



AUSTRALIAN FOREST CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION LTD.

ACN 102 865 430

Manager

David Drane
PO Box 242, Morwell Vic, 3840
david.d@vic.australis.com.au
Ph : 0413 997 257

Chairperson

Colin McCulloch
bvllogging@commander360.com
Ph: 0418 135 336

Viability Consultant

Col Shipard
colshipardafca@bigpond.com
Ph: 0428 215 882

“The Log” 24 November 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 an apology for not sending you an edition of “The Log” last week. I have just spent some time in hospital in Melbourne having surgery for the removal of a tumor that began as a skin cancer in my ear, but which quickly escalated and grew downwards, necessitating the removal of part of my upper jawbone.

As I write this, sitting here bandaged up like an ancient “mummy”, I decided to tell you this because there is probably a message there for all of us Aussie blokes. We all tend to think that it won’t happen to me, I can work out in the sun all day or spend the day laying out on the beach etc and “she’ll be right mate”

I have learned the hard way that this isn’t necessarily the case, and while I am deeply indebted to the surgeons who spent over 5 hours hopefully getting rid of all of my problem, I have also become far more aware that the sunscreen and other such safety messages out there in our communities really should be adhered to by everyone.

So my suggestion to all our members is simply this. Please take care, if you notice a change anywhere on your body, get it looked at and if necessary treated a.s.a.p. We are not all bulletproof and immune from injury or disease. In addition, our hospital system is stretched enough already without us having to put more pressure on it



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And now to something far more pleasant. Last week, AFCA Director Cheryl Griffiths attended the “Women in Industry” Conference in Sydney. Here is her report.

As a representative of AFCA, and by invitation from Forest Works, I had the pleasure of attending the *Women in Industry* Conference in Sydney on Wednesday 9th November 2011. The conference was preceded on the Tuesday night with a dinner overlooking the lovely Darling Harbour and proved a great opportunity to meet and network with women from the many facets of the Industries represented – Forestry, construction, mining and energy.

In the six sessions throughout the day we heard from a bevy of qualified speakers and panel members, from the forestry, construction, mining and energy industries, on the following subjects:

- Increasing workforce participation for Women
- Strategies to encourage women into construction, forestry, mining and energy industries.
- Identify ways to ensure women receive the same, appropriate skills training for work in male dominated industries and occupations.
- Ensuring women have appropriate career paths and employment opportunities in male dominated occupations and industry.
- Understanding the legislation and policies.
- Recruitment and retention of women in construction, forestry, mining and energy industries.



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BUILT TO WORK

With the shortage of a skilled labour force in these sectors in Australia, it is suggested we are greatly underutilizing a huge human resource by not encouraging women to take up these trades and skills. Understanding there can be unique challenges, some models that have been successfully tried and tested to introduce women to a male dominated role were discussed. Annie Cowling, author of a booklet “Breaking New Ground – A manual for survival for women in non-traditional jobs” put forward a very practical model that was developed while working on a 5 year “Women in Plumbing” Project. This model was very well received by the conference participants. The keys to retention for women placed in these roles are:

- They know what they want to do
- They are committed to it
- They are put into a good job
- They are supported by training.

Getting the message out to young women considering a career path in these industries was discussed at length with issues raised such as the need to/for

- educate the Parents (who were often concerned about their daughters safety and welfare in these roles)
- educating the educators or career advisor (which AFCA has been at the forefront of)
- flexibility in the workforce such as job sharing
- developing “Try a Trade” programme in local schools and colleges.



In consideration of all the discussions and in regard to my own contracting Harvest and Haul business I am confronted by my own perceptions, real or otherwise, of the challenges to the employment of women in some of the current roles.

Some questions we can ask are:

- What are the skills shortages we have as contractors that could be filled by women?
- What unique attributes, strengths would women bring to these roles?
- What are the potential challenges or barriers to encouraging, employing and retaining women in these roles?

My thanks to ForestWorks for sponsoring me to the Dinner and Conference, I appreciated the opportunity to attend and be part of the important discussions regarding the employment of women in non-traditional jobs in the forest, construction, mining and energy industries.

Cheryl Griffiths
Managing Director Blu-Chip Harvest,
AFCA Board Member



AFCA was also saddened to learn of the passing of another of our Contractors Hall of Fame Members in Mr Reginald (Jack) Jaffray. Jack will be remembered with great affection by many people in the timber industry in Tasmania.

Jack Jaffray was an active member and club director of the North West Tasmania Hoo-Hoo Club for many years. Those who attended the Hoo-Hoo Convention hosted by the Launceston Club a few years ago would remember his fascinating display of shingle-splitting and his skills as an axeman.

In recent times, Jack battled with dementia, and was reported missing after going out for a walk one evening. Sadly, following a police search, his body was recovered late the following day.

I'm sure that we all join in extending our sincere sympathy to Hazel and his family, to all of his fellow members of the North West Tasmania Hoo-Hoo club and to those members of the Hall of Fame in Tasmania who knew him.



In past editions of "The Log" we have mentioned how the new National heavy vehicle Regulations (NHVR) were being developed and we have just received news that Australia's national truck laws are now a step closer. The Queensland Transport Minister, introduced the first of the two bills needed to establish the laws into the Queensland Parliament last week

Australia's transport ministers have agreed there will need to be a second bill to fix 849 issues identified by the trucking industry and state road agencies. Despite these issues, it was important to get the first bill into parliament to lay the foundations for the national regulator.

"When fully operational, the application of road law by the one regulator will deliver for all operators involved in the freight task peace of mind in the knowledge that there will be cross border consistency in not only the written legislation and regulation, but just as importantly compliance and enforcement," Queensland Trucking Association CEO Peter Garske has said



The Australian Trucking Association and its members including AFCA are continuing to work with the NHVR project office.



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As you read this, AFCA Directors will be gathering Melbourne for their next Board Meeting tomorrow morning, which will be followed by our Annual General Meeting later in the day.

At the Board Meeting, the Directors will be receiving presentations by representatives from the FSC Forest Stewardship Council and from our Insurance providers at Insurance Advisernet Australia.

A report on the AGM will be included in next weeks "Log"



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

Best wishes
David Drane

