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... .. from TPAA President



President Gerry has continued to preside over the TPAA during the period since the last Issue .

For this Issue of CONTACT he has acknowledged the appropriateness of Jack's Rant (below) and encouraged Kerry Bloor to follow him in our on-going series about the "Movers & Shakers" in our sector of the Australian forest products industry (See page 8).

... .. and from TPAA Secretary

Jack's rant Years ago when the Timber Utilization and Marketing Act was still in place and 'public service' was actually a service to the public, I would regularly get asked to look into situations where timber had failed in service. Even today as a 'gun for hire' I only see the problems.



Because nobody ever rang me up and said 'Wow that wooden product did a great job' and because I only heard about the problems, it was/is easy to conclude that the performance of timber in service is a problem. I reckon the reality is most likely different! There is an awful lot of performing timber out there, both treated and untreated, and that we just don't hear about it.

I further think that there is a perception in the market place that timber as a building product is unreliable and you know what they say about 'perception'! Actually it may be a bit more than a perception. About a month ago I gave a presentation to the Queensland branch of the Institute of Engineers about managing timber durability. After the show, two different engineers told me that they don't like treated timber because they can't rely on the quality.

This is why I reckon the recent workshops hosted by the new National Centre for Timber Design Life and Durability were spot on. The workshops were aimed at "Improving Confidence in Treated Timber" and it was interesting to see that each of the three workshops had a different feel or perspective. Phil Evans the Director of the new centre will have his work cut out for him drawing all the issues raised during the meetings into a coherent thread. The sad thing for me is that there were so few actual treaters present. You can't say you weren't asked!

The other thing you need to be aware of is that the Queensland Parliament has just passed 'Non-conforming Products Legislation' and I have been told that other States will be doing the same thing. The new law is called "Building and Construction Legislation (Non-conforming Building Products - Chain of Responsibility and other Matters) Amendment Bill 2017. At the moment, treated timber is below the radar so the future may be interesting. All the rules seem to be being put in place and this is why a National Quality Assurance Scheme is becoming a better and better idea. No doubt there will be more on this topic.

Jack Norton

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Old Stewards again give arsenic warning

By AAP

Queensland stewards have renewed their warning about the dangers of arsenic in wood products after a horse trained by Frank Phillips returned a positive swab.

The veteran Caloundra trainer was charged with bringing D'Leeajet to the Sunshine Coast races in May last year with arsenic in her system above the prescribed threshold.

Phillips pleaded guilty to the charge which was his first in more than 60 years as a trainer.

Because of the unusual circumstances and Phillips' good record, the trainer was not penalised but the mare was disqualified.

Chief steward Allan Reardon said stewards took into account a study by the Melbourne University faculty of Veterinary Agricultural Sciences which examined the ingestion of wood shaving containing arsenic and the elevated levels achieved.

"We considered evidence of the analysis of timber post samples taken from the yard in which D'Leeajet was housed and a report from Symbio Laboratories, which confirmed the presence of arsenic in the treated timber," Reardon said.



"Stewards also accepted that when the stable inspection was conducted, photographic evidence confirmed that D'Leeajet had eaten a significant amount of this timber."

"Stewards, therefore, could not exclude to the requisite standard that the level of arsenic detected was not the result of D'Leeajet consuming the timber from the posts."

It was the fourth arsenic case in Queensland in the past month in which stewards have used the Melbourne report.

"We repeat our warning to trainers about shavings and fence posts which have been treated by arsenic," Reardon said.

"Unfortunately, there are more cases to come in thoroughbred and harness racing."



WIDE WORLD OF SPORTS

Treatment Plant Would Elevate Timber Quality: Naitaka

by JOSAIA RALAGO, Labasa

Nasoqo Investment Limited in Bua has plans to include a timber treatment plant for its sawmill.

Indicating this interest was entrepreneur Luke Naitaka.

He said this would elevate the quality of the timber they made which would also provide a hike in the normal price they offered at the moment.

The plant has already been purchased by the proprietors and all is left is its housing facility and other necessary equipment.



Commissioner Northern Jovesa Vocea, Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama, Luke Naitaka and his wife Elenoa Naikata at their sawmill in Bua.

Photo: Josaia Ralago.

"There are plans to start construction by October this year, roughly giving it a year and half before construction is complete," Mr Naitaka said.

The business was established at the end of 2015 and in its year and a half of existence, Mr Naitaka said there has been a positive feedback from the community, thus a need to raise the bar.

"This was first founded with the initiative to help address the rural urban drift and to create employment for people in the district," Mr Naitaka said.

"And right now we are selling our timber at one of the lowest prices to other manufacturers and if we were to include this treatment plant then we would be able to sell the timber at a higher cost."

He had indicated this with the hope of indicating funds for the project to the Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama during his most recent visit to the North.

"We are happy with his response as this means a lot to the company. The cost of this would amount up to about \$80,000 – \$100,000."



Illegal phoenix activity and how to avoid it

The ATO is currently targeting illegal phoenix businesses in the building and construction industry, in order to protect honest workers and businesses.

The building industry is heavily affected by illegal phoenix companies deliberately going into liquidation, leaving debts behind, harming honest contractors and ripping off workers by not paying them their entitlements and super.

Illegal phoenix activity occurs when a company has been deliberately liquidated to avoid paying its debts, including taxes, creditors and employee entitlements, and then continues to operate under a new company name.

The Australian Taxation Office (ATO) is currently targeting illegal phoenix businesses to make it fair for those who do the right thing.

There are several precautions you can take to protect your business from illegal phoenix activity. Before engaging in business with a client, protect yourself by:

- **Conducting a background check:** Conduct a simple online search of the company and its director(s) or conduct a formal credit check, seek references or purchase a company report through ASIC.
- **Limiting the impact of risky companies on your business:** You can do this by assessing whether you're taking a large enough deposit from high-risk companies, asking for upfront payments and ensuring that you have multiple alternate sources of income from other clients. You can also customise your payment terms and conditions with high-risk clients and mitigate risks with a company director's guarantee or bank guarantee.
- **Keeping your distance from tax fraud:** To avoid getting involved with a company involved in illegal tax evasion activities and facing penalties for doing so, you can include a clause in your contract that ensures that your client is compliant with their tax obligations.

Case Study

The ATO is working with the Phoenix Taskforce to tackle illegal phoenix activity within the building and construction industry.

These operators frequently do not meet all their employer obligations, especially Pay as You Go Withholding and superannuation. They often do not pay the GST for the services they provide, nor do they pay income tax on the money they take out of the business to purchase assets like real estate or expensive cars.

The ATO has been working with the Office of Commonwealth Games Coordination since 2015 to ensure Gold Coast Commonwealth Games sites are protected from phoenix operators. This involves higher scrutiny on the tax affairs of those working on site. This partnership has been highly successful, and has been replicated at a number of large building sites around Australia.

These phoenix operators typically have millions in unpaid tax and superannuation. This allows them to undercut legitimate businesses who comply with their tax obligations.

The ATO and the Government's Phoenix Taskforce are committed to putting a stop to illegal phoenix activity within the building and construction industry and are actively prosecuting those who offend.

If you suspect a business of engaging in illegal phoenix behaviour, report them to the ATO today. You can report suspicious behaviour by completing an online [tax evasion reporting form](#), emailing phoenix@ato.gov.au, or calling 1800 060 062.

Find out more about illegal phoenix activity by visiting ato.gov.au/Phoenix.

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Tasmanian timber yard up in flames

ETHAN JAMES Australian Associated Press July 12, 2017

A fire that caused at least \$800,000 in damage to a Tasmanian timber yard was deliberately lit, authorities say. Nine crews battled the blaze at Neville Smith's Timber yard in Mowbray after it went up in flames.

Detective Inspector John King said the fire ignited in an area not connected to electricity.

"It was quite deep on the property and a large fire," he said. I was informed by the owners that normally they have staff on site but last night there were no staff on site."

Firefighters were still trying to put out the blaze on Wednesday afternoon, with the Tasmania Fire Service confirming it had been deliberately lit.

High-value timber was saved from the fire, which engulfed 240 racks of timber.

Police are reviewing CCTV footage and testing for accelerant.

THE AUSTRALIAN 
FOR THE INFORMED AUSTRALIAN

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Trail Masters replace pedestrian ramp at FJSP

By Staff Reports - July 25, 2017

The Frank Jackson Trail Masters Association recently completed the construction of a replacement pedestrian ramp at the main restroom area of Frank Jackson State Park.

The existing ramp was deteriorated and in need of repair or replacement. All ramp materials were provided by Trail Masters funds and did not impact the park's budget.



Marvin McCullough, Carl Hollinghead, Udo Christ, Paul Rogers, Byron Adams, Danny Bess, William Schofield, and Donnie Mooney. Charles Willis, Larry Presley, and Jimmy Whigham. Courtesy photo

The new ramp is approximately 16 feet long and the ramp supports were constructed of 6 inch X 6 inch **pressure treated timbers** resting on a concrete foundation.

All flooring and side rails are gray composite lumber similar to that contained on the existing footbridges of the walking trails.

This material requires less maintenance and is expected to provide a longer life for the structure.

The ramp is similar to the footbridge structures that were previously built by the Trail Masters to provide a safe and easy access on walking trails located on the park's unique nine acre island.

Construction crew members were Marvin McCullough, Carl Hollinghead, Udo Christ, Paul Rogers, Byron Adams, Danny Bess, William Schofield, and Donnie Mooney. Charles Willis, Larry Presley, and Jimmy Whigham also gave of their time and talent but were not available for this photo.

The Andalusia
Star-News
COVINGTON COUNTY'S NEWS SOURCE

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Investigating solution to hazardous treated timber



Photo: Thinkstock

Scion is to investigate the feasibility of remediating treated timber with government funding of \$163,000, Associate Environment Minister Scott Simpson announced today.

Chromated copper arsenate (CCA) is a preservative for timber that has been commonly used in New Zealand since the 1950s. However, CCA-treated timber becomes a hazardous waste material when sent to landfill, that can leach arsenic into the ground.

"To date, there have been no practical remediation options available to this problem, so I am delighted that Scion believes they may have one and that I am able to support them in testing its feasibility," Mr Simpson says.

"This study could provide New Zealand with an opportunity to divert CCA-treated timber from landfills and offer an environmentally friendly solution reusing both the wood fibre and the extracted metals."

A 2013 report suggested that currently between 12,000 and 42,000 tonnes of treated timber could be sent to landfills nationally per annum, not including the significant estimated nationwide contribution of rural waste.

The grant, provided through the Waste Minimisation Fund, will fund a two year project, based in Rotorua.

The Waste Minimisation Fund provides financial support to projects that reduce environmental harm and provide social, economic and cultural benefits. It is funded from a levy introduced by the National-led Government in 2009, which is charged on waste disposed of at landfills to discourage waste and to fund recycling initiatives. Over \$80 million has been awarded to more than 130 projects to date.

Newsie
UNITED, INDEPENDENT NEW ZEALAND NEWS

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Hyne Timber's T3Green Plus: a leader in preservative treatment

FOR OVER a hundred years, fossil fuel based preservatives (LOSP) have been used to treat timber, so, like all other unsustainable products, is it time for change?

One of the longest standing timber companies in Australia, Hyne Timber, is known within the industry for leading innovation and their new T3 Green Plus treatment is following suit!

Immediately following its launch at the start of the year, T3 Green Plus is generating significant interest with new customers and creating some fun along the way with an entertaining marketing video.

Following extended research and development, T3 Green Plus is proven and guaranteed like all other Hyne Timber treatments. In other words, it exceeds the Australian Standards, has a comprehensive manufacturer backed performance guarantee **and is one of only a handful of Australian timber treatments to achieve independent CodeMark certification.**

So what's so special about T3 Green Plus? **It's revolutionary because it's a new generation H3 treatment that's suitable for both internal and external, above ground projects.**

Most significantly, the T3 Green Plus treatment emits no volatile organic compounds (VOC's), which sets it above and beyond other H3 treatments and renders it safe for both indoor wall framing where moisture or humidity is a concern (bathrooms, kitchens and laundries), as well as children's playgrounds and other outdoor structural projects.

So, without giving away any secret formulas, **Hyne Timber's Marketing Manager, Jeremy Mead** is feeling upbeat about this innovation, "We were given a solid challenge by our customer base and the tradies who use the product.

"Put simply, we needed the petrochemical smell and VOC emissions gone from our timber. "Initially we looked at ways to mask or eliminate the smell as this seemed the easiest course of action.

"However, the more we worked on this, the more we realised - that to fully address the health and environmental risks - we needed to get rid of the hydrocarbon 'carrier' completely. Essentially, we had to be more solution focused with our approach and move with the global treatment trend," Mr Mead said.

Innovation relates to new and improved methods and Hyne Timber recognises this in their T3 Green Plus product brochure which starts with:

"They'll tell you it can't be done.

- **That a safe, water-based treatment can't protect timber to a level that will withstand the great Australian outdoors.**
- **That what we're claiming is impossible. But then again, everything is technically "impossible" - until it's done!"**

Their treatment processes include daily laboratory testing and analysis using highly advanced methods for verification of preservative levels and quality in both the solution and timber samples.



T3 GreenPlus roofing insitu.

The T3 Green Plus H3 treatment penetrates both sapwood and difficult to treat heartwood fibres, providing superior protection in excess of Australian Standards and timber industry conventions.

Modifications were made to their Tumberumba plant in order to successfully introduce this new treatment to the market including equipment, mixing, dosing and storage facilities plus the requirement to train employees with the new treatment process.

It is proven protection against the most aggressive termites as well as severe tropical decay and rot.

With a more natural colour and finish, it has superior aesthetic qualities once stained or painted.

"It's about exceeding customer expectations, exceeding health and environmental obligations while finding solutions that are proven and guaranteed," said Mr Mead.

For more information on T3 Green Plus visit hyne.com.au including Material Safety Data Sheets and warranty information.

AUSTRALASIAN TIMBER

AUGUST 2017

www.timberbiz.com.au

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Items provided in this CONTACT Newsletter are drawn from a number of sources. The source of the item is quoted, either by publication or organization in line with the practice of fair reporting.

TPAA does not necessarily agree with or endorse the content of articles written by others.

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Blenheim residents express 'fury and anger' at proposed timber plant

OLIVER LEWIS - August 15 2017



Residents, from left, Alan Hall, Catherine Millar, Kevin Millar, Allan Wilson, Wendy Wilson, Jenny Halliday, David Turner and Chris Van de Venter are against a proposed timber treatment plant close to their houses.

A fiery public meeting on a proposed industrial plant near an upmarket Blenheim subdivision has left little doubt - residents do not want it near their homes. Tensions boiled over at the meeting, held at The Elim Centre on Monday night, to discuss a proposal for a pyrolysis plant to be built at the Bluegums Landfill. The Taylor Pass Rd site is within a kilometre of the nearest property in the council-developed Boulevard Park on Taylor subdivision, and residents are not happy.

"The cynicism of selling sections with one hand, and slipping in this plant with the other is stunning," one man said. "I'm actually furious, and the fury and the anger that is bubbling up in this room, you must be able to feel it."

The company behind the project, Waste Transformation, has partnered with the council to develop the plant to turn chemically-treated vineyard posts into charcoal.

Waste Transformation chief executive Mike Henare tried to assure residents the facility, which would process 3000 tonnes of timber a year, would not affect their health. Vineyard posts are treated with copper, chromium and arsenic as a preservative, and many residents harboured concerns about the impact of arsenic emissions.

"I think I can speak for everyone in this hall, the main worry is health," **Witherlea resident Alan Hall** said.

"I'm not convinced there won't be serious emissions from this plant. I don't doubt the integrity of the company at all, but it's in the wrong part of town, the wrong place. **"I'm not a scientist by any means, but my gut instinct tells me this is all wrong."**

His comments, like many others opposing the proposal, were met with a round of applause and cries of "hear! hear!" from the more than 70-strong crowd.

Henare said there was no direct flame used in the pyrolysis process; instead, the timber was heated indirectly by a diesel burner in an oxygen-free environment. It was heated to around 350 degrees Celsius, a level Henare said meant the copper, chromium and the vast majority of the arsenic was retained in the charcoal.

"I think 70 per cent [of the arsenic] stays in the charcoal, another 10 to 15 per cent passes through to the tar, and there's very little left over that goes into the gas itself," he said.

Waste Transformation operated a much smaller pyrolysis plant in Timaru, that processed about 500 tonnes of timber a year, most of which was untreated.

Henare said Environment Canterbury had conducted extensive monitoring of the site, and the company had always been compliant when it came to emissions.

They had also hired a Christchurch consulting company to conduct emissions modelling for the Blenheim site. A representative from the consulting company spoke at the public meeting outlining the process, but said she could not disclose the results until the report came out on Friday.

Despite the assurances from Henare and the case put forward by the council - that a pyrolysis plant would deal with the issue of treated vineyard posts - few seemed convinced. Many were concerned about the arsenic emissions, while others were angry about a perceived lack of information, with one man alleging the council seemed to be acting like the applicant.

"We don't want [anyone] coming here telling us that we can live with this thing so close to our schools, with our little kids and pregnant mothers," one woman said.

"And council, you really want to get your backsides kicked for even contemplating it going this far. It was hushed up for so long before it got out."



Some of the Blenheim residents opposing a proposed pyrolysis plant near an upmarket subdivision.

However, council **solid waste manager Alec McNeil** said the council had been clear about its support for the plant through the annual plan process and in the media.

The council was providing \$450,000 towards the establishment of the plant, and had guaranteed the company a supply of 3000 tonnes of timber a year.

McNeil said the Bluegums Landfill site, where timber was being stockpiled in anticipation of the plant, was the only site the council had looked at in detail. It had the advantage of having existing infrastructure such as weighbridges, and was the destination for some 8000 tonnes of timber going into landfill every year.

McNeil and Deputy Mayor Terry Sloan both emphasised the fact the council had two roles in the process, **an enabler as well as a regulator** and the company would have to secure consent for the plant to go ahead.

Waste Transformation was expected to file for resource consent in late August, a process which would be overseen by an independent commissioner.

When asked if he would be comfortable buying a section in the subdivision, McNeil replied that he had, and that he had faith in the consenting process to determine the application.

"I hear what you're saying, I understand your concerns, but that will all come out in the consenting process," he said.

- The Marlborough Express



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Store of the week: Signs of the time at Marktkauf

BY JOHN RYAN - 25 AUGUST, 2017

The Osnabrück outpost of grocer-cum-general merchandise retailer Marktkauf, in north Germany, has just come through a complete makeover, courtesy of design consultancy Interstore Italia.

The 6,200 sq m store, originally opened in 1971, puts communication at the heart of things. Practically this means large signs bearing legends such as 'Frühstück', all things to do with breakfast, and 'Info', mobile phones and electronics, giving the interior a category rather than product-based feel.



Fresh fruit and veg are given the increasingly familiar market treatment, but pride of place probably goes to the cheese counter, which features an overhead raft of treated timber and an upscale ambience.

The clarity and outsize scale of the signage in this store make navigation very straightforward, as well as promoting a warm sense, **thanks to the use of vivid colour, coupled with plain timber finishes.**



It is frequently said that supermarket retailing is about evolution not revolution and this store is no exception. That said, it is a good example of the best in class at the moment





Part 3 of Series: *Kerry Bloor*

City of Residence: *Tauranga, North Island, New Zealand.*

Inhabitants at my residence: *Wifey, 3 kids, 1 Rottweiler, 1 cat, 10 chooks.*

Start date and current position: *2002, Big Cheese with Lumber One Limited.*

What I like best about my work: *The joys of owning your own business.*

Best job: *Current job.*

Worst job: *Counting ice cream sticks, Carter Holt Harvey.*

Favourite place to live: *Tauranga.*

Motto or Personal Mantra: *"What goes around, comes around".*

I'm happiest when: *I'm with my family.*

What I fear most: *Drowning.*

I'm proudest of: *My family.*

Favourite sports or pastimes: *Riding my motorbike, helping out with my kids' sports.*

The Top 3 Highlights of my Life:

- i) Meeting my wife ☺*
- ii) Birth of my 3 children*
- iii) Doing our OE*

People would be surprised to know: *That I was a NZ junior equestrian champion.*

If I could do it all over again, I would: *- not do much different. Maybe get better formal qualifications early on.*

Favourite Memory: *Visiting Goreme, Turkey.*

Pet peeves: *People who aren't upfront.*

Favourite song, movie, book, or comedian:

Song: *It's a long way to the top, ACDC*

Movie: *Anything with Steven Seagal*

Books: *Anything by John Grisham*

Comedian: - *Billy T James* -

Best Vacation: *Fiji vacation with family and friends for my wife's 50th birthday.*

Favourite Vehicle: *Triumph Rocket.*

Before I die, I would like to: *Own a 50' fishing launch*

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