

Site 3: Pacific Green 1.00 – 2.00pm

With the world waking up to the ecological threat posed by mass deforestation, Post & Rail Furniture, established in the historic Rocks area of Sydney, Australia, sets out to find a sustainable substitute material to replace all forest timber in furniture design.

In the South Pacific, they discover vast abandoned plantations of coconut palm trees, which were commercially planted in the early-1900s and had reached the end of their productive fruiting.

Pacific Green, the world's first factory dedicated to the coconut palm, was set up in Fiji in 1986.

Following a series of research breakthroughs that enhances the durability and versatility of the coconut material, a consumer-orientated product – as strong as conventional hardwood – is launched under the brand Palm wood.

Pacific Green's design team, led by Australian Bruce Dowse, creates a series of prototype furniture pieces using Palm wood. The furniture uniquely adopts elements from traditional craft designs of the Pacific Islands, and is introduced by retailers across the Pacific region.

Tactile natural materials, sourced from sustainable operations around the world, were introduced into the design in the 1990s to complement Palm wood. These included leather, grass, wool, latex, bronze, fur and gemstones.

Pacific Green supplies complete fit-outs for luxury resorts around the world, including Masdar, Abu Dhabi the world's first eco-city

The company sets a benchmark for modern, sustainable business in the Pacific where shareholding is majority Fijian; the land is leased, with the surrounding villages consulted for the construction of the factory. Only local people are employed with business and skills training programmes initiated.



Field Day Tentative Programme

Friday 16th May 2014

TIME	Activity	Location	Distance
8.00am	Boarding	Novotel Nadi	
8.30am	Depart for field trip		
9.00am	Visiting Pine resin tapping site	Dratabu/ Nadi station	17km from hotel, 7 km from main highway
9.45am	Depart tapping site		
9.55am	Visiting Pine Planting site	Nawaqatabu/Nadi Station	4km from tapping site
10.40am	Depart for Pacific Green		11km to the main highway 53km on the main highway
12.00noon	Lunch at Pacific Green		
1.00pm	Visiting Pacific Green facilities	Malaqereqere/ Sigatoka	Pacific Green
2.20pm	Travel Back to Novotel Hotel		63km to Novotel Hotel
3.50pm	Back at the Hotel		

Site 1: Callison Pacific Pine Chemicals 9.00 – 9.45am

Callison Pacific Pine Chemicals (CPPC), is a local subsidiary of the parent company, IP Callison which is based in Seattle, Washington in the United States of America. The parent company is a leading supplier of mint oil, flavor and mint related ingredients to the chewing gum, oral care, confection and personal care industries in the United States.

CPPC is into its second year of operation in Fiji and is currently based in Lautoka. It was established, with preliminary trials in late 2012 to tap pine resin from Fiji Pine Ltd (FPL) forests. Following success with the trials, a memorandum of understanding was signed with FPL to have access to all its forests in the six pine stations in Nabou, Nadi, Lololo, Ra, Bua and Macuata.

The pine resin or crude gum when distilled will produce two bi-products. These are:

- Gum Rosin - Rosin is used for adhesives (glue, cello tape), sealant, Printing Ink, emulsifiers, tyres, rubber etc
- Gum Turpentine - Turpentine is used for paint, chemicals, fragrance, detergent etc

The company is exporting pine resin at the moment. Land acquisition to construct a rosin plant is in progress and once secured, distillation will be done locally and the derivatives exported as semi-processed products.

Callison Pacific Pine Chemicals is currently employing more than 400 people out of which 14% are female.



Site 2: Fiji Pine Ltd, 9.55 – 10.40am

Fiji Pine Ltd. (FPL) based in Lautoka, Fiji is a public company established in 1991 to manage the assets, liabilities, and obligations of the Fiji Pine Commission following its incorporation. The company's primary activity is growing and selling wood.

The FPL owns over 40,000ha of Pinus Caribbea which is distributed over six stations on the two main islands of Viti Levu and Vanua Levu.

An estimated 300 contract laborers have responsibilities for establishment (nursery, planting and weeding) activities. The wages the contract laborers earn help fund community projects such as churches, water supply systems, village electrification schemes, and reconstruction after natural disasters. Both men and women participate as contract laborers with women handling the nursery activities and the men conducting the planting and weeding operations. These funds provide the basis for capital improvements in the villages.

Fiji Pine Limited, through its subsidiary, owns and operates sawmill and chip plant and produces woodchips. Mature trees are sold to the majority owned subsidiary, Tropik Wood Ltd. (TWL), which is responsible for the processing and marketing of wood products.

Their products are sold domestically and exported internationally with Japan as the predominant purchaser of the woodchips and Australia as the major purchaser of sawn timbers, the more valuable of the products.

As of 2013, the operation of the FPL has been certified through the FSC forest certification scheme making it the first company in Fiji to achieve such a milestone.

