

**This issue: Expansion follows WADIC forums ||| New building standard to address fire risk ||| Sydney forum assists members**

## Expansion follows WADIC forums in Victoria and South Australia

A renewed interest in the revitalised Window and Door Industry Council (WADIC) is most encouraging, according to general manager Bronwyn Foord. "Our successful open forums in Victoria and South Australia provided a clear indication that many joinery manufacturers nationwide appreciate that trying to 'go it alone' is not the answer to the challenges facing us."

Bronwyn said WADIC promotes the custom-made window and door industry to architects, builders and the public, and member companies supply to the architectural, heritage and replacement markets, as well as larger residential and commercial building companies.

WADIC president Glenn Johnston highlighted achievements that had been realised in a short space of time and the issues the Council currently had in its sights. "Without a strong voice, small-to-medium size manufacturers will only be able to react to change, instead of assisting to formulate it, and this clearly puts you behind the game."

"Without taking up multiple memberships of various associations and organisations, it would be difficult to access the trade-specific information readily available to WADIC members," he said.

The continuing spread of WADIC throughout Australia was even more evident with the recent appointment of Bill Davies (Baker & Davies Joinery, Moorabin) and Steve Bulman (Westside Joinery, Sunshine) to WADIC's committee as Victorian representatives.



*Bronwyn Foord, WADIC General Manager – forums demonstrated that many joinery manufacturers appreciate that trying to 'go it alone' was not the answer.*

**WADIC is currently examining the on-going supply of Australian and imported hardwood timber. Members experiencing difficulties obtaining suitable supply in terms of quantity and grade are asked to fill out the attached questionnaire. This information will assist WADIC in sourcing future hardwood timber suppliers and if necessary approaching relevant governments.**

**The Window and Door Industry Council Inc. (WADIC) is a service organisation representing the timber windows and door manufacturing sector. WADIC provides assistance to members to aid compliance with Australian standards and building codes. WADIC promotes the environmental and performance benefits of members' products and provides members with information about energy rating systems. WADIC also acts on behalf of members in representations to governments and regulatory authorities to ensure that members' rights and access to markets are safeguarded.**

**President – Glenn Johnston**

Stockwells Joinery Pty Ltd, Sydney NSW

**Vice President – Matthew Baker**

Bruce Baker & Co, Kempsey NSW

**Secretary – Mark Foord**

Fewings Joinery, Sydney NSW

**Treasurer – Ian Ramsay**

Timbeck Cedar Products, Sydney NSW

**Committee**

**Allen Cox**

North Coast Joinery, Forest Glen QLD

**John Rule**

Dengate Joinery, Tamworth NSW

**Matthew Lee**

Specialty Timber Traders, Dural NSW

**Steven Cameron**

Centor Architectural, Sydney NSW

**Bill Davies**

Baker & Davies, Moorabin VIC

**Steve Bulman**

Westside Joinery, Sunshine VIC

**Tino Basso**

Tiana Joinery, Hahndorf SA

## New building standard to address fire risk

The Australian Building Codes Board has agreed to adopt a new national bushfire standard for residential buildings, replacing the 1999 Standard referenced in the Building Code of Australia.

According to WADIC Treasurer, Ian Ramsay the new standard, AS 3959-2009, now finalised by Standards Australia, takes a risk management approach and aligns house construction requirements more closely to the assessed level of bushfire exposure for new building works. "The standard introduces a science-based method for assessing the potential level of bushfire attack at a building site that is a more accurate and targeted way of determining the likely risk to life and property."

The Australian Building Codes Board Chairman, Graham Huxley has confirmed the Board's intention of having a new standard set at the highest option considered in its Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS). The RIS found that this option would provide a positive net benefit and be more cost effective than current arrangements.

The Board has endorsed the Victorian

Government's Royal Commission initiative that is examining all aspects of recent bushfires. This inquiry includes questions relating to improving fire safety of housing and other buildings as well as materials used in construction.

The Board also recognised that while construction standards for new houses are important, they are only one factor in addressing bushfire risk. Other actions can be very important and a holistic approach to bushfire risk is essential. Examples of other strategies include locality-specific planning controls, vegetation management, community education, evacuation procedures and emergency response.

Under the new building code, homes will be rated on a six level scale of bushfire attack. Homes at highest risk will have to be built on concrete slabs and the roof, exterior walls and decking made of non-combustible materials.

Metal shutters and down pipes will replace plastic fittings and door frames and windows must be made from fire-resistant timber. The new code will apply to all new homes, rebuilds and additions.

# Lively Sydney forum assists members

Lively and informative was the consensus from the 80 plus who attended the WADIC forum held recently in Sydney. The forum was the fourth to be organised by WADIC in the past three months, and followed similar successful events in Victoria and South Australia. The Sydney forum covered a range of topical issues of interest to the timber window and door manufacturing industry.

In welcoming attendees President Glenn Johnston commented on WADIC's resurgence over the past year and its strengthened capacity to tackle technical issues and standards development related to the industry. He also remarked on the Council's greatly improved ability to communicate with members through WADIC's upgraded website, newsletters, technical briefings and meetings.

Mr Johnston outlined the expanded services now available to members, such as occupational health and safety audits, recruitment and apprentice training that was a consequence of WADIC's alliance with the Timber and Building Materials Association (TABMA).

TABMA's David Jones detailed the occupational health and safety auditing service available for WADIC members that includes a safe operating procedures manual, work site inspections and reports, and an enquiries hotline.

General manager Bronwyn Foord updated the forum on progress with WADIC's window and door design manual and other activities intended to support the business performance of member companies.

In relation to energy efficiency and the environment, WADIC secretary Mark Foord

said timber windows offer significant benefits including, high product performance, superior energy ratings, low embodied energy costs and were a natural store for carbon. He advised that WADIC members will need to be able to offer consumers and certifiers tangible proof of a window's energy performance.

He also reported on progress with the review of AS2047 and summarised current initiatives related to the development of software and related accreditation mechanisms for window energy rating certification.

New WADIC committee member Steve Bulman of Westside Joinery, representing Worldskills, told the forum that Worldskills Australia was a national organisation providing young Australians with opportunities to gain new skills, compete against their peers in their chosen trade and fast track their skills and career development. "Put very simply, Worldskills is all about promoting skills excellence, encouraging and challenging young apprentices to embark on further skill acquisition, empowering them individually to achieve greater goals, asking that they take on extra training, become self motivated, be part of a team yet personally achieve and give their very best."

Forest and Wood Products Australia's

managing director Ric Sinclair reported to the forum on the Wood Naturally Better campaign. He said the generic wood promotion campaign was all about building a brand for the whole timber and wood-based products industry and explaining that timber is a better product than alternatives. "Now is our opportunity to position wood as the sustainable climate-friendly building material of choice for the future."

"The Wood Naturally Better campaign is about changing the way people think about wood. We are vigorously promoting the view that wood plays a key role in off-setting climate change."

Mr Sinclair advised that results from a preliminary review of advertising and other promotional activity, undertaken to date, reinforced community views that wood was visually attractive, environmentally friendly, low cost and affordable and its use was positively impacting climate change."

However, he said people often appear not to be able to see the wood for the trees and were less positive about the virtues of cutting trees down to make wood-based products.

He emphasized that forests and wood products can effectively reduce the process of climate change. "Growing trees absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and stores carbon." He said people understood less well that this carbon remains locked up in the wood when we use it for building products or furniture."

Mr Sinclair indicated that future wood promotional effort was likely to include developing a central website as; "the main source of information for anything and everything about timber."

To become a licensee and be able to use Wood Naturally Better branding and supporting advertising material — visit [www.naturallybetter.com.au](http://www.naturallybetter.com.au) — it's free!



WADIC committee and founding members gather at Sydney forum.

# WADIC

Windows and Doors Industry Council

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## Newsletter Design

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Printed on 100% recycled paper