

MEMBERS' BULLETIN

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Welcome

This *Members' Bulletin* is intended to keep you up-to-date with current ATIF activities. This edition comments on the current activity related to illegal logging legislation and timber import conditions reviews; ATIF's participation in the mid-rise lightweight frame and truss construction project, and records the passing of wholesale timber industry identity Bob Frost.

Illegal logging regulation and timber import conditions review

Further meetings are now scheduled in Canberra with relevant staff from the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources. The purpose of these meetings is to discuss next steps, if any, with amendments to the illegal logging regulations and to progressing the ongoing review of timber product import conditions.

Mid-rise timber construction light weight construction project

ATIF is supportive of extending mid-rise timber buildings construction that has been facilitated by changes to the National Construction Code. Code changes provide for both the adoption of massive panel building systems using cross laminated timber (CLT) and other engineered timber products, and lightweight construction methods utilising existing frame and truss methodologies in association with off-site prefabrication of some building components.

The *Mid-rise Timber Construction Frame and Truss Supply Chain Market Implementation Program* is a collaborative project involving: the Frame and Truss Manufacturers Association of Australia (FTMA), the Engineered Wood Products Association of Australasia (EWPA), ATIF, MiTek, Pryda and Multinail. The project focuses on lightweight frame and truss technologies to assist in further extending the opportunities this methodology provides for the timber industry.

The project's objective is to bring together the major nail plate manufacturers, key frame and truss manufacturers and supply chain product providers, to investigate and develop collaboratively, a range of prefabricated lightweight timber-framed construction system solutions for mid-rise timber buildings, for delivery by the Australian frame and truss sector and supply chain; effectively building



'supply capacity' in the frame and truss sector for this new mid-rise market opportunity.

ATIF input into this project was provided by Craig Kay of Tilling Timber. His expertise and participation in the project is acknowledged and appreciated. The project was lead and coordinated by Dr Alastair Woodard, Wood Products Victoria, TPC Solutions (Aust). Funding assistance to ATIF to support the project was provided by Forest and Wood Products Australia.

Bob Frost

Timber industry identity Robert Kenneth (Bob) Frost passed away on 5 May 2014 at the age of 84. His funeral in Sydney was attended by a large contingent of forest and timber industry friends and colleagues.

Bob's passing is a sad loss to the timber industry. He was a pioneer in the wholesale trade in Australia, an innovator who made a substantial contribution to industry affairs through his participation on industry entities and associations.

After initially working for Allen Taylor's, Bob started his independent business life in the timber industry in 1986 when he set up KB Timber Marketing that operated out of a small office opposite Pymble railway station in northern Sydney.

From these humble beginnings Bob built the successful nationwide family timber business, Tasman KB, importing and wholesaling timber to the industry. Bob built a reputation, not only as a skilled trader, but as a loyal supplier, an industry leader and a friend and colleague to many.

Tasman KB was one of the first Australian to import radiata pine and Douglas fir timber products from New Zealand in a major way, and to embrace the now important environmental issue of only selling sustainably produced timber products.

Being a tightly held family company Bob was able and willing to take quick decisions, to follow the market in a much more nimble and effective way than many of his more bureaucratic larger corporate competitors.

Bob was passionate about collaboration in the timber industry, and to that end he made major contributions to various timber industry associations. He was a founding director of the Forest and Wood Products Research and Development Corporation, now Forest and Wood Products Australia. He was a director of the NSW Timber Development Association for twelve years and in 2012 was given the rare honour of being made a Life Member. He also received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Australia Timber Importers Federation.

Bob is survived by his son Neil and daughter Kaylyeen and a brace of grandchildren.

Frame Australia conference

ATIF is an events supporter of the Frame Australia Conference and Exhibition to be held on June 18-19 at Park Hyatt, Melbourne.

The 2018 conference will focus on timber and engineered wood buildings both locally and globally, with speaker sessions on the key themes of Building Design, Technology, Manufacturing and Construction. This is a major national event for design, manufacture and construction of timber and mass wood buildings. For more information see: www.frameaustralia.com

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