

|                           |                             |                     |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| <b>President</b>          | Maurie Drewer               | 0408 394 296        |
| <b>Vice President</b>     | Laurie Judd                 | 0408 849 424        |
| <b>Secretary</b>          | Lew Parsons                 | 0437 173 402        |
| <b>Treasurer</b>          | David Didwell               | 0400 136 794        |
| <b>IPP</b>                | Greg Richardson             | 0428 230 888        |
| <b>Vice-Gerant for SA</b> | To be appointed by Club 212 |                     |
| <b>Purrer Editor</b>      | Brian Page                  | 0417 886 953        |
| <b>Gurdon</b>             | <b>Greg Richardson</b>      | <b>0478 912 994</b> |
| <b>Committee</b>          | Graham Fennell              | 0417 818 338        |
|                           | Barry Hanson                | 0408 132 484        |
|                           | Val Fennell                 | 0417 818 338        |
|                           | Alwin Goetze                | 0448 249 454        |
| <b>President of JIV</b>   | <b>Brian Stewart 212</b>    | <b>0407 798 269</b> |

### ADVICE OF ATTENDANCE

Please advise either to Lew Parsons at 8725 2711 or to Maurie Drewer as per 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 J IV Directory and some added. **All have the recent 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.** Please log -in as per previous advice.
- \* **Leuschenaultia Club 274 based in Bunbury, will hold the 2018 JIV Convention.** Dates are Thursday 12th April to Sunday 15th April, 2018. Mark this on your calendar. This Club is renowned for holding great Conventions. Highlights are magnificent Jarrah Forests and local hospitality.
- \* **The 125th HHI Convention is in Seattle, Washington State, USA and will be held from September 9-12, 2017.** [www.hoo.hoo](http://www.hoo.hoo) and locate the Convention site. Details of registration and accommodation are provided. Seattle is a powerhouse of our industry. Australian delegates include JIV Snark Brian and Marilyn Stewart of Adelaide 212, Ray Lamari, and Heather and Ron Gattone.
- \* **Award Entry at HHI.** Heather Gattone contacted our Club about an entry for Award at the HHI Convention for the **Datatrax Screen**. The JIV successful Award Entry was altered to meet the HHI Award criteria. Heather has a copy of this Award Entry and a copy of the USB of Datatrax Content which was used at the JIV Convention.
- \* **Suss emails.** The Purrer Editor reported a serious e-mail attack last Purrer. More are around eg [info@ebner](mailto:info@ebner) etc and [yok@zenkyo](mailto:yok@zenkyo) which include club members and Jivsecretary. Take care, do not open, junk file and delete. Both purported to be health supplements.

# BLACK NUMBER 9 MONTH

# 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](http://www.hoo-hoo-jiv.org.au) JIV Website.  
Purrer copy to [brsjpage@bigpond.com](mailto:brsjpage@bigpond.com).

Meeting responses to [lewparsons@bigpond.com](mailto:lewparsons@bigpond.com) or Maurie at [mkdrewerdubai@gmail.com](mailto:mkdrewerdubai@gmail.com) or phone Maurie 0408 394 296.

### NEXT MEETING

**MONDAY SEPTEMBER 11TH AT 6.29 PM for 6.59 PM.**

The September Meeting will be on Monday September 11<sup>th</sup>. Anthony Hay of the Flying Ants who flies drones over forests will be Guest Speaker. Venue the South Australian Hotel Outback Room (Southgate is not yet available). Acceptances and apologies to Maurie or Lew as above.

October Meeting will be Koondrook with Ballarat Club on the banks of the Murray River. Details in the Purrer. A Flier is attached.

HHI Convention is on from September 9-11 in Seattle. Our Datatrax project at the Umpherston Park Hoo-Hoo Pavilium is entered in HHI Awards and we await the result having swooped ion JIV Awards.

### **KOONDROOK, VICTORIA ON THE BANKS OF THE MURRAY.**

Check the internet, key in Koondrook Caravan Park, contacts are John and Marg Forbes, 5 Keene Street, Koondrook, Victoria 3580. info@koondrookcaravanpark.com.au phone 03 54532103. We join Ballarat and other Victorian Clubs at this River paradise. Dates October 14,15,16 2016. Please check President Maurie Drewer if going so our club co-ordinates attendance from our Club. Other Koondrook veterans David Didwell, Greg Richardson and Laurie Judd can add their comments and contact any of the above at the appropriate time.

Check your calendar before late September to follow up on Koondrook. Everyone has received the Fliers and this adds contact details. Adelaide Club 212 has also been e-mailed the Flier and this needed detail some time ago. October 13-15, 2017 are the dates.

### **EXOTIC PEST RISKS INCREASE.**

A recent T&F E-News updated on increasing risk of insect pests to our forests, due to increasing trade and greater risks of introduction of these. Sirex has been mentioned, a past pest problem in our pine forests. Border security and intensive surveillance of any plant materials coming into Australia is emphasized.

### **BORDER WATCH 50 YEARS AUGUST 1, 1967.**

An article **Timber Industries Impresses Premier** was a reminder of the growing Lakeside site under Softwood Holdings Limited. Premier Don Dunstan was pictured with a young **Eric Roughana** 73,782#. He visited the site from pine nurseries, preservation plant, sawmills and the extended Particleboard Plant. Some of those involved were past club members including **Bob Page** 73,781, **Don Downs** 73,374, **Peter Koren** 73,790, **Peter McConchie** 74,636, and **AJ Sorby Adams**. A comprehensive brochure was presented to Premier Dunstan. Intentions to further extend the site were outlined. Softwoods at the time employed over 1,000 employees in SA and Victoria, and ran four main mills and 15 smaller mills. Don also visited Panelboard in Mount Gambier at White Avenue.

### **NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR FOREST PRODUCTS FUNDED.**

The State Government has also agreed to provide \$2 million over four years adding to the promised Federal Funding of \$2 million. This is expected to drive innovation in the region's \$1.2 Bn forestry sector which underpins about 4,000 jobs in the region. The Institute will collaborate with UNISA.

Possible research pathways as later reported in the Border Watch include, carbon sequestered in growing forests, carbon stored in harvested wood and paper products, substitution of high emission materials with wood and other fibre based products, and use of woody biomass for renewable and baseload energy generation.

Our Club has had keynote speakers on important issues and could add Cross Laminated Timber production for low carbon footprint building including high rise, and around this support products mainly factory produced such as flooring systems in multiple story buildings, structural components such as laminated beams and columns bearing in mind that local, production of these was much more common in previous years, use of fibre as plastic replacements eg paper bags, rayon cloth, etc. Our Club seems to have an important role in these objectives and having more VIP Speaker nights on these topics. The September Meeting and the talk on drones is an extension of our efforts on behalf of our industry.

The Institute is expected to be operational by the end of the year and the other node for industry focused projects will be housed in Tasmania. The loss of the CSIRO at the airport was much regretted and the new body is greatly needed.

### **WILDFIRES IN EUROPE.**

Major wildfires in Europe, during severe droughts, were near important French resort places such as the Cote D-Azure. Spain and Portugal also suffer. Rome has serious water shortages accentuated by an old, ailing water supply system where over 40% of water is lost due to leaks. Sounds like Adelaide! The Romans 2,000 years ago did a better job! We know the realities of fires and one hopes these fires, and those in N W USA and British Columbia, can be controlled most needing good rains to achieve this.

### **BIG NEWS FROM RUSSELL HAY 85,160.**

Russell e-mailed about the sale of Bildit Industries to Thompson BILT thanking clients, suppliers and staff for several terrific years, since purchasing Bildit 12 years ago. Russell has passed a significant birthday and it was his intent to 'retire' once at this age. Russell will stay as needed assisting the transition from one owner to another. Russell more land on the site and anticipates further work on this. Becoming fully involved as grandparents will take more of Russell and Margot's time. One must congratulate Russell on building up a saleable business which integrates well into the Thomson BILT building group.

### **A MINOR UPDATE ON CROSS LAMINATED TIMBER.**

Timber and Forest E-News updated on NZ CLT producer, X-Lam at Nelson, and the Canterbury city restoration after terrible earthquakes, is driving CLT construction based on earthquake resistance. Additional to this are low carbon footprints, quick construction times with CLT and other safer craned flooring components.

E-News reported testing in an earthquake tester in San Diego in California where a large CLT buildings was put on a massive tester. Simulated tests of a past earthquake and its recorded actions produced little damage. They will have at least one other test simulating other earthquake activity. One surmises that vertical and lateral movements and combinations of both provide realistic results. Such tests support CLT and Timber engineered construction which does so much better than concrete and masonry construction, which simply falls down.

### **HHI LOG AND TALLY.**

HHI Log and Tally is being prepared and the Purrer Editor has provided Press Releases to Stephanie Ornelas, the Editor. The Judy Barnett and TCA Meetings are reported. The Datatrax opening was too late for the last edition and hopefully this will be included. The Purrers also go to Kent Bond who inputs these into the HHI website.

### **BUILDING APPROVALS.**

Australian Building approvals rebounded 1% in June from May, after falling 5.6%. They are expected to drop 11%, an annual 20% decline, as regulators strengthen home-lending standards. There is real housing demand as populations grows. The trend is to apartment building, rather than typical homes on home blocks in cities and near CBD's.

Commercial and engineering Construction Industry activity is growing. Home building including city based apartments construction is growing due to cost of land and lack of available land. Cities all over the world must go up!

Employment is growing by about 15,000-20,000 new jobs a month. Under-employment (Casuals work) is slowly improving. The Aussie economy slowly grows. Export income is higher than import costs but this important surplus dropped a bit, due to lower iron ore prices. Exports from oil and gas fields, off-shore and on-shore keep money coming into Australia, rather than heaps leaving our shores.

### **DEATH OF AL MEIER.**

12/08 Past HHI Snark Al Meier passed away. Al was a great guy and made great friends with many Aussies. Bob Klintberg knew Al well when he had a year working in Seattle and was taken to local Hoo-Hoo Meetings and made great friends with Al and family. Brian Page also knew Al well and was assisted in plant visits when in Seattle while working with Softwoods, and particular with interest in thin panels, was able to get into some manufacturers of doors and other products which other wise would have been difficult to get entry to. Al also hosted Brian on local tours eg to the top of Mount Rainier and Brian also met the family. Using Hoo-Hoo at the time while on visits to the US was a good business advantage. Other Snarks, like Al, such as Jimmy Jones, went out of the way to help their new Aussie friends.

### **MORE GOOD NEWS ON CLT.**

US authorities have been doing major fire tests on CLT in large scale tests. CLT being like a very thick plywood, takes a long time to burn though but in tests for 2-hour fire tests so far is performing well and after turning off the massive fire on one side the other side prevents temperatures rising first then cooling to test needs quickly. This is testing for acceptance in International Building codes and ensuring fire safety including sprinklers and any measures needed are well established. This is aimed at establishing that CLT Buildings are safe along with not only CLT but accompanying other structural wood use as a whole design package.

This like the earthquake testing in San Diego will be important matters in acceptance of CLT, and acceptance by major developers and spur CLT Construction further.

And a massive new CLT Building will be built in Wellington, the tallest in NZ. An old tower will be demolished and the new CLT building completed in 2018. The fast erection speeds of CLT buildings being so much lighter is a major cost saving component.

### **LAST MEETING AT THE SA HOTEL ON MONDAY AUGUST 14.**

President Maurie was in the Chair and a small crowd of 12 regulars on a cool night. Finances were little changed from last meeting according to Treasurer Dave Didwell. The death of Al Meier a past HHI Snark was remembered. It is amazing how big Al was a very remembered personality. JIV 2018 at Leschenaultia Club in WA was recommended and we look forward to the final program. Dave Didwell has an appointment with glass people to check ways of reducing the glare problems with the Datatrac at the Hoo-Hoo Pavilion and an Award Entry at HHI has been forwarded to HHI. A TCA Ambassador in our region is being evaluated by Maurie Drewer, and an applicant is very interested. Maurie is following up on some funding. Brian Page will follow up on the Norton Ladkin Memorial Fellowship. The DVD to be shown would not run on the TV System and the Cedar Film would not show. Gurdon Greg Richardson was in good form and plundered hard. Meeting ended a little earlier than usual. Next meeting Program was confirmed.

### **TIMBER FOCUS 2017 IN THE BORDER WATCH.**

This was in a recent Border Watch. Our Club participated in the past in this. This edition was certainly very good press for our industry and a lot of valuable information would have helped the local community to know more of our industry and to appreciate it. Your Purrer Editor was pleased at the Green Triangle Forest Products information and changes in ownership etc as it took over the old Softwood Holdings plantation assets and since 2008 have been owned by Global Forest Partners. The loss of the KCA Pulp Mills was noted and stressed the need for plantations to be thinned on time or else they lose productivity and income for local jobs and inevitably, export of pine first thins, out of Portland, were understandable. Engineering and suppliers of logging equipment added to the interesting reading and information and let everyone know where many jobs and benefit were earned.

### **ARE HOUSING BUBBLES LIKELY?**

ABC TV recently had a negative session about high risks to the economy claiming a property bubble will come crashing down. If true, this was very disturbing to industries, like the Timber industry. It could put the willies up anyone. BUT the Australian in a feature on Friday August 25<sup>th</sup> blew this away by actually providing some actual facts!

Are homes unaffordable? Yes! 50,000 house loans are approved every month.

Are homes too expensive? Yes, but factors include land shortages, slow land releases by governments, and slow planning approvals. And demand is a factor.

Startling revelation that housing debt is twice incomes! Someone earning say \$90,000 pa has debt of \$180,000! So what, this has been the case forever! Most Club members buying a house years ago were more indebted than this and in the 70's, interest rates were over 10%, not around 5% today!

AND for every \$2 of income, average value of assets is \$9!

Second highest level of household debt in the world as percent of GDP! So, what!

Switzerland and Denmark and others are clearly not basket cases!

People are buying an investment property based on a phone call from a broker? So, what! People have been making such stupid decisions forever and that is their risk!

Australia has a Housing obsession? True a fact for years and years.

The ABC used economists, Doomsday callers for years who have never been right.

The Reserve Bank and Banks have tightened lending and while we should not rule out some comeback in prices but most economists agree that a 'soft' landing is more likely.

Other economic data. For the first time since the GFC, growth in globally significant economies are in sync. Economic growth in the euro bloc is outpacing growth in the US with growth in France, Spain and Portugal also outpacing US Growth.

### **CLADDING AUDITS FOR FLAMMABLE CLADDING.**

Serious audits are underway after many cladding fires. At this time Audits are limited to only Councils with high rise. There is a risk that strata titled assets will pass on the cost of replacing unsafe cladding despite being blameless. Builders and approval authorities who caused this situation seem to be getting off scott-free.

### **MORE FIRE TESTING ON STRUCTURAL TIMBER PRODUCTS.**

Fire testing on timber beams and other structural members are receiving much more intense testing. These highlight that timber might be flammable, but burning and charring is limited and structural retention of structural sufficiency is being proven safe. Such testing will in time assist recognition of what we all know about timber but needs this testing to slowly grow the case for timber as a truly safe structural material. We won't have cladding disasters from the claddings filled with unsafe foam plastic lightly clad in aluminum thin sheeting!

### **NZ SALES OF EXPORT LOGS.**

Value of structural quality export logs are now topping NZ\$127 a metric tonne. Wood mills are battling export markets for log supply with S1 logs priced above that of export A grade logs.

**September Meeting, on the 11<sup>th</sup>, please respond to the meeting notice.  
October Meeting is Koondrook and details are reminded in the Purrer**