Forest&Wood Products Australia
Knowledge for a sustainable Australia

FORWOOD

FEBRUARY 2013

ForWood – February 2013

Welcome to the February issue of ForWood.

As we look to the year ahead with a constrained funding base, FWPA, after consulting with our members, is realigning our investment priorities to support those that provide more immediate returns and introducing a new statistics and economics program. This will provide industry with the data to support more informed decision making and market assessments.

In this newsletter we also remind readers that supplier listings are available on the WoodSolutions website. This is an opportunity to connect with thousands of potential customers for little or no cost.

The WoodSolutions program, anchored by the website, is providing a growing resource and a valuable communication channel to the professionals who specify building materials.

Wood. Naturally Better.™ is sponsoring a two year travelling exhibition, WOOD art design architecture, curated by Adelaide's Jam Factory and Botanic Gardens. The Plant Ark, FWPA relationship is continuing to build momentum with new events and activities.

Sponsorship of two segments of the popular Going Bush TV series has seen added exposure for Wood. Naturally Better.™ and ForestLearning.

Research projects covered in this issue include studying the factors reducing the second rotation yield in plantation eucalypts, creating appearance grade products from low grade eucalypt logs and using satellite data to assess water use in plantations.

Our Codes and Standards Program is inviting participation in Working Groups, their current areas of activity include design criteria for residential timber framed construction and a draft standard for nail plated timber trusses.

Finally Australia's most prestigious forestry award, the 2013 Russell Grimwade Prize is now open.

I hope you enjoy reading this issue of ForWood and, as always, I welcome your feedback.

LATEST NEWS

FWPA realigns investment priorities

FWPA is realigning its investment priorities in response to industry consultation. As the industry's service company, FWPA is committed to delivering programs that will help secure a better future for the forest and wood products sector. To this end, the company has consulted widely with members and key stakeholders to identify priority activities for R&D investments, generic marketing and standards coordination, that should be supported from the constrained funding base.

The clear message from industry was that in the current economic climate, industry executives would like to see FWPA focus on activities that have a shorter payback period such as market development or where cost savings can be realistically achieved. While stakeholders have an interest in longer term programs, these will be deferred until the industry is in a stronger position to make the appropriate investments.
The company will focus its efforts on the following 11 priority programs (in no
specific order):

- Statistics and Economics
- Consumer advertising and Planet Ark alliance
- WoodSolutions
- Primary and secondary education (ForestLearning)
- Standards and codes
- Wood as a sustainable material R&D
- Wood in commercial/industrial construction R&D
- Increasing value from existing resources R&D
- Biosecurity R&D
- Carbon R&D
- Forest management tools R&D

As a consequence, the following programs will be deferred or wound back until such time as the company's funding situation improves: genetics R&D; water R&D; performance and yield R&D; wood in residential house construction R&D; postgraduate scholarships; GrowingCareers; and mid-career programs. Estimates are that it will take some 18 to 24 months for industry conditions to return to a position where levy income will allow for the continuation of these investment programs.

FWPA launching a new national statistical collection and analysis program

Following industry consultation, FWPA is establishing a new program to provide improved coordination and build better systems for data collection and analysis. The program will be internally funded and FWPA has appointed Jim Houghton to the role of statistics and economics manager to develop and deliver the program on industry's behalf.

Jim Houghton has a background in economics and statistical analysis and 15 years' experience as a senior manager in the industry.

Jim holds a Bachelor of Economics and a Grad Dip in Business Admin and has worked in various roles within the forest and wood products industry including as CEO of Alpine MDF and as a director of Vicforests.

"We look forward to Jim joining FWPA in March and taking a lead role in the development of stronger industry sector statistics"

FWPA will continue to work cooperatively with ABARES and other statistical providers to ensure that forest and wood product statistics are a valuable tool for industry and government decision makers. A new industry reference group will provide a mechanism for coordination and validation of all existing data series and the development of improved systems.

A key initiative of the new program will be the development of a secure, online portal for the consolidation of all key statistical data series.

"Extensive consultation with industry about current and potential FWPA activities has reinforced the need to focus our limited resources on what can be delivered to benefit industry now," said Ric Sinclair.

WoodSolutions Supplier Page Listings Available

WoodSolutions.com.au offers a unique opportunity for business to highlight their products to building specifiers interested in using wood and looking to source materials through the website's Supplier Listings.

WoodSolutions supplier listings are available free of charge to all FWPA Members and Associate Members.
More information about Supplier Listings
More information about Associate Membership

Australia's most prestigious forestry prize

Applications are now being taken for the 2013 Russell Grimwade Prize for the advancement of forestry science in Australia. The Prize provides $40K to meet all or part of the costs for postgraduate study in forest science at an appropriate tertiary education institute in Australia or overseas.

The Russell Grimwade Prize is open to Australian citizens or residents who have a degree or diploma from an Australian forestry tertiary institution and have been employed for at least two years in a forestry or forest management related field. Applications must be received before Friday 5th April, 2013. Application details here.

INDUSTRY PROMOTION

WOOD art design architecture: Exhibition Sponsorship

Wood. Naturally Better.™ is the Principal Sponsor of WOOD: art design architecture, a two year touring exhibition developed by Adelaide's Jam Factory in collaboration with the Adelaide Botanic Gardens. It features 28 exhibitors and a 248 page catalogue.

The collection examines the innovative and outstanding ways that wood is being used by artists, designers and architects in Australia today, and includes furniture and functional objects, sculptural works and installations alongside video documentary, models and sectional prototypes relating to specific interiors, buildings and environments.

The exhibition will initially be on show at JamFactory and the Botanic Gardens' Museum of Economic Botany (in March – April) to coincide with the Adelaide Festival of the Arts, before a two year national tour, visiting Canberra, Brisbane, Sydney and regional centres Mount Gambier, Cairns, Launceston and Lake Macquarie.

Planet Ark and Make It Wood

The alliance between Planet Ark and FWPA, through Wood. Naturally Better.™ and their Make It Wood program, continues to promote the use of responsibly sourced wood.

Current Make It Wood activities include the Snap Some Wood promotion and the 'Woodenised' program in which prominent buildings are 'photoshopped' to create the visual illusion that they are made from wood.

A CSA (community service announcement, in effect a free TV commercial) is running nationally under the Make It Wood brand. View a copy here

The CSA commercial is based on a longer animated video, 'WOOD the untold story'. You can view it here.

Going Bush: Sponsorship

FWPA sponsored two segments of this popular program – Going Bush, featuring Wood. Naturally Better.™ and ForestLearning.

The Wood. Naturally Better segment focused on comparing the strength of timber, steel and concrete and ended with compression testing of timber and concrete. View the video here.

The Forest Learning segment joins a class of school children as they learn about forestry and it introduces the ForestLearning web site. View the video here.

WoodSolutions web site continues to gain strength

The continuing growth of the WoodSolutions website has validated the research that identified a market need for a centralised source of generic information about designing and building with wood and wood products.

Aimed at architects, engineers and other design and building professionals, WoodSolutions comprises a range of activities, centred on the web site which has more than 3,000 pages of technical information, case studies and downloadable resources.

In February 2013, the website had more than 7000 registered users and received 1500 + visits per day.

The spread of visitors interests is very broad, reflective of the large and diverse amount of content available, the highest visited page only gets about 4% of total visits. Popular topics visitors are looking for are:

- exterior timber decking and cladding
- plywood
- medium density fibreboard – MDF
- timber species information
- laminated veneer lumber - LVL

In the last 6 months of 2012 there were nearly 8000 documents downloaded from the site.
Other WoodSolutions activities include:

- WoodSolutions Tutorials – a choice of ten topics delivered free at workplaces, professional events or other locations. Read more
- WoodSolutions Technical Design Guides – a growing range of publications providing design and specification details on popular topics and applications. More information.
- WoodSolutions Seminars and Field Tours – events designed to inform and inspire architects and engineers about the use of wood and wood products.

More information at www.woodsolutions.com.au

Do you need a Forest Learning School Presentation Kit?

Many FWPA members are asked to speak at local schools about the forest and wood products industry. As part of the ForestLearning program FWPA has created a school kit that includes a presentation, classroom activities, videos and posters.

If you conduct school presentations and are interested in finding out more please contact the Project Manager, Melissa Houghton or 0412 811 450

RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT & EXTENSION

R&D Works: February 2013 edition

The February edition of the R&DWorks newsletter went out a couple of weeks ago – if you missed it make sure you are registered. Take a look at the full article to see what you missed in the last issue.

Here are the highlights of the R&DWorks February newsletter or you can view the newsletter on line.

FOREST GROWING

- Finding Hidden Trends in Satellite Images
- Wood properties: Impact of thinning & pruning
- Future Directions for Forestry in Northern Australia
- Thinning, pruning & nitrogen fertiliser on light interception & light-use efficiency
- The plan to keep Australian plantations safe

MARKETS

- High-value opportunities for lignin

NEW PRODUCT INNOVATIONS

- Great potential of Nano fibrillated cellulose in paper making
- intelliPaper reveals disposable, paper-based USB drives
- Paper waste used to make 'green' bricks

TIMBER CONSTRUCTION AND DESIGN

- Timber-steel-hybrid beams for multi-storey buildings
- The World's First 3D-Printed Building

WOOD HARVESTING, TRANSPORT AND LOGISTICS

- Electronic & semi-electronic log tracking technologies

WOOD PROCESSING AND MANUFACTURING

- Improving the durability of low durability plantation hardwoods for use as power poles

OTHER INFORMATION

- Social impacts from the NSW's Regional Forest Agreement

Creating appearance-grade timber from small-diameter low-grade eucalypt logs

FWPA funded a project to explore laminated nitens products and the potential to recover higher value veneer products from fibre managed plantation eucalypts while also looking at opportunities to broaden the market for this resource.

Tasmanian forests are predicted to produce over 2 million cubic metres of pulp grade hardwood logs annually; however, variable world wood chip prices mean growers must find more valuable uses for their timber. Exciting research by Forestry Tasmania, with funding from Forest and Wood Products Australia (FWPA), shows that LVL (Laminated Veneer Lumber) produced from small-diameter or low-grade eucalypt logs can be used to produce a range of structural end-sections and appearance-grade products such as flooring, furniture and framing.

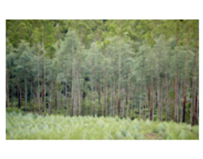
Researchers also looked at different combinations of regrowth hardwood timbers and plantation grown hardwoods. The regrowth forest timbers ensure maximum strength and stiffness while the plantation timbers give the LVL a lighter colour that makes it look very much like a premium Tasmanian Oak product. As a result, both pruned and unpruned plantation shining gum (E. nitens) and blue gum (E. globulus) have a huge potential in LVL products. As long as the trees are over 14 cm in diameter they can be peeled and incorporated in the product.

Forestry Tasmania has made the product commercially available under the name 'Hardlam', and commissioned several furniture pieces from a number of respected Tasmanian designers. They found 'Hardlam' was very stable, easy to glue, and took stains and varnishes well, creating beautiful products.
Produced as a 200 mm wide, 2.4 metre long flooring board, Hardlam has already won a gold star award in 2012 for Design, Innovation and Marketability.

Project Number: PNB139-0809

View the final project report

Beating second rotation productivity decline in blue gums



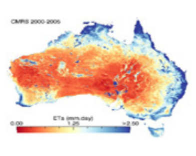
FWPA has invested in a project investigating the extent, severity and causes of second rotation productivity decline in blue gums. Blue gum plantations in south western Australia are exhibiting 'short 2R syndrome', where productivity in the second rotation is as much as 60 per cent lower than in the first rotation.

This echoes the decline in *Pinus radiata* plantations in the 'green triangle' during the 1970s, which was stopped by managing site organic matter to sustain nutrient supply. It appears, however, that hardwood plantation decline is more complex. The future of the hardwood plantation industry, which uses around 1 million hectares of land in southern Australia and exports woodchips worth around $1B annually, is at risk unless significant improvements in productivity and profitability can be made for second and later rotations.
Using existing experimental data, published results and productivity data from industry, this new research project research will quantify the extent and severity of second rotation productivity decline and determine the primary causes.

Dr Don White from CSIRO Ecosystem Sciences is leading the research team.

Project number: PNC288-1112

Using satellites to determine water use by plantations



A new project, funded by FWPA, ForestrySA and CSIRO, is developing tools that let the forestry industry determine the actual Evapotranspiration (ETa) of agricultural land use in large catchment areas over long time periods.

Knowing how much water is used by different agricultural practices, including forestry, in a catchment area is vital for accurate policy and management decisions, particularly in regions where water is limited. Previous research shows that land managers tend to over estimate any impacts of forestry plantations on catchment water use.

As the catchments containing plantations are so large and the time periods for tree plantations are so long, the researchers are focusing on blending remotely sensed data acquired from Landsat and MODIS satellites. This is the only cost-effective way to repeatedly and accurately monitor ETa at size and time scales that are useful for environmental management.

The project, led by Dr Tim McVicar from CSIRO Water for a Healthy Country Flagship, is expected to be completed in 2015. The team has selected two study areas: the 'Green Triangle' region (in South Australia and Victoria) and in Tumut, NSW.

The results will give both the forestry industry and water resource managers a better understanding of the role all land uses, including forestry and other agricultural practices, have in the catchment water balance.

Project Number: PNC286-1112

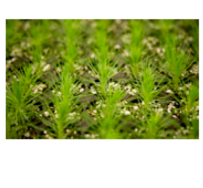
PROJECT REPORTS & UPDATES

Completed Projects

Each issue of *ForWood* will list the latest completed projects that have been uploaded to our website. Below are projects that have been uploaded since October 2012.

Project No.	Project title
PRA235-1112	FWPA Investment Plan: Commercial Buildings and Industrial Buildings
PRA282-1112	Life Cycle Assessment of a cross laminated timber building RMIT
PRB247-1112	FWPA R&D Investment Plan for: Solid wood, engineered wood and pulp and paper products: Performance & yield (Inactive Investment Plan following changes to company funding priorities)
PNB157-0910	Glulam design based on lamination grades and the use of mill shorts
PNB182-0910	Impact of internal checking on the log and timber value of fire salvage ash type sawlogs
PRB284-1112	FWPA R&D Investment Plan for: Maximising product yields and values from current resources
PNC063-0607	Introduction of the wasp, Diaeretus essigellae, for the biocontrol of pine aphid in Australia
PRC299-1213	Revision of the IBP for the Plantation Industry (PHA) Plant Health Australia
PNE293-1112	Accelerating social acceptance of and removing cultural barriers to prefabricated multi-story timber urban infill developments in Australia (using CLT construction systems).

New Projects



Each issue of *ForWood* will list the latest approved projects. Below are projects that have been approved since October 2012.

Project *(Research Provider)*	FWPA invests	Total budget
Predictive relationships to assist fertiliser use decision-making in eucalypt plantations *(HVP)*	$35,000	$96,800
Operational deployment of LiDAR derived information into softwood resource systems *(NSW DPI)*	$172,000	$999,335
Benefit Cost Analysis of Selected FWPA Projects 2013 *(eSYS)*	$18,000	$18,000
Development of an options paper describing forest grower opportunities associated with the development of a bio-refinery and/or biomaterials industry within Australia *(Darvat Pty Ltd).*	$20,000	$20,000

STANDARDS COORDINATION

Standards Coordination – stay informed

Are you a member of the FWPA's Standards Industry Network ?

If you were you'd already know about proposed changes to AS 1684 and the draft standard for Structural Design of Nail-plate Jointed Timber Trusses.

The work being undertaken under the FWPA's Codes & Standards Program is aimed at keeping abreast of changes to codes and standards that may impact on the use of wood-based products as well as seeking to increase the use of industry's products.

As part of this program, the FWPA has established two groups consisting of FWPA members, levy payers and stakeholders. The "Standards Reference Group" of industry experts provides strategic guidance and direction in the development of Standards and the "Standards Industry Network" which has a wider representation and is open to anyone interested in the industry's Standards.

Email Boris Iskra to join FWPA's Standards Industry Network.

AS 1684.1 Residential Timber-framed Construction – Design Criteria

The revision of a key Australian Standard for the timber industry, AS 1684.1 1999, was undertaken and has now been completed.

AS 1684.1 was first published in 1999 and with recent changes to the Timber Structures code (AS1720.1) and revisions to AS 1170 loading code series and AS 4055 Wind loads for housing, the need arose to undertake a review and understand the impact of these changes and to align AS 1684.1 with these primary referenced documents in Building Code of Australia. AS 1684.1 specifies the design criteria used in the design of structural timber components used in residential house construction (e.g. floor joists, lintels, rafters) and is used to generate the span tables contained in the AS 1684 Parts 2–4 suite of standards.

As part of this review, industry technical representatives were engaged to provide feedback on the proposed changes and what, if any, other design considerations were required.

The next stage will see a proposal submitted to Standards Australia for the draft to be considered by the Standards Australia Committee.

Draft Standard for the Structural Design of Nail-plate Jointed Timber Trusses

The timber roof truss market is an important market segment for the Australian timber industry and as such, FWPA is committed to actively participating in the drafting of this Standard.

Following a recommendation from the SA Coroner's enquiry into the tragic Riverside Golf Club roof collapse, the development of a Standard through the Standards Australia Technical Committee structure was strongly advocated by the South Australian Government.

The development of the proposed Standard via Standards Australia's Technical Committee will provide an opportunity to peer review the assumptions and design procedures for tooth nail-plate jointed timber trusses.

The commitment for industry participation in drafting of this standard is echoed by the key stakeholders: Pryda, MiTek, Multinail, the Frame & Truss Manufacturers Association of Australia and Standards Australia.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Manage your subscriptions

Every issue of ForWood gives you a global view of FWPA initiatives and activities. You can customise ForWood to only receive information from your chosen sections, by visiting manage your subscriptions.