

MEDIA RELEASE

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

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ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors



New research centre to boost sustainable timber for building and design

A new research centre based in the School of Architecture and Design at Inveresk will work with timber and forest industries and aims to be a national leader in sustainable architectural design and building with wood.

CSAW – the Centre for Sustainable Architecture with Wood – was launched last night by the University’s Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor David Rich.

Prof Rich said the Centre was especially relevant to Tasmania and Launceston in particular, and had secured \$2.1 million in projects for the three years until June 2009.

“Sustainable building is a rapidly developing aspect of architectural design and construction; wood is the only major building material that is renewable,” he said.

“Wood production is one of Tasmania’s major industry sectors and the State’s principal value-adding wood processing facilities are generally grouped around Launceston.

“Value-adding to materials like timber is necessary but achieving it requires increased research and skill; the University of Tasmania is keen to be involved.”

With seeding investment from the University’s Launceston Blueprint initiative, CSAW has grown out of the Architecture School’s successful Timber Research Unit. It is already active in research and education in:

- Sustainable architecture with wood;
- The use of plantation and regrowth eucalypts in building and structures;
- Optimising value and material recovery from plantation and regrowth eucalypts;

- Extension and technology transfer.

The Head of the School of Architecture and Design, Professor Roger Fay, said that CSAW consisted of three experienced researchers, three full-time post-graduate students and eight project, administrative and technical staff.

“Associate Professor Greg Nolan has researched and published widely in timber in sustainable design; Dr Mauricio Acuna is a researcher in forest engineering and a specialist in optimised harvesting; and Ross Farrell is working with the Tasmanian hardwood industry in milling, value-adding and product performance,” he said.

The Centre has an extensive and established network of external collaborative partnerships with Australian industry, research agencies and other Universities. This network includes:

- **Australian industry:** such as Gunns Ltd, Integrated Tree Cropping (ITC), Forest Enterprises Australia (FEA), other members of the Tasmanian hardwood industry, members of the Tasmanian building industry such as cb&m design pty ltd and Wilson Homes, Boral Ltd, CSR Ltd, and others;
- **Research funding agencies:** such as the Tasmanian Timber Promotion Board, the Forests and Forest Industries Council of Tasmania, the Australian Greenhouse Office and Forest and Wood Products Australia;
- **Research agencies:** such as CSIRO, Ensis, Forestry Tasmania, the Department of Primary Industries - Queensland, the WA Forest Product Commission and the CRC for Forestry;
- **Other Universities:** such as the Universities of New South Wales, Queensland, and Western Australia, and the Swiss Hochschule für Architektur, Bau und Holz (School of Architecture, Building and Wood) at the Berne University of Applied Science.

Associate Professor Greg Nolan is available on 6324 4478

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