



**VALUABLE EXPERIENCE:** Site manager Sam McPherson (left) stands with Building Trades trainers Mick Neu and Peter Larcombe as building students Cody Quin and Jaymie Dobie (front right) start work on the site office foundations. Picture: SANDRA MORELLO.

## Students lay expo groundwork



THE site for the world's only hardwood and softwood timber expo has begun to take shape near Mount Gambier thanks to local high school trade students.

Students enrolled in the Doorways 2 Construction program have begun constructing the foundations for the office at the site, which will attract more than 10,000 people when the AusTimber event starts in March next year.

The event is the largest forestry and timber expo in the southern hemisphere and is expected to inject millions of dollars into the Mount Gambier economy.

Students from the trade training program for high school students began working at the site last week.

The site is about 15km north of Mount Gambier and flanked by softwood and bluegum plantations.

AUSTimber 2012 general manager David Quill said organisers were excited about the progress of the site office.

He said organisers were also pleased that all of the in-forest pine and in-field chipping sites had been sold, as well as the majority of the cut-to-length bluegum areas and a substantial amount of other sites.

"We are the only combined softwood/hardwood expo held in a forest in the world and this means we do have a forest that can be used to meet all demands," Mr Quill said.

"We've had a fantastic response so far with the number of sites sold and we have the capability of adding more sites if there is more demand from exhibitors."

He said the expo was on track to be bigger than the 2008 event, which attracted more than 8000 people from overseas and across Australia.

Mr Quill said the Doorways 2 Construction trade training course - locally known as Building Trades - had been operating on the Grant High School campus for the past 12 years.

He said the program catered for students in all Limestone Coast schools.

"The course has recently expanded with training sites now located in Kingston Community School, Millicent High School/Independent Learning Centre and Naracoorte High School with near future plans for Bordertown High School," Mr Quill said.

AUSTimber organisers approached the centres to assist with the construction and on-site delivery of transportable housing modules that would provide meeting rooms, computer suites and general administration.

"Students under trade supervision will construct panels of framing with single side sheet lining and cladding to be pre-fitted with electrical and data conduits and ready for

transport and erection on site in a modular framework to be bolted together, showcasing the rudimentary nature of structural framework," Mr Quill said.

He said the modular structure would be produced at all three campuses and relocated to the forest site north of Mount Gambier to be assembled and completed.

"The students will be involved in the project and will gain invaluable experience with a variety of donated products, showcasing the diversity of wood product in the region and enabling the viewing public an insight into the partnerships that exist between industry and the school sectors in the region," Mr Quill said.

Meanwhile, he said AUSTimber 2012 would be a significant event.

"It will showcase the latest in technology, machinery, products and services for the forest and timber industry," Mr Quill said.

He said the event would be held in a single location in the forest.

"The expo will be held over two days - March 30 and 31 - delivering a dynamic environment to experience the latest in precision forestry technology with live demonstrations of machinery in action in the forest and indoor and outdoor displays," Mr Quill said.

Mount Gambier will also host the AUSTimber ForestWorks Conference on Thursday, March 29, 2012.

**Celebrity renovator drops in, page 9**

## Councils oppose levy

THE region's councils are united against a State Government push to introduce drainage levies on private land in the South East to raise \$5.4m.

Wattle Range Council opposed the introduction of drainage levies at its September meeting and Mayor Peter Gandolfi later argued many of the region's towns would not exist if it were not for the region's drains.

He said drainage was a general government expense, just like hospitals.

Council decided to seek the support of the South East Local Government Association (SELGA) to lobby against the levies, which were announced by former State Treasurer Kevin Foley.

The region's mayors considered the issue at SELGA's October meeting when a motion from Wattle Range arose on the agenda.

In the motion, Wattle Range Mayor Peter Gandolfi called on SELGA to write to Upper House Minister Gail Gago, Shadow Environment Minister Michelle Lensink and all Upper House Independent members.

When writing to the Legislative Council members, Mr Gandolfi asked for SELGA to support his council's opposition to part six of the South East Drainage System Operation and Management Bill 2010.

He said the Bill would see "the introduction of drainage rates on private land".

Kingston District Council chairman Evan Flint seconded the motion and it was carried.

Meanwhile, Member for MacKillop Mitch Williams has urged as many people as possible to also write to all Upper House members, particularly the Independents, as the Legislative Council has the power to block the drainage levy.

## Sale analysis sought

CALLS for a comprehensive analysis into the forward sale of Forestry SA rotations by Wattle Range Mayor Peter Gandolfi and his Mount Gambier and Grant District counterparts has been supported by the South East Local Government Association (SELGA).

The issue arose as a series of motions at SELGA's October meeting for all of the region's mayors to consider who are delegates to the association.

SELGA also supported requests for recommendations of the forestry industry roundtable to be released prior to State Government tender documents.

Additionally, the three mayors' called for the conditions of sale to "be defined and made public", which was supported by the region's other four councils - Robe, Kingston Naracoorte Lucindale and Tatiara.

Before the next SELGA meeting in December, SELGA will write to local parliamentarians, deputy opposition leader Mitch Williams, Member for Mount Gambier Don Pegler and Liberal forestry spokesperson Adrian Pederick, seeking their support as well.

## Last chance for award

NOMINATIONS for the Channel 9 Young Achiever Awards close soon.

The awards aim to recognise South Australian youth making outstanding contributions to the community.

Nominations close November 22.

Details and nomination forms are available by contacting 8132 0753, emailing sa@awardsaustralia.com or visiting www.awardsaustralia.com.

## Symposium to explore mental health needs

LOCAL mental health professionals and hospital health care staff will have the chance to benefit from a mental health symposium in Mount Gambier this week.

The Acute Mental Health Care and Risk Practice Development Symposium will be held at the UniSA Mount Gambier Regional Centre on Friday and is open to mental health professionals, primary and general hospital health care staff and support personnel providing direct care to people suffering from a mental health disorder.

A particular focus of the day will be the collaborative assessment and management of suicidality with Dr Conrad Newman from Flinders Medical Centre, who will deliver an extended workshop-based session on the work of David A. Jobes and the Aeschi Workgroup - an inter-

national forum of clinicians who have developed practice guidelines for working therapeutically with people experiencing suicidal ideation or who have made a suicide attempt.

A number of locally-based mental health staff will also deliver presentations on the work of their respective services, with the unifying theme of "can better recognition and management of the risks associated with acute mental illness inform the development of more effective services in the South East of the state?"

The Symposium will be co-facilitated by Professor Nicholas Procter, chair of Mental Health Nursing in South Australia, and Mr Philip Galley, clinical mental health nursing director with Country Health SA.

Given that the government's

Mental Health Reform platform includes intermediate care, limited treatment centre provision and the development of a 10-bed community rehabilitation centre in Mount Gambier, the South East was deemed to be the most suitable venue for the second symposium.

Mount Gambier Hospital already provides 1000 mental health bed nights per year and with the implementation of the State Digital Tele-Health Network the capacity for confirming, reviewing and revoking level one community treatment orders by audio-visual conference is now a reality.

Registration is free and open to health professionals and support workers involved in the care and treatment of people suffering from mental illness.

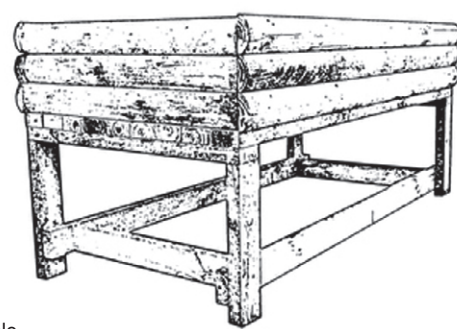
To register send an e-mail to mentalhealth@unisa.edu.au.

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