

IFA News

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

New IFA Executive Director

Janice Warren is the new Executive Director of the Institute of Foresters of Australia following the departure of Jane Waslin, who has gone to Jakarta for three years with her family.

Previously Queensland-based, Warren was the chief executive of the Wide Bay-Burnett Regional Economic Development Association, where she was heavily involved as Project Champion for a major water sustainability project.

Warren's interest in natural resource sustainability issues began with her earlier position as executive officer with the Cooperative Research Centre for the Ecological Sustainable Development of the Great Barrier Reef.

IFA Conference

Practising Forestry Today is the theme for the 18th Biennial Conference of the IFA to be held in Hobart, Tasmania from 3rd to 8th of October.

The IFA's objectives in holding the conference are to examine:

- the practical responses to changes in the political, legal and social framework within which forestry is conducted, and
- the technical underpinning of today's forestry practices.

Topics include "Impacts of National and International Agreements" on forestry, "Codes of Forest Practice", "Managing for Non-Wood Values", "Native Forest Silviculture", "Management of Industrial Plantations", and "Farm Forestry".

A pre-conference tour from 26 September to 1 October will cover blackwood swamps and eucalypt plantations in the north-west, private forestry in the north-east, forests of the central highlands, and Mt Field National Park.

Information is available from the organiser: Mures Convention Management, Victoria Dock, Hobart TAS 7000. Tel: 61-3-6234 1424; Fax: 61-3-6234 4464.

Email: conventions@mures.com.au

Global outlook for plantations

The Australian Bureau of Agriculture and Resource Economics (ABARE) has recently published a study titled the Global Outlook for Plantations. The report is designed to provide technical information for the Inter-governmental Forum on Forests as well as to identify proposals for action that will help raise the global profile of plantations.

The study looks at current and expected rates of plantation establishment, expected trends in demand for plantation products and assesses the likely implications of plantation expansion on the supply of wood. It also looks at the economic, social and environmental costs and benefits of plantations.

Copies of this report are available for A\$46.00 and can be ordered from <http://www.abare.gov.au>

Rayonier purchases timberlands

The large US company Rayonier has announced it has signed a definitive agreement to purchase about 980,000 acres of timberlands in Florida, Georgia and Alabama from Smurfit-Stone Container Corporation for US\$725 million.

The purchase will more than double Rayonier's current timber holdings in the Southeast US to 1.8 million acres. It will increase the total amount of timber the company owns or manages to nearly 2.5 million acres, including 400,000 acres in the Northwest US and 250,000 acres in New Zealand.

Lee Nutter, who on 1 January this year became Rayonier chairman, president and CEO, says the acquisition is a major step in reposition the company as a leading owner and manager of timberlands.

The forests involved in the sale are mainly pine plantations and will increase Rayonier's annual Southeast harvest from 2 million tons to 5 million.

AusTimber 2000

A big contingent of New Zealanders is expected to attend Australia's biggest ever event for the forest industries. This major event, AusTimber 2000, will be held in Albury NSW from March 14-18 next year and already over 150 companies from 12 different countries have booked sites at the exhibition.

Over 30 New Zealand companies are expected to exhibit at AusTimber 2000, and large numbers of loggers and sawmillers are expected to make the trip across the Tasman for the event.

The Director of AusTimber 2000, Ron Limb said that AusTimber 2000 was specifically aimed at those involved in the growing of the trees, the harvesting of the trees, right through to the processing of the timber in the sawmill.

"Included in this will be a significant focus on farm forestry which is seen as the major growth area."

In addition to the two day exhibition there will also be a two day conference, expected to attract up to 800 delegates.

For more information on AusTimber 2000 phone (03) 6248 5653, fax (03) 6248 5677 or email Ron Lim: limb@austforest.com.au; further information can be viewed at: <http://www.austforest.com.au>

Asia-Pacific Forestry towards 2010

In January 1996, the FAO Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission carried out an outlook study for forestry with horizon year 2010, to be co-ordinated by the Food & Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). The scope of the study was to look at the main external and sectoral developments in policies, programmes and institutions that will affect the forestry sector and to assess the likely direction of the sector's evolution to year 2010.

The study consists of a main report and 48 working papers. The complete report and working papers can be downloaded from the FAO web site <http://www.fao.org/waicent/faoinfo/forestry/apfsos/MR-toc.htm>.