

## **NOTICE OF AGM, ELECTION OF BOARD MEMBERS and**

### **Field Day**

### **Marketing and Milling Options for Thinnings**

Our next Annual General Meeting will be held at 10.30 am on **Sunday October 21st** at the Highlands Hall, **Highlands**.

We will be spending most of the day in the field viewing a 1 yr old plantation (*to get you enthusiastic about establishing further plantations*) and hearing various speakers unfold the story of processing shining gum logs from Alistair Lade's plantation. (See below for details)

Three members of our Board are up for re-election.

It would be nice to have new faces on the Board to continue the work being done to continue pushing the aims of the Co-Operative.

Please give this some thought. Nomination forms in this issue.

## **BUSINESS PLAN NEWS**

A business plan developed by external consultants (Forestry Pacific P/L) in 2001 identified that one of FFORNE'S major objectives should be to establish 1000 hectares of well-managed new plantations on farms annually for the next 20 years in order to grow the mass of high quality logs necessary to give FFORNE marketing strength.

An agreement for private landholders and plantation investors to use, to enable this plantation establishment investment, has been developed. The agreement includes an entity, such as FFORNE, being the manager. To progress this further the board has advertised for a General Manager. Interviews for this position will take place early in October. The board also wishes to recognise

that a member recently donated \$100 towards the employment of our manager – this is welcome support for the board regarding the importance of such a position for the future of the co-operatives development.

## **FFORNE BOARD NEWS**

At the last board meeting, the board agreed for FFORNE to be a major sponsor for the Plantation Eucalypts for High Value Timber Conference. If you are interested in attending this conference visit [www.eucs4hvt.org](http://www.eucs4hvt.org). Tony Richardson reported the FFORNE website will be up and running in October. FFORNE will also be part of a joint proposal to the Sustainability Fund seeking support for a bio-energy trial using plantation thinnings and residues as fuel. The board also moved to register the FFORNE logo and to support a Master Tree Growers course being organised by Roger Cross- a Private Forestry graduate recruit working for DPI out of Wangaratta.



FFORNE board members, Philippa Noble, Angus Howell, Chris Tuck, Tony Richardson and John Woodley. Absent, Peter Houghton, John Goldsmiths, Rob Richardson and Andrew Walpole.

## **MASTER TREE GROWERS COURSE FOR FFORNE PLANTATION GROWERS.**

**Now open for registrations.**

A Master Treegrowers course specifically aimed at growers with mature plantations is now open for registrations.

The course aims to cover many of the issues

that landowners with maturing trees face, such as ongoing stand management for best results, planning for harvest and understanding potential markets for forest products.

The course will involve a range a specialist speakers on a variety of topical issues which have been brought together to provide growers with the necessary skills and knowledge to manage their forests for the best possible outcomes.

Other topics include new and emerging markets, taxation, insurance, marketing and post-harvest site management. There will also be an opportunity for participants to provide guidance to the course's content regarding the issues they currently face.

The first session of this course is planned for the 13<sup>th</sup> October 2007, with registrations required by Monday 8<sup>th</sup> October. For more information and registration, refer to the accompanying brochure or contact Roger Cross of the Department of Primary Industries on (03) 5723 8682.

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### **FIRE PREVENTION TIME**

The CFA has recently produced a booklet "On the Land-Agricultural Fire Management Guidelines" which is available at CFA or government offices. It includes sections on fire management for plantations, and is well worth a read. Such things as making gaps in the vertical continuity of the plantation to minimise the risk of fire moving to the crowns of the trees by pruning, slashing, bark management and careful placement of shrubs. Perimeter breaks of at least 10 m incorporating access tracks are recommended.

Plan early and undertake fire preventative action NOW.

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### **A PLANTATION STORY- PINES**

Russ Ritchie of Stanley established 12 acres of Pines during 1954-56. Over the years he sold thinnings as Xmas trees, round posts and pulp to AFI, as well as salvage logs from a snow /wind storm to AFI. Harvesting commenced in 1987, with veneer logs marketed to Wagga, pulp logs to ANM and case logs to Markwood. Further harvests in 1993,1997 and 2001 were sold as peeler veneer logs, sawlogs, and pulpwood. The remainder of his trees were severely burnt in 02/03 but still salvaged and sold as veneer

and sawlogs to Carter Holt Harvey, small logs to Monsbent and pulp to Alpine MDF. In total approximately 2,295 cubic meters of timber were sold over 48 years, grossing \$72,051, this came out at \$6,043/acre (\$14,500/ha). As a plantation grower Russ, was classified as a primary producer for taxation purposes, so the profit from the sales was able to be deposited into a farm management deposit scheme with tax only payable on interest received.

Some of his comments

*"Basically the plantation owner has to overcome the problem of finding a reliable purchaser, in competition with a government supplier or other large volume supplier, and locate a reliable contractor, prepared to operate in what to them may be considered to be a marginal operation, on a small area of forest. This operator must also be capable of preparing the produce to the satisfaction of purchasers, and delivering it when and where required by the various purchasers involved. This is not a simple operation at all, and can be very difficult and time consuming until you have organised the operation a few times. Even then, with the elapse of time between fellings, one or more of your contacts may have gone out of business and you have to overcome that loss and start all over again, on the segment that was missing."*

This story is a good example of the benefits of a co-operative, as although the aim is to produce sawlogs, there will always be many other products from the plantation, and therefore a range of buyers involved in any harvest.

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### **SMALL SAWLOG TRIAL**

In May, four, nine-year-old plantation grown Shining Gum (*Eucalyptus nitens*) logs were taken by trailer to Corsair timbers at Yackandandah for a sawing trial to examine their recovery potential off the saw. The 25 – 30cm logs were measured for their volumes prior to sawing and ranged from 0.14 to 0.22m<sup>3</sup>. All were 3m in length.

The saw used was a Wood-Mizer LT70 and operated by an experienced operator and it took around an hour to process the 4 logs. Although the timber did not react significantly



during sawing, the recoveries of less than 35% for the largest diameter log (and a further loss was expected through the drying and dressing process), were not high enough to warrant the transport and processing of a larger stock of the same resource. Thanks to Alistair Lade for supplying the logs, John Woodley for transporting them and Dennis Brown and Neil Padbury for milling them.

Further investigations for sawing small eucalypt logs using a Hewsaw are underway. Monsbent has such a saw (which is like a bean slicer, chipping all timber that is not able to make a board.) We are now looking for a semi load of blue gum logs to trial through this saw. Please let Philippa Noble DPI Wangaratta know if you have any logs from 15-35 cm diameter with lengths of 3.7m, 4.9m or 5.5m available for such a trial. Ph 0357 238 686.

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### **PLANTATION THINNINGS' UTILISATION**

Standard mechanical harvesting equipment currently available in Australia is generally not appropriate for processing first thinnings in eucalypt sawlog plantations, especially if sites are small, that is up to 20 ha in area. The out-row system of removing completely every 3<sup>rd</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> row, works well in softwood plantations where growth stresses are low and genetic quality is high. In eucalyptus plantations, where growth stresses can be high and genetic quality often low, out-row thinning may be unnecessarily removing trees that could otherwise be retained for sawlogs. Furthermore, it potentially upsets the balance in stand competition creating uneven growth in individual trees closest to the out-row.

Philippa Noble, DPI Private Forestry is managing a project supported from the Plantation Investment Strategy, and funded by the Victorian Government, which is exploring options for harvesting thinnings that generate a return at least sufficient to offset the costs. A number of collaborative investigations, pilot trials and full research trials, interviews with industry, literature reviews and internet searches, are involved. The project hosted a national symposium to share research and development activities and identify priority areas for future work. The investigation of harvesting methods includes:

- time and motion studies of manual harvesting,

- a consideration of the potential of a number of small-scale harvesting machines,
- the development of a tractor front-end-loader-mounted shear harvester designed by an RMIT engineering student, and
- a comparison of an excavator-mounted harvester with a purpose built rubber tyred harvester (see picture below) in cooperation with Woollybutt Pty Ltd.



Manual harvesting of firewood can be profitable if stems are between 12 and 25 cm, with costs of \$121 / air dry tonne when labour is valued at \$25/hr. Purpose built harvesters caused little retained stem damage and achieved 100% higher productivity in 1<sup>st</sup> thinnings of a 13-year-old blue gum plantation than excavators with harvest heads, which caused substantial stem damage.

Chipping of first thinnings on site for mulch and biofuels has also been investigated with promising results to date showing that manual or bob-cat feeding of the chippers is capable of making >\$1,000 /day profit. Further information will be published as results come in.



*John Goldsmith, FFORNE Co-op Chairman, in his plantation near Jamieson*

*This newsletter is produced by Philippa Noble. The FFORNE Hardwood Co-operative disclaim all liability for any error, loss or other consequence which may arise from you relying on any information in this publication.*

# *FFORNE Hardwood Co-operative Ltd*

## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & FIELD DAY**

### ***Marketing and Milling Options for Thinnings***

**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2007**

**Highlands Hall, Highlands**

*32 km east of Seymour on the Highlands Rd, or  
16km north of Yea on the Ghin Ghin Rd.*

***\$15.00 per person***

#### ***Day to include***

- 10.00 am    Registration and coffee
- 10.30 am    FFORNE Annual General meeting
- 11.15 am    Travel 10 mins to a joint venture shining gum and red gum hybrid plantation;  
discuss species, establishment and joint ventures.
- 12.00        Travel 5 mins to Alistair Lade's plantation  
Lunch

*Demonstrations of tree falling, portable saw mills, band saw and lucas mill.*

#### Speakers;

**Alistair Lade** FFORNE grower- investigations and experiences of portable milling

**John Coyne** Band saw mill - experiences with milling Alistair's logs using a band saw

**Ian Shultz** - milling and grading small sawlogs

- 3.30 pm    Finish

#### **Please RSVP by Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2007 to:**

Peter Houghton

PO Box 538 Benalla 3672

Phone (03) 5766 4212 Fax (03) 5766 4393

Email: phoughton@bigpond.com

Mobile 0428 316 813

**NOMINATIONS FOR ELECTIONS OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Elections will be held to elect 3 new Board of Directors. The Election of Chairman to take place at the first Board Meeting after the Election of Directors.

The Board calls for nominations from members for election to the Board of Directors of the Co-operative.

**Rule 39 Qualifications of Directors**

- (1).A person is not qualified to be a director unless he or she is –
  - (a) A member of the co-operative or a representative of a body corporate which is a member of the co-operative (“member director”)

**Rule 41 Election of Directors**

- (3) A nomination must –
  - (a) Be signed by 2 or more members~ and
  - (b) Provide details of the qualifications and experience of the person nominated’ \*\*\* and
  - (c) Be accompanied by a notice in writing signed by the candidate agreeing to his or her nomination

\*\*\* Brief résumé, dot pointed, not more than half A4

**Nominations Close Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2006 at 4:00 pm**

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**NOMINATION FOR ELECTIONS OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2007 / 2008**

(Proposer)..... Signed .....  
(print name)

Nominator..... Signed .....  
(print name)

Secunder..... Signed .....  
(print name)

**Return to:**

**The Secretary  
FFORNE Hardwood Co-operative Ltd.  
PO Box 538 Benalla 3672  
Fax (03) 5766 4393  
Email: phoughton@bigpond.com**

**FFORNE Hardwood Co-operative Ltd.  
PO Box 538  
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