



FORWOOD



Managing Director's Update June 2017

Welcome to FWPA's ForWood newsletter. In this edition, we look at genetics research to boost softwood value, technological advances in remotely measuring forest inventory, a consumer TV campaign, a research project on better biocontrol against a damaging weevil and more.

We also welcome Phil Evans – who many of you may know from his years at ANU – as Foundation Fellow of the National Centre for Timber Durability and Design Life.

We would once again urge members to get involved in the future of our industry by joining our Industry Advisory Groups. The first meeting will be held on Friday 16th June.



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Industry News



\$2m project to help put a dollar value on forest and farmland environmental benefits

A collaborative research project will help industries put an economic value on the environmental benefits they offer using a system known as Natural Capital Accounting. An initiative of Forest and Wood Products Australia (FWPA), the three-year, \$2 million project was launched by Deputy Prime Minister Barnaby Joyce.

[Read more](#)

[Sign up](#) for a free Statistics Count Newsletter. Statistics Count is a monthly e-newsletter that provides FWPA members and associate members with a quick summary of key data hosted on the data dashboard. It also provides links to key data sets and coverage of articles of relevance from industry commentators.



Philip Evans to head National Centre for Timber Durability and Design Life

A leading researcher from the world's largest university wood and forestry program has been appointed as Foundation Fellow for Australia's National Centre for Timber Durability and Design Life. Professor Philip Evans will take on the position while maintaining an ongoing role as BC Leadership Chair in the Faculty of Forestry at University of British Columbia – an arrangement which enables continual knowledge

sharing and access to multiple sources of research funding. [Read more](#)



Have your say: new groups to meet in June

FWPA's new Industry Advisory Groups will hold their inaugural meetings in Melbourne on 16 June – and we're keen to involve as many of you as possible in helping to rank and prioritise activities, offer direction regarding investment and provide member input. The groups are inclusive, and open to member company CEOs, directors or employees. Participants are also invited to a dinner the night beforehand as our guest.

[Read more](#)

Promoting the advantages of wood products



Peter's back promoting wood on the small screen

Keep an eye on your TV screens in June and July to catch our latest consumer advertising campaign, featuring favourite, architect Peter Maddison, the presenter of *Grand Designs Australia*. [Read more](#)

Aligning products to market needs



Mass timber meets timber frame in North America promotion

Australian architects, engineers and developers will see some of Canada's most advanced timber buildings – both engineered timbers and timber framed – in a study tour that is being co-organised by FWPA and will also include factory visits. [Read more](#)

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Impacting decision making and industry capability



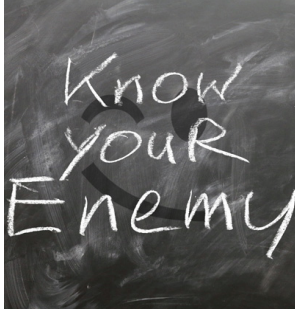
Genetics to boost softwood returns

Softwood forest growers are set to benefit from a new two-year research program with the potential to significantly increase wood quality. By improving genetic selection for wood quality factors such as timber stiffness, it could result in increases in returns of hundreds of dollars per hectare. The researchers will exploit emerging tools to measure wood quality non-destructively on young standing trees in radiata and southern pines, and will test tens of thousands of trees

across many field trials. [Read more](#)

Evil weevil biocontrol

Your enemy's enemy is your friend – at least when it comes to biocontrol of pests. Weevils that have slashed timber growth by up to 30 per cent in some Western Australian eucalypt plantations will be the subject of a new and



globally-significant research project co-funded by FWPA. The eucalypt weevil *Gonipterus scutellatus* was once thought to be a single species, but is now known to consist of at least 10 closely-related species – which may explain why previous efforts at biocontrol have been hit and miss. [Read more](#)



Remote sensing advances to cut costs, increase speed and usher in virtual reality

New technological tools harnessing the power of remote sensing to make it quicker, easier and cheaper to measure forest inventory have been unveiled at an industry briefing – and in future they could potentially enable a virtual “walk through the forest”. [Read more](#)

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Feedback and Contributions

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