



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.

Firstly this week, a reminder for all of our haulage operators, that the event that has the reputation of being Australia's great gathering of trucking professionals is only a week away, but it’s still not too late to register.

We hope that if possible you will take advantage of the opportunity for you and your people to attend the only annual Australian gathering of trucking professionals employed in workshops, fleet management and industry suppliers. For the first time in nearly two decades, the national Technical & Maintenance Conference (TMC) will be held in New South Wales next week.

Having attended a couple of their conferences, I can assure everyone that the event planning team at the Australian Trucking Association goes to great lengths to assemble speakers and topics that have real value to your operations. At this year’s TMC, there will be multiple streams, offering more choices to delegates.

The practical sessions of the conference are on Tuesday 11 and Wednesday 12 October 2011. The venue is Australian Technology Park, close to Redfern Railway Station and the Hotels in central Sydney.

The third, annual TruckSafe Forum will also be held as a separate stream. TruckSafe is the industry's leading business and risk management system. The Forum will allow operators to share information, find out about the latest improvements in risk management and speak with the programs auditors about what they will be focusing on.

For more information or to register visit www.ataevents.net.au.



JOHN DEERE
Nothing Runs Like A Deere



We are now really pleased to be able to announce that our “AFCA Contractors Hall of Fame” website is up and running. The website had been created as a permanent record of recognising the achievements of those Contractors who have been admitted to our Hall of Fame in recognition of their contribution to our industry. www.afcahalloffame.com.au, contains a page for each of the inductees, and we will now be inviting all of them to supply us with some more details and information about their involvement.

The ultimate aim is to have a comprehensive library of history about those who have driven the industry through a lifetime of commitment to it.

We would like to invite everyone to go to the website, have a look through it and if you have anything that you think would be of interest to add to it, please supply it to me. Feedback of the site which is really only in its infancy would also be appreciated.

We would also like to acknowledge the contribution of Bianca Gillin at “Bianca Gillin Multimedia” in Mt Gambier South Australia who has created the website for us.



FOREST CENTRE

SUPPLIERS OF FOREST EQUIPMENT & ATTACHMENTS

We have just received details of a Forestworks “Women In Industry” Conference to be held in Sydney on 8th and 9th October.



The aim is to bring together participants from across the country and across a range of construction, forestry, mining and energy industries. Together they will design and recommend changes in industry practice so that the industry – assisted by government policy – can achieve skills and training development to lead or complement action to address the under-representation of women in these industries and occupations.

- Together conference participants will consider strategies to encourage women into these industries and occupations
- Together participants will look at ways to ensure women receive the same, appropriate skills training for work in construction, forestry, mining and energy industries
- Together they will consider strategies to ensure women have the same career paths and employment opportunities as male counterparts, once they are in construction, or forest environments

For more details go to the Forestworks website, www.forestworks.com.au, or phone 03 9321 3500

We have all heard a lot about the Tax Forum that is being held in Canberra as we put this edition of “The Log” together. But here’s an item from it that although we haven’t heard a lot about is of great interest to us.



“The Australian Trucking Association will use the forum to argue against the introduction of mass-distance-location charging for trucks. These charges could impose massive costs on rural Australia and would strangle trucking operators with red tape. ATA Chairman David Simon is a participant in the forum.

The COAG Road Reform Plan (CRRP) is examining mass-distance-location charging. Under this system, truck operators would be required to fit regulatory devices such as GPS and distance recording to their trucks. They would receive regular invoices based on where their vehicles travelled, how far they went and how much they weighed.

David said he would argue that the tax forum should tell the Government to reject mass-distance-location charging.



“The whole idea of mass-distance-location charging is to recover the cost of the road wear caused by trucks on each type of road. Because local rural roads are built to a much lighter standard than major highways, the charge for travelling on one of these roads could be twenty-five times higher than for using a highway like the Hume Freeway,”

Mr Simon said. “It would be a disaster for rural communities and the trucking businesses that serve them.

“In addition, the people arguing for mass-distance-location pricing have grossly underestimated the cost and complexity of rolling out the system, as well as the compliance costs that would be faced by trucking businesses. They have forgotten that 85 per cent of Australia’s 47,000 trucking businesses are small businesses and just don’t need more red tape”.

Let’s hope that he gets a lot of support at the Forum and it is able to convince the Government not to embark on another path that could lead to disaster for small businesses such as our haulage operators.



AFCA supports the ATA in this initiative, and we acknowledge their “Friday Facts” Newsletter from which this article is taken.



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“Work Safe Week”, begins in Victoria on October 17, where as part of a jam-packed program, employees and employers can attend more than 100 informative and topical seminars across the state. There will be a number of topics of interest to us and so we would like to urge all Victorian Contractors to have a look at the program at: www.vicsafe.vic.gov.au, and register to attend one in your local area.



Members in other States should also keep a look out for similar weeks in your State to make sure you keep up with the latest in the OHS arena.

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

