



Townsville Bulletin

Friday 24/09/2010

Page: 43
 Section: General News
 Region: Townsville QLD, AU
 Circulation: 26927
 Type: Regional
 Size: 363.77 sq.cms.

Look who's stalking

Banana products company finalist at Banksia Awards

LISTED company Papyrus Australia, the developer of a technology that converts the waste trunk of the banana palm into alternatives to forest-wood products, has been named a finalist in the 2010 Banksia Awards.

The company, which has a small factory on the Atherton Tablelands, has been nominated as a finalist in the Clean Technology award category and is also in the running for the People's Choice Award.

The Banksia Awards, established 22 years ago, recognise leading environmental and sustainable initiatives across business, government and community organisations.

Papyrus Australia chair-

man Ted Byrt said the company was committed to developing a sustainable and cost-effective solution for the fibre industry and the nomination was a welcome recognition of the company's efforts.

Graz van Egmond, executive director of the Banksia Environmental Foundation said hundreds of award submissions were received year.

"Our finalists represent the very best sustainable practice in the country; to be nominated is a great achievement," he said.

"We encourage people to cast their vote for the People's Choice Award by visiting our website at www.peopleschoice.com.au where information on

finalists is available for review."

Banksia Award winners will be announced at an ceremony at Sydney Town Hall on October 15.

Papyrus Australia's plans to become a technology-licensing company assisting others to establish banana veneer and banana fibre production factories in locations across the world where banana is grown.

Its technology uses banana tree trunks, an otherwise unused waste material, to produce alternatives to forest-wood products such as paper and paperboard, wood based panels, veneer and other fibre products.

The process uses a renewable fibre source that is fully

sustainable, does not contribute to the destruction of natural or purpose-planted forests and does not consume any chemicals or water during manufacture.

The process also has significantly lower production costs when compared to traditional tree pulping technologies.

To prove its technology and validate the commercial values of banana veneer and fibre products, Papyrus established a showcase processing plant at Walkamin on the Atherton Tablelands, that produces veneer and chips to be converted into particleboard and other alternatives to wood based panels.



STEM SELL . . . banana trucks await processing at Papyrus Australia