

## Heavy Vehicle Safety Forum Wagga Wagga

Transport is the backbone of the economy and the Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) and NSW Police is inviting transport owners, owner drivers, managers and subcontractors in the South West Slopes region of NSW to a free Heavy Vehicle Safety Forum.

The breakfast forum will be held on Wednesday 27 November at the Range Function Centre, 308 Copland Street, Wagga Wagga, 6.30 am - 12 noon.

The invitation is open to interested parties who operate a gross vehicle mass more than 4.5 tonnes.

The forum will provide the latest information from the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator, heavy vehicle inspectors, NSW Police, RMS, NSW Centre for Road Safety and Australian Trucking Association.

There will be a Q&A session with the opportunity for questions to be submitted prior to the event. And there will also be opportunities to interact informally with organisational representatives (corporate and local).

Topics include 'Chain of Responsibility', increasing efficiency and safety for higher productivity vehicles through improved access and connectivity on the road network, new technology trials, road safety, enforcement, compliance, behavioural factors, access permits and key industry trends.

TAFE NSW will have a truck simulator, and Martin Levey, senior psychologist with the Australian Army, who is an expert on fatigue and safety, will also be at the event.

Teletrac Navman, co-sponsored by Road Freight NSW, will have Gavin Hill from Transport Certification Australia attending and presenting on the telematics work he is currently doing with Transport for NSW.

During the past four years in the South West region there have been 463 truck crashes with 36 people killed. Transport operators/owners are the advocates on road safety and the RMS is calling upon their support to promote safety on the roads.

Please register for the forum by 22 November at <https://heavyvehicleforumwagga.eventbrite.com.au>

For further information please contact RMS Road User Safety Officer Emma Reynolds at [emma.reynolds@rms.gov.au](mailto:emma.reynolds@rms.gov.au) or 02 6923 6771.

*A road safety message from Roads and Maritime Services  
Road User Safety Officer Emma Reynolds  
T: 02 6923 6771*

## Driver of the Season John Symons



**Employer:** Greenfreight Logging.

**Background:** I am 52 and started in the bush driving a forwarder and a harvester for Croziers after I left school in Tumberumba. I am the first one in my family to be involved in the timber industry. I love being outdoors and like the bush. I drive a B-double log truck for Greenfreight around Tumba and Tumut and sometimes to the Norske Skog in Albury (now owned by Visy).

**Major challenges:** Changing road conditions - such as heavy rain and snow in the winter, which makes the roads very interesting! You need to slow down and drive to the conditions. There are plenty of deer and kangaroos on the road and horses around Laurel Hill, so you have to be very alert, especially early in the morning and late in the afternoon.

**Safety:** I do a check of the truck every day which involves walking around the truck checking the tyres and making sure nothing is broken on the trailers - just general maintenance. I do 12-hour, two-week, morning and afternoon shifts. For the morning shift, I normally start at 3.30 am (sometimes at 2 am), and for the afternoon shift, I normally start around 3.30 pm and finish at 3.30 am. You have to try and get as much sleep as you can and try and maintain a good diet.

**Safety issues:** Maintenance on roads is a big thing. One of the biggest problems is impatient car drivers. Most drivers are fairly good, but you get the occasional person who is in a big hurry, and I do not think they realise how long a B-double is and how long it takes to get around one. I enjoy working for Greenfreight and they are big on safety. I feel the timber industry has been good to me and my family.

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

## Forum focusses on forestry training and skills

**O**n 6 September, a joint Forest Industry Council (FIC), Softwoods Working Group (SWG) forum was held at the Tumut Bowling Club, to discuss the skills and training issues associated with the local forestry and timber industry generally.

It was attended by more than 30 participants with representatives from harvest and haulage contractors, growers, processors, training service providers, Council, Regional Development Australia, Australian Forest Contractors Association, FIC and SWG.

The aim of the session was to identify skills development and training issues acting as constraints on the forest industry with a view to coming up with a range of options and opportunities that could be used to address the issues at a local level.

Discussion was robust and thorough with many good ideas being tabled that will form the basis of a report for action that is going to be prepared.

It was particularly encouraging to have active participation in the forum by some of the younger operators who are keen to see the next generation get involved with the industry.

Topics covered included:

- How to bring new starters on board
- Engaging with locals
- Dealing with perceptions of the industry
- Training and production
- What skills required
- Practical solutions to training
- Right people/right job
- Gender diversity
- Roles required
- Programs available

Further developments in this key component of the industry are being planned during the next few months.

## Toolbox Tips

### Preparing for fires in the forests

The fire season has commenced early this year due to extremely dry conditions across much of the state.

Machinery operators are reminded that they need to clean out accumulated dry materials such as pine needles, which can cause fires.

During periods of high fire danger, great care must be taken operating machinery in rocky areas, as sparks caused by tracks moving across rocky areas can easily start a fire.

Lightning is the most common cause of fire in the plantations, and arson is also a potential problem in the forests and surrounding areas.

If you see any suspicious activity, please report it to Forestry Corporation, the police or call 000.

In the event of a fire it is important to get assistance and fire fighting equipment to the scene as soon as possible.

In the event of a fire or any other emergency, please report it to 000.

In instances where a machine catches fire due to an electrical fault, the availability of a fire extinguisher is crucial to put out the fire with minimal damage to the machine, forest, and most importantly the operator.

Cigarettes can cause fires and smoking is only permitted in areas that have been cleared of flammable material such as roads. Any cigarette butts should be totally extinguished.

Smoking is banned in the open on days of Total Fire Ban or colour code red.

During periods of high fire danger, campfires or barbecues using wood, charcoal or any other solid fuel are banned in many state forests.

During a Solid Fuel Fire Ban gas appliances are permitted, except on days when Total Fire Bans are declared.



*Getting fit for fighting fires Forestry Corporation's Softwood Plantations Division General Manager Mike Beardsell, Sales and Procurement Manager Peter Stiles, Radio Technician Silvia Grant and new Regional Manager Dean Anderson.*

#### Further Information

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

