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## JULY 2018, WINTER RAIN CONTINUES

# 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.**

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<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](http://www.hoo-hoo-jiv.org.au) JIV Website.

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NEXT MEETING

Executive advises that there will be no July Meeting and Meeting programs are being sorted out. We remind that Koondrook will be on the program later in the year.

### 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](mailto: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](mailto: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 JIV 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](http://www.hoo-hoo.org) and the HHI Home Page then Claim Account.

\* **BUSHFIRES OVERSEAS.** Dry weather overseas has raised fire risk in the northern hemisphere. The UK is sweltering with very warm weather even in Scotland such as Inverness. There have been some forest fires in the UK! The USA has its usual fires which are often very large. Colorado has some large fires. Florida has been very dry and there have been some fires, rare in Florida. There is also news of trails of the biggest plane ever considered for fire protection and strategic water bombing.

\* **Death of Doug Howick of Melbourne Club** was covered this in the June Purrer. Tributes to Doug continue to recognise his contribution to entomology and wood protection from insect attack particularly termites. He will be sorely missed by the Timber Preservation Association which has become an important industry body and leads in industry treating standards, which roles have increased dramatically over the years. Contributions by CSIRO DFP luminaries such as Doug and Dr Harry Greaves and others have been outstanding.

### **TCA STILL SUPPORTING OUR TIMBER COMMUNITIES.**

To TCA members

A group of Victorian saw millers have been lobbying the Victorian Government on Timber Industry issues and I attach their related petition for your information and any action you feel is appropriate.

Regards,

Judy Pearce

Timber Communities Australia Ltd

[jpearce@tca.org.au](mailto:jpearce@tca.org.au)

This has been copied and pasted from an e-mail. An attachment was petition for support. The Victorian Timber Industry requires certainty and security of wood supply to protect local jobs and communities. More information can be got from [richard@royce.com.au](mailto:richard@royce.com.au). Sawmillers requiring certainty include A G Brown Sawmill, Dindi Sawmill, Fennings Timbers, Kelly's Timbers, Powelltown Sawmill, and Ryan and McNulty. All signed Timber Supply Agreements (TSA's) before June 30, 2017.

### **DANA NZ CONFERENCE AND FIELD TRIP OF UPGRADES LOG SUPPLY.**

An Email from Dennis Nielson features an upgrade on world supply of saw logs especially to China. It highlights the huge strides made by Russia. Russia has made huge strides in wood supply to China and the north Asia. In 2017, Russia supplied many times the wood supplied by the previous biggest supplier, New Zealand. Russia supplied 33% of the market on its own, NZ 15% down from 33 %, Canada 12%, Europe 6%, Australia 4%, Chile 1% and others 3%.

Russian saw logs would be Pinus Baltic Pine in the main. A question taxing the market is the huge investments and infrastructure, needed to maintain Russian supply over time. Most would be from Siberia which has severe winters. Sawmills in Siberia have to be in well insulated buildings and saw logs can freeze needing thawing out to be able to utilize. This might limit Russian production of timber products including panel products. When the Purrer editor was working at Softwoods, German suppliers of equipment for particleboard advised of the enormous problems caused by severe weather. Also rate of growth on trees is very low and saw logs would be higher density. Russian Far East supplies are reliable n/w but by 2030, would probably run dry.

The DANA event is October 1 and 2 and optional field tour in NZ, October 2 and 3, 2018. Chinese experts will address the conference. One suggest that being there to hear from ones major customers is a good idea.

### **RESEARCH REVOLUTION FOR THE LOCAL FOREST INDUSTRY.**

The Border Watch June 29 reported from a recent meeting of forestry scientists in Mount Gambier. A revolution in genetics technology is emerging around the world. These should fuel new products and jobs in our region. While much of this new genetic technology is aimed at the Hardwood sector, there are widespread spin-offs. A 7000 tree softwood site was inspected and the types of assessments of wood quality and growth rates. A new evolution of technology is occurring. While we locally are well advanced, research outcomes are changing fast. The next generation of trees is being worked on and the continuing support of research dollars is important and a longer term outlook. Many new jobs could become a reality.

Maybe the Club might host some meetings in this general area. A past talk about local drone technology and forest mensuration was a good example.

### **LAST CLUB MEETING. JUNE 18 AT THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN HOTEL.**

13 brave souls attended on a bitterly cold night with President Maurie Drew in the Chair. We were also happy to see Val and Slim Fennell and Raylee Moreland. David Didwell upgraded on our financial position. Convention at Bunbury was commented upon. Trish Waters of JIV reported in good spirit.

The HHI Snark Robyn Becket was a welcome attendee at our April Meeting at the Southgate. She really enjoyed her tour of Hoo-Hoo projects, the Hoo-Hoo Lookout at the Leg of Mutton Lake, the Railway Lands project, and our Pavilion at Umpherston Cave.

Dave Didwell was guest speaker about his visit to Nepal, unable to be done due to time constraints of the Indian tour preceding Nepal a few months ago. This was quite fascinating supported by photos of this land of 27.8 million people. The main religion is Hindu and many Stupas (Religious temples). Colors of flags represent natural events like winds and spiritual beliefs. One accommodation was the Raddison Hotel I Kathmandu. A flight over the Himalayan mountains was magnificent.

So many old buildings are being restored many going back centuries, and earthquakes are a constant threat and most buildings had supporting poles holding up facades. All work was by hand workers without mechanical assistance and both men and women worked tirelessly on these hard work projects. Safety equipment seemed non-existent. Many buildings were of timber which has a long life in these cold temperatures and no wood destroying insects. Little new technology was evident. It was like going back centuries in time. Bright colors were used. The talk and pictures were really eye-opening. Thanks Dave for the talk.

The multi skilled Dave collected a meeting fee and conducted the Gurdon session. A local football supporter reported a club fund raising auction and a Collingwood Jumper did not receive one bid! Obviously local football fans were very quiet with South, North and East being in the three lowest ladder positions.

Meeting closed not very later and every one scurried home to warm up after a short time outside with really bitterly cold weather at that time. Brrrr .

Future meeting programs were uncertain going ahead. Koondrook on the river Murray was expected in October and a joint meeting with Ballarat plus other c visitors eg NE Victoria. A few guest speakers are being sought and consulted with by Executive Members.

### **Note**

Koondrook in October.

2019 JIV Convention in New Zealand.

No meeting in July.

May not be a meeting in August.