

Happy
New Year

ewpaa bulletin

ISSUE 014 | JANUARY 2016

Ensuring that wood is recognised as a reliable and desirable construction and fit-out material has been the business of the EWPA, its members, and partner associations for many years

Opportunities are everywhere

Welcome

Welcome to Issue 014 of the EWPA Bulletin, a regular news and information service for architects, timber engineers, specifiers, students and builders.

Through this newsletter, the Engineered Wood Products Association of Australasia provides technical information, advice on Australian and New Zealand building codes and standards, updates on forest and forest product certification and building materials performance.

Inquiries or requests for further information on any of the reports in the EWPA Bulletin – or any advice required on EWPA/PAA certified plywood, LVL and wood panel products – can be directed to +61 7 3250 3700.

Email: inbox@ewp.asn.au

Web: www.ewp.asn.au

A list of EWPA members and their contacts appears on Page 8.

By DAVE GOVER
Chief Executive
Engineered Wood Products
Association of Australasia

YOU don't need to look very far in wood products industry publications these days to find a mention of opportunities for use of wood in multi-storey buildings.

This has been a market of interest to the wood products industry for a number of years, and most people within this industry would recognise the opportunity that it brings. What I have been encouraged by over the past few weeks are casual conversations I have had with people independent of the wood products and construction industries, with positive comments about wood as a material.

One of those conversations happened when I accompanied my son to a University of Queensland open day. While he was trying to find out all he could about UQ, I happened across the Global Change Institute building. If you aren't familiar with this building, it is ranked 34th for environmentally friendly university buildings.

On venturing into this building, what impressed me was the use of wood in the fit out. There is increasing amounts of evidence that use of wood in fit-outs results in quieter workplaces. The researcher hosting visitors confirmed that it was the quietest building that she had ever worked in, this despite working in a completely open-



Dave Gover, CEO of the Engineered Wood Products Association of Australasia, discusses wood testing programs at the association's Eagle Farm laboratory with technician Christian Hamlyn, laboratory manager Suzie Steiger, and technician Karrin Ryan.

plan office. Even when throngs of students are moving in and out of lecture theatres, it is still quiet.

The other conversation was with a lady in her 70s. Her grandson – a concrete construction worker – had been telling her of proposed National Construction Code changes and the potential to

use timber to build multi-storey buildings. Her comment to me was that this would be such a wonderful change, and must have so many environmental benefits.

It is no longer just people who have a direct interest in timber that are seeing the opportunities for timber

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Setting the gold standard: new president of EWPAAs

"ENGINEERED wood faces exciting challenges and a wealth of opportunities – all delivered under the EWPAAs 'gold standard' for product certification," says the association's newly-elected president Michael Murphy.

"The aim is to focus our new directions on a single brand name, underpinning EWPAAs commitment to bonafide building standards and services that are critical to its membership in Australia and New Zealand," said Mr Murphy who was elected at the EWPAAs AGM in Brisbane on November 11.

He said the new EWPAAs CEO Dave Gover had "hit the ground running" and had wasted no time in



Michael Murphy



Stuart Toakley

visited all members.

"My role as chairman will be to support Dave in the consolidation and strategic direction of EWPAAs going forward," he said.

Mr Murphy, who is marketing manager, LVL, with Carter Holt Harvey Woodproducts in Melbourne, succeeds Brendan Smith, site manager for Juken New Zealand's plywood and sawmill operations at Gisborne.

Stuart Toakley, sales and marketing manager at Borg, was re-elected vice-president and Andrew

Close, commercial manager, CHH Woodproducts, based at Mount Gambier, SA, takes over treasurer duties from Jim Bindon, managing director of Big River Group, Grafton, NSW.

Michael Murphy began his career in the industry in 1987 at Timberbuilt Solutions in Melbourne, working under his mentor Bruce Hutchings, considered Australia's LVL-based building systems guru.

During his time at Timberbuilt, Mr Murphy went on to gain an honours degree in civil engineering from Monash University, graduating in 1989. When he received his degree, he was put on full time at Timberbuilt.

He later joined Carter Holt Harvey after the company purchased the LVL plant at Nangwarry in South Australia, and he has been with the company ever since.

Market surveillance essential

From P 1

construction – the environmental, structural, appearance, social and utility benefits of timber are being recognised by a much broader cross-section of society.

Ensuring that wood is recognised as a reliable and desirable construction and fit-out material has been the business of the EWPAAs, its members, and partner associations for many years, be it in residential construction, fit-outs, form work, scaffolding, bracing, screening, flooring, and a myriad of other uses.

Through a strong certification brand, EWPAAs-stamped products are recognised as fit-for-purpose and can be relied on.

With wood emerging as a key materials option in multi-million dollar projects, it is vitally important for industry that its reputation is preserved. Product certification becomes all the more important in identifying products as fit-for-purpose.

Market surveillance continues



As opportunities for timber continue to grow, the industry will need to respond to a design community as they take on new projects, and develop and adapt solutions to unique construction challenges.

to be important to make sure that confidence in timber is not eroded by a bad experience from a dodgy maverick producer.

Promotion of the EWPAAs brand and member products to the designer and construction community is fundamental in controlling this risk.

As opportunities for timber continue to grow, the industry

will need to respond to a design community as they take on new projects, and develop and adapt solutions to unique construction challenges.

If we, collectively across the whole of industry, get these things right I believe that there will be a lot more conversation among global change academics and 70-year-old old ladies about the benefits of the use of wood.

Engineered wood pushes challenges for timber panelling at national awards

400 architects, designers at glamour event

THE choice of certified engineered wood products by Australia's leading architects was brilliantly showcased across all entries at this year's National Timber Design Awards in Melbourne.

More than 400 architects, designers, engineers and representatives of the timber industry watched as 23 prizes were presented to winners who used engineered wood as a major component of a project or application, including everything from timber windows, panels and floors to full large-scale buildings.

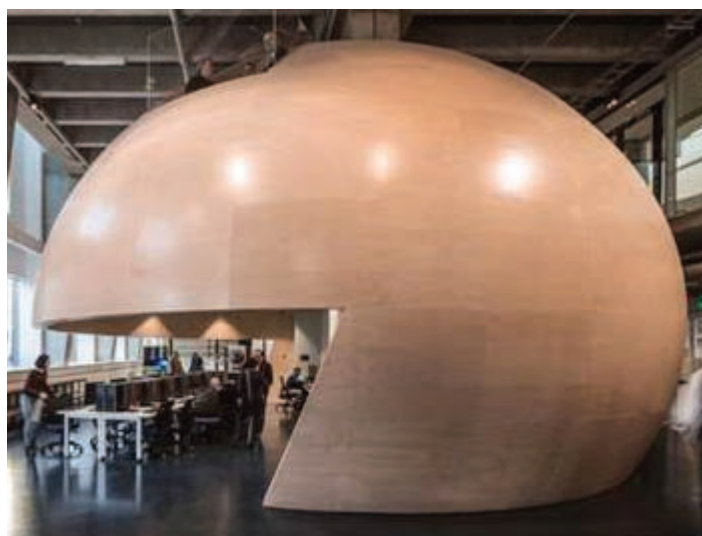
The coveted EWPAA award for timber panels was won by H2o Architects for the Swinburne University of Technology's 'factory of the future' where panels were modelled, curved and cut using leading edge computer-aided design and computer-guided cutters before being skilfully fitted into place by hand.

Focal point of the space is a large timber ball manufactured from curved timber. The substructure is covered with a panellised curved timber plywood skin to mimic the construction technologies used for submarines and space shuttles.

The 'factory of the future' is a hub for engaging undergraduate and high school students, alumni and the wider community.

Swinburne's 'factory of the future' provides industry and organisations with state-of-the-art facilities to explore conceptual ideas for manufacturing next generation products.

Located on the ground floor of Swinburne's \$100 million advanced manufacturing and

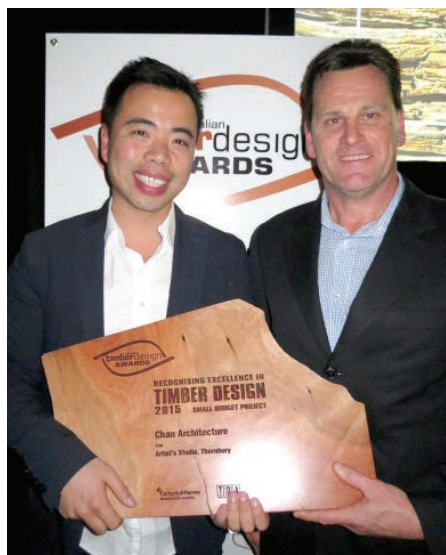


Swinburne's 'factory of the future' features a large timber ball covered with a panellised curved timber plywood skin.

EWPAA award winner .. Swinburne University of Technology.



Jim Bowden, representing the Engineered Wood Products Association of Australasia (right), presents the EWPAA award for timber panels to Mark O'Dwyer, director of H2o Architects, and Vince Persi of Swinburne University.



EWP's meet budget .. Michael Murphy, LVL manager, Carter Holt Harvey Woodproducts (right), presents the Small Budget Projects Award to Anthony Chan of Chan Architecture, Melbourne, for the Artist's Studio which won for environmental sustainability. The award was jointly sponsored by the Timber Development Association and recognised designers who don't have access to large budget projects above \$250,000.

design centre, this ground-breaking facility is made up of a cluster of specialist studios with highly adaptive capacity. Equipped with advanced visualisation and design tools, designers have the resources to develop prototypes rapidly, create innovative products and research potential manufacturing methods.

The facility offers an immersive virtual reality environment – a place where designers work in partnership with leading engineers and research staff.

A place where designers work in partnership

Designers and engineers can test sustainability and 'cradle-to-cradle' potential as well as produce hard copy prototypes – all within the same space.

Creating partnerships with industry and other organisations, and working in collaboration with the Swinburne design factory and the innovation laboratory, the 'factory of the future' is a blueprint for modern innovation. Working collaboratively, Swinburne can develop new products and methods of manufacturing, as well as more productive, sustainable businesses.

The overall Australian Timber Design Award went to John Wardle Architects for the Melbourne School of Design, described as an inspiring example of complex green design.

Judges were effusive in their praise for the manner in which the timber framed and lined building envelope is suspended from two of the overhead LVL beams.

"The three-storey Melbourne School of Design is a showcase of the very best that can be achieved with structural engineered timber," said Andrew Dunn, CEO of the Timber Development Association which organised the competition.

Students hold key to future designs in engineered wood

The structure will consist of exposed portal frames made of LVL, with plywood or fabric cladding inside

ARCHITECTS deal with many of the critical issues in today's society. They push boundaries when it comes to living, investigate new technologies and materials, and help ensure that what we build is environmentally sustainable.

Importantly, they design not just for today, but for future generations.

That is why a Brisbane project by 15 masters of architecture students conducting research into innovative structures at the University of Queensland represents a refreshing new face for engineered wood systems and their application to future building styles.

The research, supported by the Engineered Wood Products Association of Australasia and titled 'Optimised Geometries', looks at using LVL framing in conjunction with plywood and lightweight fabric to build an exhibition pavilion.

Students will design and build the structure over the next two months at the University of Queensland workshops. It will house work by renowned Brisbane contemporary artist Svenja Kratz.

Funding models as well as the cultures and attitudes of university administrators have, in turn, had an undeniable effect on the ability of many schools to provide the best resourcing for the curriculum and the studios they wish to offer their students.

What is clear from the university project is that many schools of architecture, technical teaching and learning needs a strong advocate – particularly for Australia's undergraduate architecture students who face unprecedented competition and rivalling concerns both within and outside the profession.

The project using engineered wood products has such an advocate



Architects Kim and Monique Baber of Baber Studio.

in Kim Baber, a part-time lecturer at the University of Queensland's School of Architecture, who with his wife Monique, runs Baber Studio at West End.

"We are currently proposing that the artwork will be exhibited at an upcoming international architecture forum to be exhibited either at the university's museum or at Southbank Parklands toward the end of this year," Mr Baber said.

'We were able to produce very stiff, stable structures'

"This will be part of a collaborative project involving UQ Schools of Architecture, Interaction Design and the Queensland Brain institute. Given the collaborative aspect from three research fields at UQ, it will be promoted widely by the university itself too."

A win-win for Australian manufactured LVL.

The structure will consist of

exposed portal frames made of LVL, with plywood or fabric cladding inside the structure.

There will be an innovative use of LVL applied, through the geometric profiling and jointing of members. The research is being run this semester and students will be evolving the design and fabricating the pavilion.

"The exhibition should attract significant media coverage and will exhibit work by leading Brisbane artists," Mr Baber said.

It also represents good exposure for the sponsor LVL producer Wesbeam, which operates from \$110 million purpose-built manufacturing plant in Neerabup, north of Perth, using state-of-the-art equipment from New Zealand, Japan, Finland and Germany.

Wesbeam LVL is a high-value engineered wood product made from Australian Forestry Standard certified plantation timbers, much of which is sourced around Perth under a 25-year state agreement.

Japan ticks EWPAA JAS program

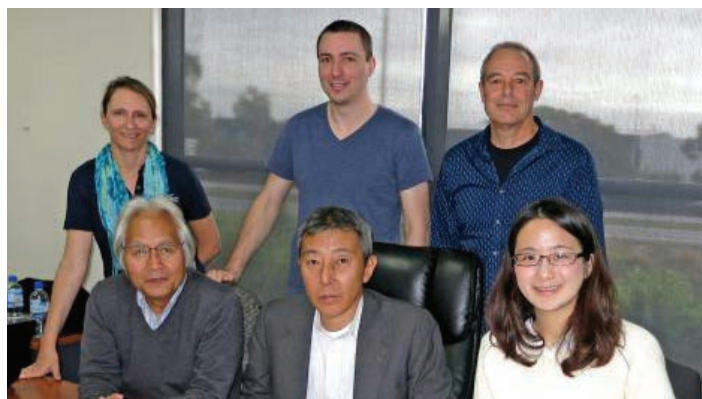
Member's products meet critical requirements – safety during construction, performance of buildings in extreme weather conditions, and air quality with very low or zero emissions

JAPAN'S ability to screen wood product compliance through a government-audited certification program sets a high standard that Australian authorities could well emulate, according to EWPAA technical manager Andy McNaught.

Representatives of the Japanese Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (MAFF) were in Brisbane recently for their annual audit of the EWPAA JAS (Japanese Agricultural Standard) certification program.

Each year, government officials from MAFF or the Food and Agricultural Materials Inspection Centre witness EWPAA JAS auditing at a member mill and undertake a three-day process and document review of EWPAA's JAS certification activities.

The Engineered Wood Products Association of Australasia is one of only three JAS foreign certification bodies outside Japan, and the only English-speaking auditor for the program.



Happy with JAS audit in Brisbane .. Hiroto Yokoshima, chief inspector, JAS conformity assessment division, Japanese Food and Agricultural Materials Inspection Centre, Masatoshi Tomoi, EWPAA's technical representative in Tokyo, and Yuko Shimoda, assistant technical staff, JAS conformity assessment division, with EWPAA staff Suzie Steiger, laboratory manager, Andrew McLaughlin, quality systems engineer, and Andy McNaught, EWPAA technical manager.

The Japanese representatives also visited New Zealand to witness an audit conducted by EWPAA at one of the JAS certified facilities there.

Contribution by EWPAA staff praised

Mr McNaught praised the contribution made to the EWPAA

JAS program by laboratory manager Suzie Steiger and quality systems engineer Andrew McLaughlin.

"They're right across this," Mr McNaught said.

"Suzie manages all testing of Japanese samples in the Brisbane laboratory and Andrew has undertaken responsibility for the JAS certification, which requires a sound understanding of the Japanese process, which can be

quite complex."

Mr McNaught said the Japanese audit confirmed that EWPAA continued to run a certification program that met all the requirements of JAS.

He said EWPAA member products met three critical requirements – safety during construction; performance of buildings in extreme weather conditions; and air quality with very low or zero emissions.

"The example for Australian authorities is that the Japanese government requires every structural element going into a building has passed a rigorous certification process," Mr Naught said.

"This government-level of certification demands that framework of every building in Japan is up to scratch.

"This contrasts dramatically with the system in Australia which has to rely on industry self-regulation." Mr McNaught said Australia's system evidently was not working.

"Proof of this is evident in the number of non-compliant products in the marketplace," he said.

Zero emissions message at Furnitex

THE Australian Furniture Association and respected skills trainer Chisholm Institute are considering 'joining forces' with the Engineered Wood Products Association of Australasia to provide students with a greater understanding of product certification, building codes and compliance.

Furniture exhibitors at Furnitex Connect in Melbourne recently expressed interest in the EWPAA's brand awareness program using adhesive labels to advise that products manufactured by its members are certified Super E0, E0 and E1 under a strict JAS-ANZ

accredited system.

The Australian Furniture Association, convener of Furnitex, represents the interests of the furniture sector from raw material supply through to the end user. Collectively the industry supply chain employs more than 200,000 people nationally.

Education and training officer Bryon Stanley said AFA had partnered with the Australasian Furnishing Research and Development Institute (AFRDI) to provide standards, testing, product certification and research for buyers and sellers of furniture.



Visiting the EWPAA stand at Furnitex Connect in Melbourne are Senator Richard Colbeck, then federal Secretary for Agriculture and Forestry, and Stuart Hogan, assessing officer, biological import assessment branch, DAF.

"Furntech-AFRDI embraces the concept of sustainability through the creation of a furniture sustainability standard and the implementation of in-house policies and practices that mitigate environmental impacts," Mr Stanley said.

"To us, sustainable practices are fundamental to the future of our industry, and to the environment," he said.

"Commercial furniture manufacturers more and more must conform to 'green' specifications and tender requirements in both the commercial and government sectors."

Engineered wood structures vibrate in neglected urban areas

Designs in plywood stir imagination of architect students

IMAGINATIVE engineered wood structures made by University of Queensland architectural students and displayed at an inner-city creative hub attracted swarms of art lovers along with both civic and government leaders.

The Fish Lane Follies, centred on a community-focused arts space aimed at engaging Brisbane's emerging talents and art enthusiasts between West End and the South Bank, featured experimental structures made by students from the School of Architecture and the School of Civil Engineering at the University of Queensland.

"Fish Lane Follies demonstrated how temporary structures could play a role as urban activators in promoting public activity and bringing vibrancy to neglected urban spaces," said Kim Baber of Baber Studio, one of the prime motivators of the exhibition.

A part-time lecturer at UQ, Mr Baber worked with final-year Masters of Architecture students in a research coursework program to develop the experimental plywood structures.

Working with exhibition coordinator Monique Baber, they sited Fish Lane as a strategic location to showcase students' structures as part of an overall urban strategy for inner city laneway 'activation'.

"As a public exhibition, students were proud to be able to showcase their design ingenuity and capability," Mr Baber said.

Special guests at the exhibition included Jackie Trad, Deputy Premier and Minister for Transport, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning; Steven Miles,



People congregate at Fish Lane to admire, climb inside and enjoy experimental engineered wood structures at a night exhibition in Brisbane. Materials supplied by Austral Plywoods, Brisbane.



Architecture students are conducting research into innovative engineered wood structures at the University of Queensland.

Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection; UQ school of Architecture Advisory board members Dr Michael Bryce AM AE, Lindy Johnson and Paul Quatermass; and members of the architectural and design profession from large corporate firms to small boutique practices.

On behalf of the School of Architecture and its students, Mr Baber thanked the support of the Engineered Wood Products Association of Australasia and EWPAA member company Austral Plywoods, Brisbane, for providing the construction materials and technical advice.

Sponsors also included the

Brisbane City Council, Aria Property Developers, The Fox Hotel, Inlite, Blumen Watts, RotheLowman Architects and MAAP Media bank.

"Special mention must be made of the hard-working workshop crew Sam Butler and John Stafford," Mr Baber said.

"The event has received positive feedback from students, local business and sponsors who have expressed their interest in supporting the next Fish Lane Follies event.

"Anticipation for future events would be to increase the content of experimental structures, with the potential to move into the entire length of Fish Lane.

EWPAAs remains industry watchdog on compliance

Technical committee meets in Brisbane

THE Engineered Wood Products Association of Australasia will continue in its commitment to product certification and conformance credentials of building materials entering the market.

The engineered wood products quality committee meeting in Brisbane recently reviewed its agenda to maintain rigorous, 'watertight' standards to ensure products are safe and absolutely fit for purpose – an ongoing commitment in the face of increasing risks of sub-standard building materials entering the Australian market.

Ensuring products meet all standards

The quality committee includes representatives with expertise from across the timber supply chain and specifier communities. The meeting, chaired by Dr Harry Greaves, focused on presentations by EWPAAs technical manager



Technical committee discussions at EWPAAs offices and laboratory in Eagle Farm .. Paul Neilson, quality systems expert, Brisbane, Suzie Steiger, EWPAAs laboratory manager, Dr Harry Greaves, HG Consulting, Melbourne (meeting chairman), and Peter Juniper, Juniper Consulting, Melbourne.



Members of the EWPAAs technical committee .. Dr Michael Kennedy, Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, Brisbane, Andrew McLaughlin, EWPAAs quality systems engineer, Frank Moretti, Gunnersen, Melbourne, Dave Gover, CEO, EWPAAs, and Jim Zacharin, Cabinet Timbers, Moorabbin, Vic.

Andy McNaught, laboratory manager Suzie Steiger, and quality systems engineer Andrew McLaughlin.

EWPAAs laboratories at Eagle Farm are accredited by the National Association of Testing

Authorities (NATA) and test EWPAAs certified products for a full range of structural and physical properties and for formaldehyde emissions and bond quality.

Samples from member plywood, LVL, particleboard

and MDF mills are tested daily. The certification schemes are independently accredited by the Joint Accreditation System of Australian and New Zealand (JAS-ANZ).

"Through manufacturing innovation, robust quality control, and adherence to Australasian product standards, the wood products industry is committed to providing a reliable, sustainable, and renewable material for building construction" EWPAAs CEO Dave Gover said.

He said EWPAAs was positioned to expand its influence as a high-profile and respected industry organisation and certifier of conforming timber products.

"Our priorities in developing and strengthening markets include on-going measures to ensure products used in Australia comply with Australian standards," Mr Gover said.

"We accept that imports are a reality, but there must be a level playing field and products used in Australian buildings must comply with Australasian standards. Structural safety and the health and well being of building occupants is essential. The EWPAAs brand is a mark of confidence that a timber product meets these requirements.

"The EWPAAs and its members have been long-time advocates of product conformance and honest branding of products."

EWPAAs directors gather in Brisbane



At the EWPAAs board of directors meeting in Brisbane are Gary Byrom, Hexion Specialty Chemicals, Cameron Roger, Carter Holt Harvey New Zealand, Evan Rolley, executive director, Ta Ann Tasmania; and Ian Potter, site manager, CHH Tokoroa.



Meeting in Brisbane .. Richard Barry, technical manager, Nelson Pine Industries, Andy McNaught, technical manager, EWPAAs, Stuart Toakley, sales and marketing manager at Borg, and Ahsan Qureshi, quality manager at Wesbeam Pty Ltd.

EWPA Members

AUSTRALIA

Alpine MDF Industries Pty Ltd

PO Box 804
WANGARATTA VIC 3676
Ph: (03) 5723 0411
Fax: (03) 5721 3568
Email: graeme.williams@alpinemdf.com.au

Big River Group (Ausply)

PO Box 205
FOREST HILL NSW 2651
Ph: (02) 6926 7300
Fax: (02) 6922 7824
Email: ausplysales@bigrivergroup.com.au

Austral Plywoods Pty Ltd

PO Box 83
BRISBANE MARKETS QLD 4106
Ph: (07) 3426 8600
Fax: (07) 3848 0646 (Admin)
Email: info@australply.com.au

Big River Group Pty Ltd

PO Box 281
GRAFTON NSW 2460
Ph: (02) 6644 0900
Fax: (02) 6643 3328
Email: jbindon@bigrivergroup.com.au

Borg Panels

Lowes Mount Road
OBERON NSW 2720
Ph: (02) 6339 6111
Email: aaron.evans@woodchem.com.au

CHH Woodproducts Australia

PO Box 299
MYRTLEFORD VIC 3737
Ph: (03) 5751 9211
Email: michael.baldwin@chhwoodproducts.com.au

CHH Woodproducts Australia

PO Box 645
MOUNT GAMBIER SA 5290
Ph: (08) 8721 6365
Fax: (08) 8739 7098
Email: al.scheidl@chhwoodproducts.com.au

D & R Henderson Pty Limited

PO Box 6307
WETHERILL PARK DC NSW 1851
Ph: (03) 4700 6438
Fax: (03) 4700 6466
Email: jtonks@DRHenderson.com.au

The Laminex Group

90-94 Tram Road
DONCASTER VIC 3108
Ph: (03) 9848 4811
Fax: (03) 9848 8158

Email: Andrew.graham@laminex.com.au

Ta Ann Tasmania Pty Ltd

150 Davey Street
HOBART TAS 7000
Ph: (03) 6227 5500
Fax: (03) 6227 5599
Email: robert.yong@taanntas.com

Weatherex Pty Ltd

PO Box 21
RAYMOND TERRACE NSW 2324
Ph: 1800 040 080
Fax: 1800 647 926
Email: sales@weatherex.com.au

Wesbeam Pty Ltd

PO Box 217
WANNEROO WA 6065
Ph: (08) 9306 0408
Fax: (08) 9306 0444
Email: james.malone@wesbeam.com

NEW ZEALAND

CHH Woodproducts New Zealand Plywood

Private Bag
TOKOROA
NEW ZEALAND
Ph: +64 7 885 0800
Fax: +64 7 886 0068
Email: ian.potter@chhwoodproducts.co.nz

CHH Woodproducts New Zealand

Futurebuild Marsden Point
Private Bag 9031
WHANGAREI
NEW ZEALAND
Ph: +64 9 432 8817
Fax: +64 9 432 8830
Email: dave.herzig@chhwoodproducts.co.nz

IPL (West Coast) Ltd

PO Box 179
GREYMOUTH
NEW ZEALAND
Ph: +64 3 762 6759
Fax: +64 3 762 6789
email: tuffply@xtra.co.nz

Juken New Zealand Ltd (veneer plant)

PO Box 175
KAITIA NEW ZEALAND
Ph: +64 9 408 9090
Fax: +64 9 408 9123
Email: campbell.crooks@triboard.co.nz

Juken New Zealand Ltd

(Wairarapa mill)

PO Box 535
MASTERTON NEW ZEALAND
Ph: +64 6 370 0650
Fax: +64 6 370 0653
Email: paul.jordan@jnl.co.nz

Juken New Zealand Ltd (Gisborne mill)

PO Box 1239
GISBORNE NEW ZEALAND
Ph: +64 6 869 1100
Email: bjsmith@jnleast.co.nz

Nelson Pine Industries Ltd

PO Box 3049
RICHMOND
NEW ZEALAND
Ph: +64 3 543 8800
Fax: +64 3 543 8891
Email: Richard.barry@nelsonpine.co.nz

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

PNG Forest Products Ltd (mill and office)

PO Box 88
BULOLO 423
PAPUA NEW GUINEA
Ph: +67 5 474 5374
Fax: +67 5 474 5365
Email: pngfp.amh@global.net.pg

PNG Forest Products Ltd (sales office)

Ph: +67 5 472 2323
Fax: +67 5 472 6017
Email: gsmith@pngfp.com

Rimbunan Hijau (PNG Group)

PO Box 102
PORT MORESBY NCD
PAPUA NEW GUINEA
Ph: +67 5 325 7677
Fax: +67 5 325 7654
Email: muknb@rhpng.com.pg

FIJI

Fiji Forest Industries

PO Box 69
LABASA
REPUBLIC OF FIJI
Ph: +67 9 881 1088
Fax: : +67 9 881 3088
Email: ffimalau@connect.com.fj

Valebasoga Tropikboards Ltd

PO Box 528
NASEA SUBDIVISION
LABASA FIJI ISLANDS
Ph: +67 9 881 1386
Fax: +67 9 881 3848
Email: vtbl@connect.com.fj

