

## PlanetArk in valuable partnership with FWPA

AS THE community discusses ways of tackling climate change, a new partnership has been formed to promote an easy, low cost solution to capturing and storing carbon - simply using sustainably sourced wood as a building material.

Planet Ark, one of Australia's leading environmental organisations founded in 1992, is joining forces with Forest and Wood Products Australia (FWPA), the industry body behind the Wood. Naturally Better.™ program, to encourage the use of sustainably sourced wood. The initiative comes during the International Year of Forests, a global platform to celebrate people's action to sustainably manage the world's forests.

"Sustainable timber use is an important step in the transition to a low carbon economy," says Paul Klymenko, chief executive officer of Planet Ark. "Substituting wood products for more greenhouse gas intensive building products could reduce the emissions of typical house by up to 18 tonnes over its life (according to a recent RMIT study). - That's more than a medium sized car emits over seven years<sup>2</sup> but research shows that few people understand that carbon is stored in the wood for life."

Planet Ark is interested

in helping homebuilders, developers, architects, the general public and school children recognise the environmental benefits of using sustainable timber over other more polluting alternatives. This campaign complements other Planet Ark activities such as National Tree Day and the Carbon Reduction Label. Over the coming months, Planet Ark will develop educational materials, an interactive website and deliver an extensive media campaign to raise awareness.

"We are thrilled to be working with Planet Ark to help educate the public about the important role wood can play in helping address climate change," said Ric Sinclair, managing director of Forest and Wood Products Australia.

"Wood is unique among building materials because it is a natural carbon store - up to 50% of its dry weight is carbon, which means that by using more wood in our built environment we can not only reduce carbon emissions, but also store carbon."

The announcement of the new partnership to promote the use of wood comes at a time when Grocon just announced plans to build Delta, a 10-storey, 50-apartment timber building as part of the redevelopment of the Carlton United Breweries site in Melbourne.

# Aussie help sought in providing temporary housing in Japan

AUSTRALIAN COMPANIES are being called on to supply temporary housing to tsunami-hit Japan.

Representatives of the Japanese Government in Australia approached the National Association of Forest Industries (NAFI) asking for assistance from Australian companies with prefabricated units purchased under commercial arrangements - rather than as charity donations.

Japan is looking to install 30,000 temporary dwellings in the next two months to help offset the estimated 100,000 - 150,000 buildings destroyed.

Similar temporary dwellings were used following the Kobe earthquake (1995). Once vacated, the homes were transported to other South East Asian countries and used in development aid.

The temporary dwellings are 30 square metres and

split into two separate homes. The approximate cost of each dwelling is around 4.5 million Yen, or approximately A\$50,000. They are expected to be lived-in for two to three years.

NAFI communications manager Greg Haraldson, said Australian companies could play a role in helping the Japanese reach their target of 30,000 dwellings in two months.

"As a key trading partner, the Australian forest industry has close links with the Japanese. We're hoping to get the word out that there is an opportunity for Australian companies to supply temporary dwellings," he said.

Haraldson said some firms had responded already; timber company Carter Holt Harvey and constructor Nomad Housing had teamed up with a bid to deliver flat-packed homes to Japan.

Nomad is an ASX-listed

builder that specialises in housing projects in remote areas, often using modular factory-built units.

It is believed the Nomad proposal would involve flat-pack homes to be made from Australian timber and then assembled in Japan.

Construction of temporary housing is just beginning in many of the tsunami-affected towns on the Pacific coast of northern Japan.

In Rikuzentakata, one of the worst-affected towns on the coast of northern Honshu, a lottery was conducted to select the new residents of 36 prefabricated units built on the grounds of a local high school.

The successful tenants were drawn from a pool comprising 1160 groups of applicants from evacuation centres.

The Governments of the worst-hit prefectures -- Iwate, Miyagi and Fukushima -- hope to build temporary units for



■ NAFI communications manager Greg Haraldson

62,000 households. As of last week, construction had begun on 4337 of these houses, according to official figures.

All up, about 150,000 people remain in some 2400 shelters in 18 prefectures.

The Japanese government plans to earmark Y=500 billion (\$5.7bn) to cover the costs of building a total of 70,000 temporary housing units in the next year.

## Constructive, very constructive!

AUSTIMBER 2012 organisers opened site bookings on 28 March and by 31 March 60% of the live demonstration sites had been sold or optioned. Organisers are optimistic that the 2012 event is on track to be well supported - in essence bigger and better, as well as sharper, smarter and greener than 2008.

Timberman in November 2010 reported on the Doorways-to-Construction program, where students at various South East (SA) high schools will be building the site office, as part of a 'Building Trades'

course. The South East is experiencing a renewed enthusiasm for Vocation Education Training (VET) in all secondary schools. Industry Pathways Programs

Herbert Architects has confirmed its involvement with AUSTimber 2012 to provide architectural design services in collaboration with the Doorways-to-Construction Skills Centre.

Ian Tyler, AUSTimber site manager, recently met Paul Jupp, Industry Skills Manager, the schools'

(of which Doorways-to-Construction is a part) help address future trade strategies in the South East and better cater for all students at schools with engagement and experience in industry before they leave school for the work place.

Students have started work on the site office and the AUSTimber 2012 organisers have been 'blown away' by the generosity of local industry in donating timber product to the students. Leading South East businesses such as Whitehead Timber Sales, Gunns Timber Products, South East Pine Sales, NF MacDonnell & Sons, Carter Holt Harvey, Attiwills Home and Industry and Banner Hardware have all donated product.

Leading south Australian architectural firm Chapman

program leaders and the site builder to coordinate the start of the five regional modules to be constructed on the AUSTimber site.

The AUSTimber 2012 Doorways-to-Construction site office will showcase the skills of the students and the quality of the product used. There has been great interest locally and interstate from businesses displaying their timber flooring product and the site office will be an opportunity to do this. Interested businesses are encouraged to contact David Quill, AUSTimber 2012 General Manager 08 8725 8692 or david@austimber2012.com.au

Timberman will have more updates, as the students progress on this important industry learning project.



■ David Quill.

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