

MEMBERS' BULLETIN

August-September 2012**No 20****IN THIS ISSUE:**

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Welcome

This *Members' Bulletin* is intended to keep you up-to-date with ATIF activities. This issue reports on the 2012 AGM, progress with the Federal Government's illegal logging legislation, possible changes to imported timber kiln dried requirements, the passing of Peter Gunnersen and the Malaysian Global WoodMart.

2012 AGM

The 2012 AGM was held in Adelaide at the end of July. Speaking to invited guests at lunch prior to the AGM Chairman Nils Koren acknowledged the current difficult trading conditions. "Things are tough right across the industry, so persistence and performance continue to be critical and need to be demonstrated across the supply chain."

Mr Koren remarked on the increasing recognition and influential role being played by ATIF. "We are increasingly being recognised as a leading timber industry body and vital national voice for timber importers, wholesalers and distributors."

He commented on the steady membership growth of ATIF. "We can now say that we do truly represent the solid wood product importing sector and that is important in our dealings, particularly with the Federal Government."

There were no changes to the composition of the Board at the AGM. Nils Koren will continue as Chairman and Gerry Gardiner, David Meyer, John Simon, Glenn Tilling, Robert Cairns, Lou Boffo and Michael Swan as the full complement of Board members.

Illegal Logging legislation update

The *Illegal Logging Prohibition Bill 2011* has been passed by the Parliament's House of Representatives and at the time of writing is being considered by the Senate. Work is continuing on the development of risk assessment and due diligence procedures, plus related administrative mechanisms by departmental officials with industry input.

Possible changes to imported timber kiln dried requirements

The Federal Government is investigating changing treatment and document requirements for imported kiln dried timber to move away from the current fixed time and temperature requirements.

ATIF has been invited to provide the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry with information on imported kiln dried timber on behalf of the industry. For example, does current kiln drying requirements reflect actual commercial kiln drying practices? Would changing to a percentage moisture requirement decrease quarantine document failures for importers? Is imported kiln dried timber typically stamped by the treatment provider? A questionnaire will be circulated shortly to selected member companies to progress this issue.

Peter Gunnersen 1943-2012

Prominent industry identity and highly respected leader Peter Gunnersen died on 22 August 2012. Peter was an exceptional contributor to an industry much in need of its leaders and champions. He was most certainly in that elite category.

Along with brother Thorry, Peter led the Gunnersen family timber dynasty for three decades. A larger than life character Peter was also actively involved in many facets of sport, community, clubs, friends and extended family. Peter contributed at all levels in the industry and until his recent illness remained active in industry leadership positions, including his work with the Gottstein Trust. The Gottstein Trustees have expressed their sadness at the news of Peter's passing. They have paid tribute to his contribution and dedication as the chairman of the Trust for 16 years. They note that his service and love for the industry and its people will not be forgotten.

Until relatively recently Peter was also a director of Wood Products Victoria. He was a past director of the National Association of Forest Industries a past president of the Victorian Association of Forest Industries.

Peter was 69 and is survived by his wife Julie, and his children Katrina, Andrew, Christian and Thomas. To his immediate and the wider Gunnersen family the industry extends its sincerely condolences and acknowledges a life of service to the industry, family and the community.

Malaysian Global Wood Mart 2012

The Malaysian Timber Council's Global WoodMart 2012 will again be held at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre, Malaysia on 4-6 October 2012. The event provides a one-stop selling, buying and networking opportunity for local and international temperate, boreal and tropical timber suppliers and buyers.

If you are thinking about going to the Global WoodMart complimentary hotel accommodation and other assistance is available subjected to terms and conditions. For further information go to www.globalwoodmart.my or for ecopies of the sponsorship invitation and application forms get in touch with John Halkett on john.halkett@bigpond.com or 02 9356 3826.

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