



AUSTRALIAN FOREST CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION LTD.

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Hello and welcome to another weekly edition of “The Log”, the Australian Forest Contractors Association Ltd’s own internal electronic Newsletter for all of our Members and Corporate Partner Sponsors.

Anyone who attended the Conference that was held for Schools Career Educators in conjunction with the AUSTimber 2008 Exhibition will long remember the presentation by Karen Hall that highlighted just how important is the family involvement in the Harvest and Haulage sector of our industry.

These days, Karen who is the wife of AFCA Contractors Hall of Fame Member Ken, continues her involvement in the industry through being Chairperson of the Tasmanian Forest Contractors Association, and at their Annual Forum and Dinner held in Launceston recently, her literary skills came to the fore once again when she brought the house down with an ode to the Logger..

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We are proud to include it in this weeks “Log”

THE INDUSTRY WE LOVE HAS GONE BONKERS, THERE'S NO WORK FOR OUR TRUCKS OR OUR BLOKES JUST A WAIT BY THE PHONE FOR THE NEWS, FOR SOME WORD THAT WOULD GIVE US SOME HOPE.

LET'S LOOK AT THE PAST & REFLECT, WHEN WE'D SMILE & SHAKE HANDS & MAKE BETS WITH OUR MATES AT THE PUB FRIDAY NIGHTS, TALKING TRUCKING & LOGGING ... & SEX !

WE'D BEAM WITH DELIGHT OF OUR STORIES, WITH THE SMELL OF THE BUSH IN OUR LUNGS AND OUR HEARTS WOULD SWELL WITH SO MUCH PRIDE, KNOWING WHAT A BLOODY GOOD JOB WE HAD DONE.

**OUR STRIDE WAS STRAIGHT & FORTHRIGHT, AS WE'D PASS BY PEOPLE IN THE STREET
KNOWING OUR BILLS HAD BEEN ALL PAID UP, A PROUD FAMILY, IS HARD TO DEFEAT**

**WE'D SIT IN OUR TRUCKS & JUST SMILE, SO PROUD OF THE POLISH & GLEAN
OUR MACHINES ALL LINED UP & READY, TO PRODUCE, TRANSPORT & ACHIEVE**

**WHEN WE SEND OUR PRODUCTS TO COUNTRIES AFAR, IT'S LIKE OUR SOLDIERS OF YEARS GONE
PAST
SO PROUD ARE WE WHERE IT COMES FROM, THERE'S NOTHING BETTER ANYWHERE THUS FAR**

**WHETHER IT'S WOODCHIPS, PULP OR PAPER, FINE FURNITURE OR SPECIALTY BITS
IT MAY BE KNOWLEDGE OR SCIENTIFIC EXPERTISE, WHEN WE TALK QUALITY, WE KNOW WE DON'T
QUIT**

**THOSE DAYS SEEMED TO HAVE SLIPPED BY US, OUR HEADS HANG SO LOW ALL WE SEE
IS HOW OUR VERY EXISTENCE HAS CRUMBLLED, TO A FEW OLD MACHINES IN A HEAP**

**THERE WAS NO-ONE AT THE PUB LAST WEEK, NO TALK OF LOGGING OR TRUCKS
JUST AN EMPTY HOLE INSIDE OF ME, A SAD FEELING, THAT REALLY SUX**

**OL' MATE WHO SITS IN THE CORNER, HAS GONE "SOMEWHERE ELSE" SO THEY SAY
"HE & HIS MISSES HAVE SPLIT UP" I HEAR, "SHE CAN'T HACK THE MOODS & NO PAY"**

**THEY SAY YOU HAVE TO HIT ROCK BOTTOM, TO BE ABLE TO CLIMB BACK UP HIGH
TO REVALUE YOUR LIFE & WHAT'S IMPORTANT, "THE LIMIT" THEY SAY "IS THE SKY"**

**WHAT A TRADEGY WE ALL NEED COUNSELLING, TO HELP US WITH FINANCES & STUFF
TO HELP KERB THE SHAME THAT WE FEEL, WHEN WE CAN'T BUY THE FUEL FOR OUR TRUCKS**

**IT SADDENS ME EVER SO GREATLY, TO SEE OUR ICONS & BUSH BLOKES OF OLD
BEING FORCED TO RETIRE & GO FISHING, SO MANY STORIES ARE YET TO BE TOLD**

**THERE ARE LOTS OF TREES STILL OUT THERE, WITH OUR NAMES ON THEM WAITING TO HEAR
THE FAMILIAR SOUNDS OF A CHAINSAW, SOUNDS THAT ARE MUSIC TO OUR EARS**

**WE MUST LOOK FORWARD FROM NOW ON, NOT IN THE REAR VIEW MIRROR
THE FUTURE' S THERE TO GRASP & HOLD, WITH A STRONG PLAN, WE CAN DELIVER**

**FAIR RATES, GOOD CONTRACTS ARE ESSENTIAL, IF ANY OF US ARE TO SURVIVE
WE MIGHT NEED TO BORROW A DOLLAR OR THREE, TO TURN THIS NASTY TIDE**

**WE WON'T LET THE BASTARDS BEAT US, WE'RE TOO PROUD & TOO STRONG FOR THAT JOKE
WE'LL SHOW 'EM WHAT US LOGGERS CAN DO, WHEN THEY STAND THERE & POINT & POKE**

**MOVE OVER YOU POLLIES & GREENIES, 'CAUSE OUR LIVES HAVE BEEN TOSSED LIKE A PIN
LET US GET BACK TO WHAT WE ARE GOOD AT, AND OUT OF THIS HOLE WE'VE BEEN IN**

**OUR FAMILIES & COMMUNITIES, THEY NEED US, THEIR BANK ACCOUNTS NEED TO BE FILLED
OUR BUSINESSES NEED TO RECOVER, THEN OUR STATE CAN AND WILL**

**SO BRING ON THE NIGHTS CELEBRATIONS, LET'S HAVE A TALK & A LAUGH & A CRY
LET'S STICK TOGETHER LIKE NEVER BEFORE, AND AGAIN HOLD OUR HEADS UP HIGH.**

Thank you Karen for your poignant Statement, that reminds us all to be strong and to never give up.



**FOREST
CENTRE**
SUPPLIERS OF FOREST
EQUIPMENT & ATTACHMENTS



In last week’s edition, we included an item about making sure your workplace relations are all in place and up to date. In response, we received the following from Warwick Pratt one of our friends at Insurance AdviserNet

“I read with interest in the “LOG” today, the issue on Workplace Relations and the dispute with an employee. I can provide the following information about an insurance facility and product we can offer to members called “Employsure”. For more detailed information or a quote, I can be contacted on 0422 415161.

“Employsure” is an innovative new product and the first of its type in Australia. It provides a real benefit to businesses, helping them to protect against their day to day workplace relations risk. It is a complete workplace relations solution that will protect your business against employment risks.



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Protecting your business

“Employsure” is a total risk management solution for employers, protecting them against workplace relations issues such as unfair dismissal, discrimination, breach of contract and harassment in the workplace. The aim is simple: to help clients achieve peace of mind when it comes to workplace relations regulation so that they can focus on the needs of their business.

This is achieved by ensuring that employers have everything that they need to take the challenge out of complying with workplace regulation and by indemnifying them against the disruption caused by workplace disputes. The unique four stage process provides employers with a complete workplace relations service, designed to prevent disputes from occurring, but in the event that they do, safeguarding against the associated costs.

For a fixed fee, clients receive a complete audit of their workplace documentation, unlimited professional advice on workplace relations issues, expert representation in courts and tribunals, and comprehensive insurance cover if they face a claim.

So if you would like more information, Contact Warwick on the number above.

Finally, as promised last week, we now complete the review of the Report on the River Red Gum Forest in New South Wales. You will remember that Mr Todd Gellety of Gellety Sawmills was very critical of the Report.



“The Natural Resources Commission recognised that the highly modified landscape that is a red gum forest is so unique. What they failed to recognise is that National Park status will no doubt be detrimental to the health and long term viability of these magnificent forests, and their decision will increase the number and intensity of bushfires within declared Red Gum National Parks,” Todd said.



“The group of scientists that reviewed the report must have studied at University and be from the same group of scientists that once thought the world was flat, because the NRC and they themselves could not have been further from an outcome that would promote forest health and long term viability. They failed to listen to local experts who have spent their whole lives working in these forests and chose to use their own personal theories,” said Todd.

“NSW Primary Industries Minister Katrina Hodgkinson is between a rock and a hard place. Having met her, I have no doubt she would reverse the decision overnight. Unfortunately, the legislation in which these National Parks are bound by, thanks to Frank Sartor and the NSW State Labor Government’s desire for Green preferences, more than likely prevents this from ever happening. Hopefully, in time, thinking will change, and the Australian public will see that Australian Native Forests have always been, and can always be, sustainably harvested under strict regulation from State Government bodies such as Forests NSW and not be just a political trading mechanism for green preferences every time a close election needs a few extra green preferences to get a Government elected or re-elected for another three or four years.



“Australia’s native forests contain a resource that is renewable and has low emissions compared to fossil fuels, so why on earth aren’t the Greens and their supporters shouting from the rooftops to utilize this product to fight so-called climate change and prevent the exploitation of vulnerable native forests overseas?,”

The Greens would achieve a lot more for conservation if they allowed Australia’s native forests to be harvested sustainably and encouraged overseas Governments to regulate their timber harvesting in a better fashion,” Todd said.

Thanks once again to our friends at “Forest & Timber News” for supplying the information for these articles.



Well, that's all for this week. Thanks for taking the time to read this edition of "The Log". We hope you all have a safe and profitable week and we look forward to bringing you some more news from our industry again next week.

Regards to all
David Drane

