



# AUSTRALIAN FOREST CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION LTD.

ACN 102 865 430

**Manager**

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

**Chairperson**

Colin McCulloch  
[bvllogging@commander360.com](mailto:bvllogging@commander360.com)  
03 5751 1922

**Viability Consultant**

Col Shipard  
[colshipardafca@bigpond.com](mailto:colshipardafca@bigpond.com)  
0428 215 882

## “The Log” 24 May 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, the guys at Community Research Centre Forestry (CRCF), have released their latest Bulletin.

Bulletin No 17 “Bunching stems in steep slopes for efficient yarder extraction” reports on a small trial CRCF did in partnership with FFR from New Zealand to explore the impact on yarder productivity on bunching wood.

Recent interest in Australia and New Zealand—and positive experiences elsewhere—in increasing mechanisation in steep terrain prompted this research trial to evaluate the potential of a self-leveling feller-buncher to improve the overall productivity and economics of a swing yarder. The main goal of the study was to determine the effect on productivity of the extraction by cable of bunched wood as opposed to unbunched wood.

As usual, if you would like a copy of this Bulletin, just contact me and I will forward one to you. Copies can be sent either by email or by mail if you prefer.

Once again, our thanks to Mark Brown and the CRCF for their support of the industry in making these bulletins available.

\*\*\*\*\*



We are pleased to report that the new AFCA “Contractors Hall of Fame” is coming along nicely and will soon be finished and available for everyone to have a look at. There will be records of all of the members of our Hall of Fame, and we are hoping that in the future family members and others will be able to contribute additional information that can be included and really make the site an impressive record of our history.



**FOREST CENTRE**

SUPPLIERS OF FOREST EQUIPMENT & ATTACHMENTS

We will let you know when the site is completed and ready for inspection

\*\*\*\*\*

AFCA members in Western Australia will soon receive your invitations to attend the next Members meeting which is to be held in Bunbury on Wednesday 29 June 2011. The Function is to be sponsored by our friends and Hitachi and we look forward to seeing and hearing their presentation as well as the other speakers that we are currently lining up for the evening.

W A members please put Wednesday 29 June in your diary, and we will be in touch very soon with your invitation to attend.

An AFCA Board of Directors meeting will also be held in Bunbury on that day.

\*\*\*\*\*

Later this week I will be attending the annual Australian Trucking Association Conference in Canberra. The two day Conference always contains really interesting presentations on topics of interest to us and this year is no different.

Sessions on Truck safety research, seat belt culture, the new National Vehicle Regulations, and helping drivers after an accident are among the topics to be discussed

We bring you details of what was discussed in future editions of "The Log"

\*\*\*\*\*

# KOMATSU

**Forestry  
Quality™**

Last week I attended an information session in relation the introduction of new national standard work health and safety regulations. Efforts are being made to standardise many differing sets of regulations nationally these days, and OHS laws are no different from the rest.

Model OHS laws are currently being created and it is envisaged that each State of Australia will enact them by December 2011 in time to be ready for the new national regulations to come into being in January 2012.

We understand that all the States are currently in the process of preparing their legislation so we suggest that everyone keep an eye out in your local area to see what's happening.

There are to be twelve priority areas in the new Model Laws. These include managing risks, managing work environments noise and hearing loss, manual tasks, confined spaces, preventing falls and labeling of hazardous chemicals.

# CAT® Forest Products

There are also to be small changes in the rules for health and safety representatives which include the fact that they must be fully trained and qualified before undertaking any duties or putting their powers into practice.

Fines for breaches of the laws are also to be increased.

In Victoria we understand that the new Model laws will be adopted, and that they are very much consistent with the current OHS 2004 Act which exists in the State. Again, we urge everyone to keep abreast about what's happening in your State to make sure you know what's being adopted and what you may need to do to comply.



AFCA has begun pushing for the Workplace Authority in Victoria to conduct information sessions on the changes to the laws at a grass roots level to make sure that all of the affected parties including Contractors know their responsibilities and what changes if any they need to make.

We will be making similar requests to the Authorities in all of the other States for similar initiatives to be introduced.

\*\*\*\*\*

As always, the future of the timber industry in Tasmania continues to be volatile with the walk out from the Agreement by the Wilderness Society placing the Statement of Principles in jeopardy. Our "commentator" on the situation Senator Richard Colbeck has provided the following:



"The Wilderness Society should only be welcomed back into Tasmania's forestry talks if it agrees to certain conditions, Tasmanian Liberal Senator and Coalition Forestry spokesman Richard Colbeck said.

"Primarily, the Wilderness Society must be prepared to cease its continued public misrepresentation of the process. This includes distorting the intent and purpose of the moratorium on 560,000 hectares of native forest".

"The Wilderness Society should also commit to entering into genuine negotiations rather than operating via threats and demands. It is well acknowledged this is a difficult process. Walking in and out of the negotiations as a tactic or on a whim is disrespectful to the other signatories.

"Some of the other participants may also have their own conditions for the Wilderness Society re-entering the process.

"Suggestions by the Wilderness Society that it will attend the talks with the Federal Government on May 30 if its demands are met demonstrates again how little regard this organisation has for the other signatories. It's all about the Wilderness Society and what they want".



**INSURANCE ADVISERNET  
AUSTRALIA PTY LIMITED**

AUSTRALIAN FINANCIAL SERVICES LICENCE NUMBER: 240549  
ABN 81 072 343 643

*Proudly Australian Owned and Operated*  
[www.insuranceadviser.net](http://www.insuranceadviser.net)

"These conditions should also be applied to the Wilderness Society's access to any of the \$300,000 allocated by the Commonwealth to parties involved in the negotiations. If the Wilderness Society does not agree to rejoin as a negotiator, rather than dictator, the \$300,000 should be split equally between the nine remaining participants to increase the capacity of the genuine negotiators."



We note with interest that the parties to the Agreement are scheduled to meet with the Federal Government in Canberra on 30 May 2011. AFCA are represented at these meetings. We await the outcome

\*\*\*\*\*

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

