

Smart signs



Early warning

A trial of radio-controlled flashing signs in the Monaro region of south-eastern NSW aims to warn motorists of approaching logging trucks.

Low visibility at the intersection of Mila Road and the Monaro Highway near Bombala makes it difficult for trucks to merge safely onto the highway.

Many logging trucks travel from the large timber plantations nearby to the intersection, where fog often reduces visibility.

Infra-red device detects trucks

Smart signs have been developed using an infra-red traffic logger that can detect the size and type of vehicle travelling along Mila Road.

When a large logging truck approaches the Monaro Highway, it triggers a laser sensor, which sends a radio signal to two 'Trucks entering' signs about 500 metres from the intersection.

Flashing lights warn motorists

The Smart signs on the highway then flash, giving motorists time to react and slow down to allow the heavy vehicle to merge safely.

By working together with Forestry Corporation of NSW and Bombala Shire Council, we have developed the truck detection system to warn traffic on the highway of approaching logging trucks.

The trial is supported by the South East Truck Safety Committee and is the first of its kind in NSW.

*A road safety message from Phil May,
Road User Safety Project Officer,
Roads and Maritime Services T: 02 6923 6544.*

Driver of the Season Andrew O'Sullivan



Background? I am 37 and have grown up in Tumut. My father worked in the timber industry and I have always enjoyed and been interested in driving trucks. I started with Bergins 10 or more years ago, then went to G&J Groves for a little while, and now work at Rosin Developments.

At present I am driving a B-double carting from Bathurst back to Visy at Tumut. I leave the yard about 4.45 am and go up into the forests near Bathurst, load the pulp wood and head back to Tumut, usually getting back at around 4.45 pm. It is a long day but I take it at my own pace. I go up and back five-days-a-week. I enjoy working for Rosins and they are right up there on the safety aspects of the job, which is essential these days.

Safety concerns? I do long trips so I have to be mentally on the ball and very aware of what other drivers are doing around me. I take regular breaks and do a safety check list in the morning before I start out. Because it is a long day you have to be very careful that you stay alert and get home safely.

The biggest problem for me is impatient car drivers. Most are pretty good, but you see dumb things happen, particularly when people don't realise how long it takes to get around a B-double when they overtake on single lanes. There are a number of trucks doing the same haulage route as me and we make sure we let each other know of any hazards on the route.

The 'Driver of the Season' will receive 'A Truckies Motoring Atlas of Australia' by UBD/Gregory's courtesy of Roads and Maritime Services.

Further Information

For further information please contact (02) 6981 4819 or go to the FIC web site:
www.forestindustrycouncil.com.au



Congratulations Malcolm Alexander



Congratulations to Malcolm Alexander on a magnificent career in forest industries.

The Australian Forest Products Association (AFPA) and Softwoods Working Group (SWG) congratulate Norske Skog's Malcolm Alexander on a terrific career, spanning more than 40 years in Australia's forest industries. Malcolm finishes up today with Norske Skog in Albury, where he has held senior positions since December 1993.

"Malcolm has always been and will continue to be a great advocate for forestry, timber processing and pulp and paper manufacturing in Australia," Acting Chief Executive Officer of AFPA, Gavin Matthew said.

"After studying forestry at the Australian National University (ANU) in the 1970s, Malcolm worked in Victoria and Tasmania with Australian Paper Manufacturers (APM), Huon Forest Products and Australian Newsprint Mills (ANM), before heading to Albury NSW and going on to work with Norske Skog.

"Australia's forest industries are very lucky to have many loyal servants like Malcolm and on behalf of AFPA, I wish him all the best in the future. This will be a future, he assures us, won't be without some sort of involvement in industry,"

"On behalf of SWG, I congratulate my great mate Malcolm for his work and service to forest industries in the South West Slopes region," SWG Chair, Peter Crowe said.

"Malcolm is one of those industry characters you love working with and he'll certainly be missed in industry and in the community.

"We wish Malcolm all the very best for the future and hope after fulltime work he can still find time to be involved in our renewable industries in some way."

FIC AGM and dinner



Member for Wagga Wagga Dr Joe McGirr, Deputy Premier John Barilaro, Liz Austen and Alan Cole at the FIC dinner. Photo Tumut & Adelong Times.

Fifty guests attended a very successful FIC annual dinner at the Tumut Golf Club on 21 June, which followed on from the AGM.

Guest speaker at the dinner, Deputy Premier and Minister for Regional NSW, Industry and Trade John Barilaro, spoke of the importance of forest products and the need for long-term commitment to the timber industry.

Before the dinner Mr Barilaro toured AKD Sawmill and Forestry Corporation's Blowering Nursery.

Outgoing FIC Chair Alan Cole thanked Adam Farquharson for his recent work acting as FIC's Executive Officer, and he made special mention of Megan Arragon of Tumut TAFE, for her excellent support in the absence of an executive officer.

Changes to FIC's executive following the AGM were Theresa Lonergan as Chair, Liz Austen as Deputy Chair and Adam Farquharson as Executive Officer.

Theresa Lonergan said she was looking forward to continuing to work with all members of FIC and TAFE.

"I am looking forward to bringing in new ideas to get young people involved in the industry, and to working with Softwoods Working Group with the introduction of the Forestry Hub," she said.

Remembering David Nuttall

Australian Forest Contractors Association (AFCA) on behalf of the entire forestry industry would like to take this opportunity to send our sincere condolences to Dave's family and friends during this difficult time.

Dave was a highly respected member of our industry, who made an enormous contribution over many, many years. He was inducted into the AFCA Hall of Fame for his contribution to the industry.

Dave and his family moved to Australia from New Zealand in the early eighties. In Tumut, they started a business with Lex McLean, Ryam P/L. Later they moved to Queensland where Dave and Mark Blackberry set up Sunchip.

At this point, Dave owned or was a partner in three major logging operations in three different regions. The next move was to Merimbula. The current business, Monaro Logging, is a well operated and managed business.

Dave was known for being a gentleman, trustworthy, humble, and someone who conducted himself with great honour and integrity. He was a good friend to many in the industry and will be greatly missed.