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This Occupational Health,  
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Correspondence:  
Denise Campbell-Burns  
National Co-ordinator  
Pulp & Paper Industry  
OHS&E Unit

1st Floor,  
500 Swanston St.  
Carlton Vic 3053

Ph: (03) 9349 2344  
Fax: (03) 9349 2580  
ppwohse@ozemail.com.au



# WISE NEWS

Workplace Industrial Safety and Environment Newsletter

**W**elcome to the first edition of WISE News, the newsletter of the Pulp and Paper Industry OHS&E Unit.

Publishing four times per year, WISE News will address workplace health and safety issues that are important to you! It will include current issues and events, international news, useful websites and site profiles.

This edition features Site Snaps, highlighting activities and key issues for each site. As well, we outline services provided by the OHS&E Unit; profile our website; and introduce myself and Renée - the new team for the OHS&E unit.

To ensure that the OHS&E Unit, and WISE News, continues to provide you with relevant and useful information we need your comments and feedback. Please feel free to drop us a line via email or fax. You'll find our contact details in the newsletter.

Thanks to all those who contributed to this editions' Site Snaps. Until the next edition, Cheers

## NEW LOOK FOR THE OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH, SAFETY & ENVIRONMENT UNIT

With the departures of both Gordon Jackson, National Coordinator and James O'Brien, Administration and Communications Officer, during the latter part of 2000, new staff were appointed into these roles in January.

### Denise Campbell-Burns National Coordinator

Denise has formal qualifications in occupational health and safety - a Graduate Diploma in Occupational Hazard Management, and has operated in the OHS field for the past eight years.

During this time she was working with a Victorian based employer group in the forest industries, specifically in the areas of logging and log sawmilling.



Denise Campbell-Burns (rear)  
and Renée Laity

Her activities there included a number of joint projects with the Victorian WorkCover Authority, an extensive safety audit program, OHS management systems development and chairing the Victorian Coroner's Taskforce on Tree Related Fatalities.

The National Coordinator's primary role is to work with employees and employers to provide a safer working environment for persons operating within the pulp and paper industry.

## Renée Laity Administration and Communications Officer

Renée joins us from Synthesis Pty Ltd where she was in a marketing and administrative role for the past 2<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> years. Renée brings a Diploma of Business Marketing and exceptional computer based skills to her role as Administration and Communications Officer.

Her role encompasses publications and media; website maintenance; database creation and maintenance and general administrative support for the OHS&E unit.

### OHS&E Unit Activities

The OHS&E Unit will continue to provide consistent levels of service to all sites as required. This includes newsletters and publications, OHS representatives training, general OHS based training, chemical approvals and provision of advice and information.

For information and assistance with OHS issues please contact your OHS Committee or Union Representative in the first instance.

## Site Snaps



### Sydney

#### AMCOR

High visibility vests and safety eye wear policies are being introduced throughout both Botany and Enfield sites. First aid training has been conducted at both locations. Confined spaces, gas monitoring and anti-discrimination training was also conducted at Botany. Incident investigation and hazard management training is planned for Botany in coming months.

### Melbourne

OHS Representative training has been carried out during March & April with 18 members being trained.

#### CARTER HOLT HARVEY

### Myrtleford

Implementation of a high visibility garment policy has raised issues associated with the use of a reflective strip on the garments. These have included making photo electric cells switch on, and flammability of the reflective strips. The 3 OH&S Reps in the maintenance department have been allocated one day each, every 3 weeks to concentrate on OHS Issues. A wetland water collection project is almost complete. The project will allow storm water to be collected and settled before entering the river system.

### Box Hill

During March a key element assesment audit was completed, with the results currently under review.

### Sancell

Sancell members are nearing 1 million hours without an LTI, this would be achieved in the next month.

#### PAPERLINX

### Maryvale

Issues currently being addressed on site include: designated smoking area's, use of safety glasses, reportable injuries and suitable clothing in the Pulp store following a burns incident.

### Wesley Vale

Wesley Vale has been working on a Permit to Work and Isolation Procedure. Training sessions on Permit to Work and Isolation Procedures, followed by "on the job" assessments have been conducted. Manual handling assessments, together with hazard assessments of all plant & equipment are currently underway. The OH&S committee has been working on a number of issues such as supply of work wear, noise reduction, first aider numbers and installation of a scissor lift in the finishing room.

### Burnie

Plant risk assessment is currently being conducted across the site and a whole site evacuation is planned for the 1st week of May. An activity shut is also planned for May.

### Nowra

With the Mill taking an activity shut over the Easter period, training on workplace harassment & sessions on the environment were undertaken. On Monday 23/4/01 an emergency response evacuation simulation was carried out. Issues raised during the scenario will be addressed in future training sessions, however it was pleasing to see that Merv Donoghue was rescued and removed from his simulated precarious position with his health in good order.

### Boyer

#### NORSKE SKOG

The Mill has experienced 3 lost time injuries during the first quarter of 2001. The No. 5 Boiler has just been subject to a maintenance inspection and recertification process. Some long term, outstanding structural modifications were also made at this time. Environmental efforts have been focussed on controlling emissions of toxic resin acids and treating tannin discoloration of the effluent water.

**www. SAFETY WEBSITE .www**

In each edition of WISE News we will bring you new and useful websites about the pulp and paper industry, safety, health and the environment. To kick things off let's take a look at our own website!!



**www.ppwsafety.org**

The site was launched in September last year and has been designed as a resource for those involved in the pulp and paper industry within Australia, particularly OHS representatives and those interested in OHS&E issues.

**www.ppwsafety.org** provides you with a wide range of information.

**Publications**

Recent copies of WISE News and other publications produced by the OHS&E unit.

**Issues**

A summary of current OHS&E issues within the pulp and paper industry.

**Training**

Training available through the unit.

**OHS Representatives**

The role and rights of OHS representatives in the workplace.

**Legislation**

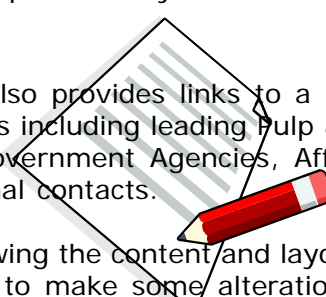
Links to legislative information on a state by state basis.

**Environment**

Key environmental issues in the pulp and paper industry.

**www.ppwsafety.org** also provides links to a number of other useful sites including leading Pulp & Paper manufacturers, Government Agencies, Affiliate Unions and International contacts.


We are currently reviewing the content and layout of the website and hope to make some alterations in the near future. Please take the time to view the site and provide some feedback and comments about what you would like to see and what would be useful.

**OHS REPRESENTATIVES & COMMITTEES-  
THEIR ROLE IN  
SAFETY AUDITING**

Safety management systems – everybody uses them in some form or another. SafetyMAP, National Safety Council 5 Star Program and Key Element Assessment are terms many people within our industry will be familiar with.



To ensure that safety management systems are effective and efficient they must be regulated and checked, or audited. This can be done both internally by management and employees and by external consultants. So what role can and should OHS Representatives and Committees play in the auditing process?


**Consultation**

OHS reps and committees should be consulted about the introduction of systems into the work place that have an impact upon OHS. Involving employees (and/or their representatives) at the early stage can assist with a smooth introduction or transition to a new safety management system. Reps and committees can also assist with implementation of change and positively influence other employees.


**Involvement**

OHS reps and committees should be involved in planning audits. Legislation provides for OHS representatives to participate in inspections of the work place, including systems audits. Their involvement should include when audits will take place; how they are conducted; who should be involved and what purpose the audit process will serve. Planning is also the time to ensure that employees participating in the audit process have been provided with release from their normal duties to take part.

### Participation

Participation is the culmination of the consultation and involvement phases. Appropriate consultation and involvement of the reps and committee will ensure that the actual audit process is as efficient and effective as possible, whilst still achieving a genuine outcome.

### Review

Both the committee and management should take time to review the auditing process and outcomes. The review should encompass not only the results and outcomes of the audit, but also the audit process itself. A critical review should examine the things that worked well during the audit and the things that may have been less successful. This will ensure an improved audit process next time.

By utilising steps such as these all parties are consulted, involved, participate and review the audit and it's outcomes. In this way it can be ensured that the audit is meaningful and helps build on and improve safety in the workplace.

## HEALTH & SAFETY WEEK FOR VICTORIA

The Victorian WorkCover Authority will once again sponsor Health and Safety Week from the 17th to 22nd of June, with this year's theme being "together we can make work safe". Health and Safety Week is designed to highlight OHS and share ideas on ways to improve workplace safety.



Health and Safety Week will feature a number of events sponsored by the Victorian WorkCover Authority with specialised activities coordinated by the Victorian Trades Hall Council.

The Pulp and Paper Industry OHS&E Unit are currently considering the types of activities suitable for Health and Safety Week. If you would like assistance to conduct an activity or are already participating in activities please contact us.

For further information or a calendar of events, contact the Victorian Workcover Authority on (03) 9641 1555 or [www.workcover.vic.gov.au](http://www.workcover.vic.gov.au).



## ENVIRONMENTAL EMISSIONS NON-REPORTING PENALTIES

2000 saw a substantial increase in companies reporting their environmental emissions through the National Pollutant Inventory (NPI). The number of new facilities reporting emissions is up by 400 to 1600 for the year 2000.

In 1999, 28 industry sectors were provided with information kits outlining how to report information back to the NPI. In 2000, 79 industry sectors were reporting through them.

This reporting assists to provide a much more complete picture of pollution emissions in Australia. However, with the Australian NPI reporting on 36 pollutants, in comparison to 600 in the USA and 200 in Japan, there is still clearly further work to be done.

From next year, penalties for non-reporting will be phased in. A spokesperson said there would be no enforcement actions for breaches relating solely to information required for the first and second reporting years.

The pollution inventory data can be viewed at [www.npi.ea.gov.au](http://www.npi.ea.gov.au) and further information obtained by calling 1800 657 945.

LOOK  
FOR THE NEXT EDITION  
OF WISE NEWS  
DURING JULY

