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	Barry Hanson	0408 132 484
	Val Fennell	0417 818 338
	Alwin Goetze	0448 249 454
President of JIV	Brian Stewart 212	0407 798 269

ADVICE OF ATTENDANCE

Please advise either to Lew Parsons at 8725 2711 or to Maurie Drewer as per the advices in the Purrer, usually by the prior Friday.

Gurdon Tails, the Gurdon awaits your confidential advices.

- * **Club Subscriptions.** If paying direct by credit please advise dajadid@westnet.com.au by e-mail quoting invoice number. Subscription notices are out. Please pay them asap.
- * <http://www.hoo-hoo.org/> and <http://www.hoo-hoo.org/log-tally.html> are contacts for the HHI Website and Log and Tally. Purrer copy to brsjpage@bigpond.com.
- * Hopefully everyone is receiving the **Purrer by e-mail**. This is our only circulation. The Purrer circulation list has been checked against the J IV Directory and some added. **All have the 2015-2016 JIV Directory.**
- * **Purrer Editorial Policy!** This is retained being "never let the truth get in the way of a good story". The Purrer Editor welcomes good stories at all times! Similarly Gurdon Greg Richardson welcomes good stories as well. Discretion as to the source is perhaps assured.
- * **HHI Website.** Go to www.hoo-hoo.org and the HHI Home Page then Claim Account.
- * **From Border Watch Archives December 19.** 5 Years ago 2012, 20 workers lost their jobs at the closure of the Kalangadoo Treatment Plant. The CFMEU lamented the closure of three timber processing plants in a week and put an urgent focus on a biomass power station. 10 years ago 2007, closure of seven fire towers was declared ludicrous by the CFMEU.
- * **JIV Nine Lives.** This was emailed by Trish Waters on December 14. Our efforts with Judy Barnett, a Norton Ladkin Memorial Fellowship awardee was mentioned. The passing of Dick Campbell 77398 and Rameses 80 was noted.
- * **JIV President Brian Stewart,** will attend the Robe Weekend with Marilyn Stewart.
- * **CFS statistics** for October 17, 2017 to January 10, 2018 were 650 blazes. More than half were deemed deliberate or unidentifiable. Police fined at least one person every day for recklessly or carelessly starting fires. Burnoffs without permits, campfires and vehicles and fires started during harvesting or slashing were some causes.
- * **Club executive** will have a short session soon to finalise future programs.
- * **Clean-up!** The Purrer editor enjoyed a cleanup of of papers etc called files! Multiple copies, stray material from other files, were binned and order restored! Some of our projects when assessed indicate a busy club. The 2011 TMA Tour was one truly great project.

FEBRUARY 2018 AT RED, RED ROBE!

THE PURRER



The official organ of the

. The Mt Gambier Timber Industries Club #214 .

. Affiliated with the International Order of Hoo-Hoo .

. PO Box 1311 .

. Mt Gambier SA 5290 .

ABN 76 779 136 256

<http://www.hoo-hoo.org/> HHI Website
<http://www.hoo-hoo.org/log-tally.html> for Log and Tally.
www.hoo-hoo-jiv.org.au JIV Website.
Purrer copy to brsjpage@bigpond.com.

Meeting responses to lewparsons@bigpond.com or Maurie at mkdrewerdubai@gmail.com or phone Maurie 0408 394 296.

NEXT MEETING

ROBE WEEKEND.

Friday February 23-Sunday February 25th, 2018.

It is based at the residence of Val and Slim Fennell at 7 Lake Road, Robe. Units opposite are booked and can be used on Sunday and costs will be apportioned among users. When numbers are confirmed, Val will work out who brings food such as sweets and salads. Friday night is a barbecue either at Val and Slim's or at the rented units. Phone contact for Val is 0417 818 338. Or vfennell@fennellforestry.com.au. Replies and advice of attendance is required NOW or as soon as you can advise Val.

XMAS MEETING AT PERIWINKLES SATURDAY 2ND DECEMBER 2017.

18 attended a fraternal lunch at Periwinkles at the Bay. President Maurie welcomed all. Some wives were deserted, and the Gurdon has records on a member attending the Adelaide Test Match, and one going Clay Shooting. Our HHI Award was displayed. Bunbury JIV Convention was recommended. There were noted incidents among Chipper heads at the table's west end There was great fraternalism. It was a great day and with good food.

AN INTERESTING ARTICLE IN THE AUSTRALIAN NOVEMBER 29, 2017.

The EO of recently listed company, Midway spoke on forest and a chip industries. They own a chip loading plant at Geelong and one at Portland. Many MIS companies folded around 2010 but the MIS sector has since been transformed. It has a great potential to play a major role in sequestering carbon, adding to farm viability, and renewable biomass energy. Demand for wood products is growing. A most interesting note was that the Gunnensen family interests are a major shareholder. They had very long-term interests in our region as a major shareholder of the old Softwood Holdings Pty Ltd, taken over by CSR in 1987.

CALIFORNIAN BUSHFIRES IN LATE 2017!

There was terrible news in mid-December, of major bushfires around Los Angeles and down to San Diego. Ventura near LA suffered extensive damage with fire driven by high winds and over 60,000 acres were burnt. Many homes were lost including mansions in Bel-Air. December is supposed to be their winter! On 15/12, milder weather assisted controlling the fire, fifth largest in Californian history, with, 921 buildings destroyed including 720 homes. 100,000 people were evacuated including Film stars. Worries were the persisting Santa Ana wind. But heavy rains in mid-January caused major mud slides and 9 deaths with many of the existing homes swept away and pulped and totally destroyed. Nature can be so cruel.

ABARE FIGURES ON THE FOREST INDUSTRIES.

ABARES Forestry Statistics for 2016-2017 highlighted wood product exports of \$34 billion, and record harvest of 33 million m3. Logs were valued at \$2.5 billion. Other wood uses include bio-energy, and Cross Laminated Timber used in major commercial buildings as having huge potential. A shortage of pine for building, is affecting, the Melbourne Market.

Mill closures in our region, Mt Burr, Nangwarry, Dartmoor and Lakeside sawmills, Mt Gambier Pine, and Kalangadoo becoming a treatment plant mean local milling capacity is well down on the 1980's to maybe half.

In the 12 months to July 2017, migration into Oz of 245,400 persons pushed population past 24 million. Victorian and NSW were the biggest destinations. Natural increase of births less deaths was 142,600. Victoria is the fastest growing state growing by 2.3%. NSW grew by 121,794. Qld grew by 79,580 and WA in the 2017 year by 21,403. In SA, Tasmania and NT, and Canberra, population languished. Accommodation for population increase grows the need for construction activity and wood products. Economic data in shows first home buyers are buying more homes and investors buying less units, due to interest only loans being controlled. Rising employment and more business investment gave more confidence to the market and economy which had better economic indicators than for about ten years.

A reflection of this is record approval rates for residential construction of \$7.2 Billion in November 2017. Small residential projects are up 27% from a year ago. Real population growth is a strong and real stimulus. Employment growth in 2017 was over 400,000 jobs, and over 320,000 full time. A growing economy in 2018 is expected to drive growth.

ONE FORTYONE PLANTATIONS TO ACQUIRE MTG SAWMILL.

The Border Watch 15/12/2017 publicized acquisition of the Jubilee Highway site, being the old Woods and Forests site. ASIC evaluated purchase from Carter Holt Harvey, and finalized this on January 15. Strong and secure ownership of wood processing plants in this region is essential bearing in mind major losses in local processing over the years. The sawn timber market needs sure supply with shortages of pine in markets.

LIMESTONE COAST OPERA (LCO) FESTIVAL OF THE VOICE.

Chris Judd's baby will occur March 5-11. International Opera Singer, Michelle Buscemi is a main attraction. Melbourne Opera Orchestra will perform at Sir Robert Helpmann Theatre, with Opera stars and finalists in a national Opera award. A Master Class will be at SRH Friday March 9. A Night to Remember Concert is Saturday pm March 10. Other noted singers are Giancarlo Monsalve and Mattia Campetti. Budding Australian Opera Singers have video recordings assessed by judges of national and international repute. Tickets from the SRH email juddoo.lcopera@gmail.com. Workshops for regional singers will be had. LCO Chair Bill De Garis recommends this as a stellar festival weekend.

CFA BUSHFIRE TRAINING DEMO GOES TERRIBLY WRONG.

December 12, a CFA exercise went terribly wrong near Balmoral in Victoria. A senior CFA member used a cigarette lighter, during a lecture to light dry fuel to show how flammable it was. A fire got totally out of control, and Balmoral had to be evacuated at about 2 pm. It was finally controlled on December 13. There was no serious damage and an enquiry will be had. There are some seriously red faces in the local CFA.

Despite warnings and total Fire Bans, fire bodies are concerned at complacency, there not having been a big fire for some time. Dry grass is a serious risk everywhere. Over hanging trees too close to buildings are ignored. Fire risk activities such as welding and using angle grinders in farm and private properties, with buildings surrounded by dry tinder, continues to be done without nearby fire water.

The Sherwood Fire north of Keith, started by a faulty electric fence, burnt about 12,000 ha and over 6,000 sheep perished, on a very hot and windy January day. A CFS Unit was trapped. Several homes and farm buildings were lost. The CFS was severely hampered by lack of resources and lack of mobile phone coverage. The State Government Fire app failed again under little load and the app designers are to be legally challenged by the SA Government. It is of course, useless, if there is no mobile phone coverage.

There was a fire near Carikalinga. At Currum Downs in Victoria, a teenage female was arrested for lighting a fire that got away. Mid-January was a stark reminder of fire risk. Many small fires occurred, so many from careless acts, and also deliberate acts. Please note CFS statistics in Gurdon Tails. Hopefully February will be relatively free from bush fires and from severe fire risk days.

ROBE WEEKEND. DETAILS AS ABOVE.

Please advise of your attendance or apologies. To Val Fennell at contacts above. This will be a great weekend. JIV President Brian Stewart will attend. We hope the fishing is successful at Robe. This is our most fraternal annual event.