



STOP PRESS ...

LOG GRADING & SEGREGATION COURSE

KEMPSEY - 1ST & 2ND JUNE 2007.

This course will greatly assist farm foresters when planning and managing their forests or plantations. It will provide the skills to assess and grade harvested timber on your property, to ensure you realise the maximum value from your timber and make it easier to successfully negotiate with contractors at harvest time.

Course Content:

Friday 1 st June – Theory	Saturday 2 nd June – Practical
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The log defects that affect sawn wood • How to measure logs • Assessment of log defects • Log grading • Log product specifications • Log segregation • Details of the contractors code of procedure • Introduction to Australian standards for poles 	<p>The theory of log segregation and grading will be put into practice at the log yard of Australian Solar Timbers.</p> <p>Participants will assess defects and measure logs in the mill yard and then grade and segregate the logs in the mill yard.</p>

The cost is \$30 for members of MNCFF. Includes: Lectures from North Coast Institute of TAFE staff, practical demonstrations, hand-on experience and mill visit; course notes; morning/afternoon teas & light lunch. Those assessed as competent will receive a Statement of Attainment.

To register for the course or obtain further information: contact Dawn Thornton on 02 6564 7916 or email mncff@tsn.cc



2007 Training Courses & Events

MNCFF is currently developing a programme of training courses for 2007, whilst dates and venues are still being organised, please contact the office if you interested in a particular course – you will then be informed as the details are fixed.

Training Course	Timing	Location	Further information
Master Tree Growers Course with the University of Melbourne	March – May 2007	Macleay Valley – Kempsey	In progress
Log Grading Course with TAFE	Friday 1 st June and Saturday 2 nd June	Kempsey	Contact Dawn at the office if you are interested in attending.
Forest Management and Planning Course	To be advised	To be advised	To be advised
Mobile Milling Course – a course designed for existing millers	21 st to 24 th May	Bowraville, Nambucca Valley	Fully booked.
	18 th – 22 nd June	Dungog, Hunter Valley	Contact Terry for details.
On Farm Timber Drying Course	To be advised	Bellingen	Contact Terry at the office if you are interested in attending.

At the office we often receive inquiries about other training available in the region, a couple of courses we are aware of are:

- ChemCert Training provided by EnviTE NSW in Coffs Harbour 25 May and 1 June, contact 6621 9588.
- Chainsaw training is offered by the North Coast Institute of TAFE, contact TAFE via their website www.nci.tafensw.edu.au or Tel 131 601.
- Nambucca Valley Landcare are running courses related to small acre farming, pasture management and introductory animal husbandry, contact Tim Ryan on 6564 7838 for details.



Other News...

Australian Sustainable Forestry and Timber – Aggregation Centre

The proposal to increase returns to farm foresters through the aggregation of timber from properties in the region is proceeding apace. MNCFF members Arthur Dyason and Ian Spooner have submitted a development application to Bellingen Shire Council under their "Australian Sustainable Forestry and Timber" organisation to develop an aggregation centre near Brierfield. A determination on the DA is expected soon.

Can you supply greensawn flooring timber?

There has been an inquiry for the provision of greensawn flooring. The specifications required are:

- standard and better grade
- section: 27 x 110 mm (1 x 4 " oversize) and possibly 55 x 110 mm
- length: random 1000 - 5,400mm (including shorts)
- species : Blackbutt, Bluegum, Spotted Gum, Flooded Gum, Bloodwood and possibly others
- quantity: multiples of 20 cubic metres / month to minimise freight, however it may be possible to aggregate smaller volumes if there is enough interest from small growers
- price in the region of \$720/cu M to the grower

If you are potentially able to supply consistent quality on a regular basis and are interested in learning more about this opportunity then contact Ian Spooner on 6564 7605 or email qed@nexon.com.au

Bell Miner Associated Dieback Trial at Kumbatine National Park

Bell Miner Associated Dieback (BMAD) is a significant threat to the sustainability of the eucalypt forests of north east NSW and to biodiversity conservation. BMAD is found in forests across the North Coast of NSW and seems to be worsening over time. BMAD is eucalypt forest dieback associated with the co-incidence of psyllid (a herbivorous insect) and colonies of the Bell Miner of Bellbird, (G Wardell-Johnson & A. Lynch, University of Queensland). Bluegum and Ironbark are the most susceptible species but dieback can now be found in Flood Gum, Grey Gum, Tallowwood and Spotted Gum.

Impacts on forest productivity can be severe. Dieback defoliates the crown, ultimately leading to the death of standing trees. Not only do the standing trees die, but the lack of foliage and flowering and subsequent fruiting, reduce and eventually eliminate the seed production necessary for forest regeneration. Reduced eucalypt flowering directly impacts on honey production and on bird species and populations that compete with Bell miners.



BMAD is generally found in both dry and wet forests in areas that have been highly disturbed and have therefore lost their natural mid and understoreys which have been replaced by a thick understorey of lantana. The loss of structure in the forest allows the bell miners to take over. The precise mechanisms and interrelationship between Bell Miners and the psyllid population are the subject of ongoing research.

Joy Van Son from Nambucca Valley Landcare recently attended a research workshop held at Kumbatine National Park where fire is being used in a large scale trial to control lantana and return a natural grassy understorey to the forest. The impact on the understorey species, Bell Miner populations and their behaviour, psyllid populations and eucalypt die back will be monitored. The trials are being conducted by the Department of Environment and Conservation.

Further information on the topic can be found at www.bmad.com.au

Growing Australian Red Cedar and other Meliaceae species in plantation

At the office we often get questions about growing red cedar, luckily for us there is a great resource available from the Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation written by Fyfe Bygrave and Patricia Bygrave. Fyfe and Patricia have a property in the Nambucca Valley and are members of MNCFF.

You can obtain the document from the RIRDC website at <http://www.rirdc.gov.au/reports/AFT/04-135sum.html>

Agroforestry News

If you don't subscribe to Agroforestry News you've missed out on some great articles in Issue 58 about value adding farm forestry trials, riparian research and management, the importance of dead wood in riparian areas and the benefits of tree planting along creeks. Members of MNCFF are able to receive 4 copies of Agroforestry News for the discounted price of \$15.00. Interested? Contact the MNCFF office for details.

Don't forget...

If your contact details have changed please let us know.

You can fill out the form below and send it back to MNCFF or e-mail us at mncff@tsn.cc

Name:

Postal address:

Telephone:

Mobile:

E-mail: