



AUSTRALIAN FOREST CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION LTD.

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

It’s pretty quiet on the news front this week, however, let’s scan around and see what we can bring you that hopefully will be of interest.

Firstly, recent studies have suggested that Australians are working harder than ever, but new research suggests that with the rise in part-time and casual employment, we’re in fact spending more time away from work. Forecaster “IBISWorld” has found the average Australian has 78.1 hours each week for ‘leisure’ activities, compared to 76.4 hours in 2001.

The statistic is an indication of how many Australians are seeking ‘non-traditional’ working arrangements that may reduce their working hours, and also reflects the beginning of the transition of the ‘Baby Boomers’ into retirement or semi-retirement.



JOHN DEERE
Nothing Runs Like A Deere



“IBISWorld” analysts told the Melbourne *Herald Sun* newspaper that workers now had more capacity to free up some time so they could spend it looking after their health or caring for children, and they believed the trend would continue in the future.



FOREST CENTRE

SUPPLIERS OF FOREST EQUIPMENT & ATTACHMENTS

The forecast is backed up by figures released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics in October 2010. It found that while the overall number of hours worked by full-time and part-time workers had increased in the past 30 years, the average number of hours worked

per person had declined from about 35.5 to 33, due to a greater emphasis on part-time work. The ABS found the trend was generally consistent across industries and levels of experience – managers’ hours dropped from 47.6 hours in 1996 to 43.3 in 2010.



From an employer perspective, the statistics show how more employees are seeking and obtaining arrangements to boost their leisure time and balance work and personal commitments. However, other recent data suggests the number of hours worked rose in December 2011 due to the current job slowdown, meaning these arrangements could be harder to source at the moment.

Thanks to the Victorian Chamber of Commerce and industry for this extract from their Newsletter

Have you increased or decreased your working hours in the last few years, and if so, what have been the reasons for it? Have the outcomes been worthwhile? Despite the pressures of business, are you looking after your health and maintaining a proper lifestyle? Please remember that your business is dependent upon your health.



Will we ever see it happen?

Following the release of the report from the Federal Government’s House Of Representatives “ Forestry Industry Inquiry” in November 2011, the Australian Forest Products Association (AFPA) called on the Government to act on the report by working with industry to implement key recommendations through a coordinated national approach.

Such a strategy could assist in removing unnecessary barriers to investment and international competitiveness in the forest, wood and paper products industries, as well as promote industry opportunities in the emerging carbon economy.



A key challenge is the coordination of policies across a number of federal portfolios (e.g. forestry, climate change, industry and energy) as well as with state and local regulation. AFPA believes a good starting point would be a federal departmental taskforce that could build on the findings of the Forestry Industry Inquiry and other

recent initiatives such as the Pulp and Paper Industry Strategy Group's findings.

AFPA has recently raised this proposal with the Federal Minister for Forestry, the Hon Joe Ludwig, with a view to further discussions including via the Ministerial advisory body - the Forest and Wood Products Council. AFPA will also be discussing the issue with the new Parliamentary Secretary for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, the Hon Sid Sidebottom, as well as with other relevant Ministers.

AFCA is a member of the Council and will be using that opportunity to encourage the Minister to take up the proposal, anything that can be done to improve coordination and therefore the overall efficiency of the Industry urgently needs to be encouraged. The next meeting of the Council is set down for Friday 10 February 2012 in Canberra, and I hope this item will be on the Agenda to give us a chance to start the ball rolling.



As part of World Forest Day on 21 March 2012, AFPA is hosting a Forest Industry Seminar to discuss national forest industry directions, including two topical issues affecting future industry development.



These issues include the policy environment for new plantations investment in Australia and emerging opportunities for wood based bioenergy as part of a lower emissions energy future.

The Centre for International Economics (The CIE) will provide an update of a current FWPA funded study into 'Renewed Plantation Development in Australia.

Attendees will also hear a presentation on emerging opportunities for regional biomass processing centres and the use of woody biomass in novel applications, such as for iron and steel making processes (a collaborative project between CSIRO, Bluescope and OneSteel).

AFCA, as a member of AFPA (too many acronyms) will be attending this seminar and will bring you any news of what emerges that might be of interest to our sector of the industry in future editions of "The Log".

Thanks to AFPA for the above extracts from their "Canopy" Newsletter.



Just prior to Christmas, we welcomed a new sponsor to AFCA, and indicated that we would be telling you about their products in the future. Well the first of these occasions has come around, and we are pleased to add the attachment for Premium Tyres and their Chao Yang tyres to this week's edition of "The Log".

Please have a look at it and you will see that this type of tyre is recommended specifically for the Forestry industry. There are also special offers for AFCA members, so if you want more information contact Wayne Hicks whose details are also on the Flier.



Wayne will also be at AusTimber 2012 next month, so it will be a good chance to have chat with him there and find out how these using these tyres will benefit your business.

We thank Premium Tyres for coming on board and look forward to working with them.



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Speaking of AusTimber. Have you registered yet? Are you organised to attend? Make sure to come along and ensure that you are up with the latest in Harvesting and Haulage. Please go to the website, www.austimber2012.com.au, and check out the latest news about this fantastic event.

We look forward to seeing you

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

