Visitors to the ACAWP at Creswick can't help but be impressed by the amount of activity at the Centre. We are more than half way through an experimental production run of softwood railway sleepers, we have fully commissioned our new research kilns and are about to start the final phase of the accelerated drying experiment, the pyrolysis program is ramping up again and we are doing a number of trials for our licensee, TimTech. Congratulations to all involved in the work!

Tom Spurling
Chief Executive Officer

CRC Final Program Review and Dinner

As foreshadowed in the December ATB the final CRC Program Review will take place on Wednesday 19th March at ‘The Point’, Aquatic Drive, Albert Park.

This meeting will focus on the scientific achievements of the CRC as well as our commercial outcomes.

The meeting will be followed by a Farewell Dinner at the same venue.
Bostik to Commercialise the CRC Advanced Adhesion Technology

Bostik Australia Pty Ltd became a participant of the CRC in 2005 following its purchase of the adhesives business of A V Syntec Pty Ltd.

Bostik has been known for its expertise in the adhesives and sealants business for more that 100 years. Today it is part of the adhesives division of Total S A (a Euro 140 billion chemicals group). Bostik Australasia has a sales and marketing network extending into every capital city of Australia, New Zealand, South East Asia, India and China.

In January of this year Bostik took out a worldwide license for the CRC’s advanced adhesion technology. This technology has been developed at the CSIRO node of the CRC.

It is expected that the first royalties from this agreement will flow to the CRC Centre Intellectual Property Trust participants late in 2008.

The 2008 Program and Project Review

The CRC conducted its final Program and Project review in January and February and the result of the review was reported to the Governing Board at its meeting on February 26th.

The CRC is in a good position to meet its milestones by June 30th 2008 and it has had remarkable success in commercialising its technology packages. The CRC management is preparing a study of the impact of the CRC’s work as part of the final Annual Report.

The Board approved minor adjustments to the Budget for the last six months of the CRC.
**News of CRC student**

Darren Shelden, Senior Manager, Tree-Farm Operations at Timbervest in Hamilton, Victoria, has earned a place in the 2008 Australian Rural Leadership Program. Darren was sponsored by Forest and Wood Products Australia (FWPA).

Darren is a part time M Wood Sci student at the University of Melbourne. His research is part of the CRC’s ‘Growth-stress relief in fast-grown plantation hardwoods’ project.

For further information see [here](#).

**Victorian Government Delegation Visits Creswick**

On Tuesday 29th January a delegation from the Victorian Government Department of Infrastructure, V/Line and Connex visited the Australian Centre for Advanced Wood Processing at Creswick.

The purpose of the visit was to view the CRC process for the manufacture of softwood railway sleepers. The CRC is currently completing a large research project to establish the commercial viability of its proprietary process.
Winding up progress

The CRC is proceeding with the preparation of the legal documents required to complete the wind-up process.

Briefly, after June 30th 2008 the proposed arrangements are as follows.

The new trustee of the Centre Intellectual Property Trust will handle all matters related to the IP including the distribution of royalty income. Trustee will report on a regular basis to the Participants. Decisions by the participants will be on the basis of one participant one vote, although royalty income will be distributed in proportion to the participant’s equity in the CRC.

The ACAWP Trustee will continue to be IWM Centre Management Ltd, albeit with a different constitution, Board and management. The Trustee will lease the property to an entity willing to operate the Centre for three years and will be responsible for making a recommendation, around July 1st 2010 as to the long term future of the ACAWP.

Finally

I look forward to seeing many of the readers of this newsletter at the Dinner on March 19th. The food writer Jane Hutchinson said that this restaurant ‘served arguably Melbourne’s best, and certainly most scenic, steaks.’ It will be a good to celebrate the many achievements of the CRC.