



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” 29 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 this week, we are pleased to welcome a new corporate partner / sponsor to AFCA. “Premium Tyres” is a company that has a wide range of Tyres available to suit all kinds of motor vehicles, including ours.

In fact they have a new tyre on the market which they believe is especially suited to our trucks, and we’ll be telling you more about it in forthcoming editions of the “Log”. I have been to their warehouse in Melbourne and have seen the huge range of tyres that they have in stock.



We welcome Premium Tyres to AFCA, thank them for their support, and look forward to introducing their products to you. In the interim, if you are thinking about purchasing some new tyres for your vehicles, we invite you to give **WAYNE HICKS** a call at **Premium Tyres, 467 Hammond Rd, Dandenong Vic , Ph 0427 210 076**, and discuss your requirements with him.

Our friends at Community Research Centre for Forestry (CRCF) have just released their latest Bulletin. No 21 in the series is titled “New ground-based logging technologies for steep terrain”.

Choosing the most appropriate technology to use on steep sites requires careful consideration of cost, productivity, safety and environmental impacts. Although current ground-based harvesting systems are generally less expensive than cable systems, they may cause an unacceptable level of damage to steep sites in terms of soil compaction, erosion risk, damage to residual stands, and reduced aesthetics.



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JOHN DEERE
Nothing Runs Like A Deere

This bulletin reviews some recent ground-based technology currently in use in Europe and North America that may be able to be applied in Australia to harvest steeper sites without the high costs of cable systems while minimising negative site impacts.

As usual, if you would like a copy, please contact me and I will forward one to you.

Thanks again to CRCF for keeping us up to date with what's happening in the research area of our industry.

Unfortunately each week lately, we have noted the passing of a member of our Contractors Hall of Fame.

This week we regret to announce the death of Mr Fred Green who would have been known to many people in our industry through his association with the GreenFreight transport company. We are sad but proud to be able to publish the following note I received from his brother Geoff who is also well known in our industry.

On a sad note, I regret that I have to advise the Association of the untimely passing of my brother Fred. Fred died of a massive heart attack on Friday 18 November and his funeral was held on Wednesday 23 November.

Fred started our business in Myrtleford in 1960 when he took over the distribution of Mobil oil products for the area. Our association with the softwood timber industry started shortly after when he commenced hauling finished product from the local mill to Melbourne. Our move into harvesting and haulage of logs came with the building of Australian Forest Industries large "state of the art" saw mill in Myrtleford in 1972/3. Since then we have been successful in growing with the Industry. Fred was the motivator behind this growth and the success of our Company, and he will be sadly missed.

I would appreciate it if you could pass onto members of the Association, who may have known Fred, this news of his untimely passing.

Our condolences go out to Geoff and all the members of the Green family at Fred's passing.

Here's a bit of unfortunate news about a company operating in our industry from WorkSafe Victoria.

"A Colac (Victoria) Company that received more than 100 safety improvement notices over less than a decade has been convicted and fined \$70,000 for failing to comply with a safety improvement notice and having an unguarded machine which injured a worker.

Associated Kiln Driers Pty Ltd (trading as AKD Softwoods) recently pleaded guilty to two charges arising from separate incidents just a few months apart in 2009. The charges related to the company not complying with a safety improvement notice for more than five months after its due date and not having safe systems of work.

A WorkSafe inspector issued three safety improvement notices as a result of an incident in which a man fell three meters from a mezzanine floor in June 2009. He was not hurt.



FOREST CENTRE

SUPPLIERS OF FOREST EQUIPMENT & ATTACHMENTS

Two required the provision of safe systems of work for employees so they could not fall more than two meters. The third required the company to provide appropriate supervision so employees could work in a manner that was safe and without risks to health. The first two notices were complied with by 15 July 2009, but the third was not dealt with by the company until early 2010. More than five months after it was due.

The second charge related to an incident in November 2009 when a worker was hurt when a robotic arm suddenly reactivated when a worker removed a blockage. He sustained serious injuries to his right arm and pelvis. Safety improvements made after the incident cost \$10,000.



Colac Magistrate Stephen Myall was told that since 2001, AKD had received 117 safety improvement or prohibition notices issued and was prosecuted twice in 2007 for inadequate traffic management (convicted and fined \$10,000) and for inadequate guarding on a conveyer (convicted and fined \$40,000). WorkSafe's General Manager for Operations, Lisa Sturzenegger, said the timber products industry was a major focus for WorkSafe enforcement activity in 2011-12".

The message here for all of us is to make sure that our workplaces are safe and they we do not put both ourselves and our employees in any danger. Apart from any potential loss of life or serious injury, the costs of not doing this can be significant.

Once again this year the Forest Industry Council (FIC) in Tumut NSW is offering two scholarships for students who are eager to further their studies in forestry.

The Council was formed in 1981 as a platform for Industry to advance the stability and prosperity of the forest industry throughout the Southern NSW Region. A further objective is to sponsor programs that are deemed necessary and desirable to further industry and community development.



Scholarships of up to \$2000 will again be made available in 2012 for applicants with the following parameters:

- Applicants must be a resident of the South West Slopes and have a demonstrated commitment to the Forest Industry
- Applicants proposals must align with the Objectives of the Forest Industry Council

Applications in the following categories will be considered:

- Direct or indirect costs associated with training in a Forest Industry related field
- Promotion of the Forest Industry in the South West Slopes
- Advancement of learning and skills in the Forest Industry
- Costs associated with Forestry Seminars/travel
- Research in a Forest Industry related field

The application form is available electronically by emailing Megan Arragon at megan.arragon@tafensw.edu.au, Closing date for applications is 17th February 2012.



We held our AFCA Annual General Meeting for 2010 – 2011 in Melbourne last Wednesday, and among the items on the Agenda was the election of office bearers for the coming twelve months.

It was very pleasing to see that all of the current Directors offered themselves for re-election and were reappointed for another term. We are indeed fortunate to have a very sound and experienced group of people running our organisation. Our team for 2011-2012 is:

Chairman: Colin McCulloch (TAS)

Vice Chairman: Greg Coverley (W A)

Directors: Barry Fennell (S A), Cheryl Griffiths (W A), Garry Leeson (Vic), Ken Padgett (Taps), and Ian Reid (Vic).

All of these people give up a lot of time away from their own families and businesses while traveling to and attending Board and member meetings across the country, and they also incur a lot of personal expenses in travel and accommodation costs while helping to run the organisation of behalf of the Harvesting and Haulage Contractors of Australia. All of the Contractors across the country should appreciate what they are doing for our industry.

Thanks to Warwick Pratt and Peter Thompson from our Insurance Partners “Insurance AdviserNet Australia” who, along with Michael Hartman from “Forestworks”, attended the AGM and the networking function which followed. We appreciate your support.



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And finally this week, we note that Coalition Forestry spokesman Senator Richard Colbeck (and AFCA “commentator”) has launched a petition to highlight the valuable contribution made by Australia’s forestry industries. The online petition will be tabled in the Senate next year.

“There has never been a more important time for us to stand up and demonstrate support for Australia’s forestry industries,” Senator Colbeck said.

healthcare
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“A catalyst for this petition has been the ongoing saga in Tasmania, where campaigns of misinformation and industrial vandalism continue to unfairly slander a viable and respectable industry. “I am increasingly concerned that the good stories about forestry are drowned out by enviro-warrior campaigns based on half-truths and fiction.

“The latest goal of these groups appears to be shutting down all native forest activity, which is both unnecessary and also contrary to achieving some of the ideals they profess to desire. “I believe we need to keep highlighting the many positive contributions that are made by sensible management of these important resources.



“I will table this petition in the New Year to ensure our views are brought to the attention of the Labor-Green Federal Government,” Senator Colbeck said.

The petition can be found at:

http://www.ipetitions.com/petition/supporting_australian_forest_industries/

AFCA would like to encourage all of our members and supporters to sign the petition.



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

