RESEARCH GROUP 5.00 LEADERSHIP

Coordinator – Dave Cown

Dr. Dave Cown has been a researcher in wood quality and wood processing in New Zealand for over 35 years. Born in northern Scotland, he studied forestry at Aberdeen University and worked briefly as a forest consultant in the Highlands before emigrating to New Zealand in 1969. There he worked under John Maddern Harris at the Forest Research Institute on the impacts of site, silviculture and genetics on wood formation and effects on processing values. In the early 1970's he studied for a PhD at University of British Columbia under Dr. John Worrall, where the topic was climatic influences on the wood properties of coastal Douglas-fir, using the densitometer at Forintek.

After returning to New Zealand, his main task was to "map" the wood properties of plantation radiata pine, culminating several texts on environmental and forest management effects. During the late 1980's and 1990's he was instrumental in establishing wood processing research in New Zealand, particularly a Sawmill Improvement Program. In 1983 and 1986, he spent periods at the Kyushu University with Dr. Juichi Tsutsumi, teaching wood science and learning how the Japanese deal with wood in their culture. Later, in the 1990's he participated in several mission to Asian countries, promoting the wood characteristics of radiata pine products.

Dave is now a Senior Scientist in Wood Quality in Ensis (formerly Forest Research Institute) and undertakes research and contract work on all aspects of plantation wood quality. In 2006, he jointly won first place in the George Marra Prize with Sigurdur Ormarsson (Denmark) with a publication on moisture-related distortion of boards and wooden products of radiata pine in comparison with Norway spruce.

Deputy – Dr. Chris Risbrudt

Since being named director of the USDA Forest Service's Forest Products Laboratory (FPL) in September, 2001, Dr. Christopher Risbrudt has focused the laboratory's attention on forest health and the wise use of wood and wood products. He has directed FPL's attention to five broad future-oriented areas:

1. Developing the forest biorefinery;
2. Nanotechnology;
3. Advanced housing systems and concepts;
4. Improved engineered wood products and composites;
5. Use of wood in non-residential construction.

To ensure the maximum benefit from FPL's research, Risbrudt also has encouraged increased communications and technology-transfer activities.

In 2004, Risbrudt's efforts and achievement were recognized by the Federal Laboratory Consortium for Technology Transfer (FLC), representing federal laboratories and research centers, when they named him Laboratory Director of the Year.

Risbrudt brought to the task a background in planning and management both in the Forest Service headquarters in Washington, D.C., and in the field. He also was familiar with FPL, having begun his Forest Service career as a research forester there in 1978.

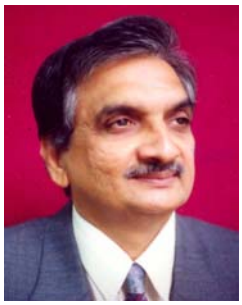
In 1980 he was assigned to the Forest Service's Washington, D.C., office as an economist with State and Private Forestry staff. He then served as a research project leader at the North Central Forest Experiment Station in St. Paul, Minn. from 1983 to 1985, when he returned to Washington as director of Policy Analysis. He later was named deputy regional forester for the Forest Service's Northern Region, headquartered in Missoula, Mont.

He returned to Washington as director of Ecosystem Management in 1995. He was named director of Strategic Planning and Resource Assessment in 2001, and later that year, acting deputy chief, Programs and Legislation. He was also designated to assist the transition for the new administration.

After graduation from the University of Minnesota in 1972, he served in the Peace Corps as a forest planner in Morocco. After returning to the United States, he attended Michigan State University, where he earned a master's degree in forest administration and a Ph.D. degree in forest economics.

A native of Fergus Falls, Minn., he makes his home with his wife, Sue, in Middleton, Wis. They have two grown children. In his spare time he enjoys fishing, boating, hunting, fly-tying, collecting books and making wine.

Deputy – Dr. Mahabala Bhat



Dr Mahabala Bhat is now a senior Scientist **(** Programme Coordinator for Forest Utilisation) at the Kerala Forest Research Institute, India. He holds an L. Sc. (Licentiate of Science in Wood Technology/Botany) and D.Sc (Dr. of Science in Wood Technology), both awarded in 1981 by the University of Helsinki, Finland.

His expertise lies in both tropical and temperate hardwoods and non-wood forest products, their management and utilisation with emphasis on European birch, teak, eucalypts, *Dalbergias, Albizias*, rattan (climbing palms) and reed bamboos. He has made scientific contributions in the areas of logging, wood anatomy/timber identification, properties/wood quality, industrial processing, grading, etc. He has acted as consultant to Forest Industries Travancore Ltd. for establishment of a modern rattan furniture manufacturing industry, to the *International Network for Bamboo & Rattan (INBAR)* in standardisation of rattan grading rules, to *the Amazon Teak Foundation*, to the British *Overseas Development Administration* (ODA and to *Indufor Oy*, Helsinki, *International Cooperation Centre for Agriculture Education (ICCAE),* Nagoya University, Japan.

He is the founder Coordinator of IUFRO 5.06.02 (Teak Wood) Working Party while being a *Deputy Coordinator of IUFRO Division 5: Forest products* (2000-2010). In 2000 he received the *IUFRO Scientific Achievement Award* with gold medal. He has been elected for several awards like the *Rising Personalities of India,* a Medal instituted by the Bamboo Society of India , Institute of Wood Science & Technology and Karnataka Forest Department, for outstanding contributions to rattan development in India and Asia Pacific Region (1999).

He has carried out cooperative research in Finland, France, Germany and Japan. As Project Leader of International Tropical Timber Organisation (ITTO), Dr. Bhat has been active in organising many events at global level such as *International Teak Conference (2003*) and *Regional Teak Wood Workshop 2007.* Dr. Bhat is also an elected Fellow of *International Academy of Wood Science* (1991) and the Member of Academy Board for the period (2006-12). He has been serving as an elected *Vice President of Indian Academy of Wood Science* (since 2003). He is the author of more than 190 publications including books, refereed papers, monographs, articles and reports.

Deputy – Dr. Andrew Wong

Dr Andrew Wong began his career with a forestry degree (1981) and MSc. (1987) both from The Australian National University, the latter assisted from the ANU scholarship. He completed his D.Phil. at the Oxford Forestry Institute, University of Oxford (1993) researching soft rot decay of preservative treated Malaysian timbers. He is recognized for his work in wood biodeterioration and wood protection (preservation) of tropical (Malaysian) timbers. He served with the Forest Research Institute of Malaysia (FRIM) for 15 years from 1986, and was among the first to report the potential use of a novel PIXE microanalysis system in wood preservation research. He led his FRIM researchers into establishing a quality assurance scheme for wood preservation in Malaysia in collaboration with The Danish Technological Institute, with whom he has continued collaborative research in the field of aboveground durability of wood treated with novel biocides under tropical environments since accepting his present appointment as Associate Professor at The Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (Unimas) in 2002.

Andrew has also held various cooperative researches notably with the Institute of Wood Biology, Federal Research Centre for forestry and Forest Products, Hamburg, Germany (soft rot of treated wood, 1989), with New Zealand Forest Research Institute (sapstain control and natural durability of tropical woods, 1997), with Chonnam National University, Korea (chemistry and of wood biodegradation, 2002), as a Fulbrighter based at The University of Hawaii at Manoa (termite resistance of rubberwood composites, 1999). Among other awards, he has held an International Tropical Timber Organization Small Grants Fellowship, and the Ron Cockcroft Award from the International Research Group on Wood Preservation (1990). He also consults with the wood protection industry, Ensis (Melbourne, Australia), and the Malaysian plywood industry.

Andrew continues to be active in the International Research Group on Wood Protection and as convener of working party 1.7 (natural durability); the Malaysian Wood Preserving Association; as Chair of Malaysian standard writing committees on wood preservation; helped organized the 21st IUFRO World Congress held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia (2000), the 22nd IUFRO World Congress in Brisbane, Australia (2005), the IUFRO D5: Forest Products conference in Rotorua, New Zealand (2003), and the IUFRO D5: Forest Products conference in Taipei, Taiwan (2007); as deputy coordinator of IUFRO's working party 5.03.09 (wood durability) and research group 5.12 (ecologically sustainable wood production) (1995 – 2000); coordinator of IUFRO Research Group 5.03 (Wood Protection) (2000 – 2005); and deputy coordinator of IUFRO working party 5.03.07 (wood protection under tropical environments) (2006 – 2010).