

## e-bulletin

June 2006

**Welcome** to the latest edition of the tech partners e-bulletin. In this issue we included some details of issues relating to Hardwood Gluing. Also provide is an update on Building Energy Efficiency Regulations and details of a new report on ESD issues and timber.

I hope you find the articles useful and if you have any further questions please call or email to have a more detailed discussion.

Cheers Glenn

### Hardwood Gluing

Much has been said in the past about Hardwood gluing however the problems persist, at least until now. A recent FWPRDC seminar was held to highlight recent work on this issue.

Promising results have been obtained with significant improvements in bond strength and durability with high density, hard to bond hardwoods from Australia. The research also highlighted the possibility of improving bond strengths of more traditional species such as Radiata Pine that do not normally present bonding difficulties.

Whilst there has not been any research carried out on other hard to bond timbers it is likely that the research will also prove beneficial to international issues.

If you have an issue with bonding or wish to know more please contact us. [.....top](#)

### Building Energy Efficiency.

The Australian Building Energy efficiency software program, AccuRATE has been released. The program allows the user to evaluate the thermal performance of the building fabric of a dwelling. From June 2006 to meet the Building Code of Australia's (BCA) requirement for energy efficiency all home must achieve a 5 star rating based on a desktop evaluation using AccuRATE (or equivalent program).

The program is a much-awaited upgrade of the previous Australian developed NatHERS. AccuRATE will also provide the algorithms for the upgrade of the Victorian Governments FirstRATE program, which

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does a similar assessment.

There are a number of improvements to AccuRATE that are of interest to the timber industry. Most notably is the treatment of the thermal performance of timber sub-floor structures. In the past NatHERS has treated these structures harshly but modification in the new software has refined the sub-floor model, which provides a more accurate assessment.

Recent research by the AGO suggests that on average timber floor have a deficiency of 0.3 star compared to concrete. This is a significant improvement over previous modelling. The challenge for the timber industry is to find cost effective solutions to bridge this small performance gap. .... [top](#)

## ESD

A draft report by Greg Nolan (UTas) that reviews the non-regulated influences on wood markets has been circulated for industry comment.

Interestingly it seems that at the domestic housing level there is not much prescriptive restrictions placed on the timber industry by local government but there are indications that there is an increased level of awareness of environmental choices in this area. This agenda is being driven by the desire to achieve Environmentally Sustainable Development.

Some local governments are placing recommendations on the wood species and sources that they believe are preferred. A worrying trend is that most of the information that all groups rely on are often obtained from the internet and more often from the web-sites established by environmental groups. The simply reason for this is that often this is the only information readily available. ....[top](#)



## And finally.....

**Having a keen interest in new product development I enjoyed reading this glossary of new product advertising terms. I hope you enjoy them too.**

NEW - Different colour from previous design.

ALL NEW - Parts are not interchangeable with previous design.

UNMATCHED - Almost as good as the competition.

FOOLPROOF OPERATION - No provision for adjustments.

ADVANCED DESIGN - The advertising agency doesn't understand it.

IT'S HERE AT LAST - Rush job. Nobody knew it was coming.

FIELD TESTED - Manufacturer lacks test equipment.

HIGH ACCURACY - Unit on which all parts fit.

FUTURISTIC - No other reason why it looks the way it does.

REDESIGNED - Previous flaws fixed - we hope.

YEARS OF DEVELOPMENT - We finally got one to work.

BREAKTHROUGH - We finally figured out a use for it.

MAINTENANCE FREE - Impossible to fix.

MEETS ALL STANDARDS - Ours, not yours.

SOLID-STATE - Heavy as hell.

HIGH RELIABILITY - We made it work long enough to ship it.

NON-REFUNDABLE - We couldn't make it work long enough to ship it.

FAT FREE - You pay for the food, but the fat is free.

## About Us.

Tech Partners Australia is an independent Technical Service provider to the composite wood panels industry. Glenn Ryan who has 25 years experience in industry runs the organization. His experience covers Quality Management, Technical Service and R&D Management.

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