

AUSTIMBER

Foresters and loggers combine for the first time to bring international conference to Australia

THE AUSTRALIAN Forest Contractors' Association of Australia (AFCA) and the Institute of Foresters of Australia (IFA) will be collaborating to ensure the success of the AUSTimber 2012 'Precision Forestry' conference. This will be the first time the organisations have worked together, with both recognising the importance each other's membership bases bring to the sustainability and continuous improvement of the forestry industry in Australia.

Cassandra Spencer, chief executive officer of the institute, said the timing of the conference, 29 March 2012, was beneficial to the forward program of the IFA.

"Bringing the science behind the technology and the whole spectrum of users together in one place will allow IFA members to interact and collaborate on a much broader scale. The joint program, in identifying and showcasing the latest technologies at the scale that we have seen at previous AUSTimber events, will give IFA members the resources and opportunity to integrate their participation with a practical hands on approach with

prospective businesses, professional colleagues and Australia's future foresters."

The conference program is being designed around the theme 'Precision Forestry' to encompass all the technology available in the processes that take place from seeds to end products, in essence the whole supply chain of the forest industries.

AUSTimber's conference will be chaired by Stephen Midgley (managing director, Salwood Asia Pacific), ably assisted by recipients of the Gottstein Trust, a national education trust to promote the development of Australia's forest products industry.

Jim O'Hehir (ForestrySA) – Gottstein Fellowship

Cameron Dodson (Forests NSW) - Gottstein Travel Award

Adrian Marti (Elders Forestry) - Gottstein Travel Award

Gavin Matthew (A3P) - Gottstein Travel Award

Jim, Cameron, Adrian and Gavin recently returned from South Africa where they attended the 4th Precision Forestry Symposium at Stellenbosch University. These symposia bring together an international audience of academics, students and practitioners

developing and applying a range of precision forestry methods. Papers presented of particular interest included: integrating terrestrial laser scanning based inventory with sawing simulation; simulating wood harvest processes in a virtual forest; the accuracy of positioning forestry vehicles under canopy and potential for RFID in round wood logistics.

Dr Glen Murphy (Oregon State University) delivered an address on the challenge for the forestry industry with the increasing global reliance on log supply from plantations to satisfy two-thirds of the global demand and the part precision forestry will play to realise this.

The group also had the opportunity to visit SAPPI and MONDI where most striking was the use of clonal and species site matching. David Quill, general manager AUSTimber2012 said "with the combined efforts of both AFCA and IFA the AUSTimber 2012 conference will be of international standing, attracting an increase in delegates from throughout Australia and internationally." www.austimber2012.com.au/AUSTimber2012 - 29 to 31 March, Mount Gambier, South Australia

■ **Stephen Midgley, managing director, Salwood Asia Pacific.**



AUSTimber Profile

Karyn Roberts, guest services coordinator

IN THE feedback and analysis of the AUSTimber 2008 event it was found that accommodation was a key issue to be improved for AUSTimber2012. The appointment of Karyn Roberts as Guest Services Coordinator will lead to these improvements. Karyn will be responsible for accommodation, transport, conference management and function management.

As Karyn says, "the prospect of a large number of people in the town is not a limitation but merely a challenge that we will take on and are driven to succeed in". Karyn will be working towards AUSTimber 2012 being a memorable event for guests, participants, industry representatives and local community members – leaving a lasting impression of "the best event ever".

Professionally, Karyn works in her family's business "OG Roberts" as their customer care coordinator is the executive officer of the nationally recognised Generations in Jazz Inc event that brings school children from around Australia to showcase their expertise in jazz and compete to win the James Morrison Jazz Scholarship. Karyn is also a board member of Mount Gambier's Chamber of Commerce.

Karyn has been recognised by her peers and the community winning awards such as Limestone Coast Tourism, SA Great Individual Contribution Tourism, Centenary of Federation medal, SA Women in Business inaugural award.

When Karyn was not working in business or the community she did find time to marry Peter and have two daughters, who are now adults. She's a strong believer in embracing opportunities in business or community projects and working in the team to bring about their success.

Karyn certainly has the expertise, passion and commitment to help the AUSTimber team make AUSTimber 2012 the 'best event ever'.



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