

Interest high in AusTimber

With still four months to go, the interest in AusTimber 2000 at Albury, New South Wales, has been outstanding.

Overall, it is expected that a total of over 270 indoor sites will be booked for the March exhibition and conference, along with about 130 outdoor sites. This will involve more than 200 companies from about 15 different countries.

The director of AusTimber 2000, Ron Limb, said that the main indoor pavilion with 175 sites has been booked out, and the Technology Centre in the adjacent Police and Citizens building, with a further 35 sites was almost half full.

"We have also a further 30 sites booked in the special Canadian Pavilion, and to take the overflow from the main indoor pavilion we have located another large hoecka in a central position.

"In the outdoor area we have about six sites left in the sawmilling area, and about 15 sites for left for logging equipment and trucks and trailers."

Conference organising committee chairman, Bill Kerruish and his committee has planned an excellent program for the conference, which in particular will be looking at new equipment and technology for the logging, sawmilling and transport industries. The conference is aimed at the small business operator in regional centers, and the theme is "My business in 2005 and how to get there."

IFA News

In order to create a wider understanding of forestry issues across the Tasman, we have an agreement with the Institute of Foresters of Australia (IFA) to publish news from the IFA Newsletter.

Conference News

The Institute of Foresters of Australia (IFA) conference held in early October was a big success, with 280 delegates attending. The focus of

the conference was on Practising Forestry Today, with high quality papers being presented and delegates taking field trips.

As well as the special focus, Evan Rolley delivered the Max Jacobs Oration, reminding members that "forestry is an idea" which can only survive if it is relevant and meets community expectations. He emphasised the personal attributes which foresters must have which include courage, integrity and innovation.

AFS Reunion 2000

The planned Australian Forestry School (AFS) reunion 2000 continues to attract strong interest. An attendance of more than 300, including partners, is expected. The reunion will commemorate the passing of the century in which the AFS existed in Canberra under the motto *Mihi Cura Futuri*.

Past AFS students should have received a registration form and those that haven't should quickly send a note with their correct address. For further information on this historic event, please contact: The Secretary, AFS Reunion 2000 Committee, PO Box 57, Jamison Centre, ACT 2614, Australia.

New Fellows

David Ryan, Peter Bulman, John N. Smith, Peter Sheehan and Ray Spencer who, as members of the IFA, have been invited on behalf of members by the IFA board to be a Fellow of the Institute in recognition of their outstanding service to forestry.

Gippsland Branch Award

The IFA's Gippsland Branch participated in Treefest 99 by sponsoring an award recognising significant achievement or service in the field of forestry in the region. Nominations for the award were invited from members of the branch. From the five nominations receive, the award committee announced Michael Hall AM of Traralgon as the inaugural award winner at the Treefest 99 dinner.

Concern over CSIRO

Funding

An IFA member has expressed concern about announced "drastic cuts" to the budgets of the CSIRO Forestry and Forest Products and the CRC for Hardwood Fibre and Paper. In addition, most regional forestry

agreements (RFA) being devised are said to severely erode the Forest and Wood Products R&D Corporation log levy funds.

In Western Australia, it is expected that by 2004, the permissible harvest will be dropped to less than 50 per cent of the present working plan volumes. In other states similar reductions are either already applying or foreshadowed.

letter

Does the world need planted forests?

Sir

Much of mankind's future will be influenced by what may be termed the annual adult "tyranny of the one tonnes". That is of moist food, green roundwood, and solid waste. Details will vary very much. In the rich world wood use will contain a lot of paper, while solid waste will contain much non-biodegradable plastic, metal and glass. While in the poor countries much wood will be used as fuel to cook the food, and much solid waste will be biodegradable. The world should be able to feed a lot more people, but there will be two constraints - food will have to be transported over vast distances from where it is grown to where it is eaten, and many people who need food will not have any money.

The figure quoted of world population increasing to 10 billion, is a lot lower than the estimated 12 billion population I have read that the world population will level off at.

Wood use estimates are surely based on wood bought and sold. For a country that cooks much of its food using wood; any difference between estimated wood use per person and one cubic metre is surely fuel wood "obtained".

In a world where the area of forest is diminishing each year, it is very difficult to see long-term increases in wood yield increasing in the long-term - even when there is the possibility of per hectare yields increasing!

K. D. Marten