

November 2021

# TIMBERLINK

## Tarpeena updates announced

Timberlink at HomeFEST  
Tasmanian Timber Awards  
Introducing the Timber  
Framing Collective



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**Cover photo:** Timberlink Account Manager, Isobel Nas joins staff at a pine nursery in Tasmania.

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Welcome to the November edition of our customer newsletter.

As we move rapidly towards the end of 2021, we reflect on what's been a busy few months for the Timberlink team.

In this month's issue, we share details about additional upgrades at our Tarpeena site, take a look at our HomeFEST exhibit, provide an industry update and reveal details of our graduate program... and that's just the start.

As always, we thank our valued customers for their ongoing support through this challenging year.

Happy reading!

# Tarpeena Update

In September, we announced the next stage in the evolution of our Tarpeena manufacturing facility.

With our ongoing commitment to ensuring the highest quality of products to meet customer needs, Timberlink will expand the capability of our Tarpeena manufacturing facility with the installation of a new state-of-the-art treatment plant.

The plant will utilise the latest technology to ensure the highest environmental standards are achieved. The treatment plant will produce Light Organic Solvent Preservative (LOSP) treated timber, including Timberlink Green low odour outdoor structural, a key part of Timberlink's timber product range.

This exciting expansion in capability for Tarpeena follows the significant upgrade of the site over three years and leverages off the new sawline currently in commissioning. The facility will support existing and future treatment needs, including services required to support Timberlink's Cross Laminated Timber and Glue Laminated Timber (CLT & GLT) market entry in 2023.

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*"This investment in a dedicated treatment plant is another key development in the creation of a world-class timber processing facility in Tarpeena. New permanent roles will be created at the site, in addition to a number of jobs created during construction," said Timberlink CEO Ian Tyson.*

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Commencing in September 2021, the project is expected to be completed early in 2023. This investment will see further expansion of Timberlink's production of outdoor timber at Tarpeena.

**Check out our question of the month on page 16 for more info on LOSP.**



# Tarpeena Sawline Update

The new sawline at our Tarpeena site uses world-class technology to improve sawing performance.

The installation will result in:

- Improved operating efficiencies through increased control, accuracy and throughput
- Improved recovery utilising smaller log diameters coming from the forest. This creates more value from the existing pine plantations.
- Improved quality of wood chips.
- Reduced maintenance & increased parts life.

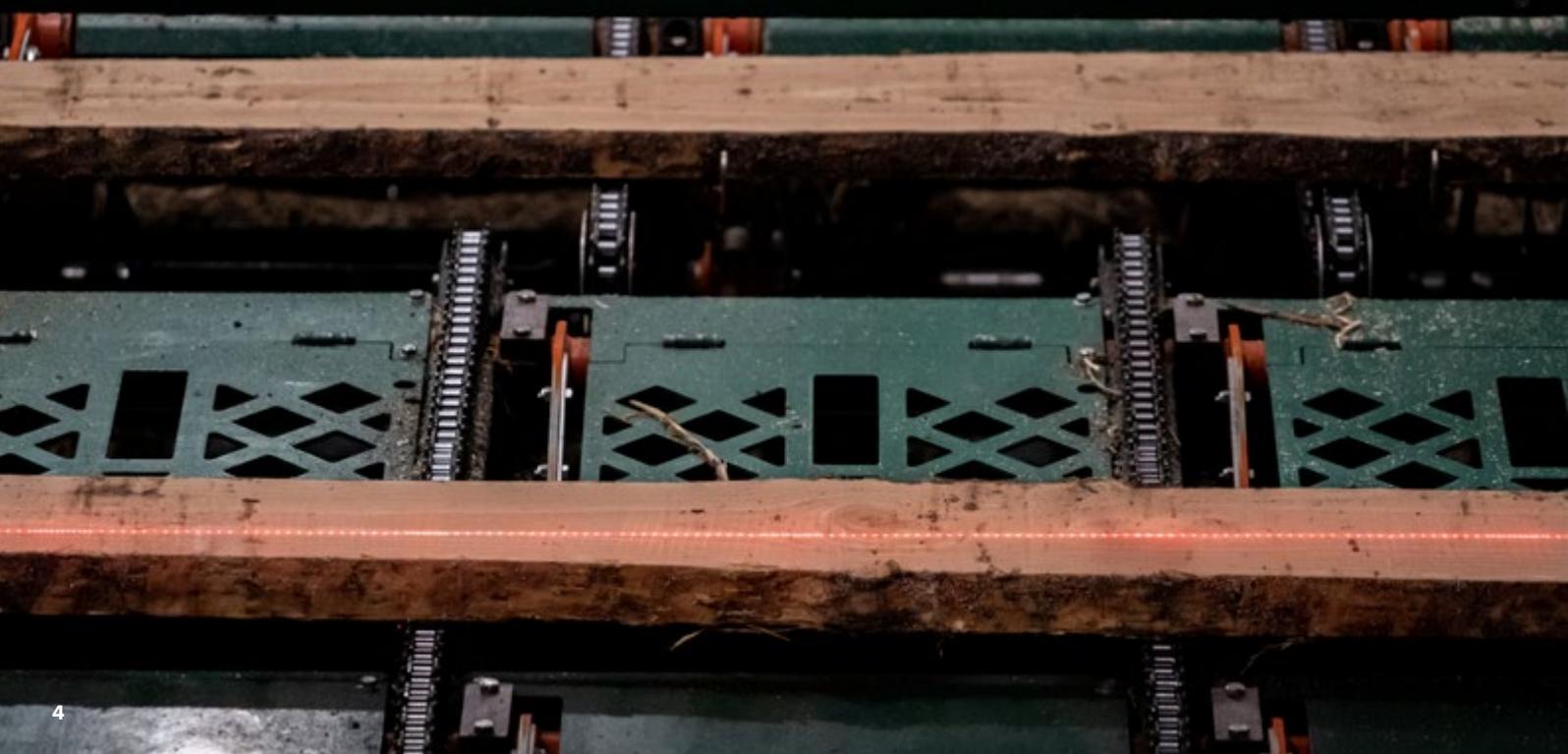
Major components of the new sawline include:

- 1 Extended Length Infeed (ELI) with slew & skew capability
- 2 Conical shape chipper module
- 3 CATECH edger system
- 4 Log line optimisation
- 5 Lubrication, vibration monitoring & improved service life parts

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*“We are ensuring that all aspects of the business are internationally competitive to secure our long term future”*  
*Timberlink CEO - Ian Tyson*

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# Timberlink at HomeFEST

We recently exhibited at the 2021 HIA HomeFEST, Tasmania's largest and most successful home and renovation show.

There were approximately 8,000 people in attendance over the course of the weekend, a figure that the team are thrilled with given the lack of interstate suppliers and attendees.

COVID-19 restrictions certainly brought some challenges for exhibitors such as limiting numbers in the booth and requiring masks to be worn by all attendees, however, despite these challenges, the event was a real success and a credit to organisers.

The Timberlink booth was a hive of activity over the weekend, with team members showcasing our wide range of Tasmanian plantation pine products, answering product related questions and coordinating interactive activities and giveaways for the little ones.

We spoke to our State Sales Manager (TAS), Gareth Watson who said, "I was pleased with the support of the public. It was a masked event, and this only came to light the day before, so most exhibitors were concerned that the public might not attend".

We're looking forward to being able to attend more face-to-face events like this in the future.



"There's plenty of indication that construction and renovating will still be strong for a while yet"  
Gareth Watson - State Sales Manager (TAS)



# Tasmanian Timber Awards



We are pleased to announce that we have been recognised as a winner in the Environmental Excellence category at the 2021 Tasmanian Timber Awards, held on Friday 10 September at the Albert Hall in Launceston.

The award for Environmental Excellence is given in recognition of excellence in environmental management within the Tasmanian Timber Industry.

Amongst other criteria, entrants in this category were measured against their ability to:

- Demonstrate best practice compliance/conformance to industry and/or professional codes/standards/recommended practices
- Demonstrate the achievement of high-quality environmental outcomes
- Have positively managed a specific environmental project, programme, or event with outstanding merit

We are proud to be an industry leader in announcing carbon reduction targets that have been verified and approved by the Science Based Target initiative (SBTi).

**Using FY18 as a base year, Timberlink has committed to reducing scope 1 and 2 greenhouse gas emissions by 53% per by 2030.**

Timberlink is delighted to be announced as a winner in this competitive category, and hope that by demonstrating leadership in this field, other companies in the sector will be encouraged to formalise targets and formulate their own plans to reduce their carbon impact.

➤ <https://www.timberlinkaustralia.com.au/reducing-emissions>

# Housing Market

Housing demand remains robust with house prices rising around Australia, greenfield land sales buoyant and a supportive finance environment. Meanwhile the built up pipeline of new house construction emanating from the Government's HomeBuilder stimulus will ensure residential building activity and demand for timber framing remains strong over the next 18 months.

In addition to the 110,000 new build applications, HomeBuilder received 25,000 applications for major renovations, further increasing demand for timber materials. Higher demand for building materials, including timber has also been generated from households undertaking a greater number of smaller scale 'Do It Yourself' renovations and improvements during COVID lockdowns.

During initial stages of the pandemic in the period Mar-20 to Feb-21 expenditure on hardware, building and garden

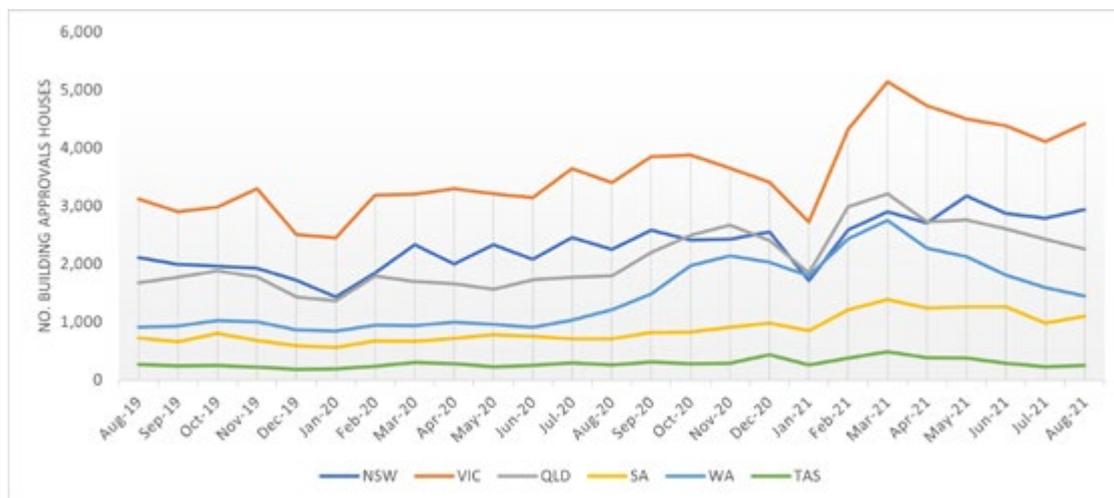
supplies grew by 22% and is currently growing by 6% p.a.

Building approvals for houses in Aug-21 rebounded in most States after falling in consecutive months since the cessation of HomeBuilder.

National house building approvals increased by 4% in August which contributed to 46% growth over the last 12 months. While the eastern States grew strongly by an average 37%, WA and SA experienced the strongest growth in the 12 months to Aug-21 of 107% and 62% respectively.

Meanwhile building approval numbers for houses in TAS increased by 34%. The value of approvals for major Alterations and Additions was 10% higher in Aug-21 across Australia compared to the previous month, with the 12 month total to Aug-21 growing by around 40% in most States, to reach almost \$12 billion nationally.

Number of building approvals for houses



Source: ABS

## An open letter from the timber framing industry

Building and construction is currently experiencing a perfect storm.

The COVID-19 pandemic has unexpectedly generated a substantial increase in residential building activity. This unprecedented demand for materials, together with COVID-19-related supply challenges, is creating limited availability of key resources and resulting in longer lead times in many sectors, including the timber framing industry. And, at the same time, Australians are choosing to use more timber than ever before. There are two main reasons for this:

- Government stimulus packages and low interest rates have seen new house approvals reach their highest ever numbers, and at the same time we're witnessing record demand for house renos.
- More people working and studying from home has driven an increase in the home alterations and improvements market, and also encouraged a move to rebuild in regional and coastal areas.

### Let's get the job done.

The industry knows that timber is in high demand and is geared to providing a strong and stable supply. However, the current building boom has defied most predictions and we're now having to double down on our efforts to give Australians the timber they need.

Local sawmills are working harder than ever to optimise production and the vast majority of Australian-produced timber still stays here in Australia – with just 3% of domestic softwood sales earmarked for export (mainly low-grade product unsuitable for structural use).

At the same time, importers of framing timber are pro-actively seeking out additional sustainable sources and working with Government to streamline the import process to further speed up and improve supply.

We don't want to let anyone down, that's why we're doing all we can to increase efficiency, streamline production and reduce timber waste.

We're also investing considerable time and effort to advise and promote Government policy that supports more tree planting, to further reduce the potential risk of not being more self-sufficient in timber products.

### The future is looking positive.

We understand the frustrations of not having the tools to do the job. It not only affects productivity and profits – but also staff morale, customer confidence and company reputation.

To all those affected by the increased demand for timber, we want you to know that we recognise your concerns and are here to offer our full support.

In addition, we continue to encourage significant new investment in timber growing, sourcing and production technology, helping to create a sure and stable supply for the future. And that means we'll be growing more trees, removing more carbon from the atmosphere and creating a cleaner, better world for everyone.

It's a challenge right now but we're strong enough to weather the storm. If we work collectively together, we can grow together.



# Timberlink Green

## TIMBER LINK® GREEN

With warmer weather on the horizon, it's a great time to get started on some of those projects around the home.

Timberlink Green is plantation pine that is perfect for external, above-ground applications like pergolas and carports and it's guaranteed for 25 years for use in above-ground outdoor settings making it the premium outdoor choice.

Treated with Low Odour Light Organic Solvent Preservative (LOSP) – a world first piece of innovation which uses a proprietary component that has up to 30 times less odour compared to traditional formulations, Timberlink Green stays stable and straighter in the harsh Australian outdoors.

It also looks good as it is both machine graded for structural integrity and visually graded for looks.

### Outdoor structural framing H3

- H3 treated outdoor structural timber
- H3 Stair treads
- Treated pine decking
- Treated pine pickets





## **TIMBER FRAMING COLLECTIVE**

# Introducing the Timber Framing Collective

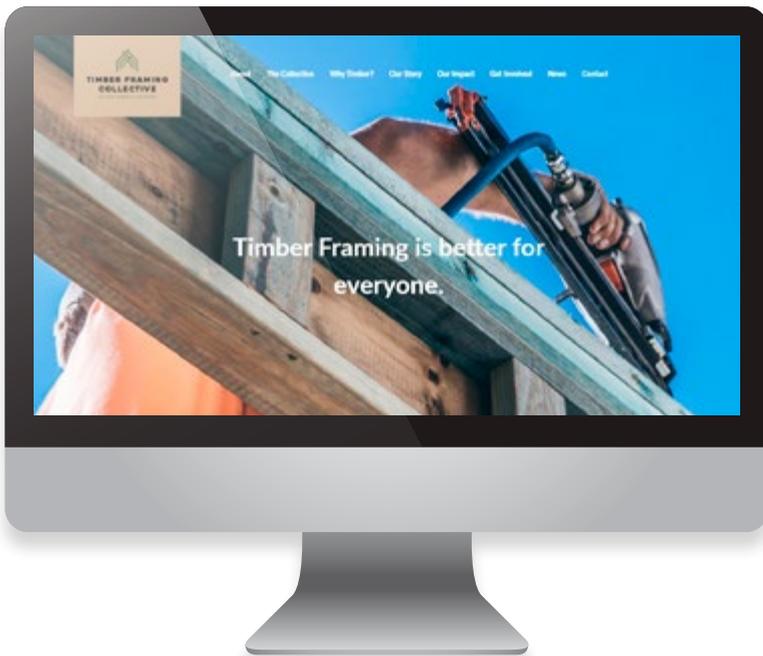
Timberlink is pleased to be a part of the newly launched Timber Framing Collective.

The Timber Framing Collective is responsible for the marketing of timber framing in Australia and exists to make sure everyone in our industry feels they have a voice. By engaging with industry and stakeholders, the Timber Framing Collective is a unified voice to communicate the structural, economic, renewable and social benefits of timber framing.

The Timber Framing Collective is financially supported by Australian sawmills, importers, industry associations, peak industry bodies, building products suppliers and

treatment suppliers and administered by the Australian Forest Products Association (AFPA), the peak body for resources, processing, and pulp, paper and bioproduct industries covering the forest products value chain.

The Timber Framing Collective's mission is to promote, establish and consolidate Timber Framing: The Ultimate Renewable as the leading building materials brand in Australia for residential construction.



Take a look at the new brand and visit  
➔ <https://timberframingcollective.com.au/>

# Made of Tasmania

Timberlink Timber Links Us All.

In 2018, we launched our “Together We Build” advertising campaign which aimed to demonstrate Timberlink’s commitment to the Tasmanian community, economy and environment.

The print, radio, outdoor media and online advertising campaign highlighted the positive impact that Timberlink’s sustainably produced timber had in the Tasmanian community with Timberlink’s CEO, Ian Tyson, adding “We are here for the long term and we want to convey this to Tasmanians.”

Following the success of the initial campaign, we are thrilled to be partnering with Collab Agency again to release a new and refreshed TVC and digital advertising campaign which launched in Tasmania last month.

Using a diverse range of locations across Tasmania, including our Bell Bay manufacturing facility, local schools, retail stores and pine nurseries, we are proud to showcase real local talent and communities in a campaign that is truly Made of Tasmania.

Head to our YouTube channel to take a look.



<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC8fwPd7uYIVciMeT1alTKrA>

**TIMBERLINK. MADE OF TASMANIA.**

**TIMBER LINK<sup>®</sup>**  
AUSTRALIA



**TIMBERLINK TIMBER**



**HAS A LINK**



**TO EVERY TASMANIAN**



**think safe. | work safe. | be safe.**

#safeworkmonth

safeworkmonth.swa.gov.au

#ThinkWorkBeSafe



# National Safe Work Month

October 1st marked National Safe Work Month and although at Timberlink, the health and safety of our people is our number one priority every day of the year, throughout October, we put safety in the spotlight.

The theme for National Safe Work Month 2021 is: think safe. work safe. be safe and aims to bring into focus the importance of planning and implementing work health and safety procedures.

National Safe Work Month gives us an opportunity to think about how we promote WHS here at Timberlink and what we can do to ensure all of us are safe and healthy at work.

To kick off NWSM we focused on identifying, reporting and resolving hazards in our workplace.

We aspire towards a goal of “Zero Harm” and our fundamental belief is that all people should get to go home safe to their families at the end of each day.



HOME SAFE - Every One, Every Day

At Timberlink, we believe:

- All injuries are preventable
- We look out for our mates
- No task is worth compromising safety for
- Management is accountable for safety performance
- Safety starts with you
- Training employees to work safely is essential

In addition to these safety beliefs, our health and safety program is guided by three safety principles:

- Safe People
- Safe systems of work
- Safe Plant, Equipment and Environment

We encourage all businesses to recognise National Safe Work Month and look forward to sharing more health and safety initiatives over the coming months.

For more information about National Safe Work Month, or to download resources, go to the campaign website

- <https://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/national-safe-work-month>

# Spotlight on Safety

## Safe Stacking of Timber.

Australian Forest Products Association (AFPA) has released a general guidance document on safe timber stacking. The guidance material is a practical resource for employers and employees and serves as an important reminder about the risks associated with incorrectly stacked timber.

The guidance material applies to all timber stacks including those located in the open or under cover and provides a general overview of commonly adopted practices for the safe stacking of timber and reducing risks to employees, the public and others.

Risks associated with timber stacking are commonly attributed to:

- Storage surface area being uneven or not able to sustain loads;
- Storage area not appropriately located within site and environmental limitations;
- Excessive stack height and unstable configuration;
- Stack quality and integrity;
- Interaction between mobile plant and stored product; and
- Inadequate management of stack risks.

You can access the document via the AFPA website or by visiting

<https://ausfpa.com.au/safety/safe-stacking-of-timber>

## New vehicles for National Sales Team

We recently completed a review process to support the selection of replacement vehicles for our national sales team. In line with our core values of safety and sustainability, both criteria were heavily weighted components of the review. Ultimately two vehicles stood tall through the process, The Ford Ranger and Mitsubishi Outlander PHEV (Plug in Hybrid Electric Vehicle).

The Outlander PHEV can operate as a fully electric vehicle (EV) with a range of up to 54 kilometres using the electric motors alone.

The inclusion of the Outlander PHEV in our fleet range, supports the Timberlink commitment to look after our people and our environment - Sustainability at Timberlink is more than a policy; it's part of our DNA.

Timberlink's  
first  
Hybrid car



# Stack Strap & Wrap Reminder

Being a natural product, changes in temperature, moisture and exposure to the elements can alter timbers moisture content and stability.

This means it's very important to **store the product correctly**.

Our Stack, Strap & Wrap campaign was developed as a handy guide for our customers to minimise stock loss when storing our product.

Check out our YouTube Channel for more info:



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pR9Cu8je20c>



## Stack

The best defence to keep your timber straight is to stack it correctly. Pieces should be lying flat on top of one another, with longer pieces on the bottom so ends don't overhang.



## Wrap

Don't have room to store untreated timber undercover? Try to keep your timber wrapped to avoid letting moisture get in.



## Strap

Timber will stay much straighter if it is strapped.

## TOP

Just make sure the timber is **dry** before you wrap!

## TIP



# Question of the Month

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With our recent LOSP treatment plant announcement at our state-of-the-art Tarpeena site, there's been an increase in discussion about LOSP. So, what exactly is LOSP and how does it work?

## What is LOSP?

Light Organic Solvent Preservative or LOSP is a treatment that uses a solvent rather than water to carry preservatives into timber. It contains preservatives called azoles to provide protection from decay and permethrin, commonly used in head lice treatments, to protect from insects.

## How does it work?

The timber is placed in a chamber which is then flooded with the LOSP solution and pressure applied. The solvent then penetrates all the way through the timber, rather than just sitting on the outside (envelope treatment). A final vacuum phase recovers as much solution as possible. Full penetration allows the preservative to protect the timber from termites and decay in outdoor above ground applications for 25 years or more.

Every stick is inkjet labelled with its hazard class – H3 is for above ground outdoor.

In 2015, Timberlink worked with our suppliers to develop a Low Odour LOSP- a world first innovation used in our Bell Bay Mill. This minimises any odour impacts from storing the treated timber.

TOP

TIP

When working with LOSP timber, similarly to all outdoor treatments, it's necessary to spray cut ends with a suitable sealant. Structures should be designed to minimise the risk of moisture pooling or being trapped.



# 5 minutes with...

Jeremy Church - Group Technical Manager

To build a world-class timber products business, we need the very best talent and with our new Cross Laminated Timber (CLT) & Glue Laminated Timber (GLT) manufacturing facility currently under construction, we have welcomed a number of new faces to help service this growing market segment.

## **Cue Jeremy Church - Group Technical Manager CLT & GLT at Timberlink Australia.**

We sat down with Jeremy to discuss his career so far, his involvement in the CLT & GLT project and what he's most looking forward to post lock-down.

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**Q: Tell us about your career so far.**

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A. I graduated from Monash University and have predominately worked as a consulting structural engineer for the past 16 years. After working on a multi-unit CLT project, I took up a role with a CLT manufacturer, leading their engineering team to deliver inhouse design for their projects. I have always had a passion for designing with timber and the adoption of new technology in construction— so I am lucky enough to work in a sector where mass timber is able to merge these two passions.

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**Q: What's the most exciting thing about mass timber and Timberlink's entry into this market?**

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A. Mass timber has moved beyond the hype that was seen 5 or so years ago and is now being recognised both locally and abroad as a viable building material so it's an exciting time for the construction section in general. With informed building owners and architects placing an emphasis on reducing their carbon footprint but also building better performing buildings the demand for mass timber products is growing year on year.

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**Q: Day to day, what can we expect to find you working on?**

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A. We are currently developing marketing literature and technical documents as well as shaping what our service offering will look like to support the sales of CLT and GLT including the additional services such as digital documentation, QA and supporting services and components that come with delivering projects and not just product. Over the coming months we will commence our product testing program particularly around fire and acoustic performance, so we have been getting the wheels in motion for that.

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**Q: Is there a mass timber project that inspires you or just makes you say WOW?**

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A. Too many! I am still amazed by the old timber train bridges like the Noojee and Stony Creek Trestle Bridges – how they managed to build such large structures with the limited tools and machinery and how they have managed to stand the test of time still amazes me. But when it comes to timber buildings - Australia has built some of the largest timber commercial spaces globally and there is an appetite to push the envelope by architects and designers. I am really looking forward to stepping inside Bendigo Gov Hub and Geelong Civic Centre once they are complete – both of those projects I have been lucky enough to have been involved with in past roles.

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**Q: What are you most excited for post lockdown?**

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A. My folks live in regional Victoria so really looking forward to spending some time with mum and dad!



## Calling all Graduates!

In September, we announced the launch of our Timberlink Graduate Program - a unique opportunity for graduates to secure access to an exciting career in the timber industry.

Commencing in January 2022, the twelve-month program will be open to students who complete a tertiary degree and will offer practical experience and mentoring across all areas of the Timberlink business.

Working closely with a number of universities, the recruitment process will coincide with students completing their degree and will lead to the successful participant commencing with Timberlink in January.

*"We have seen great success through our growing apprenticeship program and the addition of a graduate program will enable us to continue developing capability from the ground up as we build a world-class timber products business," said Stewart Green EGM People, Performance and Culture.*

## Careers Corner

As we continue on our exciting growth journey, we are actively recruiting for a number of roles across our sites. From operations and account management, to maintenance and planning- there's something for everyone who is looking to join our world-class timber products business.

Stay up to date with all current vacancies at [www.timberlinkaustralia.com.au/careers](http://www.timberlinkaustralia.com.au/careers) or email your resume to [careers@timberlinkaustralia.com.au](mailto:careers@timberlinkaustralia.com.au).

### CURRENT VACANCIES:

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| Packer/Strapper - WACO                 | Bell Bay  |
| 2IC/Quality Control - WACO             | Bell Bay  |
| Green Mill Production Controller       | Bell Bay  |
| Loader Operator                        | Bell Bay  |
| Account Manager                        | Bell Bay  |
| Despatch Team Leader – Afternoon Shift | Bell Bay  |
| Maintenance Fitter                     | Bell Bay  |
| Electrical Maintenance Planner         | Bell Bay  |
| Purchasing Officer                     | Bell Bay  |
| PPC Business Partner                   | Bell Bay  |
| Process Improvement Lead               | Bell Bay  |
| Mechanical Apprenticeship              | Bell Bay  |
| Wood Machinist Apprenticeship          | Bell Bay  |
| Frame and Truss Account Manager        | Knoxfield |
| Chief Information Officer              | Knoxfield |
| Group Demand and Pricing Manager       | Knoxfield |
| PPC Reporting Analyst                  | Knoxfield |
| Group IS Infrastructure Manager        | Knoxfield |
| Information Security Manager           | Knoxfield |
| Learning and Development Lead          | Tarpeena  |
| Electrical Apprenticeship              | Tarpeena  |
| Saw Doctor Apprenticeship              | Tarpeena  |
| Maintenance Planner                    | Tarpeena  |
| Green Mill Production Controller       | Tarpeena  |

# Student Mill Tour



Photo: Mount Gambier High School

In September we welcomed students from Mt Gambier High to our Tarpeena manufacturing facility.

The tour provided students with insight into the timber industry and the vast employment opportunities available in the region.

## Let's get Social!



Follow us on LinkedIn  
<https://au.linkedin.com/company/timberlink-australia-i-new-zealand>

We wish you and your family a happy and safe festive season.



*At the end of a challenging year for all, our teams and mills will take a well earned break to ensure we are energised and ready for a busy 2022, we would like to encourage our industry colleagues to do the same.*

### Christmas Closures:

| Site     | Last day of production | First day of production |
|----------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| Bell Bay | 22nd Dec               | 5th Jan                 |
| Tarpeena | 22nd Dec               | 12th Jan                |

| Dispatch Site | Last day of operations | First day of operations |
|---------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| Bell Bay      | 22nd Dec               | 5th Jan                 |
| Tarpeena      | 22nd Dec               | 4th Jan                 |
| Adelaide      | 23rd Dec               | 4th Jan                 |
| Knoxfield     | 23rd Dec               | 4th Jan                 |
| Perth         | 23rd Dec               | 4th Jan                 |
| Yennora       | 23rd Dec               | 4th Jan                 |

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