

Environmental Update

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Inside this Issue

Environmental Certification

Historic Sites

Monitoring

Company Changes

Wenita Drug & Alcohol Policy

Environmental Incidents

NZ Falcon

Christmas Wishes

Environmental Certification

We are pleased to report that Wenita has maintained Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification for its forest areas. The audit which was undertaken in the last week of October produced one of our best results to date with the auditor indicating he wished to nominate Wenita for an environmental award for our harvest technique around wetlands and waterways in the Mt Allan area. Wenita now faces the ongoing challenge of retaining this certification and improving on a high standard of operation.



1

Historic Sites:

A harvesting contractor working at Mt Allan recently discovered a chimney which was all that remained of what is likely to be an old musterer's hut. The remains of what may have been some kennels were also found nearby. The harvesting team did an excellent job of preserving the site while extracting the surrounding trees and the site was handed over to the Historic Places Trust (HPT) to research the history of this exciting archaeological find.

¹ The "tick-mark tree" logo and the initials "FSC" are trademarks copyright © 1996 to the Forest Stewardship Council. Wenita's FSC Certificate is SGS-FM/CoC-0831



Monitoring:

Wenita currently undertakes 34 different types of environmental monitoring which covers areas of potential impact such as waterways, air, soil, visual, cultural, community, flora and fauna. Results are presented to senior management at least quarterly, to our FSC auditor annually and our website is updated periodically so that the public can view the results of our major surveys. Wenita relies on the help of volunteers to take part in some of this monitoring, if you are keen to become involved, please contact our office.



Company Changes:

The last 12 months has been a year of change and difficulty for many New Zealand businesses, heightened by the global financial crisis, hugely volatile exchange rates, increased operating costs, and consequent low operating margins. This has provided a challenging environment for Wenita to not only maintain its existing business activities, but also develop its difficult Mt Allan Forest for harvesting.



To strengthen its position, Wenita has implemented a number of initiatives. Harvesting levels have been reduced by 10 – 15% to match reduced demand; log export marketing, shipping and distribution activities have been outsourced, providing greater flexibility and access to shipping and markets; a decision was taken to exit sawmilling and Rosebank Sawmill is no longer operated by Wenita; silvicultural operations have been rationalised and temporarily suspended; staff members Helen McLeod (Marketing), Julie Patterson (Admin) and Wayne Larsen (Technical) have left the Company; Grant Kenneally (Harvesting) has been appointed to manage the super skid operation at Mt Allan, and his role has been taken up by Stu Brown (Log Procurement). International wood markets are showing good recovery from the global financial crisis and future business opportunities are encouraging.

Wenita Drug and Alcohol Policy:

Wenita has implemented a Company-wide drug and alcohol policy with the aim of improving workplace safety for employees and contractors. Significant training has been undertaken over the last year to ensure all employees and contractors are aware of the risks and effects of having individuals in the forest with unacceptable levels of drugs and/or alcohol in their system. Wenita's drug and alcohol policy applies to all people employed directly by Wenita when undertaking company business, including full-time and part-time, permanent and temporary staff and contractors. The policy allows for pre-employment, post-incident and reasonable cause testing to occur.



Environmental Incidents:

There have been no environmental incidents over the last 12 months. There have however been two recent rural fires both of significant potential. With our limited physical presence throughout the forests during the year we rely on and seek your continued assistance with fire management. When reporting a fire please:

PHONE 111.

FALCON ARE ENDANGERED PLEASE RECORD SIGHTINGS

- Falcon are often confused with the commonly seen Hawk (Australasian Harrier)
- A Falcon is ½ the size of a Hawk
- A Falcon flies fast with rapid wingbeats. The Hawk has a slow flight often with glides
- A Falcon is a very fast hunter, the Hawk is slow
- Falcon "dive bomb" people during nesting (Oct – Nov) if they are close to their nests



Falcon

Hawk

Happy Holidays:

The team at Wenita would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a safe and happy holiday season. Our office and forests will be closed from the 18th December 2009 to the 11th January 2010.

If you would like to report an incident during this time our duty phone is

021 222 3234.

