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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. Please pay up when invoiced.
- * <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. Circulation matches Directory plus some.
- * **Purrer Editorial Policy!**, is "never let the truth get in the way of a good story". Gurdon Greg Richardson welcomes good stories. Discretion as to the source is perhaps assured.
- * **HHI Website.** Go to www.hoo-hoo.org and the HHI Home Page then Claim Account.
- * **Good Results in the AFL. Top teams were Lions, Cats and Tigers** followed by a pesky Black and White bird. The Hoo-Hoo Cat was pleased and why we have 9 lives!
- * **Border Watch 50 years** ago September 2, **Eric Roughana, Chair of SA Sawmiller's Association** advised shortages of first class machinists, fitters and turners, and fallers. Despite good wages, many young men were not entering the industry. Investigations in better falling mechanisation was being investigated.
- This occurred in tree nurseries and tree planting. One notes that the viticultural industry also had little labour for picking grapes, and were early users of mechanical harvesting etc.
- * **Club Finances.** Treasurer Dave Didwell has updated the Board with finances with little activity to report. Club Subscriptions have been banked by JIV. Club Funds are OK. We note lower interest rates now lower interest income, as for all of those with cash deposits.
- * **Club Executive Meeting 28/09.** I remind of this. Club Executive awaits substantive details, and responses, and has nothing further at this time to report.

2019 MAGPIE SWOOPING PURRER

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.

KROONDROOK WEEKEND October 12th, 13th and 14th October 2019.

A Flier was and in attached Nine Lives **with the September Purrer.**

Added details in the September Purrer are repeated in this Purrer.

Our Xmas meeting will be Sunday 13th December for Lunch at Laurie and Chris Judd's and tasting of your best red is looked forward to.

At 24 Lake Terrace Street East, Mount Gambier.

Gurdon Greg Richardson will inspect wine offerings as a matter of course.

The Robe Weekend is in the first quarter 2020, dates yet to be set.

KOONDROOK 12th/13th/14th OCTOBER.

Cabin sites and cabins at the Koondrook Caravan Park are available. Contact John and Margo Forbes on 03 5433 2103. Koondrook on the banks of the River Murray is a beautiful place, with much history about hardwood saw milling and places to visit.

HHI CONVENTION AT WHISTLER SEPTEMBER 11-14 SEPTEMBER, 2019.

This is over, in British Columbia, Canada. Industry elements were of a high standard, especially global trade in wood products. Processing of massive Douglas Fir and Cedar was one excursion. We look forward to reports about HHI Convention, and also JIV Convention.

DEVELOPMENTS IN SIBERIA.

The Australian August 29, reported sawmills now built along rail-lines by Chinese investors. Russians and Chinese could be an axis against western countries. Timber products are taken to China for their domestic market. Conditions in Siberia are extreme and saw logs freeze. Many Chinese loggers are illegal, and burn forest debris on industrial scale.

Putin is reported offering Chinese investors a million hectares of land to plant soya beans. China cut US Soya Bean imports with Russian support, reducing imports from the west. A "Power of Siberia" gas pipe-line is almost complete and Russia will be a key Chinese energy supplier. Chinese money is investing in mining, and hi technology Russian Arms.

Siberia is a special place for Russians. Local environmentalists and nationalists are in protest about developments at Lake Baikal. Siberia is a place of special natural beauty. There are complaints about arrogant Chinese Managers, rapaciousness of Chinese companies, and much forest devastation, which stirs up the "spirit of the forests", within Siberians.

Later Fires in Bolivia, added over a million square km. Bolivians lament illegal logging, fires lit by squatter farmers, and horrific loss of native animals, insects, flora and fauna. A massive area inspected by Bolivian veterinarians, only saved about four injured animals.

MAJOR SEPTEMBER BUSHFIRES IN NSW AND QUEENSLAND.

15/09, NSW Firefighters were fighting fires near Coff's Harbour and Tenterfield. Many fires were ablaze with winds over 85 km/hr. Queensland fires were at Beechmont, Sarabah and Stanthorpe. Fire bombers were limited to day hours only and cannot provide night cover. Many residents escaped to safety and many homes were lost. State Commissioners advised of there being no past records of such intense fires this early. Large numbers of Firefighters from all over Australia have flown in to assist the massive firefighting effort.

Later fires were widespread and one set fire by youths. Fires in National Parks with little property risk, were left to burn acting as a control burn. Higher winds added to fire ferocity. One wonders about losses of native animals and of the many farm animals left to fend for themselves. Reports also advised little plantation forest was lost. 19/09, 100 mm of rain fell in Sydney and extent of rain into fire affected areas was unknown.

Rains in our region could add some safeguard against our local fire risk. Rain projections are for a dry end of year. Rain in my Mt G rain gauge was 137/1/2 mm July, 68 1/2mm August and 75 1/2 mm September, and decent, with much standing swamp water evident along most local roads, and well past Penola, and into Glencoe etc.

ASTHMA SEASON AND END OF PINE POLLEN.

Pine pollen has ended, but spring is a difficult for asthmatics. Drought or dry weather adds more risk for rural people. Trees such as wattles produce much pollen. Other risks are dust mites in homes, exposure to cigarette smoke, and reduced air quality due to thunder storms. Colds trigger asthma and hay fever. Rye grass pollen is a high risk.

MALAYSIA CLUB #275, 50TH, ANNIVERSARY CONVENTION

April 16th-20th, 2020 in Kuala Lumpur. They recommend booking flights early.

Possible JIV hosts of the 2021 and for 2022 have been suggested.

WATTLE RANGE COUNCIL SEEKS PROPERTY VALUATION CHANGES.

Border Watch Friday September 20, advised policy changes, to ease farmer's rate burdens assuming forest lands are under-valued. This seems a crucial matter.

One cannot dismiss this to not include sawmills and other wood processing entities. An over-valuation occurred with the Portland Aluminum Plant, many years ago, challenged and effected, which meant Portland Council had a significant loss of rate income from much lower property valuation, after removing expenses such as raw materials, product in stock, fork lifts, company vehicles, office equipment and laboratory needs etc etc.

A Portland particleboard plant, late 1970's incurred a similar vast over-valuation by the Victorian Valuer. Announced project cost was assumed as the site value. Costs removed were of forest felling equipment, rent on Portland a project control property, resins and hardeners, wood on site and finished products for sale, forklifts, company vehicles, office and laboratory equipment and anything portable. A good accountant would sort this out, including write offs of older equipment, depreciation and other matters.

In regard to forests and farming lands, forests usually do not have capital items like fences and buildings. For adjoining properties, one a farm, and the other a forest at clear fell, site value of the lands should be similar, and many farmers own more than a single farm block. Issue of water rights is surely, not a property value, but a separate tradeable asset. Sale of water rights may not have proceeded to date and needs to be substantiated. Trading water rights is an issue in the Murray and river systems, and much water has been purchased by non-resident water owners and this surely, sets a precedent for States and our region. Farmers are not rated on farm animals nor crops, and plantations are a crop and arguably should not be included in assessed property value.

POST SCRIPT. An interesting matter re September fire burnt lands. A survey of property ownership found most past fire effected owners many years ago, had sold their risky properties and moved to fire safe places. Many new owners were from cities and fringe city places, taking advantage of high selling prices, and moved to lower cost properties. They have no fire experience, or idea of risk, nor basic property protection needs, such as fire planning, issues of animals, planned evacuation procedures etc.

BIG SURVEY OF LIVEABLE PLACES. Top regional places are Warrambool 68.7% and South East 63.7%. Cities are affected by traffic gridlock and high property prices. Regions had a sense of community and social coherence, access to quality education, leisure, and value museums, galleries, festivals. Filling job vacancies is common to both.
