MATRADE Melbourne will underscore the commitment to strengthen the already close ties and mutually beneficial relationships with Australia companies.

Face-to-face meetings and factory visits planned by a high-level Malaysian Timber Council delegation of

timber and furniture industries business executives.

Enquiries regarding the upcoming Malaysia Timber Council marketing mission may be directed to

**Campbell McInnes** on 0406 223 007 or

email [campbell@mitimber.com.au](mailto:campbell@mitimber.com.au) or

**Ms. Noor Ateeqah**, email

[noorateeqah@mtc.com.my](mailto:noorateeqah@mtc.com.my)

[www.mtc.com.my](http://www.mtc.com.my)





From P 10

Agroforestry has contributed significantly to Michael's farm, supporting his aim to run a sustainable and regenerative enterprise.

Michael's network and knowledge of agroforestry has been recognised nationally through awards and presentations, but most importantly as a local mentor for other farmers wanting to manage trees on their farms.

"Pursuing sustainable practices has been a focus of ours since the early 1980's," he said.

"We manage 180 hectares of Radiata Pine and other mixed species, which we

**“INTEGRATING AGROFORESTRY INTO MODERN FARMING OPERATIONS**



**Mr Taylor has set up a sawmill on the farm to process their own timber.**  
(ABC New England North West: Jennifer Ingall)

can mill on-site. We replenish what we harvest and are keen to share the importance of integrating agroforestry into modern farming operations."

Michael also said the forests have also been a saving grace during the three droughts he has farmed through.

They have provided extra

protection for soil and livestock, plus the trees have also been a source of income to offset the impacts of dry times.

In 2008, Mr Taylor integrated a sawmill into the farm to process their own timber, with their logs worth anywhere between \$300 and \$1,000.

"Initially, it was shade and

shelter for the livestock, but there was always the potential for the pine to be commercially harvested," he said.

Mr Taylor said pines that he had planted only 14 years ago were now four to five hundred millimetres in diameter.

"It's just mind-blowing how quickly you can grow big logs," he said.

"It was always in the back of my mind that if we had to sell all our livestock or agist them elsewhere, we knew already that we could run the sawmill and pay wages, have an income."

The radiata pines are the main species grown commercially and continually established on the farm with trees replanted.

Michael is the 12th winner of the Kondinin Group and ABC Rural Australian Farmer of the Year award.

## INVESTING IN INDUSTRY

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From P 3

1600 trees all over the world and the Queen's Green Canopy is a unique tree planting initiative that was created to mark her Platinum Jubilee this year. Seventy unique and irreplaceable ancient woodlands were identified across the UK as a celebration of those 70 years of service.

The Queen joined the Prince of Wales for the first Jubilee tree planting in the grounds of Windsor Castle in spring last year during the tree planting season to mark the launch of the initiative.

A Verdun oak (*Quercus petraea*), the tree grew from an acorn taken during the Battle of Verdun, the longest of the First World War, fought from February 21 to December 18, 1916, on the Western Front on the hills north of Verdun-sur-Meuse. Acorns were collected from trees on the battlefield and sent to England to be distributed and planted as war memorials

**“QUEEN'S GREEN CANOPY A UNIQUE TREE PLANTING INITIATIVE**



**Prince Charles listens to Rob de Fégely, representing the Institute of Foresters of Australia (now Forestry Australia), and Anne Ruston, federal Minister for Forestry, during a round table discussion in far north Queensland in April 2018.**

The tree planted by the Queen was propagated by the Savill Garden team at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, in 2019.

An ancient *Quercus* oak that grew in Greenwich Park, London, is believed to be the Queen Elizabeth Oak, which dates back to the 12th century. According to legend, King Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn once danced around it and Queen Elizabeth I picnicked under it. Unfortunately, this illustrious tree was brought down in a heavy storm in 1991 but it remains, slowly decaying, in the park with a young oak planted beside it.

Queen Elizabeth II, the

longest-living and longest-reigning British monarch who died aged 96 on September 8 at Balmoral Castle, was not a direct descendant of Queen Elizabeth I, who died aged 69 on March 4, 1603. Instead they appear to be distant cousins. What is obvious is that the two women monarchs once shared a common ancestor – King Henry VII.

Ever since her youth, Queen Elizabeth II has spent most of her summers at Balmoral, a sprawling highland estate in Aberdeenshire in northeast Scotland. The castle was purchased by the royal family in 1852 under Queen

Victoria's reign.

Clive Irving, author of the Elizabeth II biography *The Last Queen*, says he believes the Queen had wanted to be in Scotland for the final months of her life.

Now it emerges that Prince Charles could gift Balmoral Castle to Scotland, turning the Royal Family's Scottish hideaway into a

permanent exhibition paying tribute to his mother.

Balmoral itself is a working estate that includes, forestry and farmland, as well as managed herds of deer, Highland cattle and ponies.

About 3200 ha of the estate is covered by trees, with almost 1200 ha used for forestry that yields nearly 10,000 tonnes of wood a year.

**On the cover: The Queen plants a *Eucalyptus stellulata*, or 'Black Sally' gum tree, in the grounds of Government House in Canberra on March 14, 2006, during her visit to Australia with her husband Prince Philip for the opening of the Commonwealth Games in Melbourne.**

## Gottstein wood science course off to a great start in Victoria



**Some of the 35 Gottstein wood science course participants gather this week at the Alpine MDF Industries site at Wangarrata in northeast Victoria as part of the trust's industry study tour that progresses towards Canberra. Tour host Helen Murray of the Gottstein Trust secretariat proclaimed the tour a wonderful industry communication opportunity. She remarked on the "great atmosphere and camaraderie among group members "with lots of talking and good humour."**



**At the wood science course in Albury... Renee Hinton of Hyne Timber, Colin Stone, quality manager at Xlam, and Tim Duncombe of Forico.**

**• Full report next edition of Timber&Forestry enews.**



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# Above average rainfall could impact supply chains with another La Niña declared

TIMBER suppliers, manufacturers and builders are being warned to prepare for another disruptive season after the Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) declared another La Niña event is underway.

An above average rainfall is once again expected for spring and early summer for the third consecutive year.

The BoM head of long-range forecasts, Dr Andrew Watkins, said the Bureau's three-month climate outlook shows a high chance of above average rainfall for most of the eastern half of the Australian mainland and eastern Tasmania.

"During La Niña events, waters in the eastern tropical Pacific Ocean are cooler than normal, and waters in the western tropical Pacific Ocean

warmer than normal. This causes changes in wind, cloud and pressure patterns over the Pacific. When this change in the atmosphere combines with changes in ocean temperature, it can influence global weather patterns and climate, including increasing rainfall over large parts of Australia."

Dr Watkins said while La Niña criteria have been met, most models forecast this event to be weak to moderate in strength, likely to peak during spring and ease during summer.

"La Niña is not the only driver influencing this wet outlook. To our west, a significant negative Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) event is underway. We expect the IOD influence will reduce



**An above average amount of rain is expected in spring and early summer for the third consecutive year**

in late spring or early summer," Dr Watkins said.

"The Southern Annular Mode (SAM) is also in a positive phase, and likely to remain positive into summer. Positive SAM during summer pushes weather systems south, which increases the chance of rain in New South Wales, eastern Victoria and southern parts of Queensland," he said.

Dr Watkins said all these

climate influences push Australia's climate towards a wetter phase, and together have shaped our outlook for the coming months that shows more than 80 per cent chance of above average rainfall for many parts of the eastern half of Australia.

With catchments already wet, the flood risk remains, particularly for eastern Australia.

Earlier this year major delays were experienced in timber supply chains due to the heavy rain from the weather event.

Damage due to flooding caused delays to supply and delivery of product, meanwhile, the building industry reported substantial delays after being impacted by the heavy rain.

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# Firefighters getting ahead of the fire season

FIREFIGHTERS across the Mid North Coast and Hunter Valley regions of NSW were put through their paces this week, being trained and tested at one of Forestry Corporation of NSW's pre-season fire days in Coopernook State Forest.

The training is part of a wider program, bolstering the organisation's firefighting capabilities across the state ahead of the coming fire season.

Mick Wilson, forestry corporation protection supervisor, said it was important all firefighting staff

**“OUR TRAINED FIRE-FIGHTERS WILL BE ON STANDBY FOR THE FIRE SEASON**



*Firefighters are preparing ahead of the summer season*

understood the heightened risks presented by the coming fire season.

“As we approach fire season, we hold fire training days like this to make sure everyone is prepared and ready to respond to an emergency,” Mr Wilson said.

“We are getting in early to

be as prepared as we can be for the season ahead.

“It's essential that land managers and community alike play their part for the fire season—plan ahead, follow the rules and control any fires quickly.”

Forestry Corporation is responsible for preventing

and managing fires in two million hectares of state forests across New South Wales.

It also assists with large bushfires on private property, other bushland and also overseas.

Forestry Corporation's pre-season fire days are part of a rigorous training program, which

includes training camps for new firefighters and those looking to advance their skills.

“Our trained firefighters will be on standby for the fire season, ensuring we can help manage the impact of bushfires, wherever they happen,” Mr Wilson said.

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# Women continue to make enormous progress in our traditionally male-dominated forest industry

VERY saddening this week was the passing of the Queen and the loss of two of Australia's brightest stars Judith Durham from the Seekers and Olivia Newton-John.

I recall, with much fondness, when my sister and I used to bop around the house to the songs from Grease. We'd bail up our dad in the corner and sing: "You better shape up because we needed a man and our heart is set on you."

Mum thought that was great and would join in. So, very fond childhood memories sadly tarnished by the death of this Aussie icon.

These memories got me thinking about the enormous progress women have made in the traditionally male-dominated forest industry. I can easily point to prominent female leaders such as Kersten Gentle at the Frame and Truss Association, Marie-Claire McKiernan from the Victorian Timber Merchants Association, Deborah Kerr, CEO of the Victorian Forest Products Association, and the 'Gottstein Girls' Helen Murray, Judy Pearce and Jocelyn Carpenter.



**A woman front and centre of industry... Carlie Porteous, general manager of the Australian Forest Contractors Association, drops in on the Brad Meyer Logging crew at Marysville, Vic.**



**Meeting the challenges, exchanging ideas ... and making sure their voices are heard.**

Many women also hold senior positions in major forestry companies.

Female numbers are thinner at the sawmilling, wholesaling and tough commercial end of the business, but names such as Christine Briggs from AKD Softwoods and the well-respected Jacinta Colley from Vida Wood spring to mind – just to name two.

Also, from where I sit in the industry, having the dynamic Carlie Porteous in charge

The Queensland Women in Forests and Timber Network is a well-established forum and network for women across all sectors of the forest industry. They meet, exchange ideas and ensure their voices are heard. The network aims to recognise the contributions of women in the industry, to celebrate their achievements and support their access to skills and professional development.

Not to be out-done, we here at Timber & Forestry enews are female-friendly. Sure, we recognise the stellar performance of our editor Jim Bowden with his five decades reporting on the industry driving the expansion and recognition of enews across Australasia. But women play a big part of the enews success. Zonya Bird, the glue in the graphics room and she also handles the distribution of enews to more than 15,000 readers in Australia and across the globe.

The editorial capacity has been further strengthened by the appointment of Nicky Ainley as assistant editor. Now with family business interests in timber and hardware in the Hunter Valley, an amazing career overseas and a mother to twin boys, she is a welcome part of the team.

See you next month.

**Cheryl.**

## TRUNK LINES



**With CHERYL FORREST**

of the Australian Forest Contractors Association and New Zealand's 'missus of everything' Prue Younger heading the Kiwi Forest Industries Contractors Association is a real source of pride.

**“RECOGNISING CONTRIBUTION OF WOMEN TO OUR INDUSTRY”**

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## Komatsu PC270HW



Komatsu Forest working closely with Komatsu Ltd Japan have developed two new Forest Xtreme models the PC270HW & PC300HW. These two models feature unique forest specifications from the Komatsu Osaka factory;

- High & Wide undercarriage / Forestry Boom Set / Forestry Cabin

Options supplied from KF are;

- HD Guarding Packages / Forestry Cabins / Hydraulic Interface

Komatsu's unique 'Forest Combinations'



# Wetlands project gives WA agriculture students a new understanding of the value of certified forests

THE Western Australia College of Agriculture at Denmark, a coastal town 423 km southeast of Perth, has supported a Responsible Wood Community Grant application by land care group Green Skills to upgrade a wetland education and farm forestry site at the college, a 560-ha working farm and educational facility for Year 10, 11 and 12 students.

Over the past 26 years the college has worked in partnership with Green Skills to manage and develop the site for wetland education and farm forestry.

"The wetland provides a real-life experience for our students studying a Cert II Conservation and Ecosystem Management and those undertaking a Cert II Forest Operations, college principal Rebecca Kirkwood said.

"The upgrade will provide great learning opportunities for our staff and students," Mrs Kirkwood said.

"Green Skills is allocating staff, including myself, to directly assist with coordinating and facilitating the different components of the upgrade, which includes liaising with college staff as well as contractors."

Responsible Wood-certified PF Olsen (Aus) Pty Ltd has encouraged college students to participate in course work that has included planting trees in Responsible Wood



**Getting together in a pine forest at Denmark College's wetland site... Year 11 conservation and ecosystem management student Clem Giblett, Travis Freeguard, Bronz Tarpay (kneeling), Yasmine Pages, Chanel Lowe and Will Smith with Kelsey Johnson, PF Olsen, Albert Adams, forestry trainer at the college, Anthony Wise, PF Olsen, and Matt de Jongh, Responsible Wood.**

certified plantations over the past few years.

"Students involved in the forestry program are provided with hands-on plantation management work experience," PF Olsen's Western Australian regional manager, Stewart Tutton said.

The grants were awarded to five community groups.

"In December 2021, Responsible Wood announced the successful recipients from the 2021-22 Community Grants Program for collaborative community projects, activities or events that connect communities to Responsible Wood certified forests," project manager Megan Graham said.

Reflecting on the quality of applications, Megan added: "In total we received 18 applications with every state represented – a 50% increase both in total and value of applicants from last year," Megan said.

"We were really pleased

by the number, quality, and creativity of applications from across Australia."

Applications were assessed by an expert panel including Dr Hans Drielsma, AM, chair, Responsible Wood, David Rowlinson, Make It Wood campaign manager at Planet Ark and Lou Coutts, external relations manager at HVP Plantations.

**“THE UPGRADE WILL PROVIDE A GREAT LEARNING OPPORTUNITY”**

Green Skills Inc an innovative non-profit organisation formed in 1989, develops and manages environmental and community projects across Perth and regional Western Australia and is a driver of change towards a more sustainable community.

"Our mission is to promote and demonstrate

sustainability in action through employment opportunities and on-ground training and research," senior projects manager Basil Schur said.

The wetlands centre consists of a public recreation site with picnic tables, toilet, wetland boardwalk, information panel, dieback hygiene station, rainwater tank and walk trail to a bird hide.

Meanwhile, an active program of silviculture and weed control has been under way since the first term with college students led by vocational trainer Albert Adams and supported by local company Ecologic Tree Service.

Responsible Wood sustainability manager Matt de Jongh met with attendees from the college on the wetlands site.

"The project has allowed an upgrade to the wetland centre and farm forestry site, as well as increasing the awareness and understanding of farm forestry within the local community," Mr de Jongh said.

"This was a wonderful opportunity to meet with the recipients and see first-hand how the program is progressing. The students were very enthusiastic about the results and have a new appreciation of the value of trees on farms."



# Go ahead, spoil yourself in a Hyundai i20 hot hatch

"HE's a spoiled brat," said my female passenger. "Now he's been given a new SUV to play around with."

She was alluding to a young man who, it seems, spends a lot of his time working to keep out of work, enjoying the 'spoils' of a wealthy and generous family. Good luck!

A TV spoiler is also a pain – when a friend tells you what happened to Prince Daemon Targaryen and Princess Rhaenyra in the advancing sixth chapter of the House of the Dragon.

Then ... there's the spoiler that aerodynamic component that adorns the front or rear of sports cars and designed to alter the airflow on a vehicle in order to achieve higher levels of cornering performance and high-speed stability. Every vehicle on the road is aerodynamically designed to move down the road and slip through the air with as little resistance as possible.

"Nice bumper," said a friend pointing to the rear of the Hyundai i20 N which, as the South Korean designers tell us, comes with "dragon red" accoutrements.

Well we might well say the i20 is the smallest model in

the burgeoning N line-up – one that now spans the i30 and Kona Ns – but we might also say this mighty little manual hatch is hotter than a dragon's breath, with 150 kW of power and 265 Nm of torque, a 0-100 km/h claim of 6.2 seconds, a five year/unlimited-kilometre warranty and a hard-to-resist \$32,490 price – perhaps the best-value road snorter of its type on the market.

The 2022 five-door i20 N arrives in Australia after assembly in Hyundai's Turkey-based factory with a 10-speaker Bose stereo, climate control, performance bucket seats and a 10.25-

**BEST-VALUE ROAD SNORTER OF ITS TYPE ON THE MARKET**



**Dragon-red accoutrements... Hyundai's i20 hot hatch.**

wheel, LED lights, fog lamps, smartphone mirroring, a Bose audio system, button start, and a wireless charging pad. Options include premium paint for \$495 and a two-tone roof for \$1000.

And track enthusiasts will appreciate Hyundai's new performance driving data system which is fitted as standard. Accessible through the infotainment

screen, the system includes a lap-timer linked to the on-board GPS.

The i20 N has a new air intake on the front bumper, unique side sills, a new radiator grille and rear bumper with a diffuser, as well as new rear lights. And it flaunts seven colours, one of which is "performance blue that has become the signature of the brand.

Power comes through from a turbo-charged Gamma II 1.6-litre T-GDi four-cylinder. An over-boost function increases the peak torque figure to 304Nm if the conditions are right

Additional standard equipment includes 18-in. alloy wheels, rear privacy glass, leather steering

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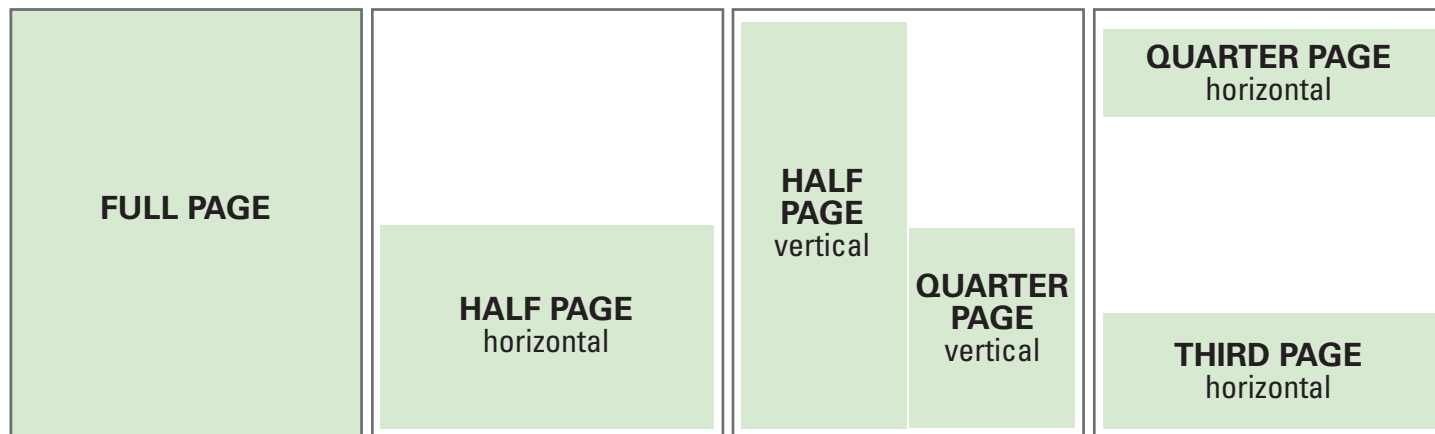
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