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in this issue...

New president and board members to spearhead changes

Technical support for TABMA members

Seasoned softwood span table revised

Homeshow valuable exposure for TABMA in the West

Importers endorse illegal logging policy

Annual highlights for Queensland

TimberTALK is TABMA's newsletter and is published six times a year.

TABMA is a member-based organisation representing building materials suppliers, timber merchants, timber importers and related service providers. TABMA provides companies with practical solutions to improve business management, growth and profitability.

New president and board to spearhead changes

At the Annual General Meeting of TABMA (NSW) a new President and new board members were elected. Incoming President and State Manager of Mitek's operations in NSW, ACT and WA, Peter Hutchison said he was delighted at the calibre of new Board members and the overall capacity of Board.

"The new Board will have the critical roles of appointing a new Chief Executive and guiding the restructuring of the association to improve its operational efficiency, managerial effectiveness and responsiveness to member needs. In addition TABMA's business units will be reviewed to ensure they provide relevant value-adding services for members."

Mr Hutchison paid tribute to outgoing president Danny Gattone. "Danny has been at the helm of the association since 1999 and has done a wonderful, selfless job. We are indeed fortunate that he will remain on the Board and, as he has in the past, continue to provide a valuable contribution to TABMA and the industry as a whole."

In welcoming new Board members Peter Carruthers and John Wilson, Mr Hutchison acknowledged the contribution of retiring members Bob Frost, Glen Barkman and Gernasno Tomasetti. The make-up of the new TABMA Board is listed to the left.

As part of this restructure Chief Executive Kevin Collison has left the association. Mr Hutchison said Mr Collison had overseen the transition of TABMA from an organisation financially dependent on the trading activities of its business units to one that now enjoys financial security from the investment returns in property holdings. "Kevin will be leaving TABMA with the thanks and best wishes of the Board and its staff."



President Peter Hutchison - delighted at calibre of new Board members and capacity of Board.

President

Peter Hutchison

Past President

Danny Gattone

Board Members

Simon Olding (Vice President)

John Harrison (Vice President)

Peter Carruthers | John Wilson | Ron Gattone | Ian Haliday | Nils Koren | Michael Swan | John Walker | Bran Ziebell | Norm Harrison

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Technical support for TABMA members

A technical advisory service for TABMA members is up and running. Confirming this service, the chief executive of the Timber Development Association (TDA) Andrew Dunn, said it covered technical inquiries pertaining to timber use, standards, codes and regulations related to building.

"For example, questions about timber grade and grading, treatment types and hazard classes and building codes and regulations flowing from the Building Code of Australia could all be answered."

TABMA president Peter Hutchison said the service provides a quick way for members to get information both in relation to enquires from customers, but also to test fit-for-purpose and other assertions made in marketing literature or in verbal representations from others in the timber supply chain.

To take advantage of this service, TABMA members could call the TDA on (02) 9279 2366, or send an email to info@tdansw.asn.au.

Seasoned softwood span table revised

With the recent reduction in availability of F7 visually graded pine, a series of new span tables have been developed to assist builders and designers to overcome any difficulties adopting the grades of more readily available material.

According to the Timber Development Association (TDA) CEO Andrew Dunn, with the assistance of these span tables the transition has happened smoothly with little or no problems being experienced by builders or suppliers.

"To continue this transition, TDA recently amended the span tables for Seasoned Softwood Internal Floor Joists, which provided comparisons for the most popular and readily available grades, F5, F7 and MGP10."

This amendment introduced information on alternate joist spacing for F5, 400 mm, so that similar depth to F7 at 450 mm spacing can be maintained.

"The introduction of 400 mm spacing for F5 will reduce the need to increase the building height to accommodate this lower grade," he said.

For more information and to gain a copy of the amended span tables visit the TABMA website under Resources and then Publications.

Importers endorse illegal logging policy

The Australian Timber Importers Federation (ATIF) has congratulated the Federal Government on the release of its illegal logging policy. ATIF Chairman Norm Long said the policy is a practical, workable approach for dealing with what is an economic and environmentally sensitive issue.

"The policy identifies and addresses the complexities of the issue in a balanced, realistic way that is strongly grounded in a working partnership with timber importers and other stake holders."

Mr Long said many ATIF member companies are long standing family-owned businesses. "As such they recognise that their future is inextricably tied to ensuring imported timber continues in the long term and is only obtained

from legally verifiable sources."

He said the way to the future was for the industry to work with the Federal Government to deal with the challenge that illegal logging presents to future timber supplies.

"The ATIF strongly supports the Federal Government's policy mechanisms. We intend to work closely with the Government and key supply countries to develop credible legal verification processes," said Mr Long.

He advised that the ATIF was intent on continuing to be proactive with the issue.

"Working with the Commonwealth Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, we intend to further refine the methodologies and guidelines aimed at ensuring that timber imported into Australia comes from legal sources."

Mr Long confirmed that

Future was for industry to work with Government to deal with the challenge that illegal logging presents.

Annual highlights for Queensland

Highlights for the year for TABMA (Queensland) have been the recent Timber Industry Gala Dinner and AGM. The gala dinner, held at the Gold Coast Convention Centre, attracted 200 people from Melbourne, Sydney, Northern NSW and around Queensland. Guests were entertained by hilarious stand up comedian Steve Allison and local band The Hodads playing the tunes that kept the party dancing.

Executive officer Deanna Kearns-Healey thanked all those who attended and made a weekend of the event. "It was great to see many business owners and their staff to enjoy the evening."

The sixth Annual General Meeting of TABMA (Queensland) was also held recently. Deserving special mention was the election of the incoming Board that included three new members.

Deanna said she was delighted to congratulate Keith Maitland of Tasman KB for continuing as Chairman for a second year. Paul Rutledge of Gunnersens was elected as Vice Chairman.

"I am also pleased to welcome our three new directors, Mark Gilles of Brims Builders Hardware; Mitch O'Mara of Tradeware Building Supplies, and John Eggleton, of Peachester Timber."



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Homeshow valuable exposure for TABMA in the West

TABMA(WA) was prominent at the recent Perth HIA Homeshow. According to executive officer Graham Whyte an important theme of the show was the promotion of timber as an environmentally friendly building material. "This principal appeared to be well accepted by the public and trades people at the show."

Mr Whyte said a great deal of interest was shown in treated blue pine wall framing and roof trusses. "People intending to build and in the process of construction now have a serious alternative to consider that is both cost competitive and provides homeowners with added peace-of-mind."

Other timber products on display that generated interest included decking and flooring; pine and cedar weather and lining boards; pergola materials, and a range of joinery lines.

"The home show provided valuable exposure and a profile building opportunity for TABMA. It was also a chance to promotion of a range of timber products. It was certainly good value for us."



the measures outlined in the Government's policy document will mean that imported timber is obtained from legally verified sources. "That will be an important step towards the goal of forest management practices meeting acceptable standards."

He committed the ATIF to supporting and working with the Federal Government to ensure that the policy will promote trade in certified timber products from well managed forests.



ATIF confirms measures outlined in the Government's policy will mean imported timber is obtained from legally verified sources.



TABMA Queensland revelers making a weekend of it on the Gold Coast



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Outgoing President Danny Gattone (left) joins Trainee of the Year, Jamal Ferrer-McGee, Apprentice of the Year, Ryan Greener and new TABMA President Peter Hutchison.

Annual NSW awards presented

The annual TABMA (NSW) awards were presented at a gala dinner at the Four Seasons Hotel on Saturday, 10 November 2007. In presenting the awards Past President Danny Gattone said it had been a particularly challenging year for members as well as for TABMA. "It is pleasing therefore to see so many familiar faces and some new ones at this year's award dinner."

"Tonight we want to acknowledge your excellent achievements amongst one of the toughest audiences you can have – your industry peers!"

Mr Gattone acknowledged the support from sponsors of the evening. Gold sponsors were Acacia Timber Products and Hynes, Forsythes, Hubtex and Arch Wood Protection were Silver sponsors. Bronze sponsors were Forestworks, Gow-Gates, ITI (NSW), Mobil Oil Australia, Swan Le Messurier and the Timber Industry Superannuation Scheme.

Mr Gattone congratulated all award finalists on a job well done and "the excellent manner in which they continued to present their businesses and to represent the industry."

The annual award winners were:

Best Building Materials Centre – City Region: New Line Building Supplies, Dural.

Best Building Materials Centre – Country Region: Brennans Mitre 10 Home & Trade – Dubbo.

Best Building Materials Centre – State Award: Brennans Mitre

10 Home & Trade – Dubbo.

Best Building Supplies Warehouse over 6000 square metres: Magnet Mart, Gungahlin.

Best Frame & Truss Operation – City Region: Austek Frames & Trusses, Smithfield.

Best Frame & Truss – Country Region: B & J McNamara, Forster.

Best Frame & Truss Operation – State Award: B & J McNamara, Forster.

Best Traditional Timber Yard: Peninsula Timbers, Cromer.

Best Specialist Timber Merchant: Fedwood Pty Ltd, Leichhardt.

Wholesaler of the Year: Hyne, Cameron Park.

Host Training Organisation of the Year: Mister Ply & Wood.

Trainee of the Year: Jamal Ferrer-McGee from Swan Le Messurier, Smithfield.

Apprentice of the Year: Ryan Greener from A W Edwards Rintoul

Supplier of the Year: John Cook & Sons, St Marys.

Sales Representative of the Year: Mike Hill from John Cook & Sons.

Incoming President Peter Hutchison presented retiring President Danny Gattone and former Chief Executive Kevin Collison with inscribed commemorative carved rosewood boxes to mark their contributions to TABMA.

Reminder

TABMA (NSW) office will be closed from Friday, 21 December and will reopen on Wednesday, 2 January 2008.

TABMA Queensland will be closed from 4pm Monday, 24 December and will re-open on Monday, 7 January 2008



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