



Foresters are friendly and responsible: photo winner.

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Foresters are friendly and responsible: photo winner



On the cover: Early Morning in the Bago Forest... winning photo in the Responsible Wood national contest entered by Robyn MacRae of Tumut, NSW.

Trees her best subjects...Responsible Wood photo contest winner Robyn MacRae.

'There's no better time to be among the gentle giants than in the morning mist'
– Robyn MacRae

“THAT’S good news – and I need some good news,” laughed Tumut, NSW, nature photographer Robyn MacRae who heard she had won the Responsible Wood photo contest just days after she fell from her snow board at the Mount Selwyn ski resort.

Recovering from her knee injury, Robyn says it won't be long before she is back taking photographs of her favourite subjects of inspiration – trees.

“Most of my work is in the wonderful forests around Tumut, especially the inspiring

stands of alpine ash which set the tone for my images.”

Responsible Wood's nation-wide photo contest, part of a PEFC worldwide initiative, was aimed at further raising awareness of the importance of sustainable forest management and certification.

The competition, which ran from Earth Day April 22 to World Environment Day June 5, attracted many entries from across Australia.

Robyn MacRae's entry – Early Morning in the Bago Forest – gave her a second win in the contest, which includes a \$500 gift voucher.

“Early mornings are the best time to take my photographs

– and there's no better time to be among the silent giants that grow there in the winter mist,” she said.

Using her favourite Cannon 5D (“I'm camera shy and prefer to work behind the camera”) Robyn has an assignment to take photos of harvesting, planting and nursery operations for the NSW Forestry Corporation to build on the corporation's photo library and information resource.

“This is a wonderful opportunity to see the diverse range of roles people play in growing and harvesting sustainable forests,” Robyn said.

A teacher in design and technology at the Riverina Institute TAFE and married to

forest radio manager at the Forestry Corporation Peter MacRae, Robyn says forestry field workers are among the friendliest and most responsible people she has met.

The Bago state forest is incredibly diverse covering the native alpine ash forests of the Bago Plateau, through historic plantation stands dating back to the 1920s and a large area of commercial radiata plantations.

For the record, Mount Selwyn Snow Resort – and a slope there that Robyn is trying to forget – is in the most northern part of the Snowy Mountains, near Cabramurra, Australia's highest town, and close to Kiandra, where skiing began in Australia in 1861.



Responsible Wood chair Dr Hans Drielsma, AM (left), and CEO Simon Dorries, look over the operations of Juken New Zealand at the company's Masterton plywood and LVL facility during a meeting of the board in Wellington.



Karl Burlington of Juken New Zealand gives Responsible Wood director Mark Thomson a look over processing facilities at Juken New Zealand's plywood and LVL mill in Masterton.

Boards agree on trans-Tasman standard for forest management.

AUSTRALIA and New Zealand are closer to developing a joint trans-Tasman standard for forest management following a joint meeting between the boards of Responsible Wood and the New Zealand Forest Certification Association (NZFCA) in Wellington last week.

Responsible Wood and the NZFCA operate PEFC-endorsed sustainable forest management systems in Australia and New Zealand respectively.

A significant outcome of the meeting between Responsible Wood and the New Zealand Forest Certification Association will be the development going forward of a joint Australia-New Zealand standard for

Sustainable Forest Management AS/NZS 4708.

"We are confident of getting the right structures in place for the development of a joint standard recognised in both countries," Responsible Wood CEO Simon Dorries said.

The New Zealand Forest Certification Association is primarily concerned with forest-related certification activities and is the governing body in New Zealand for the global forest certification scheme PEFC.

Wood Processors and Manufacturers Association of NZ CEO Dr Jon Tanner said after the meeting his board was looking forward to developing the joint standard, which had been given the green light by Standards New Zealand.

"The process will probably kick off at the end of the year,"

he said.

Standards New Zealand attended the meeting and provided useful feedback and guidance on the joint initiative.

Standards New Zealand is a business unit within the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment and is New Zealand's leading developer of standards and standards-based solutions, developed in partnership with Standards Australia.



Following the meeting, the Responsible Wood board visited the Masterton plywood and LVL operations of Juken New Zealand, 100 km northeast of Wellington.

A major employer, JNL operates four wood processing mills and manufactures advanced and innovative wood products from selectively-planted, managed and harvested radiata pine sourced from plantation forests in the Northland, East Coast and Wairarapa regions of the North Island.

The New Zealand forest and wood products sector relies heavily on exports with around 70% of production going offshore. Increasingly, the main markets, particularly Australia, North America and Asia, are demanding third-party certification as proof of legality of harvest and quality of forest management.

Most of the countries New Zealand exports to are now PEFC members and recognise PEFC certification as meeting their import requirements.

Nominations open for Richard Stanton Award.

RESPONSIBLE Wood is calling for nominations in this year's coveted Richard Stanton Memorial Award for Excellence in Forest Management.

This is the fourth year of the award which pays tribute to a man who devoted his life to sustainable forest management in Australia and internationally.

Richard Stanton was CEO and national secretary of Australian Forestry Standard Ltd (now Responsible Wood), and had a number of key roles with the Australian Plantation Products and Paper Industry Council, the Australian Paper Industry Council, Plantation Timber Association of Australia, National Association of Forest Industries, and State Forests NSW.

Fourth year of coveted award that pays tribute to a man who devoted his life to the forest sector

Nominations for the award are open to individuals who have contributed significantly to either forest management or chain-of-custody certification under the Responsible Wood certification program. The award nominees will be those who have contributed to sustainable forest management under AS4708 or chain of custody under AS4707.

The award is open to, but not restricted to, forest owners and managers; chain-of-custody certificate holders; staff of certification bodies; forest scientists and researchers; and designers of products manufactured from sustainable timber.

The award also carries a \$2000 bursary prize.

Applicants for the award will have demonstrated excellence in the following areas:

- A significant and valuable contribution to sustainability.
- Innovation, improvement or excellence in forest management or chain of custody certification.
- A strong commitment to the Responsible Wood certification scheme and sustainable forest management.
- Innovation and improvement in the promotion and marketing of Responsible Wood certified products

The selection of the successful applicant will be made by the Responsible Wood marketing committee and announced at the annual general meeting in Brisbane on October 23. Nominations for the award close on October 5, 2018.

Nominations can be forwarded to: Responsible Wood, PO Box 786, New Farm, Q 4005. Email sdorries@responsiblewood.org.au

Responsible Wood CEO Simon Dorries (left) and chair Dr Hans Drielsma AM present the 2017 Richard Stanton Memorial Award for Excellence in Forest Management to Lou Coutts, external relations manager for HVP Plantations. The inaugural winner of the award in 2015 Dr Marie Yee, senior conservation planner, Sustainable Timber Tasmania, adds her congratulations.



Previous award winners were:

- 2015: Dr Marie Yee, senior conservation planner, Sustainable Timber Tasmania, who helped develop a system of forest management planning which provides a high level of certainty that biodiversity is being managed effectively within the forest at a landscape scale.
- 2016: Mark Leech, a driving force behind Fine Timber Tasmania, a sustainability-focused, non-profit association which represents the specialty timber supply chain – growers, processors, design makers and retailers – and promotes Responsible Wood certified products. For more than a decade, Mr Leech has played a pivotal role in the development and strong uptake of RW chain-of-custody certification in Tasmania.
- 2017: Lou Coutts, external relations manager, HVP Plantations, based at Shelley, Vic, who is moving plantation forestry into new ground for stakeholder management, public access to plantation land, interactive websites, on-line inductions and social media.

All of these actions have greatly improved HVP's performance in stakeholder management and community relations, which has been recognised as part of the company's certification processes.



World Architecture Festival...
highlighting best use of certified timber.

Architecture contest shows diversity of certified wood

WHAT do two universities, an office block, a recital hall, a chapel, a school and a standing camp all have in common?

These are the seven fantastic projects shortlisted for the World Architecture Festival's Best Use of Certified Timber Prize.

Supported by PEFC, the prize rewards project teams and architects that have used certified timber in an innovative, educational or artistic manner, while demonstrating responsible sourcing in a completed building.

Forty architects from more than 20 countries entered projects into the prize.

Moreover, while certified timber was always the main construction material, the type of building varied widely – from higher education and research, to hotel and leisure, and community and religious buildings, to name a few.

"It is fantastic to see the variety of construction projects entered into the prize," said PEFC International CEO Ben Gunneberg after announcing seven short-listed projects.

"It goes to show how versatile timber is as a construction material – from small homes to high-rise office buildings, and everything in between. With a growing urban population, this has never been so important."

With the developments in engineered wood, such as CLT and glulam, it is now possible to build even higher with timber. This,

along with the ease and speed of construction, means certified timber is the perfect and sustainable choice for construction sector.

All projects had to prove they used certified timber as the principle material in their construction.

"While they are all made from timber, each project one looks unique," Mr Gunneberg said. "I don't envy the task of the jury to pick the winner."

The seven teams will present their projects to a jury at the World Architecture Festival on November 30. The jury will then present the winner with the prize at a gala dinner later that day.

PEFC-certified timber, whether it is solid wood or engineered wood, comes from a PEFC-certified forest – a forest managed sustainably in line with strict international requirements.

Across the world, the architecture community is embracing solid and engineered wood to deliver high profile, award-winning projects and every-day designs – from houses, schools and hotels to restaurants, theatres, supermarkets and swimming pools.

Under the theme Designing the Future with Sustainable Timber, a range of stakeholders have come together under the leadership of PEFC to promote the use of wood in construction in general and certified wood in particular.

Responsible Wood director Mark Thomson, a Brisbane-based eco-architect and sustainability expert, has been selected for the international judging panel for the festival's Best Use of Certified Timber prize.

Students take responsibility for sustainability in business

VISITING the Responsible Wood display at the National Sustainability Conference in Brisbane earlier this year (pictured) are Troy McGrath, business development manager, CitySmart, Marion Glover and Gabriel Skeeffe (right) program managers with EcoBiz, and Sue Oxley, teacher and sustainability group leader at Seton College, a co-educational high school at Mount Gravatt (second from right).



Ms Oxley intends to introduce Responsible Wood's sustainable forest management and wood certification initiatives into the college's sustainability and eco-science classes for Year 7-10 students. She said the college's sustainability program extended

to other schools across Brisbane.

The college participates each year in National Tree Planting Day and this year planted lemon myrtles and other indigenous plants in its 'indigenous garden'.

Sue Oxley said all students had their own laptop which would allow them to link to the Responsible Wood web site.

"It's all about a sustainable living future," she said.

PEFC tick for sustainability good Korea move

THE Republic of Korea has become the latest country to achieve PEFC endorsement of its national forest certification system – for the first time.

"Thanks to the PEFC endorsement of our national system, we expect the sustainable management of forests to become widespread in Korea," said Gilbon Koo, representative of the Korea Forest Certification Council, the body responsible for the development of the national system.

"We also look forward to the increased production and export of PEFC-certified

products originating from our sustainably-managed, PEFC-certified forests," he said.

The development of the Korean national system began in 2014. Drafted in partnership with members of the standardisation committee, the KFCC board of directors approved it in 2015.

The Korea Forestry Promotion Institute joined the PEFC alliance in 2016 before submitting the national system to PEFC for endorsement in 2017.

"Our next step is to promote group certification, to ensure the country's small-forest owners are also able to benefit from PEFC certification," Gilbon Koo said.



"This will not only help to secure the livelihoods of thousands of small forest owners, but will also increase the PEFC-certified forest area in Korea, along with the amount of PEFC-certified material on the market."

Consultation gives vital advice on PEFC sustainable benchmark.



New members... a Thai delegation accepts PEFC membership from Ben Gunneberg, CEO (second from left), and Peter Latham, chairman of PEFC International, following the approval of the Federation of Thai Industries (FTI) as the national PEFC member for Thailand. Thailand, along with Macedonia and Romania, are the latest countries to join PEFC.

STAKEHOLDERS from around the world have had their say, giving vital feedback on the PEFC revised sustainable forest management benchmark.

Close to 600 comments were received during the 60-day global public consultation. The Working Group responsible for revising this document will now consider all the comments at meetings from July 25 to 27.

“The global public consultation is an essential part of the PEFC standards setting process,” said CEO Ben Gunneberg.

“Up to this point, a multi-stakeholder group, or working group, has developed the document,” he said.

“For our sustainable forest management benchmark, this includes civil society representatives, forest owner associations and PEFC members, to name a few.”

Suzette Weeding, general manager land

management, Sustainable Timber Tasmania, is representing Australia on the PEFC Sustainable Forest Management working group.

Mr Gunneberg added: “The public consultation is when we share the work done by the working group with the rest of the world. This is important for gaining additional feedback and insights. No matter where they live, stakeholders can give their input and share their knowledge, helping to shape this vital benchmark.”

The PEFC Sustainable Forest Management benchmark is at the core of PEFC activities; it provides the basis for the requirements that forest owners or managers must meet to achieve PEFC certification at local level.

“We must therefore ensure that it continues to meet the demands and expectations – now and in the future. This is why we revise it regularly, ensuring that everybody affected is invited to take part in the process,” Mr Gunneberg said.

This new benchmark extends the impact of PEFC certification beyond forests and enhances its contribution to the United Nations; sustainable development goals.

PEFC has expanded the social requirements to include minimum wages for forest workers, equal opportunities for employment and non-discrimination, and promote gender equality. There are also enhanced provisions designed to safeguard the interests of indigenous peoples.



New benchmark extends impact of PEFC certification beyond forests

With the inclusion of Trees outside Forests (ToF), PEFC certification will become accessible to the millions of farmers and smallholders that do not own or manage forests, but rather trees on agricultural or settlement land that are currently outside the scope of certification.



Forests for fashion in New York... many designers inspired to use forest-derived materials for their creations.



PEFC sustainable fashion goes centre stage in New York.

FOREST fashions took centre stage at the United Nations headquarters in New York this month for a high-level political forum on sustainable development.

As part of its Forests for Fashion initiative with UNECE/FAO, and a range of other partners such as the UN Forum on Forests, PEFC Italy, PEFC Spain and SFI, PEFC highlighted the role of forests and forest products towards a sustainable fashion sector.

The fashion exhibit brought together the work of many designers, all inspired to use forest-derived materials for their creations.

Alongside many innovative and creative designs, was a capsule collection by Spanish designer María Lafuente using the world's first PEFC-certified fabrics, produced by Textil Santederina – a fabric that can be traced back to sustainably-managed forests.

"It is our responsibility to promote fashion that respects life so we can contribute to a harmonious and sustainable society," said María Lafuente.

"We create, work and produce ethically and sustainably, always selecting environmentally friendly materials," she said.

Visitors also learnt the connection between forests, fashion and the UN's sustainable development goals by exploring 'SDG fashion cubes'.

Actor and UNDP Goodwill Ambassador and sustainable fashion champion Michelle Yeoh opened Ministerial segment this week and launched the video 'Made in Forests', a short story on sustainable fashion.

Along with opening remarks by high-level invitees, guests talked with designers and representatives of all organisations involved in the 'Forests for Fashion' collaboration.

In partnership with the UN Economic

Commission for Europe and the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation, the PEFCG Forests for Fashion initiative is linking forest-based materials from sustainably managed forests with the world of fashion.

Almost 65% of global fabric consumption consists of synthetic fibres derived from fossil fuels, while the majority of the remainder is made up of cotton, a water and pesticide-intensive crop.

Renewable and responsibly sourced wood fibres are part of the solution to transform fashion into a more sustainable industry.

"However, we need to ensure that these forest-based materials originate from sustainably managed forests, and that we produce them in a sustainable and ethical manner," PEFC CEO Ben Gunneberg said.

"This what our Forests for Fashion initiative is all about."

On the board

Dr Hans Drielsma AM, B.Sc. For (Hons),
M.F.S., M.Phil., Ph.D., FAICD (chair)
Alison Carmichael

Nathan Trushell B.Sc. (REM), MIFA
Colin Fitzpatrick
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David West B.Sc. (For), MBA
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