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AUSTRALIAN FOREST GROWERS - REPRESENTING & PROMOTING PRIVATE FORESTRY

Mt Lofty-KI AFG Newsletter



What's happening ...

Stuart Rayson from the *Logging Industry Training Association* has run a number of very successful local **chainsaw courses** for AFG over the years — covering chainsaw maintenance and safe operation. At the moment Stuart has a contract for the CFS training on most weekends but he is enthusiastic about doing a week-day course for us in late September.

With the maximum number of eight participants, the cost would work out to about \$200 for a two-day course. Pending interest shown by members, the committee will consider using some branch funds to provide a subsidy for members.

Register your interest with me or Peter by the end of August.

And let me know what you would prefer for our **AGM on Sunday September 16th** — a BBQ at a home or property or a pub meal with or without a guest speaker eg on **trees, water and swamps** (all options free for members excluding drinks). I'm ready to stand down as President so have a think about who you would like as your next President.

Please call 8251 1217 or email me rjlong@ozemail.com.au for any further information.

Bob Long, President

Kangaroo Island field trip

Simone and Bob organized an excellent KI field trip at the end of May. It involved a ferry crossing and minibus tour to farm forestry, blue gum plantations, pine plantations, the new sawmill and some good tourist attractions.

Here's some pics taken by Louisa and some straight-to-the-point words from Jill Stone who 'found that the most striking thing was that no-one really had any idea what they were going to do with their timber. Firewood seemed to be the only realistic option, so there was very little pruning going on. The one mill is only taking radiata pine of which the supply is due to run out in a few years since no one is planting it

anymore. While there is mature blue gum, the lack of a port and chip facility is holding things up.

However a good time was had by all and Malcolm Boxall (top right) has THE most amazing setup at his farm!



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Mt Lofty Ranges PF update



The main points of interest:

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- ◆ **The Deep Creek enquiry** — very disappointing to see a small percentage of the catchment in forestry blamed for all the reductions in stream flow of Deep Creek whilst the impact of dams is effectively ignored
- ◆ Feedback provided for the draft **Emu Wren Recovery Plan** — to see **forestry development as an opportunity** for exclusion of grazing from swamps, protection of remnant native vegetation under Heritage Agreements and opportunities for revegetation on non-planted areas to link habitat and **NOT A HYDROLOGICAL THREAT** now that there is agreement on how to work out the buffer areas needed to protect swamp hydrology and ecology
- ◆ Outer Metropolitan Adelaide Region **planning strategy** — at last there seems to be recognition that forestry is a low risk to water quality, hence it is expected that planting pastures to forest will be ‘as-of-right’ and rather than being rejected by local government and then having to be appealed in the courts ... this change is fundamental to Adelaide Blue Gum (ABL)
- ◆ **Water** allocation planning (WAP) — need to have ABL credited with having made the decision to invest in the

region and be given a licence or permit to plant; until the WAPs are done and legislated, there is no legal basis for the recommendations to reject applications by WLBC



Barrie Spencer suggests checking out the Forest.com website for some great machinery (see pics) <http://www.forest.com/>

PFKI update



The AFG tour of KI was held on 26 and 27 of May and went off without a hitch. Thanks to all who made the trip and those whose properties and business we visited especially Island Beehive and Andermel Marron.

Two parties have decided to plant a total of 5ha of farm forestry (4 ha *Eucalyptus cladocalyx* and 1 ha *Corymbia maculata*) as a part of the Farm Forestry for Multiple Benefits scheme which is funded by the Kangaroo Island NRM Board. Unfortunately the interest and implementation of this project wasn't as successful as we'd hoped, as a result the committee is now looking into alternative ways to spend the remaining funding before the end of the year. There has also been some more planting undertaken on one of the existing properties, approximately 1000 trees so far with the anticipation of more in the next few weeks – weather permitting.

PFKI held a business planning day in June with Peter Day as facilitator. This was very productive and allowed all parties to express their views on what they wanted in this years business plan. After much back and forth communication between Peter and myself, we finally have the final document. A big thank you to Peter for facilitating the session for us and for his thorough work in completing the plan. The plan has plenty to keep the committee busy for the next twelve months and beyond. Simone.