



Townsville Bulletin

Tuesday 27/10/2009

Page: 13
Section: General News
Region: Townsville QLD, AU
Circulation: 27263
Type: Regional
Size: 150.70 sq.cms.



slice
slicemedia.com

press clip

Banana waste at work

PIONEERING company Papyrus Australia has received its first orders after launching its breakthrough banana tree veneer and fibre products in Europe.

ASX-listed Papyrus last month unveiled its Beleaf-branded banana veneer and banana fibre board products at the Monaco Yacht Show, Europe's top trade show for furniture, internal fittings, flooring and other architectural products.

Papyrus Australia chairman Ted Byrt said people attending the exhibition were astounded by Beleaf's fire retardant and water resistant characteristics and impressed by the quality and variety of the Beleaf veneer products.

He said their European agent had already received orders for Beleaf veneer, which were being assembled at its Walkamin manufacturing plant on the Atherton Tablelands.

Papyrus Australia is turning former waste materials from banana plantations into high-value veneer and fibre products.

The waste materials would otherwise release climate-damaging methane gas as they broke down.

Papyrus exhibited a collection of furniture and decorative veneer products made by leading Italian and French designers.



Farming waste materials are being turned into furniture

Papyrus Australia also used its European launch to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation, which seeks to act as an accelerator of projects that aid the environment.

— TONY RAGGATT