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Brazil, Chile gear to bridge lumber shortage in the US as housing peaks

American builders ask: where will the wood come from?

SOFTWOOD production giants Brazil and Chile are shifting their supply guns away from Australia and New Zealand and aiming them at a revived and rapidly-growing market in the US, which his likely to be sustained over the next 10 years.

A stronger US economy and tight supply of houses are heating up the home-building sector and a lumber shortage has pushed prices to record highs as builders stock up for what is expected to be one of the busiest construction seasons in years.

Donald Trump, so far at least, has not led the US down the path of economic ruin that critics predicted. At a minimum, he seems to have helped induce greater confidence in business, consumers and investors,





On the rise... stronger US economy is heating up the home-building sector.

despite divisive rhetoric and threats of waging international trade wars, or worse.

This confidence has flowed to the construction industry as housing starts reach new peaks, prices continue to rise and lumber yards prepare for a busy building season this spring.

The number of new units under construction in the US rose almost 10% in January,

the Commerce Department says, as strong demand kept builders working through the winter.

Builders in the US say the higher lumber costs are making homes more expensive. Lumber prices started rising last year after fires destroyed prime forests and a trade dispute between the US and Canada restricted supplies.

A study released this week

by ForestEdge and Wood Resources International forecasts US softwood lumber demand will grow at an annual rate of 2.3% through 2030, which will be higher than the report's projection of real GDP.

The study's base case demand scenario suggests that US lumber consumption will reach an all-time high by 2030.

Cont P 3



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At an estimated softwood lumber production cost of less than \$US200 cub m in 2016, the US South is one of the lowest cost suppliers of softwood lumber to the US market. This, combined with a significant 'overhang' supply of softwood saw timber as a result of the GFC in 2008-09 and a mature plantation resource, is expected to continue to facilitate a major expansion of sawmill capacity in the region.

However, the Canadian lumber producers' market share in the US is expected to decline in the coming years, with the biggest reduction occurring between 2017 and 2025.

The outlook for available log supply to the sawmilling sector will be different in Canada's two major lumber-producing regions, with harvest levels falling substantially in British Columbia over the next 10 years.

Overseas supply of lumber to the US is forecasted to increase both in volume and market share by 2025, followed by a decline until 2030.

Based on the study's lumber supply curve analysis, the major supplying regions include Brazil, Chile, Germany and the Nordic countries.



Donald Trump... inducing greater consumer confidence.

In the study's high demand scenario, which projects a very strong rebound in housing starts and non-residential construction, overseas supply will be crucial and reach a market share of more than 10% by 2030.

STRONG
REBOUND IN
HOUSING
STARTS

After nearly two decades of real price declines of sawlogs in North America and elsewhere the combination of a rebounding US softwood lumber demand, constraints on log supply and export production in western Canada, and continued strong demand for softwood lumber from markets in Europe, Asia

and the Middle East-North Africa (MENA) region is expected to push conifer log prices higher in real US dollar terms in many timberland investment regions by 2030.

A detailed analysis of the future consumption of softwood lumber in each of the five end-use categories (residential housing, repair and remodeling, non-residential construction, material handling and other) reveals that the category 'non-residential construction' will grow at the fastest rate and will increase its share of the total softwood lumber usage from just over 11% in 2016 to almost 14% by 2030.

But lumber consumed by the residential housing sector, including repair and remodelling, will continue to account for the almost 70% of the end-use market.

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*Australian Forest Contractors Association (AFCA)



An industry-led program managed by ForestWorks

Perth affordable hot spot for homes buyers

WESTERN Australia has bucked the national trend, experiencing its strongest increase in new detached house sales during March with an increase of 26.2%, while new homes sales nationally declined by 2.2%.

HIA WA executive director John Gelavis said this followed a 9.9% fall during February in the state.

Perth is now Australia's most affordable capital city for home purchase although the local labour market remains soft. Sales results over the next few months will provide a good indication of whether the corner has been turned in Western Australia.

"We are seeing consumers take advantage of the current market conditions of low interest rates, increased competition, faster build times and state government stimulus for first home buyers such as the \$10,000 first home owner grants," Mr Gelavis said.

DAF working wonders with wood

Century of research applauded at Salisbury open day

"AUSTRALIA'S premier timber research program is right here in Queensland, and it's celebrating its 100th birthday."

Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries Mark Furner congratulated the DAF Forest Product Innovation team at the Salisbury Research Facility on a century of timber breakthroughs.

Speaking at the Salisbury open day on April 18 – part of a big week in Brisbane for the state's timber industry that included the Doing Timber Business: Room to Grow conference – Mr Furner remarked that the main focus of the research



Celebrating a century of timber research in Brisbane... Chris Lafferty, research and development manager, FWPA, Melbourne, Vicki Lane, general manager, horticulture and forestry science, Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, and Mick Stephens, CEO, Timber Queensland.



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facility was to find new processing solutions and maximise the use of small plantation grown logs, both hardwood and softwood.

"The research team also develops new engineered products from veneer and sawn timber," he said.

"We've certainly come a long way since 1918 when the then Director of Forests Edward Swain first established the Forest Products Bureau in Queensland.

"Mr Swain recognised that the unchecked take of favoured timber species from our native forests was unsustainable. Uses had to be found and markets developed for the lesser-known species. To achieve this, a forest products laboratory was needed.

"Over the decades, research facilities have operated at Newstead in Brisbane, and also at Woolloongabba where there was actually a small sawmill as well as drying kilns.

"In 1965, the Queensland government established its new base of timber research at Salisbury, which remains the only research centre of its kind in the country."

GREATER USE
OF PLANTATION
CONIFERS FOR
FRAMING
TIMBER

Mr Furner said work at the site had seen the adoption of many innovations, including the first-ever high temperature drying trials.

High temperature drying has been adopted extensively by industry

Cont P 5

around the world to overcome the challenges of drying plantation grown conifers.

"Another important step was developing mechanical properties testing to allow greater use of plantation conifers for framing timber," Mr Furner said.

He said wood preservation programs were established to develop wood treatment solutions, and countless graded timber recovery studies had been undertaken on a wide range of species, adding "as our knowledge of timber properties and uses expands, timber research

VISIONARIES
ESTABLISHED
PROGRAMS ON
RESEARCH
100 YEARS AGO



Gough, scientific forestry consultant. Brisbane. lan Last, manager, plantation development and innovation. Forestry **Plantations** Queensland, and Dr Henri Ballieries, team leader, DAF Salisbury Research Facility.

Forester David

had also changed to remain relevant to the needs of industry and at the forefront of global research.

"We owe a debt of gratitude to the visionaries who established our research program 100 years ago, but also to the countless men and women who have worked in this field in Queensland since then," he said.

"Who knows what the next century will bring, but the demand for timber products remains strong, the future for timber in mid and tall timber structures is exciting and Queensland is certainly well placed to play a key role in this important

industry."

Mr Furner said the tallest engineered timber office building in the world was under construction as part of the Brisbane Showgrounds redevelopment.

"This is just one example of the increasing demand for new, modern timber-based building systems."



Largest plantation company in Queensland

HQPlantations sustainably manages 340,000 ha of forest throughout Queensland including softwood and hardwood plantations. These plantations produce up to of 2.5 million cub m of logs annually that support both domestic and export industries.

As well as supplying plantation logs, HQP protects native forests. The native forests provide a range of conservation, community and other values. HQP protects these plantations for future benefits.



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RM Hyne worked passionately to ensure the sustainability of forests

Celebrating 100 years of product research in Queensland

THE timber industry is one of Australia's manufacturing success stories. People will always use timber and there will always be timber due to its sustainability provided it is responsibly grown and managed.

Fortunately, this was recognised more than 100 years ago when Richard Matthews Hyne, founder of Hyne Timber and a member of the Queensland Legislative Assembly, successfully introduced a motion that the government take immediate action in the replanting of forests and the creation of a Department of Forestry.

And so, with the support of other such visionaries, the journey began towards ultimately establishing a forest and forest products research facility in 1918.

A century on and government officials, stakeholders and industry came together to reflect on the significance of research and science in this



Celebrating at Salisbury ... standing, Dr Adam Redman, research scientist, Gary Hopewell, research scientist, Chris Fitzgerald, research technician, Dr Chandan Kumar, research scientist, Dan Field, technical assistant, Cindy Day, administration officer, Rod Vella research technician, Xavier Murray, research technician, Eric Littee, technical assistant, Rica Minett, technical assistant, Adam Faircloth, research technician, and Jock Kennedy research technician. Seated: Dr Michael Kennedy, retired general manager, DAF horticulture and forestry science, Dr Tim Smith, director, forestry science, Vicki Lane, general manager, DAF horticulture and forestry science, Geoff Stringer, Hyne Timber, James Hyne, executive director, Hyne Timber, Dr Henri Bailleres, forest science team leader, Dr Rob McGavin, research facility and project manager, forestry science.

ever evolving and growing industry.

During the centenary celebration at the DAF Salisbury Research Facility on April 18, James Hyne, executive director of Hyne Timber, spoke about the 100 years of Queensland government research and development, supporting the industry's security and

FORESTS AND FOREST PRODUCTS NEED SCIENCE

growth.

"Forestry and forest products need science," Mr Hyne said. "Trees are a living, natural resource and they all differ. What you can do with trees and how you can do it better has evolved

Cont P 8



JUNE

18-19: FRAME 2018 conference and exhibition -Park Hyatt Melbourne. Focus on timber offsite construction, expanding local and global markets for timber buildings and the digital future ahead in design, manufacture and construction of timber frame multi-residential and mass timber commercial buildings. Contact Kevin Ezard, Frame Australia conference director, on 0419 538 638. Email: kevin@frameaustralia.com Visit www.frameaustralia.com

20: AFPA Parliamentary Friends of Forestry and Forest Industries Dinner – Mural Hall, Parliament House, Canberra. 6pm. Contact: (02) 6285 3833.

20-21: FIEA Woodflow 2018 – Melbourne, Australia. 26-27: FIEA Woodflow 2018 – Rotorua, NZ.

The objective, with 30-40% of delivered log costs being contributed by transport, is to improve efficiencies through the wood supply chain. It builds on the success of the HarvestTECH 2017 event. Unique opportunity to learn about innovations being developed and employed to assist in harvest and transport planning, logistics and operations.

Visit www.woodflow.events

20-22: WoodSolutions tour for building professionals

- Melbourne, Wodonga, Sydney. The tour commences in Melbourne, travelling by coach to Wodonga to see XLAM's CLT plant. Following this, flights to Sydney have been arranged as well as overnight accommodation, if required. The tour continues June 21 and 22 inspecting many buildings currently being constructed or recently completed in and around Sydney. Buildings range from CLT timber apartments, offices, schools and community halls as well as a laminated veneer lumber industrial shed and a 6-storey timber-framed apartment building. Contact (02) 8920 0446 or info@tdansw.asn.au

JULY

4-7: AWISA 2018 – ICC Sydney Exhibition Centre, Darling Harbour Sydney. Australia's largest ever exhibition of woodworking technology and design at Sydney's exciting new multilevel venue. Machinery, tooling, software, materials, fittings and services for the wood and panel processing industries.

Visit www.awisa.com

12-14: Inaugural International Furniture Show Australia – International Convention Centre,

Sydney. Presentations by Australian retailers and wholesalers and opportunity to deal directly with global furniture manufacturers from countries such as China, India, Vietnam, Malaysia, Indonesia, Philippines and Pakistan. Excellent platform for Australian manufacturers

to reach out to buyers from within Australia and New Zealand. Contact Australasian Furnishing Association at compliance@ australianfurniture.org.au

AUGUST

8: FIEA Forest Industry
Safety and Technology 2018

- Rotorua, NZ.

15: FIEA Forest Industry Safety and Technology 2018

- Melbourne, Australia.
Covering updates and developments in forest industry safety, as well as providing a space for sharing ideas on how people, culture, technologies and systems are used to improve the safety of workers. Visit www. forestsafety.events

SEPTEMBER

2-5: IFA and AFG conference

- University House,
Australian National
University. Titled 'Forests
for healthy cities, farms and
people'. Title 'Forests for
healthy cities, farms and
people'. It will be preceded
by AFG's pre-conference
tour from Friday, August 31,

11-12: FIEA WoodTech 2018 – Melbourne, Australia. 18-19: FIEA Woodech 2018 – Rotorua, NZ.

to Sunday, September 2.

Contact: (02) 6153 3044 or

visit www.forestry.org.au

Drymill scanning, wood machining, timber manufacturing. Includes timber scanning and optimisation, timber gluing and laminating, finger-

jointing, cross cutting, timber machining, kiln drying and timber finishing technologies. Visit www.woodtech.events

OCTOBER

1-3: NZ forest-wood conference and optional field trip - Wairakei Resort, Taupo. Theme: 'Does the NZ industry have to be world class to compete in the world?' One-and-half day conference, followed by oneand-half field Trip with nine Central North Island industry and industry-related site visits. Pre-conference afternoon / dinner cruise on Lake Taupo. Contact Julie Bell admin@ dana.co.nz or visit www. danaevents.co.nz/2018taupo/

10-12: Australian forestwood processing conference and optional field trip – Hotel Grand Chancellor, Launceston. One-and-half day conference, one-and-half day field Trip. Contact Julie Bell admin@dana.co.nz or www. danaeyents.co.nz/2018tas/

19: Victorian Association of Forest Industries annual dinner – RACV Club,

Melbourne. Tickets available from VAFI in July. Contact VAFI on (03) 9611 9000 or info@vafi.org.au

19th Australian Timber Design Awards in Sydney.

Full details to confirm. Entries open February 12 and close July 6. Judging period July 16-20. People's Choice voting July 23-August 17. Awards gala dinner mid-October. Visit www.timberawards.com.au



MAY

8-10: Fifth Session of the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Forest Genetic Resources – Italy, FAO HQ, Rome. Consider the situation and issues related to forest genetic resources, to advise and make recommendations, and to consider the progress made in implementing the work program. See: www.fao.org/forestry/86904/en/Email: FO-ITWG-FGR@fao.org

21-25: International Conference on Ozone and Plant Ecosystems

- Florence, Italy. This conference will allow all experts in the interactions between ozone and plant ecosystems to meet and discuss the state of the art and the strategies for continuous improvements. See: www.conference2018. wixsite.com/ozoneandplants Email: ozoneandplants2018@gmail.com

JUNE

3-9: 3rd DANA China wood industry tour - China.

Manzhouli on Russia-China border, and Chongqing port and wood processing site visits, and to Chengdu Panda Breeding Centre. For further information, see: www. danaevents.co.nz Email: admin@dana.co.nz, Tel: + 647 3492764 Skype: admin.dana1

SEPTEMBER

16-17: 8th China Global Wood Trade Conference and

Tour – Chongqing, China.
FEA Canada and China
Timber & Wood Products
Distribution Association.
This will be the fourth jointconference that both groups
have been collaborated. The
2018 event s expected to
set record attendance levels.
See: www.woodmarkets.
com/conference/conferenceschina/2018-china-global-woodtrade-conference/

17-21: RISI Tenth International Woodfibre Trade Conference – Durban, South Africa

See: www.events.risiinfo. com/wood-fiber/ Email: conferences@risi. com, Tel: + 866.271.8525, + 32.2.536.0748

17-21: Managing Eucalyptus plantations under global changes – Le Corum, Montpellier, France IUFRO. Improving resource use efficiency in eucalypt plantations. See: www.iufro. org and www.cirad.fr

25-26: FSC Asia Pacific Business Forum 2018 – *Mumbai, India.*

Email: info@au.fsc.org

OCTOBER

18-20: Timber Legality
Research Symposium –
University of Copenhagen,
Copenhagen, Denmark.
To be held in association with
the Forests & Livelihoods:
Assessment, Research, and
Engagement network.
See: www.
globaltimbertrackingnetwork.

globaltimbertrackingnetwork. org/event/timber-legalityresearch-symposium Email: cph@ifro.ku.dk

23-27: 4th International Congress on Planted Forests – Nanning, Guangxi,

China. Congress aims to investigate the contribution of planted forests to green development in the context of global changes. Topics will include the sustainability of planted forests in the context of changing climates and the future role of planted forests in bio-resources sustainability, environmental protection and green development.

See: www.efiatlantic.efi.int/portal/events/

Email:

christophe.orazio@efi.int

NOVEMBER

5-10: 54th Session of the International Tropical Timber Council and Sessions of the Associated Committees – Yokohama, Kanagawa,

Japan. ITTO Secretariat. See:

www.itto.int/workshop_detail Email: itto@itto.int Tel: +81-45-223-1110

12-17: 2nd DANA 2-day Central America and Andes Forestry Sector Investment Conference –

Cancun Mexico. With 2-day optional pre-conference field trip to teak and eucalyptus plantations; a large modern MDF mill in Villahermosa region; and a 2- day optional post-conference tour to Mayan archaeological and recreational sites. For further information: www.danaevents. co.nz/2018mexico/

12-18: XI International Workshop on Uneven-aged Silviculture: Challenges for increasing adaptability

- Valdivia, Chile. Unevenaged silviculture is attracting increased interest due to its positive effects upon carbon sequestration, biodiversity, landscapes, and in its ability to provide a range of goods and services from managed forest ecosystems. Do uneven-aged forests have better options for adaptation to these future changes?

See: www.uas.uach.cl/2018 Email: pdonoso@uach.cl

 Please send any events listings to johnh@ timberandforestryenews. com

From P 6

significantly over the years and will never stop evolving, diversifying and improving provided we maintain a continued scientific focus.

"Therefore, the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries Salisbury Research Facility is a critical innovation centre.

"To name a few, the facility has undertaken extensive work on drying plantation pines to improve the useability of the wood by increasing straightness and stability.

"The quality of our products is benchmarked by industry standards and certifications which are essential for builders and home owners using our products in the majority of Queensland homes. This facility has played an integral role and continues to be involved in underpinning such standards with a fundamental knowledge of timber product through extensive testing over many years."

Mr Hyne said the Salisbury research program had also introduced acoustic

technology to enable the timber industry to make improvements on grading timber and ensuring quality products.

Preservation technology and ongoing improvements to treatments ensured durability of timber products and more efficient use of timber in exposed

APPRECIATE
THE PRIDE THEY
TAKE AND THE
PASSION THEY
SHARE WITH US

environments. The establishment of the termite resistance of exotic pines in Queensland was a milestone moment for industry and the community.

He said the research facility's ongoing support provided a highly-valuable, technical reference point for all manufacturing and optimised use of timber to further grow the industry.

The facility plays a significant role in educating and developing today's leaders including James

Cont P 9

Hyne himself during his formative years of his cadetship.

Mr Hyne concluded his speech by taking the opportunity to officially thank the Queensland government for the ongoing investment in the facility.

"The staff work with us as partners. They deliver technical expertise with a commercial, customer service focus. We appreciate the pride they take in their work and the passion they share for our industry," he said.

"They are delivering growth to the forest and timber manufacturing sectors, creating many jobs predominantly in Queensland's regions while securing an extensive and diverse supply chain worth billions to the state's economy."

James Hyne's great, great, grandfather, RM Hyne emigrated to Australia from England with his wife in 1864.

As a qualified carpenter with a box of tools, he set to work as a successful builder and carpenter during the Gympie gold rush. However, as a visionary man of great initiative, in 1870 he took on the gold rush's most lucrative job of all – he became the publican of the Mining Exchange Hotel.

Some years later, he moved to Maryborough, acquiring the lease of the Royal Hotel.

RM Hyne valued the Maryborough community, a value the company carries forward to this day. He was immersed in civic affairs to improve education, health and other matters. He held the role of mayor and was a highly respected man



RM Hyne... forest industry visionary.

achieving many wins for the Wide Bay Region.

It was following the tragic death of his wife during the birth of his third child that he completely changed the course of his life. While retaining the Royal Hotel freehold, he was no longer the licensee.

He established Hyne, then called the National Saw and Planing Mill on the banks of the Mary River in Maryborough in 1882. Six years later when he was elected as the local member in the Queensland Legislative Assembly he introduced a Women's Suffrage Bill, arguing strongly for gender equality. Unfortunately this was too visionary at that time and was defeated.

By now, he was a well-established timber manufacturer and well placed to understand and drive forest-related policy.

He was one of the recognised pioneers who worked passionately to ensure the sustainability of forests and timber supply for generations to come.

On the cover: Vicki Lane, general manager, horticulture and forestry science, DAF, joins James Hyne, executive director, Hyne Timber, in celebrating the timber research initiatives at the Salisbury research centre.



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* See Planet Ark report – Wood – Nature Inspired Design

MakeItWood.org



Project: International House Sydney Design: Tzannes Architects and Lendlease Photography: Ben Guthrie

IFA building stocks in Queensland

Make It Wood address feature of Brisbane dinner

THE Queensland division of the Institute of Foresters of Australia celebrated International Day of Forests by hosting a social evening in Brisbane on April 17.

Formerly known as World Forestry Day, it occurs on March 21 each year, but the formal event was postponed to coincide with the Timber Queensland state conference when regional members from the forest and timber industry were in town.

Guest speaker David Rowlinson from Planet Ark delivered a presentation



At the IFA dinner in Brisbane... David Rowlinson, Make It Wood campaign manager, Planet Ark, Kerrie Catchpoole, senior project officer, forest industries, DAF, Alex Lindsay, chair, Queensland division, Institute of Foresters, and Mick Stephens, CEO Timber Queensland.

on the Make It Wood campaign, which promotes the environmental and social benefits of using wood as a building material.

GROWTH IN **MEMBERSHIP** FOR IFA QLD

The multi-media campaign uses television and social media, publishing reports and engaging with local and state government to promote wood encouragement policies.

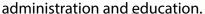
"The Planet Ark Make It Wood campaign aims to increase the use of sustainably sourced timber as a building material," Mr Rowlinson said. "That's because it's

becoming increasingly clear that responsibly sourced (and certified) timber has



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clear health and happiness benefits, as well as being a weapon in the struggle against climate change by both storing carbon and reducing carbon emissions."

He said Make it Wood congratulated Timber Queensland on the outstanding success of its biennial conference, and the remarkable milestone of 100 years of innovative and ground-breaking research at the Salisbury Research Facility.

The Day of Forests event was the latest in what has been a big year for the IFA in Queensland, where membership is growing after a period of decline.

Last August, the Queensland division hosted the biennial national conference of the IFA in Cairns. Then in November, members had a chance to



century at Salisbury Research Facility... Dr Tim Smith, director, DAF Forestry Science, Dr Wayne Hall, executive director, DAF Aari-Science Queensland, James Hyne, executive director, Hyne Timber, and David Loch, director, DAF Research Facilities.

Celebrating a

talk with the newly elected national IFA president Bob Gordon at two events in southeast Queensland - a dinner in Brisbane and a mountain bike ride in Pomona.

At the Brisbane dinner members heard from guest speaker Dr Don Butler who explained the Queensland government's carbon farming

initiatives. At Pomona members learned about issues involving community expectations for management of eucalypt plantations located close to the Sunshine

BIGYEAR IN QUEENSLAND FOR IFA

Coast. Further events are planned for coming months.

The IFA is Australia's only professional body representing the interests of foresters and forestry professionals. For membership details and upcoming event email ifaqlddivision@gmail.com or visit www.forestry.org.au.



The EWPAA team would like to congratulate the Salisbury Research Facility on a century of forest products research and innovation.





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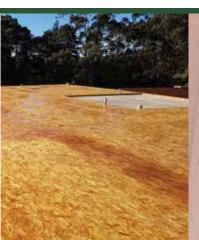








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Smart students share passion for the environment and architecture

TWO students with a passion for environmental management and "good wood" architecture have won respectively Timber Queensland's inaugural SmartForests and SmartTimber awards.

The awards with cash prizes were presented at TO's Doing Timber Business: Room to Grow conference in Brisbane on April 19.

The SmartForests18 program, sponsored by the JW Gottstein Trust, was to enhance student awareness of issues related specifically to Queensland's forest and timber industry, while the SmartTimber18 award, sponsored by Hyne Timber, encouraged students to show an understanding of contemporary building design with timber.

Winner of SmartForests18 was Benjamin Francis, a

DEVELOPED
A PASSION
FOR NATURAL
RESOURCES





1/ SmartTimber 18 award winner Peter Grealy and award runners-up Fatemeh Raouf and Mahyar Masaeli are congratulated by Mick Stephens, CEO, Timber Queensland.

2/ Benjamin Francis, winner of the SmartForests 18 award, is congratulated by Dr Tyrone Venn, School of Architecture, University of Queensland, and Kerrie Catchpoole, senior project officer, Forest Industries, DAF. Ph.D. student based at the University of Queensland with an entry 'financial and economic performance of private native forest and hardwood plantation management in subtropical Australia'.

After 10 years in the construction industry as a tradesman and travelling the world, Ben developed a passion for natural resources and the environment.

He undertook a Bachelor of Environmental Science at the University of the Sunshine Coast and during these studies volunteered and subsequently gained employment on a DAFled soil carbon research project. This project developed Ben's interest in research, and resulted in him undertaking his own research component of the project (carbon fractions in southern pines and adjacent natural vegetation), which contributed to his degree.

After completing a Bachelor of Environmental Science.

Cont P 14



he gained full employment within industry for two years as an environmental manager. His passion for research saw him successfully apply for this SmartForests project as a post graduate student.

Currently, Ben is undertaking this research full time as a PhD student, while also maintaining parttime employment as an environmental manager.

Along with a cash prize Ben will take on a role as Queensland SmartForests18 Ambassador working with TQ members and staff.

SmartTimber18 award encouraged posters on the use of solid timber, including framing, glulam or CLT; timber's durability, structural and functional performance; compliance to standards and regulatory requirements; and appropriate aesthetics for end use

The winner Peter Grealy is studying a Masters of Architecture at the University of Queensland.

His curiosity for the "imagined realm" drove him to become an architectural

OPPORTUNITY TO REINVENT MYSELF

illustrator, visually representing the ideas of architect's nationwide.

"A catalyst moment six years ago brought me to a crossroad, an opportunity reinvent myself as an architect, and to contribute to society in a more meaningful way that I hope will benefit the next generations to follow." Peter said.

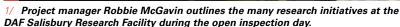
He holds a Bachelor of

Business and a Bachelor of Architectural Design and is undertaking his final year of Masters of Architecture at the UQ.

Joint runners-up were selected for the SmartTimber18 award – one on engineering discipline and one on architecture.

Mahyar Masaeli submitted a project on beam-column timber connections in mass timber buildings, and Fatemeh Raouf and her group of Masters students submitted a project Curve ^2, a lightweight timber bridge structure for public spaces.





- 2/ Taking part in the big week of timber activities in Brisbane are Austral Plywoods representatives Coleen Swifte, production manager, and Stuart and Scott Matthews, joint CEOs, pictured with Andy McNaught, technical manager, EWPAA.
- 3/ Section of the guests who attended the celebration of 100 years of research and the DAF Salisbury site.





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The Snark with the spark says USA lumber market set to soar

Michigan's revived auto industry spurs housing

JIM BOWDEN (#86504)

SUPER-confident Detroit lumber personality Robyn Roose Beckett says the US house building and renovations market has reached record levels in the

Visiting Brisbane last week, the world president of the 126-year-old forest industry service organisation Hoo-Hoo International said America's biggest end-use market continued to be the residential housing sector with an expected 70% total share of lumber consumption by 2030.

She said US softwood



Shouting Hoo-Hoo from the tree tops ... world president Robyn Roose Beckett and chair of the JIV board Heather Gattone of Sydney Club 215 relax amona the camphor laurel trees in a Brisbane park after a busy Down Under schedule.

lumber demand was on a sharp upward trajectory from the lows of the GFC ... "a period that it literally destroyed many lumber companies".

"Well, the lumber business is booming in my home state; some companies established 100 years ago say demand and sales are the highest in their history."

Michigan's wood products manufacturing industry employs more than 28,000 workers with an output of about \$US6.7 billion. Forests

Cont P 16





DIRECTOR FINANCE

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The Forest Products Commission (FPC) is a Statutory Authority and is responsible for managing commercial operations in Western Australia's native forest and plantation estate. The FPC supplies forest products to local processing industries and export markets. The FPC also provides advice to, and develops policy for, government on issues relating to forest management, products and services. For further information on the FPC please visit http://www.fpc.wa.gov.au/

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are growing 2.5 times more timber than is being harvested each year and are a major feature of the landscape, covering more than 52% of the state.

Robyn openly credits the Trump administration for the industry's turn-around.

"Either love or loath him, Donald Trump has brought a new wave of confidence to industry in Michigan, starting with the revival of the auto industry," she said.

"He's brought back jobs from Mexico and China."

Volvo, Buick and Cadillac carry no 'made-in-China' labels but two years ago they were manufactured by the People's Republic and exported to the US.

Robyn says the return of auto jobs to Michigan has built a strong platform for increased housing



Brisbane welcome ... Robyn Roose Beckett (third from left) and Heather Gattone (left) receive a warm reception from Hoo-Hoo Club 218 members Bill Philip, David and Margaret McIntyre, Alan Jones, Beverley and Alfred Chapple, and Beth and Bill Neilson. (Behind the lens was John Muller).

and remodelling.

She also says unemployment is under 3% in Detroit and the stock market is on a high trading cycle.

"I personally tell people who argue against Trump that the proof will be in the pudding. Give him a chance - he's not a politician but he's business-minded," she said.

"He might appear arrogant and make comments without thinking first, but if says he's going to do something it happens."

Returning to Hoo-Hoo,



the Snark of the Universe (a title derived from a character in Lewis Carroll's book The Hunting of the Snark) says the movement is gaining strength across America and Canada.

[Hoo-Hoo was formed by a group of lumbermen in Gurdon, Arkansas, in 1892].

Robyn (Hoo-Hoo number 99870) says she hopes to be the spark that also ignites renewed interest in the organisation by the forest industry in Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and Malaysia.

"If you support the forest products industry, are at least 18 years old, enjoy socialising with great people, live life with a code of ethics and want to give back to your community, then Hoo-Hoo is for you," she said.

"Malaysia is considering a second Hoo-Hoo club and

Cont P 17



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Concern over slow start to Gippsland plantation planting

GIPPSLAND industry stakeholders have slammed the Victorian government for a lack of action after committing \$110 million last year to establish more timber plantations in the region.

The funding was allocated in the Victorian State Budget to help with the creation of plantations in the Latrobe Valley.

Leeson's logging and cartage general manager Ricky Leeson and Austimber director Ian Reid vented their frustration last week during a visit to a recently-logged pine plantation on the outskirts of Traralgon.

Both said they were disappointed industry stakeholders were yet to be engaged, with Mr Leeson concerned a lack of proactive action could result in timber shortfalls in decades to come.

Member for Eastern Victoria Melina Bath also criticised the state government and said its response was a "deafening silence". "Unless we get the trees in the ground we could have a shortfall down the track and that could then have a huge impact on jobs for the local area," Mr Reid said.

"We're here at a spot today that will be planted this winter but there's land out there that's been fallow for a couple of years ... we have a window of about three months every year to plant trees [through winter]."

Mr Reid said he expected industry stakeholders would have been consulted by this stage with an action plan to tackle the new plantations enacted.

"We're talking about the trees for 2050 ... our industry is a long-term industry and it's important we have long-term strategies."

Mr Leeson, who sits on the Australian Forest Contractors Association board, said industry bodies were concerned about future planning for pine plantations. (Extracts from Latrobe Valley Express)

From P 16

Indonesia is looking to restart its club."

During her travels to the JIV Hoo-Hoo division Down Under in April, Robyn attended the annual convention in Bunbury, WA, later spreading her message across all states and territories, New Zealand and Malaysia.

Only the second woman to hold the 'Supreme Snark'

title in its 126-year-old history, Robyn reminded us: "Hoo-Hoo is fun, a lot of fun, and it's one of the best networking opportunities for our great industry. And don't forget to be a spark."

HOO-HOO

MEMBERSHIP

STRENGTHENS

ACROSS USA



Mount Gambier research hub flags opportunities for industry support

THE new National Institute of Forest Products Innovation has kicked into gear in South Australia with an inaugural meeting of its industry-driven advisory committee.

Tammy Auld, Woodflow manager at Timberlands Pacific, was elected chair and is planning a workshop to discuss the research priorities and strategy with all interested industry professionals on May 10.

The institute has been established to investigate innovation in areas such as forest management, timber processing, wood fibre recovery, advanced manufacturing and the bioeconomy. It will support the forest industry transition



Tammy Auld... a bright and innovative future.

into a smarter, higher-value focused industry, one that will boost opportunities for jobs and growth in the forest and forest products sector.

IFPI's South Australian hub has received a \$4 million funding commitment from the federal and South Australian governments, and it is anticipated it will also attract industry support.

Tammy Auld said the institute hub would strengthen ties between research and the industry's strategic needs.

"South Australia not only has a long history in forestry, but a bright and innovative future with the potential for a range of new bio-materials and other opportunities to value add," she said.

"Our focus will very much be on real world outcomes that are meaningful to industry, with priorities determined by industry."

Ms Auld is joined on the committee by Glen Rivers of OneFortyOne Plantations, Phillip Dohnt of LV Dohnt & Co, David Oliver of Timberlink, and industry consultant Charlma Phillips.

Professor Christopher Saint of the University of South Australia has been appointed as a non-voting observer to the committee.

IFPI has a further hub in Launceston.



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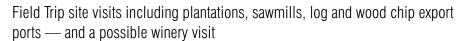




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Tambo sawmill opening revives industry in western Queensland

THE revival of the timber industry in Tambo in central west Queensland, underlined by the re-starting of the town's sawmill last August, was marked with an opening ceremony last week.

Federal Agriculture Minister David Littleproud met with mill workers and shire residents, congratulating the community for its drive in pursuing the project that brought 18 jobs during construction, and 13 ongoing jobs for bench saw and planing machine operators, timber harvesters, log carters and mill labourers.

The Tambo sawmill upgrade was funded under the \$35 million Drought Communities Program, part of the federal government's commitment to revitalising local economies affected by drought conditions.

The project was jointly funded, with the federal government investing \$340,550, the Queensland government \$262,250, and Blackall-Tambo Regional Council \$261,319.

Queensland's Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure



Sawmill
operators Jason
and Bob Sladden
with
Blackall-Tambo
mayor Andrew
Martin, federal
Agriculture
Minister David
Littleproud, and
the Member for
Gregory Lachlan
Millar, at the
sawmill opening.
Photo: Country Life

and Planning Cameron Dick said the sawmill was bringing \$1 million a year into Tambo and had the potential to bring \$4 million a year into the regional economy.

The state's financial contribution came from Building our Regions funding, which Mr Dick said was giving Queensland councils the opportunity to boost regional economies.

"Building our Regions has been most successful in generating construction jobs and other shorter-term benefits throughout regional Queensland – 1762 jobs through 174 projects in 62 councils – and this next round of funding is ramping up the emphasis on projects

that deliver real economic development clout," Mr Dick said.

Queensland Agriculture Minister Mark Furner said the mill's revival after being mothballed for seven years, was having flow-on effects.



"As people move to town to work at the mill, their children attend the local school, buy goods at the local shops and contribute to the local economy," he said.

The Blackall-Tambo Regional Council bought the disused sawmill in 2014, since overseeing a \$1,108,293 project that included buying the timber sales permit, a \$683,000 upgrade, and granting of a lease and operating rights to family company, R&R Logging Pty Ltd.

The upgrade included the installation of a solar system to reduce electricity costs, and the new planing shed and specialist planing equipment will allow the finishing of timber on-site.

Sawmill operator Bob Sladden said 100% of the mill's finished cypress pine product was being sent to Victoria for verandahs, pergolas and fences, while logs were in demand in China

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HEAD OFFICE

Timber & Forestry enews 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 dennisn@timberandforestryenews.com

MANAGING **EDITOR**

Jim Bowden | +61 (0) 401 312 087

ADVERTISING

John Halkett | +61 (0) 417 421 187 johnh@timberandforestryenews.com Jim Bowden | +61 (0) 401 312 087 cancon@bigpond.net au

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Luxury Lexus RX impresses Hoo-Hoo chiefs on a visit to Good Wood Street

Lumber lady from Detroit knows all about the auto business

FRENCH soldier and explorer Antoine de la Mothe Cadillac, who founded Detroit in 1701, could never have dreamed that two centuries later the bustling Michigan city would become the world's biggest auto manufacturer and that the most prestigious luxury car would carry his name and coat of arms.

Detroit is the birthplace of the automotive industry and more than 2.3 million cars and trucks rolled off Michigan assembly lines in 2014.

Talk about the Detroit auto industry was stoked last week when Robyn Roose Beckett, world chief of Hoo-Hoo International and a member of Detroit Hoo-Hoo Club 28, was welcomed to a reception organised by Brisbane Club 218.

Until recently, Robyn was a co-manager of Ulrich Lumber & Builders Supply, a family business for more than 90 years based in the Detroit suburb of Warren.

"You know, love him or loath him, Donald Trump has brought the declining auto industry back on top in Detroit; many car companies are now building and expanding plants in the US and Chrysler is moving a major plant from Mexico to Michigan," Robyn said.

"Which bodes well for housing and renovation and lumber sales."

And so it was that Robyn and Heather Gattone, chair of the JIV Hoo-Hoo board, on their arrival from Sydney were driven in a BMW by Brisbane Club member Bill Philip of the



Luxury and prestige... Heather Gattone, JIV Hoo-Hoo board chair, with world Hoo-Hoo president Robyn Roose Becket at the wheel admire the Lexus RX 350 L SUV on Good Wood Street in Hendra.

Responsible Timber Company to TC Beirne Park in Good Wood Street, Hendra, to relax in the shade of century-old camphor laurel trees.

It was here that a delighted Hoo-Hoo Snark of the Universe looked over the new seven-seater Lexus RX 350L, a product of the luxury vehicle division of Japanese car maker Toyota.

Lexus has extended its existing SUV by 110 mm behind the rear wheels to squeeze in two extra seats. Middle-row riders give an extra 45 mm of forward adjustability to compensate for the third row. Inside amenities provide cup holders hidden in the pull-down seat divider with bottle room in each of the rear doors. There's two cup holders in the front with a pocket in each door. The large

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central storage bin includes two USB connection points and a power source, which runs alongside a second power source underneath the air-conditioning controls.

The RX L 'Luxury' and 'Sport Luxury' trim levels have two engines – a petrol V6 and a hybrid option that adds an electric motor. Luxury 350s start from \$90,373 (on road), up to \$109,471 (on road) for the RX 350 Sport Luxury.

This luxury extends to the leather seats in rows one and two, artificial leather in the third, heated and ventilated

front seats, a leather-wrapped steering wheel and tri-zone climate control.

A nav-equipped, 8 in. display pairs with 12 speakers and the entire system is operated by way of a 'Lexus Remote Touch' mouse pad, a natty device that needs some concentration.

The Sport Luxury adds a colour head-up display and moon roof, as well as adaptive suspension and LED headlights with adaptive high beam. The screen is larger, pairing with a 15-speaker Mark Levinson stereo.

Rear stowage with all three rows in place provides 176 litres and with the third row down there's 433 litres of storage rising to 966 litres when the second and third rows are lowered.

The six-cylinder petrol engine puts out 216 kW at 6300 rpm and 358 Nm at 4600 rpm, sending power to all four wheels by way of an eight-speed automatic transmission.

The hybrid option uses the exact same engine, but with lower outputs of 193 kW at 6000 rpm and 335 Nm at 4600 rpm. It's paired with an electric motor that lifts the total output to 230 kW.

Lexus claims identical performance figures for both options, with a 0-100km/h sprint of 8 seconds and a top speed of 200 km/h.

The petrol V6 claims 10.6 L/100 km on the combined cycle with the hybrid returning 6.0 L/100 km on the same cycle.

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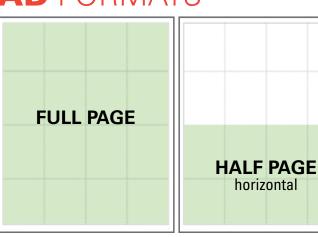


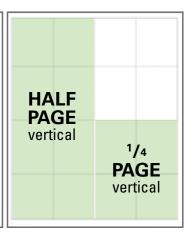
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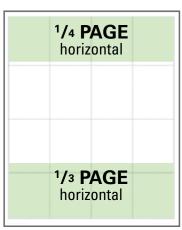
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