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Spring 2005

AUSTRALIAN FOREST GROWERS – REPRESENTING & PROMOTING PRIVATE FORESTRY

Mt Lofty – KI AFG Newsletter

Northern field day

The most recent field day focused on establishment and early management experiences of Margaret and Tony McKenzie (right), Grant Kelly/Rob Murphy (below centre) and Michael Trennary (below left) near Springton and finished up with a farm walk and BBQ at David and Robyn Bradley's property near Birdwood.



Convoy skills of always **keeping the person behind you in sight** needed a bit of working on earlier in the day!



AGM Sunday November 6th

BBQ noon at Peter's, 5 Kent Rd Aldgate – best access & parking from end of Surrey Rd. Free for members, \$5 for non-members.

Many thanks to the 'retiring' Clare for her vital secretarial/'treasural' role over the years. See financial report on page 2.

President's report & election of office bearers & talk on **fascinating China forestry tour**.

Master Tree Growers Course planned for autumn 2006

In conjunction with Rowan Reid from Melbourne Uni, Peter, Bob, Amy and Geoff are organising the next course. This will be the 63rd course of this very successful national program that is comprised of eight sessions in blocks arranged to suit participants and will include:



- ◆ **Mastering trees on farms** (1 day) — designing for shelter, controlling land degradation, wildlife habitat and generating income
- ◆ **Trees for conservation and profit** (3 days) — reviewing prospects for timber and non-wood products, carbon, biodiversity and environmental services
- ◆ **Integrating trees on our farms** (3 days) — field tours and expert presentations on opportunities for multi-purpose tree growing on participant's properties
- ◆ **Shaping future landscapes** (1 day) — review regional R & D needs and more

Sponsorship from Landcare Australia and Computershare is expected to keep costs down to \$100-150 per person or per property but the course will need to be limited to 20 participants. An 'official' call for commitment from participants will be made in the summer newsletter.

Information will be posted to non-AFG members that expressed interest in an MTG course at Firewood Expo. Visit www.mtg.unimelb.edu.au for more information.

Australian Forest growers – representing & promoting private forestry

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Mt Lofty Ranges PF



www.mlrf.asn.au

& Private Forestry, KI



Adelaide Blue Gum established 470 ha this year and have developed a very responsible social and environmental charter. As a part of the AFG-managed technical support project, Geoff and Rob from Rural Solutions SA have been updating and writing some new **farm forestry fact sheets** including species, milling & drying and timberbelts, taxation and investment tips — downloadable from www.ruralsolutions.sa.gov.au.

A submission has been made to the Natural Resources Management Council inquiry on the **impact of forestry on water flows on Deep Creek**. Email pbulman@bigpond.net.au for a copy of the one-page submission.

A bid for **funding for multi-purpose tree planting** has been made to the National Landcare Program.

Sandy Farquhar is the new Executive Officer of Private Forestry, KI — replacing Anthea who is now working for Great Southern Plantations. Sandy can be contacted on 8553 0330 or sfarquhar@hotmail.net.au.



Treecorp Australia Ltd has been wound up and it seems that Jim Witham is back to providing resource management. Mike Thomas is still on KI and involved in the management of the NEC plantations.

With opening rains not coming until mid June, **Great Southern Plantations** did well to plant nearly 3,500 ha of *E. globulus* on KI mostly using local contractors and labour. Weed control (by over spraying), firebreak preparation and integration fire fighting arrangements with the CFS have been the focus since planting.

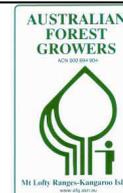
Habitat trees in England — Clare Buswell

In July this year, on a work related trip to the UK, I chanced upon a private forest grower. Over the past ten years or so he has planted out 100 acres of land in the Norwich area to structural timbers. He still has a similar amount of land available for forestry and was gearing up for this seasons planting of similar species when the Blair government changed its mind on the funding of tree plantations. The change of mind consisted of moving money away from structural timber to making habitat plantations the priority. As a consequence of this, this grower was off to buy a bit of the Norwich Broads that luckily had come up for sale next to his property. His aim was to utilise the existing habitat of the Broads by encouraging regeneration and use the subsidies from the government for extensive replanting. Yep, money plants trees, both kinds it seems!

Balance sheet 2004-05

Opening balance	\$4983.08
Revenue	\$1580.90
Expenditure	\$996.41
(Agroforestry News, Newsletter, postage and field day costs)	
Closing balance	\$5567.57

Promote AFG by showing that you are proud to be a member and displaying a gate sign on your property. Signs are available at every meeting.



Policy forum in Melbourne — October 18-19

Your President Bob Long and Peter Bulman are representing the MLR-KI Branch in at the Policy Forum in Melbourne Tues 18–Wed 19 October. It is a great opportunity to get to know growers from other regions and influence where the National Office staff put their efforts. If you would like to participate, our Branch has provision for one more delegate and a \$275 entitlement to cover transport and accommodation costs. Any one is welcome to contact Bob or Peter with policy or membership issues.