

The header graphic for the WPMA Newsletter June features the WPMA logo on the left, which consists of a green circular icon with a stylized 'C' and the text 'wpma' in a dark blue sans-serif font. Below this, the word 'Newsletter' is written in a large green font, and 'June' is written in a smaller grey font. On the right side of the header is a photograph of a smiling man wearing a grey beanie, a yellow high-visibility vest over a grey long-sleeved shirt, and purple work gloves. He is holding a large stack of light-colored wooden planks. The background of the header is a light grey with a dark blue triangle in the top left corner and a green triangle in the bottom right corner.

wpma

Newsletter

June

Message from Mark

It has been a privilege over the past few weeks to take part in several events and initiatives across the wider wood industry that deserve celebration. Most recently, the Timber Design Awards and the Canterbury School of Forestry's Innovative Wood Competition showcased the strength and potential of wood products in modern construction. Seeing the enthusiasm from students, engineers, and architects for using wood as a viable alternative to concrete and steel is incredibly encouraging. Promoting our industry in this way is essential, as strong support for wood in building design is key to enabling a vibrant, future-focused New Zealand wood processing and manufacturing sector.

Mark

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NZ Timber Design Awards celebrate wood construction excellence

Timber building projects from across New Zealand took centre stage at the 2026 Timber Design Awards, held in Auckland on 26 June. The Awards showcased what many in the sector already know. With timber, especially when paired with advanced technologies and well-planned research, the possibilities are virtually limitless. Growing interest in wood products and engineered timber is being driven by the push for carbon-neutral construction, rising demand for energy-efficient buildings, and a clear consumer preference for natural materials. The Awards honoured the manufacturers, people and organisations whose design excellence, engineering expertise, and innovation are advancing the use of wood across all types of building and construction. This provides jobs, supports our domestic economy and helps shape a more sustainable built

environment for New Zealand. Congratulations to the winners, entrants and organisers for a great evening. More details can be found [here](#)

Innovative Wood Product Competition – University of Canterbury

At this year's Innovative Wood Product Competition, five student teams from the University of Canterbury School of Forestry used traditional wood materials to build innovative structural timber products. The resulting structures were then presented by the teams to judges from across academia and industry. Through the support of the WIDE Trust and industry sponsors, the competition not only fostered a spirit of creativity and excellence among students but also highlighted the potential for sustainable and innovative wood products in the future.



UoC School of Forestry students, academia and industry judges post the innovative wood competition

NZ Pine brand project to lift wood products export value

WPMA is in support of the commitment by Government and industry to developing a unified NZ Pine brand as announced at Fieldays. The NZ Pine project is led by a joint Working Group and is aimed at highlighting NZ Radiata Pine's versatility and performance across a wide range of structural and appearance applications. The Brand will be built around simplicity, in-market relevance, and sector-wide unity with the aim of providing a strong foundation for individual companies to differentiate their products and reinforce New Zealand's reputation for high-quality, sustainably produced wood. It is anticipated that the NZ Pine brand will be formally launched later in 2026.

India Trade - NZTE invites Expressions of Interest for the New Zealand Pavilion at MumbaiWood 2026

Following a successful New Zealand Trade and Enterprise hosted webinar on market opportunities for New Zealand radiata pine in India, NZTE is now inviting Expressions of Interest from wood and forestry companies keen to explore India's rapidly expanding manufacturing and construction sectors. To support this engagement, NZTE will host a New Zealand Pavilion at MumbaiWood 2026, taking place 18–20 September at the Bombay Exhibition Centre in Mumbai.

Key details

- Event dates: 18–20 September 2026
- Location: Bombay Exhibition Centre, Mumbai

- Participation cost: NZD 1,000
- EOI deadline: 17 July 2026

Companies are encouraged to submit their EOI to secure priority access and receive further participation details. See [Mumbai Wood Expression of Interest](#)



Mystery Creek Fieldays provides avenue for NZ wood sector promotion

More than 132,000 visitors came through the gates over the four days of the 58th Fieldays, with Wednesday marking the largest opening-day attendance in the event's recent history. Overall attendance was up 20% on last year, and exhibitor sites were fully sold out ahead of opening. WPMA took part in the Forestry Hub — a collaboration between Fieldays, Te Uru Rākau – New Zealand Forest Service, and the wider forestry and wood processing sector. Standing alongside industry leaders, farmers, and the rural community allowed us to highlight the essential role wood products play in boosting New Zealand productivity and driving innovation. Our thanks go to the organisers of the Forestry Hub, as well as the WPMA members who supported the initiative and supplied wood products for display. We hope to see an even larger presence from the wood processing sector in 2027.



NZ mass timber project with VoMo Limited now underway

At Fieldays the government announced that it is investing NZ\$3.2 million over three years in a NZ\$8 million project with VoMo Limited, a Red Stag Investments company, to assess the feasibility of producing prefabricated, fully fitted mass timber modules for the New Zealand and potentially Australian markets. The project will examine design, technical performance, seismic resilience, productivity gains, cost efficiency, and carbon savings. More details can be found here [New \\$8 million VoMo Ltd project](#)

Final details confirmed for Skilled Migrant Category changes

Final details on changes to the Skilled Migrant Category (SMC) Resident Visa have been released, which come into effect on 24 August 2026. The SMC changes introduce 2 new pathways – the Skilled Work Experience pathway and the Trades and Technician pathway. There are also increased points for New Zealand qualifications and reduced New Zealand skilled work experience required under the Points-based pathway. The new Trade and Technician pathways to residency now include Saw Doctors and Wood (Timber) Machinists. More details can be found here [Eligible occupations for the SMC Trades and Technician pathway \(August 2026\) :: Immigration New Zealand](#)

UK to align deforestation rules with EU regime

The United Kingdom has announced plans for a due diligence framework for imported goods which will match the EU's own deforestation regulation. London said aligning its legislation with the EU would minimise regulatory duplication for businesses and safeguard the functioning of the UK's internal market, given that the [EU Deforestation Regulation](#) is set to apply automatically from 30 December 2026. This aligned approach is designed to prevent administrative duplication across the UK while helping British exporters to the EU meet consistent data and traceability standards. Under the new scheme, traceability and compliance requirements will apply for imports of cattle, cocoa, coffee, palm oil, rubber, soy, and certain derived products such as chocolate and wooden furniture.

U.S home building study highlight regulations adding \$131,734 (USD) to new builds

A new study by the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) finds that regulations at the federal, state and local levels add \$131,734 to the cost of a new single-family home—26.4% of the average sales price of \$499,500 as of January 2026. Breaking down the total regulatory costs further, the study revealed that \$84,939 of the final house price is the result of costs incurred by the builder due to regulation during the construction phase of the home while \$46,795 is attributable to regulation during land development. More details can be found here [View the full study on the cost of regulation](#)

Upcoming Events

2026 NZIF Conference

Back to Business: Forward with Confidence
Showcasing how we can and do get forestry right.
Dunedin, 26-18 August 2026

Join industry leaders, innovators, researchers, and practitioners as we share success stories, highlight cutting-edge innovation, and explore strong partnerships that deliver both environmental and economic gains. Together, we'll demonstrate what good forestry looks like – sustainable, safe, and forward-focused and rebuild confidence in an industry that is vital to New Zealand's future

For more information click [here](#)

In the News

Backing an NZ Pine brand

Co-developed by government and industry ahead of the early-2027 rollout, NZ Pine is part of New Zealand's wider goal to double the value of its exports within 10 years. Ross said the brand, built around simplicity, in-market relevance and sector-wide unity, would give individual companies a foundation to differentiate their products in global markets.

[New Zealand Backs Single NZ Pine Brand to Double Exports | Wood Central](#)

FSC proposal - Forest owners, wood processors concerned about practicality, duplication

Ross said mills relied on FSC-certified logs, and changes could mean they may not be able to stay within the FSC systems. "If New Zealand plantation forests could not meet the FSC requirements, then mills would not be able to source certified wood products."

[Forest Stewardship Council wants to reduce worker risks in erodible, 'non-certified' forests | RNZ](#)

Behold Vancouver's New Earthquake-Proof Highrise

Exterior braces have been used before in steel and concrete builds, but never in mass timber. It seemed like the perfect candidate: wood has more natural give and is more resilient to seismic activity than steel and concrete.

[Vancouver's new earthquake proof mass timber high-rise](#)

WIDE Trust – apply for funding towards your wood processing apprenticeship programmes

Do you need funds to progress an initiative, project or programme in your business?

Do your employees need funds to progress wood processing studies, projects or qualifications?

Apply to the WIDE Trust for support...

**\$6 MILLION
AWARDED IN
GRANTS TO DATE!**

**Apply online
www.widetrust.org.nz**

The Wood Industry Development and Education Trust (WIDE Trust) is a charitable trust established in 2018. The Trust supports businesses undertaking research, development and other initiatives to advance the wood or forestry industry sectors in New Zealand and students undertaking career-related studies or projects in these industry sectors.

Initiatives supported by the Trust include:

- apprenticeship programmes
- in-house training programmes
- international study tour to seek out industry innovations and best practice
- attendance at industry events
- assessor training
- timber design and wood processing awards



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