



AUSTRALIAN FOREST CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION LTD.

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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 announce that Theresa Lonergan of AFCA Member P & T Lonergan Pty Ltd Holbrook New South Wales has been elected as the new Chairperson of the Forest Industry Council (FIC) based in Tumut NSW.

Theresa was elected at the Annual General meeting of FIC held in Tumut last Friday, and replaces Malcolm Alexander (NorskeSkog) who has held the position for the past three years. Kevin McGrath (Forest NSW) was elected as Deputy Chair and David Priem (Riverina TAFE) will remain in the Executive Officer’s position.

While we acknowledge Malcolm and other past Chairpersons efforts, it is very pleasing to have a Contractor as the Chairperson of the Council. We wish Theresa all the best for your term as the Chairperson and assure you of our ongoing support.

The Council which is now over 30 years old, has just completed another very successful year of working for the betterment of the timber industry in the Tumut area. Among the highlights of the year reported at the AGM included, the awarding of two scholarships valued at \$2,000.00 to help the recipients continue their forestry studies at Southern Cross University.

The Forest Industry Training Centre based at the Tumut Campus of TAFE enrolled close to 1500 students in Forestry courses in 2010, and continues to achieve significant numbers of students in 2011, having 140 trainees taking part in Certificate III harvest and Haulage courses and 130 trainees participating in Certificate IV in forest operations courses.



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The Council will take part in the Henty Field Days which are to be held in September 2011. There will be forest machinery, industry simulators and other equipment on display, all aimed at promoting our industry to the community. Anyone from our industry who lives in the Henty region of NSW is encouraged to get along and support the FIC people in our endeavors to show off the positive side of our industry

Also something that is a little different is the Council's achievements in meeting with the NSW Game Council to discuss the problems associated with Game Hunters pursuing their hobby in Forest NSW plantations.

Incidents have occurred lately where Hunters have been sighted in and near harvesting coupes which could have resulted in serious injuries occurring had swift action not been taken by harvesting and Forest NSW personnel.

The ongoing discussions between the two groups will lead to a better understanding of each others priorities and the introduction of some initiatives that will ensure that they can both coexist within the forests. Buffers between coupes and reserves, better mapping and the better management of hunting licences and permits are among the ideas being mooted.

At the Councils 2011 Annual Dinner which followed the meetings, Guests were treated to a presentation by The Hon Alby Schultz, Federal Member for Hume, who is also the deputy Chairman of the Federal Governments Committee that is currently looking at the future of the Forest Industry.



While Mr Schultz's insight into the range of submissions that are being put before the Committee was interesting, the long bureaucratic diatribe on the fantastic current state of our industry was a little disappointing.

His commitment during question time to ensure the future of both the softwood and hardwood plantation industries across Australia was very pleasing and positive. Unfortunately however, the question by AFCA of how the Governments Committee viewed the future of Native Forests and their place in the industry was not responded to with the same amount of enthusiasm.

We congratulate FIC on another successful year and look forward to continuing our membership and being a part of their efforts for the industry.

As recently reported, I attended the 2011 Australian Trucking Association Annual Conference and listened to a number of presentations of interest the haulage sector of our industry. Over the next few weeks we will detail some of these for you.

The Australian Trucking Association aims are to achieve better levels of safety in the industry, to support research into road safety and improvements in the environment, to improve relations between the trucking industry and the general community, to monitor the creation of the new national heavy vehicle regulator and ensure that no one will be worse off once it is up and running, to make sure the industry contributes to the repairing of the nation after natural disasters and to work on understanding the federal



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governments proposed carbon tax .

The challenges facing it sound very familiar. Industry unity and the need to all pull together, safety, better engagement with industry, the image of the industry and the need to make it more attractive and the need to ensure positive career paths exist are all issues which the ATA intends to address.

One of the most interesting presentations at the Conference was provided by Mr Owen Driscoll for the National Transport Insurance industry, who reported on a new Major Accident Investigation Report that has just been released.



Highlights of the Report included the fact that inappropriate speed is the most common cause of road accidents.

One in four road accidents involved speed. From a trucking perspective an alarming statistic was that in 82% of all accidents, the other driver was deemed to be at fault.

Other interesting findings included Monday and Tuesday being the worst days for truck accidents, 11.00 am to 2.00 pm being the most common times that accidents occur, most accidents occurred at roundabouts and at road corners, 71% of accidents occurred on outbound journeys, most accidents occurred in New South Wales, and accident rates in Queensland and Western Australia remain unchanged while the rates in Victoria are on the improve. In South Australia, crashes at intersections are the most common.

A positive statistic contained in the report is that the number of accidents involving fatigue in on the decline, as is the number of accidents involving B Double vehicles. In fact, the report found that the larger the vehicle, the safer it tends to be.

It was noted that even though there are more vehicles coming onto the roads, we are seeing the same numbers of crashes occurring but thankfully less fatalities resulting. It is thought that improvements in truck technology and the gradual acceptance by truck drivers of items such as seatbelts and their increased abiding with fatigue laws are among the reasons behind it.



In relation to improvements in truck technology, a wonderful aim by the makers of Volvo trucks is that no one will be killed while being in one of their vehicles by 2020.

We would like to repeat our reminder about insurance matters from last week and that the end of each financial year is a good time to renew Insurance policies. Often policies are tied in with financial years and fall due at this busy time.



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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

