



AUSTRALIAN FOREST CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION LTD.

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“The Log” 21 June 2011



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.

Firstly this week, apologies to our Members in Western Australia. Last week you would have received an email telling you that we have to postpone our members meeting that was to be held in Bunbury on Wednesday 29th June 2011.

Unfortunately, this is due to a number of people including our Chairman Colin McCulloch and some of our Directors becoming unavailable for both our Board Meeting and the Members get together. We have now rescheduled the Meetings for **Wednesday 31 August 2011**. Please change your diary and I will be in touch with you again soon with an invitation to come along on the new day.

Again we apologise for any inconvenience.

And now some news taken from the latest Forestworks Skills Newsletter.

“The knowledge, skill and dedication of Forest Operator License (FOL) assessors for the art of tree-felling was on display in Tasmania recently. As part of the ForestWorks-managed FOL system, ForestWorks coordinated an annual review of assessment standards in Tasmania.

This involves the state’s FOL assessors meeting to discuss and develop their work. The team of assessors also visited a coupe and each felled two trees; their colleagues were then able to observe the process and inspect the felled trees and stumps in order to moderate on professional practice. This practical application of skills and the ensuing feedback ensures a consistently high standard of safety in this potentially hazardous area.”

The issue of FOL’s is also under review in Victoria where the State Treasury Department are looking into the financial viability of the whole process. AFCA is concerned that several issues could arise. What if Treasury says that the process is too costly to maintain?

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Will the Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) who currently manage the process maintain it in a revised form? What is the future for FOL's in Victoria? There is already a shortage of Assessors in Victoria also, how will this be addressed?

AFCA has had some discussions with other industry players and believes that perhaps it should be ForestWorks role to manage the system in Victoria (and perhaps even nationally), as they currently do in Tasmania. We will continue to monitor the situation and hopefully have some input as to the future of FOL's in the State.

And now some more information following on from the recent Australian Trucking Conference.

One of the major reasons for injuries occurring, especially in road accidents involving heavy vehicles, is because of the lack of seat belt usage. In New South Wales alone, currently in 50% of all heavy vehicle accidents, seat belts still are not being worn

Why don't truck drivers use seat belts? There are several reasons given;

- Drivers upbringing, "just get in and drive",
- There was a culture among past generations of not using them
- There was less traffic in the past, and lower speeds
- Old and bad habits are hard to break
- The differences in belts. Different belts suit different people
- "Rubs on my neck"
- "Rubs a hole in my shirt"
- "The rough roads we drive on make them uncomfortable"



The exemption from seat belt usage in heavy vehicles was removed in New South Wales in 1999, and also around a similar time in other states. But initially the culture of non usage continued.

In 2003, the Road Traffic Authority in NSW conducted a campaign to change this culture with some substantial results. It was called "Do or Die"

The campaign targeted both drivers and operators using various forms of advertising, and was measured for its success. The results showed that 63% of the heavy vehicle drivers acknowledged that they knew about the campaign, and 65% of operators used the mail out material that was sent to them pointing out their responsibilities in relation to driver safety.

By 2007, the numbers of heavy vehicle drivers using lap/sash seatbelts had increased from 48% to 76% and the number of drivers of articulated vehicles not using seatbelts had reduced from 46% to only 23%.

The NSW RTA is planning to conduct an updated campaign to try and improve the figures even further.



What can you do to change the culture of seat belt usage among your employees?

- Include the use of seat belts in your OHS Policy
- Put reminders about seat belts in vehicles, on dashboards etc
- Promote road safety at tool box meetings, always reinforce the safety message
- Monitor belt usage in your business
- Reward drivers for belt usage
- Be involved in partnerships with your road Authority that promotes their usage.
- Put seat belt signage around your vehicle parking areas
- Put seat belt signage in driver rest and recreation areas

If you ever get the chance, AFCA recommends that you watch the video produced by Kenworth that shows what happens to bodies in truck rollovers. The differences between those that are strapped in a seat belt and those that are not are scary to say the least. It is a video that leaves a strong message.

Still on the haulage side of our industry, The Australian Trucking Technical & Maintenance Conference is the most important event on road freight transport maintenance and innovation in Australia.



In 2011, the TMC moves to a new location at Sydney's Australian Technology Park on Tuesday 11 & Wednesday 12 October 2011. This year a new major sponsor The PACCAR & Dealer Group has come on board.

So if you want the latest technical and maintenance information about your vehicles, that's the place to be

For further information have a look at www.ataevents.net.au.

A series of climate change workshops are being held in forestry regions to promote awareness of future projected climatic trends and issues; and opportunities on how the plantation forest industry can best respond.

These workshops are part of an Australian Forest Products Association (formerly NAFI) project supported by the Federal Department of Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry "Farm Ready Program". The seminars will be of direct interest to forest growers, landholders, farmers, planners, researchers and natural resource management professionals, however if you have an interest in this area and are thinking about the climate change impact on your business, then we suggest you attend.

Speakers will include AFPA Policy Manager Mick Stephens and CSIRO researchers involved in forest industry climate change adaptation.



Seminars will be held in:

- South-west Western Australia (Bunbury), 24 June
Sanctuary Golf Resort - Old Coast Road, Pelican Point, Bunbury
- South Australia (Mt. Gambier): 27 June
Lakes Resort - 17 Lake Terrace West, Mt Gambier
- South-east Queensland (Brisbane): 29 June
Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation Auditorium 3, Ground Floor, 80 Ann Street, Brisbane
- New South Wales (Tumut): 1 July 2011, Tumut Bowling Club - 24-30 Richmond St, Tumut
- Victoria (Traralgon): to be advised.
- Tasmania (Hobart): to be advised.

For registration and enquiries contact AFPA on (02) 6285 3833 or email alice.loganewards@ausfpa.com.au



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As we approach the end of another financial year, we would like to thank all of those members who supported our activities throughout 2010 -2011 by paying your membership fees again.

However for those few members (4) who have not yet paid your fees for the year, we would appreciate you doing so before 30 June. AFCA relies on the financial support of all of our members to enable us to continue to provide our services to you. Your support would be appreciated.

We look forward to having everyone back again in 2011 – 2012 (the year of AusTimber2012)



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

