Melbourne, July 12, 2004
For immediate release

New training initiative for forest industry workers

CRC Wood Innovations has begun offering professional development courses for people employed in the forest products and pest management industries.

Students from the manufacturing and marketing sectors of the timber industry participated in the first course, “Leadership and managing teams” on June 22 and 23 at Creswick. The students came from timber processing and timber products companies in Queensland, NSW, Victoria and South Australia.

“We are delighted to have industry endorsement and support for the courses,” said Professor Peter Vinden, CEO of CRC Wood Innovations. “Forest products companies want their employees to progress their careers by gaining and using personal effectiveness and business skills. We aim to provide courses that enable students to learn these skills.”

Professor Vinden announced that the courses will be developed as part of an advanced diploma to be offered by The University of Melbourne this year. The advanced diploma includes two streams, Wood Products Management and Pest Management, and will be taught in tandem with the existing University of Melbourne Advanced Diploma in Forestry Management.

Courses to be offered this year include Timber Resources on 21–23 September, Wood Biodeteriorating agents on 28–30 September, and Wood Science on 19–21 October. Further information about course content and courses planned for the next six months is available from the Advanced Diploma of Wood Management course manager, Phil Blackwell, on (03) 5321 4104.

For more information, please contact:
Nola Wilkinson
Communication and Education Manager
Phone: (03) 8344 5237
Email: n.wilkinson@optusnet.com.au

Professor Peter Vinden, CEO CRC Wood Innovations
Phone: 0407 554 113