

# Osmose<sup>®</sup> Preservation COMPASS

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## MICROPRO<sup>®</sup> AND INDUSTRY ISSUES SEMINARS

During late July and early August this year, Osmose ran a series of four seminars in Sydney, Brisbane, Melbourne and Mount Gambier. The seminar series was designed to update attendees with the latest developments in Osmose treatment technology and in addition, issues and news relevant to the treated timber industry.

The keynote speaker was Mr Gary Converse, Senior Vice President Osmose Inc USA. Gary presented on the new MicroPro<sup>®</sup> technology that has been introduced to Australia after being approved for use by the APVMA. Gary's presentation reviewed the development of MicroPro by Osmose in the USA and the drivers that encouraged Osmose scientists' to pursue a new treatment. Gary explained that the micronising technology at the core of MicroPro utilises specialised grinding mills that grind particles of copper to the size required to provide proper penetration and retention of the preservative into the treated timber. This means that the MicroPro preservative system does not require amine solvents to dissolve copper that are used in copper azole and ACQ formulations. Some of the many benefits of MicroPro treated wood include lighter colour, improved corrosion performance with fasteners and hardware and the treated timber can be used in direct contact with aluminium. Gary also detailed the extensive testing and field trials that continue to be carried out around the world and which have conclusively shown that MicroPro treated timber provides effective protection against fungal decay and termite attack. Importantly, several studies



Nick Livanes, Osmose Australia Business Development Manager, Gary Converse, Senior Vice President of Osmose Inc USA, and Elias Akle, General Manager of Osmose Australia

## INTRODUCTION

On an industry front, the most significant news is that the QLD Timber Utilisation and Marketing Act (TUMA) was repealed on October 1, 2010. This could have some significant ramifications on the industry as a whole but especially in Queensland. The Australian Standard (AS1604 series) will

now take on even greater importance and as such it is pleasing to note that the 2010 amendment to AS1604 has been finalised and should be printed and available within the next few weeks.

On another note; there were many favourable comments by the attendees of the Osmose seminars on the depth and range of topics and information covered and the expertise of the speakers. Osmose Australia would like to thank all the speakers who so capably spoke on their topics and of-course our customers and colleagues that attended the four seminars.

All the best for a good finish to the year.

Elias Akle, GM Osmose Australia

have been performed at Australian test sites and carried out by independent Australian research organisations. The Osmose MicroPro technology has received several green certifications in the USA which include the first treated wood process to be certified under Scientific Certification Systems Environmentally Preferable Product Program based on LifeCycle Assessment. In addition, the MicroPro preservative technology has also received the National Association of Home Builders "Green Approved" product certification and the GREENGUARD Children and Schools certification from the GREENGUARD Environmental Institution.

Moving to market acceptance, the figures are impressive with around 100 treatment plants using MicroPro and over 6 million cubic metres of MicroPro treated product produced each year in the USA. As Gary explained, *"Our MicroPro technology represents one of the biggest improvements in timber preservation. MicroPro treated timber products provide consumers with many benefits while providing protection against rot, fungal decay and termite attack. MicroPro has been the most successful voluntary new product launch in the history of the U.S. wood treatment industry."*

Gary's presentation reflected his considerable knowledge of the development and implementation of MicroPro and the huge volume of performance information gained over several years of marketplace experience.



Bob Cox - Boral Hardwoods, Jack Norton - DEEDI, Stuart Meldrum - Osmose Australia



Kim Barlow - Australian United Timbers NSW Manager, Gary Converse - Senior Vice President of Osmose Inc. USA and Phil Burke - General Manager of Australian United Timbers.



## IMPLEMENTATION OF MICROPRO® IN AUSTRALIA

Having heard about this new technology, everyone wanted to hear about the "nuts and bolts" involved in implementing MicroPro® at the treatment plant. This was capably undertaken by four of Osmose' field representatives, Paul Downey in Sydney, Warren Jeffrey in Brisbane, Frank Dugdale in Melbourne and finally Chris Tzioutziouklaris presented at Mt Gambier. They explained that MicroPro is delivered in two components, the micronised copper part and the "CarboQuat" part, and these need to be dosed into the mix or work tank. Significantly, the concentrated nature of these components means that there is less

handling of the raw materials.

Osmose can provide a dosing system that enables the treatment plant to easily control and mix the micronized copper concentrate and the carbo quat IBC's. This dosing system can operate as a stand-alone unit or can be integrated with the Osmose PCS automated control system. All in all, while some initial care needs to be taken in dosing and agitation, using MicroPro is straightforward and retention levels are identical to current ACQ formulations.

## INDUSTRY ISSUES

While the first part of the seminars was devoted to the development and implementation of MicroPro, the remainder of the seminar was devoted to important industry issues and developments.

### 'WOOD NATURALLY BETTER' PROGRESS

It has been around two years since the Forest and Wood Products R&D corporation was privatised to create Forest & Wood Products Australia (FWPA). One of the drivers for this change was to allow the FWPA to be able to undertake generic promotion of the wood products industry, something it has done with great effect with its "Wood Naturally Better" campaign. Ric Sinclair, Managing Director, Neil Evans and Sarah Gyopar generously contributed their time in covering each seminar and explained the activities of FWPA.

The FWPA has a five year program consisting of four strategies, R&D, Adoption of R&D, Generic Promotion and recently, the role of Industry Standards Coordination. The budget for these activities is some \$12 million plus per annum with the majority of funds gathered from timber growers, processors, importers and others. Significantly, R&D funds are matched by the Federal government.

Very visible to industry, the Wood Naturally Better program has had, at its core, a number of print advertisements promoting the use of timber and its environmental attributes, particularly as a means of tackling climate change. Other programs include the National Carpenters Day events, the Wood Solutions programs targeted at designers and more.



**Design for a smaller carbon footprint. Touch wood.**

*Up to 50% of the dry weight of wood is carbon, but that's only half the story.*

Beautiful, natural and renewable, wood not only enhances our living environment, but its stored carbon and low embodied energy help reduce the carbon footprint of built structures. Add the exciting new design possibilities of engineered and laminated timbers, and you'll discover why sustainably sourced wood is the naturally better material choice.

**WOOD NATURALLY BETTER**  
www.naturallybetter.com.au



**It's more than economical framing. It's a way you can tackle climate change.**

**Because wood stores carbon for life**

*Did you know that approximately half the dry weight of wood is carbon - and that forestry is one of the most greenhouse-friendly sectors of the Australian economy? In fact, forestry was the only industry sector to be carbon positive in 2005. So using more sustainably sourced wood in construction will help Australia offset our overall greenhouse gas emissions.*

*The International Panel on Climate Change agrees, "In the long term, a sustainable forest management strategy aimed at maintaining or increasing forest carbon stocks, while producing an annual sustained yield of timber, fibre or energy from the forest, will generate the largest sustained mitigation benefit."*

*So when you choose wood you're also helping tackle climate change. You can discover more at [www.naturallybetter.com.au](http://www.naturallybetter.com.au)*

\*Australia's State of the Forests Report 2008  
\*\*Mitsuru, G. et al. 2007. Forestry in Climate Change 2007: Mitigation. Contribution of Working Group III to the Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (Ed. Meira, D.B. Dahe, R.R. Brown, R. Dain, L.A. Muijer (eds)). Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, United Kingdom and New York, NY, USA

**WOOD NATURALLY BETTER**  
www.naturallybetter.com.au

The role of Standards Coordination managed by Neil Evans is a recent addition to the FWPA's activities and has been precipitated by the ongoing need to set priorities and coordinate the right industry people to ensure standards are technically correct and relevant to industry. An additional driver has been the need to fund more of the standards process with recent announcements by Standards Australia reported in earlier issues of Compass.

## OH&S FOR MANUFACTURING BUSINESSES



Ken Hocking

Ken Hocking is the National Safety Officer for the Timber Trades Industrial Association (TTIA). Clearly OH&S is a major focus for any manufacturing business and several Osmose customers are TTIA members. Ken gave a very animated presentation on the need to ensure that all aspects of OH&S training and procedures are established and maintained. Ken explained that employers had a responsibility to provide:

- A safe work environment
- Safe systems of work
- Safe plant and substances
- Adequate provision of information, instruction, training and supervision
- Risk assessments of machinery and job tasks.

Ken explained these responsibilities and the need to ensure that not only that assessments, training and procedures are in place but critically that these are kept current and relevant.

## TIMBER TREATMENT STANDARDS AND STATE TIMBER MARKETING ACTS

The changes in the funding of standards development have led to the investigation of alternative means of enabling their ongoing revision and development. Dr. Harry Greaves has been intimately involved in the ongoing discussions and negotiations with Standards Australia as well as industry through the FWPA and the Timber Preservers Association of Australia (TPAA) for the continuation of the timber treatment standards. Harry explained the standards developed under his Chairmanship of the treated timber standards committee (TM-006) and the way many of those standards are used in the production environment and in the marketplace.

In addition, Harry explained the two state marketing acts which have acted in concert with, and in addition to, other state and federal regulation and legislation, being the Queensland TUMA and the NSW TMA . At the time of the seminars, Harry explained that TUMA was being reviewed and there was a likelihood that the Act would be repealed. There was also discussion of the way that the end of TUMA would affect producers and the marketplace, Harry making the point that producers still had to meet the requirements of standards and consumer regulation if they claimed their products were produced to a Hazard Class or were sold as fit for purpose products.



Doug Howick - TPAA, Dr Harry Greaves - Consultant,  
Christine Briggs -GM Sales and Marketing Gunns Timber Products