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What's happening next ...

Annual General Meeting and next **field day** 10am Sunday October 8th — at Tony Dickson's at Inman Valley for **pruning, tractor gadgets for harvesting firewood and experiences marketing firewood** — farm walk, AGM, TFYA presentation, **BYO picnic lunch** — take Yankalilla/Inman Valley road from Victor Hbr, TL at Back Valley Rd, 2.5km TR at Keen Rd, 2km RHS at top of ridge is Ferret Farm.

Contact Bob or a committee member if you would like to host a summer field day or suggest another function of value and interest to members.

At the last check, the conveners of the AFG Biennial conference have 250 registrations, so all looks well for a very interesting conference. Unfortunately our branch is not as well represented as in the past but I am looking forward to visiting Tasmania again and getting the buzz when like-minded people 'talk forestry'. I'm sure that last minute attendees will be welcome.

Congratulations to **Tony Brookman, winner of the 2006 SA Tree Farmer of the Year** (see p2).
Bob Long, President

Recent events ...

Dinner meeting with two guest speakers:

1. Martyn England from PIRSA—outlining the impacts of reforestation on run-off and water quality. The community concern over water prescription and forestry does not seem to be warranted—there need be no threat to irrigators or the Fleurieu swamps. In fact, changing from grazing to forestry will immediately improve water quality and protect swamps from grazing.
2. Steve McNamara & John Chambers from EnviroSystems (2nd top pic)—providing a wholesale outlet for plantation-grown firewood at Verdun and interest in collaborating with growers on harvesting, processing and transport. Efficient transport costs seem to present a major challenge because of loading costs and need to maximise truck volumes.

Master TreeGrower/AFG field day:

Karl from **Bush Timbers** (3rd top pic)—markets about 20 native species for specialist uses. He highlighted the lack of a local hardwood sawlog industry/markets and portable milling challenges.



Russell Washusen (adj. pic), CSIRO researcher on **wood properties and processing**—illustrated the technical feasibility of producing and milling fast-grown high-quality hardwood sawlogs.

Pfitzner furniture (bottom pic)—John Pfizner highlighted the importance of quality and reliability needed from timber suppliers ... and the challenges of competing with cheap imports with high-quality solid-wood products.



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SA Tree Farmer of the Year—Anthony Brookman



Mt Lofty Ranges PF



Ensuring adequate provision for forestry development in the Water Allocation Plans for the E and W MLR is progressing slowly—with impending MLRPF representation on a Community Advisory Committee for the E MLR.

The Minister's visit to the region is aimed for November — in conjunction with the release of the swamp guidelines being prepared by an independent ecologist and hydrologist — to identify the setback distances for plantations from swamps needed to protect swamp ecology.

Introduction to farm forestry workshops/field trips generated interest with the groups 'rounded up' from Stony Creek Catchment (near Mt Pleasant) and the Land Management Program — from near and far. Future sessions are mooted for Willunga and Yankalilla.

www.mlrfpf.asn.au

Private Forestry, KI



PFKI is hoping to have an Exec. Officer by end of 2006, having re-advertised as a full-time position for 2 years.

The NLP *Farm Forestry for Multiple Benefits Project* has been extended to 31 Dec 2007—aiming to provide incentives to KI landholders for plantings that address a range of natural resource management issues. To register your interest, contact Amy Ho, PIRSA Forestry on 8291 5418.

A draft KI Regional Transport Strategy is currently under preparation by Strategic Design & Development. PFKI hopes it will encourage all levels of government for funding for significant road haulage infrastructure over the coming decades.

PFKI is considering requests from CFS Region 1 to (a) nominate a forestry liaison officer to participate in incident management, and (b) supply GIS datasets of existing plantations. It is hoped to fulfill the requests by the coming fire season.

Plantation Design Standards—Farm Forestry

These 'guidelines' are finalised at long last and have been circulated to local government planners! Our branch had a meeting on the subject at Willunga 'yonks' ago. In summary, these minimum standards apply to planting of <100ha and involve:

- ◆ Firebreaks as fuel reduced areas which may include non-flammable strips
- ◆ Seven metre firebreaks for plantation <40ha
- ◆ Ten metre firebreaks for plantations 40-100ha
- ◆ A vehicle access track on firebreaks
- ◆ A minimum of seven metres width on access tracks to allow fire vehicles to pass—with pruning to 4m high if necessary for vehicle clearance

- ◆ Enough access tracks to keep enclosed plantation areas <40ha
- ◆ Access tracks aligned to provide straight-through access at intersections where possible
- ◆ Signposting and turnarounds for where dead-end tracks are unavoidable
- ◆ Setbacks of at least 35m from dwellings with fuel reduction in the plantation to at least 50m

Note that although it is desirable to have water supplies to aid fire suppression, this is not mandatory.

Now get stuck into your firebreak preparation for this summer and remember that insurance is available through AFG.