



Left: Alice and Rosie Rotheram of Harvey Primary School check out *The Timber Book* with their mum, Tammie Reid. Photo by Chelsea Rotheram

New timber book out

A RECENTLY published book—*The Timber Book*—succeeds in presenting a well-balanced story without the emotion sometimes attached to anything forest based, according to CALM Forest Resources Business Unit scientific adviser Graeme Siemon.

Graeme, who gave generously of his technical expertise in the wood science area, said that authors went to great lengths to seek technical advice.

"I think it's important to get this right, and I'm impressed with the published result," he said.

"For example, the book details the difference between hardwood and softwoods. The fibre length in hardwoods is longer, making it suitable for high grade paper. Softwoods have a different water-carrying cell structure that makes it a lot easier and quicker to dry. Hardwoods are strong and heavy, with excellent

by Tammie Reid

structural properties suited to exposed beams, feature furniture and flooring.

"Readers need to know these facts to understand why plantations can't always replace native species."

While descriptions are detailed, the text is lively and supported by full-colour photographs, illustrations, cartoons and riddles, with graphs, maps, flow charts and suggested activities.

It should appeal to a wide age range of readers, and is an excellent reference source for any CALM officer. The authors have worked hard to present the essence of farm forestry, softwoods and hardwoods, forest management, silviculture and Australia's wood needs.

Corporate Relations senior project officer Tammie Reid and public affairs officer John Hunter were among many nation-

wide contributors to *The Timber Book*.

Tammie said that it was reassuring to see a book that helped children learn in a little more depth, some of the rationale and science behind forest management and farm forestry.

"This is an excellent read and my nieces and nephews can expect a copy in their next Christmas stocking," she said.

Published by the Kondinin Group, *The Timber Book* is part of a series directed at primary and secondary-aged students and their teachers.

Others in the series cover the wheat, cotton, and dairy industries, and have been created to promote an understanding of agriculture and primary industry among the wider community.

To order *The Timber Book*, readers should Freecall the Kondinin Group on 1800 677 761 or Freefax on 1800 657 509.





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Possible CALM News story
second draft and okay'd by Graeme Siemon
2/17/99

Written: Tammie Reid
Photos: Tammie
Chelsea Rotheram

Book Review: The Timber Book

Caption for pic:

Alice and Rosie Rotheram of Harvey primary school having a good look at the newly published Timber Book with their mum, Tammie Reid.

This is a book published by the Kondinin Group and is part of a series directed at primary and secondary aged students and teachers. Other titles include Wheat, Cotton, Dairy, Wool and have been created to promote an understanding of agriculture and primary industry to the wider community.

Tammie Reid and John Hunter from Corporate Relations, Graeme Siemon from Forest Resources were among the nationwide contributors who had input with the text and images used in the book.

Graeme who gave generously of his technical expertise in the wood science area explains " The authors went to great lengths to get technical accuracy. I think it's important to get this right and I'm impressed with the published result. It gives a well balanced story without the emotion attached to anything forest based. For example the book details the difference between hardwood and softwoods. Hardwood fibres are smaller and shorter than softwood cells, making them much more suitable for high grade paper. Softwood timber has a different cell structure that makes it a lot easier and quicker to dry. Hardwoods are strong and heavy, with excellent structural properties suited to exposed beams, feature furniture and flooring. You've got to know this to understand why plantations can never replace our native forests."

In case you're wondering if all this will be a little heavy going - The book mixes a detailed lively text with full colour photographs, illustrations, cartoons and riddles with graphs, maps, flow charts and suggested activities. It appeals to a wide age range and also makes good reference material for any CALM officer asked to speak on this topic. The authors have done the hard work in separating the essence of farm forestry, softwoods and hardwoods, forest management, silviculture and Australia's wood needs.

Overall it's great to see a book that helps our children learn in a little more depth, some of the rationale and science behind forest management and farm forestry. This is an excellent read and I think all my nieces and nephews can expect a copy in their next year's Christmas stocking.

Details: The book costs \$18.95 plus postage. Orders can be taken direct on
Freecall to the Kondinin Group, 1 800 677.761 or
Freefax 1 800 657 509