

## NEWSLETTER— June 2010

Welcome to ‘**SPLINTERS**’ the newsletter that keeps our members informed of TMA issues.

### *Membership*

9 new members have joined this year as we continue to increase our profile and status in the timber industry. Membership is now 89 and growing!

New members are:

Alpine MDF  
Carter Holt Harvey Woodproducts  
Costas Mitre10  
Crown Timber  
Renaissance Parquet  
Simmonds Lumber  
Tile Importer Pty Ltd  
Timberland Pty Ltd

Van Steensel Timbers Pty Ltd

### *Website Advertising* [www.timber.asn.au](http://www.timber.asn.au)

Our new website has certainly raised the TMA's profile to the public and to the industry in general. Since our launch in December 2009 search areas such as Member Directory 11,489 (hits), Product Search 9,040, Display Centre 7,828 and Timber Advice 7,568 have proved very popular.

Special advertising rates for members and exhibitors are available and your ad can be linked directly to your website. Please contact Peter Roberts for further information.

### *Showroom*

Visitors continue to increase since the addition of new and exciting displays. Saturday 1st May 2010 saw a record 62 visitors to the showroom, all building new homes or large extensions with 10 referred by their architect and the balance by their builder. The following analysis shows the number of visitors and the product enquiries for the last five months.

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Total enquiry contacts to the Timber Advice and Display Centre from January to May 2010 were 2029.

Adhesives for Flooring	35	Insulation Acoustic	44
Adhesives for Timber Manufacture	1	Modwood	32
Beams Laminated	42	Mouldings	33
Beams Mechanical	20	MRTFC	11
Bench Tops/Cupboards	43	Particle Board / MDF	30
Cladding and Lining Exterior	77	Pergolas and Carports	23
Cladding and Lining Interior	51	Plasterboard	10
Coatings / Finishes	265	Plywood	35
Preservatives	54	Publications	80
Decking	223	Australian Standards	16
Door Hardware	189	Seminars & Courses	20
Doors	36	Span Table Information	31
Fasteners / Connectors	24	Stairs	30
Fencing Material	50	Termites & Borers	30
Fencing—Looking for Quotes	18	Timber Decay	36
Fire Retardants	20	Timber Technical Data	152
Fire Retardant timbers where to buy?	19	Timber Grading	22
Fire Retardant Timbers What Timbers can I use?	27	Timber Identification	25
Five Star Rating Information	5	How to care for Timber	69
Choosing a Species ( Colour)	174	Treated Pine / Durables	94
Floor Laying Techniques	123	Cypress pine	44
Floors Bamboo	118	Veneers	17
Floors Floating	136	Where and What to buy	281
Floors Stick Down	179	Windows	52
Floors T & G	244	Builders Checking whats new	33
Floors Parquet	47	Owner builders browsing all displays	90
Floors Problems	63	Not Ascertained / Other	36
Framing/Structural	121	Total	3928
Furniture Timbers	65		
Insulation Thermal	83		

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### *Committee Meetings*

The committee continues to meet once a month to discuss industry issues including the financial status of the Association and membership services. I am pleased to inform you that the executive has been re-elected with positions remaining the same, President Ron Caddy and Vice Presidents Peter Alexander and Richard Hill.

### *Consolidation*

We continue to liaise with FTMA, TABMA Qld, Timber Qld, ATIF, WADIC and VAFI. It is important to discuss industry issues on a national basis and to work towards a united industry.

### *Land Tax*

I have had further meetings with the State Treasurer, John Lenders and the Commissioner of State Revenue, Paul Broderick to present our case regarding land tax. The premise of our argument is that the Land Tax Act allows the Fisheries industry exemption as they are recognised as a primary industry warehousing their product. We believe TMA members should have the same classification, as timber products are produced from primary industry. Discussions will continue but it appears it will ultimately require a change in legislation.

### *Regional Meetings*

Further meetings have been organised at Bendigo on the 7th July 2010 and at Benalla on the 28th July 2010. Updates on the Modern Awards and a presentation by WorkSafe are the main topics to be presented.

### *Breakfast Meetings*

Our last meeting held on the 11<sup>th</sup> February 2010 was a presentation by Kayt Watts, CEO, Australian Forestry Standard (AFS). This was extremely well attended with over 60 members and guests in attendance. Our next meeting will be held at 7.30am on the 14th July 2010 at the Radisson Hotel, William St, Melbourne. Details are on our website.

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### ***Annual Industry Charity Dinner***

The Minister for Agriculture and Small Business, Joe Helper was our keynote speaker at our dinner held at the River Room, Crown Casino on 25th March 2010. After a very thought provoking address we were pleased to donate \$7200.00 to the Burns Unit of the Royal Childrens Hospital. This was a great night for networking and fellowship with industry colleagues, who also supported a lively auction for AFL tickets for the match of the day on the following weekend.

### ***Caltex Fuel Card***

All TMA members are eligible to apply for a Caltex Starcard which entitles them to 3.25 cents per litre off the pump price for Unleaded petrol and Diesel and 1.0 cent per litre off Vortex 95 and LPG. Members can apply online at the Caltex website: <http://www.caltex.com.au/ProductsAndServices/PrepaidFuelcards/Pages/StarCards.aspx> or download an Application form from our website [www.timber.asn.au](http://www.timber.asn.au)

### ***Winners Recruitment***

Winners Recruitment has recently confirmed their partnership with the Timber Merchants Association as a 'preferred' recruitment specialist provider to our members. Winners has been established for over ten years and maintains a stronghold in the Building, Plumbing, Construction & Design categories. Appointments are handled in the strictest confidence and their clients and candidates are their utmost priority. In particular they have a passion for the Timber Industry and a longstanding knowledge and experience with this sector.

Based in Malvern, their premises can also be used for offsite interviews where the utmost discretion is required. Winners offers a reduction off their standard fees for all TMA members. If you are currently considering your staffing needs and require advice, Winners are only too happy to further grow and develop your business by supplying reliable, industry experienced and committed people.

Website: [www.winners-exec.com.au](http://www.winners-exec.com.au) Phone: 03 8823 5700

Contact: John McCaskill [jmccaskill@winners-exec.com.au](mailto:jmccaskill@winners-exec.com.au)

## ***MEGT (Australia) Ltd***

MEGT (Australia) Ltd provide nationally accredited training through MEGT Institute, deliver Australian Apprenticeships Support Services through MEGT Australian Apprenticeships Centre (AAC) and employ and place Australian Apprentices and Trainees with host employers through MEGT Group Training. Across these services they work with over 77,500 employers and approximately 130,000 Australian Apprentices and Trainees.

MEGT is driven by strong, people-centered values and has grown out of a small company founded in the South East area of Melbourne and over the past twenty seven years has been adding additional services to their portfolio, developing into a national organisation highly regarded in the industry.

Their core business is to partner organisations seeking to both invest in future skills through the employment of apprentices and trainees and to support apprentices and trainees seeking skills for their future careers.

As the only Group Training Organisation with a national presence and focus, MEGT are the industry leader in their field and the only choice when implementing apprenticeship programs across borders. In addition to this, MEGT are also the largest and only truly National Australian Apprenticeship Centre (AAC) supporting the administration of apprenticeships for all employers.

For further information please contact:

**Michael Gammon**, State Manager - Victoria, MEGT (Australia) Ltd

Phone: 9871 6166, Fax: 9879 5570, Mobile: 0400 785 045

email: [michael.gammon@megt.com.au](mailto:michael.gammon@megt.com.au)

**\$3,350\*** paid to employers of ANY SIZED BUSINESS



*by MEGT Group Training  
for employing an apprentice  
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skills needs sector.*

*\*conditions apply*

**HURRY!**  
**LIMITED OFFER**  
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Click here to find out more or call 1300 365 022



*Austbrokers Phillips*

Austbrokers Phillips have a proud history of partnership with the TMA. Together, they strive to ensure that members have the best level of insurance cover possible, assuring the risk control of your organisation. Likewise, Austbrokers Phillips' Workers Compensation Division works to achieve efficient, compliant and cost effective management of their clients' Workers Compensation programs. Unfortunately many organisations do not direct enough attention and resources to their WorkCover and costs soar as a result. At Austbrokers Phillips they advocate that Workers Compensation *is* a controllable cost – and over the last decade have assisted thousands of clients streamline their programs to ensure comprehensive cover with reduced costs.

This year has seen a number of challenges for the Victorian employer. The Henry Reform on our Taxation and the Hanks Reform on WorkCover. Whilst the Hanks Reform and the subsequent Accident Compensation Amendment Act (2010) would require an entire newsletter in their own right, they have outlined some of the most significant changes that your organisation should be aware of. The first wave of legislation took effect on 5<sup>th</sup> April 2010 and Initial compliance is already expected.

- ✦ Workers entitlements' (compensation) have increased to 80% of the pre-injury average weekly earnings from the fourteenth week of a claim's tenure.
- ✦ Superannuation is now payable to claimants, after twelve months of receiving benefits.
- ✦ New Discrimination provisions allow for worker's rights to pursue legal action against employer.  
New requirements surrounding Return to Work *Planning* and *Coordinators* introduced.

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Together with the above and other changes, a new penalty system was introduced, with some fairly draconian fines associated with misdemeanours. Examples are a \$35,000 fine for failing to enter an injury into an internal register and a \$70,000 fine for failing to appoint a valid Return to Work Coordinator.

Obviously with so many changes and significant consequences for not adhering to them, employers should ensure they implement a programme that meets the requirements, and focuses on achieving sustainable, cost effective outcomes.

Austbrokers Phillips' Workers Compensation division welcomes the opportunity to assist you with any queries surrounding your WorkCover system. With a great track record with TMA clients, they look forward to being able to continue to support the timber industry, and overcome this most recent Workers Compensation challenge. For more information, or to arrange a consultation with one of their staff members contact Peter Roberts at the TMA.

### ***Bookshop***

We have an excellent range of timber publications for sale which would be great 'point of sale' products for you.

Check out our book shop on the website [www.timber.asn.au](http://www.timber.asn.au) for full descriptions of publications available and contact Ingrida for your order form on 9875 5000 or email her at [ingridam@timber.asn.au](mailto:ingridam@timber.asn.au)

**Peter Roberts**  
**Executive Director**