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Hello and welcome to another edition for 2011 of “The Log”, the Australian Forest Contractors Association Ltd’s own internal electronic Newsletter for all of our Members and Corporate Partner Sponsors.

The biggest news of the week has no doubt been the coming together of the two major industry organisations, the National Association of Forest Industries (NAFI) and the Australian Plantations Products and Paper Industry Council (A3P) to form a single industry association for the forest, wood, pulp and paper sectors.

The new ‘Australian Forest Products Association’ (AFPA) name and logo were unveiled last week at an industry dinner at the Great Hall of Parliament House, Canberra, in front of almost 300 guests representing all facets of the industry, MPs and government representatives. Sounds a little like AFCA doesn’t it.

Linda Sewell, the Chairperson of A3P has been appointed Transitional Chair of AFPA, and Alan Hansard, CEO of NAFI. the interim CEO.

In announcing the merger Linda Sewell said “We have a great story to tell of a carbon positive, renewable, natural and environmentally friendly resource. A single voice is a more clear and concise way to present our industry to government, media and people of Australia in a united fashion,”

Current NAFI Chairman, Greg McCormack, told the audience that AFPA will be formed over coming months under the watchful eye of a Transitional Board of Directors.

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“The establishment of the AFPA will forge a common and united future for the industry. The industry and government have for many years called for a single voice for the forest industry. We have listened and we have acted” he said.



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Anything that can help to strengthen the future of our industry is welcome. Let’s hope this new body becomes a strong voice and provides the leadership so badly needed.

“Sharper, Smarter Greener” is the theme for AusTimber 2012, and www.austimber2012.com.au, is the only website you need to refer to for all the information you need to make sure you are up to date with

all that’s happening at this exciting event which is now only twelve months away.

A magnificent 24 page prospectus has just been released for the event, and you can either download the entire publication from the website, or just go to the link that you require for any particular part of the program.



The event program, visitor information, accommodation, transport and registration sections are all there for you to access and get all the information you need to ensure your visit to Mt Gambier next March is enjoyable and worthwhile.

We strongly suggest that all AFCA members register early and take full advantage of the “early bird” discounts.

“Early bird” registrations are available now until July 31st, so make sure you receive your 30% discount over and above the entry discount that is already in place for all AFCA members and their employees. Check out all of the discounts that are available for you on the Website



A new registration system has been developed to streamline the system to make the process as easy as possible.

General registrations for all events, including expo tickets, functions, tours and events, along with normal registrations for the conference and expo sites will open to the public on August 1st.

It’s certainly going to be an exciting time, and if the new website and Prospectus are anything to go by, the event is off to a great start and is sure to be a success.

As our 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 – i.e :simply using sustainably sourced wood as a building material.

Planet Ark, one of Australia’s leading environmental organisations, 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.



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.



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

Last week I attended one of the workshops conducted by CRC for Forestry to launch their new onboard computer selection and implementation guide. I know a number of members attended similar workshops across the country, and I hope you found them valuable.

The “Enhancing Forest Machine Efficiency” publication details the various types of onboard computer systems that are available to be installed in machinery. The very detailed booklet contains descriptions of the equipment, potential uses, case study's and lots of other data designed to help make the right decision when considering purchasing this equipment.



The booklet can be downloaded from the crcforestry.com.au website, or I have a few printed copies that I can send to you if you would like one. If you would like a copy of the booklet just contact me and I'll forward one to you.

Last week I also attended a forum where the latest news on what is happening with the creation of the new heavy transport vehicle regulator was released. We will look at this in detail in next weeks “Log”

And finally this week, something a little different. We have attached a short video clip about an exciting new piece of machinery. But with the expectation that it will probably be a little expensive to purchase and operate, we don't recommend that you discuss it with any of the principals that you have contracts with, just in case they think that its such a good thing that they make it mandatory as part of future tenders etc.

Well, that's all for this week. Thanks for taking the time to read this edition of "The Log". We hope you all have a safe and profitable week and we look forward to bringing you some more news from our industry again next week.

Regards to all
David Drane

