

NEWSLETTER ISSUE 15

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Busy Times Ahead

Things have been quite busy here at the Hub this past few months. As expected, our increase in membership has realised an increase in the use of our Simulator programs, to be utilised more and more as a pre start-up training tool. Feedback from our members is complimentary, and in a

nutshell, the common theme is that the new operator is not fast, but has a good understanding of the functions, is neat and tidy and can hit the ground running. Community group partner, Whitelion, is also currently conducting their pre-employment program. With the support of Arbre four of their young people are getting a big overview of the forest industry from stump-to-mill and beyond. There is also a practical training component being undertaken, this includes the National competency FWPSS00021 Skill set for an excavator operator. The group are gaining valuable employability skills and look forward to pursuing potential employment opportunities within the forest industry.



Pictured Above: Triple H Contracting trainee, Cody Burrows, undertaking the John Deere Timberskills forwarder training.

FIVE + 5

We are rolling out our Five + 5 program at regular intervals throughout the year. The first cohort went to the sawmilling sector with all that passed the course now in employment at Neville-Smith’s plant in Mowbray. We are now in the process of filling a class of 8 people for a pre-employment course focusing on the harvesting sector. This class will be up-skilled through the simulator programs on Feller Buncher, Harvester and Forwarder operating techniques, as well as National competency recognition in environmental, workplace health and safety and first aid units.

“Our industry is no longer dumb, dirty and dangerous...”

*-Colin McCulloch
Project Manager
Arbre Forest Industries
Training and Careers*

School Forestry Programs

Our school education program is about to fire up, which will be followed up by Workplace Exposure Opportunities (WEO) delivery for students at Mountain Heights High School in Queenstown. The first visitation to a Harvesting site is scheduled for the 23rd and 24th of March. This will lead into a follow up 4 week training program for up to 8 students. Our vision through this process is that we create a career pathway for these students and that the skills they receive will be an

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advantage to them and their respective employers. We are continuing to liaise with My Education and the Beacon Foundation, with a view of continuing the WEO in schools throughout Tasmania. Currently there is interest from two schools in the North-East and a College in the North-West to run Forest Industry Vocational Education programs (FIVE + 5).



Political Interest

The political process has found us with delegations from the Federal Labor party visiting the Hub over the past month. Firstly we had an hour with the Federal Member for Lyons, Brian Mitchell and his aid Darren Clark. This was followed up by a delegation from the Federal Labor party visiting on the 15th of March. There was some very complementary comments given to our process by the Federal



From Left: Senator Helen Polley, Hon. Brendan O'Connor MP, Hon. Ross Hart MP and Sam Hall Operator Solutions Pty Ltd.

Shadow Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations, Brendan O'Connor. His comments were supported by Senator Helen Polley and the new Federal Member for Bass, Mr Ross Hart. The clear message from these visitations is that we are well and truly on the right track with our industry promotion and pre-employment program. They also conveyed the message that any industry that is not involved in cutting edge training, with a strong eye for the quick changes coming, will be left far behind as technological change is evolving at a rapid pace.