

Furntech-AFRDI Staff

Bob Panitzki B Sc, Dip App Sci, MRACI
Chief Executive Officer



Bob graduated from the University of Tasmania with a BSc in chemistry. After commencing work in the automotive industry Bob completed a diploma in secondary metallurgy.

Bob spent 32 years in the automotive components industry working in the areas of quality assurance and technical management. More

recently, he was in operations and general management before taking up his present position in 2003.

Ian Burton B E (Mech) Hons, B A (Politics), NZCE
Technical Manager

Ian graduated from the University of Auckland with an honours degree in Mechanical Engineering and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Studies.

He spent a number of years working as a design/project engineer for a structural timber jointing company and had several machine designs patented during this period.

More recently, he has worked in design and project management roles for the sheet metal manufacturing and primary timber processing industries. Ian commenced work at Furntech-AFRDI in December 2002.



Furntech-AFRDI Staff

Jill Stancombe ***Administration Officer***



Jill has worked in administration positions most of her working life with a few years running a rural property. She has been at Furntech-AFRDI since May 1995 and carries out secretarial duties for all staff.

Dr Paul Semmens PhD, B Comp (Hons), B AppComp ***IT Support Officer & Program Coordinator***

Paul graduated with a doctorate from the University of Tasmania's School of Computing in December 2007.

Paul commenced work at Furntech-AFRDI in December 2005. His role initially covered all the IT aspects of the Institute including development and maintenance of Furntech's Web site, computer systems, servers and network architecture. In May 2007 his role was expanded to include coordinating the AFRDI 146 leather program, and then again in May 2009 to include AFRDI 150 sustainability assessments.



Australasian Furnishing Research and Development Institute

An independent, not-for-profit technical organisation serving buyers and sellers of furniture in Australia and New Zealand - PO Box 2042 Launceston Tasmania 7250,
Ph 03 6326 6155 Fax 03 6326 3090 Email info@furntech.org.au

Furntech-AFRDI Staff

Lee Bowkett B App Sc (Hons)
Team Leader



Lee is currently in his fourth year of part time study towards his PhD. The topic of his doctoral thesis is 'The Geographical Variation of the Soft Tree Fern *Dicksonia antarctica*'. Amongst other things, he is endeavouring to discover whether the fern acts as a nursery species for other plant species.

Lee has worked on a part time basis for Furntech-AFRDI since

August 1999 and is experienced in testing to a wide range of furniture standards.

Eric Paul Advanced Dip Eng
Team Leader

Eric spent 22 years as a Technical Officer with the Institute of TAFE Tasmania in the Engineering, Science and Electrical departments. While at TAFE Eric completed an advanced diploma in Engineering. He also worked in the NATA registered mechanical testing laboratory attached to TAFE for a number of years, testing concrete and steel.



Eric also spent a number of years working in a NATA registered testing laboratory in a civil engineering consultancy business. Eric joined Furntech-AFRDI in April 2005.

Australasian Furnishing Research and Development Institute

An independent, not-for-profit technical organisation serving buyers and sellers of furniture in Australia and New Zealand - PO Box 2042 Launceston Tasmania 7250,
Ph 03 6326 6155 Fax 03 6326 3090 Email info@furntech.org.au

Peter Wilson
Team Leader



Peter has spent 41 years in the automotive component manufacturing industry and is trade qualified in Fitting and Machining. He has experience in tool engineering and machine design. He has also worked in a metrology laboratory and extensively in Production Engineering and Toolroom management. Peter joined Furntech-AFRDI in October 2005.

Robert Johnston Dip App Sci, MIMEA, CPEng (1991-2007)
Standards Officer

Robert has a Diploma of Applied Science (Secondary Metallurgy) from the Tasmanian College of Advanced Education and has worked for many years in the manufacture of metal components for the automotive and other industries.



His experience includes the specification, manufacture, and testing of metal components and associated problem investigations and the supervision of engineering design, quality assurance and metallurgical laboratory departments. Robert joined the Institute in September 2005.

Australasian Furnishing Research and Development Institute

An independent, not-for-profit technical organisation serving buyers and sellers of furniture in Australia and New Zealand - PO Box 2042 Launceston Tasmania 7250,
Ph 03 6326 6155 Fax 03 6326 3090 Email info@furntech.org.au

Richard Levett B Ed (Industrial Technology)
Testing Officer



Richard graduated as an Industrial Technology teacher in 1991 and has 10 years experience teaching at various schools and colleges in NSW and Tasmania. He also has 6 years experience in the furniture industry as a manufacturer and technical representative.

As a manufacturer he trained 5 apprentices in Cabinet making. He was the

winner of the 'CES employer of the year 1995' (Central Coast NSW) and was nominated for the 'Prime Ministers employer of the year 1995'. He was a member of the FIAA from 1994 to 1997. He is currently in his first year of a Bachelor of Environmental Design specialising in Furniture. Richard joined the Insitute in June 2009.

Arch Robinson Assoc Dip Mech Eng (R.M.I.T.)
Testing Officer

Arch has 25 years experience working for Kodak Australasia in a range of positions. He has managed the design, installation and operation of highly automated, state of the art, photographic paper conversion lines. Arch's management responsibilities have also included paper finishing operations in India, Indonesia and Taiwan while residing in Australia, the Ektacolor Paper production department, and assignments with Kodak in Canada and Rochester, New York.



In 1995 Arch and family bought a retail nursery on the North West coast of Tasmania before moving to Launceston to operate the nursery at Legana. Arch joined Furntech-AFRDI as a testing officer in April 2009.

Australasian Furnishing Research and Development Institute

An independent, not-for-profit technical organisation serving buyers and sellers of furniture in Australia and New Zealand - PO Box 2042 Launceston Tasmania 7250,
Ph 03 6326 6155 Fax 03 6326 3090 Email info@furntech.org.au

Brian Spencer
Testing Officer



Brian has spent 30 years working in the marine, woollen mill and abattoir industries as a machinist and maintenance fitter. He is a qualified Fitter and Turner and Tool Fitter.

Brian shares his time between his own business and his Furntech-AFRDI duties, where he has worked since January 2008.

Kaleb Telcher B App Sci (Fisheries)
Testing Officer

Kaleb has 15 years experience as a professional tuna fisherman, working onboard a variety of Japanese vessels around Australia and throughout the South Pacific Islands. He has also worked as a Fisheries Observer for the Australian Fisheries Management Authority, as well as working on ecosystem assessment projects in the Tamar estuary as part of an ongoing environmental impact assessment.



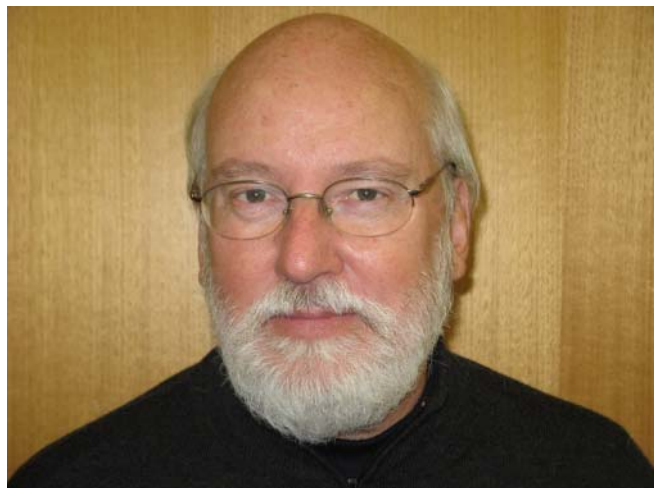
Kaleb graduated from the Australian Maritime College with a Bachelor of Applied Science in Fisheries, and has recently worked as a laboratory technician for FEA in northern Tasmania. He joined Furntech-AFRDI as a testing officer in September 2009.

Australasian Furnishing Research and Development Institute

An independent, not-for-profit technical organisation serving buyers and sellers of furniture in Australia and New Zealand - PO Box 2042 Launceston Tasmania 7250,
Ph 03 6326 6155 Fax 03 6326 3090 Email info@furntech.org.au

Furntech-AFRDI Staff

Julian Ridgers B EnvDes
Marketing & Membership Officer



Julian has worked as a reporter with ABC TV and Radio. He has worked with Ogilvie & Mather on various marketing activities and consulted to hospital and local government sectors. He has completed a Bachelor of Environmental Design and is studying a Masters in Architecture.

Julian joined Furntech-AFRDI in the role of Marketing and Membership Officer in June 2008.

Stacey Saunders
Consumer Concerns Officer

Stacey has previously worked in reception and multiple customer service roles for close to a decade.

She joined Furntech-AFRDI in the role of Consumer Concerns Officer in September 2007.



Australasian Furnishing Research and Development Institute

An independent, not-for-profit technical organisation serving buyers and sellers of furniture in Australia and New Zealand - PO Box 2042 Launceston Tasmania 7250,
Ph 03 6326 6155 Fax 03 6326 3090 Email info@furntech.org.au